

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 Diary1.5.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsEnemy
Battle Cruisers

All R/C at Brest has been unsuccessful, owing to the weather; All serviceable M.T.B's were ordered to concentrate at Dover armed with torpedoes; and torpedoes in action condition are being supplied to the A/C of 816 and 827 squadrons detailed to form a Torpedo striking Force under C. in C., Coastal Command.

Arrangements are to be made for BERWICK to leave Portsmouth, and for TRINIDAD to leave Devonport, as soon as they can proceed under their own power, both for completion, probably at Rosyth.

C. in C. Plymouth

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Charles Forbes, G.C.B., D.S.O. today assumed command of the Plymouth Station.

Northern
Patrol.

At 2000 today EXETER and NIGERIA were patrolling to the S.E. of Iceland, SUFFOLK was patrolling in the Denmark Straits, and LACONIA in N.P. 71.

Dover
Shelled.

At 1801 today 2 shells fell in Dover Harbour and 2 more close to seaward, causing no damage or casualties.

Italian tanker
SANGRO captured

CAVINA captured the loaded Italian tanker SANGRO this morning in 44.36 N., 30.20 W., and after difficulties got her under control, steering from aft with hand gear and communicating with engine room by messenger. CAMITO is to meet her at noon tomorrow and take the prize to H.G.60.

French
MARTIN PECHEUR
Intercepted.

CORINTHIAN this morning intercepted the French barquentine MARTIN PECHEUR in 44.06 N 29.36 W., and is sending her into Gibraltar. At 1912 Admty ordered CORINTHIAN to sail her for St. John's N.F. but the Barquentine was not found again before dark.

/Shipping....

MOST SECRETWar Diary1.5.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands-Contd.Shipping

The Admiralty today issued a fresh message regarding the routeing of ocean convoys and independently sailed overseas ships in the Atlantic.

Enemy Air Activity

At about 1300 today a single A/C dropped 5 Bombs on the Torpedo Factory at Wyke, near Weymouth, causing structural damage which will probably interrupt production for an indefinite period.

Unusual enemy Air Activity is reported in Norway which may be directed against Iceland or against Convoys in Icelandic waters.

One enemy aircraft dropped 2 bombs on Flotta at 2218 today. One bomb is considered from examination of fragments to have been a 1000 kg. S.A.P.

A/P Trawler ARMANA was unsuccessfully bombed at 2200 today off St. Govans.

MOST SECRETWar Diary1.5.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORTMining

The washing ashore since 27/4 of considerable numbers of German Explosive Floats between Dover and the North Foreland has suggested that an Enemy Minefield may have been laid to the N.E. of the Downs; but a search sweep today in Q.Z.F. 27 revealed no sign of it.

Mines were detonated today at Blyth, Liverpool and Harwich, and one exploded spontaneously at Plymouth.

The minefield off Peterhead was reported this evening to be complete and is expected to be in operation on 6/5.

Liverpool was closed as usual at 2110 tonight and will be reopened at 0730 tomorrow.

Chatham Yard Craft WINKLE was sunk today off Upnor by a mine dropped on 8/4.

North Atlantic

Consequent on the decision to suspend all sailings of Swiss cargoes to Genoa, Portuguese VILLA FRANCA has been detained at Gibraltar.

Corvettes ARMERIA, BURDOCK, ASTER and WOODRUFF are to accompany O.G. 62 to Gibraltar and will go on to Freetown.

*Cancelled to ARMERIA & BURDOCK
See 1315-1-403*

SS CAP CANTIN
Intercepted.

LOCH OSKAIG today intercepted French
SS CAP CANTIN.

War Diary

1.5.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Organisation
of Fleet.

C. in C., Med. reports that the introduction of the post of V.A.L.F. combining the duties of 2nd in Command and R.A. Destroyers has not proved satisfactory and he proposes certain changes which are detailed in his 1705/1.

Air Raids
on Malta.

Grand Harbour, Malta was attacked at 1500 by 6 JU 88 with fighter escort. All bombs fell in the sea outside the harbour. There was a further raid from 2116 to 2229. No damage was caused, but mines were dropped in and around the harbour.

There were extensive movements of shipping today on the coast of Tunis. The following enemy forces and convoys were reported:

0624	6 M.V's, 6 destroyers, 35.24 N., 12.10 E., by aircraft
0910	6 M.V's, 6 destroyers, 34.55 N., 11.58 E., by aircraft. 6 Blenheims of 21 Sqdn. R.A.F. ordered to attack. Claimed 1 M.V. and 1 destroyer sunk.
0913	5 M.V's, 4 destroyers, 34.42 N., 11.40 E by aircraft.
0930	4 cruisers, 6 destroyers, 35.10 N., 12.40 E., by aircraft.
1130	4 cruisers, 6 destroyers, 35.10 N., 12.38 E.
1146	3 M.V's, 3 destroyers course 35° in 34.41 N., 11.39 E., (off Kerkenah Bank) by UPHOLDER who sank 2 of the merchant ships (the number of which she later re- ported as 5 with 4 destroyers) UPHOLDER has expended all her torpedoes.
1244	Large convoy course 205° in 34.40 N., 12° 20' E., by UNDAUNTED.

/1345...

War Diary1.5.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean-Contd.

1345

4 M.V.'s, 2 destroyers, 37.00 N., 11.46 E
by aircraft.

1700

5 M.V.'s, 2 destroyers., W. of Pantellaria,
steering for Tripoli. GLOUCESTER and
5 D.F. left Malta to intercept, ordered
not to engage too superior a force and
retire at 0400.
DIDD and ABDIEL have arrived at Alexandria.Salvage operations on YORK (damaged at
Suda Bay on 26/3 by human torpedo or M.T.B.)
have had to be suspended, and only a main-
tenance party and nucleus salvage party
remains on board.(F.O. (S) has proposed that the 3
Netherlands submarines in the 8th
Flotilla at Gibraltar take their turn
on patrol in the Mediterranean.Tobruk.Six enemy air attacks on Tobruk were
made yesterday and six more again today.
Enemy land forces penetrated Tobruk
perimeter last night with tanks, but the
situation was later got in hand.BenghaziAmong other orders to British
submarines, TRIUMPH is to concentrate
on Benghazi, and as there is probably
no coast defence artillery at the port
she is to consider attacking ships in
harbour with gunfire.
R.A.F. today bombed Benghazi harbour and
set fire to a ship.Operation
"Demon"Last night, 3 destroyers evacuated a
further 23 officers and 179 troops from
the Kalamata area. Two destroyers
moved a battalion from Suda Bay to Candia.

/C. in C. Med..

War Diary1.5.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanOperation
"Demon"-Contd.

C. in C. Med. reports that the operation has been a most notable feat on the part of the Navy, who were continually subjected to heavy dive bombing with no fighter protection whatever except close to Crete. The A.A. cruisers bore the brunt of providing such A.A. protection as was possible.

The work of the landing craft and beach personnel has been outstanding. The numbers brought off considerably surpass anything the army had hoped. The arrangements were made by Vice Admiral Pridham-Wippell (V.A.L.F.) and Rear Admiral Baillie-Grohman.

Air Raid on
Alexandria

Alexandria was raided from 2116 to 2229 today by 5 to 8 aircraft. No damage was caused, but some mines were dropped in and around the harbour.

Greek Navy.

Admiral Kavadias states that the condition of his ships' companies is unsatisfactory and that one destroyer is in a state of mutiny. C. in C. Meditn. considers it unlikely that the ships will be of any use unless we take them over, and he suggests that negotiations to this end ~~and~~ be commenced forthwith, as we obviously cannot let the ships out of our hands.

War Diary

1.5.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Iraq

A.O.C., Iraq, has decided to inform local Iraqi commander at Habbaniya, where the R.A.F. base has been surrounded, that if his forces are not withdrawn forthwith air action will be taken immediately.

EAGLE

As EAGLE is urgently required at Gibraltar, she is to be recalled from her present operation and is to proceed in company with NELSON after Durban.

America & West Indies

Admiral Lais (ex-Italian N.Attache to U.S.A.) has been removed from Spanish SS MARQUES DE COMILLAS and is being detained pending further instructions.

U.S. submarines are to operate in the areas in vicinity of New London, Coco Solo, Key West and Portsmouth.

War Diary.1.5.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Timing of
Signals.

The following amendments to G.S.I. on the subject of time to be used in Signals are to be brought into force forthwith. Article 155 (E) - Delete and substitute. "Since doubt may exist as to the time being used by the originator the appropriate zone description is ALWAYS to be used, except when the alternative method given in para. (g) is employed."

Article 155 (G) Delete and substitute.

"In war, if it is considered that the zone time suffix, when appended to the time of origin (which is not coded), might provide the enemy with useful intelligence as to the locality of the originator, G.M.T. may be used and the fact indicated by the appropriate suffix "Z" appended to the time of origin." (V.C.N.S. 2239/1. A Message 37A.)
274 AZ. Ships operating off the Home and North Atlantic Stations East of 26° W., are to use Zone minus two time in all signals from 0100 G.M.T. May 4th. except in cases where it is desirable to use G.M.T. for reasons of security. (G.S.I. 155 para.(g).
(V.C.N.S. 2241/1.)

PolicyBERWICK.

Arrangements are to be made for BERWICK to leave Portsmouth as soon as she is capable of steaming on two shafts, for completion elsewhere - probably Rosyth. (Controller 1028/1.)

TRINIDAD.

Arrangements are to be made for TRINIDAD to leave Devonport as soon as she can proceed under her own power, for completion elsewhere - probably Rosyth. (Controller 1039/1.)

C. in C.
Plymouth.

Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Charles Forbes, G.C.B., D.S.O., has this day assumed command of the Plymouth Station in succession to Admiral Sir Martin E. Dunbar-Nasmith, V.C., K.C.B. (C. in C. Plymouth 1119/1.)

/Lough.....

War Diary.

1.8.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy Contd.

Lough Foyle
M/S. Craft.

In view of recent attempt to mine Lough Foyle request 4 motor drifters referred to in your 2103 12 may be hastened. Owing to length of water to be swept approx. 18 miles it is considered 2 'LL' Whaler (s) with good power and ground tackle and at least 2 motor M/S should be allocated to Londonderry immediately. Londonderry base flotillas consist at present of 2 'LL' drifters and 1 drifter fitted with firing rigging S A gear. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1642/1.)

Main Units
at Portsmouth
for Repair.

My 1213/3 and your A.163/3/3. Only one unit now in Portsmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1747/1 to H.Q.F.C.)

Enemy M/V's
Prevention of
Scuttling.

Measures to be taken by H.M. Ships and A/C. Details. (Head of M. 1943/1. A. Message 36.A.) See Lion Copy.

→ FURIOUS.

On completion of refit FURIOUS is to proceed to Liverpool to load 9 operational Fulmar II and up to 64 tropicalised Hurricane I with wings off fitted with long range tanks. (D.N.A.D. 2350/1, to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Movements.

VICTORIOUS.

Your 1730/30 amended by your 0130/1st May. Concur in J 4035 sailing from Rosyth on 13/5. (C. in C. Rosyth 1209/1.)

A/S Escorts
for REPULSE
ARGUS
→ FURIOUS.

In addition to sailing ordered in A.M. 1317/1, the following escort commitments are anticipated in the near future:-
(a) Meet REPULSE and ARGUS due Clyde 13/5.
(b) Sail FURIOUS about 12/5.
(c) Sail ARGUS and W S 8 (B) (date)

/2. C. in C.....

Naval Code (J) PERMANENT.

From:- Admiralty.

NITE. NOTWT. Home.

Admiralty message 834A dated November 23rd 1939 is cancelled.

1. Attention is again drawn to the great importance in the present shipping situation of preventing the scuttling of enemy merchant ships. The difficulty of frustrating a determined and well prepared attempt to scuttle is recognised, but not all attempts are determined or well prepared, and to prevent scuttling every effort must be made in accordance with the following revised instructions.

2. Commanding Officers are given full discretion to take such steps as the circumstances require.

3. Normally:-

(a) the main object should be to get the boarding party on board the enemy ship as quickly as possible:

(b) to this end, until the boarding party can be sent, attention should be concentrated on hindering scuttling measures. In most cases this would be best achieved by rapid action to intimidate crew and to prevent them taking to boats. The following significance is therefore being by broadcast given to group WBA in the International Code:-

"Stop- do not lower boats- do not use radio- do not scuttle- if you disobey I open fire."

4. The first consideration of Commanding Officers should be to save the ship and they have authority to use force to get this order obeyed.

5. Crews should not be left in open boats on high seas or to drown in ship as this would be contrary to dictates of humanity observed by Royal Navy.

6. Aircraft sighting a suspect ship should report and shadow endeavouring to remain unobserved. No repeat no attempt should be made to divert or ~~ship~~ *stop ship* unless surface vessels are unable to make contact in which case objects of aircraft should be:-

(i) to prevent crew scuttling and taking to boats.
(ii) to divert ship to most suitable British or Allied warship or most suitable British or Allied port.

(7) In this case aircraft should be guided by 3 (b) and 4 above.

1943/1.

For Head of M.(Ex.808)

Approved by the Prime Minister.

1st Lord:

1st. S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. H.

A.C.N.S.F.

A.C.N.S. T.(2)

Nav. Sec.

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

Ops.(4)

C.D.(5)

P.A.S.(5)

M.(3)

D.N.I.(4)

O. I. C. (3)

D. of P.(3)

D.E.W.D.(3)

D.T.D.(3)

D.S.D.9.

I.P.(3)

W.D.

From War Registry -

The following correction should be made to
Admiralty General Message 36A, 1943/1 -

Paragraph 6. Second sentence.

"No repeat no attempt should be made to divert
or stop ship....."

1st. Lord.
1st. S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
Nav. Sec.
C.S.O. to 1st. S.L.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
P.A.S. (S)

M. (3)
D.N.I. (4)
O.I.C. (3)
D. of P. (3)
D.E.W.D. (3)
D.T.D. (3)
D.S.D. 9.
I.P. (3)
W.D.

War Diary.1.5.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements Contd.A/S Escorts
for REPULSE
ARGUS
FURIOUS.
Contd.

2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to report whether A/S escorts can be provided.
 3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide ocean escorts as follows:-
 A cruiser for (B) to Gibraltar.
 A cruiser for (C) to Freetown, ARGUS being detached and escorted to Gibraltar as arranged by F.O. Force H.
 (A.C.N.S. H. 1536/1.)

PRINCE
LEOPOLD.

Your 1326. Intend to sail PRINCE LEOPOLD for Plymouth Friday. Is any form of escort required.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1725/1 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 Your 1725/1. Air escort only.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1920/1.)

Operations.SANGRO
(Italian)
captured by
CAVINA.

Have captured Italian tanker SANGRO loaded fuel oil in $044^{\circ} 36' N.$, $030^{\circ} 20' W.$ Am now steering 071° , request route instruction, maximum speed 7 knots.
 (CAVINA 0900/1, to Admty.)
 My 0900/1 taken from S.P. 02175. Having difficulty with flooded pump room.
 (CAVINA, 1300/1, to Admty.)
 Everything now under control proceeding 6 knots, course 071° . Am escorting SANGRO until orders are received. Steering from aft in hand gear, communication with engine room by messenger.
 (CAVINA, 1515/1, to Admty.)
 CAVINA 0900/1. Well done! CAVINA place prize crew on board, SANGRO and proceed towards $46^{\circ} N.$, $26^{\circ} 10' W.$
 CAMITO is to R.V. with CAVINA in this position at noon/2, and relieve CAVINA's prize crew.
 CAMITO is to take charge of CAVINA's prize and proceed with her to join H.G.60 before convoy reaches $48^{\circ} N.$, H.G.60 0800/1 position $40^{\circ} N.$, $22^{\circ} W.$, course 000° speed $6\frac{1}{2}$ knots. On relief CAVINA is to resume patrol. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1542/1 to CAVINA, CAMITO.)

/My 1542/1.....

War Diary.1.5.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. Contd.SANGRO
(Italian)
captured by
CAVINA.
(Contd.)Myl542/1. Amend R/V to 45.30 N. 27.42 W.,
at 1500/2. (D.O.D. (F) 2346/1, to CAVINA)
CAMITO.Operation
Q.F.Operation Q.F. will not take place today.
(C. in C. Nore 0954/1.)MARTIN
PECHEUR
intercepted.Intercepted French 350-tons Barquentine
MARTIN PECHEUR. Inspection St. Malo bound
to Grand Bank from Bayonne in 044° 06' N.,
029° 36' W., steering 340° vicinity
Fisherman. Detained. Sent Gibraltar with
armed guard (CORINTHIAN, 1000/1 to F.O.C.N.E.)
Your 1000/1. If you can still find
French barquentine MARTIN PECHEUR, sail her
for St. Johns Newfoundland. Report
route you have given her.
(D.O.D. (F) 1912/1, to CORINTHIAN.)
Your 1912/1. Not found by dark.
Proceeding to D.2. Routed direct.
(CORINTHIAN, 2100/1, to Admty.)M.T.B's
to Dover.Arrival M.T.B. 72. (V.A. Dover 1145/1.)
All serviceable M.T.B's are to concentrate
at Dover armed with torpedoes.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1548/1.)
M.T.B's 18, 30, 31, and 34 are to proceed
to Dover armed with torpedoes. Report
E.T.A. (C. in C. Nore 1700/1, to BEEHIVE.)
Your 1700/1. M.T.B's 18, 30, 31, 34 sailed.
E.T.A. 2000. (BEEHIVE 1710/1, to C. in C.
Nore.)
Arrival M.T.B.'s 18, 30, 31, 34.
(V.A. Dover 2104/1.)Patrols.Estimated position at 2000/1. EXETER and
NIGERIA patrolling s.e. of Iceland.
SUFFOLK patrolling Denmark Straits.
LACONIA N P 71. (A.C.O.S. 1532/1.)
3 Motor Launches on East and West Patrol
10' south of the Lizard.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1750/1.)CONQUEROR.Intend to sail yacht CONQUEROR at 0800/2
for Portsmouth. E.T.A. 1700. Code word
~~1543/1~~. (V.A. Dover 1543/1, to C. in C.
Portsmouth.)Operation
/Q.E.,.....

War Diary.1.5.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations Contd.Operation
Q.E.Operation Q.E. cancelled.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich 1655A/1.)Dover
shelled.Between 1801 and 1804 today two shells
fell in Dover Harbour and two close to
seaward. No damage or casualties.
(V.A. Dover 2355/1.)British Air Activity.Tanker
and W/T
Station
attacked
on 29/4.

Details. (H.Q.B.C. 0139/1.)

Patrols.Patrols S one., ^{"Hornli", "Stand",}~~HORNLI., STAND,~~ will be
flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0916/1.)
~~"Hornli"~~ cancelled.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1527/1, to H.Q.F.C.)Torpedo
Striking
Force.Your 2150/30. Torpedoes are being
supplied in action condition with duplex
pistols. Request you will confirm that
maintenance facilities are available at
North Coates and Thorney Island.
(RANAS. 1125/1. to H.Q.C.C.)Operation
B.S.55.Expect A/S escort by Blenheim A/C from
Flamborough Head to Tyne on 2/5 and
during daylight 3/5, also close escort
by 2 Blenheims from 0745 to 1815/3.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1958/1.)

War Diary.

1.5.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Weymouth
Whitehead.
Torpedo
Factory
bombed.

At about 1300/1 single enemy plane dropped 5 bombs on Whiteheads Torpedo Factory, Wyke, Weymouth. Considerable structural damage. One 250 KG.UXB alongside wall of power station. Seven slightly wounded. Production probably interrupted for indefinite period. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1635/1.)

Activity
in Norway.

Unusual enemy air activity is reported in Norway and this may be directed against Iceland or convoys in Icelandic waters. (C. in C. W.A. 1833/1 to N.O.I.C.Iceland.)

PRESENT
FRIENDS.
attacked.

(Safety Drifter) Was attacked at 1625/30 off Tintagel Head by one Heinkel 111 low level attack from one hundred feet. One heavy bomb near miss port quarter. Ship badly shaken. No casualties. Drifter fired 50 rounds from Hotchkiss gun. She will be made sufficiently seaworthy to proceed to Falmouth for repairs. (St. Merryn 1925/1.)

Mining.

SCOTT.

SCOTT will be due for boiler cleaning after operation S.N.9 but could sail from Port ZA on 12/5 to carry out further survey of water between Vestfiridir and the Ice Pack. If this work is to be done thoroughly it is estimated that 9 or 10 days would be required, including passage out and back. SCOTT would not therefore be available for further S.N. operations until about 24/5. Given good weather, operation S N 9B and S N 70 could be carried out without surveying ship if necessary. (R.A.M. 0911/1.)

/Your 0911/1.....

War Diary.1.5.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.SCOTT.
(Contd.)Your 0911/1. Concur. Request you will sail SCOTT on 12/5 accordingly.
(D.D.O.D.M. 1730/1. to R.A.M.)Searching
Sweep.F.O.I.C. Harwich 1107/29. A 95 per cent search of 151 Q.Z.S. was carried out yesterday. No mines cut or seen floating.
(C. in C. Nore 0943/1.)German
Explosive
Floats
and
possible
Minefield.Fifteen German explosive conical floats washed ashore since 27/4 between Dover and North Foreland and others are being reported today. Condition good but not newly laid and probably drifting for some days. Of 12 examined 2 have broken adrift and 10 probably swept but failed to fire. Reference my 1910/27/4, it seems likely that a minefield has been laid somewhere to the North Eastward of the Downs possibly QZF.13. Arrangements are being made to search QZF 27 to-day.
(V.A. Dover 1229/1.)
My 1229/1. Search Sweep completed 70 per cent. Nothing found.
(V.A. Dover 2129/1.)S.N.71.Concur in C.S. (1) 1559/22/4. Consider this field should be laid at an early date in conjunction with one of the other lays which do not require the use of full squadron.
(C. in C. H.F. 1249/1.)Plymouth.Mine exploded spontaneously 190° Breakwater Fort 3.1/2 cables 1055 today.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1629/1.)

/Blyth.....

War Diary.

1.5.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Blyth.

At 0900/1 one S.A. Mine detonated as follows. Details.
(P.M.S.O. North Shields 1631/1.)

Liverpool.

At 1348/1 one S.A. Mine detonated as follows. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1726/1.).
Port of Liverpool closed from 2110/1 to 0730/2. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2109/1.)

WINKLE
sunk.

Chatham Yard Craft WINKLE sunk by mine in 175⁰ 0.6 cables from Head of Engineer's Pier Upnor. Mine was dropped on 8/4 and subsequent sweeping operations failed to detonate it. Traffic had been warned to keep on opposite side of river.
(C. in C. Nore 1827/1.)

Harwich.

One Red mine detonated by 'LL' drifters at 1520. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1843/1.)

Peterhead.

Peterhead Field complete. Expected to be in operation by 6/5. (HELVIG 2032/1.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Baltic
Ice Report.

(N.A. Stockholm 1101/1.)

Brest.

Brest 1/5/41. All R/C unsuccessful, due to weather.

(D.D.I.C. 2021/1.)

War Diary.

1.5.41.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

KINGSTON
TOPAZ.

Arrived with engine defect.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0735/1.)

POLYANTHUS
(Corvette)
RIVER ESK
(A/P Trawler).

Arrival Invergordon H.M.S. POLYANTHUS after collision at 0226/1 with A/P trawler RIVER ESK. Trawler slight damage now at Buckie. POLYANTHUS hole portside main to upper deck. No casualties either ship.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1011/1.)

MAIMIE
(Balloon
Barrage Yacht)
M.B.113.
R.A.F.40.
damaged.

Further to my 1814/30/4. MAIMIE was in collision with R.A.F. Pinnacle No. 40 at 1630/30 in No. 3 basin Methil Docks. R.A.F. No.40 was alongside M.B.113, with B.B. Yacht KIRIN next to Dock Wall. R.A.F.40 holed and flooded after compartment, deck and side plates fractured. Damage to M.B. 113 squeezed between KIRIN and R.A.F. No. 40. Slight superficial damage to MAIMIE's stem. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1210/1, and 1500/1.)

RODNEY.

My 2011/29. RODNEY will revert to 8 hours notice for Port Unit from 1200/3, and to usual notice 2359/4. Intend to carry out full power trial on 7/5 and until this trial has been satisfactorily completed consider ship should not be detailed for operations except in emergency. (C. in C. H.F. 1832/1.)

Lifeboat.

Your 0754/1. 061° N., 015° 22' W., waterlogged light yellow lifeboat with ropes and Oars hanging over the side and large cork fender and gear floating inside which at distance resembled people. Makers Jorgensen and Vik Norway. No survivors. Continuing search.
(NORTHERN SUN 2001/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

MAY.

My 1954/17.
Dynamo is still not satisfactory. MAY is however being sailed for Portland 3/5. It is possible for her to operate.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2231/1.)

War Diary.

1.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Atlantic Routes.

Routeing of ocean convoys and independent ships in Atlantic. (A.C.N.S.(T) 0001/1 to C. in C. 's etc.) See Summaries Folder.

Navigation Lights.

Admty. Message "FF". In cases of emergency where it is essential to show navigation lights, merchant ships (whether in convoy or proceeding independently) when north of the Equator and between 8° W., and 35° W., may exhibit both side lights without using the steaming light. With this exception the side lights and steaming light should never be used independently of each other. (D.T.D. 1153/1, to G.B.M.S. all areas, 1154/1 to AIG 12.)

Blue Stern Lights.

Report on blue stern lights from HASTINGS. S.O. close escort of F.N.60. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1241/1 to Admty.) Ditto from Commodore, F.N.60. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1603/1.) Ditto from Tyne area. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1749/1.)

Defence Against Enemy Aircraft.

An E.C. convoy recently experienced 4 attacks of enemy planes. No merchant ships were hit. Captain of Escort ship made following signal, "Ships of Convoy put up an excellent show!" I have every reason to believe that 3 enemy planes were damaged. N.C.S.O.'s are to bring this to notice of Master of ships at Convoy Conferences, as it shows what can be done by the Merchant Navy when they really get down to it. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1308/1 to Rosyth Command.)

Military Convoy.

Following ships will leave U.K. on 8/5. From Liverpool HIGHLAND PRINCESS with military personnel to Freetown. MARTAND with M.T. Stores for Suez. Clyde. BERNALBANACH with M.T. stores for Suez, via Freetown. BAYANO with important personnel for Montreal. MORETON BAY and ARAWA will provide ocean escort to Freetown. (D.O.D. (H) 1317/1, to C. in C. W.A.)

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

1.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

Convoy
Cycles.

To enable best use to be made of Iceland escort groups, alterations in convoy cycle for H.X. and S.C. convoys is required, with corresponding alteration in O.B. convoy cycle. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1702/1.) See Lion Copy.

Shipping Convoys.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN.

1702/1st May.

FROM C. in C. Western Approaches.

DATE 1.5.41.

RECD. 1754.

P/L BY SECRET T/P.

ADDRESSED Admiralty repeated F.O's i/c, Liverpool, Greenock, Milford Haven, N.O's i/c, Aultbea, Oban, N.C.S.O's Mersey, Clyde, Glasgow, Oban, Aultbea, Milford Haven.

889. To enable the most economic use to be made of escort groups based on Iceland, and in order that convoys may be escorted as far westward as possible, alteration in the present convoy cycle for H X and S C Convoys is required.

2. It is proposed that in future these convoys should be altered to an 8 day cycle divided into 4 day intervals. The Icelandic escorts could then escort O B Convoys for 3 and a half days, and the corresponding homeward bound convoy for 4 days, instead of 2 and a quarter days each way as at present.

3. The alteration in the cycle of H X and S C convoys automatically necessitates an alteration in the corresponding O B Convoy cycle, but not necessarily in the cycle of H G and S L and their corresponding outward bound convoys.

4. The closing of the H X and S C cycle to 4 days will result in more frequent but smaller convoys, but although the escorts for these convoys will be slightly reduced from those now detailed, the reduction could be accepted in view of the smaller convoys to be protected.

5. The proposal will, however, have the disadvantage of causing a larger proportion of escorts to have a greater proportion of sea to harbour time. This can be accepted though it may react unfavourably on material and personnel efficiency, and may then have to be reconsidered.

6. To implement the proposal, outward bound convoys to meet H G and S L Convoys would sail on the present 10 day cycle basis, but the parent portion would originate from the Clyde instead of Liverpool. These would correspond to the present O B S and O G Convoys, but in future the O B S convoys would be named O A Convoys.

7. To meet the H X and S C Convoys, O B Convoys would sail from Liverpool as at present, those convoys proceeding to meet S C Convoys being routed to the west of the Hebrides so as to make up time.

By sailing outward bound convoys as above, the impracticability of sailing two convoys from Liverpool on the same day is obviated. Arrangements would however be necessary for ships from Milford Haven and Liverpool destined for certain O A and O G Convoys, to proceed north with O B Convoys and be detached to the Clyde to join the parent portion.

1702/1.

Advance copy Ops. Trade.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(T)(2)

Naval Sec.

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

Ops.(4)

O.D.(5)

D.N.I.(4)

O.I.C.(2)

D.S.D.9.

D.T.D.(4) for action.

D.T.D.(M)

D. OF S.T.

M.(2)

D. A/S W.

D. OF P.(3)

E.P.S.

D. OF S.IIA.

I.P.(3)

W.D.

CONFIDENTIAL M E S S A G E 0945/2 May IN

From C. in C. Western
Approaches.

Date 2/5/41
Recd. 1037

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated F.O.'s i/c Liverpool,
Greenock, Milford Haven, N.O.'s i/c Aultbea, Oban,
N.C.S.O.'s Clyde, Mersey, Glasgow, Oban, Aultbea,
Milford Haven.

My 1702/1st May paragraph 4. For 2 days read 4 days.

0945/2
Advance copy Ops., Trade.

Alterations in HX and 80 Convoy
cycle.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
Naval Sec.

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (4)
O.I.C. (2)
D.S.D.9.
D.T.D. (4) for action.
D.T.D. (M)
D. of S.T.
M. (2)
D.A./S.W.
D. of P. (3)
E.P.S.
D. of S.2A.
I.P. (3)
W.D.

War Diary.

1.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.

My 2253/30 bearings from home station give position approx. 038° N. 012° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0431/1 to N.A. Stn).

ARMERIA,
BURDOCK,
ASTER,
WOODRUFF.

Should be sailed in company with O.G. 62 to Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail these corvettes for onward passage to Freetown as soon as possible after arrival at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(H) 1234/1 to C. in C. W.A). *Cancelled 12/5 22 ARMERIA*

9 BURDOCK - See p. 403 -

Suspicious Ship 23/4.

M/S T.
R.F.A. CORDELIA reports 0410/23 darkened vessel steering south at high speed 031° 30' N. 033° 00' W. Appearance of Warship or ?large A/Carrier. (F.O.C.N.A. 1444/1 to Admty).

VILLA FRANCA
detained,
Swiss cargo.

Following for M E W. My ARFAR 254 Portuguese VILLA FRANCA Lisbon to (? Genoa) 1922 tons general cargo. Admty's 1324/30 (Suspension of all ships sailing Genoa with Swiss cargoes) vessel detained pending instructions. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 1505/1 to Admty).

Enemy A/C.

My 1700 (N.T. in W.R) aircraft believed to be Condor F.W. and turned North on making the land. (SCOTTISH 1720/1 to F.O.C.N.A).
Aircraft believed F.W. Condor 270° Cape Espichel 17 at 1700, subsequent steering North Coastwise. (S.O.I. Gib. 1757/1 to Admty).

OLGA TOPIC
(Yugoslav)

Your 2346/25/4. Master of OLGA TOPIC states his vessel purchased by Swiss Govt., and Swiss legation has given him orders to remain at Lisbon pending the receipt of documents. Request instructions. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1844/1 to Admty).

War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.NATAL.
German Ships
at Santos.

Santos reports as follows (A.O) Rumours were current several days before arrival of German ship NATAL in Sao Paulo Two or Three German ships would arrive shortly at Santos. Rumours now current another is due in about a week's time ends. S.O. (I) Freetown informed. (S.O.I. Montevideo 01312/1 to Admty).

U/B Report.

Report received from Pernambuco (C.5) Two fisherman report seeing S/M off Cabedello. N.S.O. (I) Freetown pass to G. in C. S.A. (N.A. Rio De Janeiro 1245/1 to Admty etc).

BANFORA.

Your 1931/30. Dakar Authorities should be informed that passengers and crew of BANFORA are all safe and well, and that 189 have already been repatriated on S.S. COLONIAL. Proposals of American Consul, Dakar, are under urgent consideration. (Head of M. 1323/1 to C. in C. S.A).

Dakar.

Intelligence from U.S.N. See America & West Indies.

MONARCH OF
BERMUDA.
EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.
DUNEDIN.
(Convoy C.F.1)

Admty 0124/29?0104/30 intended? MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN escorted by DUNEDIN leave Freetown 1200/2 speed of advance $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots (route). HIGHLANDER, BOREAS, will act as local escort to about 19° N. (C. in C. S.A. 1839N/1 to F.O.C.N.A amended 1015N/2). Arrival 1700/1 DUNEDIN, HIGHLANDER, and BOREAS escorting Convoy C.F.1. (S.O.I. Freetown 1851N/1).

Look-out
Ships
S.L. Convoys.

Your 1832/31/3. My views expressed in my letter No. 253/047 of 22/2. Zig-zagging of faster ships in wing columns for A/S protection was tried some months ago with success but it may be considered circumstances have altered and daylight attack less likely.

/Consider.....

War Diary.

1.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Look-out
Ships
S.L. Convoys.
(contd).

Consider that look out ships if employed should not be more than five miles from convoy in order to maintain reliable visual touch. This also should enable support to be given by convoy escort if attacked by armed merchant raider, otherwise principle involved appears to be whether (a) merchant ship look out should be considered independent of convoy when on look out and as there to give warning and sacrifice herself if enemy is sighted or (b) considered as part of convoy stationed to give earlier warning of enemy for dispersal or evasion but able to use support of ocean escort and fall back on convoy and escort when enemy sighted though avoiding direct course for convoy if possible. I propose (b). (C. in C. S.A. 2013N/1 to Admty).

SEVERN*

Admiralty 1213/1. A study of weather charts in Admiralty shows that during May there is a 2 in 4 chance of wind force 3 or less and swell nil or slight in an area bounded on the North by a line 100° from Bermuda; on the South by a line 076° from Antigua and on the East by meridian of 30° W. Request you route SEVERN to investigate some of this area on passage to Halifax, with a view to destroying enemy ships or raiders. S.O. of U.S.A. forces in this area will be informed of her movements. (A.C.N.S. F. 2251/1 to C. in C.S.A)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation
"Demon"
DIAMOND and
WRYNECK and
SLAMAT sunk.

Following is a repetition of my 2351/29. (Indecypherable). Situation report No. 11. ~~DEMON~~: Both DIAMOND and WRYNECK were sunk a.m. /27 with heavy loss of life. About 700 survivors from SLAMAT had been successfully embarked and the two destroyers were making for Suda Bay when attacked by about six JU 88 in position 036.30 N 023.34 E. Both ships received direct hits. DIAMOND sank immediately and WRYNECK after five minutes. GRIFFIN picked up fifty survivors during the night and one Whaler may have reached land. No other details yet. (24 p. 23)

Numbers
Evacuated.

Numbers of troops embarked will continue to be uncertain until all men have been landed but from signals received and reference my 1346/28, 8,300 were embarked from Raptis area night 26/27th and 4,200 night 27/28th. This brings estimated total to 43,000 of which about 10,000 have arrived Alexandria. In addition an unknown number were embarked Monemvasia and Kithera night 28/29. Feared no troops were got off from Kalamata night 28/29. but destroyers will try again tonight 29/30 and also embark 500 from Micoe, all forces not engaged in these embarkations being withdrawn to Alexandria. Convoy G.A.15 passes Kado tonight due Alexandria 1st. Battle Squadron covering. G.A.14 arrived Alexandria. ROVER in tow to Alexandria.

CHAKLA
bombed.

Western desert. CHAKLA hit by bombs in Tobruk harbour 29 /4 and reported sinking. APHIS bombarding Sollum area in support of army. Malta DIDO, ABDIEL, BRECONSHIRE, K.14 and three destroyers are on passage Malta to Alexandria.

(C. in C. Med 0009/1 to Admty).

45,000
Evacuated.

Situation report No. 12. ^{'Demon'} ~~DEMON~~. V.A.L.F. and F.O.A.M. have now arrived Alexandria. Much good work done by crews of 'A' lighters beach parties etc., but all have found incessant bombing very trying in absence of any fighter protection. Numbers embarked include many distressed Seamen, Nurses, Civilians etc., but consider total to date exclusive of these to be about 45,000 troops and R.A.F.

2. Night.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.45,000
Evacuated.
(contd).COSTA RICA..
PENNLAND
lost.Gazala
bombed.Malta Raid.PERSEUSTRUSTY STAR
sunk.
Need for L.L.
Sweepers.

2. Night 28/29 3750 embarked Monemvasia, 450 Kalamata, 750 Kithera. Cause of failure to embark more at Kalamata not clear till PERTH arrives. Night 29/30 only 16 Officers and 17 others from Kalamata neighbourhood. After consultation with Generals Wavell and Wilson all forces now returning Alexandria.

3. Regret only one officer and 28 ratings from WRYNECK and ten ratings from DIAMOND so far reported saved. COSTA RICA and PENNLAND lost without serious casualties. GLENEARN and ROVER still in tow to Alexandria. GLENEARN due 0700/1, ROVER 2/5 GLENGYLE, NUBIAN, damaged by near misses. Convoy due Alexandria 0700/1 was repeatedly attacked by E-boats night 29/30 in Kaso Straits, Attacks driven off without loss but no E-boats sunk.

Western Desert. Successful bombardment of Gazala area by LADYBIRD 28th and APHIS 29th. CHAKLA aground upper deck awash two injured only.

5. Malta. Heavy raid night 28/29 damage apparently not serious.

6. DIDO and ABDIEL have arrived Alexandria.

(C.C. Mes, 0021/1, to Admiralty)

My 1845/29. Route to Port Said, arriving 0700/4.
(Capt S.L. 0115/1 to PERSEUS).
Cancel my 0125/1 (?0115/1). From position (b) proceed (route) to arrive Port Said 0700/4 to exchange batteries. RORQUAL leaves Alexandria 0900/3 (route) to arrive Port Said 0500/4.
(Capt. S.L. 1955/1 to PERSEUS).

TRUSTY STAR fitted with L sweep, ex HOPPER which was the only heavy sweeper in action was sunk last night. Drifters being fitted with L mark V sweep will not be ready for two or three weeks. It is therefore imperative that one or preferably two LL whalers or other suitable small craft be sailed here as soon as possible, otherwise there is a grave risk of the Harbour having to be closed as many mines are dropped every night.
(VA. Malta 1024/1 to C. in C. Med).

Your 1024/1.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.TRUSTY STAR
sunk.
Need for L.L.
Sweepers (contd).

Your 1024/1. In view of number of L.L. Sweepers which have been damaged and of scale of mining attack taking place at other ports it is not possible to send another L.L. Sweeper to Malta. Work of fitting out drifter with Mark V L.L. should be pressed forward with all the resources of (?dockyard) and given priority.
(C. in C. Med., 1857/1 to V.A. Malta).

Italian
shipping
Palermo.

Following received from Madrid. 10 steel vessels belonging Mauro Shipping Co., now in Palermo harbour loading mixed war material (?mostly) German for Tripoli. Following identified: CITTA DI PALERMO, TARANTO, ~~CITTA DI~~ MESSINA, CONSTANTINO, PLATONE, SIRDICATTO. Vessels due to sail from Palermo with destroyer and submarine escort either in one or two convoys. Sailing date either 1st or 2nd/5. If sailing in convoys, one convoy may sail on each of above dates. Reliability not assessed.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 1046/1 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

Air attacks on
Tobruk.

Operational Summary No. 325 up to 1200 hours 1/5. Day 29/4. 6 enemy air attacks on Tobruk during day including 3 by 20 to 30 JU 87s escorted by fighters. Day 30/4. During day enemy bombed Tobruk 6 times.
(H.Q. R.A.F. ME. 1107/1).

Greek
Evacuation.

Summary of air operations from Crete 24/4 to 28/4.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1107/1 and 1838/1) See Lion Copy.

Crete.

Summary of J.I.C. appreciation of scale of attack on Crete.
(1st S.L. 1108/1 to C. in C. Med). See Lion Copy.

2 M.Vs sunk
by UPHOLDER.

3 Merchant ships 3 destroyers, p.c. and s. of enemy 034° 41' 011° 39' - 035° - 10. 2 others sunk by torpedo. Asdic out of action. Torpedoes expended.
(UPHOLDER, 1146/1 to V.A. Malta).

CACHALOT.....

Date 1.5.41.

24(A)

From H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East.

Time 1625.

CYPHER

Addressed Air Ministry. Repeated A.H.Q. Iraq. A.H.Q. Aden.
A.H.Q. Nairobi. H.Q. Malta. Dechief Pretoria.
203 Group.

IMMEDIATE

A. 850 May 1st.

X.1796 (Part 2) Hqs. R.A.F. Middle East. Operational
Summary 1325 up to 1200 hrs. May 1st in 2 parts.

Part 2. Crete. Following amplifies summary of air operations from Crete 24 to 28 April inclusive in connection with sea evacuation from Greece which was carried out under intense sustained enemy air attack throughout. R.A.F. fighters based in Crete provided following cover. Patrols by Blenheim fighters over convoys up to maximum effective working range and by Gladiators and Hurricanes at shorter range from Crete also air defence Suda Bay. R.A.F. and F.A.A. fighter reached peak 24 April when first convoy arrived Crete. Hurricanes had to be conserved owing to shortage and were used primarily for defence Suda Bay during approach and berthing of ships.

Enemy air attacks on convoys during transit within range our fighters were on the whole effectively beaten off. Results of combats reported in previous summaries. Fighter reports are at present very incomplete particularly those of Hurricanes and Gladiators but following sorties by types have so far been reported for the period April 24 to 28. Blenheim fighters 47 Gladiators 8 plus. Hurricanes 2 plus. Maximum number of each type available at commencement of operations Blenheim 16. Gladiator 6. Hurricane 5 with no replacements for casualties.

April 29. Throughout day 13 fighter Blenheims maintained patrols over convoys leaving Suda Bay for Egypt. No enemy sighted. F.A.A. fighters and Hurricanes patrolled over convoy in Suda Bay. 2 fighter Blenheims reconnoitred Oelos Island following Greek report of German troops disembarked by transport aircraft. No enemy observed. 8 JU.88 dive bombed Suda Bay. No damage or casualties.

Sudan April 29. Gladiators machine gunned M.T. on road near Mai Cei and landing grounds (at Matb) ?, destroying 1 damaged Caproni and damaging 1 Caproni 1 S.79 1 CR.42 and 1 unidentified fighter on ground.

Kenya. April 29. 2 S.A.A.F. JU.86's escorted by fighter bombed and machine gunned M.T. near Sciasciamanna. 1 Maryland machine gunned M.T. convoy carrying native troops between Sciasciamanna and Soddu inflicting damage and casualties. 1 Hartebeeste bombed and machine gunned enemy camp 15 miles north of Maji. End of Part 2 End of Message.

1107/1.

Received from Air Ministry 1955/1.

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

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

RIC

1838/1st May.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.

Date 2.5.41.
Recd. 0145CYPHER.Addressed Air Ministry, Repeated A.H.Q. Iraq, A.H.Q. Aden,
A.H.Q. Nairobi, H.Q. Malta, Dechief, Pretoria, 203 Group.IMMEDIATE.

X.1975.A.851 1/5.

Further to my A.848 29/4. Following are
additional details of the evacuation by air of persons
from Greece.

Para.1. When ship evacuations started it became necessary for Sunderland to resume also full Ionian and Mediterranean reconnaissances to guard against possible raids by Italian Navy against our ships engaged on evacuation. Sunderlands therefore on many occasions in addition to spending day on reconnaissance were engaged on evacuation during the night making night landings and departures at places along Greek Coast where parties of R.A.F. had been reported. Many crews have consequently lacked sleep or rest for long periods.

Para 2. Following reports of evacuation received.

Night 24/25th April. Sunderland took off 38 and 2 Bombays and 3 Lodestars 60 personnel from Argos.

Night 25/26th April 2 Sunderlands took off total 41 wounded R.A.F. from Argos including 16 Stretcher cases. April 26th.

1 Sunderland took off 73 R.A.F. from Githion. 2 Sunderlands took off total 137 R.A.F. and 2 Army from Kalamata.

27/4. Sunderland evacuated 50 R.A.F. and Army from Kaylai additional to General Wilson and members of Greek Government as previously reported.

Para.3. Estimated over 95 per cent of R.A.F. awaiting evacuation from Greece have now been brought away.

Night 25/26th April. Destroyer took off most R.A.F. remaining Argos.

Situation 29/4. Total of 794 R.A.F. now evacuated from Crete to Egypt by air and 1777 by sea of latter 875 were from Kythera. Balance of 203 R.A.F. in Crete awaiting transport for evacuation.

1838/1.

Recd. from Air Ministry 0520/2.

Advance copy Ops, O.D. & O.I.C.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

Nav.Sec.

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

O.D.(5)

O.I.C.(2)

e.d.

Ops (4)

D. of P.(3)

M.(2)

E.P.S.

D.N.I.(4)

I.P.(3)

D.P.D.

W.D.

D.S.D.9.

D.N.A.D.

1108/1 May.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To C. in C. Mediterranean 533 B.1.

Date 1. 5. 41.

Naval Cypher (One time table)

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following is summary of J.I.C. appreciation of scale of attack on Crete for your appreciation. Begins. German attack Crete by simultaneous air-borne and sea-borne expedition believed imminent.

Scale of air-borne attack estimated 3000/4000 parachutists of airborne troops in first sortie. Two or three sorties per day possible from Greece and three or four from Rhodes. If Rhodes not used as dive-bomber base. All above with fighter escort.

Heavy bombing attacks to be expected immediately prior to arrival of air and sea-borne troops. Main fighter and dive bombing support probably based Rhodes. Following is our estimate based on establishments of operational aircraft available in Balkans for all purposes. 315 long-range bombers, 60 twin-engined fighters, 240 dive-bombers, 270 single-engined fighters. Last two categories would require extra tanks if operated from north of Corinth Canal. Only very small attacks from points south of this owing to aerodrome shortage in Morca but some 60/90 dive-bombers and similar number single-engined fighters could operate from Rhodes provided aerodromes in Rhodes not required for other operations.

Estimated that both troops and shipping ample for seaborne operation, lighters for transport of tanks also believed available hence scale of sea-borne attack dependent of extent to which enemy can evade our naval forces. Reinforcements enemy naval forces and shipping from Italy possible, but involves hazardous route round Cape Matapan, if Corinth Canal unusable. Ends.

The above has been passed to C. in C, Middle East by War Office.

1108/1.

Sec. to 1st S.L.

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.C.D.(H).
D.N.I.(4).
D.S.D.
D.N.A.D.

D. of L.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain.
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.(2)
N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean. (contd).CACHALOT

Has 3 additional officers, 17 ratings, all personal gear and considerable quantity of spare gear also about 12 tons of special ammunition in No. 1 fuel tank for Malta and Alexandria. In view of these conditions request intention in your 1106/30 be reconsidered.
(F.O.S. 1148/1 to C. in C. Med).

Aegean
Convoys and
German Air
Menace.

Your 1020/27. While the German Air Force is concentrated in full strength in Greece we have to accept that the running of routine convoys in the Aegean is out of the question. In any case to pass a convoy to Turkish ports or to Dardanelles will be a fleet operation requiring all A/A strength the fleet can provide. Unlikely that the present air concentration will be left locked up in Greece and the problem will then be easier. War-ships should always be able to operate though at some hazard. Throughout the evacuation operations our warships have operated in the Aegean practically unhindered by enemy surface craft or submarines. In short, the British Fleet can and will continue to operate in the Aegean but in future the passage of merchant ships will only be possible under cover strong forces.

(C. in C. Med., 1201/1 to Admtty).

CORDELIA
(German)

The following is an extract from Fairmiss telegram from Galata.
Istanbul, arrival 30/4.
(Galata, T.O.O. 1202/1/5 to Fairmiss).

YORK
salvage.

My 1147 /25. Salvage operations on YORK have now had to be suspended. Majority of ships company have been moved to Alexandria. A maintenance party and nucleus salvage party have been left on board.
(C. in C. Med., 1209 /1 to Admtty).

Enemy Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (contd).Enemy Convoy.

Large convoy escorted course 205° speed 8 knots, my position is 034° 40' 012° 20'. (UNDAUNTED, 1244/1 to Malta).

UPHOLDER
URSULA
UNDAUNTED
UTMOST.

To leave position at 0001B/2 and proceed as follows: UPHOLDER return Malta in accordance with my 1133/0. URSULA to area K. 034° 20' 011° 40' - 000° - 40- 40. UPRIGHT to area U 033° 20' 011° 00' - 000 degrees - 40 - 60. UNDAUNTED to area T. 032° 50' 012° 40' - 000° - 50 - 40 UTMOST to area J 035° 10' 010° 40' - 000° - 50- 50 but is not to operate within 10 miles N.E. corner of that area. Cancel all except 1st sentence of my 1147/27 re interception of enemy convoys by submarines. Submarines are to make an enemy report if possible after attacking both by day and by night. (Cdr. S.1. 1251/1 to S/Ms on Patrol amended 0945/2 Action deferred - see 2003/1).

Work of Navy in
Greek
Evacuation.

I have now seen Pridham Wippell and Baillie Grohman and from their reports operation has been a most notable feat on the part of the Navy. Of one instance only are we not satisfied and that is PERTH'S action in abandoning evacuation at Kalamata on night of 28th/29th. It must however be remembered that evacuation was arranged to take place from destroyer alongside pier in town. Cruisers, destroyers, small craft and merchant vessels never faltered in their efforts to bring off our troops and R.A.F. personnel, although continuously subjected to heavy dive bombing attacks with no fighter protection whatever except close to Crete. The work of landing craft and beach personnel has been outstanding and I have had reported to me tales of their doings which compare with anything that has ever been done of this kind (as for instance a T.L.C. continuing to go in for troops though every single member of crew was wounded.) The numbers brought off considerably surpass anything the army had hoped. To Pridham Wippell and Baillie Grohman the greater credit is due for their arrangements and for their tenacity in facing unforeseen setbacks. A special word is also due to the consistently good work of A/A Cruiser who bore the brunt of providing such A/A protection as was possible. I think also that it is perhaps

Worth recording....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Work of Navy
in Greek
Evacuation.
(contd).

worth recording at this juncture that the whole of these forces were in first instance moved into Greece without loss of a ship, man or piece of equipment except for a few bomb casualties in DEVIS.

(C. in C. Med., 1301/1 to Admty).

Position of
Greek
Warships and
Crews.

Admiral Kavadias states condition of his ship's companies is unsatisfactory and that one destroyer is in state of mutiny. Ratings wish to return to Greece. Admiral realizes ships cannot be allowed to go out of our hands, and asks for time to see if influence of local Greeks will improve matters. Certain 5th Column work ashore, and I think it unlikely ships are (?going) to be of any use unless we take them over. Suggest negotiations should be started forthwith by H.M. Gov. on the lines that we evidently cannot let ships go, and if ship's companies insist on repatriation it is better to send them and use the ships ourselves rather than leave them idle. Possible that the Greek Govt. might agree to this if tackled now.

(C. in C. Med., 1311/1 to Admty).

Enemy
Units.

Four enemy cruisers six enemy destroyers in 035° 10' N (? 020° or 12°) 38' E course 210° 15 knots at 1130/1.

(V.A. Malta, 1340/1 to S/Ms on Patrol).

Netherlands
S/Ms.

C. in C. Med's 0948/12/4 and S.1's 1905/25/4. In order that submarines of 8th Flotilla may share evenly in work of the Flotilla and to reduce the wear and tear of machinery in the older British submarines, it is proposed subject to the concurrence of B.D.Z., that the three Netherlands Submarines should take their turn on patrol in the Mediterranean. If this is agreed, suggest C. in C. Med., and F.O.C. N.A. be informed by Admty accordingly and that authorities concerned be instructed as to whether Gibraltar convoy escort or patrols in Mediterranean should take priority. A total of three can keep present convoy programme going.

(F.O.S. 1417/1 to Admty).

POLINICE sunk.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).POLINICE
sunk.

Further to my letter STM/D.S.T. 17, POLINICE bombed and sunk at moorings. (S.T.O. Malta 1440/1 to D. of S.T.) (POLINICE, Italian, seized at Malta on Italy entering the War).

TRIUMPH
Benghazi.

Concentrate on Benghazi. Following is latest information. There is probably no coast defence artillery at port. Consideration should be given attacking ships in harbour with gunfire. (Capt. S.l. 1451/1 to TRIUMPH).

Operation
"Demon"
Convoy G.A.15.

Convoy G.A.15 Alexandria Section comprising British ships DELANE ITRIA R.F.A. BRAMBLELEAF Greek Ships IONIA CORINTHIA arrived. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria 1542/1).

TRUANT

Leaves Malta 2000B/1 Route to area within 20 miles Carbonara. S/MS are not to be attacked between 2000B/1 & 2000B/4. (Cdr. S.l. 1545/1 to S/MS on Patrol 1628/1 to Capt S.l.)

U/B attacked
by JUNO
JAGUAR,
30/4.

At 1939/30 in position 32.50 N 27.52 E. While screening Battle Fleet JAGUAR sighted U Boat periscopes. U Boat subsequently attacked by JUNO and JAGUAR. After JUNO's attack U Boat broke surface for five seconds on her side or bottom up. Contact held and attacked until 2139 when it faded out. While going in to attacks JUNO reports contacts were lost at increasing ranges indicating increasing depth of U Boat. Last attack contact lost at 800 yards. Sunderland to-day failed to find any trace in position quoted. Attack Classified B. (C. in C. Med., 1551/1 to Admty).

German Objectives
E. Mediterranean.

Agree information points to early attack on Crete by simultaneous air borne and sea borne expeditions. Must however bear in mind

possibility cover plan....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.German
Objectives
E. Mediter-
anean (contd).

possibility cover plan Cyprus, Syria and Iraq
Latter suggested by latest developments Iraq.
Consider your estimates scale air attack
excessive. Our information points insufficient
sea going shipping left Aegean for large
scale sea borne operation, but if Turkey allows
passage through Dardenelles shipping and
lighters should be available from Roumania.
(C. in C. M.E. 1630/1 to W.O.)

M.I. Comment

Referring to the last three lines:
M.E. do not mention the possibility of
shipping and lighters being sent from Italy.
We have no evidence that the Corinth Canal
is blocked.

Thanks to
Merchant Navy.

Suggest publicity be given to following mess-
age which I have issued locally. Thanks to
the Merchant Navy for their devoted work
during these past weeks.
(C. in C. Med., 1650/1 to Admty).

Flag Commands.

Introduction of post of V.A.L.F. combining
duties of 2 in C. and R.A.D. has not proved
satisfactory. 2 in C. in a cruiser is out of
touch with C. in C. and Operations and owing
to his being at sea so constantly administra-
tion of destroyers has suffered considerably.
Suggest revert to former arrangement in which
V.A.2 Commanded the Battle Squadrons and fol-
lowing adjustment of F.O.'s and Command.
Arrival of battleships cruiser and destroyer
reinforcement makes moment propitious.
6. (a) V.A. Pridham-Wippell to be V.A. C 1st
B.S. and F.O. 2nd in C. Med., with flag in
QUEEN ELIZABETH.
(b) R.A. King as R.A.C.15th C.S. consisting
of GLOUCESTER, FIJI, and 2 DIDO Class with Flag
GLOUCESTER or NAIAD.
(c) R.A. Rawlings to be R.A.C 7th C.S.
consisting of ORION, PERTH and AJAX with flag
in ORION.
(d) R.A. Glennie to be R.A.D. Med., with
flag in one of DIDO Class and office ashore,
or in WOOLWICH so that his flagship can go to
sea as an ordinary cruiser.
(C. in C. Med., 1705/1 to Admty).

Malta Air Raids.....

MOST SECRET*War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.(contd).Malta Air Raids.

Report Malta up to 1600 hours 1/5. Times G.M.T. 1600 hours 30/4. 6 JU 88's escorted by 12 M.E. 109's made high level attack on Grand Harbour with little success. 1830 to 2100 hours. Third successive night blitz. About 35 aircraft in all. First attack 20 aircraft approaching alternatively high and low. The former to attract defences while the latter glided to lay mines in harbour and approaches. About 6 mines strayed over land 2 being exploded in air. A lull then 15 enemy aircraft dropped bombs with aid of flares. Damage considerable. Valletta (damage) (Casualties) (civilians).

Ships
damaged
Dockyard
damaged
Mining.

Naval report. Malta striking force had left harbour when first raid began. ENCOUNTER again considerably damaged by blast and splinters. FERMOY sustained further damage in dock. CORAL down by bows in dock. TRUSTY STAR sunk. Ex Italian POLINICE sunk at mooring. JANUS, REGENT, and OLYMPUS undamaged. Very severe damage caused dockyard storehouse and wharfs. Large fires in paint store. Direct hit on No. 3 dock, Caisson and dock flooded. Further damage caused to Jinghi hospital. More parachute mines laid in Grand Harbour approaches. No naval or dockyard casualties. Army and R.A.F. report no casualties or damage. Target solely harbours. 1500 hours 6 JU 88 escorted by about 12 ME 109 made high level attack on Grand Harbour. All bombs in sea outside harbour.

Enemy Convoys and Warships.

Part 2. Reccos.
2 Glenn Martins Eastern Tunisian Coast. 0624 hours, 6 medium M/Vs escorted by 6 destroyers 35° 24' N. 12° 10' E. 180° 12 knots. Sighted again 0919 hours. 34° 55' N 11° 58' E. 110° 10 knots. 6 Blenheims 21 Sqn. despatched to attack 0913 hours 5 small M/Vs unladen escorted by 4 destroyers or T.B.'s 34° 42' N 11° 40' E. 060° 10 knots. 0930 hours 4 cruisers and 6 destroyers 35° 10' N. 12° 40' E. 210° 15 knots. 1345 hours 1 large M/V 3 small M/Vs escorted by 2 destroyers. 37° 00' N. 11° 46' E. 160° 10 knots.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 1725/1).

Genoa Suvona.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (cont).Genoa
Savona.

My 1928/29, reported that Genoa and Savona were closed for 48 hours and reopened a.m./30 Conditions stated to be normal (D.N.I. 1855/1 to C. in C. Med., etc).

DERNA
(Italian).

Departure 30/4 for Las Palmas. (Barcelona T.H.I. 1940/1 via Ministry of Shipping).

GLOUCESTER
5th D.F.

GLOUCESTER and 5th D.F. leave Malta (?2000) B/1 to intercept 5 Merchant ships and 2 destroyers reported (?far) W of Pantellaria at 1655B/1 course 170° 10 knots. Defer action in my 1251/1 until 0600B/2. (S.O.(S) Malta, 2003/1 to S/MS on Patrol).

Enemy Convoy
M/V and
Destroyer
hit.

Another convoy sighted close westward Pantellaria at 1700B steering for Tripoli (Africa). Have despatched Malta force to try to intercept with orders not to engage too superior a force and retire at 0400. They may meet 4 cruisers and possibly stronger number destroyers. Preliminary report of Blenheim "one hit on merchant vessel and one on destroyer on what appears a 3rd northbound convoy. Both ships left stopped". (V.A. Malta 2015/1 to C. in C. Med).

ENCOUNTER
damaged.

Propose paying off ENCOUNTER into Dockyard Control leaving only Care and Maintenance Party on board. Damage to hull and machinery too extensive and will require many months to repair. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2055/1 to C. in C. Med).

SURF

Your 2007/7 /1 and 1219/28. Yacht SURF, please confirm whether on Naval Service at time of total loss. (D of S.T. 2127/1 to S.S.T.O. Egypt)

Turkish territorial.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Turkish
Territorial
Waters.

Within area notified in 381 (?W) B 26 aircraft surface ships and submarines may attack at sight any ship navigating without our permission. Turkish territorial waters are to be respected and care is to be taken to avoid interfering with Turkish coastal shipping which on account of navigational difficulties in some areas navigate outside territorial waters. Vessels identified as enemy may be attacked within Turkish territorial waters by H.M. ships and aircraft provided (a) care is taken to avoid damage to persons and dwelling houses ashore (b) attacks are not made within Dardanelles Straits (C. in C. Med 2353/1 to Med., Fleet.)

East Indies.DUCHESS OF
YORK
COLOMBO.

Your 0801/29 DUCHESS OF YORK is due Bombay 5/5. Cdre. R.I.N. is requested to sail DUCHESS OF YORK as soon as ready for Malaya, calling at Colombo, & to report programme as much in advance as possible. Intend COLOMBO to escort to Colombo. Grateful if China cruisers could assist with onward escort. (C. in C. E.I. 0706Z/1 to C. in C. China).

KING
GRUFFYDD

To join Red Sea Force on arrival at Berbera. (C. in C. E.I. 0712Z/1 to S.N.O. Red Sea Force).

Force
"Cling"

Intended escort arrangements for Force "Cling" Orders to ANTECOR, KANIMBLA, etc. (C. in C. E.I. 1238Z/1 to Cdr. R.I.N., F.O.C.R.I. N., S.S.T.O. India, etc. amended 0701/2).

PARVATI,.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies (contd).PARVATI,
(mined and
sunk 30/4).

PARVATI was following in wake of CERES and 3/4 of a mile astern. At 1552 CERES cut a mine with starboard P.V. in position 13° 10' 42" 53' and decided to withdraw to eastward. Then mine was seen by PARVATI. Alteration to eastward was made at 1555 and PARVATI struck another mine within 1/2 a mile of first mine. She sank in two minutes. One officer and 16 ratings are missing out of complement of 38.

(S.N.O.R.S. 1004Z/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

Shipping
Routes.

For N.C.S.O's. My 2006/1/3. There is a tendency for ships bound east or west in Indian Ocean to concentrate near position B, and to keep too close line B.C. This is to be avoided. Position B is not to be regarded as a focal point and there is to be greater dispersion north of line B.C. Ships carrying important cargo (see 1628/23/1 from Admty) are always to be routed well to northward. (C. in C. E.I. 1204Z/1 to E.I. Stn.)

Air Action.
Iraq.

A.O.C. proposes to issue ultimatum at 0300Z/2 that Iraq Force surrounding Habbaniya must withdraw by 0500Z failing which our Air Force will take action which will include in their military objectives Baghdad. Ten Wellingtons now at Shaibah will take part. Ambassadors concurrence not yet received.

(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1707Z/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

My 1707Z/1. On account of Iraq reinforcements surrounding Habbaniya A.O.C. Iraq has decided to inform local commander at 0245Z that if forces not withdrawn forthwith air action will be taken immediately.

(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1747Z/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

EAGLE

Is required at Gibraltar as soon as possible she must, therefore, be recalled from her present operation to continue her passage without delay. She should proceed in company with NELSON after Durban.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1732/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

LIVERPOOL.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd).LIVERPOOL.

Ref. 0933/29 C. in C. Med. Arrival from Canal and departure to Red Sea LIVERPOOL course direct, speed of advance 15 knots due (? Aden) 5/5.
(N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik 1834/1 to Admty etc).

UMBRIA
Wreck.

Your 2311/30/3. N.O.I.C. Port Sudan suggests wreck of UMBRIA not inspected by Master of PROTECTOR. On what grounds therefore was his opinion based that floating was impracticable? Do you consider it desirable to arrange that Captain Egeberg or other expert inspects and reports?
(D. of S.T. 2220/1 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

China.ERITREA
repairs.

Reporting Officer at Kobe reliably informed that Italian Sloop ERITREA now finished scraping, painting, and engine repairs. Latter of minor nature only.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore., 0509Z/1 to Admty Etc.)

Indo-China.

Your 1429/29. Not in favour of denouncing Indo-China agreement. Reasons.
(C. in C. China 0825/1 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

0825Z/1 May

IN

From C. in C. China.

Date 2.5.41.

Recd. 1105.

Interdepartmental Cypher 10 by cable.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated Governor, Straits Settlements, Governor, Burma, Government of India, Governor, Hong Kong, H.M. Ambassador Tokio, H.M. Ambassador Washington.

505. Your 1429 April 29th not to Tokio or Washington and Foreign Office telegram 224 to Washington I have consulted Governor Straits Settlements and for following reasons we are at present not in favour of denunciation of our agreement with Indo-China. We derive from agreement following advantages:-

(a) supplies of rice to Hong Kong. An alternative source of supply is available in Burma, but there are clear advantages in getting it from Indo-China from point of view of saving shipping.

(b) Exports from Indo-China to Malaya. Important commodities are:-

1. Anthracite (principally used for smelting tin ore);
2. Cement.
3. Foodstuffs.
4. Tin.

All these urgently needed by Malaya, but particularly cement, with regard to which present position is very acute in view of defence needs.

Foodstuffs last year were approximately half total imports in value.

(c) Maintenance of a "modus vivendi" with the Government of Indo-China. There can be little doubt that denunciation of agreement would drive the Government further into arms of Japan, who would then assume complete control of all exports from Indo-China. So long as we maintain some form of agreement with Admiral Decoux from which he himself derives advantage, we shall continue to be able to exert some influence on extent to which Indo-China comes under Japanese domination. Once, however, relations are broken, we shall have no further power to influence Japanese penetration. It is desirable to encourage even last shreds of resistance to Japan, even if we may appear genuinely weak by acquiescing in concessions which are to our disadvantage.

(2) The French gain the following advantages from this agreement:

(a) Supplies of oil from Netherlands East Indies.

(b) Considerable supply of variety of articles of food from Australia. These are of value to Indo China, but if we cut them off it is very likely that Japan will eventually supply substitutes on her own terms.

(3) If we denounce agreement we should lose what measure of control we now have over movements of French warships and large merchant ships capable of conversion to A.M.C.s. We should have to face possibility of these going to Japan, whereas we have some hope in present circumstances they might proceed to British ports in the event of Japanese aggression.

(4) *****

- 2 -

(4). The question of rubber supplies to Germany is obviously one of grave importance but we must face the fact that only means we have of influencing disposal of Indo-China's rubber exports are:

1. By encouraging Decoux to give least possible amount away to Japanese.
2. By persuading U.S.A. to take as much as possible on favourable terms.
3. By purchasing rubber ourselves from Indo China to greatest extent possible.

We can also influence amount rubber going to Japan by inducing Netherlands East Indies to stop exports to Japan altogether.

It still seems possible that by a combination of these means we can cut Japanese imports of rubber down to a point not far distant from her own needs leaving little surplus for Germany.

0825Z/1.

Advance copy M. O.I.C. Ops.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 Nav. Sec.
 P.A.S. (S).
 D.O.D. (F).
 D.D.O.D. (F).
 D. of P. (2).
 D.N.I. (4).
 D.E.W.D.
 D.S.D.9.
 D.D.I.C.
 D.T.D. (2).
 M. 350 (8).
 IePo
 WeDe
 Admiral Chalmers.
 NaV.D.10 (Paymaster Commander Wilson).
 Duty Captain.

820

War Diary.

1.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S.
Submarines.

Areas in the vicinity of New London, Coco Solo, Key West, Portsmouth, are being operated in by American Submarines. Trips along the coast are being made as follows. (Washington 0906/1 to Admty).

Whale
Catchers.

Norwegian whale catchers KOS\$ II, KOS\$ I KOS\$ XIII, KOS\$ XIV, and KOS\$ XV sailed for Greenock via St. John's N.F. (route) E.T.A. St. John's N.F. p.m./4. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0900/1 to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F.).

Fuelling
Bases.

Your 2056/25/4. Mortier. One or two berths near 10 fathoms line available but otherwise anchorage is rather deep water. Entrance has several rocks unlighted. Between June and August this part of coast very subject to fog which may delay ships entering and leaving and defeat object of fuelling base. (B.S. 3 1159/1 to Admty).

Admiral Lais.

Your 1655/30. Admiral Lais has been removed and is being detained pending further instructions. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1252/1 to Admty).

Dakar
Intelligence.

Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar 30/4 arrived FELIX HENRI from Casablanca. Sailed FORT DE VAUX, COMPIEGNE, SAINT AMBROISE, GABON and SAUMUR in convoy to the south. COMPIEGNE is bound for Indo China and stated carrying German officers as passengers. Remainder proceeding to ports of French West Africa. 3 of them carrying petrol and kerosene taken on (?at) Dakar. (N.A. Washington 1440/1 to Admty).

B.H.X. Convoy
Escorts.

Your 1600/30. Anticipated requirements can be met during summer months when ships are likely to suffer less weather damage. It will be necessary occasionally to send a Battleship without an A.M.C. and A.M.C. with S.C, Convoy must normally turn round in accordance with my 1524/27 unless required for Northern Patrol which will occur when no A.M.C. is with corresponding H.X. convoy Programme must allow B.H.X. escort to return to Halifax from Junction to embark Air Force personnel for Armed escort ship service to Iceland. This latter can be maintained but precludes possible aiding programme by using R.C.N. Corvettes as escort for H.X. portion T. junction position. (F.O.3 B.S. 2142/1 to Admty).

MOST SECRETWar Diary1.5.1941.
ThursdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedNERISSA
(Torpedoed 30/4)

(British 5583 tons, independently Halifax for Liverpool) Request you will sail RESTIVE and TENACITY to assist NERISSA torpedoed in 56° 08' N., 10° 27' W. at 2230/30. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0004/1 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

NERISSA sunk am picking up survivors in 056° 15' N., 010° 20' W., (VETERAN, 0813/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

90 survivors ex NERISSA five hospital cases. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1600. Request survivors may be moved to allow me to catch O.B. 316. (VETERAN 0940/1 to C. in C W.A.)

If possible transfer survivors to LINCOLN and then proceed in execution of previous orders. (C.in C., W.A. 0954/1 to VETERAN) Your 0954 LINCOLN reports 17 hours from me. Have two cot cases and require to top up. Consider most expedient course as in my 0940. Request approval. (VETERAN 1204/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 1204/1. Approved, as intended. (C. in C., W.A., 1402/1 to VETERAN)

CAPULET
PORT HARDY
CALEDONIA
(Torpedoed 28/4)

Arrived rescue ship ZAAFAREN with 17 survivors from CAPULET 97 survivors from SS PORT HARDY 25 survivors from CALEDONIA. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0828/1 to Admty. C. in C., W.A.)

RAJPUTANA
(Torpedoed 13/4)

Arrived D.S. 2 with survivors from RAJPUTANA. (N.O.I.C., Greenock 0945/1 to N.O.I.C., Iceland.)

VILLE DE LIEGE
(Torpedoed 14/4)

My 1607/27. Master considers ship possibly still afloat. C.B's thrown from bridge not seen to strike water but almost certainly sank. List of survivors is my 1455/1 to Admty only. (N.O.I.C., Iceland, 1451/1 to Admty. etc.)

/CITY OF NAGPUR....

MOST SECRETWar Diary1.5.1941.
ThursdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked-Contd.CITY OF NAGPUR
(Torpedoed 29/4)

Arrived HURRICANE with survivors from CITY OF NAGPUR. (F.O.I.C, Greenock, 1650/1 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

HENRY MORY
(Torpedoed 28/4)

HENRI MORY (2. Island)

2564 tons, British. Bound from Peperl and Bermuda for Barrow, was torpedoed about 300 miles W. of Achill Head probably on 28/4. 3 men in a lifeboat rescued in 53.50 N., 18.18 W., (D.S. 604/)

HARPATHIAN
(Torpedoed 8/4)

18 more survivors rescued and are being taken to Gibraltar. (D.S. 604)

H.X. 121

Report of attacks.

(A) About 1500/28 CAPULET sunk. Capt.(D) 3 then in company with convoy took action.

(B) About 1830/28, OILFIELD, CALEDONIA and PORT HARDY torpedoed. LEAMINGTON and GLADIOLUS both heard discharge of torpedoes on asdic from estimated position 2000 yards port bow of convoy. Good contact obtained about 1845 and three attacks by each ship were made with full patterns. Last attack by LEAMINGTON produced air bubbles. Contact then lost.

(C) At 1930 aircraft reported U-Boat had dived 8 to 10 miles 045° from convoy. Search made by GLADIOLUS, LEAMINGTON, until Capt. (D) (3) took charge.

(D) At 2116 DOUGLAS being then 2500 yards ahead of convoy obtained contact and dropped 3 charges. On returning for a second attack an object exactly like a torpedo without a head appeared on edge of the disturbances caused by first attack. No further contact.

(E) About 0001/29 aircraft reported a boat with survivors 30 miles 000 degs. from burning OILFIELD, GLADIOLUS detached to embark them. When searching for another boat GLADIOLUS sighted U-Boat on surface in daylight and attacked three times dropping 25 charges.

/After.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary1.5.1941.
ThursdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked

H.X. 121-Contd. After second attack large air bubble was seen and as she went in to third attack object resembling small Carley Float surfaced. On return after third attack this object disappeared and no contacts could be obtained.
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 2233/1 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported

1120 By D/F at 1120/1 B.S.T. U-Boat probably between Wick 347° and 64° N., Probably steering East. (D.D.I.C. 1218/1)
My 1218 amend signal to read by D/F at 1120 B.S.T. U-Boat probably between Wick and 64° N., on bearing 347° from Wick. (D.D.I.C., 1716/1)

1349 H.H.H. Unknown submarine submerged position DPXL 5754. (A/C No 30 E.F.T.S. Duty H. 1349/1 to 19 Group H.Q.)

2145 Detail one corvette to investigate suspicious object possibly conning tower reported by aircraft in position 055° 45' N 012° 30' W., at 2145/1. (C. in C., W.A. 2338 /1 to SHERWOOD)

1349 A/C reports sighting submarine submerging in 46° 57' N., 07° 06' W., course S.E. at 1349/1. This is presumed to be TRIDENT. (C. in C. Plymouth 2358/1 to F.O.S.)

Estimated U-Boat disposition.
(D.D.I.C., 1346/1.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary1.5.1941.
ThursdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Attacked.By TYNEDALE

Have dropped a pattern on contact classified submarine position 49° 59' N., 05° 42' W., am rejoining convoy leaving RUBY, LORD ESSENDEN to search vicinity for 2 hours and then rejoin convoy unless other orders are received. (TYNEDALE 1358/1 to C. in C., Plymouth)

TYNEDALE 1358/1. Remain in the vicinity in contact until further orders. (C. in C., Plymouth 1520/1 to RUBY, LORD ESSENDEN) Despatch all available motor launches to join RUBY and LORD ESSENDEN investigating contact in 049° 59' N., 005° 42' W. (C. in C., Plymouth 1526/1 to N.O.i/c Falmouth.)

TYNEDALE reports attacking U-Boat contact (position) RUBY, LORD ESSENDEN and three Motor Launches searching the vicinity. (C. in C., Plymouth 1604/1 to JASPER) Contact attacked in 049° 59' N., 005° 42' W at 1358. Motor Launch will be searching in the vicinity all night. (C. in C., Plymouth, 1826/1 to Capt. D.4.)

By INGLEFIELD
etc., 28/4.

*U-boat in question
was V552.
It was damaged
but not sunk. Rub.*

By JUNO
and JAGUAR.

Having received personal report from D.3. of attacks carried out by INGLEFIELD and MAORI on 28/4 I consider there is no doubt that U-Boat has sunk. (C. in C., H.F., 1635/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

See Mediterranean.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Northern
Patrol.

At 2000 NIGERIA and EXETER were patrolling south-east of Iceland, SUFFOLK in the Denmark Straits, and CACONIA in N.P. 71.

A/S
Striking Forces
in W.A.

It is intended to operate A/S Striking Forces of destroyers in the Western Approaches. These striking Forces will at first operate in conjunction with convoys, being additional to the convoy escort, A/C will co-operate within their limit of endurance.

Yugoslav
shipping.

Yugoslav ships are being ordered by the Yugoslav Govt. to ignore all instructions emanating from Yugoslavia and to proceed to a British or U.S.A. port.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night, on account of bad weather. Beauforts of Coastal Command laid mines off Brest. Blenheims today attacked shipping off the Dutch coast and claim to have sunk two 500 ton ships off Juist.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining.

Enemy aircraft last night carried out small scale minelaying in Liverpool Bay.

S.S. SEA FISHER was mined at 0025 today in 55° 34' 4" N 1° 28' 0" W (in the War Channel 12 miles S.E. of Holy Island) and was beached.

Brixham was closed at 2251, Liverpool is closed at night.

Mediterranean.

The Admiralty today informed V.A. Malta that it is of vital importance to maintain light forces based on Malta.

GLOUCESTER, KIPLING and KASHMIR left Malta at 1800 for Gibraltar.

Italian
Convoys.

At 1300 today aircraft reported 11 medium and 16 smaller merchant vessels, escorted by 3 destroyers and 9 T.B's obviously making for Benghazi.

4 Blenheims at 1035 G.M.T. today intercepted and attacked a convoy of 4 merchant vessels of 4000 - 8000 tons and 2 of 2000 tons escorted by 2 destroyers and a patrol vessel in 34° 42' N 12° 23' E and reported having hit and stopped 2 large and 1 small merchant vessels and one destroyer. URSULA was ordered to close and sink the damaged ships.

/Western Desert....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. (contd).Western
Desert.

APHIS operated off Sollum area again last night.

Wellingtons attacked the harbour at Benghazi last night.

Palestine.

One or more unidentified aircraft reconnoitred the coast from Gaza to a point west of Aqir this evening.

Operation
"Demon".

The last two destroyers are now on passage to Alexandria with 700 troops evacuated from Milo. 7461A

Greek
Navy.

The Crown Prince has addressed all officers on board the GIOGIOS AVEROFF, and it is reported that it appears much more probable the ships will continue to fight.

East Indies.Iraq.

Hostilities against Iraq commenced today by order of the G.O.C. in view of local aggression and failure of Iraqis to execute certain promises to withdraw their troops.

Raider.

A raider distress message without name of ship or position, was heard by Mauritius this evening.

MOST SECRETWar Diary2.5.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSPolicyObject of
Submarines
on Patrol.

Cancel my 1949/27/2. Object of Submarines on Patrol is now that given in memoranda of F.S. Series. (F.O.S., 0926/2)

Flag of
R.A.M. to
AGAMEMNON

Flag of R.A.(M) will be transferred to AGAMEMNON a.m./3. (R.A.M. 0929/2)

NESTOR

NESTOR is to join 6th D.F. while attached to Home Fleet Destroyer Command. (R.A.D. 1147/2.)

ROYAL SCOTSMAN

A.M. 1519/20/3. ROYAL SCOTSMAN has been withdrawn from ferry service. Replacement ship is under consideration. (D.O.D. H. 1253A/2)

Prevention of
Scuttling.
Signal "W.B.A."

Following is a paraphrased version of Admiralty message FG (begins) " With a view to preventing enemy vessels scuttling themselves when intercepted, Masters are warned that H.M. Ships have been authorised to use the signal "W.B.A." in the International Code of Signals. The following meaning has been given to this group:- 'Stop- Do not lower boats - Do not scuttle - Do not use radio - If you disobey I open fire.'

2. A warship making this signal should not necessarily be assumed to be British or Allied". Ends. (D.T.D. 1750A/2)

BERWICK.
TRINIDAD.

Admiralty 1028/1 and 1039/1. Intend concentrating Rosyth's available assistance on Portsmouth ship and therefore all officers and men necessary to complete Devonport ship will require to be sent from that Yard bearing in mind Rosyth's large commitments expected end of June. (N.S. Dockyard, Rosyth 1801Z/2 to Admty.)

/A/S Striking.....

MOST SECRET2.5.1941.
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy-Contd.A/S Striking
Forces in W.A.

It is intended to operate A/S Striking Forces in Western Approaches. Details and orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2021/2.) See Lion Copy.

Movements.21st D.F.

21st D.F. proceed to Harwich as soon as ready. Speed 12 knots. (C. in C., Nore. 1228/2)

AUSONIA

There is a considerable number of service personnel awaiting passage to Halifax, and it is suggested that AUSONIA should proceed direct to Halifax on completion of refit if this will not interfere with your programme of patrols. Request your remarks. (D.O.D. H. 1313/2 to F.O.C.N.P.) Concur that AUSONIA proceed direct Halifax from Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1604/2)

Escorts.

Your 1536 one. Anticipate destroyers available as follows without demanding mercantile convoys.
(a) Six for out bound convoys 8/5. Same escort to meet REPULSE and ARGUS.
(b) None for FURIOUS 12/5.
(c) Six for ARGUS and W.S. 8 (date)
(C. in C., W.A., 1501A/2 to Admty.)

OperationsPatrols

Following patrols tonight (1) 3 M.L's south Leman to Smiths' Knoll buoy. (2) 3 M.L's vicinity of 55 buoy (3) 3 M.G.B's 080° Aldeburgh L.F. 5 miles. (4) A.P. as follows. (C. in C., More, 1021/2)

/Estimated....

2021/2nd May.

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date 3.5.41.

Recd. 1413

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Ships and Authorities Western Approaches,
Repeated C. in C. Home Fleet, R.A. (D) Home Fleet, Admiralty,
F.O. (S), H.F. Destroyers, 15 and 18 Group R.A.F. H.Q. C.C.,
10th A/S Striking Force.

IMPORTANT.

442. It is intended to operate A/S Striking Forces in Western Approaches. These Striking Forces will normally be formed of available Destroyers in One Escort Group, or Destroyers lent from Home Fleet.

(2) In First instance, Striking Forces will operate in conjunction with convoys, being additional to convoy escort.

(3) Aircraft will co-operate within their range of endurance.

(4) Object of Striking Force is to destroy U-Boats. Presence of the Striking Force with convoy is also intended to provide additional A.A. and A/S protection when not hunting submarine, and may also ease problem of stragglers.

(5) When Striking Force is in company with convoy, Command of Escorting Forces is to be exercised in accordance with W.A.C. IS. Volume 1, Section A, Part III. Modified as follows.

(6) Senior Officer, Escort Group, will be responsible for protection of convoy against submarine attack, and for all routine and administrative matters concerning the Convoy. Senior Officer Striking Force, will be responsible for conduct of U-Boat Hunts, and if Senior to Senior Officer, Escort Group, for decision whether to detach Striking Force for this purpose, and for how long hunt is continued.

(7) In accordance with this principle, Senior Officer, Escort Group, will be responsible for stationing and handling escort group. Ships of Striking Force may be stationed in any other position not occupied by Escort Group, as ordered by Senior Officer, Striking Force.

(8) Senior Officer, Escort Group, is to inform S.O. Striking Force before sailing of the position Escort Group will occupy at the time of rendezvous with Striking Force by night and day.

(9) When in Pocko-Wulfø Area, A.A. protection of Convoys should take priority over A/S requirements by day in regard to stationing of ships of both escort group and Striking Force.

(10) If a U-Boat is sighted or detected by ships or aircraft in company with convoy, Senior Officer, Escort Group, is authorised at his discretion to detach some destroyers of the Escort Group to reinforce Striking Force.

(11) Succeeding paragraphs refer to air co-operation when weather permits.

(12) Within radius of 250 miles from Oversay, two aircraft (Wellington or Hudson) will co-operate. Within radius of 340 miles from Oversay two aircraft will co-operate when available (Sunderland, Lerwick or Whitley.) Beyond this distance one aircraft (Sunderland) will co-operate, up to radius of 450 miles from Oversay, which is limit of

/operational . .

2.

operational endurance. In all cases one aircraft only will operate with convoy at night.

(13) Aircraft will be fitted A.S.V. and will operate as follows

By night and when one aircraft only available by day, Rectangular patrol will be flown around convoy at a distance of 10 miles on either beam from 15 miles ahead to 20 miles astern of convoy, when two aircraft are available by day one aircraft will fly parallel track 10 miles on each beam of convoy from 15 miles ahead to 30 miles astern.

(14) On sighting a U-Boat aircraft will attack, report position relative to Convoy Commodore's Ship, and mark submarine, using smoke flats and dust markers by day, flares, flame floats and firing white Very's Lights by night. Aircraft will remain over U-Boat and pass information to Striking Force and also Senior Officer of Escort Group. Aircraft will be received from Base during hunt if necessary.

(15) Aircraft ordered to carry out A.A. as opposed to A/S Escort will fly close circuits around convoy but will not approach within 1500 yards range.

(16) C. in C. Western Approaches will, if necessary, give orders to Striking Force on completion of Hunt. If no orders are received, Striking Force is to rejoin Convoy.

(17) All Operational Signals will be addressed to Senior Officers of both Escort Group and Striking Force, Messages of an Administrative nature concerning Convoy will be addressed to the Senior Officer, Escort Group only.

(18) W/T Watch as in W.A.C.I. Section W. and Western Approaches Messages 31N/1806/1/3 and 34N/1620/3.

(19) Communication between Striking Force and Aircraft. As in Western Approaches Message 34N/1620/3. Ships not fitted R/T using W/T I.C.W. on 2410 kc/s aircraft will reply by R/T on 2410 kc/s if within range otherwise by W/T on 0400/3. 925 kc/s.

(20) Call signs for communication between Striking Force and aircraft first sea call sign for appropriate Numbered A/S Striking Force to be used. Code word since allotted 10th A/S Striking Force, Code Word SHILLING to 11th A/S Striking Force suffixes and Call signs to be used as in A.F.O. 32/41 Article 38 Part 1 Para.5. Clause (E) (F) (G) and Part 3.

(21) Aircraft detached from A.G. Convoy to work with A/S Striking Force will continue to use his convoy call sign for the period of his patrol. Aircraft sent specially to co-operate with A/S Striking Force will use the appropriate A/S Striking Force Call Signs.

2021/2.

Advance copy Ops, O.D., Trade, D.A./S.W. & O.I.C.

1st Lord		
1st S.L.	D.S.D. 9.	A.H.Q.H.F.
4th S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	D.T.S.D.
5th S.L.	M. (2)	Air Branch.
V.C.N.S.	D. of P. (3)	D.S.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. of L.D. (2)	W/T Room (2)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.T.D. (4)	H.W.R. (2)
Nav. Sec.	D.T.D. (M)	Hydrog. (2)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D. of S.T.	I.P. (3)
Ops (4)	D.A./S.W.	W.D.
O.D. (5)	D.N.A.D.	File M.A. In.
O.I.C. (2)	I.M.N.G.	

War Diary2.5.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsPatrols-Contd.

Estimated position 2000 tonight. NIGERIA and EXETER patrolling Southeast of Iceland. SUFFOLK patrolling Denmark Straits. LACONIA N.P. 71. (A.C.O.S 1526/2) NIGERIA and EXETER are to leave patrol at 1200/4. NIGERIA is to return to Scapa EXETER is to proceed to Hvalfiord.

(ii) C.S. 2 in GALATEA with ARETHUSA is to sail from Scapa at 1600/3 to patrol between N.P. line T.R. 34 and South coast of Iceland. (C. in C., H.F. 1544/2) My 1544/2. Under normal circumstances it is my intention that one ship should be on patrol and one at Hval Fiord.

(ii) SUFFOLK is to leave patrol to arrive Hval p.m. 5th and, after exchange of information, EXETER is to proceed to patrol as directed by SUFFOLK, returning to Hval p.m. 11th.

(iii) It is probable that EXETER if available then be required to return to Scapa. If found impossible to replace EXETER, SUFFOLK is to continue to maintain patrol in accordance with R.A. I.B.C.S's 1129Z of 28/4.

(iv) R.A. 1 B.C.S. and his destroyers are to return to Scapa as convenient after refuelling at Hval Fiord on completion of present duty.
(C. in C., H.F., 1546/2)

Intend sailing M.L's 200 195 196 to carry out (i) of your 1126/30 and M.L's 206 207 224 to carry out (ii) of your 1126/30 so as to arrive on patrol at dark tonight. Weather appears likely to be unsuitable. (F.O.Yarmouth 1645/2 to C. in C., Nore.)

Raise Steam.

Ships in harbour raise steam with all despatch. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1130A/2 to C. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, Plymouth)
Cancel my 1130A/2. (Admty. 1300A/2)

Operation Q.F.

Operation Q.F. will not take place before 5/5. (C. in C., Nore. 1212/2)

MOST SECRETWar Diary2.5.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSBritish Air ActivityPatrols.

Hornli being flown today Friday taking off 1300. (C. in C., Rosyth 1206/2)

ARGUS

ARGUS is to disembark 812 Squadron to Hatston on arrival in U.K. about 13/5. (A.C.N.S. H. 1848A/2)
 After disembarking aircraft and stores ARGUS is to load 3 operational Fulmar and up to 30 tropicalised Hurricane I with wings off fitted with long range tanks. (A.C.N.S. H. 1849A/2)

Flight
800 Z

It has been decided to form a special flight of 6 Fulmars to be known as 800 Z for service abroad. Flight will form at a northern air station forthwith as directed by R.A.N.A.S. It is anticipated that 800 Z will embark in a carrier by crane on about 15/5. 800 Z will be disbanded on completion of operation. Request you allocate 6 fully equipped Fulmars from reserve. (D.N.A.D. 2001A/2 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Enemy Air ActivityMOUCOUSU.* MONCOUSU

(Ammunition Storage Ship) Sank at No 1. Saltash Trot a.m. 30th as result of air raid damage. (C. in C. Plymouth 0053/2)

(A/S Trawler)JEAN FREDERICK
Sunk.

Lost in approx. 50° 13' N., 3° 37' 1 W. Ship was acting as escort with NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE for Convoy "Watch". At 1617/1 Junkers 88 passed over at 200 ft. Did not attack but was fired on by three M/Vs and escort who all claim hits.

/At 1620....

War Diary.

2.5.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

JEAN
FREDERICK
sunk.
Contd.

At 1620 JEAN FREDERICK reported contact and stayed behind to investigate. Explosions were heard shortly afterwards and it is presumed there must have been bombs although at the time it was thought these were depth charges. Two M/S from Dartmouth were sent to search at once and were in the area by 1730. Search was continued all night and after daylight to-day with no result and is still continuing. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0946/2.)

Convoy
F.S. Even.

Fighter aircraft are being despatched to assist ~~at~~ Area. (Rosyth W/T 1004/2.)

Scapa
Flow.

At 2218/1 one enemy A/C over Flow, 2 flares and 2 bombs dropped on Flotta, 1 barrage balloon shot down. No damage or casualties. (A.C.O.S. 1030/2.)

ARMANA.

(A/P Trawler) Reports being attacked by plane at 2200/1st when 4 miles 320 degs. St. Goven's. Plane approached with navigation lights on and had been circling for fifteen minutes. Three bombs dropped, no casualties, no damage. Enemy carried out hopping form of attack. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1228/2.)

War Diary.2.5.41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.SEA FISHER.

(British, 2950 Tons) Apparently mined and sinking in approx., 330° 1 mile from 20 G Buoy. (WALLACE 0044/2.)
 My 0044. SEA FISHER still afloat, possibly salvageable. Request tug. Am standing by. (WALLACE 0116/2.)
 Tug SEA GIANT sailed to assist SEA FISHER (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0350/2.)
 SEA FISHER W.N.W. Head draws 37ft. After hold dry, pump out of action, leak not gaining. Most unhandy. Explosion probably floating mine. My position 145° 20' G Buoy 1 mile. Making good 2 knots. (WALLACE 0445/2.)
 At 0025/2. SEA FISHER exploded a Mine in 055° 34' 04" N., 001° 28' W. (WALLACE 0910/2.)
 SEA FISHER now reported beached. Tug SEA GIANT sailed for Tyne. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2105/2.)

B.S.55.

Departures TEVIOTBANK, SHELDRAKE, KITTIWAKE, in company at 0650. E.T.A. Tyne 1845/2. (F.O.Humber 0702/2.)

SCOTT.

My 0911/1 and Admiralty's 1730/1. Now propose SCOTT should proceed Reykjavik for boiler cleaning on completion S.N.9.A. arriving 8/5. Both boilers require cleaning and secure berth will be required. Survey of Denmark Straits could then begin 13/5. (R.A.M. 0904/2 to Adty.)
 Your 0904/2. Concur. (A.C.N.S.H. 1736A/2 to R.A.M.)

German
Anti M/S
Device.

C.G. Wick reports cone shaped object washed ashore 2 miles S. of Dunbeath was German anti-mine sweeping device but explosive element was missing. Presumed this dropped out freeing float. Float was brought back. (B.S.D.O. Invergordon 1210/2.)

/Dover sweeps....

War Diary.

2.5.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Dover
Sweeps.

Routine sweeping carried out to 0800/2. Q.Z.S. 238 C 1 to No. 10 buoy by 3 Oropesa trawlers. Nothing found. In Q.Z.F. 27 five floating explosive conical floats and two German mines in good condition, probably type Y star, were seen. (V.A. Dover 1241/2.)

Iceland
A/S
Protection.

My 1715/30/4.Par.3 Subject to local examination of sea bottom by laying ship, H.D.A.s should be laid in following positions. Proposals. (D. A/S W. 1432A/2 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Irish Sea.
Mines
exploded by
ROXBOROUGH
and WALKER.

Explosion assumed caused by Acoustic Mine occurred 800 yards on starboard beam of ROXBOROUGH steering 270° 25 knots at 1520 B.S.T. in 053° 40' N., 004° 25' W. No damage to ROXBOROUGH. (ROXBOROUGH 1541/2.)

Operation
N.K.

It is suggested that fast minesweepers should carry out a sweep of Q.Z.F.13 during night of 3rd to 4th. Six vessels of 4th M.S.F. are available at Harwich. If you concur, request you will issue necessary operational orders. (C. in C. Nore 1614/2, to V.A. Dover.) Your 1614. Concur. Request that S.O. 4th M.S.F. may be ordered to sail so as to arrive Dumpton Buoy at 2200 G.M.T. on 3rd and thereafter to carry out the following sweeping operation, short title N.K.
(A) Object. Search sweep of Q.Z.F.13 extended to position Z, 2 miles southeast of V buoy. Details.
(V.A. Dover 2015/2 to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation
S.N.9A.

Intentions of R.A.M.L. (R.A.M.L. 1921/2). See Lion Copy.
WALKER exploded one mine in 53° 54' N., 4° 40 1/2' W., 3 cables broad on bow speed 26 knots. ROXBOROUGH exploded one mine in 53° 40' N., 4° 25' W., 800 yards on beam speed 25 knots. Neither ship damaged. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2048A/2.)

MOST SECRET

4 (A)

M E S S A G E 1921/2nd May.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From R.A.M.L.

Date 3.5.41.

Time 0200

NAVAL CYPHER A.1. by T/P.

Addressed Admiralty. C. in C. Home Fleet. Repeated R.A. (D) H.F. A.C.O.S.
C. in C. Rosyth. C. in C. Western Apps. F.O. (S) F.O.C.N.P.
Air Min. H.Q.C.C. A.O.C. 18 Group. A.O.C. 15 Group.

IMPORTANT.

Intend to carry out operation S N 9 A as follows.

All times are mid-summer times.

A. Surface minefield from South to North D 1 H.M.S. AGAMEMNON
(Flag R.A.M.L.) H.M.S. MENESTHEUS H.M.S. PORT QUEBEC H.M.S. SCOTT H.M.S.
BRIGHTON H.M.S. ST. MARY'S F from 063 degs. 19' N. 011 degs. 33' W. to
063 degs. 55' N. 012 degs. 00' W. G. 0700 May 5th. J. through positions

(i) 059 degs. 48' North 005 degs. 26' West.

(ii) 060 degs. 18' 006 degs. 48'

(iii) 062 degs. 00' 008 degs. 00'.

(iv) 063 degs. 14' 010 degs. 08'.

K. 12½ knots. L. 1800 May 6th. N. through positions

(i) 064 degs. 24' North 012 degs. 26' West.

(ii) 062 degs. 50' 009 degs. 22'

(iii) 060 degs. 18' 006 degs. 48'.

(iv) 059 degs. 48' 005 degs. 26'.

O. Port ZA 1430 May 8th

R. 1200 May 4 U Beacon B. 063 degs. 20' 30" North C

011 degs. 21' 30" West beacon C 063 degs. 57' 30" 012 degs. 01'

V. Reykjavik May 8th W 38 miles 14 knots X XX three star sterilized set to
12 feet Y full outfit standard line Z as for two line ships in area A
with guard on B N routine while in area B code word MINUM.

1921/2

Advance copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D. (F) & D.D.O.D. (M)

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (T) (2)

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

D. of P. (2)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D.S.D.

D.N.A.D.

D. of L.D.

D. A/S W.

D.M.S.

I.P.

W.D.

Duty Capt.

Head of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

D.D.O.D. (M)

War Diary.2.5.41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contd.Off
Dodman
Point.Two acoustic mines detonated 5 seconds interval at 0948/2 in 50° 18' 56" N., 4° 41' 48" W. Details.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1607/2.)Harwich
Area.

Consequent on the further search of 151 QZS it is now considered that the mine reported in my 1107/29 as swept up, was a floater. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1641/2.)

Humber.At 0834 today L L Trawlers detonated a mine in 165° Humber L/V 3.5 miles.
(F.O. Humber 1750/2.)Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool including Q Z S 211 and Q.Z.S. 215 will be closed from 2115/2 until 0730/3. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1800A/2.)

S.N.9.

? S.N. 9A

1st. Minelaying Squadron will sail from port Z.A. at 0600 5th for Operation S.N.nine.
(ii) KENYA is to R/V with R.A.M.L. near Butt of Lewis and is to provide close escort.
(iii) C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with MANCHESTER and BIRMINGHAM is to provide cover while 1st. Minelaying Squadron is north of disposition 063° North. (C. in C. H.F. 2238/2.)Brixham.

Port of Brixham is closed due to suspected enemy minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2251/2.)

War Diary.

2.5.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Photographic R/C of Brest at 1300/2 shows both battlecruisers present in same positions. (D.D.I.C. 1642A/2.)

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Yugoslav
Ships.

Following to be broadcast from all Radio Stations for 24 hours at 2 hourly intervals to all Jugo Slav ships! Following message is issued to all Yugoslav ships on authority of Royal Yugoslav Government. Ships are to ignore all instructions emanating from Yugoslavia. All Yugoslav ships are under the orders of the Government which directs those at sea to proceed to a British or United States port." (A.C.N.S.(T) 0250A/2 to Rugby, Portishead, etc., etc.)
Broadcast on conclusion of G.B.M.S. Messages for 24 hours to Yugo Slav Ships NIKOLINA MATKOVIC, IVAN TOPIC, SLOGA, NEMANJA and DINARA only. General instructions do not apply to your ship. You are to continue on your voyage. (D.T.D. 0313A/2 to Rugby Radio, etc.)

"W.B.A".
Signal.

Admty. Message F.G. Masters are warned that, in order to prevent enemy vessels scuttling themselves when intercepted, H.M. ships have been authorised to employ the signal "WBA" in the International Code of Signals. This group has been given the meaning "Stop- Do not lower boats-Do not scuttle- Do not use radio- If you disobey I open fire". A British Merchant ship receiving this signal should not necessarily assume that the warship making it is of British or Allied nationality.

Messages F.C. and F.F. were not made by W/T.(D.T.D. 1801A/2 to G.B.M.S. all areas.

Reporting
Suspicious
Vessels.

Admty. message "F.H." Masters of merchant ships proceeding independently in any area should at all times report by W/T the presence of any merchant vessel which they have good reason to suspect of being a disguised enemy raider or any merchant ship identified as being of enemy nationality. A.M.S. Is 23 and 104 and Admty. Messages "AB" and "BP" are cancelled. (D.T.D. 1930A/2, to G.B.M.S. in all areas except A.I.G.12, 1931A to A.I.G. 12.)

/Destinations...

War Diary.

2.5.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Destinations.

Destinations of ships in convoy. Commodores should be instructed that if in any doubt they should accept destination given by S.O. of Local Escort who will have the latest information. (D.T.D. 1942A/2 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, etc.)

Names
of Ships.

To be passed to N.C.S.O's for information of Masters of all British and Allied Merchant Ships. Names on bow and stern of merchant ships, excluding fishing vessels, should be painted out and instead two name boards provided for hanging over the side amidships on following occasions only:-

(a) In convoy when ordered by the Commodore. (b) In vessels sailing independently on being met by own aircraft if and when the aircraft has been identified as friendly. Friendly aircraft are aware that they may be fired on if they approach within 1500 yards.

(c) In British harbours and anchorages. 2. Lettering should be white and at least 18" high and 2" thick, letters being separated as much as possible. Names should be abbreviated as necessary to reduce size of nameboard.

(D.T.D. 1948A/2. to A.I.G. 26, A.I.G.19.)

War Diary.

2.5.41.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

NYULA
(Harbour
Defence
Yacht)
sunk.

Danlaying Yacht YARTA on inshore Patrol collided with A/P Motor Boat NYULA in vicinity of T.1. Buoy. NYULA in sinking condition but crew safe. YARTA is endeavouring to tow NYULA to harbour and tug is proceeding to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0430/2.) My 0430/2. NYULA sank at 0440 about 1/4 mile south of T.1. buoy. YARTA has returned harbour. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0600/2.)

NOTTS
COUNTY.

Returned to Reykjavik with engine defect. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1228/2.)

2 Tankers.

Aircraft report 1. derelict tanker in 061° 27' N., 015° 57' W., at 1020/1st and 1 burning tanker in 061° 11' N., 014° 51' W., at 1128/1st. Keep a good lookout for these ships and if sighted detach 1 escort vessel to report position and if salvageable. (C. in C. W.A. 1244A/2 to SALADIN.)

WALLFLOWER.

Returning to harbour. Engine defect. H.P. Cylinder cover blowing badly. (WALLFLOWER 1615/2, HONEYSUCKLE 1712/2.) Your 1515. Every endeavour is to be made to remedy this defect by ships staff and proceed to catch up convoy. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1929/2 to WALLFLOWER.) Your 1929. Expect to complete repairs by 0100/3. (WALLFLOWER 2130/2.)

SALVONIA.

Your 1148/2. An attempt to effect repairs to SALVONIA is being made here. (MORT. Campbeltown 1830/2.)

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RENOWN,
destroyers.

RENOWN and 5 destroyers westbound 0430. (F.O.C.N.A. 0331/2 to Ships on Patrol, Gibraltar Force, VIDETTE, FOXHOUND). Gibraltar departures 0530 RENOWN, FAULKNER, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, FORTUNE, FURY in accordance with S.O. Force H's 0203/2; 0800/2.

MARON.

Following is a repetition of my 1826/1 MARON proceeding patrol South of Canary Islands to an area position 032° 00' N. 009° 40' W. 033° 00' 010° 13' 029° 40' 018° 00' 028° 40' 017° 25'. (F.O.C.N.A. 1046/2 to GARDENIA, COLUMBINE).

SANGRO.

HEATHER. ORCHIS to leave convoy in time to meet CAMITO and Italian tanker SANGRO in 050° 00' N. 022° 20' W. at 1000 G.M.T/5 speed 5 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 1101A/2 to BOADICEA). *See also next page*

Relief
for
WISHART.

Your 2007N/30. Not practicable to sail another destroyer before 13/5. When date can be fixed request that WISHART be sailed (?simultaneously). (F.O.C.N.A. 1306/2 to C. in C. S.A).

Interception
of MARTIN
PECHEUR.

CORINTHIAN 1000/1. Most undesirable any French Ship should be sent to Gibraltar if she can possibly reach U.K. or other British ports which does not involve passing close to a French base. (F.O.C.N.A. 1308/2 to F.O.C.N.P).

Sailings
for Genoa.

Cancel my 1324/30th April. (D.E.W.D. 1311A/2 to F.O.C.N.A).

VILLA FRANCA.

Following for M. E.W. My ARFAR 258. Portuguese VILLA FRANCA. Approx. 1/4 ton of coffee removed from vessel, property of steward and not ships stores. Master had no knowledge this was on board. Request instructions regarding disposal. (C.C.S.O. Gib., 1725/2 to Admty).

/Armed.....

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Armed
Guard
from
BULOLO.

Vichy agreed to embark armed guard from BULOLO from Casablanca in Portuguese COLONIAL, which left Freetown 29/4 for Funchal Casablanca and Lisbon. Ministry of Shipping have requested owners to divert ship to Gibraltar to land armed guard but no reply yet received. Imperative that armed guard shall not reach Lisbon owing to probability of internment. If ship does not call Gibraltar we must depend on interception and removal of guard by Trawler Patrol. If ship calls Gibraltar as requested release her immediately guard is removed and do not exercise any Contraband Control. (D.E.W.D. 1954A/2 to F.O.C.N.A).

NAIAD.

My p.c. and s. are 040° 28' N. 021° 05' W. 117° 22 knots. E.T.A. in NAIAD 0830/4 Zone - 1. (Cdre. 15 C.S. 2001A/2 to F.O.C.N.A).

CAVINA
(intercepted
SANGRO 1/5).

Your 2346/1. Remained at R.V. observed position until 1525, SANGRO proceeding. CAMITO not met. Proceeding with SANGRO to 046° 00' N. 026° 10' W. thence R.V. C. in C. W.A. 1101A/2. My 2100 observed position 045° 44' N. 026° 49' W. Nab. P.M. (corrupt group) 2100/3. (CAVINA 2100/2 to Admty).

See previous page

South Atlantic.

W.S. 8A.

Following 8 vessels sailed U.K. 26/4 in convoy W.S.8A. Total personnel on board. (D.O.D.(F) 1231/2 to C. in C.S.A, etc). Personnel ships in Convoy. Bunkers, fuel, etc. required at Freetown and Durban. (D.S.T. 1623/2 to C. in C. S.A. etc).

Personnel
for W.Africa.

Your 1711/21. There are only 11 personnel for West Africa in W.S. 8A. HIGHLAND PRINCESS sailing Liverpool 8/5 will have on board 370 personnel for Takoradi. Can onward conveyance be arranged from Freetown? (D.O.D.(F) 1236A/2 to C. in C.S.A).

/Use.....

War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).Use of
St. Helena
Whalecatchers.

Owing to importance of complete secrecy regarding use of St. Helena for fuelling and visit of Whalecatchers to Pernambuco first request Whalecatchers may be routed via Lagos to the Cape. If necessary they can call at Takoradi and Walvis Bay. (C. in C.S.A. 1249N/2 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

NELSON.

N.O.i/c Simonstown 1216B/28. Date NELSON will now be ready for sea is A.M/6. (NELSON 1307B/2 to Admty).

Convoy
C.F.I.

Departure 1230/2 DUNEDIN escorting MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN in accordance with C. in C. S.A.'s 1839N/1. Also sailed HIGHLANDER and BOREAS as local escort. (S.O.I. Freetown 1307N/2 to Admty).

S.S. CAP EL
HANK.

Overdue shipping. Ex French ship CAP EL HANK Mersey departure 24/3 due Libreville 23/4 has not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1330/2).

SHILLONG
"S" Report.
11/4.

Master of SHILLONG confirms his SSSS message 2340/11/4 reports signalling (corrupt group) tanker in 032° 25' N. 029° 14' W. Tanker approx. 10,000 tons 2 masts 1 funnel other details undistinguishable because of bad light. They took no notice though must have seen him. (S.O.I. Capetown 1620B/2 to Admty).

Search for
Raiders.

S.O.(I) Capetown 1237/27/4 and Admty 1922/30/4. Area has been searched from 30/4 to 2/5 by trawlers of Union Seaward Defence Force and aircraft of S.A.A.F. also on 1/5 by ERICA and SNAPDRAGON but nothing has been sighted. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2215B/2 to Admty C. in C. S.A).

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greek
Evacuation.

List of merchant ships lost during evacuation and by air attacks in Greek waters, from Daily Summary 605, 2/5.

(a) During the operation of evacuating the Imperial Forces from Greece the following merchant ships are now known to have been lost or damaged as a result of attacks by enemy aircraft:-

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Tonnage.</u>	<u>Fate.</u>
PENNLAND	16,581.	Bombed and sunk before embarkation. No serious casualties.
COSTA RICA	8,672	Bombed and sunk. No serious casualties.
SLAMAT (Dutch)	11,636	Set on fire and abandoned.
ULSTER PRINCE	5,791	Aground in Nauplia harbour and abandoned. Later bombed and burnt out.
GLENEARN	9,784	Bombed before embarkation. Taken in tow.
GLENGYLE	9,919	Damaged by near misses. Arrived Alexandria.

The tanker BRITISH LORD, 6098 tons, was bombed and abandoned S.W. of Crete on 21 April but her crew returned later and she arrived at Port Said on 29 April.

(b) The following ships are casualties as the result of enemy air attacks on shipping in Greek waters:-

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Ton- nage</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Fate.</u>
TETI NOMIKOU Greek.	1882	Piraeus	Sunk.
DIMITRIOS NOMICOS. Greek.	1171	Piraeus	Sunk.
TRABZON Turkish	2485	Between Istanbul & Piraeus.	Sunk.

/DANAPRIS.....

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greek
Evacuation.
(contd).

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Ton-</u> <u>nage</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Fate.</u>
DANAPRIS Greek	2113	Not known	Lost.
YPANIS Greek	1459	Not known	Lost.
MAIOTIS Greek	1712	Not known	Lost
GEORGE A. DRACOULIS Greek.	1570	Piraeus	Sunk.
CONSTANTINOS LOULODIS. Greek.	4697	Piraeus	Seriously damaged.
TETI, Greek.	2747	Piraeus	Seriously damaged.
KONISTRA Greek.	3537	Suda Bay	Went ashore.

DELOS
(German)

From Istanbul 1/5. DELOS and 2 Bulgarian steamers of 3500 G.T. each are expected to pass Straits for Salonika in course of next 48 hours. Grade B report. (S.O.I. Istanbul N.T.O.O. /2).

JERSEY
mined.

JERSEY mined in entrance to Grand Harbour blocking this. Endeavouring to tow wreck clear. Afraid total loss. Marsaxlokk also mined. Propose GLOUCESTER now outside and two destroyers proceed at dusk to Alexandria (V.A. Malta 0855/2 to C. in C. Med).

My 0855/2. If possible to get remaining three destroyers out at dusk propose sending them as well, as they are certain to be completely mined in, and without sweepers asked for I have no means of clearing harbours. (V.A. Malta 1102/2 to C. in C. Med).

Your 1102/2. No. Remaining three destroyers and JANUS are to remain at Malta and act against Tripoli (Africa) convoys. (C. in C. Med. 1728/2 to V.A. Malta) V.A.M's 0855/2 and 1102/2. How soon will you be able to get a minesweeping force to Malta? Only assistance we can render immediately is to send two LL trawlers from Gibraltar independently through Mediterranean, taking their chance of being intercepted. Not desired to do this unless you particularly wish. (V.C.N.S. 1431A/2 to C. in C. Med).

/Situation.....

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

JERSEY
mined.
(contd).

Situation is as follows. Impossible to shift JERSEY who is now settling and partly on bottom blocking main entrance to Grand Harbour up to standing part of A.B. boom leaving a very narrow gap round Ricasoli Breakwater. Am placing dan buoy by many mines outside and if approved to sail the 3 destroyers now in harbour will tow each round end of breakwater after which they have a fair chance of going through mine fields. (V.A. Malta 1442/2 to C. in C. Med).
Your 1451/2. Insufficient number of minesweepers are available at Alexandria and are having difficulty in coping with mine attacks. Other vessels fitting out here will not be completed for at least 14 days as gear has only just arrived. Intended to sail GLOXINIA with ¹¹⁵⁵FLORR, and leave her at Malta after sweeping in convoy. Two sets of Mark (V) LL gear are now being fitted at Malta. (C. in C. Med. 2146/2 to Admty).

2 M.V's
sunk by
UPHOLDER.

My (? 0538) /1st (N.T. in W.R) Destroyer had to reduce speed owing to head sea and intercept in dark hours was impossible. UPHOLDER reports sinking two Merchant Ships out of five escorted by three Destroyers steering northward. (V.A. Malta 0936/2 to C. in C. Med).

UTMOST

My 1251/1. Correct UTMOST'S area to read area J. (Cdr. S.1 0945/2 to S/M's on Patrol)

Chios
Mitylene.

British officer visited Chios yesterday reports all quiet Chios and Mitylene and no sign of Germans. M.E. please repeat Crete and inform Navy and Air. (M.A. Ankara 1002/2 to C. in C. M.E).

Enemy
Units.

2 destroyers 4 merchant ships 034° 56' 011° 51' 135° at 0850B/2. (Cdr. S.1 1004/2 to S/m's on Patrol).

/Benghazi.....

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Benghazi
bombed
1 ship
fired.

Operational Summary Number 326 up to 1200 hours 2/5/41. 30/4, 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi destroying ammunition dump and starting large fires. 1/5 Blenheims bombed Benghazi harbour setting fire to 1 ship. Reconnaissances reported no movements between Sidi Omar and Soluk. 2 barges 1 ship 120 ft. Benghazi harbour. No shipping observed at sea West of Benghazi or offshore between Benghazi and Tobruk. 1116/2.

Air Escorts
to Suda Bay.

Operational summary No. 326 up to 1200 hours 2.5.1941. 30/4. 2 fighter Blenheims escorted H.M. ships from Antikythera Island to Suda Bay, need for Convoy escorts now diminished. 3 enemy reconnaissances at great height of Suda Bay. Hurricanes, Gladiators and F.A.A. aircraft unable to intercept. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1118/2).

PANDORA
TRUANT. *also p. 63*
TAKU.

PANDORA after passing 038° 21' 009° 00' proceed through 039° 07' 009° 49' thence on direct course to Naples to operate in area North of 040° 00' and east of 012° 00'. Concentrate on vicinity Naples. Convoys frequently reported leaving Naples, for Tripoli and are thought to proceed direct to position L 038° (716) 012° 08'. Estimate your position noon/2 to be 038° 12' 007° 52'. TRUANT in position to be 037° 38' 011° 13' at 2030/3 has been ordered to patrol within 20 miles of Cape Carbonara. TAKU is not to operate North of 040° 00' after 2000/3 and should concentrate on northern-most approach to Messina. (Capt. S.1. 1135/2 to TAKU, PANDORA)

Situation.

Report No. 15. Operation "Demon" etc. (C. in C. Med 1230/2) See Lion Copy.

/Suez.....

MOST SECRET

61(A)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1250/2.May.

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 2.5.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (A 2), by W/T.

Recd. 1707.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated S.O.Force H, V.A.Malta, S.B.N.O.Suez.IMMEDIATE.

281. Situation report 13. Alexandria was raided by 5 to 8 aircraft height 6 to 8 thousand feet at 2230 1st. Some mines suspected in vicinity of entrance to harbour. Sweeping in progress. No bombs were dropped. Further report follows.

(ii). DEMON. Last 2 destroyers now on passage Alexandria with 700 troops evacuated from Milo. Night 30/1. GLENEARN has arrived Alexandria machinery repairs beyond local resources but can probably be made seaworthy. H.M.S. ROVER now arrived off Alexandria. B.S. One is (? remaining at sea) in view of paragraph one with H.M.S.'s FORMIDABLE, BARHAM, VALLANT, and eight destroyers. Convoy G A 15 has arrived Alexandria. Heavy raid on Suda Bay p.m. 29th just after convoy left.

(iii). Western Desert. Enemy penetrated Tobruk perimeter night 30/1st with tanks, situation reported in hand. H.M.S. APHIS bombed Sollum area 29th not GAZALA as reported and operated there again night 1st/2nd. Destroyer could not leave Alexandria in support of (✓ 13 groups missing) one A lighter and sweepers damaged.

(iv). Malta as in V.A.Malta's reports.

1230/2.

✓ Called for.

Advance copy 1st Lord, A.C.N.S.(F), C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C., Press.

1st Lord.	W.D.
1st S.L.	Duty Capt.
2nd S.L.	Head of H. (20).
3rd S.L.	D.T.S.D.
4th S.L.	D.D.I.C.
5th S.L.	E.P.S.
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D.(2).
A.C.N.S.(H).	H.I.D. 10 Pay.Cdr.Wilson.
A.C.N.S.(F).	D.P.D.
A.C.N.S.(T)(2).	
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	
D. of P.(2).	
D.O.D.(H).	
D.D.O.D.(H).	
D.O.D.(F).	
D.D.O.D.(F).	
D.H.I.(4).	
D.S.D.	
D.N.I.D.	
D. of L.D.	
D.A/S.W.	
D.M.S.	
I.P.	

SECRET

War Registry.

H Q, RAF Malta's I. 279 (1330/2) refers in the
last line but one to his I. 278.

No trace of this in War Diary, the last previous signal
being his I. 277 (1725/1).

Can you please supply a copy of I. 278. ?

G. W. Mumford

for Head of T.S.D. H.S.

War Diary

Room 90, Junction Bldg.

WD

Have no trace of I 278
in WR. Have phoned Air Ministry
who pass these signals to us, and they
also state no trace.

WR.

$\frac{4}{5}$

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Suez Canal Obstruction.

My 0933/19. Suez Canal Co. reports passage abreast of wreck of AGHIOS GIORGIOS is now 36' deep 118' wide. Particular care will be needed when using this channel until further work now in progress removes danger of displacement of sand from bank into deepened portion. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1237/2 to C. in C. Med).

Greek Evacuation.

Their Lordships much appreciate fine work of your light forces and ships of Merchant Navy in evacuating Army from Greece under most difficult and trying conditions and congratulate all concerned. (1st S.L. 1250A/2 to C. in C. Med).

Enemy Units.

1125 B, 5 Merchant Ships one Destroyer 034° 40' N. 011° 55' E. 189°. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1312/2 to S/M's on Patrol).

Proposed minelaying operation.

V.C.N.S. 1328A/2 See Mediterranean Volume.

Blenheim Attack on Convoy.

Special, Operational Summary.
As result Maryland patrol, 4 Blenheims 21 Sqn, intercepted and attacked convoy 2 destroyers one patrol vessel 4 M/V's 8000 - 4000 and 2 of 2000 tons 1035 G.M.T. 2/5 34.42 N. 12.23 E. course 120°. M/V's 8000, 4000, one 2000 tonner and one destroyer low level attack 16 250 lbs. bombs, hits scored on each. Much smoke from 3 ships. All ships stopped. Intense light A.A. and Pom Pom. 2 Cant Z. 501's one ME 110 and 2 CR 42's near convoy. One CR. 42 damaged by Blenheim. ME. 110 and one Cant Z. 501 also attacked, combats indecisive. All Blenheims returned safely. Ref. my "I" 278 1/4, Maryland patrol 2/5 confirms M/V and destroyer attacked by Blenheims 1/5 now sunk. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1330/2 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E).
Convoy attacked by Blenheims in 034° 42' 012° 25'. 3 merchant ships and one destroyer hit and stopped. (V.A. Malta, 1446/2 to URSULA).
My 1446. Close and sink. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1608/2 to URSULA).

/Convoy.....

"THIS LATEST EXAMPLE OF GERMAN PROPAGANDA LEADS SUPPORT TO THE VIEW THAT THE GERMANS ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE A CLASH BETWEEN

War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Blenheim
Attack on
Convoy.
(contd).

Convoy of 2 Destroyers, one patrol vessel, one large M.V., One medium M.V. and 2 small M.V.s. sighted 1125B, 034° 40' N. 011° 55' E. Course 189° 8 knots, were attacked by 4 Blenheims at 1253B, 034° 42' North 012° 25' East. Hits on 3 M.Vs. and one Destroyer which were left stopping. My 2015/1 the two ships hit by Blenheims yesterday are sinking in 034° 38' N. 011° 28' E. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1715/2 to C. in C. Med).

Alexandria
Raid.

Air raid 2116 to 2229/1. No damage. Some mines dropped in and around harbour. (R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1416/2 to Admty etc).

Orders to
TRUANT.

Leave Carbonara Cape area P.M/6 and proceed to Gibraltar through 038° 30' 009° 00' thence as ordered F.O.C.N. A. proceed surfacing by day when West of 7° E. at your discretion. Good luck from 1st S/M Flotilla. (Capt. (S) 1 1515/2 to TRUANT). *See p. 61*

TAKU. *See p. 61.*
TORBAY.

Unless there is any reason to the contrary intend recalling TAKU and TORBAY direct from present patrol to Alexandria (without?) calling (Malta?). (Capt. S.1., 1517/2 to Capt. S.8).

Lethal
Balloons.

Consideration being given to supply of free balloons carrying lethal bombs and 2000 ft. of trailing wires to provide floating mine fields for the aerial defence of Malta. Request report on hydrogen which can be made available etc. (V.C.N.S. 1527A/2 to A.S. Malta).

Malta
Reconn.

2 Marylands patrolled Eastern Tunisian Coast. 0553 hours 1 destroyer 6 miles S.E. of Keliba course 040° 16 knots. 0925 hours 2 destroyers 1 patrol vessel 4 medium MV.s. 34° 40' N. 11° 55' E. course 189° 8 knots. Attacked by Blenheims 21 Sqdn. as reported in my I.279 2/5. Maryland recco Tripoli. 1300 hrs. visual report 3 destroyers 9 T.Bs 11 medium MVs 16 smaller MVs obviously intended for Benghazi Traffic 6 Cant Z. 501's. (H.Q. Malta, 1641/2).

/Need.....

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Need for
L.L.
Sweepers.

Your 1024/1. It is of vital importance to maintain light forces based on Malta. Destroyers properly degaussed should be immune from magnetic mines in 10 fathoms and consequently should be able to enter Grand Harbour and Marsamaxett. Pending arrival of L.L' sweepers and completion of drifters now fitting with Mark V., can you improvise a 'LL' sweep with battery either in a lighter or on shore with tail worked laterally by a boat? Can you improvise additional acoustic sweeps worked from shore or lighter to cover harbour entrances? (V.C.N.S. 1711A/2 to V.A. Malta).

BARHAM.
VALIANT.
FORMIDABLE.

Close Alexandria shoulder buoy at 1800 tonight to exchange destroyer escorts subsequently remaining at sea all night, position unknown. (Capt. S.1, 1731/2 to PERSEUS).

Attitude
of Greek
Navy.

My 1311/1 Greek N.L.O. informs me subsequent to an address to all officers by Crown Prince on board GIORGIOS AVEROFF it appears much more probable ships will continue to fight. (C. in C. Med. 1830/2 to Adty).

TINOS.
(German.)

Departure Cartagena 1/5 Marseilles oranges German. (V. Consul Cartagena 1830/2).

UNION
UNBEATEN.

Do not attack warships tonight, Friday. GLOUCESTER and two destroyers left Malta 1800B Northwestward. (S.O. (S) Malta 1856/2 to UNION, UNBEATEN).

GLOUCESTER.
KIPLING.
KASHMIR.

Friday 2/5 GLOUCESTER, KIPLING, KASHMIR sailed - making own E.T.A. (V.A. Malta 1944/2 to F.O.C.N.A).

/Operation.....

WarDDiary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Operation
"Demon."

10501 68002 2/5. Continuation of my 66530 of 30/4.

1. Anzacs on Chios now number 4 officers and over 28 O.R. One tug left Smyrna 01 (?00) today to remove half and hope second tug sails today remove remainder. Will cable whether destination Crete or Haifa later.

2. 10 British O.R. whose ship sunk reached Turkish coast of Dikili yesterday. Now in Smyrna in (?Mufti) with construction party. Local General helpful so hope evacuate with Anzacs. (M.A. Ankara 2226/2).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Use of
Koweit
HERMES.

I assume Koweit Harbour and Aerodrome may if necessary be made full use of for operations against Iraq. Difficulty is being experienced in operating HERMES loaded aircraft from Carrier due to lack of wind.
(C. in C. E.I., 0420Z/2 to Admty). (Raph: 4.67)

TALAMBA
ETHIOPIA
VARSOVA.

Your 0617/29 TALAMBA is required Bombay as soon as possible to be fitted out as a hospital ship. ETHIOPIA and VARSOVA are required Bombay to embark reinforcements to Middle East.
(S.S.T.O. India, 0430Z/2 to D. of S.T.).

FALMOUTH

Arrived Khor-Kuwai.
(FALMOUTH 0550Z/2 to C. in C, E.I.)

MANTOLA
crew trouble.

British MANTOLA with full cargo of military stores and 170 military personnel embarked at Mombasa for Suez delayed sailing owing to deck and engine room crew refusing to sail yesterday. Article and extension clause expired. New crew not due here till 16/5. Endeavouring to arrange local crew failing which will try and exchange crew with British TILAWA due 7/5. Failing both vessel will have to remain here until new crew arrives. N.O. i/c agrees.
(D.S.T.O. Mombasa 0645Z/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

CANBERRA
LEANDER
U.S.10.B

CANBERRA is to leave Aden 3/5 and proceed to R./V with U.S.10 B escorted by LEANDER in 09° 20' N 72° 10' E at 0500Z/7, where CANBERRA will relieve LEANDER as escort. CANBERRA is to escort U.S.10B, speed 20 knots, until dawn after passing Perim, where convoy is to disperse and proceed at best speed to Suez, and CANBERRA is to proceed to Aden.
(C. in C. E.I. 0718Z/2. to CANBERRA).

Action Against Iraqis.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (cohtd).Action Against
Iraqis.

First reports of bombing by R.A.F. of Iraq troops Habbaniyah do not suggest much (? impression) has been made. Local negotiations at (?Basra) between General Fraser and Iraq Commander are in progress by personal contact. Our troops have moved out to defensive positions.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0802/2 to C. in C. E. I.)
Commence hostilities against all Iraqi forces forthwith.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1236Z/2 to EMERALD, YARRA, COCKCHAFFER etc.,)
Your 1236Z/2. Please send details of situation which caused action ordered.
(V.C.N.S. 1746A/2 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).
Your 1746A/2. By order of G.O.C. in view of local aggression and failure of Iraqis to execute certain promises to withdraw their troops.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 2012Z/2 to Admty).

Your 0420/2. Assumption confirmed but you should maintain close contact with Political Resident, Bushire, and Political Agent, Kuwait, so that they may be in a position to give any explanation necessary to the Sheikh.
(V.C.N.S. 1502A/2 to C. in C. E. I.)

Massawa
Situation.

Massawa (1) Nocra Island. Situation 28/4 as follows. (a) 1000 all classes awaiting evacuation. (b) small number refused surrender and left for Dahlak. Food stocks seized and being guarded by one platoon Mahrattas.
(2) Dobul Island. (a) Guns and ammunition destroyed. (b) Italian garrison of 105 being evacuated.. 700 natives on island (3) Harat Island found evacuated and all guns destroyed.
(4) Zula Bay. H.M.S. SAAD investigating 29/4 thence as far as Howtha Point. (5) Difnein Island. Visited by H.M. Ship 28/4.
(S.O.I. Colombo 1032Z/2 to Admty).

U.S.10.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd).U.S.10

Your 0249/30. No objection from naval point of view but P.S.T.O. East Indies, Bombay is requested to give consideration to fuelling and watering of ships at Bombay as well as disembarkation of refugees. If replenishment at Bombay is feasible it is desired to avoid ships calling at Trincomalee on passage to Australia.
(C. in C. E.I. 1130 Z/2 to D. of S.T.)

Trawlers.

Your 1231/20/4. Request confirmation that it is intended to base eight trawlers at Zanzibar and not Kilindini.
(C. in C. E.I. 1252Z/2 to Admty).

CAPETOWN

Your 1250/30 not to Admty or R.I.N. Guns (specified) to be retained. Ship will be towed to Bombay via Aden, Masirah, and Karachi, escort if possible will be provided by either BOTLEA or KING GRUFFYDD.
(C. in C. E.I., 1310Z/2 to CAPETOWN).
Your 1310/2. As ammunition has been shipped away from Port Sudan in accordance with your 0520/22/4 and all guns have been landed in accordance with your 0705/25, consider delay caused by reshipment to Port Sudan of ammunition and re-embarkation of guns and range finders would seriously jeopardise chance of ship reaching Bombay before S.W. Monsoon breaks. Request ship be allowed to sail in her present condition in accordance with my 1226/2. Consider it most probable CAPETOWN and SENTA may be able to proceed Bombay direct from Aden. Anticipate completing with sufficient fuel and water at Aden for direct passage to Bombay. Consider it is not practicable firing guns in any case in view of position of shore etc. 14 Officers and 150 ratings remaining on board.
(CAPETOWN, 1951Z/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

EAGLE, HAWKINS.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd)EAGLE
HAWKINS

My 1420/2 to Force V only and ref. 1732/1 from Admty. On completion of fuelling at Mombasa EAGLE and HAWKINS are to proceed in company to Durban at 18 knots.
(C. in C. E.I., 1430Z/2 to EAGLE, HAWKINS).

German
Activities
Persian Gulf.

Admty 1328/22/4 and your 1236Z/2. Possibility that so-called neutral ships might also be used for this purpose cannot be excluded.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1901A/2 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

"R"
Report.

An R distress message was heard by Mauritius at 1851 G.M.T./2. No position or name of ship received. Any ship having any information is to report it.
(Admiral, Colombo 2342/2 to Admty).

China.TOYO MARU.
Japanese
cable
laying.

Admty letter M.04437/40 dated 23/3/1940 Japanese cable ship TOYO MARU sighted in 21° 57.4' N 114° 22' E on 21/4. On interception by THRACIAN same day in 21° 57.2' N 114° 14' E Master states he was laying army cable from Japan to Hainan. After interrogation he slipped the cable and proceeded on course 250°. Japanese torpedo boat SAGI class was present but made off at approach of THRACIAN.
(Capt O.S. Singapore, 0202Z/2 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Admiral
Lais.

Suggest true story be released to press stating his detention temporary pending clarification of circumstances regarding Campbell's detention.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1001/2 to Admty).

German
Pilots
Intercepted.

My 1158/9/4. and 1330/26/4 (not to Admty) PRINCE ROBERT intercepted U.S. PRESIDENT GARFIELD 30/4 east of Honolulu and removed four German pilots. PRINCE ROBERT proceeding Suva arriving 8/5 to escort S.S. AWATEA to Vancouver.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1103/2 to Capt. O.S. Singapore)

LADY
SOMERS.

If LADY SOMERS proceeds on patrol direct she will not be in possession of S.P. 02296 series unless these can be supplied from Halifax. Ship is due to leave Halifax on 18/5. If these documents are required by H.M.S. returning to U.K. request small stocks be forwarded to F.D.O. Bermuda.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1104/2 to Admty).

Raider's
whereabouts.

Your 1922/30 referring to unit of which bearings were obtained on 23/4 about 200 miles East of Bermuda. As experience has shown that positions based solely on bearings from this side of Atlantic seldom if ever agree with positions based on the full information available at Admiralty, it has been the practice to place little reliance on positions obtained from D/F bearings unless position is signalled from Admiralty. No position was signalled in this case, request confirmation that above appreciation is concurred in generally.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1131/2 to Admty).

Sydney
Convoys,
Resumption.

Propose recommencing Sydney convoys with S.C.33 sailing about 30 /5 and Sydney section of H.M.130 sailing about 31/5. If F.O. required as Vice Cdre. of Sydney section of H.M. Convoy, we will require five Cdres., every ten days.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1146/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Dakar.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.(contd).Dakar
Intelligence.Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar 30/4
Sailed MEDJERDA with salted fish, gum and
ground nuts for Marseilles; and DALNY for
south.

(N.A. Washington, 1600/2 to Admty).

PRINCE
DAVID.Leave patrol a.m./5 and return to Trinidad.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1622/2 to PRINCE DAVID.)Ex. U.S.
Cutters.My 1506/30. Circulated as from MALAYA.
5th Cutter was commissioned today as H.M.S.
LULWORTH. 6th and 7th will probably commission
on 10/5. 1st Group will sail for Halifax
tomorrow 3/5.

(Consul-General New York 1706/2).

S.L.
Convoys.Your 1831/30. S. L. Convoys are being routed
through the area of U.S. Operations so far
as possible and the position of these convoys
will therefore be included in the dispositions
sent daily to Washington for transmission
as necessary to U.S. Forces. Admty 0142/27
refers. Your paragraph 2. This information
is beginning to be received. As soon as
liaison machinery is working Admty will
inform C.'s in C. . and F.O.'s concerned as
necessary.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 1902A/2 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.Mines.Two further mines in enemy minefields off
Cape Otway were swept up on 30/4. Respective
positions 185° 7.4. miles and 187° 7.3. miles
from Cape Otway.

(A.C.N.B. 0826Z/2 to Admty etc).

War Diary.2.5.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's Reported.

0030. Aircraft report over submarine in 055° 13' N., 016° 14' W., at 0030. (C. in C. W.A., 0128/2, to VANQUISHER, ROCKINGHAM, VISCOUNT, LONDONDERRY, PHILANTE, FREESIA.)
My 0128/2. Aircraft reports, enemy submarine reported was on the surface, am circling. (C. in C. W.A. 0223/2, to VANQUISHER.)
A.M. 0030/2. (D/F Bearing on Italian U.Boat.). Proceed with SPIREA and CORMOPSIS to (?hunt) U.Boat near 035° 00' N., 015° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0207/2, to FLEUR DE LYS.)
My 0207/2. If no result by 0900/3, return to Gibraltar unless fuel necessitates your leaving area earlier. (F.O.C.N.A., 1203/2, to FLEUR DE LYS.)
0930. ARAB reports S/M approx. Posn. 55° - 18' N., 06° - 52' W. 3 Trawlers 3 Corvettes investigating, HEATHER S.O. (BOADICEA, 0930/2, to C. in C. W.A.)
1125. At 1125/2 training aircraft reported U/B submerging 4 miles N.W. Bude, course North, speed 9 knots. Aircraft 19 Group investigating. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1212/2, to Admty.etc.)
My 1212. M.L.'s 184 and 181, are to proceed forthwith to investigate. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1220/2, to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1344A/2.)
1512. Aircraft report U. Boat in 055° 58' N., 013° 33' W., at 1512. (C. in C. W.A., 1612A/2, to VANQUISHER.) D.S. 606 says attacked with depth charges.
Detach 2 destroyers to hunt U.boat referred to in my 1612/2. Catalina aircraft will be co-operating throughout the night. Destroyers detached to report name when well clear of convoy and report situation 0900/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1655A/2 to VANQUISHER.)

/Your 1655/2.....

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported. Contd.

1512.
(Contd.)

Your 1655/2. VISCOUNT, ROCKINGHAM,
complying. E.T.A. in position given
in your 1612A/2 at 2130/2. Weather
report. (VISCOUNT, 2000/2, to C. in C.
W.A.)

2307.

Following bearings of German U Boat
obtained on 7640 K/cs at 2207/2, G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 2347A/2 to C. in C. S. Atlantic.)

War Diary.

3.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

ALBERIC
sunk.

M/S Trawler ALBERIC was reported in the early hours of this morning to have been sunk in collision with ST. ALBANS. The latter was damaged.

Italian
Tanker
RECCO
scuttled.

HILARY reports boarding Italian tanker RECCO loaded with fuel oil for Belle Isle (France) in 44° 37' N. 24° 27' W. The crew scuttled the ship and HILARY was unable to save her.

Timing
of Signals.

In signals transmitted by W/T to and from merchant ships all times are to be expressed in G.M.T.

VENOMOUS
& H.31 in
collision.

It was reported to-day that VENOMOUS was holed in collision with H.31 on 28/4, and is docked in Londonderry. H.31 is fit for sea.

British Air Operations.

Blenheims operating off the French coast report 3 hits on a 200 ton cargo ship off Gravelines; a 500 ton trawler was also hit, and a 5000 ton ship in a convoy off Le Touquet was also attacked.

War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Operations.

VERSATILE and convoy E.C. 15 were bombed at 2141 23 miles East of Cromer but no damage is reported.

Convoy F.N.479 was attacked late tonight off the coast of Norfolk. S.S. TRAJAN was sunk and S.S. SITONA was damaged and abandoned, apparently prematurely, and sank later.

Liverpool was attacked last night. Damage was caused to naval establishments and to the main line railway. There was no important damage in the dock area.

A single aircraft bombed Lowestoft last night. No naval damage was caused.

Mining.

Operation
B.S. 55.

TEVIOTCBANK, SHELDRAKE and KITTIWAKE today laid mines in the East Coast Barrier, after being delayed for 48 hours on account of weather and of delay to KITTIWAKE.

Aircraft
mining.

11 aircraft laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands.

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected between Southwold and the Humber.

/Mining of Liverpool...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining. (contd).Mining of
Liverpool.

During the air raid on Liverpool last night mines were laid in the river and in several of the docks. Spare Light Vessel was sunk by the spontaneous detonation of a mine in Albert Dock. Coaster CORBET was mined and sunk off Herculaneum Dock. Some mines have been detonated and others located and buoyed.

A mine was detonated off Hartlepool this morning and Tees and Hartlepool were closed from 0710 to 1129.

North Atlantic.S.S. CAP
CANTON.

FORESIGHT escorted into Gibraltar at 0030 today S.S. CAP CANTON, intercepted 1/5 by LOCH OSKAIG.

South Atlantic.

Wreckage and two rafts marked SAMSO were sighted today in 8° 55' N. 15° 19' W. S.S. SAMSO left Bathurst 29/4 and was due at Freetown yesterday.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Malta.

It is reported that 13 Beaufighters arrived at Malta this morning, and 2 more are expected during the day.

Libya

There was no change in the general situation in the Western Desert yesterday or today. Two destroyers are transporting 600 troops from Mersa Matruh to Mersa Tobruk tonight. Unloading from small coastal ships continues at Mersa Tobruk. A trawler and a ship were attacked by enemy aircraft today, 20 miles N.E. of Tobruk, but no details are known.

A minelaying raid by 3 F.A.A. Swordfish of 830 Squadron (one with flares) on Tripoli last night met heavy A/A opposition and only one A/C laid mines.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night. During today, our aircraft bombed and hit two small ships off Benghazi.

Evidence is accumulating that the enemy convoys from Italy to Libya are using French (Tunisian) territorial waters.

Operation
"Demon".

The latest estimate of the Total number embarked is 51,640, of which 500 were lost at sea, excluding the crews of DIAMOND, WRYNECK and SLAMAT.

Suda Bay.

30 enemy aircraft dive-bombed Suda Bay anchorage today, damaging one ship (apparently ARAYBANK (see 4/5) several enemy aircraft were destroyed.

Alexandria.

After being unable to enter, owing to suspected minelaying the Battle Fleet has entered Alexandria via the Great Pass, and 8 merchant ships have sailed. These mines were exploded by L.L. during sweeping operations.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.Iraq.

At 1600 today C. in C. M.E. reported that all refineries and oil installations are in Iraqi hands and demolition is now only possible by air action.

America & West Indies.

DELHI arrived at New York today to refit.

U-Boat Campaign.N.W.
Approaches.

S.S. TARANGER was sunk early this morning
61° 7' N 25° 20' W.

W. of
Ireland.

S.S. LYCAON reported being chased and later fired on by a submarine, at 2152 today
in 55° 0' N 22° 1' W.

Off
Monrovia.

S.S. WRAY CASTLE was torpedoed at 2045 today
in 6° 48' N 13° 55' W.

War Diary.

3.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

M.T.Bs.
30, 31, 34.

Request you will sail M.T.B's 30, 31 and 34 to Felixstowe as soon as weather permits, retaining the remainder at Dover. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1243/3 to V.A. Dover).

BRILLIANT.

BRILLIANT is required to leave Liverpool on 12/5 for escort duty and Foreign Service. She is to be sailed from Southampton accordingly. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1323/3 to F.O.I.C. Southampton).

Northern Patrol.

Having refuelled ALAUNIA is to leave Reykjavik at 1600/5 and take N.P. 71. LACONIA is to leave N.P. 71 1200/26 and return to Reykjavik.

Routes.

4. N.O.I.C. Iceland is to sail LACONIA for Halifax when ready, providing A/S escort if available. (F.O.C.N.P. 1420A/3 to N.P).

LATONA.

LATONA is required to proceed on foreign service as soon as possible. Such trials on the Clyde are to be carried out as will satisfy ships officers that ship is efficient. Report revised programme and when ready to sail. (A.C.N.S (H) 1525A/3 to LATONA).

VICTORIOUS.

Your 2145/2. VICTORIOUS is to sail for Liverpool immediately she is ready for sea and if necessary without bombs. Request programme be signalled forthwith. (V.C.N.S. 1606A/3 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Iceland Faroes Patrol.

Scapa departure C.S. 2 in GALATEA, ARETHUSA. (A.C.O.S. 1621/3).

Passage of Service personnel to Gib.

There are about 1000 service personnel awaiting passage to Gibraltar for which no troopship can be found at present. Ref. my 1536/1 Para 3. Request you will consider possibility of cruiser detailed for (B) reporting to Admiralty in accordance with CAFO 726/41. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1854A/3 to C. in C. H.F).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Italian
tanker
RECCO
scuttled.

Have boarded Italian tanker. Crew have taken to boats and attempted to scuttle her. Am endeavouring to save ship. My position $044^{\circ} 37' N.$ $024^{\circ} 27' W.$ (HILARY 1135/3).

Regret unable to save Italian Tanker RECCO loaded with fuel oil consigned Belle Isle (France). Have sunk her and taken Captain. 8 officers and 21 men prisoner. My position $044^{\circ} 33' N.$ $024^{\circ} 28' W.$ (HILARY 1335/3)

CONQUEROR.

Intend to sail CONQUEROR 1000/5 from St. Helens for A/A Patrol. E.T.A. Portland 1600/5. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1603A/3).

British Air Operations.Bomber
Command
Operations.

Night 1/2 May. All operations were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather. Day 2 May. Two Blenheims attacked two merchant vessels of 500 tons each 20 miles N.W. of Borkum. One ship was seen to be on fire and down at the stern probably total loss. The other ship disappeared and is considered sunk. (H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 0110/3).

Squadron
800 Z.

Your 2001A/2. After allocation of these 6 Fulmar Aircraft only 2 serviceable Fulmar 11 remain in 1st line reserves of this type. Seven Fulmars of this reserve are unserviceable in workshops. Training reserve of Fulmars is 4 short. (R.A.N.A.S. 1145A/3 to Adty).

Watch on
Brest.

Cancel my 1909/23/4 and 1145/10/4. Following ~~re~~ has been arranged to observe position or movement of Battle Cruisers at Brest.
(II) P.R.U. several times daily.
(III) Patrol A. Line patrol between $048^{\circ} 30' N.$ $005^{\circ} 20' W.$ and $048^{\circ} 03' N.$ $005^{\circ} 05' W.$ from 30 minutes after last light to dawn by A.S.V. fitted aircraft. My 1232 part one. (C. in C. Plymouth 1220/3).

/Fighter.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Operations. (contd).Fighter
Escort
for CENTURIONCENTURION will be at A buoy in the Sound from now until sailing at 2215/4 M.S.T. Request fighter escort may be provided from now until last light/3 and from first light /4 until sailing there is a likelihood of her attracting special attention. Code word ~~WARRANT~~: (C. in C. Plymouth 1610/3 to H.Q.F.C).Operation
"Pageant".

Your 2350/1. Request Air Min. be informed in sense of my number 266 of 14/4 with regard to defects and deficiencies in Hurricanes embarked for operation "Pageant". (FURIOUS 1640/3).

Patrol.

Important patrol "Stand" now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 2004/3).

Enemy Air Operations.Scapa
Flow
bombed 1/5.

My 1030/2. Considered from examination of bomb fragments that one bomb was a 1000 kilo. S.A.P. (A.C.O.S. 1130/3 to Admty).

Attack on
Liverpool.

Following damage sustained by Naval Establishments during raid night 2/3rd May. WELLESLEY, MERSEY, (damage). Dock building extensively damaged by bomb and fire. No known Naval casualties and no important damage to dock area. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1432A/3, S.C.E. L'pool 1835A/3).

Convoy "Yield".
FIELD (E.C. 15)
attacked.Enemy bombing Convoy ^{"Yield"} ~~FIELD~~ in posn. R N W E 5700. (VERSATILE 2141/3).Convoy "Faith".
FAITH.Following has been read. Help convoy ^{"Faith"} FAITH position W C V U 2539. (Plymouth 2230/3).Convoy
attacked.
TRAJAN
SITONA
sunk.

Am standing by ship on fire position 053° 10' North 001° 15' East. (GUILLEMOT 2336/3).

War Diary.

3.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Tees &
Hartlepool.

Port of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to enemy mine laying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0710/3).

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1129/3).

L.L. Trawler detonated one red mine in (position) at 0635. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0920/3).

Operation
B.S. 55.

Sailed TEVIOT BANK, SHELDRAKE and KITTIWAKE. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0730/3).

Operation B.S. 55 completed. (TEVIOT BANK 1830/3).

Sweeping
of Q.S.F. 13.

My 2015/2. You should postpone the operation if at any time you consider the weather is unsuitable. (V.A. Dover 1214A/3 to M.S.4).

Your 1614/2. If operation has to be postponed tonight Saturday on account of weather tidal conditions will be unsuitable for about a week. Considered advisable for sweep to take place near high slack water. (V.A. Dover 1219A/3rd to C. in C. Nore)

Mining of
Liverpool.
S.S. CORBET
& spare
L.V. sunk.

Raid night of 2nd/3rd May. Parachute mines in each of Salthouse Albert and Canning half tide Docks also in river. No damage to ships. (F.O. i/c Liverpool 1431A/3). My 1431/3. Mine in Albert Dock detonated spontaneously. Spare Light Vessel sunk and some damage to quayside and warehouse Mines in Salthouse and Canning half tide docks both located and buoyed. Coaster CORBET mined and sunk 248° 2 cables from Herculaneum Dock entrance. One mine detonated 341° and one 000° Pluckington Bank Buoy one mile and 3=1/2 cables respectively. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1827/3).

Port of Liverpool including Q.Z.S. 211 and Q.Z.S. 215 will be closed from 2115/3 until 0730/4. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2038A/3).

Humber.

The following 2 mines exploded today Saturday (F.O. Humber 1810A/3).

War Diary.

3.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

SEYDLITZ.

Photographic R/C on 2/5 showed SEYDLITZ still at Bremen. (D.D.I.C. 1011A/3).

R/C of Brest.

Visual reconnaissance of Brest at 1405/3 reports both battle cruisers still present in usual position. (D.D.I.C. 1648A/3). My 1648A/3. No further information. (D.D.I.C. 1944A/3).

Lager Fljot.
Possible
Enemy
Landing.

My 64846 dated 3/5. Reliable source in Norway reports German landing in alluvial valley of Lager Fljot is likely when Bardufoss aerodrome (North Norway) opens about end of first week in May. Suitable sand beaches reported vicinity Lager Fljot. States parachutists could be damming drain lakes for wheeled aircraft or deepen lakes for float planes as base for bombing of Reykjavik. Latest Admiralty information is that no German cruisers or heavier warships are now in North Norway. (War Office 2220/3 to Alabaster).

War Diary.

3.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoy.

Use of
M.S.T.

It is intended that on the introduction of Midsummer time, all times denoted in my 1145/24/3/41 R.V. for ships from Methil joining E.C. Convoys will be M.S.T. (C. in C. Rosyth 1009/3 to Admty etc).

H.X. 120.

Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of H.X. 120. (C. in C. W.A. 1452A/3 to Commodore D.S. Robinson, R.N.R). 36 ships, of which 5 were Dutch 2 Greek, 1 Belgian, 1 Norwegian. Cargoes, see (D.S. 606, 3/5).

Use of
G.M.T.

In signals transmitted by W/T to and from merchant ships all times are to be expressed in G.M.T. and this is always to be stated in the signal. The time to be used in V/S messages between merchant ships in company is to be ordered by S.O. Care is to be taken that a clock in W/T office is kept set accurately to Greenwich Mean Time. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1957A/3 to G.B.M.S. all areas, 2030A/3 "A" mge).

War Diary.

3.5.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ALBERIC
sunk
ST. ALBANS
damaged.

ST. ALBANS sank M/S Trawler ALBERIC in collision. 10 of crew of 23 so far picked up. ST. ALBANS returned to Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0327/3).

ST. ALBANS has sustained following damage in collision with ALBERIC:-
Request repair yard may be allocated.
ST. ALBANS will be available to sail under her own power in about 7 days. (R.A.D. 1147/3 to Admty).

EDWARDIAN.

Harwich 3/5 departure Tug KENIA to assist M/S Trawler EDWARDIAN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0747A/3).

VENOMOUS
damaged in
collision
with H.31.

Your 2050/2. Why was this not reported earlier. (C. in C. W.A. 1009A/3 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

S.S. EMPIRE
RAZORBILL.

At Grangemouth damaged night 2/3 May by a serious fire sufficient to immobilize ship for considerable period. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1108/3).

SALVONIA.

Ref. my 1830/2. Repairs cannot be effected here. Ship being sailed for Glasgow. E.T.A. p.m./4. (M.O.R.T. Campbeltown 1320/3);

BIDEFORD.

Arrived with gyro and asdic defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1641A/3).

H.M.T.
LARCH.

Arrived with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1740/3);

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.WRESTLER

Your 1753Z/2 (N.T. in W.D). Intend proceed from 038° 30' N 016° 30' W course 252° to R/V 1900A/3. If not met by dark intend to reverse course and rendezvous at daylight 4/5.

(WRESTLER, 0016/3 to C.S.15)

CAP CANTIN
(French.)

Arrival FORESIGHT escorting French S.S. CAP CANTIN.

(S.O.(I) Gib., 0030/3 to C. in C. Med. Admty).

Sale of
OLGA TOPIC.

Your 1844/1. Matter is being taken up with owner through British Legation in Berne. Owner is bound by agreement with M.E.W. not to sell OLGA TOPIC, and sale will not therefore be recognised.

(Head of M.0135A/3 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

Enemy Unit.

At 0328 unidentified unit bore 3050 second class. 4 figures cypher.

(F.O.C.N.A. 0607/3 to N.A. Stn.)

CAVINA
interception of
SANGRO.

Your 2346/1. CAVINA not met. Request further instructions. Position 080° 46° 20' N 27° 40' W course 35° speed 12 knots.

(CAMITO, 0805/3, to Admty).

Your 0805/3.

CAVINA's position at 2100/2 45° 44' N. 26° 49' W. proceeding approx 5 knots through 46° 00' N 26° 10' W., thence to R/V in 50° 00' N. 22° 20' W at 1000Z/5. Act accordingly. (D.O.D.(H) 1029/3 to CAMITO).

S.S. COLONIAL
(armed guard from
BULOLO.)

Your 1954A/2 In view of national (corrupt group) cannot obtain decision of Portuguese Authorities visit of COLONIAL Gibraltar until Monday. Am certain they will not agree. (N.A. Lisbon 1159/3).

TRUANT operation.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3. 5. 1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (contd).TRUANT,
operation
"Tiger"

Your 1051/27 and Cdre. S.1's 1839/1 and 1628/1. Could TRUANT Remain on Cape Capponara Patrol until dark /D 3 of operation "TIGER"? If this is not acceptable suggest she proceed Gibraltar forthwith routed close to African coast in order to be clear of operation "TIGER" F.O.C.N.A. would arrange route.
(F.O. Force H 1313/3 to C, in C. Med).

C.F.1.

C. in C. S.A. 1839/1. These ships should arrive Gibraltar p.m./7 REPULSE could not be ready to sail before 6/5. Propose to sail MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN in company with REPULSE and ARGUS as soon as ships are ready for sea.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1642/3).

CACHALOT

P.C.&S, and E.T.A. Position 7.
(CACHALOT 2200Z/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.VOLTAIRE
overdue.

A.M.C. VOLTAIRE Acting Capt. J.A.P. Blackburn D.S.C. R.N., overdue and must be considered lost.
(Admty communique to Press).

Dispositions.

Weekly State 3/5.
(C. in C. S.A. 1451/3) See Lion Copy.

EUGENIE
LIVANOS
BOSILJKA.

Overdue shipping. Greek ship EUGENIE LIVANOS due Capetown 29/4 from New York. Yugoslavian ship BOSILJKA due Durban approx 29/4 from Saint Lucia. Both not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1019B/3).

HIGHLAND PRINCESS.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

1451N/3rd. May

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 3.5.41.

Recd. 2211

NAVAL CIPHER D BY W/T

Addressed R.A.S.A.D. N.O.i/c Simonstown. F.O.C.N.A.
C. in C. America and West Indies. C. in C. East

Weekly state 3rd. May .

Freetown - H.M. . Ships ALBATROSS, VINDICTIVE,
BUJOLO, SURPRISE, BRIDGEWATER, ASPHODEL, AMARANTHUS,
ANCHUSA.

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA sails on patrol 3rd.

H.M.S. SEVERN sails for Halifax 3rd.

U.K. Freetown - H.M.S. MAURITIUS and H.M.S. PRETORIA
CASTLE escorting W S S A. H.M.S. CILICIA.

Gibraltar-Freetown - H.M.S. PRIMULA escorting EMPIRE THE
TROOPER. COLUMBINE H.M.S. GARDENIA.

Freetown-Gibraltar - H.M.S. DUNEDIN escorting troop
transports. H.M.S. HIGHLANDER and H.M.S. BOREAS as local
escort.

Freetown-U.K. - H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE escorting S.L.

72. H.M.S. ESPERANCE BAY escorting S.L. 73 with H.M.S.
CLEMATIS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, CROCUS, (FERNMOOR) as local
escort.

Freetown area - H.M. Ships DORSETSHIRE. ILLUSTRIOUS
DRAGON, CATHAY, DUNCAN, WISHART.

Freetown-Cape - H.M.S. MILFORD via St. Helena.

Simonstown - H.M. Ships SHROPSHIRE, NEWCASTLE.

CARNARVON CASTLE ERICA, SNAPDRAGON.

Capetown - CITY OF DURBAN.

Durban - H.M. . SHIPS NELSON, CARTHAGE, DELPHINTUM.

Mombasa - Durban - H.M.S. CORNWALL H.M.S. EAGLE.

Aden - Cape - CAPE SABLE.

Cape-Plate area - H.M.S. ALCANTARA.

Plate-Durban - H.M.S. CUMBERLAND.

Tierra del Fuego area H.M.S. ASTURIAS.

Trinidad H.M.S. DELHI.

New York H.M.S. CANTON.

U.K. Ports - H.M.S. ARAWA H.M.S. MORETON BAY.

Mombasa H.M.S. CORFU

1451/3

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

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- C.S.O. to 1st. S.L.
- 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)
- E.P.S.

D.H.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).HIGHLAND
PRINCESS.

Your 1236/2. Considerable delay in onward conveyance will arise and no accommodation available for 370 personnel at Freetown. Propose ship proceed independently from vicinity Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A. 2101N/3 to D. of S.T.)

LECH
(German)
ASTURIAS.

S.O.(I) Montevideo's 0912Z/3. (German ship LECH to await Auxiliary Cruiser as escort in 26° 18' S 25° 00' W on 3/5. If this R/V not made LECH to proceed alone. Note. Circulated to D.N.I. D.S.D.9, O.I.C. only.) If circumstances permit, investigate. Do not remain too long off trade route.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1345Z/3 to ASTURIAS)

SEVERN

Departure 1230/3 SEVERN in accordance with C. in C. S.A.'s 1031/3 (Not to B.S.3) (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1605N/3 to Admty). Your 1031/3. Request you send SEVERN to Gibraltar to complete with torpedoes. F.O.C. N.A. is requested to sail her to Halifax in accordance with AT 2251/1. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2218A/3 to C. in C. S.A.) Cancel my 1031N/3. Admty's 2218A/3. Proceed Gibraltar by following route. Adjust speed to arrive Gibraltar 1600N/10.
(C. in C. S.A. 2307N/3 to SEVERN).

CAP EL
HANK.

Have you any news of CAP EL HANK overdue Pointe Noire?
(D.T.D. 1659A/3 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Departure 1800/3 to patrol through H.35 C, I 35 A and C to J 35 A, C and D, thence through J 36 C to St. Helena for fuel.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1913N/3 to Admty).

WINDHUK
(German).

Santos report C.4 reported great activity in WINDHUK last two nights. Custom and police guard still on board ends. N.S.O.(I) Freetown informed.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 2051Z/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.SituationReport No. 14. (C. in C. Med., 0007/3) See
Hon Copy.KYRIAKIGreek. Bombed and sunk in Suda Bay on 24/4.
Crew believed to be safe. (D.S.606 3/5).LISBOA
(German).Left Castellon for Marseilles 28/4 with cargo
of fruit. (D.S.606).SAVONA
(German).Arrived Cartagena 29/4, is being loaded with
magnesite. (D.S.606).SULLBERG
(German).Being used for ore trade. Last reported as
left Valencia 22/4 for Marseilles. (D.S.606).ARKADIA
CORDELIA
(German).Agents of Bourgas instructed from Hamburg
28/4 to detain pending instructions.
CORDELIA since arrived Istanbul 30/4.
(D.S. 605) Instructions were that ARKADIA
should go Constanza and CORDELIA to Istanbul
and Constanza, Captains to report in person
to Consulate on arrival. (D.S.606).ABBAZIA
CATERINA MADRE
PIER LUIGI) Chartered by Deutsche Levant Lines. (D.S.606)
)
)Swordfish
Mining Tripoli.Night 2/3 May. Swordfish of 830 Sqd., (two)
despatched to lay Cucumbers in Tripoli
Harbour approaches. 1 Cucumber planted off
Northern Mole. Second Swordfish returned
with Cucumber unable to locate harbour.
(H.Q. Malta 0900/3 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)JERSEY.Your 1442/2. Consider attempt should be
made to demolish stern of vessel by exploding
ships own depth charges and torpedo war
heads simultaneously.
(2) Minesweeping. Description of methods
successfully used in Canal.
(C. in C. Med., 0919/3 to V.A. Malta.)

Enemy Bomber.....

MOST SECRET

89(A)

M E S S A G E 0007/3rd May.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 3.5.41.
Time 0736

NAVAL CYPHER A. (2) By Cable.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated V.A. Malta 445. S.O. Force H.
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 269.

IMPORTANT.

291. Situation report number 14.

Alexandria as in my 2226 2nd.

(ii) DEMON. Add to my 1230 2nd night 30/1, three destroyers evacuated further 23 officers and 179 troops from Kalamata area and two destroyers moved a battalion from Sula Bay to Candia. More detailed report of whole operation will be signalled as soon as possible.

(iii) Western desert. No change in military situation. Two destroyers transporting 600 troops from Mersa Matruh to arrive Mersa Tobruk night May 3. Unloading from small coastal ships continues at Mersa Tobruk.

(iv) Malta as in V.A. Malta's report. H.M.S. UPHOLDER sank two out of five northbound merchant ships escorted by three destroyers May 1st. Request no repetition no communique be issued. Examination of photographs shows that two of destroyers sunk in Capt. (D) 14 during night of 16/17 were Italian destroyer FOLGORE Class.

0007/3

✧ Presumably "sunk by" intended.

Advance copies sent P.O. C.S.O. A.C.N.S.(F) Press.
Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.D.
D.N.A.D.
D. of L.D.
D. A/S W.
D.M.S.

I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain.
Hd. of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
N.I.D.10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
Press Divn. (for action)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Enemy Bomber
Strength.

Our I/60931 1/5. Add to estimate of operational aircraft available Balkans following. 150 long range bombers 100 dive bombers.
(C. in C. M.E., 0920/3 to W.O.)

Dardanelles

Report German Aeroplane passed down Dardanelles 1930/2 and was fired upon. Inform M.E.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1040/3 to S.O.(I) Med).

Oerlikon Guns.

Your 0930/1. In consequence of Admiralty's decision in 1701/18/1 no Oerlikon guns or spare parts are yet available in Eastern Mediterranean except 2 guns ex YORK with 15000 rounds of ammunition. Requirements for 5th D.F. must be obtained from U.K. of Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Med., 1047/3 to A.S. Malta.)

Benghazi
Bombed.

Operational Summary No. 327 up to 1200 hours 3/5/1941. Night 1/2. 11 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour. (description).
2/5. Reconnaissances reported. 1 apparently damaged ship with several tugs and small coastal vessels Benghazi.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1113/3).

Wellingtons for
Malta.

Your 2010/28. Three Wellingtons fitted A.S.V. will shortly be ready to leave for Malta. Air Ministry view is that with present congestion of aerodromes at Malta it will be necessary to release to Egypt three Wellington bombers before these A.S.V. Wellingtons can be received. Request remarks.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1316A/ to V.A.M.) Reply:
2010B/5.

Libya
Use of French
Territorial
Waters.

Turkish G.S. state reliable information received continuous stream German troops (?is) arriving Naples. Thence despatched as opportunity offers Sicily thence (? Tripoli) via French territorial waters.
(M.A. Ankara 1340/3 to C. in C. M.E.)

N.I.D. Comment.....

MOST SECRET

90(A)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1157/3 May

IN

From. C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 15.5.41.

Time. 0545.

I.D.V. by C. & W.

Addressed. N. A. Ankara.

For Admiral Kelly. Your 1155 April 28th paragraph 8. There is little to add to information officially published. Some 45,000 men were brought off which was a great deal more than the army had ever hoped. The men returned in excellent form and as disciplined units bringing in most cases every portable piece of equipment even including bren guns. The evacuation was done in the face of overwhelming opposition and the conduct of men of war merchant vessels and beach parties was beyond praise. Our losses of 2 destroyers and 4 merchant vessels of which 2 were fortunately empty must be considered light in the circumstances. It is perhaps worth reminding the Turks that the whole force had originally been moved into Greece without loss of a man a ship or a piece of equipment except for some small casualties in one ship from a bomb.

2. I have not recently sent situation reports as I am afraid there has been little that we could tell the Turks of an encouraging nature. It might be as well to emphasize that though we are now greatly hampered in using (?warships (?permanently) for running slow convoys yet we still can and will employ men of war in the area when we deem it advisable or attractive targets become available. It is important that they should realise the difference between ceasing to use route for normal supply and any suggestion that we have given up command of the sea in that part of the world.

3. For your personal information it is hoped to start action in North Aegean shortly to interfere with German communications.

1157/3

Advance copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D. (F) &
D.D.I.C.

1st Lord. D.N.I. (4)
1st S.L. I.P.
2nd S.L. W.D.
3rd S.L. Duty Capt.
4th S.L. Head of M.
5th S.L. E.P.S.
V.C.N.S. N.I.D.10 (Pay.Cdr. Wilson)

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)

NOTE.

Signal delayed owing to non-receipt of Part I.

War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.Libya.
Use of
French
territorial
waters.
contd.

N.I.D. Comment:

This confirms recent reports of large concentrations of German troops and material at Naples for transfer to Libya. The use of enemy convoys of French (Tunisian) territorial waters was the subject of a U/C by N.I.D. on 28/4, which stated that the enemy were possibly using these territorial waters although there was no definite confirmation that they were doing so.

GIULIO
CESARE.

Report from Washington graded B.2 states battleship ^{GIULIO} CESARE arrived Naples 29/4. (D.D.I.C. 1536A/3.)

DELOS
CORDELIA
(German).

Report B 2 from Turkish secret sources. German Steamer DELOS while in AEGEAN Sea recently was used to land troops in Lemnos. CORDELIA now unloading Istanbul expects to sail for Aegean . 4/5, and will receive orders at sea. (S.O.I., Istanbul, 1545/3, to C. in C. Med.).

Enemy
Units.

2 Glenn Martin reccos eastern Tunisian coast. 0810/3, 5 small M/V's 500 tons 35° 08' N., 12° 44' E., Course 170° 4 knots. 0925/3 3 minesweepers 34° 55' N., 11° 48' E. Course 350° 4 knots. Sighted again at 0950 hrs. when 2 sloops had joined up in 35° 32' N., 12° 38' E. Course 360° 4 knots. Enemy air activity. Night 2nd/3rd May. Nil. (H.Q. R.A.F., Med., 1600/3.)

RORQUAL.

Left Alexandria 1730/3, routed as in my 1955/1, E.T.A. Port Said 1400/4. (Capt. S.I. 1739/3, to PERSEUS.)

/LISBOA.....

War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.LISBOA.
(German)Arrival 3/5, probably from Marseilles.
(V.C. Cartagena 1810/3.)Greek
S/M's.Following is material condition of Greek S/m's at Alexandria. NEREUS and TRITON - ready for sea. KATSONIS - ready for sea but due for refit. GLAUCOS - just finished refit but has carried out no trials or training. Has engine defect requiring three weeks.
(C. in C. Med. 1911/3, to Adty.)U/B Report.One submarine reported in $035^{\circ} 18' N. 018^{\circ} 50'$ course 165° at 2111/3.
(Capt. S.I, 2251/3, to TRIUMPH.)TRUANT.S.O. Force H.1313/3. Request you comply if you consider reasonable in view of TRUANT's recent activities.
(C. in C. Med. 2252/3, to V.A. Malta.)Situation.Report No.15. Alexandria. Battle Fleet has entered harbour via Great Pass and 8 merchant ships sailed. 3 mines exploded by L L during sweeping operations. One parachute mine by day rendered safe. Western Desert. No change in general situation. "Demon". Last estimate of total number embarked 51640 of which 500 lost at sea excluding crews of DIAMOND, WRYNECK, SLAMAT. Proportion of troops in this number not yet available. Malta. One Cucumber only laid in 830 Sqdn., raid on Tripoli (Africa). Heavy A/A opposition.
(C. in C. Med., 2313/, to Admty.)UNION.Cdr., (S) 1's 1125/2 and 1845/3.
My p.c. and s. $035^{\circ} 56' N.$, $013^{\circ} 55' E.$, $121^{\circ} 7'$ knots. Will arrive 0603/4.
(UNION, 2337/3, to N.O.I.C. Malta.)

War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.CLAN BUCHANAN.

Overdue ship CLAN BUCHANAN, left Durban 19/4, for Colombo. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0500Z/3.)

CLAN BUCHANAN is now overdue. Request early report by signal of necessary particulars of service mails and correspondence on board.
(C. in C. E.I., 0744z/3, to N.O.I.C. Durban.)

Bahrein.
Naval
W/T.
Station.

Your 1754/ 21/4 passed to S.N.O. Persian Gulf. (i) after visiting Bahrein my views are (a) jamming unlikely to be effective as Bahrein naval transmitters are not high power and are sharply tuned (b) any jamming by Bahrein naval W/T would be at expense of naval duties as both transmitters are employed 24 hours a day. This is not acceptable (ii) If jamming of these broadcasts is particularly desired by H.M. Govt, it could be done by a H.M. ship at Bahrein when available. (C. in C. E.I. 0802Z/3 to Adty.)

My 0732/29. CLAN BUCHANAN has now been reported as overdue at Colombo since 1/5. At 1851/2 Mauritius Radio heard R R R R at good strength, transmission then stopped, nothing further heard and no confirmation received from any other source. (C. in C. E.I., 1128Z/3, to Capt., O.S., Singapore.)

Difnein.
Harmil.

My 1032/2. (1) Difnein Island. Information from prisoners indicates garrison evacuated to Dohul and Island was not defended except for machine guns. (2) Harmil Island. Possibly still garrisoned. (S.O.I., Colombo, 0502Z/3, to Admty.)

LIVERPOOL
TALAMBA.

LIVERPOOL is to escort TALAMBA to 009^o Channel whence TALAMBA is to proceed to Bombay East of Laccadive Is. and LIVERPOOL to Colombo. (C. in C. E.I., 0640Z/3, to S.N.O.R.S.)

/Iraq.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.Iraq.

Part one of my 2020/3. Baghdad. Embassy communications ceased. Codes and cyphers destroyed. Habbaniya. Still in contact. 22 connections rendered out of action yesterday. 170 civilians remain to be evacuated. Situation report last night ended. "Still hope for the best." Basra. No change. Labour all disappeared from dock area. Bulk of civil population have left Margil area (?). Policy of non-co-operation still in force. (? DREDGWELL) situation not settled. Crew refuses to work with guard on board and Officers refuse to work as well. Hope to find solution. It is not impossible Iranian may cause embarrassment shortly. Part two follows. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1015/3, to C. in C. E.I.)

Your 1238/3. Anticipate remounting of two guns will be completed by 0400Z/5. Consider ship Stable after re-embarking these. Am proceeding with this re-embarkation (ii) Request permission to sail for Aden early /5. (CAPETOWN 1039Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

CAPETOWN.

Your 1951/2. Report (a) how long would it take to remount 2 6" guns (b) would ship then be considered stable for passage to Aden when 50 rounds per gun could be re-embarked. My 1310/2. It must be appreciated that decision to continue voyage to Bombay will depend on weather report received after your arrival at Aden. (C. in C. E.I., 1238z/3 to CAPETOWN.)

Enemy Mining.

Consider ground mining by aircraft in Shatt El Arab to be probable in near future. You should arrange for 4 ships equipped with magnet sweeps to proceed there as soon as possible. Two of these ships should also be fitted to tow skids. 6 skids should be freighted to Basra as soon as possible. These must be at the expense of ports further from the front. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1249/3, to C. in C. E.I.)

Reply: C. E.I., 0636/5, M. 154-155.

/Iraqi.....

War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.Iraqi
Oil
Supplies.

All refineries and oil installations are in Iraqi hands and demolition now only possible by air action. This can be considered when operational situation permits. Iraqi troops have also occupied pumping station K.1 and K.2 and Iraqi police have arrested engineer in charge of plant at H.3. (C. in C. M.E., 1600/3, to W.O.)

America & West Indies.Admiral
Lais.

Your 1252/1. MARQUES DE COMILLAS should now be released. Further signal will be made about disposal of Admiral Lais. (Head of M. 0136A/3 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

DELHI.

Arrived New York. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0820/3.)

Q. Report.

1512 G.M.T. intercepted from Cape Race Radio QQQQ 4918 N., 4709 W., EMPIRE DAWN suspicious vessel following 1510/3 ends. (Halifax N.S., 1140/3, to Admty.)
Cancel EMPIRE DAWN'S QQ QQ.
(CALIFORNIA, 1509Z/3, to F.O.3.B.S.)

French
Tanker.

Master of U.S. ALCOA ^{CARRIER} carrier reported to R.O. Barbados that unidentified French Tanker arrived Martinique in ballast 28/4. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1148/3, to Admty., etc.)

ABERDEEN.
Cutters,
ASCANIA.
REVENGE.
H.X.125.

Your 1715/17. Intend sailing ABERDEEN for U.K. with H.X. 125 sailing in 2 sections 6/5. Intend that as many of first group of convoy coastguard cutters as are ready for sea should also escort these convoys unless it is desired they should sail separately as a fast group.

/ASCANIA.....

War Diary.

3.5.41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

H.X.125.
ABERDEEN
Cutters,
ASCANIA.
REVENGE.
-Contd.

ASCANIA will be ocean escort carrying personnel and stores for Iceland. REVENGE will provide close cover up to 035° W., unless withdrawn earlier. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1233/3, to Admty.)

RAMILLIES.

To leave convoy on reaching 40° W., or at dusk/3, which-ever is the earlier. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1234A/3 to RAMILLIES.)

BELAIN
D'ESNAMBUC
and sailings
from French
Biscay ports.

Your 2332/22/4. Sydney reports (1) BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC sailed from (? St. Pierre W.I.) to Guadaloupe to Basse Terre to Fort De France to Casablanca to Nantes. No other ships on this route. (2) Sailings of other vessels from Biscay ports very infrequent and irregular unable to determine their destination from these ports. (3) Relations between Germans and citizens of occupied French ports fairly cordial in the beginning but are deteriorating. 1306/3.

DIOMEDE.
W/T watch.

My 1802/2. Keep watch on A & W. I. Station frequency throughout patrol including time spent outside Station limit. (C. in C. A.W.I. 16120/3, to DIOMEDE.)

KOS I.

My 1810/1 and 0846/2. ^{H.T. & W.D.} KOS I sailed for St. Johns N.F. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1706/3 to N.O.i/c St. Johns.)

Raider
Reports.

Your 1131/2. Concur generally with your appreciation. So far as your Command is concerned Admiralty will signal a position whenever bearings permit. (D.D.I.C. 1713A/3 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Service
Personnel
in A.M.C.'s.

Request that reports made in accordance with my 1931/17/3, may include totals of passengers of all services, distinguishing between those for Iceland only and those for onward passage to U.K. A separate signal should be made for each A.M.C. containing the above information only. (D.O.D(H)1943A/3, to R.A.3.B.S.)

War Diary.

3.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (Contd.)

B.H.X.
Convoys.

My 1600/30/9 and R.A.3's 2142/1/5. BHX convoys are to be restarted as soon as possible. R.A.3 is requested to inform Admiralty and C. in C. A. W. I., Number of Convoy with which the above arrangement will commence, and to instruct N.C.S.O's concerned to divert shipping to Bermuda to conform with R.A.3's intentions. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1947A/3, to C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.3.B.S.)

TREKIEVE'S
QQQQ.

Assume this was you.
(F.O.3. B.S. 2137/3 to RAMILLIES.)

Australia.

S.S ZAANDAM.

AANDAM struck apparently uncharted rock off Wednesday Island Saturday morning now at anchorage Good Island, making water. (N.O.I.C. Thursday 1. 2330Z/3.)

War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.TARANGER.

Norwegian, 4873 tons, independent from Liverpool for Los Angeles. Following has been read. Chased by submarine at 61 - 07N., 25-20W., machine gunned at 0050 G.M.T. (TARANGER, No.T.O.O./3.) Reached position 61° 13' N., 26° 50' W., at 0430 then steered 94° in order to reach 61° 07' N., 025° 25' W., at 0600. 200 sight. Spoke Sunderland 0615. Intend course 094° until 0700 and then (searching?) back towards and near position of attack at 20 knots. Visibility fair. Fuel remaining at 0700 110 tons. (ECHO, 0630/3, to B.C.I.) TARANGER's S S S S. If nothing further is heard or sighted return to Hvalfiord. (B.C.S.I, 0932Z/3, to ECHO.) Have now searched area for 8 hours. Nothing sighted. Norwegian VARANGER may have escaped submarine and I have 80 tons fuel remaining, am shaping course for Hvalfiord. (ECHO 1300/3 to F.O.I., B.C.S.)

LYCAON.

Following has been read. S S S S 55 00 N., 22. O.I.W. LYCAON fired on by Submarine. (Liverpool, 2152/3.) LYCAON 55. 00 N., 22 01 W., still chased by submarine. (LYCAON via Portishead W/T 2206/3, 2312/3.)

War Diary.3.5.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's
Reported.
0024.

By D/F at 0024/3, position of German U/Boat was $59^{\circ} 30' N.$, :- $60^{\circ} 00' N.$, $10^{\circ} 00' W.$:- $13^{\circ} 00' W.$ Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0125A/3.)

Use of
R/T.

There are indications that U-Boats may use R/T on very high frequency. Ships addressed are to listen for R/T anywhere on range of special receivers but particularly at 50 and 78 and, if heard, check that signal is tunable. (C. in C. W.A. 0234A/3, to HAVELOCK, etc.) Admty., message A.F. position $61^{\circ} 07' N.$, $25^{\circ} 20' W.$, at 0050 G.M.T./3. (D.D.I.C. 0236A/3, amended 0452A/3.)

1512/2.

Your 1655A/2. Area swept without result. Aircraft co-operation not evident during the night. Intend to proceed to Merville for fuel. ROCKINGHAM rejoins convoy. (VISCOUNT, 0900/3, to C. in C.W.A.) My 1655/2. If not in contact rejoin convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 0949/3, to VISCOUNT.)

0906.

By D/F at 0906A/3. Position of Italian U Boat, probably homeward bound, was $45^{\circ} N.$, $6^{\circ} W.$, Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0959A/3.)

2/5.

Your 0227/2. Have searched for a period of 10 hours without results. Am complying with your 1203/2. 90 tons of oil fuel remaining. (FLEUR DE LYS, 1035/3, to F.O.C.N.A.) Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1355A/3.)

War Diary.

4.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Defence
of
Chatham.

With regard to the reported successful operations by enemy parachutists at Corinth, C. in C. Nore asks that the request made on 17/5 may receive early consideration. There are no troops near Chatham immediately capable of offering resistance to an attack of this character.

British Air Activity.

30 aircraft of Bomber Command and 5 of Coastal Command attacked the German battle-cruisers at Brest last night. Rotterdam Petroleum Harbour was also attacked.

Blenheims attacking shipping off the Danish coast today claim to have sunk a trawler off the French coast, a merchant vessel of 2000 tons and one of 5 trawlers escorting her are claimed to have been sunk.

War Diary.

4.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.462 was unsuccessfully bombed off Cromer shortly before midnight to-night.

SOUTHDOWN
damaged.
A/c shot
down.

SOUTHDOWN escorting Convoy F.S.480 was bombed about midnight 5/4 May off Spurn Point and destroyed her attacker. SOUTHDOWN was damaged by near miss.

SELKIRK,
FRANC
TIREUR
damaged.

SELKIRK (Fleet minesweeper) was attacked at 2220 today by two aircraft, whilst carrying out A/A guard at anchor off Rough Buoy. SELKIRK was damaged and was beached at Harwich.

Armed trawler FRANC TIREUR was damaged in the same position about midnight 4/5 May and was towed into Harwich.

S.S. MARIE-
FLORE
damaged
TREGOR
sunk.

Belgian S.S. MARIE-FLORE in convoy Barry Roads to Helwick L.V. was attacked 12 miles S.W. of Trevoise Head at 2315 today and was set on fire but was got into Padstow. S.S. TREGOR was sunk.

Attack on
Liverpool
13 ships
destroyed
or damaged.

Liverpool was attacked last night. ADVENTURE was slightly damaged and considerable damage was caused to merchant shipping. Reports so far indicate S.S. ELSTREE, GRANGE, DOMINO, BRA-KAR, ROUMANIE and EUROPA burnt out, CLAN MACINNES badly damaged, TACOMA STAR and ROXBURGH CASTLE sunk in the docks, BARONESA, WAIWERA, LOBOS and SALLAND slightly damaged. MALAKAND blown up, two tugs and several small craft sunk or badly damaged. Damage was done in the docks Grayson and Rollo (ship repair works) was burnt out and Harland and Wolff and other ship repair works were damaged or gutted. Civil damage was very heavy.

Attack on
Portsmouth.

Portsmouth was attacked from 2205/3 to 0005/4. Twelve H.E. fell in the dockyard, where damage was caused and SIRIUS (cruiser under construction) received minor damage by a bomb which went through her.

/Attack.....

War Diary.

4.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Attack on
Hartlepool.

West Hartlepool was attacked last night, slight naval damage was caused, but the war effort is not immediately affected.

Attack on
Lowestoft.

Some damage was caused last night to Waveney Dock.

Mining.

Coastal Command aircraft laid mines off Cherbourg last night.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was carried out in Liverpool Bay, Milford Haven, Bristol Channel, off Land's End, Humber and Tyneside.

A parachute mine dropped in Waveney Dock (Lowestoft) at 0040 exploded at 0530, sinking M/S Trawler BEN GAIRN and damaging H.M. Tr. NIBLICK.

Mines were dropped early this morning in the Thames Approaches. Mines were exploded off Nash Point (Bristol Channel).

Blyth was closed from 0301 to 1021.

Liverpool and swept channels were closed from 0231 to 1100. The port will be closed at night.

War Diary.

4.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

GLOUCESTER arrived at Gibraltar this evening with KASHMIR and KIPLING. She is reported to have been damaged by a bomb which went right through her; apparently without exploding, whilst on passage from Malta.

Mediterranean.

Air raid
on Malta
FERMOY
sunk.

Malta was attacked by about 40 aircraft last night, the targets being the Dockyard, Valletta and Luqa. Mines were laid by about 10 aircraft inside and outside the Grand Harbour and Mersa Mascett: FERMOY was again hit and sunk in dock, but KELLY, KELVIN, JACKAL, JANUS, REGENT and OLYMPUS escaped damage.

PARAMATTA arrived at Suez today, to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

UPHOLDER

It is reported that at 1555/25/4 UPHOLDER torpedoed and sank an escorted north bound merchant vessel, probably BAINSIZZA. At 2045/26/4 UPHOLDER boarded S.S. ARTA, one of the ships sunk by 14th D.F. on 16/4 off Kerkenah Bank and after removing documents from the Captain's safe set her on fire. Shallows prevented her from closing within 2 miles of the grounded destroyer sunk on 16/4.

Mining raid
on Tripoli.

3 F.A.A. Swordfish of 850 Squadron carried out a minelaying raid on Tripoli last night during an attack by Wellingtons from Mid. East.

/Western.....

War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.Basra.

There are no A.A. defences at Basra and C. in C. E.I has asked that a supply may be made available urgently from the quickest source. Nothing is available from India. Iraqi troops have been driven out of the dock area, Maqil airport, and the power station (about 7 miles N. of the town).

Situation
in Iraq.

S.N.O. Persian Gulf today gives his opinion as to the immediate measures necessary to restore the situation and avoid "an ignoble capitulation with its attendant reaction soon in the Near East" (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1209/4).

F.A.A. to
destroy
Railway
Bridge.

Six Swordfish from HERMES have been ordered to destroy the Iraq railway bridge over the river about 4 miles above Samawah, 150 miles along the railway north of Shaibah Junction.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Nore Command.
Request for
4 A/P Trawlers.

F.O.i/c Dover's B23/R/436/41 of 30/4. In view of losses due to enemy action request consideration be given to allocating these four auxiliary patrol trawlers to Nore Command. Two to Harwich and two to Lowestoft. (C. in C. Nore 1147B/4).

Nore Command.
Notice for
Steam.

Starting today Destroyers, Corvettes, and Fast Minesweepers in Harbour are normally to be at the following notice for steam. 0700B to 2215B 2½ hours. 2215B to 0700B ½ hour. Cancel my 1225/29/3/41. (C. in C. Nore 1201B/4).

Defence of U.K.Nore Command.
Defence against
Parachute Troops.

In view of reported successful operations by enemy parachutists at Corinth request early consideration may be given to my predecessor's number 1234/0803 J 7/1 of 17th March 1941. There are no troops in the vicinity of Chatham immediately capable of offering organized resistance to an attack of this character. This seems beyond the capacity of an isolated post of Home Guards. (C. in C. Nore 1800B/4).

Movements.IMPULSIVE
INTREPID.

Scapa departures IMPULSIVE, INTREPID. (F.O.C.O.S. 0818/4).

HOOD.

C. in C. H.F. 1546/2. Intend sailing in HOOD from Hval Fiord at 1800B/4 with 4 destroyers arriving Scapa P.M. 6th. Request A/S air escort if available. (B.C.S.1 1321B/4).

NORFOLK

Scapa departure NORFOLK. (A.C.O.S. 2001/4).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Patrols.

Patrols as follows tonight. 3 M.L.'s South Leman to Smith's Knoll Buoy. 3 M/L's vicinity of 55 Buoy. A/P F.W.S. withdrawn to reinforce F.W.B.
 2 M.G's with A/S trawler 080° Aldeburgh light float 5 miles.
 (C. in C. Nore 1036B/4).
 Your 1946A/3. A.M.C. of Denmark Straits patrol will leave Iceland (c) for Halifax approx. as follows.
 (F.O.C.N.P. 1200B/4).
 Having refuelled, ALAUNIA is to leave Reykjavik at 1600/5 and take N.P. 71 closing Ice daily and reporting limit on return to harbour.
 2. LACONIA is to leave N.P. 71 at 1200/6 and return to Reykjavik.
 4. N.O.I.C. Iceland is requested to sail LACONIA for Halifax when ready, providing A/S escort if available.
 (F.O.C.N.P. 1420A/3).

Dusk patrol on W.N. 22 to-night.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 1945/4 to GLEANER).

D.S.3
(Clyde-Iceland
Convoy).

LANCASTER and WELLS detailed for D.S.3. (R.A.M. 1229/4).
 A.M. 1253/2. S.S. PULASKI will replace ROYAL SCOTSMAN for convoy D.S.3. (D.O.D. (H) 1558B/4).
 Reference 1445/14. It is intended to sail D.S.3 on 7/5. Request confirmation that both ships mentioned in A.M. 1519/20/3 will take part.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1653A/3.)

CONQUEROR.

Cancel my 1603/3. Intend to sail CONQUEROR at 0600 M.S.T. to pass South of St. Catherines and to patrol south of Group leaving Needles for Dartmouth as far as Portland Bill and thence to Portland. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1813B/4).

Offensive
R/C.

Intend to sail four M.T.B.'s at 2330B tonight

for.....

War Diary.

4.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Offensive R/C
(Contd).

for offensive reconnaissance between Boulogne and Dieppe returning not later than 0530B. (V.A. Dover 1850B/4).

British Air Activity.

ALERT
(Cable Ship)

Request fighter protection for Cable ship ALERT escorted by 1 A/S trawler from 1230 /4 till arrival Mounts Bay. (C. in C. Plymouth 1038/4).

VICTORIOUS.

On arrival at Liverpool about 12/5 VICTORIOUS is to load 6 operational Fulmar, 6 Swordfish and up to 48 tropicalised long range Hurricane I, with wings off. (A.C.N.S.H. 1133B/4).

Patrols.

Patrol ^{"Hornet"}~~HORNET~~ Now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1130/4).
My 1232 part 2 to end. Patrol B. Cross over Patrol as follows.
Patrol D. Cross over Patrol as follows.
Patrol E. Cross over Patrol as follows.
"Bust" Patrol as follows.
(iv) Patrol A will be flown daily if possible. Patrol D and E will be flown to cover night sailing to West or South if Patrol A is not practicable. (v) Patrol B and Bust Patrol will be flown as requisite to cover daylight sailing depending on results of P.R.U. Patrol B may also be used in case of Patrol A being impracticable.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1232/3).
Four Hudson A/C are carrying out a parallel track A/S Search Datum at Cape Wrath to limit 14° W. between 59° N and 62° 30' N. Now in operation, and returning half an hour after last light.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1900/4).
Patrol ~~3-1135~~ now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2238/4).

New Type of A/C.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.(contd).New Type of
A/C

X 141 4/5.
Our X. 879/2/5. Request confirmation that all pilots and A.A. defences have been notified of this type aircraft coming into service.
(Air Ministry F.O.6 1530/4).

ARGUS.

Your 1849A/2nd. 29 can be embarked, but only 27 if Fulmars are intended for operating on passage. 3 complete working days required on arrival for disembarkation and storing ship before embarkation can commence.
(ARGUS 1537/4).

Thames Estuary
Balloon Barrage.

A.227 4/5. Following from 16 Group. Begins. Preliminary arrangements being made for Naval Officer to be flown in 16 Group Aircraft on R/C flight over Thames Estuary to ascertain whether Thames Balloon Barrage assists enemy minelaying. Flight to be made on first suitable night after 4 May. Ends. Request flight arrangements be co-ordinated with A.A. Defence Commander to avoid G.L. interference from balloons. Object of this barrage is protection of convoy anchorage not anti-minelaying.
(H.Q.F.C. 1745/4 to Air Ministry.)

Brest and
Rotterdam
attacked.
1 Fishing
Trawler claimed
sunk.

(H.Q.B.C. 1815/4).

Escorts.

Coastal command Blenheims will take air escort 2215 - 2330/4th.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1922/4 to TYNEDALE).
My 2111. Escort has been extended to approx 0030/5.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2226/4 to CENTURION).
Cancel my 2111 and 2226/4. Aircraft not available.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2334/4 to CENTURION.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Lowestoft
bombed.Lowestoft bombed by single aircraft at 2310
and 2359/3.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0008/4).Convoy. F.S.479.
TRAJAN
(Norwegian,
1347 tons) sunk.
SITONA
(Norwegian 1143
tons). sunk.

My 2336. TRAJAN sunk by bomb in about 053°
10' 30" N 001° 13' E. Have picked up 20
survivors. No casualties. Am standing
by SITONA near 57 C buoy, hit in engine room.
(GUILLEMOT 0035/4).

Your 0037 A.4. Please send Tug to SITONA
near 57 C buoy. Continuous aircraft activity.
(GUILLEMOT 0103/4 to C. in C. Nore.)

My 0034/4. Crew SITONA now on board trawler
AKRANES now endeavouring with two other
trawlers to tow ship clear of Channel. Am
rejoining convoy.
(GUILLEMOT 0141/4).

Your 0035. Tug KROOMAN comes from Yarmouth.
(C. in C. Nore 0305b/4 to GUILLEMOT).

Departure rescue tug KROOMAN at 0313 M.S.T.
to assist SITONA.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0322/4).

TRAJAN and SITONA reported sunk in approx.
53° 10' 30" N 001° 13' E., and 8 cables N
40 W from 57 C. Buoy. Request you will
endeavour to locate. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth is
requested to assist with 2 M.L.'s as arranged
with F.O.I.C. Humber.
(C. in C. Nore 1111B/4 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

M/S Trawler ALMANDINE landed complete crew of
17 men including North Sea pilot of SITONA.
Master states ship sank in 53° 12½' N 01° 11'
E. as the result of aerial torpedo attack
at 2315A/3.
(F.O. Humber 1844B/4).

SITONA and TRAJAN in F.S.479 attacked about
2330A/3 in vicinity No. 57C Buoy and
subsequently sank apparently due to low level
bombing attack from one enemy aircraft
approaching from landward side. Survivors
landed SITONA at Humber, TRAJAN at Harwich.
Believed no casualties. SITONA apparently
abandoned prematurely.
(C. in C. Nore 2340B /4).

Portsmouth Bombed.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.(contd).Portsmouth
bombed.
SIRIUS
damaged.

Air raid from 2205 to 0005. Twelve H.E. in Dockyard. Structural damage (details.) Bomb hit SIRIUS between X and Y turrets and passed out through ships side above water. Fires occurred, all now out. Casualties. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0304B/4).

West
Hartlepool
bombed.

Incendiaries and 3 H.E. bombs dropped W. Hartlepool. 1 H.E. close to building occupied by N.O.I.C., inflicting structural damage. War effort of establishment not immediately affected. Casualties nil. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0349/4).

Convoy "Jane".
JANE.Help - Enemy aircraft attacking Convoy ^{"Jane"} JANE.
My position.
(MACKAY 0615/4).Liverpool.
ADVENTURE
(Minelayer)
damaged.
ELSTREE GRANGE
DOMINO
BRA-KAR ROMANIE
EUROPA burnt out.
CLAN MACINNES
BARONESA
WAIWERA. LOBOS
SALLAND damaged.
TACOMA STAR
ROXBURGH CASTLE
sunk. MALAKAND
blown up.Situation report at 1800/4.
A. Naval. ADVENTURE slightly damaged by bomb splinters and near miss. No other damage to H.M. Ships or known casualties.
B. Merchant shipping. Reported that ELSTREE GRANGE, DOMINO BRA-KAR ROUMANIE and EUROPA burnt out, CLAN MACINNES badly damaged by H.E., TACOMA STAR and ROXBURGH CASTLE sunk in dock, BARONESA, LOBOS, and SALLAND, WAIWERA slightly damaged. MALAKAND blown up. Two tugs and several small craft sunk or badly damaged.
(C) Docks. Liverpool north, extensive damage to sheds. Liverpool south, slight damage to sheds. Both dock systems in operation. North Dock railways affected. Birkenhead and Garston normal.
(D) Repair firms. Grayson and Rollo at North Liverpool burnt out Harland and Wolff damaged. Cammell Lairds and others not seriously affected.
(E) General Civil damage very heavy. Essential services in large areas interrupted and telephones out of action.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1801/4). *See also 1831/6.*PINK ROSE.Sailed Rescue tug SCHELDE to assist vessel reported on fire 10 miles N.N.W. of St. David's Head.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0840/4).

S.S. PINK ROSE.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.PINK ROSE.
(contd).

S.S. PINK ROSE abandoned on fire and in sinking condition after collision with unknown steamer at 0330/4th in position 10 miles north of South Bishop Light. Crew landed at Barry by S.S. CITRINE. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1633/4).
F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1633/4. PINK ROSE was taken in tow by A/P Vessel FLORIO but sunk in tow. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1955/4).

Convoy "Sapper."
~~SAPPER~~
attacked.

^{"Sapper"}
Help ~~SAPPER~~, Convoy Falmouth to Milford Haven, W.C.V.U. 4300, course 242, speed 6 knots.
(Plymouth 2317/4).

Convoy
F.N. Even.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ^{"Agent"}~~AGENT~~. My position ZKUF 0435.
(WALLACE 2348 /4).
Fighter assistance requested for Convoy ~~AGENT~~ being bombed by enemy aircraft in position ZKUF 1013.
(LIDDESDALE 2350/4).
My 2358. 1 AP still bombing and machine-gunning.
(WALLACE 2359/4).
My 2359 Two sticks no hits.
(WALLACE 0038/5).

Convoy F.S.
Even attacked.

Fighter assistance requested for convoy ^{"Arena"}~~ARENA~~. My position ZKLJ. 4537.
(SHELDRAKE 2350/4).

One A/C
shot down.

One aircraft destroyer (?by) SOUTHDOWN in position 62 D. Buoy after being bombed. No. damage.
(SOUTHDOWN 2356/4).

Mining.Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool including swept channels closed until further orders.
(F.D.I.C. Liverpool 0231B/4).
Port of Liverpool re-opened.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1100/4).

Port of Liverpool.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Liverpool.
(contd).Port of Liverpool including Q.Z.S. 211 and Q.Z.S. 215 will be closed from 2216/4 until 0730/5.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2145/4).Blyth.Blyth closed owing to suspected enemy mine-laying. Probably open noon.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 0301/4).
Port of Blyth open.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 1021 /4).BEN GAIRN
(M/S Trawler)
sunk.
NIBLICK
(A/P Trawler)
damaged.My 0017, Parachute mine dropped Waveney Dock at 0040 exploded at 0530. Trawler BEN GAIRN sunk, NIBLICK damaged. No casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft. 0625/4).East
Coast.Mines recorded as dropped early this morning in positions 048° 24 - 3/4 miles, 385° 27 miles, and 034° 32 - 1/2 miles from Foreness (? Foulness).
(C. in C. Nore 1114B/4).P.W.9.Carry out P.W.9 as soon as M.T.B's are ready and weather is suitable.
(C. in C. Nore 1124B/4 to BEEHIVE.)SCOTT.Sailed SCOTT for S.N.9A and Reykjavik.
(R.A.M.L. 1200/4).Operation
N.K.V.A. Dover's 2015/2/5. Operation N.K. completed 80% searched. Negative result.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1234B/4).London
Docks.Western entrance and tidal basin Royal Victoria Docks are now open for navigation.
(F.O.I.C. London 1702/4).Bristol
Channel.Red Mine exploded by LL in 270° distant 3.6 miles from Nash Point Lighthouse.
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1915/4).

German.....

War Diary.

4.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

German Sweep
Cutter.

Enemy explosive sweep cutter ashore Holliwell
Point River Crough.
(R.N.O. Burnham 1919/4).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Visual R/C of Brest 0800/4. Battlecruisers
present in usual positions.
(D.D.I.C. 0932B/4).
R/C of Brest at 1220/4 showed both battle
cruisers present in usual positions.
(D.D.I.C. 2029B/4).

BREMEN.

Photographs taken on 30/4 show that BREMEN,
which was afloat at Bremerhaven on 25/4, now
has her stern awash. This is considered to
be due to a hit by A/C on Night 25/26 April
(A.S.O. No. 164).

KARL
WORMSTRUP.

(Danish fishing vessel) Sailing Fleetwood
p.m.5th for Iceland fishing via Faeroes is
under suspicion. Skipper believed to have
brother fishing from Denmark. If sighted
her position and movements are to be reported.
(C. in C. W.A. 1132/4).

War Diary.4.5.41.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.H.X123.34 ships 42 hours late.
(RAMILLIES 1130Z/4.)HX 120.13 hours late at rendezvous with all ships except one which joined SC28. Heavy weather 18th to 22nd. April.
(D.T.D. 1318B/4.)B.M.Convoys.

Pass to all ships of Western Approaches Escort Force. In future, failing orders to the contrary, the B M portion of all inward ocean Convoys is to be instructed to proceed Belfast, suitable escort being detailed. (C. in C. W.A. 1455/4, to Capt. (D) Londonderry, Liverpool, Greenock.)

A.A.defence
by convoys.

An E.C. Convoy recently experienced four attacks by enemy planes. No Merchant Ships were hit and due to the excellent action taken by ships of the convoy there is every reason to believe that 3 enemy planes were damaged. N.C.S.O's are to bring this to the notice of Master of Convoy Conferences, as it shows what can be done by the Merchant Navy if they make prompt and full use of their weapons. (D.T.D. 1904B/4, to A.I.G. 26.)

HIGHLAND
PRINCESS
convoy to
Freetown.

Your 1317/1. Intend to sail CAIRO as A/A escort. (C. in C. W.A. 2005/4, to Adty.)

F.N & F.S.F.N. and F.S. will each be escorted by one Blenheim until 2359 B/4.
(C. in C. Nore 2045B/4.)E.C.15.MONA's ISLE left harbour to protect shipping awaiting convoy in E.C.15.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 2145/4.)

War Diary.

4.5.41.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

DOLFYN.

Motor Fishing Vessel DOLFYN towed in 23/4, with engines broken down and leaking badly. Now in hand for repairs at Weymouth. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1659/4.)

YORKMOOR.

Have detached NORTHERN GEM to stand by disabled ship YORKMOOR with instructions to escort vessel to Reykjavik for completion of repairs. (ARABIS 2115Z/4.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary4.5.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticGLOUCESTER
KASHMIR
KIPLING

E.T.A. 1700 (a)/4. KASHMIR and KIPLING in company. GLOUCESTER damaged by bomb penetrating upper, lower, and platform deck and two and half foot diameter hole in bottom plating. (GLOUCESTER, 0809/4 to F.O.C.N.A., A.S. Gib.)
Your 0809/4 which is being passed to Admiralty. Presume you require docking to be prepared to do so on arrival.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1312/4 to GLOUCESTER)

Orders to
CACHALOT.

Remain North of 037° 20' N., and W of 010° W. until 1200/5 then proceed Gibraltar adjusting speed to pass through position 350 Cape Spartel ten at 1200/6.
(2) Own force including REPULSE. RENOWN QUEEN ELIZABETH and destroyer are operating south of 037° 00' N., between 1200/5 and a.m./6 but will probably be eastward of you.
(3) Two U-Boats reported off Cadiz.
(4) O.G. Convoy leaving Gibraltar a.m./6.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1210A/4. to CACHALOT)

Orders to
DUNEDIN.

C. in C. S.A. 1839/1. From position (c) pass through 034° 05' N., 010° W. thence direct. Your E.T.A. at Gibraltar northern entrance 2100/7. (F.O.C.N.A., 1232A/4 to DUNEDIN)

NORD ATLANTIC

(German tanker) has been sailed from Vigo.
(Consul, Vigo 1600/4 to N.S.O. (1) Gib.)

A/C Patrols

Daily Summary Operations. One H.S. patrol west. One H.S. patrol in bay following U-Boat report. (200 Group 1705/4)

C.F. 1.

Your 1642/3. Approved.
2. to fit in with other commitments it is necessary that these ships should R/V with A/S escorts near 52° N., 25° W., at daylight /12 as arranged by C. in C., W.A. \ (A.C.N.S. (H) 1801B/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/ANTONIO QUARTO.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary4.5.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.ANTONIO QUARTORE See page 132
23.4.41

Your 1454/25/4. ANTONIO QUARTO now ready for sea. Consider if towed grave risk of losing two valuable crews by weather and S action. Tow could hardly average more than 5 knots while ANTONIO QUARTO fuel lasted and less afterwards. Minimum distance Port of Spain (corrupt group) by route any way consistent with safety 1400 miles see my 1326/6/4 N.C.S.O. concurs. (N.A.Lisbon 1801/4? to Director of Small Vessels Pool)

Suspected
Mine.

An object resembling a mine reported in 036° 39' 30" N., 008° 13' 00" W., at 1220 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 1947/4)

South AtlanticSS CAP EL HANK

Your 1659/3. Cancel my 1330/2. CAP EL HANK reported at Point Noire. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1026N/4 to Admty.)

"Q" Report

Following has been read. 4.51 N., 22.34 W CITY OF RIPON suspicious. (Freetown 1030/4) My 1030/4 cancelled. (CITY OF RIPON 1042/4) (Freetown W/T, 1058/4)

U-Boat.

By D/F 0341 and 2246Z/3. (C. in C., S.A. 1121N/4) See U-Boat campaign

ESMERALDA

Pernambuco reports Panama ship ESMERALDA (ex Roumanian ANKTUL) received orders to proceed Rio De Janeiro for overhaul and will leave shortly. N.S.O. (I) Freetown informs me that instructions to capture this ship if met are now cancelled. (S.O.(I) Montvideo 1314/4 to S.A.D.)

/SS SAMSO.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary4.5.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.SS SAMSO
Wreckage.

Wreckage with two rafts marked SAMSO sighted in 8° 53' N., 15° 19' W., at 1500 G.M.T./3. SAMSO left Bathurst 29/4 and was due Freetown 2/5. (C. in C., S.A. 1329/4 to Admty.)

MONBALDO
(Italian)
NORDERNEY
(German)

Para reports MONBALDO has raised steam today 4/5. NORDERNEY maintains steam. (N.S.C. (I) Freetown and Jamaica informed. (N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 1615Z/4 to Admty.)

SS BOSILJKA

Your 1010/3. Pernambuco reports Yugo Slav BOSILJKA arrived there 14/4 and is still in port. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2001/4 to S.O. (I) Capetown.)

Mediterranean

Patrol Report
UPHOLDER
3 M.V's sunk.

UPHOLDER reports at 1533/25/4 attacked escorted northbound Merchant vessel probably BAINSIZZA in 034° 50' 011° 47' obtaining one hit. Ship sank after five hours. Afternoon 26/4 surveyed wrecks resulting from 14th D.F's liquidation and boarded ARTA at 2045. Cargo consisted chiefly of motor cycles between decks, staff cars and lorries on deck, attendant troops embarked, German corpses sighted exceeded 50. Captain's safe blasted, documents retrieved also presumably signals from wireless office, ship left burning fiercely. 27/4 attempted to approach grounded destroyer, shallows found to prevent closing within two miles. At 1139/1 in 034° 41' (?011°) 38' attacked Northbound Convoy five merchant vessels and four destroyers firing four torpedoes. Two hits and sank Fels line 6000 tons, 3rd damaged Burgoland type, no counter attack. UPHOLDER withdrew but later observing damaged ship retiring South Westward with one destroyer, approached and sank her with two torpedoes, both hit. (S.O. (S/M's) Malta 0157/4)

/M.N.B.D.O.....

War Diary4.5.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.M.N.B.D.O.
Suda Bay.1st S.L. 0317B/4 to C. in C., Med. and
reply C. in C., Med. 1258/4 to Admty.
See Mediterranean Volume.DECOY.
DEFENDER.Sailed 0500 approx. 55 personnel.
(N.O.I.C., Tobruk 0650/4 to C. in C. Med.)Benghazi.Use of by Germans, has eased their
supply problems, etc. (C. in C. M.E. 0800/4)
See Lion Copy.Italian
Heavy Units.Your 1901/3. Following is probable
disposition. (C.O.S. Alexandria 0930/4 to
S.O. Force H.)CACHALOTYour 1148/1. CACHALOT should proceed to
Alexandria calling at Malta. Cancel my
1106/30. (C. in C., Med. 0940/4 to F.O.S.)Enemy landings
on Mitylene
and Amorgos.A. One: landing took place at Petra in
Mitylene at 0614/4 protected by 3 Italian
Warships. Amorgos Island which has no
garrison was occupied by small Italian
Force this morning in 3 M.T.B's and
seaplanes. (N.A. Canea 1002/4)Yugoslav
Naval Units.The general opinion of the Yugo-Slavia
Officers now here and who were previously
at Kotor is that old Yugo-Slavia cruisers
were sunk by Yugo-Slavs but that
destroyers probably fell into Italian
hands. They estimate that one (? S/M) and
two coastal motor boats definitely left
Adriatic and possibly another submarine
but latter not considered likely.
(N.A. Canea 1031/4 to C. in C., Med.)
N.I.D. Comment.
Yugo Slavia has only one old Light Cruiser
(ex German built in 1901). Of her four
Destroyers one has been reported as blown up
one badly damaged and one undergoing
extensive repairs. Nothing is known of
the fourth which is the largest and newest.
Two of the six M.T.B's and one submarine
are reported at Alexandria.

/CORDELIA.....

MOST SECRET

120(A)

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 0800/4th May. IN

From C. in C. Middle East Date 5.5.41.

Recd 0930.

Cipher

Addressed War Office.

10853

1/61533 Cipher 3/5.

Your 64668 (M.I.14) 2/5.

Libya, German Supplies & Strength.

Agree disembarkation 15 Armoured Division completed 21st April less H.Q. and certain elements in convoy sunk off Kerkenna. Still without most of supply transport on 21st April. Agree approximately your shipping figures. Since convoy sunk off Kerkenna 26 ships have arrived or are about to arrive Tripoli. Three of these small ships which probably sent to Benghazi. Improbable they are able to carry M.T. This leaves 23 ships averaging 4,000 tons each for Tripoli and means that by 3rd May whole organisation 15 Armoured Division could have arrived. Unloaded by 11th May and reach area Benghazi - Derna by 17th May. German supply problem greatly improved owing increased used Benghazi which is estimated already to be discharging up to 600 tons daily. Supply by air has unquestionably saved maintenance problem to date. Agree Benina important staging aerodrome able to be supplied by sea via Benghazi thence by rail. Derna definitely receiving petrol by air from Benina. Conclusion German supply problem still difficult but eased by increasing use supply aircraft by arrival M.T. and fact that Benghazi already in use for larger tonnage than was anticipated. Still believe impossible to maintain five Divisions for operations East of Sollum unless additional Cyrenaican ports opened to shorten L. of C.

0800/4.

■ No trace in War Registry.
Advance copy sent Ops, O.D. and O.I.C.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
C.S.C. to 1st S.L.
D. of P.(2)
D.O.D.(H)
D.D.O.D.(H)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.N.I.(4)
D.S.D.
D.N.A.D.
D. of L.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P.

W.D.
Duty 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.

jf

War Diary

4.5.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

CORDELIA
(German)

Istanbul departure 3/5. CORDELIA Braila 5/5. (N.C.S.O. Galata 1031/4)

Corinth Canal.

DOLPHIN (2) arrived Crete and reports having laid charges in canal both timed to go off about 2nd May. (N.A. Canea 1050/4 to C. in C. Med.) *See p. 187, 250, 557.*

F.A.A.
Minelaying
at Tripoli.

I. 284 4/5. 3 Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. despatched lay Cucumbers in Tripoli harbour approaches. Arrived while air raid in progress by Wellingtons from Mid East. First aircraft dropped flares. Other 2 dropped Cucumbers in channel between harbour entrance and 5 or 6 M/V's. stopped apparently awaiting raiders passed. Operation hindered by smoke screen laid 50 yards outside harbour and heavy smoke from damage by Wellington bombs. A.A. fire heavy and accurate at least 12 searchlights operating. 1 terrific flash and explosion on or near refuelling Mole and several fires 1 edge of harbour. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1120/4)

Air
Operations

Night 2-3/5. 9 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour etc.
Day 3/5. Several small vessels and barges Benghazi. 2 ships 200 feet off shore south west Benghazi making for harbour were subsequently bombed by 2 Blenheims. 1 ship set on fire. Enemy aircraft attacked 1 trawler 1 ship 20 miles N.E. Tobruk.
2. Crete. 3/5. 2 enemy reconnaissances Suda Bay during day. No interceptions.
5. Palestine. 2/5. 1 or more unidentified aircraft reconnoitred coast from Gaza to point west of Aqir during evening.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1121/4.)

Operation
"Demon"

One W.O. 5 airmen arrived Crete 3/5 by boat from Greece. All R.A.F. evacuees in Crete now in transit camp Suda Bay awaiting onward passage to Egypt by ship which is expected shortly.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1124/4.)

/Orders to....

MOST SECRETWar Diary4.5.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONS.MediterraneanOrders to TORBAY.

Leave patrol forthwith and proceed by routes given in V.A. Malta 1445/14/4 as far as F inclusive. (S.O. (Subs) Malta is requested to route TORBAY from F, North of Malta if possible thence along latitude 036° N. Further routeing instructions for onward route Alexandria follow. (Capt. (S) 1 1429/4 to TORBAY)

Projected French and Enemy sailings.

My 2227/27/4. Source reported on 3/5 following projected sailings from Marseilles - 4 Italian Vessels escorted 4/5 with wool, rubber and iron, destination not given.

2. Four German Vessels and two French P.L.M. Ships all flying French Flag evening of 3/5 for Brest and Calais with cargo of rubber and munitions escorted by two destroyers.

3. French Vessel 4/5 May for Brindisi with aluminium.

4. Italian ship TAOLI (possibly PAOLO) 3/5 to Genoa with iron and rubber.

Comment: This appears to be same report as in my 2227/27/4. (D.D.I.C., 1651B/4 to C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H.)* With later dates of sailing.

Air Raid on Malta FERMOY Sunk.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600/4. Times G.M.T. Heavy night raid by about 40 aircraft in 2 waves. About 10 aircraft mine laying targets dockyard, Valletta and Luqa. Night Hurricane up but no illuminations too brief for interception A.A. fired 25 barrages Bofors guns shot down 1 JU.88 confirmed and damaged another. Damage again to civilian property in Valletta, several bomb holes Luqa aerodrome chance light slightly damaged Army severe damage Casemate barracks much stores destroyed Casualties. FERMOY again hit and sunk in dock, no damage KELLY, KELVIN, JACKAL, JANUS, REGENT, OLYMPUS. Parachute mines again laid inside and outside Grand harbour and Marsamuscetto. No casualties 0530. 3 Hurricanes intercepted and attacked JU.88 while ME. 109s attacked Hurricanes damaging 1 slightly wounding Pilot. JU.88 damaged. Indications on R.D.F. of search party at 0700 hours inference is that JU.88 landed or crashed in sea. (H.Q., Malta 1655/4

/Suda Bay...

War Diary

4.5.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Suda Bay
SS ARAYBANK
damaged.

Numerous air raid alarms ARAYBANK. Damaged by two near misses beached. (S.S.T.O. Suda Bay 1700/4.)

Proposed
minefield.

C. in C. Med., 1736/4 See Lion copy.

Taking over
of Greek
Naval Units.

Your 1830/2. F.O. have instructed British Minister to suspend action on F.O. tel No 929 to Canea until he hears from you. Request you will act without further reference to Admiralty merely reporting progress. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1905B/4 to C. in C. Med.)

ENCOUNTER

Cancel my 2055/1. Damage less severe than at first estimated. (V.A. Malta 2005/4 to C. in C. Med.)

Operation
"Demon"

69704 4/5. My 68002 2/5. Both parties left yesterday on 2 British tugs and 1 Greek yacht. Route territorial waters to Mersin thence Haifa. (M.A. Ankara 2106/4)

Enemy Aerodromes
Sicily.

Personal for Tedder from C.A.S. Malta's A. 656 4/5. Please consider whether need to bomb and shoot Sicilian Aerodromes heavily on "Tiger" nights would not justify temporary congestion of Malta with some Wellingtons. Operation is so important that I suggest we ought to take great risks to make any extra contribution to its security. (Air Min. 2115/4 to H.Q., M.E.)

Situation
Report No.(?16)

Alexandria. All forces have concentrated at Alexandria for repairs and a short rest after operation "Demon". NAPIER and NIZAM have arrived. Minesweeping operation continued one mine exploded. Further (? Derna) raid 2200 to 2330 tonight 4th. No details yet.

/(ii).....

MOST SECRET

123 (A)

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

1736/4 May

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 5.5.41.

Recd. 20:3.

Naval Cypher D by cable.

Addressed Admiralty.

318. Admiralty's 1328/2. Danger that mine fields may hamper own movements is appreciated but mine fields will be (? long) and narrow at right angles to probable course of convoy and therefore area prohibited to own forces will be small. If enemy attempt to sweep mine fields pressure action can be taken against sweepers. Any channel swept in mine fields will form a focal point through which all convoys must pass and will therefore aid interception. It is not repetition, not thought that a short period mine field laid in 50 to 150 fathoms could be placed to be effective. But after convoys have been diverted east of Lampedusa by mine fields between Kerkenah Bank and Lampedusa, a short life mine field between Lampedusa and Lanosa might produce good results.

1736/4.

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.O.D. (M)

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

IH

~~910~~

4.5.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Situation
Report
No. (?16)- Contd.

(ii) Western desert. Two destroyers successfully transported troops Mersa Matruh to Tobruk night 3rd 4th and returned to Alexandria with 500 personnel. Heavy air attacks on Tobruk continue but no serious damage. Military situation unchanged. R.A.F. bombed two small merchant ships off Benghazi 1400/3. Both reported hit.

(iii) Suda Bay. Heavy air attack by 20 JU 88 3 shot down by fighters 2 claimed by A.A. ARAYBANK hit and beached.
(C. in C., Med. 2356/4 to Admty.)

Enemy landings
on Mitylene
and Chios.

Report received 2 enemy transports with naval and air escort landing troops Mitylene dawn/4.

2 T.B's, 1 cargo boat landing Germans Chios 1500/4. Military governor handing over. B.2. (D.D.I.C., 2304/4 to C. in C. Med., C.O.I.S., Alexandria, B.N.A. Athens, c/o S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.)

War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Swordfish
Operation
Iraq.

Six Swordfish from HERMES will carry out an operation a.m./4 object destruction of Iraq railway bridge over river about four miles above Samawan 150 miles along railway North of Shaibah Jnt. (C. in C. E.I. 0230Z/4 to Admty). *See also p. 126.*

CAPETOWN.

CAPETOWN's 1039/3. Subject to favourable weather conditions TAIKOO with CAPETOWN in tow is to be sailed from Port Sudan for Aden as soon as possible after two 6" guns have been remounted in the latter ship. Arrangements are to be made to supply 50 rounds per gun on her arrival Aden. (C. in C. E.I. 0734Z/4 to S.N.O. Red Sea). Intedd sailing for Aden towed by TAI KOO 0400Z/5. E.T.A. 9/5. (CAPETOWN 1645Z/4 to C. in C. E.I).

Convoy
C.M. 9.

(1) It is understood next troop movement from Mombasa will be that referred to in your 0737/28/4 para (A) and (C).
(2) In order that escort may be arranged report estimated sailing date of personnel ships. Convoy will be called C.M. 9.
(C. in C. E.I. 0754Z/4 to D. of S.T. Mombasa)

Orders to
GLASGOW.

GLASGOW is to leave Aden A.M./6 and proceed to Port Victoria Seychelles arriving A.M/10. (C. in C. E.I. 1146Z/4 to GLASGOW).

U.S. 10 B.
orders to
LEANDER.

(1) U.S. 10 B will leave Colombo at 0430Z/6 LEANDER is to leave Colombo at 0230Z/6 and escort U.S. 10 B to position given in my 0718/2. (2) On relief by CANBERRA, LEANDER, is to proceed patrol to westwards 008 degs channel as necessary chart cover to Norwegian NEDAREID until 11/5 and then proceed Colombo to arrive P.M./12. (C. in C. E.I. 1148Z/4 to LEANDER).

/PARAMATTA.....

War Diary.

4.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

PARAMATTA

PARAMATTA arrives Suez 4/5 and joins Mediterranean station. (C. in C. E.I. 1152Z/4 to A.C.N.B).

Situation in Iraq.

My 2020/3 part two. My personal opinion is that if men and material of all sorts for all services are provided in (? quantity) and without delay we can restore the position here, otherwise (? fatal) commitment or an ignoble capitulation with its attendant reaction soon in Near East may arise. Necessity for speed. Above urgent necessity for military and air reinforcement request A/A cruiser with RD/F until arrival of A/A batteries and searchlights, magnetic sweep, authority for (? additional) naval staff of officers and men, pool for running river craft, power and W/T stations, cypher staff, coders and typists, now supplied by ships available. More detailed proposals follow. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1209/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

Iraq. F.A.A. Attack on bridge. Situation.

(1) My 0230/4. Result of this attack by HERMES Aircraft not yet known.
(2) Crew of dredger employed in Rooka Channel have deserted. It is essential Dredgers work again by 14/5. India has been asked for crews to be sent by air.
(3) One R.M. and one seaman and stoker Platoon from ENTERPRISE are being landed by COCKCHAFER at Fao today Sunday. Object is to try and get Dredgers to work with their own crews also to indicate our intention of directing and controlling ^{Fao} F.A.O Depot. (C. in C. E.I. 1250Z/4 to Admty.)
Your 0230Z/4. Did this operation have concurrence of General Fraser? (1st S.L. 1335B/4 to C. in C. E.I.)
Re. Adty. 1335/4 operation of this nature would not have been undertaken by S.N.O. Persian Gulf without it being asked for by General Fraser in consultation with A.O.C. British Forces Iraq. I presume Navy carrying out this task was due to R.A.F. shortage of bombs and/or aircraft, but my information at present is not sufficiently complete to be definite on this point. (C. in C. E.I. 1440Z/4 to Admty.)

/A.A.....

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1123/4 May
IN

DATE: 4.5.41
RECD: 1749

From H.Q.R.A.F. Middle East

cipher

Addressed Air Ministry Repeated A.H.Q. Agen A.H.Q. Nairobi,
H.Q. Malta Decrief Pretoria 203 Group.

IMMEDIATE

X 3019.
A. 855 4.5.41 SECRET.

Headquarters R.A.F. Middle East Operational Summary No. 328
up to 1200 hours 4.5.41. Part 3.

Four Iraq. Following additional to previous reports
to you direct from Iraq to May 2. L.G. one and Rutbah attacked
in early morning each by force 2000 strong. Rutbah evacuated
and petrol dump set on fire by our troops who reached H 4 with
100 civilian employees after being fired on by Iraqi Police at
H 3. Casualties two soldiers killed one officer wounded three
officers missing.

Night 2/3 May. 3 Wellingtons bombed Iraqi Air Force
Aerodrome Rashid on outskirts of Bagdad registering one hit on
ammunition dump and five hits on petrol dumps which demolished
buildings, further bombs damaged aircraft on ground which
Wellingtons machine gunned.

Wellingtons were engaged over target by fighters of
which they destroyed one with second probably destroyed. One
Wellington bombed Iraqi M T and guns Habbaniya bombs falling
near vehicles along road from lake to Cantonment.

Day 3 May reconnaissances reported no Iraqi troops
Rutbah. End of part three end of message.

1123/4

Advance copy Ops O.D. O.I.C.
Recd. from Air Ministry. 2100/4

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- NAV. SEC.
- C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (2)
- Ops (4)
- D of P (3)
- M (2)
- E.P.S.
- D.N.I. (4)
- I.P. (3)
- D.P.D.
- W.D.
- D.N.A.D.

EM

War Diary.4.5.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd).A.A. defence
of Basra.

The only A.A. defences at Basra are the guns of any H.M. Ships which may be there at the time of attack. Effect of these would be negligible at night. Am informed nothing is available from India. Request supply of guns, searchlights and listening devices be urgently made from quickest source. (C. in C. E.I. 1752Z/4).

America and West Indies.Adm. Lais.

Your 1001/2. Foreign Office are opposed to release at present. (Head of M. 1025B/4 to C. in C. A.W.I).

Sydney
Convoys.

Your 1146/2 concur. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1131/4 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Sailing of
C.G.
Cutters.

Approved to sail Coast Guard Cutters as additional escorts for Convoys. (A.C.N.S (H) 1157B/4 to R.A. 3 B.S).

Convoy
T.C. 11.

My 2209/19/4 following are proposed arrangements for T.C. 11. (D. of S.T. 1817B/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

B.H.X. 127.

F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1413/4. Concur. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1832q/4).

Australia.S.S. ZAANDAM.

MANOCRA proceeding assistance HAANDAM which struck uncharted obstruction and now anchored Goode Island. (A.C.N.B. 0601Z/4).

War Diary.

4.5.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

LYCAON.

SSSS 54.38 N. 21.26 W. Still chased by submarine. (LYCAON 0018/4).

TARANGER.

At 0725 BEGONIA reported picking up survivors approx. 062° 00' N. 025° 32' W. TARANGER sunk Friday, also another boat with 17 men in 062° 10' N. 024° 30' W. at 0400. Have searched latter position since 0800 without result. Request aircraft immediately for effecting search. Possible boat proceeded afterwards under sail. MALCOLM returning for fuel. (MALCOLM 1344Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Iceland, N.O.I.C. Iceland 1454/4, 1505/4).

CALCHAS
(torpedoed
21/4)

Reported one life boat (CALCHAS) with 17 survivors has landed at Sal Island. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 2117/4).

Submarines Reported.

2144/3

Following is a repetition of Adty 0054/4:- F.O.C.N.A. From Admiralty. Following bearings obtained on 5025 kc/s at 2144/3 G.M.T. of Italian U-Boat using call sign 76 V. Portrush 205/1 Baldock 215/3, Land's End 218/2. Time of origin 0054A/4th. Ends. (F.O.C.N.A. 0232/4 to CACHALOT).

0341/3
2246Z/3.

D/F Bearings at 0341 and 2246Z 3rd indicate a presumed German U/Boat East of Rio De Janeiro and probably within 60 miles radius of 022° S. 39½° W. Estimated reliability 80%. (C. in C. S.A. 1121N/4 to S.A.S. Sqn).

0900

A/C report suspicious object possibly c.t. of S/M in 060° 55' N. 010° 20' W. at 0900. (C. in C. W.A. 1122B/4 to CONVULVULUS).

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. No reliable estimate of positions possible. (D.D.I.C. 1342B/4, 1559B/4).

1837 B.S.T.

D/F bearings at 1837 B.S.T. indicate Italian S/M off Bordeaux probably outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 2022B/4).

War Diary.

4.5.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By WALKER
17/3.
(U.99)

T.L. consider that your attack on a submarine at 0050/17/3 probably resulted in the destruction of a German U-Boat. They congratulate you, your officers and ship's company on the fine achievement of destroying certainly one and probably two U-Boats in one night. (1st S.L. 0442B/4 to WALKER).

By VISENDA.
(U.551.)

T.L. consider that your attack on a submarine on 23/3. achieved the destruction of a German U-boat. (1st S.L. 0445B/4 to VISENDA).

By A/C

A/C reports attacking a S/M with d.c's in approx. 60° 52 N. 9° 40' W. at 1000/4 no result observed S/M first sighted on surface course either 060° or 240° when sighted Graded Al. (C. in C. Rosyth 1512/4 1707/4).

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

92 aircraft dropped 131 tons of H.E. on the enemy battle cruisers at Brest last night. One or more direct hits on the battle cruiser at the T.B. Station are claimed.

Ten Wellingtons last night attacked docks and shipping at Le Havre. Small attacks were made on Antwerp and Rotterdam Docks and claim to have severely damaged a small merchant vessel off Nenzen. A merchant vessel is believed to have been damaged off the N.W. coast of France.

Mines were laid off Brest last night.

An aircraft attacked a 3000 ton merchant vessel in convoy off Mandal (coast of Norway) at 0017 today and obtained at least one direct hit.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. ROYSTON in F.S. 80 was bombed and sunk in the early hours of this morning, near 62 C Buoy (off Humber).

M/S Tr. TEHANA reported being attacked at 2230 today 8 miles East of Orfordness.

Lowestoft
bombed.
Blockship
sunk.

Lowestoft was bombed between 0007 and 0150 today. The blockship was hit and sunk, but the harbour entrance is clear.

Portland
bombed.

About 40 bombs were dropped last night in the Portland area, the majority of them falling in the water. There was no naval damage.

/Cardiff.....

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations. (contd).

Cardiff
bombed.

Cardiff was bombed last night, M/S Trawler SUMBA was damaged and beached.

Belfast
bombed.

* GOSWORTH
BRYONY, BUTTERCUP and LA MALOUINE were badly damaged and FURIOUS and PEGASUS were damaged in an air raid on Belfast last night. S.S. FAIR HEAD and FREDERIKA LENSEN (Blockship) are reported sunk, CAPE BRETON aground and slightly damaged, and *BUSWORTH, SHEPPERTON FERRY and EMPIRE PUMA also slightly damaged. Harland and Wolff's was severely damaged and naval stores and plant and establishments ashore suffered damage. There were some naval casualties.

Liverpool
bombed.

Liverpool was attacked again last night (see 6/5) S.S. SIRIUS was sunk.

Air raid
on Plymouth.

Damage was caused at St. Merryn by air attack last night.

Mining.

Operation
S.N. 9A.

R.A.(M) left Port ZA at 0725 today in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, BRIGHTON, ST. MARYS, INTREPID and IMPULSIVE. KENYA left Scapa at 0735 to provide close cover. C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH with MANCHESTER and BIRMINGHAM left Scapa at 1501B today to provide cover whilst 1st M.L. Sqn is north of 65° N.

Four Beauforts laid mines off Cherbourg shortly before midnight tonight.

The Clyde was opened above Great Harbour at 0530. Liverpool was reopened at 0730.

Mines were detonated off North Shields and Belfast.

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

VIDETTE left Gibraltar this afternoon for the U.K.

Force H. (RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FIJI, SHEFFIELD) left Gibraltar at 0900 with KASHMIR and KIPLING.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

A.S. Malta reported today on the general state of the dockyard which has been severely damaged in the recent air raids. In addition to other ships mentioned, A/S trawler CORAL is reported sunk in dock and FERMOY (reported 4/5) is probably beyond repair. Neither dock can be pumped out.

Libya.

A minelaying operation by 3 F.A.A. Swordfish at Tripoli last night was not very successful.

KARAPARA
bombed.

Hospital ship KARAPARA has been deliberately bombed and damaged by at least 9 aircraft at Mersa Tobruk.

Tobruk was bombed this afternoon. No naval damage or casualties occurred.

Mining of
Alexandria.

About 6 enemy aircraft are believed to have laid mines last night at Alexandria. No bombs were dropped.

Occupation
of Greek
islands
by Germans.

It is reported by Greek military refugees escaped from Samothrace and Lemnos, that Samothrace was occupied 19/4 by 400 Germans from Kavalla who landed unopposed in 7 motor caiques. Lemnos was occupied 23/4 by 2000 Germans from Kavalla transported in 2 German steamers.

Suda
Bay.

16 Ju 88's bombed Suda Bay today. No naval damage is reported.

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

CAPETOWN.

CAPETOWN left Port Sudan in tow of TAI KOO for Aden at 0530Z today.

Iraq.

The Iraq authorities are preventing supplies of fresh provisions to our forces by land; accordingly, S.N.O. Persian Gulf is stopping supplies going up river. A general boycott of the British is in force.

C. in C. E.I. is taking all possible steps to provide for sweeping the Shatt-el-Arab in the event of minelaying by the enemy.

U-Boat Campaign.

U boats were sighted on the surface today as follows:-

1019 about 120 miles S.E. of Iceland.
1700 about 110 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis.
2308 about 120 miles E. of Kinnairds Head.

S.S. QUEEN MAUD in Convoy O.B. 309 was torpedoed and sunk this morning in 7° 54' N. 16° 41' W.

M E S S A G E
2021/5th May

IN

FROM:- C. in C. Western Approaches DATE:- 6.5.41.

133 A

RECD:- 1511

P/L BY T/P

ADDRESSED:- Ships and Authorities Western Approaches (44N) repeated C. in C. Home Fleet R.A.D. H.F. Admiralty D.S. F.C.S. H.F. Destroyers 15 Group R.A.F. 18 Group R.A.F. H.C.C.C. 10th A/S Striking Force.

IMPORTANT

442 It is intended to operate A/S Striking Forces in Western Approaches, these striking forces will normally be formed of available destroyers in one escort group, or destroyers lent from Home Fleet.

(2) In first instance, striking forces will operate in conjunction with convoys, being additional to convoy escort.

(3) Aircraft will co-operate within their range of endurance.

(4) Object of striking force is to destroy U/Boats. Presence of the Striking force with convoy is also intended to provide additional A/A and A/S protection when not hunting a submarine, and may also ease problem of stragglers.

(5) When striking force is in company with convoy, command of escorting forces is to be exercised in accordance with W A C I's volume 1 section A part 3 modified as follows:-

(6) Senior Officer escort group will be responsible for protection of convoy against submarine attack, and for all routine and administrative matters concerning the convoy. Senior Officer, Striking Force, will be responsible for conduct of U/Boat hunts, and, if senior to senior officer escort group for decision whether to detach striking force for this purpose, and for how long hunt is continued.

(7) In accordance with this principle, Senior Officer, escort group, will be responsible for stationing and handling escort group. Ships of striking force may be stationed in any other positions not occupied by escort group, as ordered by Senior Officer, Striking Force.

(8) Senior Officer, Escort Group, is to inform S.O. Striking Force before sailing of the position Escort Group will occupy at time of rendezvous with Striking Force by night and day.

(9) When in ^{Fo} Kacke-Wulfe Area, A A protection of Convoy should take priority over A/S requirements by day in regard to stationing of ships of both Escort Group and Striking Force.

(10) If a U-Boat is sighted or detected by ships or aircraft in company with Convoy, Senior Officer, Escort Group, is authorised at his discretion to detach destroyers of the Escort Group to reinforce Striking Force.

(11) Succeeding paragraphs refer to air co-operation when weather permits.

(12) Within radius of 250 miles from Oversay 2 aircraft (Wellington or Hudson) will co-operate. Within radius of 340 miles from Oversay 2 aircraft will co-operate when available (Sunderland, Lerwick or Whitley) Beyond this distance 1 aircraft (Sunderland) will co-operate up to radius of 450 miles from Oversay, which is limit of operational endurance in all cases 1 aircraft only will operate with Convoy at night.

(13) Aircraft will be fitted A.S.V. and will operate as follows: by night and when 1 aircraft only available by day. Rectangular patrol will be flown around Convoy at a distance of 10 miles on either beam from 15 miles ahead to 20 miles astern of Convoy. When 2 aircraft are available by day 1 aircraft will fly parallel track 10 miles on each beam of Convoy from 15 miles ahead to 30 miles astern.

(14) On sighting a U-Boat aircraft will attack report position related to Convoy Commodore's ship and mark submarine using smoke floats and dust markers by day, flares flame floats and firing white Very's lights by night. Aircraft will remain over U-Boat and pass information to Striking Force and also Senior Officer of Escort Group. Aircraft will be from base during hunt if necessary.

(15) Aircraft ordered to carry out A.A. as opposed to A/S escort will fly close circuits around Convoy but will not approach within 15,000 yards range.

(16) C. in C. Western Approaches will if necessary give orders to Striking Force on completion of hunt. If no orders are received Striking Force is to rejoin Convoy.

(17) All operational signals will be addressed to Senior Officers of both Escort Group and Striking Force. Messages of an administrative nature concerning Convoy will be addressed to the Senior Officer, Escort Group only.

(18) W/T watch as in W A C T Section W and Western Approaches Messages 31N/1306/1/3 and 34N/1620/3.

(19) Communication between Striking Force and aircraft as in Western Approaches Message 34N/1620/3. Ships not fitted R/T using W/T I O W on 12410 kc/s aircraft will reply by R/T on 2410 kc/s if within range otherwise by W/T on 0400/3, 925 kc/s.

(20) Call signs for communication between Striking Force and aircraft first Sea Call Sign for appropriate number A/S Striking Force to be used Code word since allotted both A/S Striking Force Code SHILLING to 11th A/S Striking Force suffixes and call signs to be used as in A.F.O. 32/41 Article 38 Part 1 Para.5 Clause (E) (F) (G) and Part 8.

(21) Aircraft detached from A G Convoy to work with A/S Striking Force will continue to use his Convoy call sign for the period of his patrol. Aircraft sent specially to co-operate with A/S Striking Force will use the appropriate

-3-

A/S Striking Force call signs.

2021/5.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D.

1st Lord	D.T.D.(4)
1st S.L.	D.T.D.(M)
4th S.L.	D. of P.(3)
5th S.L.	D.N.A.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.A/S.W.(2)
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.S.D.(2)
A.C.N.S.(F)	F.C.(S) by courier
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	D. of L.D.(2)
Nav. Sec.	D.A.A.V.
C.S.C. to 1st S.L.	D.T.S.D.
Cps.(4)	O.i/c W/T Room
C.D.(5)	M.(2)
D.N.I.(4)	I.P.(3)
C.I.C.(2)	W.D.
P.S.D.9.	

T

/S
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uf-
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ec

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SIKH.

My 1146/24/4 para 3. SIXH is to be transferred to Plymouth Command on completion of working up. (C. in C. H.F. 1358/5).

A/S Striking Force in Western Approaches.

Object, Composition, and Instructions. Details. (C. in C. W.A. 2021/5) See Lion Copy.

15th M/L Flotilla.

The 15th M.L., Flotilla at present forming will be based on Scapa. In view of the increased importance of Iceland base the second four M.L's of this Flotilla are to operate from Iceland. (A.C.N.S. H. 2022B/5).

Movements.

VICTORIOUS.

Admiralty's 1606/3. Consider it essential to carry out following trials before sailing for service. Proposed programme:- Sail from Rosyth 0530/10 May and as follows. (VICTORIOUS 0144/5). Concur VICTORIOUS 0144/5 as far as Rosyth is concerned. Request suitable escort may arrive Rosyth P.M. 9th May. (C. in C. Rosyth 1107/5).

NIGERIA.

Scapa arrival NIGERIA. (A.C.O.S. 0625B/5).

KENYA.

Scapa departure KENYA. (A.C.O.S. 0753B/5).

6th D.F.

Sailed Captain D. 6 in SOMALI with BEDOUIN, NESTOR, ESKIMO, for Skaalfjord. E.T.A. 2030B/5, sailing at 0700B/6. (R.A.D. 0830B/5 to N.O.I.C. Faroes). Your 0830B 5th. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2115B/5 to R.A.D. H.F).

/EXETER.....

War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (contd);EXETER.

Arrived 2200/4. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0840/5)

LONDON.

You are required to provide ocean escort for FURIOUS sailing from Liverpool for Gibraltar on about 12/5. (C. in C. H.F. 1023/5 to LONDON).

FURIOUS.

My 1215/5. (See Enemy Air Activity) FURIOUS will arrive Bar Light vessel 1900/6. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1337/5).

Your 1215/5th. FURIOUS is to be sailed so as to arrive off Bar Light at 1900 tomorrow. Ship will be docked on arrival and is to observe 9 knots speed restriction from Outer end swept channel. (C. in C. W.A. 1552B/5 to N.O.I.C. Belfast). Admiralty's 1536/1.

It is desired to sail FURIOUS from Liverpool on 12/5.

2. BRILLIANT will proceed in company to Gibraltar.

3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide three additional destroyers as A/S escort through submarine zone.

4. Cruiser mentioned in para. (b) would be required to embark personnel at the Clyde before sailing if C. in C. H.F. approves as in A.M. 1854/3.

5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail and route ships. (A.C.N.S. H. 1906B/5).

A.M.C.
Movements.

Following is forecast of movements of A.M.C's corrected up to 5th May. (F.O.C.N.P. 1556/5).

HOOD.

E.T.A. in HOOD with 4 destroyers at 1210B tomorrow. (F.O. 1st B.C.S. 2201/5 to A.C.O.S).

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

→ CONQUEROR.

CONQUEROR sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1114B/5 to F.O.I.C. Portland).

Clyde-
Iceland
Ferry.

Your (1229?1220) 4th. Request you will sail escort to R/V with D.S. 3 at 0530 B/8th in 270° Oversay 6 miles. Subsequent route as ordered by C. in C. W.A. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1140B/5 to R.A.M.L).
Route for D.S. three. (C. in C. W.A. 1802B/5)

Operation
Q.F.

Carry out operation Q F to-morrow night. The Nore memorandum No. 0803A dated 12 April amend as follows. (C. in C. Nore 1158/5 to EREBUS).
Owing to weather conditions forecasted for target area operation QF is postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 1240B/5).
Your 1158A. CAMPBELL, MENDIP, and COTTESMORE, detailed. (D.21 2344B/5 to C. in C. Nore).

→ H.M.S. CONQUEROR arrived. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1615B/5).

CAMITO
(Escorting
Italian
Tanker
SANGRO).

My position 1800/5. 050° N. 022° 20' W.
course 040° 5 knots. (CAMITO 1815B/5).

MONTE JARINDO.
MONTE AMBOTO
boarded.

F.O.C.N.A. 1208/26 March. Boarded MONTE JARINDO, MONTE AMBOTO. In order. Noon position 032° 15' 011° 34'. Information from boarding 2 Italian ships at Teneriffe. (MARON 1900B/5 to F.O.C.N.P).

Offensive
R/C.

Intend to sail Four M.T.B's at 2330 tonight for offensive reconnaissance between Boulogne and Dieppe returning not later than 0530. (V.A. Dover 1931B/5).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Notification
of new type
A/C.Your X 141 4/5 T.O.O. 1530. Confirmed.
(R.A.N.A.S. 0950B/5).Sinking
of M/V
off Boulogne
on 3/5.
confirmation.

On a sweep last Sunday night M.T.B's found a very large patch of fuel oil in about 50° 38' N. 1° 26' E. This, combined with reports of fighter R/C. A.M./4 that a wreck with mast showing was seen southwest of Boulogne Breakwater, appears to confirm success of attack on 5000 ton ship at 2000B/3 by aircraft of No. 2 Bomber Group. (V.A. Dover 1123B/5).

Patrols.Patrol ^{"Horn-1"}~~Horn-1~~ now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1320/5).
Following A/S sweep will be flown p.m. today arriving at extremity of patrol at dusk. Parallel track search by 3 Whitley A/C between following positions and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 1610/5 and 1858/5).Own A/C
approaching
Convoys.

My 1600/29. I am still getting reports that friendly aircraft are coming embarrassingly close to convoys in the failing light. (C. in C. Rosyth 1723/5).

Operation "Fuller".
FULLER.X. 340 5/5. Operation ^{"Fuller"}~~Fuller~~ is now in abeyance until further orders are issued. (Air Ministry 1900/5).Brest
Havre
Antwerp
Rotterdam
and one
M/V attacked.

(H.Q.B.C. 1915/5).

ARGUS.

Your 1537/4. ARGUS must load maximum number of Hurricanes. Inability to operate Fulmars is accepted. (A.C.N.S. F. 1958B/5 to ARGUS).

Smoke
Screen at
Belfast.

Request your personal views on efficacy of smoke screen during the recent air raids. (V.C.N.S. 2331B/5 to F.O.I. C. Belfast).

See p. 169
2331

War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.SOUTHDOWN
damaged.
A/C shot
down.

Port steering motor out of action. Yoke cracked from near miss. (SOUTHDOWN 0020/5). My 2356/4 to Admiralty. Twin engine bomber attacked SOUTHDOWN dropping 3 bombs all near misses. Aircraft repeatedly hit and crashed in flames in middle of convoy. No survivors. (SOUTHDOWN 1145/5). My 2356/4. The attack was made from the port beam and up moon by a twin engined bomber of unidentified type from a height of about 150 feet. Fire was opened with 4" barrage, pom-poms and machine guns. The aircraft immediately caught fire and passed over ship dropping three bombs which were all near misses. The machine then crashed half a mile away in the centre of the Convoy and wreckage and oil burnt furiously for some time. There were no survivors. (SOUTHDOWN 1858B/5).

Convoy 'Sapper'
SAPPER.
MARIE-FLORE
(Belgian,
545 Tons)
bombed.
TREGOR
(French, 216
Tons) sunk.

Following received from TYNEDALE. MARIE FLORE on fire and abandoned in 50° 41' N. 5° 5' W. Request salvage tug be sent. (7?) survivors in LORD ESSENDEN. (C. in C. Plymouth 0107/5). Your 0107. Tug GOLIATH from Falmouth being sent. (C. in C. Plymouth 0216/5 to TYNEDALE). Rescue tug GOLIATH sailed at 0348 to assist MARIE FLORE. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0350/5) Following from R.N.O. Padstow begins:- My 0435 Lifeboat returned. The ship on fire was held with apparently no one on board. Vessel was about 1000 tons. A second ship was being towed by Dutch vessel but sank about three miles north of Stepper Point. Dutch vessel has six survivors on board and is approaching harbour. Have sent the lifeboat out again for further search. Two drifters are still standing by ship on fire. 0540 ends. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0605/5). Following from R.N.O. Padstow begins - Reports indicate that the ship on fire is on even keel, may be salvaged if immediate assistance is rendered, am doing what I can with local resources. 0600 ends. (C. in C. Plymouth 0607/5).

/Dutch.....

War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy "Sapper".
SAPPER.
MARIE-FLORE
 (Belgian,
 545 Tons)
 bombed.
TREGOR
 (French, 216
 Tons) sunk.
 (contd).

Dutch Motor Vessel NARWAL has arrived here from Padstow with crew of TREGOR. TREGOR left Barry Roads with SAPPER 2 at 0630 yesterday. Apparently Convoy was attacked by enemy aircraft off Trevoise Head at 2330/4 TREGOR was bombed and sank about five hours later. No information with regard to remainder of Convoy. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1845/5). Belgian ship MARIE FLORE attacked by aircraft in convoy 2315/4, 12 miles 293° Trevoise Head. Ship set on fire, but has been got into Padstow and fire under control Seven saved including captain. Landed Falmouth Casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1903/5).

SELKIRK.

(Fleet Minesweeper) Departure 0017 tug ST. MELLONS to assist SELKIRK: Tug ST. MELLONS returned with SELKIRK in tow 0107. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0109/5). Whilst carrying out A/A guard at anchor off Rough Buoy at 2220/4 SELKIRK was attacked by 3 aircraft from eastwards and at the same time by one low flying aircraft with engine cut out from westwards which dropped one large bomb 20 feet from side abaft port beam exploding with slight delay action causing flooding of engine room and no casualties. Ship now beached on Harwich Hard. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1041B/5).

Convoy F.S.
480.
ROYSTON.
 (British,
 2733 Tons)
 sunk.

ROYSTON hit by bomb in 270° 62 C. Buoy 1 mile. Engine out of action. No casualties. Tug has been sent. (F.O. Humber 0202/5). Departures H.M. Rescue Tug SABINE at 0315 to assist ROYSTON. (F.O. Humber 0323/5). ROYSTON reported sunk in 53° 37' 06" N. 0° 39' E. GREENFLY returning to Humber with Crew. (F.O. Humber 0734/5). At 2340/4. S.S. ROYSTON in F.S.480 was attacked by an aircraft which dived out of the clouds very steeply. A stick of five bombs was dropped one fell on the port beam three struck the ship amidships and one fell on the starboard beam. Ship was taken in tow by A/S trawler GREENFLY but sank in approx. 53° 37' 06" N. 00° 39' E. Ship was abandoned at 0545/5 a ¼ hour before she sank. Complete crew of 27 men including 4 soldiers 1 Naval rating and 1 marine were taken on board GREENFLY transferred to Tug SABINE and landed at Grimsby. (F.O. Humber 1744B/5).

War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (contd).Lowestoft
bombed.
Blockship
sunk.
Damage on
Night 3/4.

Lowestoft bombed between 0007 and 0150. Blockship hit and sunk, but Harbour entrance clear. Several U.X.B's. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0248/5). Damage by enemy action Lowestoft night 3/4 as follows. (C.E. Yarmouth 1735B/5).

STATIRA
(Bombed
3/8/40).

Departure for Troon S.S. STATIRA in tow of tug ASSURANCE. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0736/5).

Portland
bombed.

During night 4/5 approx 40 bombs dropped in area at intervals from considerable height. No damage to Naval property. Some damage at Military Battery, East Weare, and in Weymouth, but majority of bombs fell in water. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0820/5).

DOLIUS
(Bombed
24/4).

Damaged by near misses when Convoy W.N. 18 was bombed off Bell Rock on 24/4. Ship was beached at Methil owing to leaks and later refloated and towed to Inverkeithing Bay by tugs FLAME and FRESCO. (C. in C. Rosyth 0933/5).

SUMBA.

(M.S. Trawler) Damaged by near miss during air raid at 0040/5 now beached in Sully Bay Barry Roads. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0948/5).

BRITISH RENOWN.
(Bombed 21/4).

Admiralty 1141/4. Request permission to sail CAROLINE MOLLER and tug ABEILLE 21 escorted by GOODWIN and A/S T KIRKELLA to Dartmouth with WARCH A.M./6 for towage of BRITISH RENOWN to Falmouth. (F.O.I.C. 1100/5 to C. in C. Plymouth).

FRANC TIREUR.

(A/P Trawler) Near miss midnight near Rough. Water in engine room. Towed into Harwich Harbour and salvage operations proceeding afloat. Hope finish temporary repairs today. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1100/5).

/Unknown.....

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Unknown
Vessel.

AAAA Automatic alarm signal heard 1126
G.M.T. strength 2 bearing approx. 009°
Lands End Radio. (Lands End Radio 1129/5).

Belfast
Air Raid
on Night
4/5. FURIOUS
damaged.
FAIRHEAD
CAPE BRETON
damaged ~~sunk~~ at quay.
BRYONY,
BUTTERCUP,
LA MALOUINE.
PEGASUS
damaged.

FURIOUS has damage in hangar due to high explosive bomb. Small repairs required before aircraft are embarked. With possible exception of fire screens estimate mending could be done in 48 hours, but Harland and Wolff temporarily immobilised by enemy action.

Propose FURIOUS proceed to sea 1830 today arriving Liverpool tomorrow and that repairs are taken in hand immediately on arrival. Request immediate reply and time FURIOUS should arrive Langstone. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1215/5).

S.S. FAIR HEAD and S.S. CAPE BRETON ^{*}sunk alongside quay at Belfast. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1541/5).

Damage at Harland and Wolffs severe. Details (b) Known naval casualties to date one rating killed, one officer and 5 ratings wounded.

(e) BRYONY, BUTTERCUP, LA MALOUINE badly damaged. PEGASUS and other vessel damaged.

(f) Merchant ships FAIR HEAD and CAPE BRETON ^{*}sunk in Dufferin Dock. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1819/5).

* Damaged not sunk
See GR. 1334

SITONA
(Bombed 4/5).

Surveying officer M/S ^{Grimby} GRIMSBY reports locating wreck in about 170 degrees 1.75 miles from 57 C Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2016B/5).

Convoy
E.C.

Fighter protection is being sent to the aid of E.C. Convoy. (Rosyth W/T 2219/5)

TEHANA

(M/S Trawler) Help. Enemy aircraft attacking in 100° 8 miles from Orfordness. (TEHANA 2230/5).

Plymouth
Damage on
Night 4/5.

Air raid on night 4/5th May caused the following damage. Details. (S.C.E. Devonport 1800/5).

ALAFOSS

(M/S Trawler) Damaged by near miss Bomb on 1/5. Repairs will take about 2 months. (D.O.R. 5/5).

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Clyde.

River Clyde above Great Harbour open to traffic from 0530/5. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0310/5).

S.N. 9.A.

Departure Port Z.A. R.A. (M) in AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, BRIGHTON, ST. MARYS, INTREPID, and IMPULSIVE. (TRELAWNEY 0725/5).

Scapa departure F.O.C. 18 C.S. in EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER. (A.C.O.S. 1501B/5).

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0730/5).

Tyne.

1 Red Ground Magnetic Mine detonated 1206/5 in position 022 degrees North Pier Light Tyne 14 Cables. (P.M./S.?. North Shields 1237/5).

Firth of Forth.

Drifting mines at 1437 position 030° Fife Ness 3 miles. (C. in C. Rosyth 1456/5).

1st M/L. S. Proposed programme.

Propose that 1st M/L. S. should lay SN9B next.

2. After this they should carry out a further operation in the Denmark Straits as soon as an escorting force again becomes available and survey by SCOTT has been completed.

3. Further operations to be carried out in following order:- S.N. 70, S.N. 66 and S.N. 67.

4. S.N. 67 is however dependent on supplies of 300 fathom sinkers.

5. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.H. 1624B/5)

Sweep Cutters destroyed.

My 1919/4. Sweep Cutter at Holliwell Point with two further cutters on Foulness have all been destroyed. (R.N.O. Burnham 1630/5) .

Belfast.

L.L. Drifter detonated 4 normal mines red and blue in 475 C dredged channel today. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1824/5).

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Visual R/C of Brest at 0800/5 reports both battlecruisers still present in usual positions. (D.D.I.C. 0921B/5). Photographic R/C of Brest 1315/5 shows both Battlecruisers present in same positions. (D.D.I.C. 2046B/5)

Unknown Unit.

At 0741/5 G.M.T. position of unknown enemy unit, probably auxiliary vessel, was 47° 00' N. 27° 00' W. Position is indication of area only. (D.D.I.C. 1407B/5). Following bearings of unidentified enemy surface unit obtained at 2056/5 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2358B/5).

Technical.

MANXMAN.
Trial for
Guns in
ABDIEL-Class.

It is desired to investigate practicability of carrying 25-pdr. guns in ABDIEL Class without any structural alteration. 2. Request you will make the necessary arrangements for a trial to be carried out as soon as possible in MANXMAN. (D. of P. 2012B/5).

MOST SECRET5.5.1941.
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSShipping & ConvoysConvoy
Sailing Telegrams.

The number of hours between time of origin and receipt in Admiralty of convoy Advance and Sailing telegrams has greatly increased during April from under 24 hours to 40 - 50 hours. As this delay impeded the smooth working of shipping control endeavour should be made to expedite these signals having regard to their importance relative to other signals. (D.T.D. 1210B/5 to N.C.S.O. Freetown)

Routeing

Amendments to his 0001/1 (D.T.D., 1219B/5)
See Summaries Folder.

S.C. 28.

Congratulations on bringing your convoy S.C. 28 to U.K. with such success. (C. in C. W.A.1507/5 to Cdre. Dawson (Rear Adm. O.H. Dawson)). Convoy had 30 ships, 18 British 4 Norwegian, 6 Greek, 2 Dutch. (Cargoes) (see D.S. 609, 6/5)

H.G. 59.

Has arrived safely with Vice Adm. William as Commodore. 12 British, 2 Norwegian, 4 Swedish ships. (Cargoes, see D.S. 608,5/5)

Warning
of "E"-
Boats.

It is proposed that the use of two white rockets by a merchant ship in Convoy as indicated in A.M.S.I. 317 should be extended to include "E" Boats in addition to "U" Boats. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1556B/5 to C. in C., Nore, C. in C., Rosyth)

HORN SHELL

Your 1207/5 tanker HORN SHELL is not to be sailed until an A.A. Destroyer is available. (C. in C. Plymouth 1655/5 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth)

Military
Convoy leaving
U.K, 8/5.

Reference 1317 1st from Admiralty sailing from BAR . . . standard route. 0800/8 (Amended 1100B/6) Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1720/5 amended 1100B/6)

/A.M. 1317/1....

War Diary5.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDSShipping & Convoys-Contd.

A.M. 1317/1. Delete all reference to SS MARTAND. (D.O.D. (H) 1829B/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

H.X. 127

R.A. 3 B.S. is requested to arrange a battle ship escort for H.X. 127. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1812B/5 to R.A. 3)

Channel
Convoys.

A meeting will be held at 1130/8 at Admiralty to discuss the organisation and operation of Channel Convoys. Request you will send a representative. (D.T.D. 2102B/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth., C. in C Nore, V.A. Dover Captain D.I.)

WOLVERINE
H.X. 123.

Steering for 061° 58' N., 035° 25' W., 195° 10 knots proceeding with BEGONIA to meet H.X. 123. Have transferred 17 survivors from BEGONIA including three serious Hospital cases. (WOLVERINE 2301B/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary5.5.1941.
MondayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSPRUDENT

N.O.I.C. Campbeltown's 1630/4. Sailing of PRUDENT delayed owing to steering gear defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1310/5.)

TOPAZE
(Sunk in
collision 20/4)

Position of Wreck 55° 40' 42" N., 4° 59' 30" W. (N.O.I.C., Ardrossan 1621/5.)

PIORUN

PIORUN arrived and left for Glasgow p.m/5 to dock for Asdic repairs. (Capt. D. Greenock 1637/5)

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War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

NORD
ATLANTIC.

(German Tanker) sailed from Vigo 1600/4.
Description. (F.O.C.N.A. 0221/5, to
N.A. Station, F.O.S. 0724B/5 to S/m's
Area A.)

Force H.

Departures S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN,
ARK ROYAL, FIJI, SHEFFIELD, KASHMIR,
KIPLING. (S.O.(i) Gibraltar 0900/5.)

THETIS.

French submarine THETIS will pass straits
West to East between 1100 and 1200
G.M.T/6. (F.O.C.N.A. 1045A/5, to N.A.
Station.)

French
Ships.

COMMANDANT BORY escorting French
S.S. TLEMEN light. P.C. and S. 037⁰
06' N., 009⁰ 13' W., 180⁰ 11 knots.
(ALOUETTE 1045/5, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.,
F.O.C. N.P.)

? Mine.

Lloyd's Agent reports information from
Spanish SS. ~~S.~~ ALBAREDA published by
Tangier (?) radio that metal spherical
object discovered about 55 cm. diameter
resembling mine at latitude 36⁰ 39' 30"
N., 8⁰ 34' 00" W.
(C.G.Tangier 1100/5 to Adty.)

DUNEDIN.

My 1232A/4 and your 1302Z/4. It is
important that you arrive as early as
possible. (F.O.C.N.A. 1226A/5 to DUNEDIN.)

REPULSE.

E.T.A. with 3 destroyers 1615A.
Acknowledge. Expect one Swordfish at
1515 and one at 1700 from 1230.
QUEEN ELIZABETH in position 036⁰ 28' N.
009⁰ 52' W at 0700A with convoy, all well.
(REPULSE 1233A/5. to F.O.C.N.A.)

/S.S. COLONIAL...

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War Diary.5.5.41.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.S.S. COLONIAL.

My 1159/3, Portuguese authorities regret unable to permit call at Gibraltar. (N.A. Lisbon 1303/5, to Adty.)

CAMITO.
SANGRO.

Not met. 50.00 (?22) (?20) 07 93 62 60 03 05. (HEATHER, 1500/5, to C. in C.W.A.)

TODARO,
TAIGETE,
ARCOLA.

(Italian). Are making preparations for departure. (Consul Teneriffe 1542/5 to Adty.) Passed to F.O. (S).

Orders to
Corvettes.

Your 1600/5. FLEUR DE LYS, CORROPSIS, SPIREA are not to pass to eastward of Meridian 007° W., until 0100/6. JONQUIL, GERANIUM, and AZALEA are to join H.G. Convoy off Spartel about noon/6. SANDWICH (?) will transfer sailing orders and fresh provisions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1756/5. to JONQUIL, FLEUR DE LYS.) Your 1500 and my 1756/5. Keep to southward of 035° 40' N., and do not enter Straits of Gibraltar until 0600/6. (F.O.C.N.A. 1918/5, to FLEUR DE LYS.)

South Atlantic.U. Boats.

My 1401/ 29/4. This U boat was probably within 150 miles 006° N., 038° W., at 0309Z/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1121N/5, to S.A. Station.)

D/F Indication 2 U Boats in area between 015° and 025° S., 025° and 037° West 2/5. These are separate units to those mentioned in my 1401/29/4, and my 1121/4. Am informing S.O.(I) Montevideo that ships should zig zag north of 025° S. (C. in C. S.A. 1401N/5, to R.A.S. A.D.)

/POLYANA.....

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

POLYANA
overdue.

Norwegian ship POLYANA Oban departure 7/4, due Freetown 28/4, has not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1730N/5, to Adty.)

S.L. 74.

N.C.S.O. St. Vincent's 1505/3. Request you will arrange R/V to join S.L. 74. (D.T.D. 1742B/5, to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

EAGLE.

Your 1901/4. On arrival at Durban, EAGLE is to join the South Atlantic Command for administrative purposes but must remain temporarily under the operational control of the Admiralty. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1822B/5 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Shipping
of Benghazi.

Aircraft R/C night 3rd 4th May report considerable shipping movements off Benghazi. At 1100/4 one 350 foot ship observed stationary 3 miles off Harbour. (Capt. (S)1 0029/5 to TRIUMPH.)

Enemy
Ships.

R D/F report 4 ships 080° 70 miles course south at 0115B. (V.A. Malta 0200B/5. to UNDAUNTED.)

Minelaying
by F.A.A.
at Tripoli.

Night 4/5 May 2 Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. despatched to lay Cucumbers in Tripoli harbour approaches. A third Swordfish dropped flares. 1 aircraft returned with Cucumber owing to petrol leakage. 1 Cucumber laid in Channel inaccurately. Machine-gunning from Mole smoke screen put up covering harbour and 50 yards outside main Mole. All A/c returned safely H.Q., R.A.F. Malta. 0705/5.)

/Malta.....

0930B/5th May.

149 A

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From A.S. Malta.

Date. 6.5.41.

Recd. 0601.

Naval, 'Cypher, X by W/T.

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

847. General state of dockyard is as follows:-
 Constructive Department: Damage to docks, shops and plant reduces output to seventy per cent of normal which is temporarily further reduced to twenty per cent due to lack of electric power and compressed air. Recent damage includes number one dock pumping plant number three dock caisson buildings and machines of numbers one and two shipfitting shops boathouse joiners plumbers and ship repair shops. Engineering Department: Production reduced to fifty per cent of normal will be increased to seventy of normal when electric leads hydraulic and air mains are repaired. Supply of pneumatics and hydraulic power and dock pumping except number two dock temporarily suspended. Emergency dock pumping is available and caissons can be operated by hand. Anticipate that hydraulic and air service will be restored by tenth May. Electrical Engineering: Damage to generating plant electric mains and distribution reduces output to thirty per cent of normal. Work in hand to increase this to fifty per cent in two months. Lack of material and spares prevents further improvement. Repair to dock pumping can be effected as follows:- Number one dock, one drainage pump only. Numbers four and five docks, one drainage pump ready now, one main pump in three weeks. Submarine battery charging reduced to sixty per cent. Electrical repairs reduced to eight per cent. Twenty five per cent of normal ship work can be undertaken. Telephone system severely damaged. Repairs limited by lack of materials. General: Many buildings damaged some walls collapsed and numerous craters causing temporary obstruction to transport for short time after raids. FERMCY severely damaged and sunk in No.5. dock which cannot at present be pumped out. Ship probably beyond repair. CORAL sunk in number three dock which is out of action until extensive damage to caisson is repaired.

1st Lord.	Ops (4)	0930B/5	
1st S.L.	C.D. (5)	D. of Salvage.	
2nd S.L.	O.I.C. (2)	E.P.S.	
Controller.	D. of P (3)	T/P for C.E. in C.	
Vice Controller.	D.N.A.D.	(Under Secretary	
4th S.L.	D. of L.D. (2)	D (4)	
5th S.L.	Press Divn.	D.E.A.	
V.C.N.S!	I.P. (3)	D.N.A. J	
A.C.N.S. (H)	M (2)	H.P.	
A.C.N.S (F)	D.N.I. (4)	P	
A.C.N.S (T) (2)	W.D.	D (4)	
Parl. Sec.	D.A/A.W.	D.N.C (2)	
Civil Lord.	D.	E. in C.	
Controller	D.N.C.	D.E.E. (2)	Bath.
(M.S.R) (London)	P	D. of S.	
Sec.	E. in C.	D.S.D.	
Nav. Sec:	D.E.E.		
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D of S.		
P.A.S. (S)	D.S.D. (2)		
	C.E.I.		
	D.A/S.W.	Dep. Controller	
	E.M.S.		
	D.M.S. Basement.		
	D.D.T.M.		
	D.S.V.P. (2)		

MOST SECRET

149 B

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1010/5 May

IN

From H.Q. R.A.F. Malta,

Date 5/5/41
Recd. 1555CYPHER

Addressed H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East, Repeated Air Ministry.

MOST IMMEDIATE

X.3302.

A.361 5/5

Most Secret and Personal for A.M. Tedder from Maynard.

Ref. Air Ministry X.206 4/5. Congestion Luqa Aerodrome can obviously be accepted at time like this but the real limitation as I think you know is personnel for maintenance and handling. We have approx. 120 men for operation and maintenance of 6 Blenheims 13 Beaufighters 5 Marylands plus refuelling of reinforcing aircraft in transit. In fact if reinforcing aircraft continue to arrive now they are liable to be held up in favour of immediate operational needs. If Wellingtons with their heavy maintenance fuelling and bombing requirements are added to all this something must be sacrificed and I cannot suggest what that should be. Other personnel serve Hurricanes and Swordfish all of which are actively operating and must continue. Wellington effort now would have to be against 6 Sicilian aerodromes from any one of which attack against Tiger might originate. Aerodrome contents are largely unknown owing lack of regular recco. Night operations from here at present seriously hampered by enemy action almost nightly. If you send Wellingtons will try to attack most likely Sicilian aerodromes on nuisance basis to keep enemy on ground but this cannot be guaranteed without more men since Beaufighter, Blenheim and Maryland activities must presumably continue. Consider Wellington effort possible from here quite insufficient to produce any appreciable diminution of potential enemy attack against Tiger while effort entailed here would be out of all proportion to possible results and seriously mitigate (mitigate) against success of other activities. Consider far better results likely to be obtained by Beaufighter dusk attack on aerodromes. This calls for more Beaufighters if they can reach here in time. Maintenance immeasurably easier than Wellingtons. If either Wellingtons or Beaufighters are sent now some maintenance personnel must reach us for the job. Perhaps these could be sent by Sunderland or B mby from Egypt. Am repeating this to Air Ministry to put them in immediate picture.

1010/5

Recd from Air Ministry at 1930/9
Message timed 2010B/5 from V.A.
Malta refers.

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

Duty Captain.
D.D.I.C.
D.N.A.D.
D. of P.(2)
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P.
E.P.S.

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Malta
Damage.

General state of Dockyard. FERMOY severely damaged and sunk in No. 5 dock which cannot at present be pumped out. Ship probably beyond repair. CORAL sunk in No. 3 dock which is out of action until extensive damage to caisson is repaired. (A.S. Malta, 0930 B/5.) See Lion Copy.

Capture of
Samothrace.
Lemnos.

R.O. Chanak reports, from Greek military refugees escaped from Samothrace and Lemnos. (a) Former occupied 19/4, by 400 Germans from Kavalla landed unopposed from seven motor Caiques. Aircraft dropped leaflets first stating Germans fighting British not Greeks. (b) Lemnos occupied 23/4 by 2000 Germans Kavalla transported in 2 German steamers (presumably DELOS and another.) (c) In Samothrace all males 18 to 30, called up by Germans. Mark is fixed at 50 drachma. Only one day's food may be purchased daily. (S.O.I., Istanbul, 1005/5, to S.O.I., Med.)

Sicilian
Aerodromes.

Question of attack on from Malta. Reply to Air Min. X. 206, 4/5, (2115/4.). (H.Q.R.A.F., Malta, 1010/5.) See Lion Copy.

CORDELIA.
(German)

Reference my 1545/3 para. (b) CORDELIA did not sail as expected but has cleared for Braila. (S.O. (I) Istanbul 1033/5, to C. in C. Med.)

Air
Operations
Mines at
Alexandria.
Benghazi
bombed.

(1) EGYPT. Night May 4th/5th about 6 enemy aircraft believed to have laid mines Alexandria. No bombs dropped. (2) WESTERN DESERT. Night May 3rd/4th Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour etc. Pilots report 6 ships several miles off Benghazi. Day 4/5. 2 Blenheims failed to locate a 5,000 ton ship reported off Derma R/Cs reported one ship 350 feet stationery off Benghazi, one ship 300 feet, several small vessels and barges in harbour. Single enemy bombed Matruh. No damage.

/Suda Bay.....

War Diary.

5.5.41.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Suda Bay
bombed.

(3) CRETE. 3/5. 30 JU.88's and HE.111's dive-bombed Suda Bay anchorage damaging one ship. No casualties. 3 enemy destroyed, one probably destroyed by Hurricanes. One enemy destroyed, 3 probably destroyed by A.A. fire. Further 4 damaged by Hurricanes and F.A.A. aircraft. R/C's by single enemy aircraft Heraklion and Suda Bay. No interceptions.

Piraeus.

4/5. Blenheim reconnaissance reported one small cruiser or destroyer. 7 M.Vs between 1500 and 3000 tons Piraeus. No shipping at sea except one M.V. 2000 tons believed beached at Melos Island. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1053/5.)

Malta Hospital
damage.

Beaufighters Patrols to 60 miles West Malta from dawn to 1000/5 in connection with air escort for special M/V due Malta. - Ship not sighted. Will be repeated tomorrow same times. Operations by Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. night 4/5 May. Addition, Cucumber in position 058° 4 cables from end of North Cape (group omitted). From 20th? April to 1/5, 17 bombs fell on Bighi Hospital causing considerable damage to buildings. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1630/5.)

Orders to
UTMOST.

Leave Patrol and proceed through 035° 40' 013° 003' to arrive Marsamxett 0600 B/8. 4 destroyers will leave Malta dusk/7, proceed to North Westward. Owing to movements in Malta vicinity other submarines will not be able to return before dawn/11. (Commander (S) 1 1215/5 to UTMOST.)

REGENT.

Your 0622/29. Cracked containers in REGENT number 122. Intend sailing REGENT for Gibraltar as soon as ready in about 9 days. On arrival at Gibraltar REGENT will require docking for work at defects and removal of batteries. (V.A. Malta, 1230B/5, to Admty.)

/KARAPARA.....

War Diary.5.5.41.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.KARAPARA
bombed.

Hospital ship KARAPARA has been deliberately bombed and damaged by at least nine aircraft at Mersa Tobruk. In view of this and previous similar incidents can a reply now be given to my 1254/6.
(C. in C. Med. 1241/5. to Adty.)

Orders to
TRIUMPH.

Keep to southward of latitude $031^{\circ} 20'$ from 0800/7 until 1200/8. Leave patrol p.m. /8 arriving Alexandria sanctuary 0500/12, routed along Cyrenaican coast as far as $023^{\circ} 08'$. Then through $032^{\circ} 38'$ 025° degs. $00'$, thence direct to Sanctuary. If time permits spend daylight 10th off Apollonia.
(Capt. (S) 1 1555/5. to TRIUMPH.)

Alexandria.
danger area.

Following areas near Harbour entrance are dangerous due to parachute mines.
(R.A. Alexandria 1636/5, 1638/5 to Med.Fleet.)

DELOS
(German).

Entered Bosphorus in transit 1430 hours for Aegean. Description unchanged.
(Istanbul 1640/5 B.S.T. to Cairo for C. in C. Med.)

PIER LUIGI
(Italian.)

Now being run by German Levante Line. Was ordered from Bourgas on 30/4 to Kerson for wheat to be discharged at Braila.
(D.S. 608, 5/5.)

UPHOLDER.
R.of P.

My 2356/4. S.O. Subs. Malta's 0157/4 is being passed to you for information. Request no communique be issued.
(C. in C. Med., 1647/5, to Admty.)

Malta
Wellingtons.

Your 1316/3. R.A.(A) Med., informs me that Air Ministry is no doubt aware that 148 Wellington Squadron not now based at Malta. Luqa which is only aerodrome suitable for Wellingtons is congested with 13 Beau fighters, 6 Blenheims, 5 Marylands, and 6 Wellingtons. Last type are aircraft being made serviceable when maintenance personnel can be spared for onward transmission to 148 Sqn., in Egypt. In addition there are a considerable number of (?Hampden) aircraft from U.K. to Middle East to be served. Difficulty therefore will be maintenance. We must accept congestion. Air Ministry will no doubt acquaint A.O.C.

/in C.....

War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.Malta
Wellingtons
Contd.

in C.Middle East of this project of sending A.S.V. Wellingtons. As completion of Operation "~~PIE~~" is of paramount importance suggest Wellingtons fitted with A.S.V. be delayed arriving r.v. (corrupt group) operation is completed. G.O.C.'s signal A.661 5/5 to H.Q.M.E., in reply to Air Ministry's signal X.206 4/5 refers. I concur.(V.A. Malta, 2010B/5, to Admty.)

Alexandria
mined.

Air Raid 2150/4 - 5 machines mines laid outside harbour. No bombs.
(R.A. Alexandria 2251B/5.)

East Indies.Howitzers for
Habbaniya.

Please arrange with R.A.F. for the two 3.7" Howitzers believed still to be on E.I., Station together with as much ammunition as practicable to be flown to Habbaniya as soon as possible. If possible a Naval Gunnery Rating should accompany them. Report to Admiralty the date of arrival.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0016B/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

Convoy
B.P.1.A

Convoy B.P. one A arrives Rooka Float 1900 G.M.T./5, and proceeds to Basra at 0145 G.M.T./6 escorted by FALMOUTH, YARRA, and COCKCHAFFER, and aircraft from HERMES.
(C. in C. E.I., 0626Z/5, to Admty.)

Minesweepers
for
Shatt-el-Arab.

Admty. 1249/5. Following steps already taken. F.O.C.R.I.N. is lending Skid Towing Vessel LAXMI from Cochin. Understand she must first have quick docking at Bombay. 2. F.O.C.R.I.N. asked to lend six skids as well which can be replaced from Colombo. 3. Eights sets magnet Spar sweeps have been railed to Bombay for shipment in B.P. 3 sailing 9/5.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Minesweepers
for Shatt-
el-Arab.

4. S.N.O.P.G. has been direct to take up four towing craft for spare sweeps in Shatt-El-Arab. 5. Provision of second skid towing vessel is under urgent consideration. 6. R.A. Alexandria has been asked to send four Kango Hammers to Basrah a.m. 2125/29/4 refers. Provision of craft under consideration. 7. S.B.N.O.S.C.A. has been asked to send an expert to Basrah to advise on non contact minesweeping. (C. in C. E.I. 0636Z/5 to Admty).

GLENROY.

Your 1818Z/30. Ship can be accepted but owing to present commitments there may be some delay. (Cdre. R.I.N. 0707Z/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

LLANDOVERY
CASTLE.

Hospital ship sailed 5/5 E.T.A. Aden 16/5. (N.L.O. Durban, 0925B/5 to Admty).

→ CAPETOWN

Sailed TAI KOO with CAPETOWN in tow 0530Z/5 ETA Aden 1000Z/9. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1115B/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

Orders to
CORNWALL.

CORNWALL is to leave patrol area after dark 6/5 and proceed to Port Victoria Seychelles so as to arrive a.m./8 for fuel. (C. in C. E.I. 1154Z/5 to CORNWALL).

→ CAPETOWN.

CAPETOWN'S 1951Z/3 and 1039Z/3 and your 0734Z/4. As ammunition has been landed and only small quantity will be embarked at Aden D.N.C. advises essential that all oil fuel tanks be kept full. Any tanks not filled with oil fuel should be filled completely with water. On passage oil should be used from one tank only at a time and tanks flooded as soon as oil is consumed. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1653B/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

A.M. 1634/5.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.CAPETOWN
(contd).A.M. 1634/5 (?1654/5 intended). Comply.
(C. in C. E.I. 1718/Z/5 to CAPETOWN).M/S Trawlers.D.M.S. 1949/B/5 to C. in C. E.I. see Operations
Volume.)Iraq.

General situation. No change. Habbaniya situation appears more hopeful. 2 Dredgers now working from Fao with twin crews provided from ships present. Since Iraq authorities are preventing supplies of fresh provisions to our forces by land I am stopping supplies going up river. Very little labour available on wharves. General boycott of British in force.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 2132Z/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

ChinaRubber position.

I am in constant touch with Decoux and am hoping to arrange for Jouan to come here for full discussion of position. Meanwhile a mutilated message from Decoux assures me that satisfactory explanations will be given and my apprehensions are unjustified. I have again asked for immediate reply in detail, (C. in C. China, 0213Z/5 to Admty).

CONTE VERDE
(Italian).

Was still at Shanghai 30/4. Press report quoted in D.S. of 3/4 that ship had left escorted by Japanese destroyers was apparently incorrect.
(D.S. 608/5/5).

America and West Indies.Admiral Lais.

My 1001/2. Ship having now sailed story presumably public property. Propose to release facts regarding Lais detention to local and U.S. Press.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1039Q/5 to Admty).

STALOWA
WOLA.

^{N.T.W.S.}
My 1456/30/4. Polish STALOWA WOLA struck rock leaving St. Johns Newfoundland and sailing will be delayed.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1454Z/5)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.China (contd).TAMESIS
chased by
raider.

Following from San Pedro (beings) Norg.
TAMESIS reports in approximately 022N
136E April 5th being chased by supposed
raiders from 0340 to 0920 local time. Out-
distanced pursuer at a speed 18 knots
opening from 6 miles. Two rounds only fired
by raiders (ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1614Z/5 to C. in C. China).

U-Boat
positions.

Following from Navy Dept.
D/F bearings indicate S/MS in following
positions;
(a) 38° 45' N 68° 30' at 2030 G.C.T./4.
(b) 31° 40' N 55° 40' W at 0304 G.C.T./5
(c) A mean bearing was obtained San Juan
149° at 2240/3.
(N.A. Washington 1644/5 to Admty).

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

R.A. 3 B.S. reports:-
Condition of auxiliary machinery in ROYAL
SOVEREIGN necessitates approx 14 days for
refit as soon as possible. Due to leak in
hull, three oil fuel tanks capacity 48 tons
two diesel fuel tanks capacity 62 tons and
both wings reserve feed water tanks are
unusable. Six bulge compartments require
frequent pumping; ship should be docked at
early date. Ends.
Request whether ship can be taken in U.S.A.
for necessary work and if so, Yard selected.
(Admty 2204B/5 to B.A.R.M.)

CHITRAL

My 1359/3. For Wednesday 7th read Thursday
8th.
(R.A. 3 1906P/5 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

Australia.Nauru
Moorings.

Cancel my 0305Z/17/12.
(A.C.N.B. 0608 Z/5 to C. in C. China, C. in C
E. I.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.5.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.WRAY
CASTLE
(torpedoed
3/5).

Portuguese Ship ANGOLA picked up 43, being all of crew except one Arab fireman, of British Ship WRAY CASTLE torpedoed in 6° 48' N 13° 55' W at 2045/3/5. Have arranged for ANGOLA to take crew to St. Thome where they will be transferred to Portuguese ship LOURENCO MARQUES for passage to Freetown.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1837/5 to Admty).

MOST SECRETWar Diary5.5.1941.
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd. from p. 159.

Ref. S/M reported by A/C O/269. Whitley A/C will cover position from 1930/5 until daylight tomorrow Tuesday. (C. in C., Rosyth 1830/5 to C. in C., H.F.)

1921 B

There are further indications that there are U-Boats in vicinity of H.X. 122. (D.D.I.C., 1921B/5 to WALKER)

Submarines AttackedBy VERBENA

Attacked good contact 15 charges at 0722 in position 062° 58' N., 016° 35' W., held contact for one hour then faded. As NORTHERN PRIDE asdics are defective am rejoining convoy. (VERBENA 0925B/5 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

2230/4

Possible U-Boat in contact with S.C. 29 at 2230/4 M.S.T. 062° 20' N., 020° 15' W Good contact lost after several attacks by SKATE, SALADIN, SEAGULL when oil track seen. Further search negative. S.C. 29 at noon/5 M.S.T., 061° 54' N., 017° 30' W 090° 6½ knots. (VETERAN 1145/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

By Aircraft
1700

Have attacked submarine on surface with depth charges estimated hits unknown in position 59.18 N., 08.40 W. (A/C Duty O 1700/5, to 275 Sqdn.) P.C. and S of enemy S/M on surface TAVF 030° 3 knots. (Duty O., 1715/5 to 275 Sqdn)

Attack enemy U-Boat (position) at 1715, reliable fix, A/C co-operating. (C. in C. 1742/B/5 to ELECTRA, ESCAPADE) Aircraft attacked U-Boat (position and time) (C. in C. W.A., 1752B/5 to HOOD, R.A.M.L.) Join H.X. 122 by dark unless in contact with U-Boat. (C. in C. W.A., 1911/5 to ELECTRA, ESCAPADE)

2308

Blenheim A/C sighted a U/B on surface about 120' E. of Kinnairds Head at 2308/5 and attacked with bombs. Results of attack not observed. (D.O.R. 6/5).

MOST SECRETWar Diary5.5.1941.
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported

- 0427 JONQUIL, GERANIUM, AZALEA proceed to position 276° Cape Trafalgar 108 to join FLEUR DE LYS investigate U-Boat contact. Report time of R.V. JONQUIL order all ships to keep watch on 500 kc/s. (Capt. (D) 13 0427/5 to JONQUIL)
- 0347 G.M.T. D/F bearings at 0347 G.M.T. indicate Italian S/M in position 45° 30' N., 7° 30' W Unreliable fix. Outward bound. (D.D.I.C., 0737B/5)
My 0737B/5. This S/M now believed to be homeward bound from the South. (D.D.I.C., 1046B/5)
- 1019 One submarine submerged my position 62.11 N., 14.44 W. (LORD MIDDLETON 1019/5 via Scapa W/T) (C. in C., W.A. 1121B/5 to HOOD and 1147B/5 to W.A. Command)
Following has been read. Attack enemy U-Boat (position) 1020 G.M.T. (Liverpool 1045/5)
My 1019. Submarine sighted on the surface bearing and distance 060° 6', 347° position 062° 00' N., 015° 20' W. Dead reckoning. Am searching. (LORD MIDDLETON, 1100/5 to S.O. Trawlers) (C. in C., W.A., 1357B/5 to HOOD etc.)
- 1050B/5, U-Bs are shadowing HX 122 in and area between 60° N., and 61° 30' N., and 10° W to 15° W. (D.D.I.C, 1050B/5)
- Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1412B/5.)
- 2030 G.C.T. By D/F 38° 45' N., 68° 30' W., (N.A. Washington 1644/5)
- 0304 G.C.T. 31° 40' N., 55° 40' W., (N.A. Washington 1644/5)

/Ref S/M....

(Continued on p. 158)

War Diary6.5.1941.
TuesdaySITUATION REPORTCode times
of Signals.

Admiralty directions are that warships are to use M.S.T. in signals, but G.M.T. is to be used in signals to and from merchant vessels. Many messages affect both warships and merchant ships and to avoid confusion C. in C. W.A. recommends that G.M.T. be used in messages to and from warships, as in the case of merchant vessels.

Home CommandsShipping

Information concerning all shipping movements is being given to the U.S. authorities in all areas when U.S. naval patrols are operating.

M.T.B's carried out an offensive R/C between Boulogne and Dieppe last night.

4 M/S Trawlers from Western Approaches Command are to be sent to Gibraltar as soon as possible.

British Air Operations

Minor attacks were made last night on St. Nazaire, Sola Seaplane Base (Stavanger), and Boulogne Docks.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked shipping off the Dutch Coast today. Two small fishing vessels are claimed as sunk.

/Enemy Air.....

6.5.1941. 161
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Enemy aircraft carried out a reconnaissance round Jan Mayen this morning.

Tug LADY BRASSEY on passage with two small craft was attacked at 0204 8 miles west of Dungeness. The only damage caused was to one of her boats.

F.O.I.C. Harwich reports that A/S trawler NEIL MACKAY and paddle minesweeper DUCHESS OF ROTHESAY were damaged by air attack last night.

Unsuccessful attacks were made during daylight on an escorted tanker 130 miles N. by E of Cape Wrath and during the night on a convoy off Harwich.

Four bombs were dropped at Lowestoft at 1320 today. Slight naval damage was caused.

Attack on
Clydeside.

Damage was caused by air attack last night at Greenock Dockyard and Kincaids.

Attack on
Liverpool.
VAN ORLEY &
SS MIMOSA
damaged.

Merseyside was attacked last night for the third night in succession. A/S Trawler VAN ORLEY has been badly damaged and SS MIMOSA damaged. Damage was caused to Liverpool docks, though the dry docks are undamaged and little damage was caused at Birkenhead. There was further heavy -civil damage. As result of raids 3 - 6 May Ferry Boat ROYAL DAFFODIL II and 3 steam barges are submerged.

Attack on
Belfast.

There was further enemy activity at Belfast last night but no additional damage was caused to the docks.

War Diary

6.5.1941.162
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining.

Four Hampdens last night laid mines off the Frisian Islands.

The Clyde was closed shortly after 0000 today on account of mines laid in the air raid last night.

Mines were detonated off the Humber.

The Tyne was closed from 0346 to 1051 today.

Belfast was reopened with restrictions at 1045/5.

South Atlantic

U-Boats

U-Boats are working off Freetown. Convoy S.L. 74 has been given a shorter route and will now sail on 10/5 instead of 7/5.

Raiders.

D/F bearings indicate the possibility of two raiders being in the South Atlantic; they may be intending to R/V. ALCANTARA and QUEEN OF BERMUDA have been disposed accordingly.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Tiger"

GLOUCESTER sailed from Gibraltar at 0420 today, for this operation, with 6 destroyers.

Air Attack
on Malta.

Luqa Aerodrome was bombed this morning; one Beau Fighter was destroyed and 8 damaged. The H.F.D.F. station was damaged.

/Operation....

6.5.1941.
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation
M.D. 4.

The Mediterranean Fleet left Alexandria today for this operation (covering convoy M.W. 7 A THERMOPYLAE, TALABOT, SETTLER, AMERIKA for Malta.)

Mining of
Tripoli.

F.A.A. Swordfish again laid mines last night in Tripoli harbour approaches.

Benghazi

Ten Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour and other places on the Libyan coast last night.

Greece.

It is reported that Italians occupied the island of Amorgos in the Cyclades on 4/5.

East Indies

Fao

C. in C. E.I., reports that the situation at Fao is calm; Convoy Cling I (DEVONSHIRE and NEVRALIA) passed Fao. at 0740/6 for Basra. Fao which was previously occupied by a Naval landing party was reinforced today by troops disembarked from the convoy. All shore forces at Fao are to be under the command of Captain R.M. of ENTERPRISE. One H.M. Ship is remaining at Fao for the present.

Basra

Convoy B.P.1 A arrived at Basra at 1241 G.M.T. today. The examination vessel was seized and normal service is proceeding. The Iraqi gunboats were located today at Al Azair, 60 miles up river from Basra.

The policy of non-cooperation continues at Basra; naval ratings are assisting wherever possible.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Campaign

Western
Approaches &
North Atlantic
CAMITO
SS SANGRO
SS OAKDENE
torpedoed.

CAMITO and the captured Italian SANGRO which she was bringing in, were both torpedoed in the early hours of this morning in approx. $50\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ N., $21\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ W., and sank later.

SS OAKDENE was torpedoed at 1200 today in $6^{\circ} 19'$ N., $27^{\circ} 51'$ W.

SS EMPIRE STORM claims to have sunk a U-Boat by gunfire at 0515 G.M.T./21/4 in $53^{\circ} 41'$ N., $17^{\circ} 28'$ W., whilst in escorted convoy O.G. 59.

Faroës-Iceland.
EMANUEL
Sunk.

Faroës fishing vessel EMANUEL was sunk at 2300 today by gunfire from a U-Boat about 15 miles west of Myggenaes Island.

South Atlantic.
SS SURAT
FRANCONIA
ASHBURY
Torpedoed.

SS SURAT reported at 0325 today that she was torpedoed in $8^{\circ} 23'$ N., $5^{\circ} 17'$ W (about 130 miles west of Freetown)

SS FRANCONIA made a submarine distress signal at 0900 G.M.T. today in $8^{\circ} 18'$ N., $16^{\circ} 2'$ W.

A submarine distress signal was made by an unknown ship at 1300 G.M.T. today in $8^{\circ} 26'$ N., $25^{\circ} 54'$ W.

SS ASHBURY was torpedoed about 0958 N today in approx 12° N., $25\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.

SS LASSELL
Sunk.

SS BENGKALIS reports that at 1630/1 she received an intercept by W/T from two lifeboats of SS LASSELL saying that the latter had been torpedoed at 1955 G.M.T/30/4 in $12^{\circ} 55'$ N., $28^{\circ} 56'$ W.

C. in C., S.A. 2225N/8 outlines the measures necessary to combat the U-Boat menace off Freetown.

U-Boat off
South America.

D/F bearings indicate a U-Boat off the coast of South America between Bahia and Rio de Janeiro at 2259 today.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

VERVAIN
CLOVER.

When ready for sea VERVAIN and CLOVER should be sailed for Tobermory to work up, on completion of which they will be required for service on the South Atlantic station. (D.O.D. (H) 1123B/6).

YILDUM.

Have intercepted Finnish Class O YILDUM who has not called at Skopen. Am boarding. Request instructions. (LORD MIDDLETON 1140B/6).

SYRINGA
HOLLY
ST. MELANTE
RUNSWICK BAY
for Gibraltar.

My 1701/6, 1702/6, 1703/6, and F.O.C. N.A. 1820/3.
H.M. Trawlers SYRINGA, HOLLY, ST. MELANTE, RUNSWICK BAY are to be sailed together in convoy as soon as possible to Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. F. 1753D/6.)

Firing at
objects out
of range.

Reports continue to be received that during night air raids on ports large quantities of Small Arm ammunition are fired by H.M. ships, Auxiliary War vessels and D.E.M.S. either at flares dropped by enemy aircraft or at aircraft themselves although well out of range of such weapons.
2. Firing at flares does not justify the risk to our own people from falling bullets, nor the expenditure of ammunition. It is to be discontinued.
3. Measures are to be taken to improve fire discipline at close range weapons with the object of stopping firing with light A.A. guns at Aircraft which are well out of range. (D.T.S.D. 1922B/6).

19th M/L
Flotilla.

The 19th M.L. Flotilla consisting of M.L. 203, 217, 236, 243, 250, 255, 257, 275 are to assemble and remain based at Holyhead. Y guns are to be mounted if available without delaying completion 3 pounder gun then being mounted forward. This Flotilla will not carry Rolls Royce two pounder gun. (D.A/S.W. 1923B/6).

Timing of Signals.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (contd).

Timing of
Signals.

A.M. 274 AZ/1/5 orders warships to use M.S.T. in signals whilst A.M.46 A/3/5 directs G.M.T. to be used in signals to and from merchant vessels. The use of zone suffixes should obviate doubts. But some confusion is liable, especially with the introduction of M.S.T., to obviate such doubts, and observing that so many messages affect both merchant and warships, it is recommended that G.M.T. be used in messages to and from warships as in the case of merchant vessels.
(C. in C. W.A. 2229B/6).

F.O. 1st
B.C.S.

Vice Admiral L.E. Holland C.B. assumes command of Battle cruiser squadron and second in command Home Fleet on 7/5 in succession to Vice Admiral W.J. Whitworth C.B. D.S.O. whose flag will be struck in HOOD at 2100B/7.
(C. in C. H.F. 2251/6).

Defence of U.K.

A/A Protection
for Great
Yarmouth.

Request early action be taken on my 1850/11/4.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1601B/6).

Movements.

LONDON.

C. in C. Rosyth 1107/5th and Admiralty 1906B/5
It is desired that LONDON should carry out both duties.
(C. in C. H.F. 1258B/6).

HOOD.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

HOOD.

Scapa arrival HOOD, ECHO, ACTIVE, ANTHONY, ACHATES.
(A.C.O.S. 1317B/6).

Operations.

Western Channel patrols on Night 6/7.

MLS. On Patrol 10' East of Dartmouth.
MLS. on Patrol 12' South of Dartmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1311/6).
3 M/Ls on east and west patrol, 2000 to daylight 10's of Lizard.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1726/6).

M.T.B. Patrol.

Weather permitting one unit of M.T.B's are to operate between Dunkirk and Ostend tonight. Any vessel met east of 2° 10' E may be attacked without challenge.
(C. in C. Nore, 1604B/6 to BEEHIVE).
Harwich 6/5 departures M.T.B's 32, 34, 30.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2052B/6).

Clyde-Iceland Ferry.

Intend sailing D.S. 3 consisting CHESHIRE ROYAL ULSTERMAN, PULASKI 1930/7 to R/V with LANCASTER and WELLS at 0530B/8 in 027° Oversay 6 miles thence as in C. in C. W.A. 1802/5.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1634/6).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Parallel track A/S sweep will be flown by three Hudson A/C commencing at first light today between following positions.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0328/6).
Patrol U N S T in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0634/6).

Risk to own A/C.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.(cont).

Risk to
own A/C
near Convoys
after dark.

Following received from SOUTH^{DOWN} begins.
C. in C. Nore 2045B/4. Presence of
Blenheim aircraft around convoy after dark
is considered to be most unsafe.
To ensure adequate protection of convoy
every aircraft flying low must be engaged
at once. On 4/5 escorting Blenheim flew low
over SOUTH^{DOWN} and was heavily engaged before
recognition signals were made. 2301B/5.
Ends.
This view is fully concurred in.
(C. in C. Nore 1049B/6).

Operation
S.N.9A

Expect two Blenheims about 1230.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1140/6 to C.S.18).

Brest.
Attack of
Night 4/5.

Following up attack by 33 bombers on
battlecruisers Brest during night 3/4, on
night 4/5 May, in excellent weather condi-
tions, 92 aircraft attacked battlecruisers.
No difficulty picking up target area, most
aircraft saw dry docks whilst some actually
observed the ships. 1 Wellington claimed
direct hit was 500 lb. bomb on battlecruiser
at T.B.S.2 others fairly confident of having
hit this ship. Another aircraft saw burst
with big yellow flash close to the ship.
The battlecruiser in dry dock straddled by
number of bombs, many bursts seen on quay-
side buildings causing fires visible 70 miles.
(D.N.I. 1234B/6 to C's in C.)

Six A/C for
ARK ROYAL.

Six Fulmars of 809 Squadron are to be flown
to Sealand for embarkation in FURIOUS. These
aircraft are to be transferred to ARK ROYAL
on arrival Gibraltar. Hurricanes numbers
will be adjusted. Personnel will not be em-
barked with aircraft. R.A.N.A.S. is requested
to allot replacement aircraft to 809 when
possible to do so.
(5th S.L. 1326B/6 to R.A.N.A.S.)

56 Squadron.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

56 Squadron
Camouflage
of Hurricane
A/C.

IG/305 6/5/41. Northweald reports that, as from 4/5, one or two aircraft of 56 Squadron Hurricane will have the following variations of the standard camouflage, and in the course of the next seven days the variations will be carried out on all aircraft of the Squadron.
(H. Q. 11 Group 1335/6).

Torpedo
Maintenance
Facilities.

A.P. 961 6th May 1125/1/5. Confirmed that Maintenance facilities are available at North Coates and Thorney Island.
(H. Q. C. C. 1525/6 to R. A. N. A. S.)

Smoke Screens
at Belfast.

Your 2331/5th. Smoke screen at Belfast was most effective during air raid on night of 15/16 April. Not effective during air raid on night 4/5 May owing North Easterly wind. Considered necessary to produce smoke from barges or other craft in Lough in order to effectively screen when latter conditions prevail.
(N. O. I. C. Belfast 1638/6 to Admty).

A/C for
VICTORIOUS.

Cancel A.M. 1606A/3 and 1133B/4. VICTORIOUS is to load aircraft at Rosyth. 2. Air Ministry are being asked to arrange for loading to commence on 10/5 if possible.
(A. C. N. S. H. 1706/6).

Flying of
Kites and
Balloons by
H. M. Ships.

WAGO 74N is cancelled by A.M. 992A
(C. in C. W. A. 1734/6).

800 Z.
Flight.

My 2001A/2. 800Z flight is to be prepared for embarkation from Donibristle on 10/5.
(D. N. A. D. 1816B/6 to R. A. N. A. S.)

A/C in U.S.A.
Ships recognition
signals.

Admiralty 1823/28/4/41. United States ship borne aircraft in the Atlantic Oceans are capable only of making following night emergency identification signals.
(D. S. D. 1838/6).

A/S Sweep.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (contd).

A/S Sweep.

Parallel track A/S sweep will be flown by three Whitleys between following positions from 2020/6 to 0310/7.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1956/6).

812 Sqn.

My 1848/2. Intend that 812 Squadron should be placed under operational control of C. in C. Coastal Command. Request you will report in due course date when squadron is ready to operate.
(5th S.L. 2049/6 to Hatston.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Lunch"
LUNCH.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ^{"Lunch"}~~LUNCH.~~ My position 55° 22' N. 10° 22' W.
(LIDDESDALE 0012/6).

Convoy
F.N.

Fighter protection is being sent to the aid of F.N. convoy N of Tyne.
(Rosyth W/T 0103/6).

Plymouth
Bombed.

About 100 hostile planes passed over and near Plymouth to a raid in the North, and subsequently returned by same route, between 2308/5 and 0519/6. One small H.E. was dropped in the S.W. corner of Thankses fuel depot. No damage.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0530/6).

VETERAN.

Condor now shadowing since 0615. Twice driven off by Catalina. My position at 0800, 60° 30' N 14° 30' W. Course 152°
Speed 6½.
(VETERAN 0912/6).

Attack on Belfast.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.(contd).

Attack on
Belfast.

Following shipping casualties confirmed having occurred to Merchant ships alongside Quays Belfast Harbour during Air Raid last night.

Sunk British FAIR HEAD. FREDERIKA LENSEN (Block Ship). CAPE BRETON aground aft not seriously damaged.

Slightly damaged British FINLAND, BOSWORTH SHEPPERTON FERRY, EMPIRE PUMA all seaworthy. Casualties among crews slight.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 0725/6).

NEIL MACKAY
DUCHESS OF
ROTHESAY
damaged.

Following ships were damaged by enemy action last night:-

1. A/S trawler NEIL MACKAY hit by a bomb passing through ships port side leaving a two feet diameter hole 3 feet above water line smashing dynamo and damaging 4" gun and depth charge deck fittings. No casualties.

2. Paddle Minesweeper DUCHESS OF ROTHESAY. Bridge and foremast damaged by canon shell and incendiary bullets. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0950B/6).

LADY BRASSEY.
attacked.

Tug LADY BRASSEY on passage with DICK WHITTINGTON and M L 137 was attacked by single enemy aircraft with bomb and machine gun in position 240° Dungeness 8 miles at 0204 to-day. 4 bombs dropped, one of which passed through boat at davits and exploded alongside, portions of bomb fin landing on deck. No other damage and no casualties.
(V.A. Dover 1009B/6).

MARIE-FLORE.
TREGOR.
(Bombed 4/5).

MARIE-FLORE beached in Padstow. Fire under control.

Four of crew and two D.E.M.S. Army gunners killed. Seven including capt. saved. TREGOR also bombed, sank whilst in tow. Crew landed at Barry.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1156/6).

Glasgow.
Air Raid
Night.
5/6.

Preliminary Report for raid of night 5th /6th

(a) Practically Nil

(b) Nil

(c) No

(d) None.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1201/6).

Convoy F.N. Odd.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy F.N. Odd.

Convoy ~~Pilot~~^{"Pilot"} is being shadowed by one Enemy Aeroplane bearing 138 degs. Distance 3 miles. Course Unknown. My position 51° 52' N 1° 36' E. (QUORN 1209/6).
Help ~~Pilot~~ in position 5640 course and speed of convoy 053° 8 knots. (QUORN 1254/6).
Fighters have been despatched to assist convoy ~~Pilot~~. "Pilot"
(Nore W/T 1301/6).

Lowestoft bombed.

Four bombs dropped N. Lowestoft at 1320. Slight damage to officers mess of EUROPA. A to D. Nil.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1553/6).

Belfast Air Raid on Night 4/5.

Following shops of Messrs. Harland and Wolff, completely destroyed by fire. Major proportion of Admiralty Electrical Store for larger ships had however, been previously removed and placed in respective ships. Stores for smaller ships lost. Ships under my supervision damaged are three Corvettes.
Reference my 8338/E of 19/4/41 Alternative arrangements should be made immediately by Admiralty for supply of any motors etc. urgently required as there is no prospect of supplies being made from this area for some time.
(D.A.E.E. Belfast 1645/6).

Liverpool. Air Raid on Night 4/5. VAN ORLEY (A/S Trawler) S.S. C MIMOSA damaged.

My 1801/4.
Situation to 1800/6.
A Add A/S trawler VAN ORLEY badly damaged
B Add MIMOSA damaged by near miss
C Considerable damage to Sheds Liverpool Decks particularly North. Main Dock Railways broken in four places owing to collapse of overhead Railway. All Drydocks undamaged. Slight damage only Birken-head.
E Further heavy Civil damage by H.E. and fires both last two nights.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1831/6).

Jan Mayen.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Jan Mayen
Enemy
Air R/C.

Jan Mayen reports that German aircraft carried out R/C round island at (708) 05 this morning. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1841B/6).

Greenock.
Air-Raid on
Night 5/6.

Damage to Shipyards.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2234/6).

East
Coast.

Heavy air attacks on East Coast shipping probable shortly. (C. in C. Rosyth 2308/6).

Mining.

Clyde.

River Clyde closed as a precautionary measure above Great Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0012B/6).
River Clyde and Great Harbour closed to traffic both ways due to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0137B/6).
Owing to a mine in the centre of the channel off Dumbarton early reopening of the river is uncertain. Hence delay in forthcoming troop convoy movements is possible. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2222/6).
C. in C. W.A. 1642/6. State of river below K.G.V. Dock; River is closed owing to possible minelaying off mouth of River Cart. Hope reopen down to Bowling tomorrow after sweepers have passed. Below Bowling river remains closed for following reasons:-
Two mines off Dumbarton. South of channel dry at low water which VERNON propose recovering. One mine in channel off Dumbarton which is the serious menace to Navigation in the river. One mine self-exploded tonight between Dumbarton and Cardross on bank North of channel. One mine exploded by sweeper in channel off Great Harbour Greenock. Two others at Cocklebank still to be disposed of. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2234/6).

/Tyne.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Tyne.

Tyne closed due to suspected minelaying. No ships from Tyne will join F.S. 81. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0346/6).

Belfast.

Port of Belfast is now open. Negative - Musgrave Channel. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1045/6).

Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1051/6).

Minelaying Programme.

Your 1624/5th. Concur but S.N. 67 is more important that S.N. 66 if sinkers are available earlier than expected. (C. in C. H.F. 1157B/6).

Dover Sweeps.

Routine sweeping carried out to 0800/6. Q.Z.S. 191 by one pair L.L. trawlers from Dumpton to South Falls Buoy and back to 51° 20. 1' N. 1° 35' E. where one red mine detonated. No indication when mine was laid Q.Z.S. 238 centre of Channel by 4 Oropesa trawlers during daylight Monday. Nothing found. (V.A. Dover 1207B/6 and 1247B/6).

P.W. 9.
P.W.10.

My 1124^B/4. P.W. 9 is to be postponed until end of moonlight period. Carry out P.W. 10 when weather is suitable. (C. in C. Nore 1510B/6 to BEEHIVE).

Spurn Point.

Following three mines were detonated today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1857B/6);

1st M/S Flotilla for Clyde.

First Minesweeping Flotilla less SPEEDY and LEDA are required for minesweeping duties assembling in Clyde Area by a.m./16. Boiler cleaning must be completed by this date. S.O. 1st M.S. F. to submit proposals to C. in C. W.A. (V.C.N.S. 2055B/6).

Peterhead Minefield.

Peterhead Field completed and in operation. (HELVIG 2230/6).

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Photographic R/C of Brest 1200/6 shows both Battlecruisers present. (D.D.I.C. 1322B/6).

M/V in
Bay of
Biscay.

A/C reports one 9000 ton M/V in 44° 45' N. 08° 30' W. course 360° 6 knots accompanied by one aircraft at 1305/6 M.S.T. (C. in C. Plymouth 1842/6) (F.O.S. 1844B).

German
Fleet
Movements.

Details to 2/5. Graded A.2. (N.A. Stockholm 2021/6).

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

→ W.S. 8.C.

Following are proposed embarkation arrangements for Convoy W.S. 8 (C). (D.S.T. 0322B/6 to P.S.T.O. West of Scotland)

Warning of "E" boats.

Your 1556B/5X. (use of two white rockets by a merchant ship in convoy extended to include E Boats in addition to U Boats). This proposal is concurred in. (C. in C Nore 1249B/6 to Admty).

→ W.S. 8B.
→ W.S. 8C.

Your 1225/2 to D. of S.T. only. Code Numbers for additional ships of W.S. 8B and C. are as follows. WINCHESTER CASTLE F.14. ORMONDE F. 15, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD F.16, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND F. 17, ALMANZORA F. 18, KARANJA A.2, HYDRA A. 7. (D.S.T. 0324B/6 to D.S.T.O. Greenock). VICTORIOUS to leave Scapa to R.V. with ARGUS and W.S. 8B. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1706/6 to VICTORIOUS, etc).

Independent Shipping.

In view of Admty. 0001/1/5 cancel all my previous signals, concerning independently routed merchant vessels bound overseas. From Bristol Channel ports such vessels are to be sailed in convoy unless over 15 knots and should leave convoy when North of Skerries at any time convenient to comply with Admty. 0001/1/5. Following information is required from N.C.S.O's in respect of all outward independents. (C. in C. W.A. 1615B/6 to all F.O's I.C. etc)

H.X. 121.

4 hours late at R.V. with all ships, fair weather. Following ships torpedoed and sunk in about 16° W. CALEDONIA, CAPULET, OILFIELD, PORT HARDY. (D.S. D. 1926B/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). 36 British, 4 Norwegian, and 3 Dutch ships. Cargoes, see D.S. 609, 6/5.

S.C. 28

48 hours late at R.V. with 30 ships, gales 18 to 22/4. Many temporary breakdowns. KISNOP arrived Reykjavik. (D.T.D. 1927B/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). 18 British, 4 Norwegian 6 Greek. Cargoes see D.S. 609 6/5.

/Independent.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Independent Shipping.

Desired to get more accurate information of homeward voyage of independently sailed ships. On arrival of such a ship N.C.S.O. of port of arrival (or N.C.S.O. Barry for a ship arriving in Barry Roads for onward routing to a Bristol Channel Port) is to signal to Admiralty following particulars. (D.T.D. 2054B/6 to N.C.S.O's).
Cancelled (RTD, 2020 B/3/6)

Military
convoy due
to leave
U.K. 8/5.

My 1317/1 and 2150A/3 and 1039B/5. Sailing is to be postponed 24 hours. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2101B/6 to C. in C. W.A).

Coastal
Shipping.

A.M. 1636/3/4 and A.M. 1823/4/4 are cancelled. Ships and groups are to be sailed at such times as desired by C. in C. Plymouth and C. in C. W.A. C. in C. W.A, is requested to inform Admty. of arrangements made for coastal shipping in his command. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2209B/6 to C. in C's Plym & W.A. etc).

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

HEATHER.

Dome damaged and oscillator shaft bent on submerged wreckage. (HEATHER1858/6).

YORKMOOR.
WIDESTONE

YORKMOOR sent Iceland, defect, escorted by BLUEBELL. WIDESTON ordered to Belfast, D.G. broken. (VETERAN 0912/6).

Unknown
Ship.

Received 2252 G.M.T. from Lands End Radio. Automatic S.O S. signal heard at 2248 G.M.T. strength 2 bearing 8° from Lands End. (Burnham Radio 2252/6).

MOST SECRETWar Diary6.5.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSGeneralShipping
Information
for U.S.A.

Information concerning all shipping movements in the Atlantic N. of Equator and W. of 26° W., is being given to U.S. authorities via Naval Channels.

2. Information will be similarly given for shipping movements in Atlantic, S. of the Equator W. of 16° W., and in Pacific, E. of 180° when U.S. extend their patrols.

3. Information concerning movements of foreign including Allied shipping in all areas except Atlantic N. of Equator may now be given to U.S. Consuls on application for transmission to U.S. Naval Authorities.

4. Information is not required to be as up to date as that mentioned in para 1 and should be given at weekly intervals and should include arrivals and departures for the previous week, flag and ports of call.

(A.C.N.S(T)1954B/6 to C. in C's China and E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N., A.C.N.B., etc.)

War Diary.6.5.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Armed guard
COLONIAL.

If Portuguese S.S. COLONIAL leaving Casablanca for Madeira 6/5, is not intercepted British armed guard ex BULOLO may be passengers on board. In view of risk of internment officers and men should not be permitted to land. If interception has not taken place, report to F.O.C. N.A., whether armed guard is on board. In that event interception will take place on voyage from Madeira to Lisbon.
(Head of M. 0127B/6 to Consul, Funchal.)
My 1230. COLONIAL leaving Casablanca at 1400/7 bound for Lisbon and will steer course for St. Vincent Cape. Proceed to $034^{\circ} 18' N.$, $008^{\circ} 06' W.$, and endeavour to intercept. (F.O.C.N.A. 2341/6, to ERIN.)

Operation
"Tiger".

GLOUCESTER sailed 0420/6 for operation "~~Tiger~~" complete with fuel.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0430A/6, to Admty. etc.)
Departure FAULKNER, FORESTER, FURY, HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HAVELOCK for Operation "~~Tiger~~". (F.O.C.N.A. 0330A/6 to Admty.)

NORD ATLANTIC.

My 0724 B/5. Ship has cruiser stern, whole ship painted grey except for small part of bridge brown. 9897 gross tonnage, 13 knots. (F.O.S., 0649B/6, to S/M's on Patrol, Area A.)

GORGULHO.
(Portuguese.)

Your 2141/28/3, not to Admty. S.S. GORGULHO. Enquiry made by N.A. Lisbon appears to exonerate this vessel. She was on voyage stated and is a coaster with machinery aft. (F.O.C.N.A. 0940A/6, to C. in C.S.A.)

VIDETTE.

F.O.C.N.A. 1700/3. Route to Belfast. (C. in C. W.A., 1051B/6, to VIDETTE.)

DUNEDIN
Escort.

My 1224A/5. If approved 2 VEES could be sailed to meet DUNEDIN and transports during daylight 7/5. If it is required to sail REPULSE and ARGUS before arrival of DUNEDIN then VEES must be retained for this duty. Request early decision. (F.O.C.N.A. 1202/6, to Admty.)

/TODARO.....

War Diary.

6.5.41.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

TODARO
TAIGETE
ARCOLA
(Italian.)

Reported from Teneriffe, are making preparations for departure.
(D.D.I.C. 1520B/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
(F.O.C.N.A. 1833A/6 to N.A. Stn.)

CACHALOT.

Sails 2100A/7 (route) degs. 27' degs 00' East to Malta via route in V.A. Malta 1445/14.(F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/6, to C. in C. Med., 2010 A/6 to TRUANT.)

NORD ATLANTIC
GERDA VITH.

Tanker NORD ATLANTIC arrived Ferrol 4/5. GERDA VITH sailed Ferrol night 3-4/5 destination unknown. Graded A.2. (D.D.I.C. 1626/6 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

Gibraltar.

Your 0220/4/8/1940. Policy re evacuations. (F.O.C.N.A. 1932/6 to Admty.)
See Operations Volume.

C.F.I.
REPULSE
ARGUS.

Your 1202/6 and 1224A/5. Approved to sail REPULSE, ARGUS, EMPRESS OF JAPAN and MONARCH OF BERMUDA in company to U.K. p.m./8, R.V., given in my 1801B/4, is postponed 24 hours until daylight/13. Estimated that EMPRESS OF JAPAN and MONARCH OF BERMUDA can take from 400 to 500 personnel between them. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2111B/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 2133/4, not to Admty. Please confirm that no accommodation available in MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN, as Admty., 2111/6, not to C. in C. S.A., estimated that ships can accommodate from 400 to 450 personnel between them. (F.O.C.N.A. 2308/6, to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 2308/6. Confirmed that there is no accommodation. (C. in C. S.A., 2357N/6, to F.O.C.N.A.)

NORD ATLANTIC.
GERDA VITH.

German tanker NORD ATLANTIC entered Ferrol 4/5 from Vigo, dry-docked 6/5 expected to dock 7/5 cargo reported about 7,000 tons of Gas Oil Fuel. German Vessel GERBEVIC (? GERDA VITH) left Ferrol 4/5. (Coruna, 2355/6, to Admty.)

/EUGENIE.....

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

EUGENIE
LIVANOS.

Overdue shipping, my 1019/3. EUGENIE LIVANOS arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0941B/6 to Admty., etc.)

EMPIRE
TROOPER.
Personnel
for
West Africa
in W.S.8A.

Propose should be utilised for onward conveyance of 30 officers and 192 O.R.ex PRETORIA CASTLE to Takoradi and Lagos. Colonial Govt., also pressing for accommodation for several hundred colonial servants for passage to Cape. These could thus be given passage from Takoradi and Lagos to Cape. (C. in C. S.A., 1247/6 to D. of S.T.) Your 1236/2, in reply to my 1711/21/4, stated that there were only 11 Personnel for West Africa in W.S.8A. Am now informed by Army that 30 officers and 192 other ranks in PRETORIA CASTLE are for onward passage to Takoradi Lagos. No accommodation at Freetown. Most important that information of personnel requiring onward passage from Freetown and possible delay there shall be provided as early as possible. My 1247/6 re onward passage refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1525N/6 to D. of S.T.)

Enemy
Units.

D/F bearings at 1817Z/5 indicate a surface unit within 200 miles of 11° S., 12° W., reliability 60%. Possibly an auxiliary. D/F bearings at 2015Z/5 suggest another within 300 miles of 20° S., 15° W., reliability 55%. This unit may be raider and have been near 3° 10' on 19/4. It is possible that these are going to R.V. ALCANTARA is to remain in area J.35 for the present and take action as required. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is in T.35 C. and should (?close) area from the North. (C. in C. S.A., 1331N/6, to S.A. Sqdn.)

Bathurst.

Request whether it is intended to establish examination service at Bathurst. If so arrangements will be made to equip 5.5. battery for this role. (D. of L.D. 1754B/6 to C. in C. S.A.)

/QUEEN MAUD....

War Diary.6.5.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.QUEEN MAUD.
* Sunk 20 s/s
page 133*
Overdue shipping, due Freetown 4/5 from Milford Haven 11/4 has not arrived. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1805N/6.)W.S.8A.

Your 1231/2/5. Request details of M.T. Ships be communicated. (C. in C. S.A., 1919N/6, to Admty.)

A.F.Report.

Ref. Admty., message A.F., 06.19 N., 27.51 W., at 1200Z/6. (C. in C. S.A., 1954N/6, to G.B.M.S.6A) Referred to OAKDENE torpedoed see C. in C. S.A., 0933N/7.

BULOLO
ASTURIAS.

Your 1901/3/4 and 1947/30/4. To assist U.S. Authorities to determine whether ships can be accepted request summary of major defects be sent by W/T addressed N.A., Washington, for B.A.R.M. (D. of D. 2003B/6 to C. in C. S.A.)

Lettered
Positions
for M.V.'s.

Your 2254/24/4. When diverting ships by G.B.M.S. it is the Admiralty practice to give entirely new letters to all new positions established. This facilitates reference in any subsequent signals. (D.T.D. 2034B/6 to C. in C. S.A.)

LASSELL.

Torpedoed at 1955 G.M.T./30, 12.55 N., 28.56 W., (See U-Boat Campaign.)

A/S Measures
Freetown.

Request what measures you are adopting to counter U-boat attack in Freetown area including type of patrols being carried out by aircraft, observing that as U-boats appear to be working within about 150 miles of Freetown it should be possible to provide an adequate patrol over this area. (1st. S.L. 2318B/6 to C. in C.S.A.)

S.L.74.

In accordance with your 0009B/7, S.L.74 has been rerouted east of 020° W., until 030° N. Route is 480 miles shorter and convoy will not now sail until 10/5, instead of 7/5. (C. in C. S.A., 2359N/6, to Admty.)

From C. in C. Mediterranea.

Date. 6. 5. 41.

Recd. 1920.

NAVAL CYPHER 'D' BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty, repeated V.A. Malta, S.O. Force 'H',
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area.

IMPORTANT AIDAC.

343. Situation report 17.

Alexandria. Raid night 4/5 believed 6 mines laid in entrance to harbour and between entrance and Great Pass. One exploded by IL today. Several ships have entered and left harbour since including convoy M W 7 B. Aircraft were all over 5000 feet.

(II) Western Desert. Two destroyers left Alexandria a.m. with (?) horned mines and special stores for Mersa Tobruk. S.S. GRJM (VIRGINIA) returned to Alexandria from Mersa Tobruk with 1700 prisoners of war.

H.M.S. GNAT has relieved H.M.S. APHS in Force "I". R.A.F. Bombers appear to have done good work against shipping at Benghazi. Hospital Ship (GRZF) KARAFARA deliberately bombed in Mersa Tobruk, left midnight 4/5 for Alexandria on 1 engine.

(III) Operation M D 4. D 1 tomorrow 6th May Fleet proceed sea on a.m. 6th.

(IV) Malta. 830. Squadron further successful CUCUMBER raid on Tripoli (Syria) night of 3/4 laid CUCUMBER between harbour entrance and ships waiting outside while air raid by Wellington was in progress. Heavy explosion seen.

004/6.

Advance copy sent 1st Lord, A.C.N.S. (F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L., Duty Capt., D.O.D. (F)
D.D.I.C., D.P.D.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
- D. of P. (2)
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.H.I. (4)
- D.S.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.A./S.W.
- D.M.S.
- I.P.

- N.I.D. 10 (Paymr. Cdr. Wilson)
- D.T.D. (2)
- E.P.S.
- D.D.I.C.
- D.T.S.D.+
- Hd. of M.
- Duty Captain
- W.D.
- M. (20)
- D.P.D.

MOST SECRET6.5.1941.
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanSituationReport No. 17. (C. in C. Med., 0004/6)
See Lion Copy.Amorgos
Occupied.

It is reported that Italians occupied the island of Amorgos in the Cyclades on 4/5 (D.S., 609, 6/5)

Use of
Captured
Italian Guns.? Admiralty's 1826 13 March. Estimated number of Italian guns in fleet and merchant ships in near future are 75 M/S A.A. 15. 20 M/M Breda or Isotta 70. Light machine guns 6 M/M & 8 M/M 350 Quantity which may become available later from East Africa not included.
(ii) (iii) Re ammunition.
(C. in C. Med., 0024C/6 to Admty.)Tripoli
Mined.

Night 5/6 3 Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. despatched to lay cucumbers Tripoli Harbour approaches. A 4th Swordfish dropped flares. 3 Cucumbers laid (positions) 3 small M/V's and 1 destroyer anchored outside harbour entrance. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F, Malta 0610/6.)

Suez Canal
Nets.My 1145 of 3/3 Net Trials in Suez Canal have proved satisfactory and it is intended to provide 5 - 6 miles of netting to cover that portion of the canal which has received the majority of mines dropped up to date.
(C. in C. Med., 1006C/6 to Admty.)W.S. 7.

Convoy W.S. 7 arrived 0700Z/6. (H.C.S.O. Suez, 1029/6 to Admty.)

Benghazi
bombed.Operational Summary No 330.
Western desert night 4th/5th 8 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour and Benina, Barce, Derna and Gazala aerodromes. Bombs fell near moving ship Benghazi.

/Enemy Raid....

MOST SECRET

6.5.1941.

TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanEnemy Raid
on Suda Bay.

Operational Summary No. 300-Contd.
Crete 4/5. 8 enemy reconnaissances of
Suda Bay and 5 of Heraklion during day.
16 JU 88's bombed Suda Bay anchorage
hitting one A.A. gun position 2 army
casualties. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1039/6)

ROVER
Damage.

Preliminary examination of bomb damage to
ROVER shows probably requires two months
in dock to make good. Intend to proceed to
Port Said to disembark remains of battery
and embark two sections ex PERSEUS to
enable her to steam. Short period in dock
to ensure seaworthiness and then proceed
under own power for permanent repairs at
Bombay for permanent repairs at Bombay or
Singapore. (C. in C. Med., 1048C/6 to
Admty.)

ROVER has been towed to Alexandria.
(Capt. (S) 1 1949/6 to F.O.S.)

ARTA
Documents.

Your 1104/5 not to Admty. Documents and
signals captured by UPHOLDER from German
ship ARTA have been perused here. No code,
cypher or papers of service value among
them. (S.O.I. Malta, 1103B/6 to Capt. O.S.
Alexandria)

Operation
"Demon"

Re publicity (C. in C. Med., 1142C/6) See
Lion Copy.

GLENROY
GLENEARN

My 2303/25. As GLENROY is still capable
of service whereas GLENEARN is completely
out of action, intend GLENEARN should
proceed to Bombay for repair instead. Ship
will be towed to Port Said by PROTECTOR
when ready. (C. in C. Med., 1211C/6 to
Admty.)

F.O.S.⁵ and
Command in
Mediterranean.

Your 1705/1. Proposals approved. Request
you report dates of taking effect.
(Hd. of M. 1245B/6 to C. in C. Med.)

Turkey

General Staff view of Situation (N.A.
Angora, 1257/6, from Adm. Kelly) See
Lion Copy.

/URSULA.....

MOST SECRET

185(A)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1142C/6 May

IN

From. C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 7.6.41.

Time. 2102.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty.

Greek Evacuation - publicity.

347. As you will be aware I am against publicity in the war as far as is practicable but I am somewhat disturbed at the relative value being given to the efforts of other services as compared to that of the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy during evacuation. There is a distinct feeling particularly amongst the latter that having borne the heat and burden of the day their part is receiving less than just recognition. This is particularly accentuated by R.A.F. publicity since the primary reaction of all concerned in the evacuation was the complete inability of the R.A.F. to provide protection. I am of course aware that this was not the fault of the R.A.F. but it is being (?stated) that R.A.F. publicity is giving precisely the opposite impression. Suggest that Admiralty press section should take the matter in hand.

1142C/6

Advance copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D. (F)., D.D.I.C. & Press.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
Duty Capt.
D.N.A.D.
D. of P. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D.D.I.C.
Head of K.
D.P.D. for action.
D.T.D. (2)
I.P.
W.D.
D. of L.D.
E.P.S.

RN

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN 1257/6/May.

From N.A. Angora. Date 7.5.41.

Recd. 1158.

I.D.C. (12) by Cable.

Addressed C. in C. Mediterranean, Repeated Admiralty and
H.M. Ambassador Angora, (Saving)

Following from Admiral Kelly. Secret.

Your 1157/3. General Asim Gunduz grateful for gist of telegram.

(2) General staff views as follows.

Most reliable information from France that shortage of Petrol and other stores in Tripoli is very grave and is restricting operations in Cyrenaica. Continuance of strict blockade should give important results.

(3) If we can assemble 3 armoured and 5 other Divisions in Egypt which must be held in strength to keep Arabic powers in respect, the loss of Greece will have no importance.

(4) The complete occupation of Iraq is for us and Turks a vital necessity. They are particularly interested on account of important war material due at Basra end of May for Turkey from U.S.: 50 Howitzers, 300 Army lorries and a large number of Army tractors. There is also much merchandise waiting transport to Turkey via Basra and reopening line is of grave importance to Turks. Nazi Shekret Iraq Minister formerly in Turkey on his way to Ankara to obtain (?information of the policy of the) Turkish Government. General Staff at any rate favour strongly complete occupation of Iraq.

(5) Iraq may obtain assistance from Iran. Iran imported about 6 months ago from Germany through German recommendation in Iran a quantity of war material which was landed at Samsun and thence transported by camel to destination. They now think that this may be destined to Iraq. A full list will be forwarded later. Turks say that if further permission for transit is asked for it will be refused.

(6) German occupation of Greek Islands usually only by one battalion escorted by Italian torpedo boats and German aircraft not considered dangerous at present.

(7) Possibility of German invasion of Russian territory in near future not credited. Neither side wishes to go to war with other and Russia will give Germany anything she asks for under pressure. Ends.

Relied by assets!

1257/6.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.	D.O.D. (F)	E.P.S.
1st S.L.	D.D.O.D. (F)	H.G. of M.
V.O.N.S.	D.N.I. (4)	I.P.
A.O.N.S. (F)	D. of P. (2)	W.D.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L. Duty Capt.		N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson

MOST SECRET

6.5.1941.

TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.URSULA

Leave area K at dusk 7/5 and proceed through 035° 50' 011° 30' to operate in area H. North of 036° and west of 011° 20'. (Cdr. S. 1. 1300B/6 to URSULA)

ITHACA
(German)

Passed Chanak a.m./6 from Mitylene for Constantza. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1305/6 to C. in C. Med.)

UPRIGHT

Leave area U at dusk 6/5 and proceed (route) to operate coastal route in area V south of 033° 20' between 013° 40' and 015° TRUANT reports sweeper active Eastern Approaches to Tripoli (Libya) and about 2 small ships daily coast crawling eastward. (Cdr. S.1. 1305B/6 to UPRIGHT)

Enemy Units.

3 Merchant ships escorted by one destroyer left Burat 1430/6 course and speed. 100 8 (TRIUMPH 1647/6 to Malta W/T)

Beach
Defences.

Request whether you require following quantity of beach defence material available very shortly subject to necessary shipping space being found. (D. of L.D. 1648B/6 to C. in C., Med.)

Malta
Daylight Raid.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1600/6. Times G.M.T. Raids 1000 hrs. 6 H.E. 111's with 30 M.E. 109's in layers above high level bombed Luqa Aerodrome 15 bombs on Aerodrome causing damage to Beau Fighters on ground. H.F/D.F. Station damaged. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1705/6)

M.W. 7 A.

Convoy M.W. 7 A comprising THERMOPYLAE TALABOT, SETTLER and AMERIKA sailed 1500, E.T.A., Malta 0700/9 (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1800C/6 to Admty. etc.)

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET6.5.1941.
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Operation
M.D. 4.

Departures 5/5. CARLISLE, COVENTRY, GREYHOUND, DEFENDER, HASTY, ST ISSEY, GLOXINIA, SWONA. Arrivals 6/5. DEFENDER, VOYAGER, WATERHEN, SOUTHERN ISLE.
Departures 6/5. C. in C. Mediterranean in WARSPITE, BARHAM, VALIANT, FORMIDABLE, ORION, AJAX, PERTH, JUNO, KINGSTON, NAPIER, JERVIS, KANDAHAR, GRIFFIN, NIZAM, ABDIEL, JAGUAR, KIMBERLEY, HAVOCK, HOTSUR, IMPERIAL, AUCKLAND, WIDNES, BRECONSHIRE. (S.O(I), Alexandria 1858/6 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

ATLAS
SPARTA
(German)
LUIGI
(Italian)

4/5 Arrivals ATLAS SPARTA.
Departure LUIGI for Genoa.
(Valencia, 2100/6 to D. of S.T.)

TAKU

Unless otherwise ordered by Comm (S) I leave patrol so as to pass through Sicilian Narrows 1945/9th-10th, following route given in V.A. Malta 1445/14/4 up to and including point F. thence as ordered by Comm (S) I (route) Alexandria E.T.A. at Alexandria should be made at least 24 hours before arrival. (Capt. S. 1. 2221/6 to TAKU)

Corinth
Canal.

Your 1050/4. ^{p.121.} Request report of all details available concerning damage thought likely to have been done to Corinth Canal. If demolition was successful, for how long is Canal likely to be unusable?
(D.N.I., 2256B/6 to N.A. Canea) *Reply: p. 250.*

Enemy Mines
Alexandria.

Magnetic unit from Type C new mine recovered (details) Of mines laid on 2/5 one on shore three swept by single L, probably two remain. 4/5 probably D type as 3 were seen in the air close together. One exploded after 27 hours spontaneously, one by double L, one by skid. Probably 7 remain. Two were laid in harbour entrance and majority of remainder between entrance and Great Pass. (R.A. Alexandria 2315/6 to Admty.)

/Situation.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary6.5.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Situation

Report No. 18. Alexandria. Mine situation as in my 2314/6. Fleet proceeded for operation M.D. 4. Western Desert. Severe sandstorms restricted all operations. KARAPARA arrived Alexandria on one engine with 164 patients. Malta, 3 Swordfish from 830 Sqn. laid cucumbers Tripoli Harbour approaches night 5/6 returning safely. Suda Bay. Some difficulty arises from the dispersal of certain mercantile and tug crew to avoid day bombings. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria 2346C/6 to Admty.)

East IndiesLIVERPOOL

C. in C. Med. 0933/29/4 programme amended as follows:- (LIVERPOOL 0005/6, to Admty. etc.)

SS QUEEN
ELIZABETH,
U.S. 11.

Master reports, Unable to make speed asked for in convoy. Suggest vessel should be drydocked on return trip (Ends) Request report from master. If necessary for docking confirmed R.A. Malaya is requested whether she could be accepted on return voyage to Australia. In the light of Malaya's report A.C. N.B. is requested to advise as to repercussions on U.S. 11. (D.S.T. 0323B/6 to P.S.T.O. Egypt)

U.S. 10 B.
LEANDER
DANAE

Colombo departures 6/5, 0230Z, LEANDER escorting U.S. 10 B. 0510Z DANAE. (S.O.I. Colombo 0520Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy Unit

Position by D/F of German bearing approx. at 1900Z/5 was within 180 miles 027° S., 055° E. (C. in C. E.I., 0528Z/6 to E.I. Sqn.)

/Iraq....

War Diary

6.5.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies., -Contd.

Iraq
Situation

My 1250/4.

- (1) Situation at Fao at 2300 G.M.T./5. Calm, no Iraq military in town. Local police co-operating. European personnel of Dredgers are working with Naval personnel and have taken over some Dredger working. Possibility of Iraqi Dredger crews returning later.
- (2) Guard of Indian troops will be landed at Fao a.m/6.
- (3) At request of Gen. Fraser all shore forces at Fao will be under command of Capt. R.M. of ENTERPRISE.
- (4) One H.M. Ship is remaining at Fao for the present.
- (5) Convoy B.P. 1 A. entered Rooka Channel at 0300 G.M.T.
- (6) Examination vessel seized and normal service proceeding.
- (7) Iraqi Gunboats last located 40 miles up river from Basra.
- (8) 3 Dredger crews being sent from Bombay by sea, India reports air transport not available but I am pressing for latter.
- (9) Policy of non co-operation continues at Basra. Naval ratings assisting wherever possible. (C. in C. E.I., 0616Z/6 to Admty.)

Raider.

My 0528/6 D/F position is passed to you. Request Masters of Merchant ships be informed there may be a raider in this area for the next week or so. Source of information is not to be divulged. (C. in C. E.I., 0726Z/6 to N.O.I.C's Durban, etc.)

Enemy Unit.

My 0015B/6, 0255B/6 and 0437B/6 to C. in C E.I., Estimated position of enemy surface unit at 1857/5 G.M.T. was within 200 miles of 25° 30' S. 55° 30' E., (D.D.I.C., 0730B/6 to C. in C. E.I., A.W.I., and S.A.)

/S.W. 6.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary6.5.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.S.W.6.

Departure 0400Z/6. Convoy S.W. 6 less NOVA SCOTIA, TALAMBA. E.T.A., Mombasa, CAMERONIA, 11th, E.T.A. Durban remainder 16th. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0810Z/6 to Admt. etc.)

Operation, Asher.

Air operation to gain Military control of Asher is being carried out at 0100Z/7. All external land line communications are being cut except those to Abadan. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1213Z/6 to S.O. Force T., LAWRENCE, HERMES, ENTERPRISE.)

B.P. 1 A.

My 0616/6. Convoy B.P. 1 A had reached a position 20 miles above Abadan by 1000 G.M.T./6. No incidents. (C. in C. E.I., 1300Z/6 to Admt. etc.)

Basrah.

6/5. Basrah port area only occupied by British troops. Consulate open in unoccupied area also firms. All British lives and property unscratched. 90% Basrah British women and children left for India. Remainder billeted in occupied area. (Consul, Sudan, 1725Z/6 to F.O.)

Convoy "Cling I" Fao.

Situation report. No contact with Iraq troops who are according to unconfirmed report now all north of Basrah. Situation quiet. Convoy Cling 1 DEVONSHIRE and NEURALIA entered Shatt-El-Arab, passed Fao at 0740 hours and is expected to reach Basrah at 1500/6. Times are local. Fao previously occupied by Naval landing party now reinforced by troops disembarked from convoy. 2021/6.

War Diary.

6.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Use of
St. Helena.

Your 1809/23 and C. in C. S.A. 1249/2. SUDEROY I and SUDEROY II arrived p.m./5 expect to sail a.m./7 Pernambuco, Takoradi. (N.C.S.O., Port of Spain, 0906Q/6 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

→ U.S. Cutters.

Halifax arrivals HARTLAND, CULVER, FISHGUARD, BANFF from U.S. (S.O.I., Halifax, 1108Z/6, to Admty., etc.) See also 1608 P/6.

Kotor
exchange of
captives.

Owing to precipitate departure from Kotor after attempt to take off British Minister to Yugoslavia, REGENT was obliged to leave Lieut. Lambert in Italian hands and to bring away Italian officer 2nd. Lieut. Amando. Desired that negotiations shall be undertaken to arrange speedy exchange of these officers. Navy Dept. should be asked to transmit request in this sense to Italian Adty., (Head of M. 1151B/6 to N.A. Washington.)

A.M.C.'s from
Iceland.

F.O.C.N.P. 1200/4. Request you signal about 20th of each month a forecast for the following month of names and dates of A.M.C.s other than those of Denmark Strait Patrol which will be leaving Reykjavik for Halifax so that the numbers sent U.K. to Iceland can be adjusted. (D.O.D. (H) 1324B/6 to R.A. 3 B.S.) Reply 1021/7.

→ FISHGUARD
HARTLAND.
BANFF.
CULVER.

My 1233/3. FISHGUARD, HARTLAND, BANFF and CULVER, S.O.Comdg., Swanston, FISHGUARD, sail with REVENGE A.M./7, to overtake HX. 125 A and HX 125B. Ships have anti submarine gear but no trained operators and are degaussed. Ordered to proceed to Clyde in absence of other instructions. (F.O.3.B.S., 1608P/6, to Admty.)

CARADOC.

Leave Trinidad 11/5 and establish patrol on line drawn 345° from position 015° N., 057° W., for distance of 360 miles. Object is to intercept enemy raider or one eastbound French Merchant ship as in my 1122/7/4. If possible arrange with GOSHAWK for aircraft from British West India Airways or GOSHAWK to co-operate by patrolling occasionally from Barbados

/northward.....

MOST SECRET

2000B/6th May.

~~MOST SECRET.~~

~~MESSAGE.~~

OUT.

191(A)

To: Rear Admiral 3rd Battle Squadron. 969.

Date. 6.5.41.

Repeated. B.A.R.M.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 959.
C.O. Atlantic Coast.
F.O.C.N.P. 821.
C.in C. America and West Indies. 449.
B.A.T.M.
F.O.S. 714.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CYPHER BY CABLE.

From. Admiralty.

UKARM 145.

Your 1636/30, proposals concerning docking of FORTH and THUNDERBOLT and refit of LACONIA at St. John N.B. approved.

CHESHIRE has now completed refit and AUSONIA is due to complete at Belfast on 19th May, 1941. WORCESTERSHIRE will complete about mid July, 1941.

B.A.R.M. are accordingly being requested to state whether MONTCLARE could be taken in hand in the U.S.A. forthwith and ALAUNIA at beginning of June, 1941.

In order to assist U.S. Authorities to determine whether ships can be accepted request that concise summary of major defects be sent by W/T addressed Naval Attache Washington for B.A.R.M. repeated. Admiralty.

Subsequently defect lists amplified to give full appreciation of work involved should be forwarded, one copy to Admiralty and 2 copies to B.A.R.M. by safest and quickest route. C.A.F.O. 600/41 refers.

2000B/6.

for Director of Dockyards.

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

MOST SECRET

2002B/6th May.

191(B)

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

To. B.A.R.M.

Date. 6.5.41.

Repeated. C. in C. South Atlantic. 926.

F.O.C.N.P. 822.

R.A. 3rd B.S. 970.

C. in C. America & West Indies. 450.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CYPHER.

From. Admiralty.

U.K.A.R.M. 146.

Request report whether arrangements can be made for following A.M.C.'s to be taken in hand for normal refit about dates quoted.

DULOLO - End of May, 1941.
ASTURIAS - Mid June, 1941.
ALAUNIA - Early June, 1941.
MONTCLARE - Forthwith.

In order to assist U.S. Authorities to determine whether these ships can be accepted Fleet and Ships Officers concerned have been requested to furnish you, by W/T, with a concise summary of major defects and to forward to you, by quickest and safest route, defect lists amplified to give full appreciation of work involved.

2002B/6.

for Director of Dockyards.

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. of L.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain.
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.
N.I.D.10. (Pay. Cdr. Wilson).
D. of D.
D. of D. Bath.
Deputy Controller Bath.
Head Sub War Reg. Bath.

War Diary.6.5.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.CARADOC.
Contd.

northward keeping eastward of Martinique and Guadeloupe and reporting movements of any French ships sighted to CARADOC. CARADOC leaves patrol so as to arrive at Tortola, Virgin Islands, 18/5, to fuel from Oiler BISHOPDALE. Resume patrol on completion and return Trinidad (date) (C. in C. A.W.I., 1642Q/6, to CARADOC.)

U.S. Aircraft
Signals.

Admty., 1823/28/4. U.S. ship borne aircraft in Atlantic Oceans are capable only of making following night emergency identification signals. (D.S.D., 1838/6, to A.Z., A.J. A.K. Message.)

FORTH
THUNDERBOLT
and A.M.C.'s.

Programme, etc., re refits in U.S.A. (D. of D., 2000 B 16, 2002 B/6, to R.A.3, and B.A.R.M.) See Lion copy.

Australia.Hospital
Ships.

Your 0125/12. Notification to enemy is required by Hague Convention before employment, but otherwise, policy is not to allow publicity, though photographs are permitted if movements or current position are not thereby disclosed. Wireless silence except for distress signals must be maintained as for other ships especially as hospital vessels do not carry codes. Answer to (iii) is that each case is considered on its merits, but inside zones subject to submarine or air attack, precautions such as darkening ship are followed for all important ships, though hospital ships are not escorted. Up to the present, attacks on hospital ships have been confined to areas intense belligerent activity where aircraft and shore batteries have ignored the Convention, but we cannot rely upon this continuing. (Head of M. 1316B/6 to D.N.I., Melbourne.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary6.5.1941.
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedCAMITO
O.B.V.

Have been struck by torpedo on starboard side. My position now in 050° 34' N., 021° 40' W. (CAMITO 0100Z/6) (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0321Z/6)
Torpedoed No 3. hold my P.C & S 050° 36' N 021° 35' W., 060° 3 knots. (CAMITO 0122Z/6)

SANGRO

(Italian, captured 1/5 by CAVINA) SANGRO also torpedoed. Her position 050° 42' N., 021° 20' W. (CAMITO 0210Z/6)

[CAMITO and
SANGRO sunk
by U.99 - see
German documents
471.]

CAMITO torpedoed 50° 34' N., 21° 40' W., at 0100X/6. Proceed to assist. (C. in C. W.A., 0326B/6 to HEATHER, ORCHIS.)
With ORCHIS searching for CAMITO my position 050° 29' N., 021° 32' W. (HEATHER, 0420/6 to C. in C. W.A.,)
Water gaining rapidly in engine room, engines disabled require tow. Position at 0515 G.M.T. 050° 15' N., 021° 16' W.
SANGRO sank in position 050° 42' N., 021° 20' W. (CAMITO, 0515Z/6 to Whitehall W/T C. in C. W.A., 0724B/6 to HEATHER, ORCHIS)

CAMITO and SANGRO torpedoed (positions) ORCHIS and HEATHER proceeding to assist. (C. in C., W.A., 0516B/6 to BOADICEA, WELLINGTON, EGRET)
Amended position 050° 14' N., 021° 45' W. previous positions were D.R. (CAMITO, 0900Z/6 to Whitehall W/T
Sail two tugs assist CAMITO in 050° 15' N., 021° 16' W., at 0515. G.M.T. engine disabled. HEPATICA ordered to Londonderry as escort. (C. in C. W.A., 0940B/6 to N.O. i/c Greenock HEPATICA)
Tugs are being sent. (C. in C. W.A., 0946B/6 to HEATHER, ORCHIS, CAMITO)
Following has been received. From CAMITO. 049° 57' N., 021° 50' W., 1146Z/6 (Ends) (C. in C. Plymouth, 1148/6 to Adnty.)

My 0742B/6 and 0940B/6. Amended position CAMITO 050° 14' N., 021° 45' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1212/6 to HEPATICA, HEATHER, ORCHIS)

/Following.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary6.5.1941.
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedCAMITO-Contd.

Following received from CAMITO, am sinking position 050° 40' N., *021° 45' W., 1005Z/6 drifting S.W. taking to rafts. 5 lifeboats in 050° 21' N., 021° 36' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1330B/6 to HEATHER) Sinking in position 50.14 N., 21.45 W., drifting S.W. (taking?) to rafts. 5 lifeboats position (750) 21 N., 21.36 W = 1052/6 (Ends) (C. in C. Plymouth., 1348/6 to Admty.) (Received 1024 G.M.T. 500 kc/s 271° by Lands End Radio)* (As received ?14'N) My 0949B/6 In view of CAMITO's 1005Z/6 do not sail tugs without further orders. (C. in C. W.A., 1501B/6, to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

Have picked up survivor of CAMITO in raft 050° 15' N., 021° 35' W. Am searching for survivors in lifeboat to N.E. CAMITO sunk. (ORCHIS, 1716/6 to C. in C. W.A.) Have located all survivors from CAMITO. Am proceeding Greenock. (ORCHIS 1816/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

SURAT

British 5529 tons. SSSS 8.23 N., 15.17 W. SURAT torpedoed. (SURAT 0325/6 Valentia Radio, 0403/6)

ASHBURY

British 3901 tons. Following has been read. S.O.S. 12.00 N., 25.30 W., approx. please send assistance (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 0850N/6, 0958N/6)

If fuel permits detach 2 corvettes to assistance of ASHBURY in 012° 00' N., 025° 30' W., at 0715/6 course 116° speed 3 knots. S.O.S signal received, not known if U-Boat attack. (C. in C.S.A., 1040N/6 to CLEMATIS)

?

Following has been read. SSSS 8.18 N., 16.02 W., = 0900 G.M.T. - G O S I D O A DE GRIA (Freetown W/T 1150/6 T.O.R. 0838/6) (GRIA - SS FRANCONIA)

Following has been read:- SSSS Position 8.26 N., 25.54 W., unread 1300 G.M.T. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1201N/6)

/TARANGER.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary6.5.1941.
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedTARANGER
(Torpedoed 2/5)

3 British 14 Norwegian survivors of Norwegian TARANGER landed Reykjavik today. Ship chased and machine gunned by U-Boat 2300Z/2 in position 061. 09' N., (25°) 20' W., Subsequently shelled, struck by 2 torpedoes and sank immediately. Master killed Re C.B. Attacker made no attempt to board. 3 British survivors sailing for Fleetwood in SPICA today.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1715/6 to Admty.)

LASELL
(Torpedoed 30/4)

British 7417 tons Following from SS BENGKALIS on arrival Freetown 6/5. At 1630/1 BENGKALIS in position 14.01 N., 28.02 W., received an intercept on W/T from 2 lifeboats of LASELL saying ship had been torpedoed in position 12.55 N., 28.56W at 1955 G.M.T. on 30/4.
(C. in C. S.A., 2141N/6, to Admty.)
See also 1220/7.

Submarines Reported

2113/5 G.M.T.

Following bearings of German U-Boat obtained at 2113/5 G.M.T. T.O.O. 2248/5. 36 Groups RKWC CDIB. (D.D.I.C., 0031B/6)
My 0031B/6. Estimated position of German U-Boat 2113/5 G.M.T. was within 150 miles of 7° 00' N., 30° 00' W (D.D.I.C., 0941B/6)

0100Z

Admty. message A.F. Position 050° 34' N., 021° 40' W., 0100Z/6. (D.D.I.C. 0336B/6)

0342

Search for U-Boat reported in 57° 48' N., 01° 50' E., will be carried out by Hudson A/C of 18 group commencing at first light today Tuesday. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0342/6 to C. in C. H.F., etc.)

0325

Admty. message AF position 08° 23' N., 15° 17' W., (C. in C. S.A., 0408/6 to G.B.M.S. 6A, D.D.I.C., 0728/6 to 6A and 9)

/0900.....

MOST SECRET6.5.1941.
TuesdayWar DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.

0900

Message AF Position 8.18 N., 16.02 W.,
0900/6. (C. in C. S.A., 0850N/6 to Rugby
Radio for GBMS 6A)

0826 G.M.T.

By d/F at 0826/6 G.M.T. position of
Italian U/B, probably homeward bound, was
approx. 45° 30' N., - 46° 30' N., 3° 00' W
Position is an indication of area only.
(D.D.I.C. 1120B/6 to SEALION, TRIDENT, etc.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1437B/6)

Submarines Attacked

By EMPIRE STORM
21/4.

Master SS EMPIRE STORM on arrival Montreal
reports that on 21/4 in position 53.41 N
17.28 W., at 0515 G.M.T. he engaged a
submarine by gunfire and claims to have
sunk her. Ship was in convoy OG 59 and
an escort was present at the time.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1529Z/6 to Admty.)

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

It is reported from Seattle that Swedish and Japanese vessels have been ordered to report by W/T the positions of all British vessels in their neighbourhood.

Home Commands.

Dover shelled.

Dover was shelled this evening. There were several casualties and considerable damage was caused in the town. No naval damage occurred.

M.T. B. Operation.

M.T.B's 32, 34, 30 left Harwich at 2052B/6 today to operate between Dunkirk and Ostend.

See p 167

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft attacking shipping last night claim a direct hit on a 5000 ton merchant vessel at anchor off Terschelling.

81 aircraft attacked Hamburg last night. A minor attack was made on Le Havre docks, Bremen, Lorient and other places.

Enemy Air Operations.

A/P Trawler SUSARION was attacked at 0050 and sank near Humber Light Vessel at 0340 today.

Norwegian Tanker STORANGER was slightly damaged at Milford Haven.

/Attack.....

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations. (contd).

Attack on
Liverpool.

† MOSCHA O. KYDONIEES.

There was a further attack on Merseyside last night. S.S. ASIATIC, KYDONIEES, ADDA and MAHOUT are reported to have been damaged and another tug and several barges sunk. Further damage was caused in Liverpool docks, to Birkenhead Docks and Vacuum Oil Co's tanks. Considerable further civil damage occurred and at 1922 today the water supply had not yet been restored.

Attack on
Clydeside.

Clydeside was attacked again last night. Damage was caused to two or three vessels building and serious damage was caused to shipbuilding and repair yards. The completion dates of all immediate new construction vessels will be appreciably affected. H.M. Drifters BLUESTONE and GOWAN HILL were blown off blocks and are probable total losses. PAKENHAM and ROBERTS (Monitor) (both building) were damaged. Communications light and electric power are affected. (On 9/5 OBERON was sent to Scotts Building Yard to provide electric power, the yard otherwise effective).

Attack on
Belfast.

There was further enemy activity last night at Belfast, but no additional damage was caused to the Docks. The labour position is returning to normal. Electricity supply is still restricted.

Mining.

7 Hampdens laid mines last night in Quiberon Bay and 5 Beauforts off Brest.

Mining
of Clyde.

Further mines were laid in the Clyde during air raid last night. The river was closed all today.

Belfast is to be closed at night until further notice.

A mine was cut off Falmouth. Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and Clyde.

War Diary.7.5.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

Information was received today that a fast heavily armed merchantman was sighted by an aircraft at 1530 G.M.T/6 steering 150° in 8° N. 29° 50' W.

Mediterranean.Malta.

Enemy aircraft laid mines again last night in both entrances to Malta harbour and inside the breakwater. It may be impossible to sail the remainder of the 5th D.F. to R/V for Operation "Tiger".

Tripoli.

Two F.A.A. Swordfish with a flare-carrying Swordfish carried out a minelaying operation against Tripoli harbour last night. They reported the harbour to be crammed with shipping. One Swordfish did not return to base.

→ Tobruk.

Enemy aircraft bombed the harbour water installations twice today. Damage was slight.

R.A.F.
attack
on Convoy.

At 1141 today 5 Blenheims escorted by 3 Beaufighters attacked a convoy of 8 small merchant vessels escorted by two escort vessels, proceeding south in 35° 50' N. 12° 14' E. One ship of 3000 tons and one of 1500 tons were reported to have been damaged. Swordfish were sent to attack with torpedoes, but found the convoy sheltering in Lampedusa harbour in a position where it was impossible to attack. One Swordfish aimed a torpedo through the harbour entrance.

Transport
sunk.

TAKU reports having sunk a transport. No further details known.

→ Air raids
on Tobruk.
STOKE sunk.

STOKE (Minesweeper) has been sunk and SVANA (M/S Trawler) slightly damaged in two air raids on Mersa Tobruk. 4 or 5 of the enemy aircraft were shot down, 2 of them by LADYBIRD.

Greece.

Operations by RORQUAL see C. in C. Med 2209/7.

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

BRITISH
EMPEROR
sunk.

BRITISH EMPEROR (tanker) reported being shelled by an armed merchant raider at 0055/7 G.M.T. in 8° 30' N. 56° 25' E. From later information it appears that she was sunk by the raider PENGUIN No. 33.

HERMES'
aircraft.

All aircraft in HERMES are to be placed at the disposal of A.O.C. Iraq for operations either from HERMES or from shore aerodrome as required by him.

America & West Indies.

The first four Ex. U.S.A. Coastguard cutters left Halifax today for U.K. with Convoy H.X. 125.

U-Boat Campaign.

Northern
Approaches.

EASTERN STAR and IXION in Convoy O.B. 318 were reported at 2120 today to have been torpedoed in 61° 29' N. 22° 40' W. Both ships sank later. BULLDOG attacked a contact.

South
Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE at 0846 intercepted a report that S.S. FERLANE had been torpedoed in 10° 2' N. 20° 17' W. at 0810 G.M.T.

* FERLANE

MOST SECRETWar Diary7.5.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSPolicy.Transfer of
Canadian
Corvettes.

A.M. 1033/28/4. Proposed date for transfer of vessels 15/5 C.C.C.S. consulted. (C. in C. W.A., 1823B/7.)

OperationsOperation
Q.F.

Operation Q.F. will not take place tonight on account of weather. (C. in C. Nore., 1020B/7.)

Dover
shelled.

Eleven shells fired into Dover area between 1930 and 1950 today. Casualties. No damage to naval or military property. (V.A.Dover 2320B/7)

British Air ActivityAir Attacks
on shipping.

Day 6 May (H.Q.B.C. 0052/7.)

PatrolsAir Patrols today. ^{"Unit"} ~~UNIT~~ in operation ~~ROSEBUD~~. (C. in C. Rosyth 0600/7.)FURIOUS

Your 2350/1, 1326B/6 and 0023B/7. If not required to operate own aircraft could probably carry 100 Hurricanes i.e. 70 in hangars 30 on deck provided top weight can be accepted. Have insufficient data to decide this. Reduce one and a half Hurricanes for each Fulmar carried. Worth trying but the exact number must be settled by experiment. (FURIOUS 1100/7.)

Your 1100/7. It is confirmed that a load of 64 Hurricanes and 9 Fulmars in the hangers and 6 Fulmars on deck is maximum permissible.

2. With this load ship must start in the extra deep condition with about 3830 tons of oil fuel on board and with R.F. tanks full.

3. The R.F. tanks should be kept full as far as practicable and the O.F. should not fall below 1,000 tons.

/4.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary7.5.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSBritish Air ActivitiesFURIOUS-Contd.

4. If essential to use some of the last 1,000 tons of O.F. the oil tanks must be flooded so that the weight of O.F. plus water in the tanks is not less than 1,000 tons. (V.C.N.S 2002B/7 to FURIOUS)

Smoke screens.

Request your opinion on the value of smoke protection in the light of recent bombing. (V.C.N.S., 1202B/7 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Own A/C fired on.

Your 1117/19/4. Air Ministry report that aircraft in question may in fact unfortunately have been Hampden X 2999 returning from operations over enemy territory.

Have you any further information as to the circumstances in which fire was opened or other matter which has come to light since above signal was made?
(D. of L.D. 1752B/7 to C. in C. Nore)

Escort

Expect Blenheim escort tomorrow from first light until arrival. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1910/7 to WALPOLE)

56 Squadron Camouflage of Hurricane Aircraft.

Message 1335/6 from H.Q. 11 Group. Please take necessary action. (D.S.D. 2052B/7 to C. in C. Nore., V.A. Dover)

Enemy Air ActivityConvoy W.N. Odd.

Help ~~MATERIAL~~ ^{Material} 261° Cape Wrath 35. Course and speed of Convoy 090° 6 knots.
(Convoy ~~MATERIAL~~ ^{Material} 0233/7)

SUSARION (A/P Trawler) Sunk.

SUSARION sank in position 174° Humber L/V 2 miles at 0340 today. Ship was near missed by two bombs at 0030. Fourteen survivors and one dead landed at Grimsby. Two missing. (F.O.Humber 0912B/7, 1036B/7)

/SELKIRK.....

MOST SECRET7.5.1941.
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity-Contd.SELKIRK
(Bombed 4/5)

Completing temporary repairs on low water today making ship tight. Will refloat and shift to Parkeston Quay at high water tonight. Request two tugs and berth. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1000/7)

Belfast.

Further enemy activity Monday night but no addition damage docks. Port open but account lack electricity supply work still restricted, Labour position returning to normal. (Shiprep, Belfast: Recd. 1105/7)

Belfast
✓ FAIRHEAD
(British, 1719 tons)
FREDERIKA LENSEN
(British, 4283 tons)
Blockship Sunk.
✓ CAPE BRETON
(British, 6044 tons)
BOSWORTH
(British, 6672 tons)
✓ SHEPPERTON FERRY
(British, 2339 tons)
EMPIRE PUMA
(British, 7777 tons)
Slightly damaged.

Ships were sunk or damaged during Air-Raid on Night 4/5 May. (D.S. 7/5)

Clyde.
Air-Raid of
Night 6/7.
BLUESTONE
GOWAN HILL
Damaged.

Damage to Shipyards. Details.
Completion dates of all immediate new construction vessels affected appreciably (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1430/7 and 2245/7)

Present situation. Very extensive damage Greenock and Port Glasgow. Naval damages as follows. Details. 4 Naval ratings believed killed. Electric light power out of action for about 6 days. Communications, no direct touch with Glasgow, Liverpool or Admiralty. Post Office telephones working. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1915/7.)

Plymouth
Lighter Sunk.

Anti Patrol Lighter C 293 which was being prepared for towage to Dartmouth was sunk by enemy action on night of 29/30 April. (C. in C. Plymouth 1705/7.)

/Jan Mayen.....

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday:

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

Jan Mayen.

Jan Mayen reports seaplane patrol over Island 0740 today. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1836/7)

Convoy
E.N. Odd.

1 enemy aircraft shadowing convoy ^{"U.sage"} ~~USAGE~~. My position 57° 54' N, 1° 43' W. (ALYNBANK 1848/17) Fighters have been despatched to ~~USAGE~~ ^{"U.sage"}. (Lyness W.T. 2058B/7).

Liverpool.
Air-Raid.
ASIATIC
(British 3741 tons)
KYDONIEES,
ADDA,
(British 7816 tons)
MAHOUT (British 7921 Tons)
damaged.
BRA-KAR sunk.

My 1831/6/5. Situation to 1800/7. Add ASIATIC, KYDONIEES, and ADDA damaged by fire, MAHOUT by explosion, and another Tug and several Barges sunk. CLAN MACINNES less serious than reported and awaiting dry dock. ROXBURGH CASTLE and TACOMA STAR expected ready for docking in a week. BRAKAR now sunk. Further damage to Docks particularly in South Docks. Details. Considerable further civil damage occurred, and water supply not yet restored. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1922/7).

Mining.

Clyde.

River Clyde between Great Harbour and River Kelvin is closed to all traffic until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0437/7).

Tyne.

H.M.T. DAVID OGILVIE fitted with S.A. Type A Mark II commenced operations today. Satisfactory negative result. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1356/7).

Clyde
Air Raid of
Nights 5/6
and 6/7.

My 2234/6. The mine in channel off Dumbarton has been exploded this morning, leaving from attack on 5/6 May one mine doubtfully reported abreast Rothesay Dock. Additional mines resulting from last night's attack are as follows: (A) Above Bowling: 4 mines were reported in channel and three of them have been exploded by sweeping this morning - two or three doubtful reports under investigation. (B) Below Bowling: One mine on edge of channel at Dumbuck and one on Pillar Bank clear of channel. Mines on night 5/6 May appeared to be dropped in threes. Mines last night appeared to be dropped in twos or threes. River will be closed throughout. Above refers only to river as far down as Great Harbour F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to report on mine situation below Great Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1430/7) (D.O.D.H. 1611B/7 to C. in CWA)

My 1430/7.....

War Diary

7.5.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Clyde Air
Raid of
Nights 5/6
and 6/7
(contd).

My 1430/7. Clyde report.
Mine reported as a serious menace off Dumbarton has not been exploded. Another mine off Port Glasgow was blown up and was mistaken for the above mentioned Dumbarton mine.
No further mines blown up in today's sweeping. Mines remaining in River above great harbour are 1 at Dumbreck and 1 above mentioned at Dumbarton. Intend opening river from Renfrew to Kingston Dock and Rothesay Dock to Bowling from 0900 to noon in order to facilitate dockings and repair damage at Scotts Greenock.
(F.O. Glasgow 2245/7) *See also 1410/11, page 336*

Belfast

Port of Belfast will be closed daily from 2200 to 0900 the following date until further notice. (F.O.I.C., Belfast 1630/7)

Operation
B.S. 56

By TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER on date to be chosen by C. in C. Nore., Particulars. F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to detail two paddle minesweepers to comply with the requirements of C.O. TEVIOT BANK.
(V.C.N.S. 1739B/7)

Falmouth

While clearing small area to S.E. of 192 Q.Z.S. 1 mine cut in 50° 4' 30" N., 4° 54' 34" W. Mine sunk by rifle fire.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1855/7)

Enemy Intelligence

Brest

Photographic R/C of Brest 0800/7 shows both battlecruisers present. (D.D.I.C. 0957B/7)
No further R/C of Brest 7/5. (D.D.I.C. 2100B/7)
Visual R/C of Brest 2015/7. Both Battlecruisers present. (D.D.I.C. 2155B/7)

Suspicious
object.

Am investigating suspicious object as indicated oil patch in 59° 27' N., 7° 24' W. (A/C G.1. 1350/7 to 18 Group H.Q.)

/BISMARCK.....

War Diary

7.5.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

BISMARCK
TIRPITZ

Following believed by Swedish Intelligence Staff: BISMARCK or sister ship proceeded into Kattegat few weeks ago in support of large convoy bound Christiansand. She subsequently returned Baltic and two battleships have been seen off and on exercising from Gdynia past three weeks.

(N.A. Stockholm 1723/6)

N.I.D. Comment. This report may refer to 14/4 when BISMARCK was reported to have passed between the Skaw and the Swedish Coast steering N.W.

The two battleships must be BISMARCK and TIRPITZ which are known to have operated from Gdynia during April.

Baltic

Ice Report (N.A. Stockholm 1749/7)

German
Main Units

Following is from reports graded B.2. BISMARCK at Gdynia, 27/4. TIRPITZ left Gdynia 22/4, probably for trials. LÜTZOW at Swinemunde, 2/5. EMDEN and other cruiser, believed to be NÜRNBERG left Danzig, 23/4, probably for exercises. KÖLN left Swinemunde, 28/4.

From R/C. GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST at Brest, 7/5 ADMIRAL SCHEER at Kiel, 3/5. PRINZ EUGEN at Kiel 3/5 HIPPER at Kiel, 30/4, berth not covered on 3/5, SEYDLITZ at Bremen, 2/5.

Unlocated LEIPZIG and GRAF ZEPPELIN.
(D.D.I.C., 1805B/7.)

Unidentified
Motor Boat

One unidentified motor boat, probably friendly, was sighted to westward from Sumburgh steering north at 2100/7.
(A.C.O.S. 2258B/7 to BROCKLESBY)

MOST SECRETWar Diary7.5.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping & ConvoysH.X. Convoy
Cycle.

Your 1702/1. Whilst agreeing that convoy sailings from Halifax every four days are most desirable, both from the point of view of imports and economical use of local escort, it is regretted that ocean escorts will be inadequate to allow this cycle to be operated in the immediate future. (A.C.N.S. (T) 0024B/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

HIGHLAND PRINCESS

A.M. 2101/6 Should complete embarkation p.m./7 and most undesirable that she should remain loaded in Mersey until 9/5. Request you will arrange for her to be moved as soon as convenient. (D.D.D. (H) 1353B/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

Warning of
"E" Boats.

The use of two white rockets by a merchant ship in convoy as indicated in A.M.S.I. 317, A.M. 631A of 24th/12 and 755A of 5/2 is extended to include "E" boats in addition to U boats. (D.D.T. 1902B/7 "A" Message 54A)

Warning of
A/C Attack.

On seeing Flag Z International hoisted by Escorted Commodore ships in convoy must be ready to open fire instantly with the whole of their A.A. armament. (D.T.D. 1955B/7 to A.I.G. 44 etc.) Amplified, see 1755/9.

T.H.V's
and air
protection.

T.H.V. SATALITE sailed from Yarmouth to remove and tow LYNN WELL L.V. to Yarmouth did not adhere to her programme. Realised may not always be possible for T.H.V's to adhere strictly to their programme, but most important if fighter protection is to be adequate that any alterations should be communicated immediately by W/T through the escort. Request Trinity House be asked to impress this upon all Masters of Tenders. (C. in C. Nore, 2231B/7 to Admty.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary7.5.1941.
WednesdayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSNICOLAS

Greek oiler NICOLAS for Barry Roads has broken D.G. gear. Being sent to Belfast for repairs. (CALDWELL 0700/7)

LEOPARD

Extensive boiler defects necessitate moving French Cruiser LEOPARD from Grimsby to Hull. (F.O. Humber 1040/7)

Trawler
in distress.

Departure of Tug KROOMAN at 2344 to assist Trawler in distress 108° 8 miles Lowestoft (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2356/7)

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders.

My 1922/30. Intelligence. (D.D.I.C., 1936B/7) See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic.

VELOX
WRESTLER

Departure in accordance with my 0034/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 0132A/7 to Admty C. in C. S.A. DUNEDIN).

CACHALOT.

My 1610A/6. Delayed 24 hours. Route amended, second and third positions will be omitted. (F.O.C.N.A. 1034/7 to C. in C. Med).

NORD ATLANTIC.

German tanker, reported yesterday has large number of oil drums on deck. (Coruna 1210/7 to Admty).

Gibraltar and
Tangier
Evacuees.

Following require passages to U.K.
(a) 1800 Gibraltarians now at Gibraltar.
(b) A number of British, Polish and other allied nationals in Portugal. (c) British and Allied nationals in Tangier.
(d) Gibraltarian evacuees at present in Tangier. ARUNDEL CASTLE and NEA HELLAS are to be diverted to Gibraltar so as to arrive as soon as possible. Accomodation available approx. 1000 and 2000. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange passage of personnel from Lisbon to Gibraltar by sea to fit in with transhipment at Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (F) 1337B/7 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A).

Armed guard
in COLONIAL.

Admty. 0127/6. Now informed by Agents that S.S. COLONIAL is proceeding direct from Casablanca to Lisbon. (Consul, Funchal, 1412/7 to F.O.C.N.A).

GERDA VITH
(German).

Sailed from Ferrol night 3rd/4th destination unknown. (F.O.C.N.A., 1527/7 to N.A. Stn). Departure 6/5 2030 G.M.T. after loading 1,000 sacks beans. (Bilbao, 1758/7).

/French.....

1936B/7 May

209(A)

SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT.

Addressed: C. in C. Home Fleet. 428. Date. 7.5.41.
 Naval Attache Washington.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic. 170.
 C. in C. South Atlantic. 951.
 N.O.i/c Simonstown. 816.
 R.A. South America Division. 47.
 C. in C. America & West Indies. 468.
 Australian Commonwealth Naval Board. 139.
 C. in C. China 885.
 N. S. H.Q. Ottawa. 970.
 C. in C. East Indies. 67.
 New Zealand Naval Board. 157.

Interdepartmental Cypher V.

From: Admiralty.

NITE.

Begins My 1922/30.

North Atlantic.

S.S. TRAFALGAR reported being followed by a suspicious vessel in position 44°43'N. 29°32'W. on 30th April. Message not yet cancelled. TRAFALGAR is not yet due at Capetown. D/F indications on 5th May of enemy surface unit, in position 47°N. 27°W, probably an auxiliary vessel proceeding to or from a French Atlantic port.

South Atlantic.

Egyptian ZAMZAM overdue at Capetown since 21st April may have been attacked by the raider which was responsible for the wreckage found in position 130 miles N.N.W. of Capetown on 24th April.

Indian Ocean.

BRITISH EMPEROR (bound for Abadan) reported being shelled on 7th May in position 008°30'N. 056°25'E. She was probably attacked by same raider which attacked CLAN BUCHANAN on 28th April. D/F indications of enemy surface unit within 200 miles of 25°30'S. 55°30'E. on 5th May, may have been the same unit D/Fd in vicinity of Prince Edward Island on 28th April.

Pacific Ocean.

Norwegian TAMESIS reports being chased and fired on by supposed raider in approximately 022°N. 136°E. on 15th April. Raider outdistanced raider at speed of 18 knots.

1936B/7 Ends.

D.D.I.C.

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

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) (2)
 Nav. Sec.
 C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 OPS. (4)

D.T.D. (4)
 D.T.D. (M)
 Cdr. Holbrook.
 O.I.C. (4)
 D. of P. (3)
 D.S.D. 9.
 D.A/S.W.
 W.D.
 D.P.D.
 D.S.D. (2)

D.N.I. (4)
 M. (2)
 O.D. (5)
 I.P. (3)

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

French
Convoys.

3 passed Gibraltar 7/5. Details in D.O.R. 9/5.

C.F. 1.
REPULSE.
ARGUS.

Your 1224A/5 and C. in C. S.A's 2357N/6. You should ensure that maximum possible accommodation is filled observing shortness of the voyage. REPULSE and ARGUS may also be used for conveying service personnel. (1st S.L. 1603B/7 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Italian A/C
Report.

At 1524 G.M.T. an Italian A/C reported sighting 3 classes Naval units with 2 of the same class amongst them. (F.O.C.N.A., 1658A/7 to S.O. Force H., C. in C. Med., C.O.S. Alexandria).

German
Unit.

German Naval unit was on a bearing 247° class 1 from Gibraltar at 1919/7 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 2033A/7 to N.A. Stn). My 2033/A/7 Admiralty reports unit referred to is U-Boat southwest of Iceland. (F.O.C.N.A. 2323A/7 to N.A. Stn) See U-Boat Campaign.

Weather
Operation
"Tiger".

Forecast until 1200/8. Western Mediterranean. (F.O.C.N.A. 2324A/7 to S.O. Force H., F.O.C. 15th C.S).

Armed guard
COLONIAL.

^{N.T. N.W.D.}
Admty. 1954A/2 and British Consul Funchal's 1412/7. ERIN boarded COLONIAL. Armed guard not on board, Master reported them in a concentration (?camp) (F.O.C.N.A. 2344A/7 to Admty).

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

S.L. 74
and U/Boats.

In view of U-Boat activities off Freetown suggest S.L. 74 be sailed to conform with your 2501/29/4 and be re-routed to keep to eastward of 20° W. until north of 30° N. keeping out of sight of land as far as practicable and passing not less than 60 miles off Cape Verde. Request maximum surface and air A/S escort may be provided. (A.C.N.S. (T) 0009B/7 to C. in C. S.A).

OAKDENE
torpedoed
6/5.

Your 1954N/6. (Submarine sighting report). Request particulars. (D.D.I.C. 1010B/7 to C. in C. S.A).
Your 1010/7. My 1954/6 referred to OAKDENE Torpedoed 1200/6, 006° 19' N., 027° 51' W. DORSETSHIRE has rescued complete crew. (C. in C.S.A., 0953N/7 to Admt).
W.D. Note. No other signals referring to loss of OAKDENE received in W.D.

See p 222

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

.FO.I.C. Malaya 0415/2. Request intended employment of NIEUW AMSTERDAM on arrival Durban. No mention of this ship appears in M.E's proposals for movement 2nd South African Divn. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1022B/7 to D. of S.T).

U/B
Report.

By D/F at 2032Z/6. (C. in C. S.A. 1125N/7)
See U-Boat Campaign.

ERICA,
SNAPDRAGON.

Are boiler cleaning at Simonstown also certain modifications to S.A. Equipment have been taken in hand. It is not proposed to dock these vessels at Simonstown. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1227B/7 to Admt).

French Guns
for W. Africa.

Chief of French Naval Staff requests that 4 - 75 mm H.A. guns may be removed from F.S. COURBET for shipment to West Africa to replace guns damaged by enemy action in transit. Request you will arrange for the removal of these guns urgently. (D. of L.D. 1311B/7 to A.S. Portsmouth).

/Shipping.....

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Shipping
News for
Oil Companies.

Report dated 6/5 from N. C.S.O. Rio De Janeiro re Oil companies supplied by their head office with accurate advance information of British Ships expected and requiring bunkers. Details are not essential and could be passed through Naval Channels when ships clear of danger zone. (S.O.I. Freetown 1407N/7 to Admtly).

Armed
Merchant
Ship.

Following received from Washington. A fast heavily armed merchantman with a clipper bow and two funnels was sighted by an aircraft at 1530 G.M.T./6 on course 150 in 8 N 29. 50 W. (Admtly 1515B/7 to C. in C.S.A).

Shipping
Freetown.

Re approach routes and dispersion. (C. in C.S.A., 1757N/7 to Admtly) See Lion copy

CARTHAGE
(French).

Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar 4/5. Arrived CARTHAGE from the South. (N.A. Washington 1701/7 to Admtly).

HIGHLAND
PRINCESS.

Your 2101/3 to D. of S.T. No objection provided A/S escort can be arranged until clear of probable submarine waters. (D.O.D.(F) 1852B/7 to C. in C. S.A).

EMPIRE
TROOPER.

Your 1247/6 to D. of S.T. No objection, provided A/S escort can be arranged until clear of probable submarine waters, and ship routed inshore during passage to Capetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1853B/7 to C. in C.S.A)

Ships with
Swiss Cargoes.

Following from N. C.S.O. Buenos Aires. Three Greek Steamers loading for Swiss Govt. shortly leaving for Lisbon, KASSOS and NEREUS via St. Vincent, MOUNT AETNA via Las Palmas. Is it in order for the vessels to be routed via these Ports, Request instructions. (S.O.I Freetown 2028N/7 to Admtly).

/W.S. 8A.....

MOST SECRET

212(A)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1757N/7 May.

IN

From. C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 8.5.41.

Time. 0048.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY W/T

Addressed. Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

~~39.~~ The instruction in Admiralty 0001 of 1st May part 37 (5) that ships shall approach Freetown from an unusual direction is thought hardly sufficient. The routes are given by many routing authorities and what is unusual to one may be usual to another and much cross routing result. Unless forces are available to protect a lane consider general principle to be followed should be dispersion over the whole area of approach between a line 307 degs. from position X at end of searched channel (8 degs. 30' North 13 degs. 39' West) and a line 198 degs. 45 miles from X and then coast.

With so many ports of departure it is difficult to ensure dispersion and to assist it is proposed ships from U.K. and West Indies shall be routed for the last 130 miles of passage to X through the Sector 307 degs. and 253 degs. from X, ships from the Cape through area between line 253 degs. from X and a line running 214 degs. 60 miles from X to position Y (7 degs. 40' North 14 degs. 13' West) and thence to position Z 173 degs. 79 miles from Y, ships from West Africa through area bounded by X Y Z and the coast.

Ships in each sector to be dispersed as much as possible. The size of these sectors is arranged in proportion to number of ships which arrive Freetown per month. Adjustments can be made by diverting from Freetown as required when the routes are known or in view of situation at time. It has been assumed that ships from South America will no longer call at Freetown.

1757N/7

Advance copy sent D.O.D. (F) D.C., D.T.D.

1st Lord.
1st 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.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.T.D. (2) for action.
D.T.D. (H)
D.D.I.C.

D.S.D.9.
I.P.
Duty Capt.
Head of M.
W.D.
D.N.I. (4)

RN

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

W.S. 8A.
NELSON.
MAURITIUS.
EAGLE.

A.T. 1732/1. Intended that NELSON and MAURITIUS should exchange escort duties when Convoy WS 8A and EAGLE pass each other. This is estimated to take place approx. in latitude of St. Helena on 17/5. MAURITIUS will then proceed with EAGLE to Freetown and NELSON with WS 8A to Durban. (V.C.N.S., 2306B/7 to C. in C. S.A) Cancelled, see 0012/10.

A/S
Measures.
Freetown.

Reply to Admty. 2318B/6 (C. in C.S.A. 2345N/7) See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.

Minefields.

Your reasons are appreciated but in case our contentions should prove to be correct it is suggested that the first minefield laid should be fitted with short term flooders. (1st S.L. 0120B/7 to C. in C.Med).

Prisoners
of War.

Re Shipments to Australia.
(W.O. 0020/7 to C. in C. M.E.).

S.S. MESSARYA)
NOMIKOU)
SOFIA)

Greek. Sunk by enemy action in Greek waters before 26/4. (D.S. 610, 7/5).

MAURO CROCE.
(Italian).

Arrived 6/5. (Barcelona, 0270/7).

S.S. MARIA
EUGENIA
(sunk)
GLORIA STELLA
(damaged).
SNIA AMBA
(damaged).

Port Records dated 30/1 recovered from Benghazi in January show these ships sunk or damaged in harbour before British occupation on 7/2. SNIA AMBA was believed sunk by TETRARCH on 4/11/1940 but must have reached harbour and was probably destroyed in later air raids. Possible that GLORIA STELLA was one of the derelict vessels reported in R/C on 16/4. (D.S. 610, 7/5).

/TAKU.....

MOST SECRET

213(A)

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

IN.

2345N/7th.May.

Date: 8.5.41.

Recd: 0515.

From: C, in C, South Atlantic.

Naval Cypher (XR) by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Your 2318B/6 A/S Vessels.

Generally it has not been possible to maintain any patrol or hunting force in the area all forces available have been concentrated on convoy escort in order to meet requirements in Admiralty O113/28/3 and in spite of this, number for convoy has on occasions been down to three, using trawlers when required. Occasionally it has been possible to send out one or two for special duty. Destroyers have been employed on escorting heavy ships and important and fast units such as W S convoys and other ships carrying personnel. All vessels have had little time in harbour and unless boiler cleaning this has been generally interrupted. Matters should improve when further corvettes promised arrive but consider sufficient number always to provide a hunting force or patrol in the area necessary. To do this require at least two more corvettes making a total of 18 which would still only provide four or occasionally 5 for convoy in addition. First sighting of submarine reported in area 27th April though not verified till later, first sinking known May 6th. 5 corvettes on passage were diverted to area but all but two had to return for convoy S L 74 no others available. On delay of convoy all A/S escort have been sent to area but these will have to return by 9th May. Diversion has been carried out where possible but this is handicapped by inevitable concentration near Freetown. Lack of knowledge of positions of ships on route and possibility that diversion at any distance may meet next move of submarine, chief reliance has had to be placed on A F messages. A lane of approach not desirable unless forces available to protect. Proposals to ensure more dispersion in approach being forwarded. Additional corvettes required as early as possible, only eight now and two on passage available four Sunderlands on 25th April five from 4th May and Albatross Walrus. Walrus carry out dusk and dawn patrol to depth about 60 to 70 miles and during day if requirement arises and to greater depth if necessary and close (corrupt group) convoy escort. Generally ?daylight endurance prevents going to greater distance unless known requirement for particular object, known ship arriving or reported submarine. Sunderlands employed chiefly on convoy escort and generally not more than one has been available for patrol or search in Freetown area in addition, then employed outside Walrus radius in accordance with situation at time, known submarine, suspected area submarine activity or important ships arriving or leaving. When weather permits Sunderlands leave before daylight and on occasion have left later and returned after dark.

/ Generally ...

General overhauls, defects, and necessity for economy in use to prevent early major overhaul has prevented more than two available and convoy escort absorbs much of effort. Example SL 73 escorted from 27th April to 1st May inclusive. Two Sunderlands at Bathurst since 4th May for W S 8 arriving and 8 L 74 leaving and one for patrol of Freetown area as well. Perimeter of area of shipping approach at 130 miles is about 400 miles.

2345N/7
Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F), D.T.D.,
D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
3rd 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.D.I.C.
D.S.D.
D.A./S.W.
D.M.S.
D.T.D. (2)
I.P.
D. of L.D.
W.D.
Duty Capt.

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

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

TAKU.
Transport
sunk.

Your 2221. V.A. Malta 1445/14/4 not held. Have sunk transport. (TAKU 0453/7 to Capt S.1) Your 0453/7 V.A. Malta's 1445/14 gives route through (details) URGE reports single M.A.S. approached at high speed when it is doubtful if URGE was sighted before diving at dawn North of Pantellaria. (S.O.S. Malta 1405B/7 to TAKU).

Tripoli
mined.

Two Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. despatched to lay Cucumbers Tripoli harbour approaches. Heavy smoke screen front of Northern Mole and along coast making laying difficult. First cucumber laid too far out from reef. Second aircraft managed to get behind smoke screen and locate harbour entrance. Second Cucumber in position 070° two cables from West Beacon. Harbour crammed with shipping. The 2 Cucumber laying aircraft landed base safely. Flare dropping aircraft did not return to base. (Malta 0715/7).

Enemy
Mines.
Malta.

Both entrances again mined last night, also inside breakwater. It may be impossible to sail remainder 5th D.F. to R/V with "TIGER" (V.A. Malta 1045B/7 to S.O. Force H., C. in C. Med).

Lieut Amando
hostage in
REGENT.

My 1151/5. Request you sound Turkish authorities as to possibility of Amando being repatriated via Turkey. (Head of M. 1055B/7 to N.A. Ankara).

8 Enemy
M.V's.

8 unescorted Merchant Ships 036° 06' 011° 57' Course - 180° 6 knots at 1100B/7. Blenheim aircraft are proceeding to attack. (Cdr. S.1., 1302B/7 to URSULA).

*TSAR
FERDINAND.

*
TZAR

Bulgarian, 2,000 G.T. passed Istanbul fully loaded for Aegean 8.15 G.M.T./7. Estimated speed 9 knots, grey hull, yellow funnel, black top, well deck forward, long poop with deck house to poop, counter stern. (S.O.I. Istanbul, T.H.I. 1410/7).

/German.....

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

German
M.V's.

Memo. S.O. 12 app 1 para 3. Nos. 2 and 9 are reported to be proceeding Aegean. (descriptions). Para. 1 CORDELIA and AEKADIA reported Black Sea loading for Greece. (Capt. S.1 14530/7 to RORQUAL).

TETRARCH

Will leave vicinity of Ras Aamer at 2000/9 and proceed (route) to vicinity of Benghazi. She has been informed of your movements. (Capt. S.1. 1457C/7 to TRIUMPH).

Enemy Convoy
attacked by
A/C's.
2 M/V's
hit.

Following information from Maryland Recco off Pantellaria of convoy 8 small M/V's 0900 hours G.M.T., 36° 06' N. 11° 57' E. course 180° speed 6 knots, 5 Blenheims 21 Sqn escorted by 3 Beaufighters despatched to attack. At 1141 hours convoy plus 2 escort vessels attacked in position 35° 50' N 12° 14' E. Direct hit on one M/V 3,000 tons and 1 M/V 1500 tons. One left smoking and both listing badly. 1 probable hit on M/V 1500 tons and 2 near misses on other M/V. Convoy was heading 160° from above position when last seen. Smoke impeded visibility but convoy seen to be slowing down. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1450/7). Maryland Recco convoy after attack by Blenheims 21 Sqn, reported in my I.295, 7/5. Same convoy 8 M/V 2 escort vessels heading for Lamprousa, 3000-tonner lagging and sinking. (H.Q. Malta 2100/7).

S/M off
Dardanelles..

The many calls on your submarines are appreciated, but it seems that if one were stationed off the Dardanelles, results of value against enemy shipping should result. (1st S.L. 1610B/7 to C. in C. Med).

/Malta.....

War Diary.7.5.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Malta
Air Raids.

Report Malta up to 1600/7. Night 6/7, approx. 40 aircraft came over in three waves Ju.88's JU.87's and H.E. 111's. Targets were Luqa Aerodrome and Grand Harbour. 2 Ju. 88's shot down by Bofors confirmed. One on land one on edge of Coast. Fighters one shot down confirmed one probable one damaged. Damage. Northern Petroleum tank Marsa destroyed. Large fire. 14 houses destroyed in Casa Pawla and Cospicua. One civilian killed. Luqa damage only crater holes by runways. Dockyard suffered minor damage. Parachute mines laid in and outside Marsamuscetto and Grand Harbour. No casualties.

Enemy
Convoy.

Reccos. Maryland despatched recco Naples returned to report following convoy 0900 GMT 8 small M/V's unescorted 36° 06' N. 11° 57's course 180 deg speed 6 knots. 5 Blenheims and 3 Beaufighters despatched to attack reported in my I.295 7/5. Unable despatch Naples again owing unserviceability. Naples recco will be done tomorrow. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1630/7).

Boom Defence
Bosphorus.

Following for D.B.D. from Cdr. Cameron. Gate vessel, moorings, trots 1 to 5 and trot A laid from quays Bosphorus. Starting centres tomorrow. Cannot lay more trots till lighters are placed in position of gate vessels. (Beyoglu, 1716/7 to Admty).

Suspected
"Q" Ship.

Information received 3 masted sailing ship attempted salvage from wreck near No. 3 buoy. This sailing ship suspected to be well armed Q ship. (Cdr. S.1. 1855B/7 to URSULA).

Operation
M.D. 4.

A. 978 Wellingtons attacking shipping Benghazi night 7th/8th ordered to keep clear from 2359 - 0200 and to avoid attacking shipping at Sea. (204 Group 1950/7 to C. in C Med).

Funds for
Greek Fleet.

My 1745/25. Greek Admiral has requested that 20,000 pounds Egyptian may be put at his disposal to meet requirements for Greek fleet for month of May. Request approval to supply this money. Request also general instruction regarding policy as regards payment, repairs and supplies both to Greek and Yugo-Slavia War ships now in port under our control. (C. in C. Med., 2018/7 to Admty).

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

STUART.

Broke down, fractured lubricating pipe proceeding slowly on one engine for Alexandria. Hope to make temporary repairs during night when I may be able to return in time to overhaul convoy. If relief destroyer available she could join in position $187^{\circ} 52$ miles from position 84 from which convoy (?steers for) 84. (Capt. D.10 2101/7 to R.A.I.C. Alexandria).

RORQUAL

Your 1610B/7. RORQUAL sailed for a certain operation. (C. in C. Med., 2209/7 to Admty). See Med. Vol.

D.10.

Your 1519/7. (N.T. in W.R) Sending air cover to $035^{\circ} 24'$ N. $026^{\circ} 16'$ E. at 0600/8 and estimate your E.T.A. Suda Bay 1530/8. Inform me if this estimate is seriously incorrect. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 2215/7 to Capt. (D) 10, GRIMSBY).

Swordfish
Operation
Against
Convoy.

Special Ops. Summary. Night May 7/8, 4 Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. despatched to attack part of convoy outside Lampedusa Harbour reported in my I.297 7/5. 3 carried Torpedoes and 1 carried flares. Whole convoy seen in Lampedusa Harbour which unsuitable for Torpedo attack. All Swordfish returned safely 2 which Torpedoes. One Swordfish aimed Torpedo through Harbour entrance. Result not seen. Fairly intense accurate Light A.A. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2215/7).

Malta
Mine
Clearance.

Your 1725B/7 (N.T. in Admty) Impracticable to turn back convoy as there are no escorts. Besides other steps which you are doubtless taking, following preparations should be made for entry of convoy.
(a) Any portion of the boom which is foul of the channel is to be removed. (b) Channel which GLOXINIA is to sweep should be accurately buoyed before her arrival.
(c) Depth chages should be exploded every 60 feet in this channel. Use these liberally. (Instructions re GLOXINIA).
(C. in C. Med., 2225C/7 to V.A. Malta).

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

BRITISH
EMPEROR.
"Q" Report.

British tanker, 3665 tons, from Durban in ballast for Abadan. "Q" distress message was made by unknown ship at 0055 G.M.T/7 008° 30 N. 056° 25' E. ship reported being shelled. (C. in C. E.I. 0216Z/7 to E.I. Sqdn) (D.S. 611).
My 0216/7 is passed to you. Ship was probably BRITISH EMPEROR bound for Abadan in Ballast. (C. in C. E.I. 0300Z/7 to C. in C. S.A., N.Z.N.B., etc).
My 0300/7, it is confirmed that ship was BRITISH EMPEROR. (C. in C. E.I. 0512/Z/7 to C. in C. S.A. Admty etc).
Position about 240 miles E.S.E. from Cape Guardafui, Indian Ocean. (D.S. 611).

Habbaniya.
Enemy
Withdrawal.

Daily operational summary. No. 5.
6/5. Early reconnaissance Habbaniya area reported apparent abandonment of enemy positions in immediate vicinity of camp. This confirmed by armoured car patrols. Mopping up operations resulted in capture 26 officers and 409 other ranks of enemy. (A.H.Q. Iraq No. T.O.O./7).

B.P.I.A.

My 1300/6. Convoy B.P.I.A. arrived Basra 1241 G.M.T./5. (C. in C. E.I. 0526Z/7 to Admty.).

Force V.

Distribution (C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/7) See Lion Copy.

TALAMBA.

N.O. i/c Aden's 0853/6 and my 0710/7. TALAMBA has been detached to proceed independently to Bombay through position 19° North 60° E. at best speed. (C. in C. E.I 1022Z/7 to Admty.).

Minesweepers.

My 0636/5/5 para. 5. LILAVATI being lent by India in addition to LAXMI. Anticipate both will arrive Shatt-el-Arab about 21/5. (C. in C. E.I. 1028Z/7 to Admty) Admty. 1249⁵ refers. Subject ground mining by aircraft, etc.

/Bandar.....

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN 0710/7/ May.
 1106Z/7/ May.
 1740/7/ May.
 From C. in C. East Indies. Date 8.5.41.
 Recd. 0038
 2236/7
 2332/7

NAVAL CYPHER C BY CABLE.

Addressed Force V.

IMPORTANT.

Distribution of Force V all times G.M.T. 7th May.

(i) H.M.S. CORNWALL proceeding 25 knots from approximate position 002 deg. 30' North 057 deg. 30' at 0700 to patrol area between 004 deg. North and 097 deg. North and longitude 058 deg. and 063 deg. speed on patrol 12 knots.

(ii) H.M.S. LEANDER proceeding 25 knots from position 009 deg. 20' North 072 deg. 10' at 0500 towards Socotra.

(iii) H.M.S. GLASGOW proceeding 23 knots from approximate position 012 degs. 30' North 049 degs. 40' at 0300 to position 010 degs. 40' North 053 degs. 30' then towards position Equator 050 degs. East at 20 knots.

(iv) H.M.S. HECTOR (A.M.C.) is patrolling between position Equator 047 degs. 50' and 004 degs. South 045 degs. at about 14 knots.

(v) H.M.S. LIVERPOOL is proceeding from approximate position 013 degs. 10' North 051 degs. 10' through 013 degs. 30' North 054 degs. thence through 8 degs. channel to Colombo at 15 knots.

(vi) H.M.S. CERES and H.M.S. CANBERRA are escorting Convoy S W 6 and U S 10 B respectively.

0710Z/7
 Advance copy sent Duty Capt., D.C.D.(F) & D.D.I.C.

From. C. in C. East Indies.
 NAVAL CODE (B) BY CABLE.

Addressed. Australian Commonwealth Naval Board., Admiralty.,
 C. in C. South Atlantic., New Zealand Naval
 Board., Capt. on the Staff, Singapore.,
 N.O.I.C. Simonstown.

IMPORTANT.

525. My 0710 7th 2 parts is passed to you.
 1106Z/7

From. C. in C. East Indies.
 NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

530. My 0710/7.
 A.O.C. Aden is assisting with an air
 reconnaissance between Mukalla and Socotra 8th O.K.

1740/7

Advance copy sent Cps, C.D. & C.I.C.

1st Lord.	Duty Capt. (2)	D. of P. (2)
1st S.L.	D.D.I.C.	D.N.I. (4)
V.C.N.S.	D.S.D.	I.P.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.F. (2)	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.T.D. (M)	W.D.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	P. A/S W.	D.N.A.D.
D.O.D. (F)	Head of M.	
D.D.O.D. (F)		

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Bandar
Kassim.

Occupied 5/5 without incident. 67 Italian prisoners and considerable quantity of military stores captured. (C. in C. E.I. 1152Z/7 to Admty. etc).

DANAE.

My 1650/5. Cancel reference Trincomalee 265 proceed now to Colombo to arrive P.M/8. (C. in C. E.I. 1210Z/7 to DANAE).

HERMES
aircraft.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 94. All aircraft in HERMES are to be placed at disposal of A.O.C. Iraq for operations either from HERMES or from shore aerodrome as required by A.O.C., Iraq. (Ends). Above signal has been despatched by Admiralty to S.N.O.P.G. repeated C. in C. E.I. A.O.C. Iraq. (W.O. 1440/7 to C. in C. M.E).

Cable Cut.

Reported from Bushire that Fao/Basra land lines have been cut and therefore no cable communication with Iraq or Kuwait via Persian Gulf cable, S.N.O.P.G. 1215/6/5 refers. (C. in C. E.I. 1720Z/7 to Admty).

China.

R.N.A.S.
Morib.

For the defence of Malaya C. in C. F.E. considers it most necessary that all aerodromes should be suitable for R.A.F aircraft. I concur and am arranging. (C. in C. China 0429/7 to Admty).

War Diary.7.5.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Swedish &
Japanese
Ships to
Report
British.

Seattle report A.1. that Swedish and Japanese vessels have been ordered to wireless position of all British vessels in their vicinity. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0010Z/7 to Capt. O.S. Singapore).

A.M.C's ^{for} ~~from~~
Iceland.

Your 1324/6. My 1446/26/4 includes all A.M.C. expected visit to Iceland. Further forecast of approx. date of arrival is as follows: CALIFORNIA 30/5, RANPURA 3/6 MALOJA 9/6 CHITRAL 13/6 CHESHIRE 19/6; AUSONIA 23/6. (F.O.3 B.S. 1021P/7 to Admty).

Greenland
Suspicious
Ship.

Following from State Dept. During mid-April on several occasions white two masted steamship observed near coast in the neighbourhood of Kagsmirt, northward of Julianehaab, Greenland. Local authorities give credence to report but know of no such vessel. (N.A. Washington 1220/7 to Admty).

Ex. U.S.
Cutters.

Halifax departures CULVER, HARTLAND, FISHGUARD, BANFF. As Ocean escort H.X. 125, REVENGE. (S.O. I. Halifax 1248Z/7 to Admty etc).

BRITANNIC

Your 1817/4 para 6. This can be undertaken. Will BRITANNIC require dry docking? Request also all possible advance information on repairs required. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1407 Z/7 to Admty, D. of S.T).

British
Honduras,
German
Threat.

H.M. Minister, Guatemala, in message to F.O. considers German propaganda and influence plus ineffectiveness of U.S. Control, complacent attitude of President and Government and disaffection of natives might result in German Putsch with consequent grave menace of attack on British Honduras from Coban. Considers Putsch possible at any time but likely to be precipitated as U.S. becomes more involved in war. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1715R/7 to Admty, C. in C. A.W.I).

/EMPIRE.....

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

EMPIRE
HAWKSBILL.

Reported that when at sea on 4/4 failed to comply with correct procedure for challenge and reply. Provisions instructions contained in N.C.S.I. 181 should be brought to notice of Master. (D.T.D. 1956B/7 to Consul, Baltimore).

Australia.

Enemy
Mines.

My 1042Z/28. (re sinking of MILUMUMUL).
Now consider Norah Head mine was laid
November 1940. (A.C.N.B. 0857Z/7 to Admty).

War Diary.7.5.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.OAKDENE.

British, 4255 tons, torpedoed at 1200/6, 06.19 N., 27.51 W., DORSETSHIRE rescued crew. (See South Atlantic). Formerly in O.G. 59 Convoy from Cardiff for Buenos Aires with coal. Ship presumed sunk. (D.S. 611, 8/5).
Following intercepted from Kubl S.S. OHIOAN addressed all Station (begins) Here searching for crew of OAKDENE, anybody know if they have been found (ends). (Valentia Radio 2342/7 to Admty). *S. p. 211.*

SANGRO
(Torpedoed
6/5).

Have picked up four Italian survivors from raft from SANGRO who state no boats or other rafts got away. Have searched round raft and 50 miles to leeward. Am returning to base. (HEATHER 0945/7 to C. in C. W.A).

LASSELL
(torpedoed
30/4).

British 7417 tons, formerly in O.B. 309, Liverpool for Buenos Aires. Intercepted message from Spanish ships MONTE ALBERTINO and KAULDI states that ships rescued survivors of British S.S. LASSELL from boats on 5/5, noon position that day being 400 from St. Vincent and 1270 from Canaries. (F.O.C.N.A. 1220/7 to Admty) (D.S. 611, 8/5).
** MONTE ALBERTINO.*

EMANUEL
(sunk 6/5).

Faroes fishing vessel EMANUEL sunk by gunfire from Submarine 2300/6 in approx; position 15 miles west of Myggenaes Island, Faroes. Captain and 2 of crew killed. Remainder saved. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1445B/7 to A.C.O.S., A.C.O.S. 1553B/7 to O & S. Command).

CALCHAS.
(torpedoed 21/4).

My 2117/4. It is reported another life boat CALCHAS with 21 survivors has landed at Boavista. (N.S.S.O. St. Vincent 1605/7 to Admty).

/PRINS.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.7.5.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (contd).PRINS
WILLEM II.
(torpedoed 8/4).

British TUSCAN STAR arrived Montevideo 7/5 with 9 survivors from Dutch PRINS WILLEM II torpedoed at 2345/8/4 in 59° 12' N. 24° 18' W. Survivors (names in my immediately following telegram to Admty. only) are continuing to Buenos Aires. Survivors report that Captain and 11 others got away from ship in second boat. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1721/7, 1725/7 to Admty.).

EASTERN STAR.
IXION.

Following has been read. SSSS 61.29 N., 24.12 W., EASTERN STAR and IXION torpedoed. (Port Patrick Radio 2120/7 Ottawa 2318Z/7). British, EASTERN STAR, 5658 tons, IXION 10,263 tons, in Convoy O.B. 318. (D.S. 611, 8/5). EASTERN STAR, IXION torpedoed in 061° 29' N. 022° 40' W. former burnt out, latter appears salvageable. All survivors rescued, still counter attacking. Weather calm. Tug required. (Sdapa W/T from 2235Z/7 to C. in C. W.A.); W.D. Note. Different longitude from former signal. My 2235Z/7. Both ships have now sunk. Intend continuing asdic search with AMAZON till 0900/8. 8 attacks carried out, no positive evidence of success. (BULLDOG, 0240Z/8 to C. in C. W. A.).

Submarines Reported.

2259/6.

D/F bearings at 2259/6 G.M.T. indicate U/Boat off the coast of South America between Bahia and Rio de Janeiro. (D.D.I.C. 0612B/7 to C. in C. S.A.).

2032/6.
2258/6.

D/F bearings at 2032Z/6 suggest U boat within 150 miles of 11° N. 32° W. Reliability 65%. D/F bearings at 2258Z/6 indicate U boat within 100 miles of 22½° S. 39° W. Reliability 70 per cent. Like the traffic intercepted from a U boat in this area on 3/5, the intercepted message was a lengthy report. My 1131/4 refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1125N/7 to S.A. Stn.).

/Estimated.....

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1421B/7).

1300

Italian U/B inward bound to Gironde was between 45° N. and 46° N. 6° 30' W. and 7° W. at 1300/7 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1547B/7).

1919/7
G.M.T.

Your 2033A/7 (see North Atlantic) Unit referred to is U/B placed by D/F to S.W. of Iceland. (D.D.I.C. 2311B/7 to F.O.C.N.A).

Submarines Attacked.

By BULLDOG.

See Ships Attacked. EASTERN STAR and IXION.

By A/C
0945/4.

Hudson A/C "R" 220 Sqn. made ASV contact on enemy S/m of 800 tons 09.45 - 4/5/41 position 60.52 N., 9.40 W. course 060 or 240 degrees. Echo observed 15 miles to port ratio port 2 starboard 1 size half centimetre. On homing E/S was sighted 10 miles ahead proving true D/F. Echo small but well defined. E/S crash dived. Two depth charges dropped, no visible results. Echo was 1 1/3 centimetres at maximum range then 10 miles.

By A/C
1637.

Hudson A/C O made A.S.V. contact an enemy submarine position 59.18 N., 8.40 W. 1637 hours. Echo observed 8 miles ratio 2 port - 1 starboard half centimetre in size. Course corrected 15° to home E/S sighted 4 miles 5° to port decks awash. A/C dived to 400'. E/S crash dived. 3 depth charges dropped, air bubbles and eruptions observed on surface 20 seconds later, followed by green and yellow below water, later oil patch 30 - 40 yards radius. (Pitreavie, 2105/7 to H.Q.C.C).

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

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

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

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

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

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Reports indicate that a succession of transports proceeded from Germany to north Norway as far as Kirkenes during late March and early April. See Annexe A to C.I.C. Report No. 347, 12/5/41.

British Air Operations.

89 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest last night and claim a hit with a 500 lb. and 2,000 lb. bomb on the battle cruiser in dry dock, and with a 2,000 lb. bomb on the battle cruiser at the T/B Station. A bomb is also reported to have hit in the dock.

14 Wellingtons attacked St. Nazaire last night. Bremen docks and shipping were also bombed.

A destroyer escorting a convoy of 10 or more ships North of Terschelling was attacked last night and a hit is stated to be reasonably certain.

Blenheims claim to have hit today and probably sunk a flakship at Hafsfjord (58° 57' N 5° 35' E).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Operations.VIVA II
sunk.

A group of merchant vessels from Falmouth to Milford Haven, escorted by CLEVELAND was attacked at 0123 and 0409 today. In the earlier attack A/S yacht VIVA II was sunk; no damage was caused in the second attack.

UBERTY
sunk.

A/P Drifter UBERTY was reported sunk during the night by air attack, apparently off Lowestoft.

M/S Trawler GRAMPION was slightly damaged by air attack off Aberdeen this evening.

Attack on
Liverpool.
VISCOUNT.
HURRICANE.
badly damaged.
Merchant ships
destroyed and
damaged.

There was a further attack on Liverpool last night. VISCOUNT and HURRICANE badly damaged. The latter likely to break in two. MAPLIN (fighter catapult ship) was slightly damaged. Further damage was caused to merchant ships, S.S. MARTON and TRENTINO are probably burnt out, BARON INCHCAPE damaged and TALTHYBIUS evacuated on account of U.X.B. There was further considerable damage to the Docks. Harland and Wolff was damaged.

Attack on
Hull
JUSTIFIER
damaged.

Hull was bombed from 0000 to 0230 today. Superficial damage was caused to WHADDON, VIVACIOUS and other ships. M/S Drifter JUSTIFIER was damaged and damage was caused at the Naval Base, where the offices were completely wrecked, but not to merchant ships or ship repair firms. Port facilities are little affected.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining.

Mines were laid by aircraft last night off Cherbourg and the Frisian Islands.

Liverpool.

Whilst present conditions persist at Liverpool the convoy escort groups based there will use Greenock and in some cases Lough Foyle as temporary base.

East coast.

THISTLE
SILICIA
sunk.

Examination vessel THISTLE was mined and sunk this morning in 52° 28' N 1° 47' E off Lowestoft. A fishing boat was sunk this afternoon, apparently by mine in 51° 45' 30" N 1° 9' 0" E.

Mines were exploded off the Humber today, M/S Trawler SILICIA was sunk at Hull where mines were laid during air attack last night.

The Tyne was closed from 0348 to 0937.

Shipping & Convoys.

C. in C. Western Approaches suggests, in view of the low percentage of meets made by aircraft with incoming independent ships, a second reporting line be established on 18° W.

Ships from ocean convoys for East Coast ports are to proceed direct to Methil without calling at Loch Ewe or Oban, commencing as soon after 15/5 as practicable.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.

As unconfirmed reports state that DUNKERQUE arrived Toulon at the beginning of May, F.O.C.N.A. was asked if he could carry out a reconnaissance of Oran, but there are no aircraft at Gibraltar suitable. S.O. Force H is to do so with ARK ROYAL aircraft on return from Operation "Tiger" if possible.

S/M TRUANT intercepted this afternoon the French S.S. GALLIUM in 39.40 N., 03.50 E, proceeding from Bona to Sete with phosphates. Whilst escorting her to Gibraltar, TRUANT was intercepted by a French destroyer and S/MS and lost the prize *41/5. (See p. 342)*

South Atlantic.

At 0245 today S.S. NEVADA II reported a suspicious ship or ships following her in 12° 6' N 25° 53' W. This is close to the position where S.S. DEMBOU made S.O.S. at 0915/6. The report was cancelled at 0542.

At 1000 today, S.S. PORT JACKSON made a raider report from 16.08 N., 14.29 W., but cancelled it 25 minutes later.

At 1218 today S.S. CERAMIC reported a suspicious vessel approaching in 13.58 S., 11.18 W. Her "Q" report was cancelled at 1245.

A minor.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic. (contd).

A minor collision occurred today between DOMINION MONARCH and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, in Convoy W.S.8A, and they will need 48 hours and 7 days respectively for repairs. C. in C. South Atlantic assumes convoy will not be delayed for HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN.

Mediterranean.Malta.

About 10 aircraft attacked Malta in the early part of last night, the raid was not intense; many bombs were dropped in the sea; damage was negligible. No Naval damage is reported.

Libya.

Last night, 7 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour and other places on the Libyan coast.

Two Swordfish laid mines off Tripoli.

Bombardment of Benghazi.

Benghazi was bombarded about 0100 today by AJAX, HOTSPUR, HAVOCK and IMPERIAL, who were detached from the Fleet (engaged in operation M.D.4) at 100/7. Hits were obtained on ships alongside. 2 laden ships approaching were destroyed, 1 evidently an ammunition ship as she was blown to bits, and fire on the water suggested she may have been carrying oil.

RAWNSLEY in convoy was hit by an aerial torpedo today in 34° 56' N 26° 3' E.

Suez Canal.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. (contd).Suez Canal.

Last night, 15 enemy aircraft laid mines between Port Said and Kantara, of which 6 exploded. One aircraft laid mines near Kabrit, of which 2 exploded. The Canal was closed from Km. 3 to Kantara.

Greece.

Details of the demolition explosives placed in the Corinth Canal are given in 1214/8 from Canea to Admty. It is reported that Italians have occupied Santorin and that Samos and Zognia Island, off the Gulf of Volo was occupied this morning.

ARKADIA (German) passed Istanbul to the Aegean this morning, fully loaded.

A summary of merchant shipping tonnage lost during Operations "Lustre" (transport of Expeditionary Force to Greece) and "Demon" (Evacuation of Greece), is contained in R.A. Alexandria's 0951/8. During "Lustre" 147,000 tons were lost and 57,000 tons were damaged. During "Demon" 36,000 tons were lost and 6,000 tons damaged.

East Indies.Iraq.

The Admiralty have asked C. in C. Med., to send two A.A. Trawlers to the Shatt el Arab, if he can spare them, in case of enemy mining of the river.

At 2015 C. in C. M.E. was ordered to assume command of the forces in southern Iraq. His instructions to G.O.C. 10th Indian Divn. are in C. in C. M.E. 2015/8.

As the result.....

War Diary.

8.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. (contd).

/I
Raider
PENGUIN
sunk. /I

As the result of two victims of attack by armed raider PENGUIN or No. 33 getting out raider reports CORNWALL at 1225 Z today intercepted and sank PENGUIN in 3° 30' N 57° 48' E. CORNWALL had slight damage and 3 casualties from gunfire. Survivors state that the raider has one or more whalers co-operating in the area. It appears that she transferred survivors from earlier sinkings to a supply ship on 21/4 and afterwards sank EMPIRE LIGHT (25/4) CLAN BUCHANAN (28/4) and BRITISH EMPEROR (7/5).

U-Boat Campaign.

Northern
Atlantic.

S.S. RAMILLIES was torpedoed at 1618 today in 47° 30' N 30° 52' W. She had left convoy O.B. 317 and was bound for Baltimore.

War Diary.

8.5.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Sites for
W.A. Command
H.Q.

In reviewing alternative site for Western Approaches Headquarters Malvern has been considered. Staff Officers will visit Malvern and proposals will be forwarded by courier on their return. (C. in C. W.A. 1809B/8.).

Liverpool
Escort
Groups.

While present conditions persist at Liverpool, escort groups based there will use Greenock and in some cases Lough Foyle as a temporary base. (C. in C. W.A. 1850B/8.)

A/A protection
of Shipping.

A.A. problems affecting the protection of merchant shipping will in future be discussed at the fortnightly Anti-Submarine meeting held at the Admiralty. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2100B/8.)

Defence of U.K.

Iceland
A/S
Drifters.

Admiralty's 1032/26/4, para. 2 and 1754/30/4. There are 2 groups of A/S. Drifters at Scapa, the 72nd and 71st. The 71st group are not suitable for passage to Iceland (vide Admiralty's letter D.O.4599/41 of 30/4.) Endurance with 8 tons of coal is only 300 miles in suitable weather conditions. 72nd group which are very similar ships are available, but in view of Admiralty letter quoted it is very doubtful whether they should attempt passage. This group consists of only four drifters one of which is due for refit shortly. (A.C.O.S. 1312B/8 to Adty.)

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War Diary.

8.5.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

NEPTUNE.

One destroyer is to be sailed to R/V with NEPTUNE off Kinnaird Head, at 1230/10, and is to provide escort at Scapa. ?

(2) NEPTUNE will be escorted as far as Kinnaird Head by a destroyer from the Nore Command. (C. in C. H.F. 1057B/8.)

BERWICK.

Your 1028/1. Intend to sail BERWICK P.M./12. Ship will have no main armaments or R D/F. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1823B/7.)

VIDETTE.

My p.c. and s. are 046°06' N., 014° 56'W. 000° 12 knots. Fuel remaining is only sufficient for 765 miles at economical speed of 12 knots. Request instructions. (VIDETTE 2245B/8.)

Operations.

Clyde-Iceland Ferry.

N.O.I.C. Greenock 1635/7, just received. LANCASTER will R/V 20 miles 180° Skerryvore at 0830/8. (LANCASTER 0540/8 to CHESHIRE, WELLS.)

Operation Q.F.

Operation Q.F. will not take place tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1158B/8.)

Dover Patrols.

Two trawlers on O D 5 and two on O D 1. Two M.L's on O D 6 and 7 combined. Two drifters patrolling in Dungeness East Roads, two between Elbow and Botany Buoy, and two between North Goodwin and Elbow Buoys. (V.A. Dover 1623B/8.) My 1440/8. Delete 2 Mls. Patrolling off Lizard and substitute 2 Mls. on patrol 13' S.W. Lands End. 3 MGB on patrol 8' S. Lizard. (C. in C. Plymouth 1818/8.)

/Iceland.....

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6.5.41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Iceland-
Faroes
Patrol.

C.S.2. in GALATEA with ARETHUSA is to leave patrol at 1200/10 and return to Scapa.
(ii) C.S.10 in NIGERIA with KENYA is to sail from Scapa P.M./10th to patrol between N.P. line T.R. 34 and South Coast of Iceland.(C. in C. H.F. 1857B/8.)

Special
Operation.

Request you will detail one M.T.B. fitted with a silent auxiliary engine to proceed to Falmouth for a special operation. Boat should arrive not later than P.M./12. (D.O.D.H. 1919B/8.)

British Air Activity.

Escort.

In view of F.W., activity expect one Hudson as escort from 1st light. (C. in C. Rosyth 0228/8 to R.A.M.L.)

Patrols.

Patrols ~~PORT~~^{"Bart"} and ~~STAND~~^{"Stand"} taking off 1500 to endeavour locate convoy of about 24 merchant ships reported by bomber A/C to be anchored off Stavanger at 0700/8. (C. in C. Rosyth 1442/8.)
Patrol ~~PORT~~^{"Bart"} now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1552/8.)
Parallel track A/S Sweep will be flown by three Whitley A/C between following positions. From 1900/8 until 0300/9. (C. in C. Rosyth 1738/8.)
Dusk patrol on DAFODIL call sign ~~DAFODIL~~^{"Lancet"}. (C. in C. Rosyth 2156/8 to ALYNBANK.)

Brest
St. Nazaire
Bremen
and M.V's
attacked.

On Night 7/8 89 a/c dropped 121 tons of bombs, on SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest. Crew are certain that a 500-lb bomb hit the ship in the dry dock, and another crew claim a direct hit on the same ship with a 2,000 lb., bomb which was seen to burst between bow and funnel.

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War Diary.

8.5.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Brest
St. Nazaire
Bremen
and M/V's
attacked.

A third crew saw a 2,000 lb. bomb hit the battle cruiser in the T/B Station, and the burst was seen in the forepart of the ship, causing a large explosion which clearly illuminated it. One Hampden also claims a direct hit with a 500 lb. bomb in the dry dock. Other crews claim repeated straddling of the ships and near misses sufficient to cause damage to them. Explosions and large fires were also seen in the dock area. (H.Q.B.C. 1600/8.)

Escort
arrangements.

Owing to increased demand for fighter aircraft during moonlight periods, I propose that 19 group should take over a small proportion of the day escorts now carried out by 10 group. 2. This will mean that 19 group will be unable to provide night escorts for convoys which I am prepared to accept. (C. in C. Plymouth 1622/8.)

Thames
Estuary
Enemy
A/C shot
down.

Commodore of C.E.33 reports that at 0630B/7th three unidentified aircraft were definitely observed to fall in the sea and possibly a fourth, but the last too distant to be certain. This was the result of air activity over convoy by Fighter Patrol above 1500 ft., cloud layer - not from gunfire by convoy. Position between Elbow Buoy and N.E.Spit. (C. in C. Nore 1641B/8.)

Protection
for
ST. ALBANS.

R.A.D.'s 1146/8. As fighter protection is not provided in the Irish Sea for single destroyers it is requested that C. in C. Plymouth will apply for protection for ST.ALBANS if required in his command. (C. in C. W.A. 2145B/8.)

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War Diary.

8.5.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

KEPPEL.

F/WS are expected operating in your vicinity from 0630/8. No air escort available. (C. in C. W.A. 0056B/8 to KEPPEL.)

UBERTY.

(A/P Drifter). Reported sunk by enemy air attack. No survivors. (Commander M/S. A/P Lowestoft 0102B/8, 0452B/8.)

Convoy "Sapper".
SAPPER.

Request fighter protection for ^{"Sapper"}~~SAPPER~~ (group of M.V.s Falmouth to Milford Haven.) (CLEVELAND 0119/8.)

VIVA II
(A/S Yacht).
sunk.

My 0119. Enemy aircraft bombing. (CLEVELAND 0123/8.)
Help ~~SAPPER~~ 267° Trevoze Head 13. (PEARL 0137/8.)

BLOMFIELD.—In proud and loving memory of my beloved husband. CAPTAIN MYLES A. BLOMFIELD, O.B.E., Royal Navy, killed in action while in command of H.M.S. Viva II, and of the Officers and Men who lost their lives with him, May 8, 1941.
"Oh true, brave heart, God bless thee wheresoe'er in His wide Universe thou art to-day."

True Monday May 9. 1941.

Fighters have been sent to ~~SAPPER~~ ^{"Sapper"} (Plymouth W/T 0149/8.)

My 0119. VIVA II hit by bomb and sunk. Am picking up survivors. (CLEVELAND 0127/8.)

Request fighter protection for ~~SAPPER~~ ^{"Sapper"} 267° Trevoze Head 13. (CLEVELAND 0226/8.) (PEARL 0230/8.)

My 0127. Have 8 survivors on board, 2 Officers 6 men. (CLEVELAND 0229/8.)

Help - Convoy ~~SAPPER~~ being bombed by enemy aircraft in position 51° 24' N., 31° 24' W. (CLEVELAND 0409/8.)

My 0409. Three bombs, not hits. (CLEVELAND 0421/8.)

Hull
Air-Raid
Night 7/8.

Considerable damage by enemy action at Hull on night 7-8/5. (O.I.C. Works, Immingham 1130/8.)
W.P.S. Offices and record completely destroyed. (Warshiprod, Hull 1207/8.)

Convoy "Numeral".
NUMERAL.

Fighters are being despatched to assist convoy ~~NUMERAL~~. (Rosyth 1143/8.)

/Liverpool.....

War Diary.

8.5.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

Liverpool
bombed.
VISCOUNT
HURRICANE
(Destroyers)
MAPLIN
(Catapult
Ship)
damaged.

VISCOUNT and HURRICANE badly damaged former by near miss and engine room and after boiler room flooded latter direct hit in after part about 30 feet from stern and likely to break in two. MAPLIN direct hit burst on No. 2 hatch. Only superficial damage. Believed no naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1249/8, and 1929/8.)

MARTON
(British,
4969 Tons)
TRENTINO
(British
3079 Tons)
probably
burnt out.
TALTHYBIUS
evacuated.
BARON INCHCAPE
(British, 7005
Tons.)damaged.

My 1922/7/5. Situation 1800/8.
My 1249/8.
Add MARTON and TRENTINO probably burnt out. BARON INCHCAPE damaged by direct hit and bows resting on bottom. TALTHYBIUS evacuated until 0800/12 on account 250 K G U X B. Other ships may be damaged but information not complete. Further considerable damage by H.E. and fire to North Docks, and nearly all sheds from Alexandra north to Huskisson South Docks are destroyed. No additional damage to Birkenhead and Liverpool South Docks. One pipe line Dingle Jetty repaired. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1909/8.)

SOCIAL
(Steam Barge,
108 Tons)
SIRIUS.
(Lightship
off Liverpool.)
sunk.
TRAFFIC (Steam
Barge, 155 Tons.)
OYSTER. (Barge 133
Tons.)
LUCE (Barge, 143
tons.
ENID BLANCHE
(Tug, 99 tons)
submerged.

Casualties during Air-Raids on Liverpool between 3/5 and 4/5. (D.S. 8/5.)

Hull
bombed.
WHADDON
VIVACIOUS!
(Destroyers)
JUSTIFIER.
(M/S Drifter)
damaged.

Hull was bombed from midnight until 0230 7/8 May. Many fires uncontrolled. Superficial damage to WHADDON, VIVACIOUS, and other ships. JUSTIFIER damaged by near miss but afloat and safe. Naval Base Office Hull completely destroyed with contents. No damage to merchant ships or ship repair firms. Port facilities little affected. (N.O.I.C. Humber 1611B/8.)

War Diary.8.5.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. Contd.Unknown
Ship.Automatic A A A A heard G.K.Z.1915
Q. S. A. 3 bearing 325 from G.K.Z.155
from G.C.C. (Portishead Radio 1927/8.)Clyde
bombed.No damage to war effort or ships. No
mines dropped in river. Only one air-
craft attacked city dropping one bomb on
waste ground.PAKENHAM.
ROBERTS.
damaged.Further to my 2245/7. John Browns report
PAKENHAM houses on forecastle deck badly
damaged by blast. ROBERTS motor boat
wrecked, also searchlights and director
towers gun machinery etc. severely
damaged. Shipyard on East Wharf also
extensively damaged and cranes suspect.
About two thirds of employees working.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2142/8.)Mining.Port of Tyne closed owing to suspected
enemy minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0348/8.)
Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0937/8.)Thames
Estuary.One S.A. mine detonated at 2238/7. Details
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 0942/8.)Clyde.Mining situation below Great Harbour as
a result of enemy air attacks of the
nights of Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th
May. Mines suspected in the following
approx. positions. One blue mine
exploded in the channel close to No.5
channel buoy opposite Custom House at
0700 yesterday. (F.O.I.C. Greenock
1012/8.)Add to my 1020/7. One Blue Mine exploded
in Clyde River close to No.5 Buoy at
0710 one Blue Mine exploded in Channel
opposite John Brown shed at 0736 and one
blue opposite King George V Dock at
0705 on Wednesday.

(Commander M/S. Greenock 1023/8.)

Probable that Parachute Mines are still
in River off East India Dock Dumbarton
and Dumbuck. No Mines exploded today;
but the Mine which menaced navigation

/off.....

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War Diary.

8.5.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Clyde
Contd.

off Dumbarton has been located by dragging and is well to South side of channel. Anticipate sweeping a number of M/V's down harbour A.M. and up harbour P.M. tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2142/8.)

THISTLE.

(Examination vessel) Mined and sunk at 0830B/8 near N.E. Newcombe Buoy position 52° 28' N., 1° 47½' E. One survivor landed dangerously injured. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1031B/8.)

S.N.9A.

S.N.9A completed. (R.A.M. 1305/8.)

Gap E.
proposed.
reduction.

1. It is desired to reduce Gap E in East Coast Barrier to the limits of Q.Z.F.32.
2. PLOVER is available and it is proposed that she should operate from Harwich.
3. Operations should be possible during the dark night period beginning 18/5.
5. If you concur, request you will design the minefield and forward your proposals. (A.C.N.S.H. 1352/8 to C. in C. Nore.)

Hull.

Mines reported in Alexandra Dock and River, and several unexploded (? ashore) (N.O.I.C. Humber 1611 B/8.)
The following three mines exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber 2209B/8.)

Shrimper
sunk.

Brightlingsea report Shrimper towing trawl sunk at 1418/8 apparently by mine in about 51° 45' 30" N., 1° 9' E.
2 survivors uninjured being landed at Tollenburg by fishing smack.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1830B/8.)

SILICIA.

(Minesweeping Trawler) Sunk by mine 1545 today in 190° Albert Dock entrance Hull 3 cables. 7 believed missing.
(N.O.I.C. Humber 1845/8.)

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8.5.41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious
Ship.

Position $061^{\circ} 44' N.$, $014^{\circ} 15' W.$,
challenged large fast motor ship of
type CAPE TOWN CASTLE at long range.
No satisfactory reply. Course 300°
approx. (NORTHERN PRINCESS 1215B/8, to
S.O.N.T.)

Convoy
off
Ushant.

4 M/V's and 1 Destroyer bearing 180°
distance 4 miles, course 100° , position
 $49^{\circ} 7' N.$, $4^{\circ} 22' W.$ (A/C. ? Duty E.
1243/8 to ?).

Enemy
Transports
to
Northern
Norway.

My 1851/1 and 1723/6 paragraph (B).
1. Further reports indicated that
succession of transports have been
proceeding from Germany to north Norway
as far as Kirkenes late March and early
April. Last report shows six transports
sighted off Harstad and twelve off
Tjelsundet 20/4.
2. At Kirkenes 16 ships of 3000 to 6000
tons were reported 20/4 and more were
expected.
3. At Lyngen ELMAMSTAD discharged
soldiers ammunitions and two heavy guns
April 21/4.
4. In Tromso area at end of April
troops were brought from inland for
transport northwards believed East
Finmark. Graded C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 1811/8.)

Brest.

Visual R/C at 1630/8. Both battle-
cruisers in usual positions.
(D.D.I.C. 2012B/8.)

War Diary.

8.5.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W/T in
Fishing
Craft.

Several instances have occurred of fishing trawlers and small M/V's claiming (?failing) to have made enemy reports on R/T or W/T while at sea. After investigation it has been found that batteries have been run down. Request that owners and skippers may be warned of the danger through neglect of their W/T or R/T equipment particularly batteries.
(A.C.O.S., 1224B/8 to Admty.)

A/C.
Reporting
Line,
18° W.

In view of continued low percentage of meets made by aircraft with incoming independent merchant ships and the moving of the reporting meridian from 25° W., 35° W., by A.M. 0001/1/5, propose that 18° W., be established as a second reporting line and that the form of report in all cases be altered to bearing and distance from a lettered position at the time of origin thus intimating whether she is on her last ordered track. (C. in C. W.A. 1601/8, to Admty.)

Ocean
Convoys
for
Methil,
calls at
Loch Ewe
or Oban.

Now that ships returning to U.K. from overseas have at least two machine guns it is desired that ships from ocean convoy bound for east Coast ports should proceed direct to Methil without calling at Loch Ewe or Oban, commencing as soon after 15/5 as practicable.

2. Following appear to be alternative methods of providing escorts, observing uncertainty will always exist as to date and time of arrival of overseas convoys.
(A) Special Trawler escorts drawn from W.Approaches to be provided to meet convoys off Cape Wrath or Skerryvore. W.N. convoys to continue existing cycle.
(B) W.Approaches ocean escort trawlers to continue to Methil with east coast ships. W.N. to continue existing cycle.
(C) W.N. convoys to assemble at Loch Ewe and sail so as to conform to time and date of arrival of Homeward bound ocean convoys, destroyer escort reporting expected time of arrival as necessary.
Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1638/8 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth.

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8.5.41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. Contd.

Warning
of A/C.
Attack.

Your 2108B/5 and 1955B/7. Warnings on 500 kc/s will not necessarily enable merchant ships to make preparations as they may be issued at a time when W/T Watch is not being kept. Also there are a number of small ships in coastal convoys without W/T. Large number of warnings to be issued on 500 kc/s would be likely to interfere with reception of Raider reports and S.O.S. Traffic. For coastal convoys propose that escorts should be responsible for warning the convoy as in A.M. 1955B/7 and that a second signal be instituted for similar use at night. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1922/8, to Admty.)

Bofors
Guns.

To be partially stripped and cleaned after heavy weather or rain. Necessary to obtain Commodore's permission with a view to having as few guns as possible out of action at the same time when in dangerous area. (D.T.D. 2057B/8, to N.C.S.O.'s.)

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8.5.41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

DIANA LUCIE.

(A/P Trawler). My 0838/7. DIANA LUCIE returned to Swansea with engine defect. Time required ten to 14 days. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1448/8.)

OAKWORTH
Lifeboat.

Empty life-boat marked OAKWORTH Newcastle found in 063° 29' N., 020° 24' W., at 0700/7. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1938/8.)

CALEDONIAN
MONARCH.

Refloated and at anchor. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 2131B/8.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.CACHALOT.

Cancel my 2010/6. CACHALOT leaves Gibraltar 2100A/8 routed through 036° 30' N 001° 35' W 038° 27' N 002° 45' E 039° 00' N 006° 00'.E.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0910A/8 to TRUANT).

*Sailed - See next page*Blenheim
A/C's.

5 Blenheims leave Malta 1000 G.M.T. for Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0940 A/8 to S.O. Force H., C.S.15)

NORD ATLANTIC
GERDA VITH
(German).

My 1626/6. NORD ATLANTIC docked at Ferrol 6/5 and undocked 7/5 GERDA VITH arrived Bilbao 6/5.
(D.D.I.C. 1112B/8 to F.O.C.N.A. etc).
My 1112B/8. GERDA VITH departed Bilbao at 2030 G.M.T./6.
(D.D.I.C. 2337B/8).

DUNKERQUE.

Unconfirmed reports state arrived Toulon at beginning of May. Request you will carry out R/C of Oran at early opportunity, or, if you cannot do this that you will so inform F.O. Force H so that ARK ROYAL may carry it out on return from "TIGER" if this can be done without jeopardising Operation.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1349/8 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H.)

Admty 1349B/8 there are no aircraft stationed at Gibraltar suitable for such duty. S.O. Force "H" was requested before sailing to do so if opportunity offered.
(.F.O.C.N.A. 1940B /8 to Admty, S.O. Force H).

GALLIUM
intercepted
by TRUANT.

Have intercepted French ship GALLIUM in 039° 40' N 003° 50' E proceeding from Bona to Sete with cargo of phosphates. Am escorting ship to Gibraltar, request instructions.

(TRUANT, 1845B/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1845 B/8. Unless otherwise ordered continue to escort ship to Gibraltar having regard for safety of (? your) ship and necessity for not creating an incident with French Naval forces.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2326B/8 to TRUANT 2328/8 to Admty).

CACHALOT.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (contd).CACHALOT

Departure in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1610A
6 amended 1034A/7.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 2100A/8 to Admty etc).

*See previous page*SEVERN

Admty 2218A/3 and C. in C. S.A.'s 1801/30.
SEVERN is to report by W/T what spare gear
is required at Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. is
requested to take SEVERN in hand for defects
and report on her condition on arrival.
If available SEVERN will be required to sail
for an operation (date).
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2149B/8 to F.O.C.N.A., SEVERN).

GALENA

Spanish sailing vessel, German owned, left
Lisbon 24/4 for Cadiz suspected of having
a cargo of petrol under her cargo of wood.
(D.S. 611 8/5).

South Atlantic."Q" Report
NEVADA II.

Following received. Q Q Q Q 12 06 N 25 53 W -
NEVADA II suspicious ships following.
(Freetown W/T T.O.R. 0245/8).
No. 10 Gp. Rudloe intercepted 0554 G.M.T.
GLD (Lands End Radio). At 0542 from VPU
QQQQ NEVADA II. Cancel my 0345/2.
(Burnham on Sea Radio., T.H.I. 0851/8).

W.S. 8A.

Admty 1231/2 para (5) and your 1919/6. The
only M.T. ship in W.S.8A. is ABBEKERK with
vehicles, locomotives, aeroplanes and stores
for M.E. Particulars.
(D.S.T. 0258/B/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

"R" Report
PORT JACKSON.

From PORT JACKSON. RRRR 16.08 N., 14.29 W
suspicious 1000/8 (ends).
4d (VALENTIA RADIO, 0954/8 to Admty).
PORT JACKSON cancel our 1000/8.
(Valentia Radio, 1025/8).

"Q" Report.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd)."Q" Report,
CERAMIC.

Following has been read.
 Q Q Q Q 13 5 8 S 11 18 W., CERAMIC, suspicious vessel approaching.
 (Ascension Radio, 1444/8 to Admty).
 QQQQ CERAMIC cancel my 1218.
 (Ascension Radio 1608/8 to Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1245Z).

NELSON
EAGLE.

Admty 2306 B 7 and CORNWALL 1147/26 Report on necessity of boiler cleaning for EAGLE and earliest date NELSON and EAGLE can sail from Cape.
 (C. in C. S.A. 1219N/8 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

ASTURIAS

My 1331/6. On completion of move ordered in R.A.S.A.D. 1345/3 move to J 34 C and remain there 24 hours then proceed as previously ordered. This subject to any important requirements of R.A.S.A.D. who should intervene if necessary.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1315N/8 to ASTURIAS).

WRAY CASTLE
STONEPOOL
JAPAN.

Overdue shipping. British WRAY CASTLE^{*} Capetown departure 20th Due Freetown 5th, British STONEPOOL U.K. departure date unknown due Freetown 6th, Swedish JAPAN Milford Haven Departure 12th due Freetown 3rd have not arrived.
 (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1318N/8).

** See 2151st 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000*ALCANTARA
QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

ALCANTARA patrol as required in J 35 C and D QUEEN OF BERMUDA in J 35 A and B till p.m. /10 then QUEEN OF BERMUDA move to J 36 C. ALCANTARA proceed to join R.A.S.A.D.'s command.
 (C. in C. S.A. 1417N/8 to ALCANTARA, QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

ATLANTIS.
intelligence from
prisoner.

Following information obtained from survivor Solomon ex ATHELCKING and prisoner for six weeks in ATLANTIS graded A 3.

1-5 equipment.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.ATLANTIS
intelligence
from prisoner.
(contd).

1-5 equipment and armament of raider.
 (6) ATLANTIS position 22/10/1940 007° S
 102° E therefore could not have fought
 CARNARVON CASTLE*5/11/1940. (7) CITY
 OF BAGHDAD. code books all compromised.
 (8) ATHELKING guns completely neglected
 and guns crew did not close up for practice
 throughout entire voyage. Training gear
 jammed during action with raider.
 (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1608/8 to Admty).

* 5/12/40 K.L.S.L.S.

W.S. 8A.
Collision.

MAURITIUS reports HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN and
 DOMINION MONARCH in minor collision 8/5 both
 ships continuing speed unimpaired.
 DOMINION MONARCH requires 48 hours for
 temporary repairs. HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN
 reports 7 days required. Further report will
 be made on arrival but assume convoy should
 not be delayed for HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN.
 (C. in C. S.A. 1941N/8 to Admty).

German Cargo
ship.

Information (A.1). reports Theodore Wille
 and Co., received cypher message to effect
 that another German Cargo ship is on way out
 and may be expected here in a few days with
 a large cargo destined for fire brigade.
 (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1948Z/8) (S.O.(I)
 Montevideo 1918/8 to Admty). Reported later
 as JOAO PESSOA (see 1531/10).

A/S Forces.
Freetown Area.

Your 2318/6 and my 2345N/7. Consideration
 of problem leads to conclusion that to have
 more forces available provides the only
 real means of meeting situation that developed
 off Freetown between 5th and 7th/5 and
 previously between 30/3 and 12/4.
 A hunting force on patrol is required in this
 area. A/S vessels asked for are minimum
 required. More destroyers would be of
 great value. Could HUNT class be spared, speed
 is wanted both for convoy and patrol?
 More aircraft of endurance are wanted and
 use of Bathurst might be considered shortly
 for Hudsons or other shore based aircraft.
 More dispersion of shipping during last 150
 to 200 miles of approach is required.

Waters in area....

MOST SECRET.8.5.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.A/S Forces,
Freetown
Area (contd).

Waters in area suitable for A/S operation, and hunting forces might have good opportunity but attack Teacher and Johnson target still required for training.
(CinC.S.A. 2225N/8 to Admty amended 2125N/9).

Mediterranean.W.S.7
Transport of
Prisoners.

Your 1843/2. Any ships of W.S.7 except DEMPO, PASTEUR and EMPRESS OF CANADA or ANDES may be utilised for 3000 prisoners of war M.E. to U.K. on following basis.
(D.S.T. 0013B/8 to F.S.T.O. Egypt, C. in C. M.E.)

Situation
Report 19.
STOKE sunk.

(?Alexandria) 2 more mines exploded by double L between Great Pass and harbour. Port still open. Western Desert. No change on shore. Two (?heavy or "Dive bombing") raids on Mersa Tobruk. In second raid direct hits sank STOKE, about 15 missing. SVANA slightly damaged no casualties. Four or five enemy shot down, two by LADYBIRD. (?Port Said) mines raid North of Khassab just completed. No details as (? oscillating) (? one) mine on bank has cut telephone. Estimated 13 machines passed Alexandria. Aegean reported Santorin (?occupied) by Italians. TAKU still on patrol has sunk enemy transport.
(0115/8).

Mining Threat
to Shatt-el-
Arab.

Possible attempt will be made to cut our oil supplies and communications to Basra by mining the Shatt el Arab. On account of the low salinity of the water the most effective sweepers immediately available are A/A Trawlers MILFORD COUNTESS and ARTHUR CAVANAGH. If you can spare these request you will sail them immediately for Basra. If the threat develops will you be prepared to surrender 3 D.W.I. aircraft from the Suez Canal for Basra?
(V.C.N.S. 0128B/8 to C. in C. Med.)

Admty 0128B/8.....

War Diary.

8.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Mining Threat
to Shatt-El-
Arab. (contd).

Admty 0128/B/8. MILFORD COUNTESS and ARTHUR CAVANAGH will be sailed for Basra as soon as possible. I should be very loath to surrender D.W.I. aircraft as this type of machine has proved very useful in the Suez Canal.
(C. in C. Med., 1400C/8 to Admty etc). See also 251.

Relief for
STUART broken
down.

Your 2101/7. VOYAGER will leave Alexandria at 0830/8 to join convoy dawn/9.
(R.A. Alexandria, 0415C/8 to Capt D.10).

Enemy Unit.

From D/F bearings Italian warship call sign 4 L B was in position approx 60 miles north of Sirte at 2000/7.
(Capt O.S. Alexandria, 0802C/8 to V.A. Malta).

TZAR
FERDINAND.
(Rumanian)

BULGARIAN?

Passed Istanbul for Aegean noon/7 estimated speed 9 knots.
(Capt S.1. 0815/8 to RORQUAL).

Enemy Convoy
Attacked.

Convoy of 8 small M.V.s was attacked by Blenheim between Pantellaria and Lampedusa 7/5. 2 ships reported damaged. Convoy proceeded towards Lampedusa. Swordfish despatched to attack with torpedoes found convoy sheltering in Lampedusa harbour in position impossible to attack.
(V.A. Malta, 0910B/8 to C. in C. Med).

ZAMZAM.

Owners are asking whereabouts of Egyptian ZAMZAM understood due to arrive Capetown from Pernambuco 1/5 with 220 passengers. Local rumours ship overdue.
(R.A. Alexandria 0924C/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

TORBAY
Italians in
Ionian Islands.

My 1429/4. Establish patrol near Androth Is. until p.m. /10 thence proceeding (route) to Alexandria. Italians have occupied Ionian Islands and may also be using Lavarin but no definite information is available.
(Capt. S.1. 0945/8 to TORBAY.)

Operations "Lustre".....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Operations
"Lustre"
"Demon"
shipping
losses.

Summary of merchant shipping losses within the area during operation "LUSTRE". Lost British 12 ships, 63,000 tons. Greek 15 ships of 54,000 tons; Norwegian, 3 ships of 21,000; Danish, one of 8,000. Damaged. British 8 of 51,000; Greek, 2 of 6,000 total 147,000 lost and 57,000 damaged. During "DEMON" British one of 16,000, Dutch 2 of 20,000 Damaged. British 1 of 6,000. Total 36,000 lost 6,000 damaged. (R.A. Alexandria, 0951/8 to Admty etc).

Enemy A/C
Mining.

Operational Summary No. 332 up to 1200/8/5. Night 7th/8th. 15 enemy aircraft laid parachute mines between Port Said and Kantara of which 6 exploded 1 aircraft laid mines near Kabrit where 2 exploded.

Benghazi
bombed.

7 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour, Berca, Benina and Derna landing grounds. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1101/8).

Corinth
Canal.

Your 2256/6. Explosives placed on canal bed were eight depth charges lashed securely together and also 400 yards away one magnetic mine. Both lots were timed to explode about 2/5 but it was hoped mine would operate earlier if a ship passed. Charges were placed where sides are liable to slide and it was thought the explosions alone would block the canal for two months after dredging starts except for sailing ships.

(No. 10. Suda Bay, Canea, 1214/8 to Admty). See also C. in C. 1430/18 page 557.

URSULA
UPRIGHT
UNDAUNTED.

Orders for return to Malta. (Cdr. S.1. 1215B/8 to URSULA, UPRIGHT, UNDAUNTED).

TAKU
URSULA
UPRIGHT.

Anticipate following approx positions of S/Ms at 0001B/10 TAKU 037° 05' 011° 40' course 115° URSULA 036° 10' 011° 40' course 90° UPRIGHT 033° 10' 014° 10' course 000°. Request this be passed to ships in company. (V.A. Malta, 1221B/8 to C. in C. Med., F.O. 1.B.S. V.A.L.F. etc).

Movements.....

War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (contd).Movements.Summary No. 199, Part 2.
(C. in C. Med., 1227C/8) See Lion Copy.Malta,
Weather.Weather Malta vicinity up to midnight G.M.T.
(V.A. Malta, 1258B /8 to Med., Fleet.)Minisweepers forBasra.(See also p. 254,East India)Request you will sail ARTHUR CAVANAGH and MILFORD COUNTESS as soon as possible for Basra. L. Com. Maltby should proceed ARTHUR CAVANAGH. All available A/A spare gear is to be embarked.
(C. in C. Med., 1402C/8 to R.A. Alexandria).Greek Fleet,
Adm.
Sakellariou.Re disaffection in Greek Fleet, I believe it would be better if Admiral Sakellariou took charge at Alexandria. H.M. Minister is to speak King and President of Council about it this evening. If agreed here, can I know you agree, so that he can take passage at first opportunity? Sakellariou took charge difficult situation in Salamis about 24/4 which Canadias was unable to handle.
(N.A. Canea 1415/8 to C. in C. Med).Malta Air
Report.To 1600 hours 8/5 times G.M.T. About 10 enemy aircraft over for one hour early part of night. Raid not intense. Many bombs dropped in sea and few on land causing negligible civilian damage and no casualties. One Swordfish 830 Sqdn.F.A.A. searched for Fulmar failing to arrive from FORMIDABLE extremely bad visibility. No trace.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/8).Aircraft
for R.A.(A)In view of weather am delaying departure of your aircraft until tomorrow.
(V.A. Malta, 1602B/8 to R.A.(A) Med).Enemy A/Cs
in Canal Area.7/5 Enemy aircraft engaged at 2145 and on their way to and from (canal)? area.
(R.A. Alexandria 1635/8 to Admty etc).

Malta Mine.....

MOST SECRET

251(A)

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1227C/8 May.

From C. in C. Mediterranean Fleet.

IN.
Date 9.5.41.

Recd. 1611.

NAVAL CODE (O) BY W/T.

Addressed C. in C. Mediterranean Fleet, at Sea, V.A.L.F.,
F.O.C. 1st B.S., V.A.A. Mediterranean, repeated S/Ms. on
Patrol, F.O.C.N.A., N.O.I.C. Haifa, N.O.I.C.
Alexandria, S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, N.O.I.C. Malta,
S.O. Force H, 6th A/S Striking Force, 201 Group,

Movements summary number 199, Part 2.

Convoy A N 30 due to pass Kaso Straits early night 8th
May from position 84 due Suda Bay 1200 9th. H.M.A.S.
STUART with defects returning Alexandria. H.M.A.S. VOYAGER
sailing 0800 8th to relieve H.M.A.S. STUART. K O S
18 and MIRA GIOVANNI for Mersa Tobruk 031 degs. 40'
North 028 degs. East at 1200 8th H.M.A.S. VENDETTA
sailing 2000 8th for Mersa Tobruk. Part 3.
Convoy M W 7 B in 034 degs. 30' North 018 degs. 00'
East at 1200 8th and convoy M W 7 in 034 degs. 20' North
019 degs. 20' East at 1200 8th due Malta 0800 9th
and 0700 9th respectively.

1227C/8.

Advance Copy Sent D.C., D.C.D.(F), & D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
C.S.O to 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.N.I.(4)
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P.
W.D.
D.C.(2)
Head of M.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.(2)
N.L.D.10.(Pay. Cdr. Wilson)
N.L.C. Australia House.
F.C.S. by courier.

~~018~~

I.

War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Malta
Mine
Clearance.

Your 2225/ C 7. All precautions have been taken. Channel has been buoyed but strong winds are making them inaccurate. They will be relaid as soon as possible. Mines in harbour have been given in Q B B Message and ships must keep clear. All Mines within visual distance have been fixed as accurately as possible but there are probably some more unfixd outside. (V.A.Malta, 1635B/8, to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units.

An Italian warship was 60 miles N., of Sirte at 2000/7. Benghazi R/C 7th report one 10,000 tons ship moored north and south in outer harbour, one 4000 tons along outer breakwater halfway between break in sea wall and end. Two 1000 tons entering. (Capt. S.I. 1635C/8 to TRIUMPH.)

Enemy
Shipping
Black Sea.

*CAPO ARMA.

Report (B.O.) 9 ships including Italian CAPE ARMA (?) Roumanian SULINA Bulgarian BALKAN, CHIPKA will leave Black Sea. (?May 9th) presumably for Aegean Sea. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1705/8, to C. in C. Med.)

Germans in
Smyrna.

(a) Deutsche Levant Line preparing to open large offices in Smyrna and announces regular transport from Black Sea there and to Greece. (b) Unconfirmed reports in Smyrna today that two German steamers sunk off Chios last night. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1730/8 to S.O. (I) Med.)

Comment by N.I.D.

(a) is probably connected with an expected German drive to increase commercial relations between Germany and Turkey; it may be hoped to influence Turkish economic circles to urge their Government to protest against any reprisals we might take on German ships.

Suez Canal
Mining raid.

Minelaying air raid on Suez Canal 2216/7 to 0024/8 between Khassab 11 and 37. About 20 mines dropped up to 13 in Canal 5 exploded on shore 2 unexploded on shore. One of those in Canal has since been exploded by D.W.I. Wellington aircraft at Khassab 16. Canal is open to traffic south of Kantara. Railway road and telephone subsequently re established. Railway should be repaired in 2 days. No casualties. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1801C/8 to Admty.)

/Bombardment of

MOST SECRET.8.5.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd).Bombardment
of Benghazi.

Benghazi harbour attacked about 0100/8 by AJAX, HOTSPUR, HAVOCK and IMPERIAL. One or two ships only in harbour alongside some hits obtained. Two laden ships about 3,000 and 5-6,000 tons respectively approaching from southwards were destroyed burning fiercely with many explosions. Latter filled with ammunition blown to bits and subsequently in connection with fire on water suggest she may also have been carrying fuel.
(C. in C. Med., 1804C/8 to Admty).

Mines, Malta.

Following are the positions of the most dangerous aircraft laid mines.
(V.A. Malta, 1911B/8 to Q.B.B. 169).

German ARKADIA

Passed through Istanbul to Aegean 1100 G.M.T./8 fully loaded. Description as for LARISSA but cruiser stern.
(S.O.Q. Istanbul, 1938/8 to Cairo for C. in C Med).

RAWNSLEY hit
by A/C torpedo.

RAWNSLEY hit by Aerial Torpedo in 034° 56'N. 026° 31'E. GRIMSBY and WATERHEN trying to tow to Crete, remainder of Convoy proceeding to Suda Bay at 12 knots. Request fighter protection 0600/9.
(AUCKLAND, 2030/8 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

POMONA
Italian.

Loading Toluol due to leave Tunis 9/5.
(S.O.(I) Malta, 2031B/8 to TAKU, PANDORA).

*See also p. 258*Zognia
Occupied.

Following from N.A. Angora reports:-
C.S.O. Smyrna reports Zog (?Zognia) occupied this morning 8/5 (ends)
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 2225/8).

Situation.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd).Situation
Report 20.

Alexandria Port open. STUART attacked contact 205° Raz El Tin 25' result hopeful but not yet assessed. Suez Canal closed from Km. 3 to Kantara but open elsewhere. Malta. Two Swordfish laid Cucumbers off Tripoli one in entrance one far out. (N.D.I.C. Alexandria 2315C/8 to Admty).

HOTSPUR
IMPERIAL
BRECONSHIRE.

Have ordered BRECONSHIRE with HOTSPUR and IMPERIAL to Marsaxlokk. WILLIAM RYAN is to fuel these destroyers who are to proceed on completion in company to join "TIGER" She is available to fuel convoy escorts and now has 1200 tons remaining. Request (?lights) and instructions for entering Marsaxlokk. BRECONSHIRE's E.T.A. 0615. (C. in C. Med., 2330/8 to V.A. Malta).

* Not Identified

French Food
Ships.

French ILE DE RE, 5104 tons, and LEOPOLD L.D. 5267 tons, have arrived at Marseilles with 14,000 tons of American flour. Distribution as a free bread issue will be supervised by Mr. Allen on behalf of U.S.A. (D.S.611, 8/5).

East Indies.Mining Threat
to Shatt-el-
Arab.

Possible attempt will be made to cut out^r oil supplies and communications to Basra by mining the Shatt-el-Arab. Request you will consider sending at least two skid towers and four skids to this area taking up of local vessels as skid towers, and wiring of local wooden craft as skids. An efficient mine watching organisation is most important. Request report what can be arranged. Consideration should be given to extinguishing all lights marking mineable channels. Value of LL vessels in river and Rooka Channel is uncertain owing to freshness of water. Request early report of salinity of water at both high and low water at following positions. (V.C.N.S. 0129B/8 to C. in C. E.I.)

No. of C.C.

MOST SECRET.8.5.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd).No C.C. at
Basra.

Your 1214/6. Please inform Kenya Govt. that I hope they will not again send ships to Basra for Contraband Control. This cannot be exercised at Basra which is not a British Port.
(C. in C. E.I. 0632Z/8 to N.O.I.C. East Africa.)

Ashar
occupied 7/5.

Basra 7/5. Operation to occupy Ashar carried out. Unorganised resistance encountered and a few casualties. Main portion of town occupied but further operations will take place 8th in greater force to consolidate position. Fao quiet.
(C. in C. E.I. 1012Z/8 to Admty).

B.P.4)
B.P.5)

Dates and escorts.
(C. in C. E.I. 1130Z/8 to Cdre R.I.N.)
See Operations Volume.

Raider Sunk
by CORNWALL.

CORNWALL reported sighting an Armed Merchant Raider at 1151Z/8 and sunk at 1225Z/8. CORNWALL is now closing for survivors (C. in C. E.I., 1300Z/8 to Admty).
My 1300/8.

CORNWALL sank a (?German) armed raider in position 003° 30' N 057° 48' E at 1225Z/8. Survivors from raider 53 German 11 British 16 Lascars. Survivors report raider is PENGUIN or No. 33 and have one or more whalers co-operating in this area. One has been alongside twice in last week. CORNWALL sustained two hits one 6' by 6' starboard bow near water line. One small hole amidships starboard side. Casualties three slightly wounded. At 1132Z/8 an R Distress message was made on 500 Kcs., by ship calling herself TAMERLANE position 003° 10' N 057° 10' E. It is considered No. 33 made this distress message on sighting CORNWALL.

(C. in C. E.I. 1856Z/8 to Admty etc).
My 1856/8. Consider it probable that whaler will know that No. 33 has been caught. Recommend that this news and that of KETTY and BROVIG and COBURG be released now to give confidence to shipping.
(C. in C. E.I. 1921Z/8 to Admty).

See also pp. 288, 320

UMBRIA.....

War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONEast Indies.(contd).UMBRIA
salvage.

Your 2220/1. Late master PROTECTOR informed Capt. Egeberg, possibility of salvaging UMBRIA is that as main deck is 30 feet under water salvage pump not workable and Cofferdam impracticable. Possible salvage could be effected by pontoons. Capt. Egeberg shares this opinion and also that salvage would be expensive and lengthy. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1301C/8 to D. of S.T.)

TAMERLANE
"R"
Message.

The R distress message made by TAMERLANE at 1132 G.M.T./8 in position 003 10' N 057 10' E can be disregarded. (C. in C. E.I. 1646/8 to G.B.M.S. 3 B. 6.B.)

GLASGOW.

Not considered that repairs to deck plating of GLASGOW carried out at Alexandria are sufficient to maintain the strength of the ship. Suggestions for repairs. Request your views. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1939B/8 to C. in C. E.I.)

Iraq,
Policy.

Middle East assumes command forces Southern Iraq from time your receipt this telegram. Your immediate task is to secure port of Basrah and Shaibah area, to organise base for further reinforcements, and to take all necessary measures for safety of your force. Essential at once to convince local authorities and Iraq people that we have no intention whatever of occupying and setting up British administration or infringing Iraq independence. You will therefore encourage local Iraq administration to function so far as is consistent with your own force and will do everything possible to avoid conflict with inhabitants. 244 Sqdn. R.A.F. at Shaibah will remain your operational control. (C. in C. M.E. 2015/8 to 10th Indian Div., Basrah 2125/8 and 2245/8 to W.O.)

CARSO.....

MOST SECRET.8.5.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd).CARSO
MARGHERA
(Italian).

Reference your 1615/19/3 (Salvage of Italian ships scuttled at Kismayu) and my reply 2126/24/3 - what is the position (Dep. Dir. of Salvage (F) 2205B/8 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. E.I.)

Ashar.Situation Report.
Ashar occupied by 0930 hours to-day without opposition.
(General, Basrah. 2355/8).China.Indo-China
Trade.My 0825Z/1. Interview today, Capt. Jouan gave following explanations.
(C. in C. China 0831Z/8) See Lion Copy.Egal arrest.At interview today Jouan gave following account French attitude towards Egal Arrest. (C. in C. China, 0833Z/8) See Lion Copy. Your 0313/6. (N.T. in W.D.) You will presumably also discuss request passed to you in Admty., 2183/23/4, and employ it as lever to obtain release of Egal or other concession. Request is somewhat strange as Indo-China normally has export surplus.
(Head of M 0942B/8 to C. in C. China).SVIR
RussianExpected to leave Bangkok about 10/5 for Vladivostok with contraband in cargo. Desirable to intercept if practicable and send in to Hong Kong for examination.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1847B/8 to C. in C. China).

MOST SECRET

254(A)

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

IN.

0831/8. May.

Date: 9.5.41.

Recd: 0338.

From: C. in C. China.

Inter-departmental Cypher (10) by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated Governor Straits Settlement, Governor Hong Kong, Govt. of India, Govt. of Bruna, British Ambassador Tokyo, 756, British Ambassador Washington.

535. My 0825 z/1. At interview with C. in C. China today Thursday in presence of French Cons. Gen., Singapore, but in absence of Governor Straits Settlements at present in Kuala Lumpur, Captain Jouan gave following explanations. (2) Rubber. Tokyo agreement provides 40,000 tons to Japan, 15,000 to France, and 19,000 to U.S.A. Total 65,000. Agreement does not specify any proportion of Japanese quota as destined for Germany, but it was realized by French that a proportion would inevitably go there. As regards exports to France Jouan maintained that only one cargo of 4,000 tons had been sent, in January and that it was intention of Indo-China Government to resist demands from Vichy for any more to be sent as long as they could. If they should be compelled to give way on this they would give us previous notice. They have already informed Vichy that in view of risk of British interception they are not prepared to send another cargo for the present. If not sent to France, it was their intention to dispose of as much as possible to U.S., but Jouan when pressed admitted that in certain circumstances they might be induced by Japanese pressure to dispose of some of the balance to Japan.

As regards question of interception Jouan said they to regarded trade between France and Indo-China as apart from agreement: they recognised that British reserved all rights in regard to this trade, but De Coux must treat any interception within China Station as an aggressive act contrary to spirit of article one of agreement, and would be free to take reprisals.

(III) Oil. Lot left Saigon in company with DUMONT DURVILLE and carrying only 2,000 tons of oil fuel for her self for voyage to France and 1500 tons of Diesel oil for DUMONT. This arrangement was made by Admiral Terraux without the knowledge of Admiral Deccan who did not learn of it until our protest was received. Assurance was given that no such export of oil would again be permitted without our consent. As regards contention that this proved Indo-China's need for oil was not so urgent as stated by Deccan, Jouan said Indo-China requirements were practically entirely for petrol for motor, vehicles and aircraft, and kerosene for lighting etcetera, as most ships completed with fuel oil in Manila. Jouan agreed to produce a precise statement of requirements after consulting Gov. Gen.

(IV) LAMOTTE PIQUET. Jouan denied that there was any question of sending ship to Japan to refit. Position was that ship was over due for return to France and had serious boiler defects. Efforts had been made to obtain necessary repair material in U.S. without success, and this had been followed by similar efforts in Japan, Japan being approached because it had normally been policy in peace time for ship to refit at Kobe. There was however information that some difficulty in getting material from Japan, and Jouan doubted whether it would actually be forthcoming. Ship would refit at Saigon,

Where refit/.....

where refit might take as long as a year. Vichy would never agree to ship's refitting at a British Port. He produced list of repair material required and asked if we could consider supplying it.

(V) Jouan was informed that question whether agreement remained in force must now depend on reaction of De Caux to our appeal on behalf of M. Egal (see My Tel. No. 0833 2/8 not to Tokyo, Washington, India or Burma) and meanwhile action could not be taken to restart oil supplies.

(VI) Jouan protested against continued use of British ships for Indo-China trade and urged that we should obtain use of three Norwegian vessels specified in agreement: he was not prepared to ask Vichy for their reasons for selecting these, as probably only reply would be an insistence that no other ships should be employed.

08312/8.

Advance copies sent to Ops., O.D. O.I.C.

1st. Lord.	D.S.D. 9.
1st. S.L.	D.D.I.C.
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	M. 35 (8)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	I.P.
C.S.O. to 1st. S.L.	W.D.
Nav. Sec.	Adm. Chalmers.
P.A.S. (S)	N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)
D.O.D. (F)	Duty Captain.
D.D.O.D. (F)	
D. of P. (2)	
D.N.I. (4)	
D.E.W.D.	

From C. in C. China. Date 9/5/41
Recd. 0422

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER 10 BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated B. Embassy Shanghai, Gov. Straits Settlements, Gov. Hong Kong.

536. Your 354 at interview today Thursday Jouan gave following account French attitude towards Egal arrest. Activities of Egal at Shanghai had been tolerated so long as he confined his recruiting to merchant seamen and civilians but when in April it was discovered he had already induced three naval ratings to desert and was in the process of inducing 12 others it was impossible to ignore this, which was a crime against law of France. C.C. of French gun boat interviewed Egal at French Club and said if men returned no more would be said. Egal refused to agree, and C.C. in conjunction with French Consul General ordered the arrest. Egal is being well treated and arrest was in due legal form. He is now to be tried by naval tribunal. French Consul General Shanghai cabled Decoux recommending lenient treatment and Jouan himself was prepared to urge this on Decoux. In reply to contention that Egal had dealt only with men who had already deserted Jouan said assistance to such men was equally a crime against the law.

2. Jouan was informed of great importance attached to case by H.M. Government who have declared their full support for De Gaulle and who must regard the case as a test of goodwill of the Indo China Government. He was informed unless Egal was released H.M. Government must regard general spirit of our agreement with Indo China as infringed and its continuation would require serious consideration. Jouan expressed complete conviction in no circumstances would Decoux agree to release without trial whatever the consequences as regards to agreement. After some pressure he admitted it might be possible to induce Decoux to agree to some lenient decision by tribunal which might permit of Egal's release immediately after conviction. Jouan would have preferred to put the case for this personally to Decoux but as this is impracticable he is telegraphing fully today and hopes to have a reply by Saturday or Sunday when matter will be further considered.

3. My opinion is that Jouan was surprised that H.M. Government should feel so strongly about Egal but was obdurate in his attitude that nothing could be done to help him until future agreement was mentioned. This came as a shock and may lead to Decoux offering immediate release after trial.

Telegram to Shanghai 890.

C 0833Z/8
Advance copy D.N.I.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.O.D.(F) | Head of M.(30) M05870/41 |
| 1st S.L. | D.D.O.D.(F) | & for M.E.W., C.O., P.A. |
| V.C.N.S. | D. of P.(2) | Clutterbuck, D.O. & China |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | D.N.I.(4) | Distribution. |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | D.E.W.D. | I.P. |
| C.S.O. to 1st S.L. | D.S.D.9. | W.D. |
| Naval Sec. | D.D.I.C. | Adm. Chalmers. |
| P.A.S.(S) | D.T.D.(2) | N.I.D.10 Pay.Cdr. Wilson |
| | | Duty Captain. |

8.5.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.BULOLO
ASTURIAS.

Your U~~X~~ARM 147 (1614/7). Request minimum displacement and draught to which BULOLO and ASTURIAS can be brought for docking in floating dock and also what are approx dates on which it is desired to commence refits.

(B.A.R.M., 0700/8 to Admty).

LECH
HERMES
(German).

Air Letter Intercept states LECH and HERMES which ran blockade were escorted by planes from Bordeaux.

(C. in C. A.W.I., 1229Q/8 to Admty).

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN

Will leave convoy at nightfall 9/5 and return to Halifax.

(V.C.N.S. 1258B/8 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Admiral Lais.

Washington pressing for an explanation regarding detention of Admiral Lais and concerned at abrogation of safe conduct guarantee by them. No official explanation has been given, but Consul-General has been informed that detention is presumably connected with the case of Sir Ronald Campbell.

(C. in C. A.W.I. 1311Q/8 to Admty).

POMONA
(Italian)
French Ships.

Following from Navy Dept. From Tunis from source believed reliable dated 6/5.

POMONA arrived 1/5 from Italy and will return shortly with gasoline. *See p. 253.*
3/5 arrived CAPPINEDE and BAALBECK from Marseilles. 4/5 arrived ELABIR from Marseilles.

(N.A. Washington 1528/8 to Admty).

|CAPPINEDE

* EL BIAR.

CONTE DI
SAVOIA

Following from Navy Dept. From U. S. N.A. Rome dated 5/5 source very reliable.

During last week of April CONTE DI SAVOIA was moored in Venice Lagoon close to Immigrant Service Island. No signs of preparation for journey were visible.

(N.A. Washington 1541/8).

COLORADO.....

MOST SECRET.8.5.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.(contd).COLORADO
Italian.

San Juan departure 7th in tow coastguard cutter for undisclosed U.S. port. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1658R/8 to Admty etc).

M.V. Reports
of U/Bs.

My 1344/30/4. When cancelling reports made it should subsequently be checked that cancellation has also been verified in code and if this is not received in accordance A.M.S.1 268 para 2 sub-para (B) fact should be reported to Admty C. in C. A.W.I., and N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1658Z/8 to G.O.A.C.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Will be taken in hand for docking and short refit in U.S. at an early date. Joh. No. S 117 Main defect list is to be forwarded immediately on return to harbour. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1801P/8 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Raider
Report
7/5.

Following from Navy Dept. Dutch vessel WELTEVREDEN reported surface raider in 6°S 171° 40'W 1,233 G C T/7 Report cancelled 1251; renewed 1457. (N.A. Washington 1830/8 to Admty).

Cutters.

UKARM No. 157. Your 1706/2. Names for remaining Cutters are as follows, GORLESTON, LANDGUARD, SENNEN, TOTLAND & WALNEY. Necessary to know to which individual ships the new names already chosen refer. Similar information is desired in respect of above names. (Head of M. 2136B/8 to Consul-General, New York).

Dakar.

Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar(?) 7/5. Arrived THESEE, CONTE DE LIGE, and PORTHOS in convoy. They have disembarked 2000 native troops. (N.A. Washington, 2145/8 to Admty).

Enemy Shipping U.S.A.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.(contd).Enemy shipping
U.S.A.

As U.S.A. ship requisitioning bill has been passed, President is now empowered to take over foreign shipping lying idle in U.S.A. ports. This is believed to affect 89 ships, of which 2 are German and 27 Italian, totalling 9133 tons and 164,868 tons respectively.
(D.S. 611, 8/5).

War Diary.8.5.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.EASTERN STAR.IXION

(torpedoed 7/5)

Report situation and if any ship salvable and what tugs required. (C. in C. W.A., 0807B/8, to BULLDOG).

CALCHAS

(torpedoed 21/4)

Ref. N.C.S.O. St. Vincent's 2117/4 N.C.S.O. St. Vincent reports that another lifeboat of CALCHAS with 21 survivors has landed at Boavista. (S.O. I. Freetown 1111N/8 to Admty).

Ref. T.D. Form A. para 10. (1) CALCHAS (2) Alfred Holt (3) 1040/21/4. 23° 50 N. 27° W. (4) Not sighted when first torpedo fired, attack believed from starboard quarter. (5) 1115/21 Westerly course on surface. (6) Submerged for attack and surfaced after second torpedo hit (7) Ship sunk. (8) See my 1617/8 (9) Small U Boat 128 fresh grey paint 1 3-in. gun forward of conning tower, slanting bows, no net cutter (10) Two torpedoes (11) Master seen to throw them overboard. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1616/8 to Admty).

Following received from H.M. Consul St. Vincent 0360, 7 survivors British Ship CALCHAS landed here 7/5 from SAL, British 3 women 17 men Chinese 13 men. Today reported arrival another boats crew CALCHAS Boavista survivors 21 including 1 Woman British Consul. (N.A., Lisbon 1801/8 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

CAMITO.SANGRO.

(torpedoed 6/5)

E.T.A. 2115/9. 4 Italian survivors. No cot cases. Dome and oscillator injured. Small leak top of oscillator shaft. (HEATHER, 1145/8 to Admty.).

VILLE DELIEGE.

(torpedoed 13/4)

My 1451/1 No. 4 boat VILLE DE LIEGE sighted by CHESTERFIELD in position 61° 12' N. 30° 10' W. at ? 1230/29. Contains 3 dead bodies but identification and recovery prevented by weather. (N.O.I. C. Iceland, 1203/8, to Admty.).

/RAMILLIES.....

War Diary.

8.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

S.S. RAMILLIES.

Following has been read. SSSS de MATE 47.30 N. 30.52 W. RAMILLIES, cloudy, visibility good, torpedoed. (MATE, 1617/8, Liverpool W/T 1618/8, D.D.I.C. 2025B/8 to A.I.G. 62).
British, 4553 tons, ex Convoy O.B. 317, from Tyne to Baltimore. (D.S. 612/9/5).

SURAT
(torpedoed
6/5).

M/V SURAT sunk by three torpedoes at 0315 G.M.T./6 in 08.23 N 15.13 W. Submarine was not seen. 3rd and 5th engineers and one Lascar killed remainder arrived Freetown 7/5. (C. in C.S.A., 1836N/8 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

2229/7.

By D/F at 2229/7 G.M.T. U/B in 49° 30' N. 14° 00' W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0134B/8).

1107.

Aircraft reports sighting U boat 090° Sule Skerry 14 miles at 1107. (A.C.O.S. 1126B/8 to Q and S. Command).
My 1126, amend position 110°. Sule Skerry 6 miles. Course 170° (A.C.O.S. 1140B/8).

Scapa Departures.

1308 TARTAR, MASHONA, PUNJABI, to hunt U/B. (A.C.O.S. 1756B/8).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1434B/8).

Square search for U boat from 059° 04' N. 004° 12' W. will be carried out by two Whitley aircraft from 1900/8 until half hour after dawn/9. (C. in C. Rosyth 1856/8 to INTREPID. IMPULSIVE).

1718.

Ref. Admty. message AF Position 47° 30' N. 30° 52' W. at 1717/8 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1950B/8)

War Diary;

8.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By BULLDOG etc.

BULLDOG and AMAZON rejoined O.B. 318; Contact died away at 0045Z after nine attacks by BULLDOG, AMAZON and ROCHESTER. (BULLDOG, 1032Z/8 to C. in C.W.A). C. in C.W.A. From BULLDOG U-Boat was almost certainly stopped on Convoy track and attacked escort while inside or astern of Convoy. Visibility was 10 miles. (Scapa W/T, 1123 G.M.T/8, To Admiralty for information).

By A/C, 5/4.

My 1140/5. Crew of Walrus report that they sighted about one foot of periscope with distinct feather. This was in sight for 3 to 4 mins., then dipped at 1104. Then bubbles were seen off and on for about 40 mins. also some streaks of oil. Rough course 160° speed 6 knots. Crew of A/C are confident that they were in contact with U-Boat. One Albacore still searching area. (A.C.O.S.1358/8 to Admty.).

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9.5.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A/C protection
of shipping.

C. in C. W.A. intends forthwith to abolish the regular individual escort of convoys and independant ships by aircraft and substitute sweeps, searches or convoy escort carried out by air striking forces operated on information received. Air escort in the dark or in low visibility will be abolished.

Trawler
captured.

BULLDOG
~~SOMALI~~ has captured a "German Trawler" in the northern North Sea. (*But see 28-6-41, p. 782*)

R/C of Brest at 1140 this morning showed both Battle-Cruisers in their same positions.

British Air Activity.

316 A/C, the largest force of Bombers detailed since the outbreak of war, were sent to attack Blohm & Voss Shipyards and the Industrial Centre at Hamburg and The Deutsche Schiff Shipyards and Industrial centre at Bremen last night. 139 of these reached Hamburg, 112 reached Bremen, and both places were very heavily attacked.

7 Blenheim A/C also attacked EUROPA at Bremerhaven, dropping Bombs into the Dock where she lies; and several attacks were made on M/V's with uncertain results. Minor attacks were made on targets at Emden, Kiel Canal and Holtenau, Rotterdam Flushing and several other places.

/Eleven....

War Diary.

9.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Eleven aircraft of Coastal Command last night attacked the docks at St. Nazaire.

Five Blenheims of Coastal Command attacked E-boats in Boulogne Harbour between 2240 and 2302 to-day, and 2 Beauforts attacked the E-boat Base at Ijmuiden between 2345 and 2355.

Enemy Air Activity.

The M/D Ship QUEEN^SWORTH was bombed and sunk at about 0120 this morning off the Humber; the M/S Trawler GRAMP^SIAN was damaged by a near miss at 2315 last night at the entrance of Aberdeen Harbour; and the British ETHEL RADCLIFFE and KAIDA were bombed and damaged at 0200 this morning at Yarmouth.

Attack
on Hull.

Hull was heavily bombed again last night, with slight Naval casualties and no damage to H.M. Ships or dock gates, though damage was caused in the docks and establishments; and at 0238 this morning a single A/C bombed Lowestoft, doing no Naval damage.

Convoy F.S.+83 was bombed at 0017 this morning off Spurn Point, and Convoy E.C. 17 at 0156 a little further to the southward, both without result.

War Diary.

9.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

266

Mining.

Mining
of Hull.

As a result of last night's air-raid, no shipping movements were possible today in the Hull Docks on account of Mines, many of which are reported unexploded ashore; and one Mine was detonated by L.L. Trawlers there at 0658 today.

The Clyde was re-opened for outward traffic astern of Sweepers at about 1520 today and at least 50 vessels had passed out by 1850 this evening.

Milford Haven will be closed every day in future from $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour before sunrise until 2 hours after sunrise; and Falmouth was closed from 0520 this morning until 1858, when it was re-opened: the Falmouth - Dartmouth and vice versa convoys were cancelled.

2 Mines were detonated today off Falmouth, 2 off Milford Haven, and 1 at Belfast; and the Observation Minefield at Poole has been completed.

South Atlantic.

CRITON.

Vichy French CRITON, 4564 tons was intercepted by CILICIA at 1000 today and is being sent to Freetown. The Master states that he had no instructions to scuttle if intercepted and that such orders are no longer in force.

War Diary.

9.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
M.D.4.

Both "Tiger" Convoys reached Malta at first light today. They were swept in by GLOXINIA, sent by C. in C. Med, who exploded many mines in the entrances and harbours. At 1224 V.A. Malta reported that all had entered safely.

Enemy were probably unaware of the operation until 0800/8 when aircraft attacked, causing no damage. Several enemy aircraft were destroyed.

During one torpedo bombing attack, casualties were caused in RENOWN by P.3 mounting firing 2 rounds into back of P.2 owing to failure of interceptor release gear.

Hits on RENOWN, which was the target for torpedo A/C attack, were avoided by very skilful handling by her captain.

After a quiet night, the enemy attempted, despite bad weather, to attack with 4 JU.87's. Hurricanes on patrol shot down one and probably another.

The "Tiger" Convoy from Malta for Alexandria with C.S. 15, NAIAD, QUEEN ELIZABETH, FIJI, GLOUCESTER and destroyers met the Fleet at 1515 250 miles south of Malta, and all forces started eastward.

EMPIRE SONG, in "Tiger", hit a mine which set her fore ammunition hold on fire and she sank; it is believed the convoy was some 5 miles off its route and caught the edge of the enemy minefield. FORESIGHT (Destroyer) was slightly damaged by debris. NEW ZEALAND STAR also struck a mine but is proceeding with convoy for Alexandria at 12.5 knots. This convoy was bombed and 3 enemy planes were brought down by A/C sent from Malta.

/2.5

/Italian.....

War Diary.

9.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Italian
Mining.

Italians have apparently fully mined the area from Cape Bon to Marittimo Island, leaving a small swept channel. V.A. Malta considers that any further attempts to run a convoy from West to East would be most hazardous.

Crete.

RAWNSLEY, hit by an A/C torpedo yesterday was towed by GRIMSBY towards Messara Bay, but a freshening east wind and easterly swell decided GRIMSBY to make instead for Hierapetra, which the ships hope to reach early tomorrow morning.

Western
Desert.

Mersa Tobruk was bombed today and S.S. URANIA was damaged alongside.

East Indies.

Shatt-el-Arab.

Passage up the Shatt-el-Arab is forbidden to neutral and Japanese ships. Neutral ships bound for Basra are to be diverted to Bahrein, Karachi or Bombay to wait until the situation improves.

Consideration is being given to the river gunboat COCKCHAFFER making the passage to Bagdad if required to assist with a military operation.

Basra.

C. in C. East Indies reported all quiet at Basra at 1500 today. The Navy is taking over control of the W/T station and all river communications.

269

9.5.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to be docked at the U.S. Navy Yard, Norfolk, Virginia.

U-Boat Campaign.

N.W. Approaches.
Convoy O.B. 318.
5 ships
torpedoed.

4 British ships in Convoy O.B. 318 were torpedoed about 335 miles S.W. of Iceland this afternoon - ESMOND, BENGORE HEAD, EMPIRE CLOUD and GREGALIA. A fifth ship in the same convoy, believed to be the S.S. AELYBRYN was reported at 0300/10 to have been torpedoed 480 miles S.W. of Iceland (C). *See 10/5 Page 325.*

South Atlantic.

In addition, the CITY OF WINCHESTER, from Oban to Table Bay, was torpedoed about 400 miles S.S.W. of Cape Verde Islands at 2312/9.

War Diary

9.5.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Air Protection
of Shipping in
W.A. Command.

Intend to adopt the following policy forthwith with regard to the employment of aircraft for protection of shipping in this command outside range of Fighter Command aircraft.

1. Regular individual escort of convoys and independent ships will be abolished and substituted by sweeps, searches, or convoy escort carried out by air striking forces operated according to the circumstances on information received of E-Bar reports, sightings, and D/F intelligence of U-Boats. Analysis shows a tendency for U-Boats to be on the surface between 1400 and dark, and times of sweeps should be adjusted accordingly.
 2. Air Escort in the dark or in low visibility will be abolished.
 3. A/A Protection by aircraft will only be provided by Fighters, and such protection will generally be operated on a grid patrol.
- The situation will be under constant review as experience is gained.
(C. in C. W.A., 1209B/9)

Defence of U.K.

Immobilisation
of Northern
East Coast Ports.

(Admiral Peters 2019/9 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

Movements

EXETER

My 1546 para 2. After fuelling ^{Hvalfjorð} ~~UNALFJORD~~ return to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F., 1216B/9 to EXETER)

LONDON

LONDON is to sail from Scapa to arrive Clyde a.m. 11th.
LONDON is detailed as escort for FURIOUS.
(C. in C. H.F., 1217B/9)

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

MAPLIN

My 1809B/7. MAPLIN is to go to Bangor Bay instead of Lough Foyle. (C. in C. W.A., 1648B/9) Sailed MAPLIN in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1648/9 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2116/9)

OBERON
PORPOISE

OBERON is being sent to Scotts Shipbuilding Yard at Greenock to provide Electric Power and PORPOISE will relieve OBERON on completion of present operation. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1851/9.)

Operations

Clyde-Iceland
Ferry.

Reference 1636B/8th F.O.I.C. Greenock. Intend join LANCASTER. E.T.A. Tobermory 0945/9. (WELLS 0100B/9 to R.A.M.L.)

My 1053B/9. Delay confirmed as 24 hours. Convoy will now sail 1930B/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1526/9) My 1206/7. Sailing delayed further 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1636B/8 to Admty.)

Operation
Q.F.

Carry out operation Q.F. tonight zero time 0300B/10. Air co-operation in accordance with par. 13 will be carried out by 16 Group. Para 14 for 30 minutes read 15 minutes. (C. in C. Nore, 1046B/9 to EREBUS)

Operation Q.F. Six Blenheims of 16 Group on 385 kcs will escort you from 0515B/ tomorrow. From 0620B to 0920B fighters from 11 Group will be overhead. Fighter protection from 0930B until arrival at Sheerness will be arranged. (C. in C. Nore 1204B/9 to EREBUS)

Operation Q.F. is postponed (C. in C. Nore 1608B/9 to EREBUS)

/Enemy.....

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Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Enemy "Trawler" captured.

German Weather Ship
MÜNCHEN.

FDS. 1412.6.
HFL

SOMALI may arrive Thorshaven or Scapa with captured German "trawler." It is important to conceal the fact that this trawler has been captured and not scuttled. (C. in -C. H.F. 1206B/9 to A.C.O.S.) See 28/6 p. 782.

Dover Patrols for night 9/10.

Two Trawlers on O.D. 1 and two O.D. 5. Two M/L's on O.D. 6 and 7 combined. Two Drifters patrolling in Dungeness East roads, two between North Goodwin and Elbow Buoys, and two between Elbow and Botany Buoys. (V.A. Dover 1241B/9)

Western Channel Patrol.

2 M/L's On patrol S.W. Start. (C. in C. Plymouth 1411/9)
My 1411/9. Add 2 M/L's on patrol 8' South of Lizard. (C. in C. Plymouth 1754/9)

Patrols.

Situation estimated 2000 tonight. GALATEA and ARETHUSA patrolling S.E. of Iceland. EXETER patrolling Denmark Straits (A.C.O.S. 1524/9)

British Air Activity

Off Hafsfjord. Flakship believed sunk.

On 8/5 Aircraft singled out two flakships of 700 tons each which they attacked. A direct hit was obtained by one aircraft on the stern of one of these vessels. This flakship is probably a total loss. T.H.I. 0005/9 (H.Q.B.C. 0005/9)

Patrols

Following air patrols in operation ^{"Stab"} STAB and S 9. (C. in C. Rosyth 0920/9)
Following air patrols being flown tonight 9/10. "Bert", "Stab", "Trost". Also attack on shipping in Kristian Sand South and R/C of Narvik. (C. in C. Rosyth 2000/9)

/812....

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Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

812 Sqdn.

Admiralty's 2049/6. Squadron require extensive training in Torpedo Attacks and other training as necessary. (R.A.N.A.S. 1012B/9 to Hatston)

Hamburg
Bremen
Emden and
M/V's attacked.

Night of 8/9 May. The largest force yet detailed since the outbreak of war had as their main targets Hamburg and Bremen. 183 aircraft set out for Hamburg and 133 for Bremen. A further 43 aircraft on other targets detailed at the end of this narrative making a grand total of 359 aircraft. Details and Results. (H.Q.B.C. 1612/9)

ST. LOMAN

Expect Whitley aircraft to co-operate with you tonight 9/10. (C. in C. W.A. 1620B/9 to ST. LOMAN)

Value of
Smoke Screens.

Your 1202/7. Owing delay in plotting bomb craters by local authorities no opinion can yet be given. Further signal will be made. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1809/9 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy
F.S. Odd

Enemy Aircraft Bombing Convoy ^{-Booty.} ~~Booty~~. My position 53° 41' N., 0° 44' E. (VALOROUS 0017/9) VERSATILE 0020/9) My 0017. No damage. (VALOROUS 0020/9)

Convoy
E.C. Even

Enemy Aircraft Bombing even numbered E.C. Convoy my position 53° 18' N., 1° 3' E. (Rosyth W/T 0156B/9)

QUEENWORTH
Sunk.

(M/D Ship) Sunk by A/C near Outer Dowsing Light Float at about 0120 today. CORFIELD returning with survivors. Believed no casualties. (F.O. Humber, 0300B/9) My 0300B/9. Position wreck 085° Outer Dowsing light buoy 8 cables approx. (F.O. Humber 1117/B/9)

/Lowestoft....

War Diary9.5.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity-Contd.Lowestoft
Bombed.Lowestoft bombed by single A/C at 0238B/9.
A.C. and D Nil B.2. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft
0730B/9)ETHEL RADCLIFFE
(British, 5673 tons)
KAIDA
(British, 510 tons)
Bombed.Enemy Aircraft attacked ETHEL RADCLIFFE at
0200 today. One bomb penetrated forward
bulkhead of Masters room, subsequently
passing through the port fore and aft
bulkhead thence through the KAIDA's deck
and out through her port side, above water
line, into the sea. Another bomb
penetrated the KAIDA's boat deck passing
through engine room casing into sea.
Neither bomb exploded on contact. KAIDA
being brought into port this morning for
examination and repair. (Salvage Officer
0921B/9 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)GRAMPIAN(M/S Trawler) Attacked by Junkers 88 at
2315/8/5 off entrance. Slight damage to
machinery by near misses. No Casualties,
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1120/9)Jan MayenJan Mayen reports aircraft heard 2140/8
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1657/9)Hull
Bombed.In spite of second heavy attack on Hull
night of 8/9 May, little naval damage. No
damage to H.M. Ships reported. Naval
casualties believed slight. Little damage
to shipping and dock gates. Large
fires round Alexandria docks and sheds
and cranes temporarily out of action.
Details of damage. (F.O. Humber 1701/9)
(A.C.E. Immingham 2359/9)Clyde.My 2142/8. Damage to shipyards. Details.
Believe all damage now reported. (F.O.I.C.
Glasgow 1851/9)

/ Belfast.....

War Diary

9.5.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Belfast.)
JEDMOOR)
Damaged.)

JEDMOOR (British, 4392 tons) Damaged during an Air Attack on Belfast (D.S. No 612)

Liverpool.)
ASIATIC)
MAHOUT)
EUTHALDA)
MARTON)
ADDA)
MOSCHA D. KYDONIEFS)
ROYAL DAFFODIL II)
TRENTINO)

Reported damaged during Air Attacks on Liverpool between 3/5 and 7/5. (D.S. No. 612)

Mining

Falmouth

Port of Falmouth closed by Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0520/9)
Cancel my 0520/9. Port of Falmouth open with local restrictions (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1858/9. 2 mines detonated as follows. Details. Both Mines laid at 0340/9/5/41. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1940/9)

Skerry Vore.

H.M.D. SWIFT WING reports she sank British floating mine by rifle fire 1300/8 in 350° Skerry Vore 20 miles. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0908/9)

Milford Haven

Port of Milford Haven will be closed every morning in the future from $\frac{3}{4}$ hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunrise. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0944/9)
Two red mines detonated by sweep as follows. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1805/9)

Belfast

Drifter detonated one small magnetic mine in 213° 4 cables from Pile Light Belfast (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1315/9)

/Poole.....

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Friday

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Poole
Minefield.

Following received from N.O.I.C. Poole
O.M. laying operations completed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1515/9)

Humber.

No shipping movement possible in Hull
Docks on account of Mines. There are
many Mines unexploded ashore. (F.O. Humber
1701/9)

At 0658 today LL Trawlers detonated a
mine in position 220° Clock Tower Albert
Dock Hull 4 cables. (F.O. Humber 1836B/9)

Clyde

Unless further instructions are issued,
the following movements may take place
on Clyde tomorrow:- River will be open
to down traffic timed to pass Bowling
between 1230 and 1430, with the following
restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1717/9)

Minesweeping Report. Evening May 9th.
River has been open for outward traffic
astern of Sweepers for three and a half
hours and at least 50 Vessels have passed
out. This was the maximum which tidal
conditions permitted. Some ships may
come up river on the night tide.
River will again be open for Important
outward traffic Astern of Sweepers tomorrow.
It is hoped to countermine the Dumbarton
Mine at low water tomorrow. (F.O.I.C.
Glasgow, 1851/9)

Enemy Intelligence

E-Boat
activity.

Possible E-Boat activity N.E. of Yarmouth
at 0030B. (C. in C. Nore 0049B/9)

Brest

Visual and photographic R/C at 1140B/9
shows both battlecruisers present in same
position. (D.D.I.C. 1632B/9)

War Diary.

9.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.8.(B)

Proposed embarkation, arrangements.
(D.S.T., to P.S.T.O., W. of Scotland
etc. *0342 B/9*).

"Watch"
"Scent"
cancelled.

Falmouth closed due to minelaying.
~~"Watch"~~ cancelled. Request ~~"Scent"~~ "Scent"
be cancelled. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0520/9,
to C. in C. Plymouth.)

H.X.123.

Was reported by U boat yesterday. Convoy
may be up to 20 miles to southward of R.V.
(C. in C. W.A., 1023B/9, to WESTCOTT,
CAMPBELTOWN, NEWMARKET.)

Military
Convoy.

Sailed HIGHLAND PRINCESS, ROSLIN CASTLE
and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD escorted by ~~"Distaff"~~
WANDERER and RIPLEY. Code word "DISTAFF".
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD to Clyde. Remainder
in accordance with my 1059/6 and A.M.
2101/6. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1152/9, to
Admty. etc.)

Warning
of Air
Attack.

Your 1955B/7. As convoys on the East
Coast are always open to an attack without
warning, especially from low flying
planes, and for navigational reasons cover
a considerable length, it is not considered
desirable for the signal to be used.
(A) Because it would engender a feeling
of non-alertness if it was not flying.
(B) Because it could never be repeated
down a line of merchant ships in time to
be of any use. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1321/9,
to Admty.)
A.M. 1955/7 last sentence, cancel and
substitute:- It is to be clearly under-
stood that air attack will frequently
occur without warning and it must NOT be
assumed that air attack is only imminent
when the above signal is hoisted. It is
essential that ships in convoy within
range of air attack are at all times
ready to open fire instantly with their
A/A armament. The above signal is not to
be used on the East Coast. (A.C.N.S.(T)
1755B/9, to A.I.G. 44 etc.)

/Ocean Convoys
for Methil.....

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Friday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Ocean Convoys
for Methil.

Your 1638B/8/5. While fully appreciated that speeding up of shipping is very necessary, considered essential for safety of ships that they should have A/A Escort on East Coast. Trawlers alone are not considered to be sufficient. Therefore suggested that whenever possible ships from Overseas should join a W.N. Convoy on passage between Minches and Pentland Firth and when this is not possible or would entail undue delay, that they should be escorted to Methil by an A/A Vessel from W.Approaches. Still desirable that W.N. Convoys shall synchronise with E.C. Convoys in accordance with Admty's 1813/25/4. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1323/9, to Admty.)

Signals
for 19
R.A.F.
Group.

Following received from R.A.F. 19 Group (begins). Request all signals relating to all movements of convoys and independently routed ships over 1000 tons in Western Approaches area south of Bardsey Island be addressed also to this H.Q. (Ends.) Request you comply with this. (C. in C. W.A., 1631B/9, to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Rescue
Ships.

Request purport of A.M. 1329/12/4 may be communicated to Masters of special rescue ships and that they be informed that the requisite information will be passed to them at sea by the escorts. (C. in C. W.A., 1650/9, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S.C.29.

Asking reason for certain destinations given. (C. in C. W.A. 2350/9, to VETERAN.)

War Diary.

9.5.41.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

EMPIRE LIGHT.

Due Durban 6/5 from Madras. Not arrived.
(S.O.I. Cape Town 1038B/9.) *See page 88*

CITY OF
VENICE.

Due Saint Helena 7/5. Not arrived.
(S.O.I. Cape Town 1046B/9.)

SPONDILUS.

Has developed engine defects and will be
returning Southend with F.S.No 83.
(PYTCHLEY 1210/9.)

Unknown
ship.

Following received from unknown station
at 1340 G.M.T. begins:- S.O.S. followed
by G.T.S.T. = de G K U. (Portishead:
Recd. 1558/9.)

FURIOUS.

If conditions at Liverpool remain as at
present expect all essential work will
complete by Monday morning. "X" pom pom
and other work outstanding from refit
could probably be completed by Tuesday
morning. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1621B/9.)

War Diary.

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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Refugees,
Lisbon.

Your 1337B/7, Ambassador Lisbon reports about 450 British refugees now at Lisbon prepared to leave. Shipping to bring to Gibraltar, cannot be provided at present. Propose one of the ships mentioned your 1337B/7, embark these refugees at Lisbon before arriving at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1212/9, to Admty.) Reply 2238/12.

Reported
Fall of
Spanish
Govt.

News from a reliable source Government in Madrid has fallen. Military taken charge. Report later. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1500/9, to Admty.)

Comment by N.I.D.3.

No confirmation obtainable by 2245/9. The Army, as represented by the Generals, are strongest anti-Axis element in country. W.D. Note. Report based on Cabinet changes in Madrid. See 1744/10.

TRUANT.
(intercepted
French
GALLIUM
8/5.)

My p.c. and s. are 037° 42' N., 001° 05' E., 240° 6 knots. (TRUANT, 2100/9, to S.O. Force H.)

AFRICAN
REEFER.

Your 1828/8. Sale of AFRICAN REEFER or any other Danish ship not approved, and change of flag would not be recognised. (Head of M. 2341B/9, to Consul, Lisbon.)

War Diary.

9.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

"R" Reports.

Have you received coded cancellations of Raider distress messages from NEVADA and CERAMIC? (A.C.N.S. (F) 0804B/9 to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 0804B/9, no. NEVADA II should arrive Freetown 11/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1215N/9), Report from NEVADA II, see 1205Z/15.

ALCANTARA.

C. in C. S.A.'s 1417/ N/8. On leaving J 35 proceed to be in L 32 not later than daylight 15/5. (R.A.S.A.D., 0952z/9, to ALCANTARA.)

S.L.74.

Your 0009 B/7 and my 2359 N/6. S L 74 sails P.M./10 (route)
(C. in C. S.A., 1145N/9 to Admty.)

R.M. Ships,
Oiling at
Trinidad.

N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires reports "Royal Mail have received instructions via Admiralty for homeward bound ships of 13 knots and over to call at Trinidad for oil fuel" Request this may be confirmed and information if this applies to any other independent shipping as well from South America. (C. in C. S. A. 1401N/9, to Admty.)

BULOLO.

Your 2003N/6. In view of number of personnel requiring passage from Freetown if it is decided to refit BULOLO in U.S.A. intend ship shall call at Port after escorting S.L.74 and before proceeding to U.S.A. (C. in C. S.A. 1501N/9, to Admty.)

MAURITIUS
EAGLE
NELSON
W.S.8A.

See also next page
MAURITIUS
Has serious defects to steam forced lubrication pumps. Dockyard assistance required estimated time 7 to 10 days. As EAGLE has asked for 8 days to boiler clean at Simonstown and will probably not be ready in time to sail with NELSON to meet W.S.8A at sea, propose MAURITIUS shall take convoy to Cape and have defects made good at Simonstown NELSON escorting on from Cape to Durban. EAGLE to await completion MAURITIUS defects which will entail delay of about 10 days or alternatively an A.M.C. could be sent Cape to accompany EAGLE. (C. in C. S.A., 1851N/9, to Admty.)

/BULOLO.....

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.BULOLO.

To act as ocean escort to Convoy S L 74 until position V, 59° 00' N., 20° 00' W., when Admty., is requested to issue necessary route and instructions, my 1501/9 to Admty., only refers. DORSETSHIRE will overtake convoy on Monday 12/5. (C. in C. S.A., 1935N/9, to BULOLO.)

See previous page

Raider Report
5/5.

A fast heavily armed M.v. with clipper bow and two funnels was reported in 8° N., 29° 50' W., at 1530 G.M.T./6 course 150°. Ship reported may possibly have been AVILA STAR which was near position at time indicated. (C. in C. S.A., 2045N/9, to S.A. Sqdn.)

Mediterranean.Operation
M.D.4.

Anchor 2.5 cables 245° from Delimara light approaching on approx. course 325°. Destroyers oil and transfer passengers and stores to BRECONSHIRE. If swell too great for oiling destroyers proceed Ghain Tuffieha Bay instead. UTMOST is in sanctuary. (V.A. Malta 0030B/9 to BRECONSHIRE.)

Beaufighters standing by at short notice as weather here unsuitable. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0638B/9, to C.S.15.)

Following received on 11200 Kc/s... Malta W/T From C.S.15. Convoy ~~FAITH~~ is being shadowed by 4 enemy aircraft in position 36° 6' N., 12° 15' E. C. & S. of convoy 130° 14 knots (Nore W/T 0840/9)

Your 0638 B/9 "Fulmar" has been reported. (C. in C. Med. 08530/9 to N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Your 0853/9 Beaufighters leaving now. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0850B/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Both convoys arrived and are entering now. (V.A. Malta 0905/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Your 2105/8. Aircraft not arrived. 3 Fulmar and 2 Swordfish left for R.V. at 1040C. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0950B/9, to F.O. A/C Carriers Med.)

My 0950B/9. 2 Swordfish have returned owing to weather presume that 3 Fulmar have rejoined you. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1044B/9, to F.O. A/C. Med.)

/My 1044/B...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.Operation
M.D.4.Contd.

My 1044/B. 2 Swordfish left here for you at 1300G.
(V.A. Malta 1158B/9 to F.O. A/C. Med.)
My 1158B/9. The 2 Swordfish referred to have again gone to Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1250B/9, to R.A.A. Med.)
All Merchant Ships and Tankers in harbour. BRECONSHIRE coming round from Marsamuscett. Last 3 destroyers from convoy escort oiling
→ FORESIGHT arriving now.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1224/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Force F.

Destroyers will oil in Grand Harbour.
(V.A. Malta, 1316B/9, to Capt. D.8.)

KASHMIR.
KIPLING.

To R.V. in 034° N., 018° E., at 0800
(C. in C. Med. 1651/9, to V.A. Malta.)
Report. (S.O. Force H., 1930/9, to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
Malta convoys arrived safely. Many mines in entrances and harbours exploded by sweepers sent by C. in C. Med. Dive bombers attacked but no damage and one Ju. 87 shot down and one probable. EMPIRE SONG in "PICKER" hit a mine which set fore ammunition hold on fire and she sank. 130 survivors now in Malta, NEW ZEALAND STAR also struck a mine but is proceeding with convoy at 12.5 knots. → FORESIGHT slightly damaged by debris being temporarily repaired and sailing tonight with 8th D.F. at 2000. This convoy also dive bombed resulting in three enemy planes being brought down by A.A. and Beau-fighters from Malta. It would appear Italians have fully mined area from Cape Bon to Marittimo Island leaving a small swept channel which I hope to discover by a submarine following north-bound ships. Consider that any further attempts to run a convoy from West to East would be most hazardous.
(V.A. Malta, 1956B/9, to Admty.)

SOKRATES.
NICOLAOU.
GEORGIOS.

Greek hospital ships, sunk, presumably by aircraft, in Greek waters before 6/5. This makes 6 Greek hospital ships sunk by aircraft. (D.S., 612, 9/5.)

/Zognia.....

9.5.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Zognia
Occupied.

Following received (begins) H.Q., R.A.F.M.E. please pass to C. in C. Med., from N.A. Angora. N.C.S.O. reports that Zog occupied this morning 8/5. Please inform Admiralty and Crete. T.O.O. 1534/8, G.M.T. (Ends) (R.A. Alexandria, 0115C/9, to C. in C. Med.) W.D. Note - D.S. 613, 10/5, states Zognia Island, off the Gulf of Volo.

RAWNSLEY
(torpedoed
by A/c. 8/5.)

RAWNSLEY still making water. Attempting to get her to Makryallo Bay to be beached if necessary. Master does not think ship will last for towing to Makryallo Bay and I concur. Ship has no steering gear making towing extremely difficult. Tug or another ship to assist urgently required. Request fighter protection at daylight. (GRIMSBY, 0215/9, to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.) Your 2030/8. Air protection arranged for 0600/9, in 035° 32' N., 024° 31' for East portion of convoy and near Yanisade Is for RAWNSLEY. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 0500/9, to AUCKLAND, GRIMSBY.) Your 0215 9th. Fighter protection arranged near Kupho Nisi. Unless chance of salvage appears good abandon ship and proceed Suda Bay with all despatch. Report action taken. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 0531/9 and 0840/9, to GRIMSBY.) After stopping in Makryallo Bay am proceeding with RAWNSLEY in tow to Messara Bay from where it may be possible to make Suda Bay. Urgently request fighter protection. (GRIMSBY 1013/9, to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.) Your 1013/9. RAWNSLEY can be dealt with at Suda Bay and passage via South coast hazardous. Proceed towards Alexandria at dusk unless ordered to the contrary by R.A. Alexandria. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1221/9, to GRIMSBY.) GRIMSBY's 1013/9 and my 1221/9. Request tugs are sent to assistance of RAWNSLEY. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1225/9, to R.A. Alexandria.) In spite of several attempts, owing to a freshening East wind and easterly swell it has been impossible to tow RAWNSLEY to Messara Bay. Am returning to Hierapetra to anchor ship in shallow water, as communication probably better than at Makri Yalo. Expect to arrive 0115/10. (GRIMSBY, 2213/9, to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

UTMOST.

Remain Sanctuary until further orders.
(Cdr. S.I. 0840B/9, to UTMOST.)

Enemy Order
to Yugoslav
Ships.

Italian p.l. intercept on 128 kc/s.
Yugo Slavia ships in Atlantic to proceed
to Brazilian and Argentine ports. Those
in Pacific to proceed to Japanese,
Manchurian Thailand ports.
(Capt. O.S., Alexandria 0854X/9, to Admty.)

Greek Ships
under German
Orders.

(a) Greek S.S. ELISE and one other of
9,000 tons are expected here from Athens
for Black Sea under orders of Deutsche
Levant Line agency (b) Greek Consul here
will endeavour to get in touch with masters
on arrival (c) His attitude is that
ships probably fetching grain for
civilian population in which case he
presumes no steps will be taken to prevent.
(S.O.I., Istanbul, 0940/9, to C. in C.Med.)

Enemy Bombing
Tobruk.

In 4 parts, Part 1. Operational Summary
No. 333 up to 1200 hrs. 9/5 1941.
7/5, enemy bombed Tobruk Harbour water
installations twice during day, Damage
slight, (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1036/9.

Operation
"Demon".

Reply to C. in C. Med. 1142C/6, re
publicity. (D.P.D., 1121B/9 to C. in C.
Med.) See Lion Copy.

Enemy
Supply
Ships.

Probably BOSFORO with aviation fuel and
ARSLA with air force stores leave Tripoli
on 10/5 and shortly respectively for
Benghazi. (Cdr. S.I., 1215B/9, to
TETRARCH.)

ARKADIA.
German.

Fully loaded passed Istanbul for Aegean
1300 C/8 10 knots. My 0815 C/8 ship
passed Chanak 0430 C/8.
(Capt. S.I., 1257C/9, to RORQUAL.)

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET

285(A)

1121B/9 May.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

OUT.

To: C. in C. Mediterranean 799 Date: 9/5/41.

Naval Cypher X R.

From: Admiralty.

IMPORTANT BASEGRAM.

Your 1142c/5. An Admiralty communique of about 1,200 words giving as full a description as was possible of the Evacuation was issued at 1255 on Saturday, 3rd May, and obtained a very good show in this country.

The Air Ministry issued their communique on Sunday, 4th, May, which dealt with the work of the R.A.F. during the whole of the Greek Campaign. Only the last two paragraphs refer to the evacuation and these consist of about 200 words. They did, however, contain the following sentences:-

"Our fighters, heavily outnumbered, had to guard the continuous stream of ships that went back and forth to Greece.

Thousands of men and women came away from Greece by air. Thousands more were guarded as they made the journey in big ships and little ships."

We entirely agree with you that the effect of this R.A.F. publicity is most unfortunate and the matter is being taken up with the Air Ministry.

We have been surprised at the lack of stories sent home by Press correspondents at Alexandria dealing with incidents, etc. of the evacuation as you mentioned in your 1301/1 that many tales of heroic deeds during the evacuation had been reported to you which compared with anything that has ever been done in this way.

Perhaps you would consider making available to the Press representatives at Alexandria such of the stories referred to above as you consider desirable.

1121B/9.

D.P.D.

Approved 1st Lord.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
Duty Capt.
D.N.A.D.
D.N.I.(4)
L. of P.(2)
D.D.I.C.
Head of M.
D.P.D.
D.T.D.(2)
I.P.
W.D.
D. of L.D.
E.P.S.

War Diary.

9.5.41.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Malta
Air
Report.

Up to 1700 hours 9/5. Times G.M.T. After quiet night enemy attempted in spite bad weather to attack incoming part of convoy with 4 JU.87s, attack successful (? unsuccessful). Hurricanes on patrol shot down 1 JU.87 confirmed and 1 JU. 87 probable. 2 further alarms were sounded due to recco and fighter patrols which were unseen owing bad visibility. 5 Beaufighters standing patrol for convoy passing South from 0715 to 1530 hours. 1 JU.88 1 recco shot down confirmed. Weather. Overcast and extremely poor visibility throughout day cloud at times zero feet. Some rain. (H.Q.,R.A.F. Malta 1625/9 to Air Min.)

WEIRBANK.

Your 2110/31/12/40. Request news of Collier WEIRBANK sailed U.K. 26/12 for Suez. (N.O.i/c. Port Said 1706C/9, to Admty.)

BELLONA.
SAVONA.
LISBOA.
ATLAS.
(German).

Departure Cartagena 5/5 BELLONA Marseilles, 6/5 SAVONA in ballast Marseilles. Departure 8/5 LISBOA Marseilles. Arrival 9/5 ATLAS. (Cartagena,1855/9.)

Suez Canal.

Canal situation 2000/9 LL HOPPER exploded one mine at k.33.6. Two further investigations indicate 10 U X objects still in canal, five of which may probably be bombs and five mines. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 2027C/9.)

A.S.30.

Sailing telegram 1800/9 Escorts.AUCKLAND FLAMINGO, VOYAGER, VAMPIRE, DERBY, VENDETTA, MOONSTONE (List.) (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 2201/9.)

Situation.

Report No. 21. Suez Canal, still closed between K.m. 3 and Kantara.

/Western.....

MOST SECRET

286(A)

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1930/9 May.

IN.

From S.O. Force H.

Date 9.5.41.

Recd. 2118.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean, V.A. Malta,
F.O.C.N.A.

IMPORTANT.

794. Operation TIGER. All times Zone Minus 3. As a result of evasive movements and low to moderate visibility D one and D two improbable enemy aware operation until force reported by shadowers at 0758 and 1145, D 3.

Following air attacks and fighter interceptions (a) 1345 by 8 torpedo bombing aircraft escorted by C R 42's. Approach low on bow, dropped outside screen. No hit. 3 Torpedo bombing aircraft shot down by gunfire. One C R 42 damaged by fighters. One Fulmar lost. Crew ~~disembarked~~ Tillard Lieut Somerville whose loss is deeply regretted. (b) 1520 one S 79 shadower shot down by fighters. One Fulmar lost crew saved. (c) 1620 three S 79 escorted by C R 42 S M L B. One driven off and jettisoned. Two dropped stick close to H.M.S. ARK ROYAL. One shot down by gunfire.

(d) 1710 one S 79 shadower shot down by fighters.

(e) 1730 five S 79 escorted by C R 42 M L B. Two driven off by gunfire. Three dropped bombs near screen.

(f) 1800 3 S 79 escorted by C R 42 M L B. Ineffective.

(g) 1910 about 25 JU, 87 and 6 ME. 110 approached from Sicily. Fulmars broke up formation. One JU shot down, one MELLO, one JU 87 and possibly more damaged. Several others jettisoned bombs. Cloud probably 36 reforming and no attack materialised.

(h) 2030 as force B turned to westward 3 torpedo bombing aircraft from ahead. Attack pressed home with great determination. No hit. 2 torpedo bombing aircraft heavily hit.

(iii) Total bag 7 certain 2 probable 3 or more damaged.

(iv) Regret during 2030 attack P 3 mounting in H.M.S. RENOWN fired 2 rounds into back of P 2 owing to failure of interceptor release gear. Casualties 5 killed 4 seriously wounded 24 wounded.

(v) Cloud extensive 6 to 9 in each S at 5000 feet, making fighter interception difficult but greatly reducing intensity of air attack. H.M.S. ARK ROYAL started day with 12 Fulmars, dropped to 5 at time and ended with 7.

(vi) All bombs apparently A.P. with considerable delay action. *Torpedo evidently non-magnetic (So. Force H 1057/11)*

(vii) H.M.S. RENOWN target for torpedo aircraft attack. Hits avoided by very skilful handling by captain.

1930/9.

Advance copy 1st Lord, A.C.N.S.(F), C.S.O.
to 1st S.L., Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F),
D.D.I.C., D.P.D.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(T) (2)

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

D. of P. (2)

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.O.D.(H)

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.N.I.(4)

D.S.D.

D.N.A.D.

D. of L.D.

D.A./S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P.

W.D.

Duty Capt.

Hd. of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D.(2)

N.I.D.10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

D.P.D.

MGB.

War Diary.

9.5.41.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Situation
Contd.

Western Desert. Patrol activity.
No appreciable change. Severe sand storm.
Aegean. S.S. RAWNSLEY of A.N.30 torpedoed by A/C near Kaso Strait, now in tow convoy A.S.30 left Suda Bay (? or successfully) 1800/9.
Operation M.D.4. BRECONSHIRE and both M.W.7 convoys arrived Malta.
EMPIRE SONG sunk between Cape Bon and Sicily at 0410/9 120 saved by FORESIGHT.
NEW ZEALAND STAR also damaged in same vicinity but proceeding with convoy. "Tiger"
"TIGER" p.c. and s. at 1200/9 035° 36' N., 013° 30' E., 130° 12½ knots.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 2321C/9.)

East Indies.

Neutral
Shipping.
Basra.

In present conditions in Irak it would appear undesirable that: (a) Japanese ships should enter Shatt-El-Arab.
(b) any neutral ships should unload at Basra cargoes which cannot be forwarded by rail and therefore will occupy space required for Military stores. 2. Propose any neutral ships bound for Basra be diverted to Bahrein, Karachi or Bombay to wait until situation improves.
Meantime C. in C. China, C. in C. S.A., and A.C.N.B, have been told that all neutral ships for Basra are to call at Bombay or Karachi for orders.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0102B/9 to C. in C. E.I.)
Orders to shipping. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0105B, and 0110B/9.)
Admty., 0102/9 concur. Necessary instructions being issued.
(C. in C. E.I., 0430Z/9, to Admty.)

/Admty.....

War Diary.9.5.41.
Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.Neutral
Shipping
Basra.
Contd.

x

Admty., 0102/9. 1. Khor, Kuwait patrol is to endeavour to intercept all neutral Merchant ships bound Basra and Japanese ships bound any Shatt-el-Arab port and inform them (a) passage up Shatt-el-Arab' is at present forbidden. (b) they should proceed Bahrein or Karachi at their discretion to await improvement of situation.

11. Rooka patrol is to ensure no neutral ship enters Rooka Channel without your orders. Japanese ships are not to enter. Other neutral ships bound Abadan or Khorramshahr, may enter at your discretion. (C. in C. E.I., 1120Z/9, to S.N.O., P.G.) Orders to N.C.S.O.'s (C. in C. E.I., 1126Z/9.) See Lion Copy.

Raider
sunk by
CORNWALL
8/5.

My 1856/8.No. 33 last met supply ship 21/4, to southward to whom she transferred prisoners before proceeding to sink EMPIRE LIGHT (25/4) CLAN BUCHANAN (28/4) BRITISH EMPEROR (7/5.).

Total prisoners on board at time of action were roughly 67 whites and 166 coloured from above 3 ships. No. 33, remained in same area between 28/4 and 7/5. (C. in C. E.I., 0230Z/9, to Admty.) Their Lordships send you their heartiest congratulations on your dispositions and to CORNWALL on having taken full advantage of them.

(1st. S.L. 1450B/9, to C. in C. E.I.)
Summary of activities of Raider No.33.
(D.S. 612, 9/5.)

Refugees,
Evacuation.

Your 0838/30/4. Am advised by War Office that question of evacuation of these refugees is so nebulous that examination of shipping possibilities is not yet practicable. (D.S.T., 0340B/9, to D.S.T.O. Mombasa.)

/COBURG.....

MOST SECRET

288(A)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1126Z/9 May IN

From C. in C. East Indies

DATE 10.5.41.

REC'D 1912

Naval Cypher (C) by Cable

Addressed East Indies Station Repeated Admiralty, N.O. i/c Simonstown,
C. in C. South Atlantic, C. in C. China, A.C.N.B. Melbourne.

IMPORTANT

~~For~~ For N.C.S.O's.

(i) In present conditions in Irak, Japanese ships will not be allowed to enter Shatt-el-Arab. Japanese ships bound for any of Shatt-el-Arab ports are to be informed they cannot for the present proceed up river but they may wait at Bombay Karachi or Bahrein pending improvements in the situation. Care is to be taken to avoid disclosing any discrimination in this respect against Japanese Flag.

(ii) Other neutral ships with cargoes for Basra repetition Basra are to be diverted to Bombay Karachi or Bahrein for orders. N.O. i/c's of three latter ports are to inform S.N.O. Persian Gulf of their arrival. S.N.O. Persian Gulf will give instructions for their onward passage to Basra when berthing, unloading and rail facilities at that port permit.

(iii) Neutral ships (other than Japanese) bound for Abadan or Khorramshahr may proceed to Rocka examination anchorage for orders regarding onward passage. S.N.O. Persian Gulf to be informed of expected time of arrival of these ships.

1126Z/9

Advance copy sent to Duty Captain, D.O.^D.(F)
and D.T.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)
Secretary
D. of P.(2)
D.O.D.(H)
D.D.O.D.(H)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.N.I.(4)
D.D.
D.N.D.
D. of L.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.

D.T.D.(2)
N.I.D.10(Paymaster Cdr.Wilson)
D.P.D.
Admiral Bellairs

War Diary.

9.5.41.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

COBURG
KETTY BROVIG.

My 1658/6/4 - Decided to issue news of sinking of COBURG and KETTY BROVIG. Arrangements.(D.P.D., 1238B/9, to N.Z.N.B.)
see also p. 292.

COCKCHAFER.

Could COCKCHAFER make passage to Baghdad under present river conditions if required to assist with Military operation? (1st. S.L. 1846B/9 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)
Your 1846/9, hydrographically speaking yes, but if (? Kut or Kuq or Gwtonhahn) barrage was held or damaged by enemy passage would be impossible.
(S.N.O., P.G, 2017Z/9, to Admty.)

HA 123, AMBASSA...
THROUGH leaving today to...
half an hour after...
proceeding...
Admty...)

Admty Report...

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.5.1941.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSChina.QUEEN ELIZABETH
U.S. 11.

Your 0323B/6 and S.S.T.O. Egypt 2011Z/7 ship can be docked at Singapore on 19/5. Estimated ten days required. (N.O.I.C. Singapore, 0805Z/9 to D. of S.T.)

America & West IndiesAdmiral
Lais.

My 2205/6. Instructions given to permit Admiral Lais to continue his journey. (Head of M. 0200B/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Your 0200B/9. Admiral Lais informed of his probable early release. He prefers to go by sea. Next opportunity is by EXCALIBUR leaving Bermuda 12/5 for Lisbon. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1301Q/9 to Admty.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Can be taken at Norfolk Navy Yard. Report earliest date she can arrive. (1649/8) (B.A.R.M. 0230/9 to Admty.) My 1801P/8 ROYAL SOVEREIGN only and Admty. 1258B/8. If fuel remaining will allow ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to proceed direct to Norfolk Navy Yard, Virginia, U.S.A., for docking. When well clear of convoy W/T silence is to be broken to report your intentions. Further instructions will then be given. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1456P/9 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN)

Convoy Escorts

SC. 31. WOLFE returning to Halifax after meeting Iceland local escort and (?LULWORTH) proceeding Clyde unless otherwise ordered. HX 126, AURANIA proceeding Reykjavik and TRIBUNE leaving convoy in 035° 0' W., or half an hour after sunset on 21/5 and proceeding U.K. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1116P/9 to Admty., etc.)

/Raider Report....

War Diary9.5.1941.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies-Contd.Raider
Report 7/5.

Following received from Washington - (Begins) Dutch WELTEVREDEN reported surface raider in 6° S., 171° 40' W., at 1233/7 G.C.T. Report cancelled at 1251 but renewed at 1457 (Ends) This may be PRINCE ROBERT but see my 1936B/7 para 4 (Raider reported by Norwegian TAMESIS in 22° N., 136° E., on 15/4.) See also 2030/9, New Zealand. (D.D.I.C. 1634B/9 to C. in C. China, N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B.)

THUNDERBOLT

Request total bombing restrictions for THUNDERBOLT from 2100Z/10 to 2359Z/11. THUNDERBOLT parts company (?with) S.C. 30 in approx. 035° W. returning to Halifax routed through 043° N., 040° W. (F.O. 3. B.S. 1634P/9 to H.Q.C.C.)

Convoy
Stragglers

My 1349/13/2. Add to para 1. Stragglers after crossing the meridian of 30° W are to proceed at best speed zigzagging on standard route. (D.T.D. 1646B/9 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.C.S.O. Bermuda)

Sydney and
Bermuda Convoys.

When Sydney and Bermuda recommence convoy sailings with the present even-numbered H.X. convoys and S.C. convoy procedure it will happen from time to time that in fog there will be three sections of H.X. and an S.C. convoy looking for each other and on convergent routes. Suggested alternatives. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2049Z/9 to Admty.)

Routeing of
Westbound Shipping

Your 2236/18/3. Suggest that limits of area be amended as follows as from 28/5. Position B. 4530N., 58° W., position Y, 4430 N., 50° W. (N.S.H.Q., 2053Z/9 to Admty.)

Newfoundland
Bases.

A.M. 2056/23. Depths in approach to Mortier Bay appear such that only suitable area for underwater defences is abreast the three islands in entrance approx. 47° 08.6' N., 55° 04.6' W. Request report on practicability of laying and maintaining boom defences, controlled mines and indicator loops in this vicinity. (D. of L.D. 2341B/9 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

War Diary

9.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

COBURG and
KETTY BROVIG

My 1658/6/4 - Decided to issue news of the sinking. Request you will issue in New Zealand at 1900/11/5, N.Z. time and arrange for simultaneous publication in Australia.

(D.P.D., 1238B/9 to N.Z.N.B.)

See p. 289.

Raider Report
7/5.

Your 1634B/9 (see America & West Indies) By plotting ACHILLES should have been in this position. Confirmation being ascertained on arrival ACHILLES at Suva today. (N.Z.N.B., Wellington 2030Z/9 to Admty.)

War Diary.

9.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CAMITO
(torpedoed 6/5)

Arrived ORCHIS with C.O. 21 Officers and 104 ratings survivors from CAMITO. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0635/9 to Admty.).

ESMOND
BENGORE HEAD.

Following has been read. SSSS de GCK (Wick Radio) 60.28 N. 32.40 W. ESMOND and BENGORE HEAD torpedoed. (Portishead Radio 1210/9).

EMPIRE CLOUD.
GREGALIA.

Following has been read. 60.24 N. 32.37 W. EMPIRE CARIBOU (corrected in later signal) and GREGALIA torpedoed. (Lyness W/T, 1435B/9) For EMPIRE CARIBOU and GREGALIA torpedoed read EMPIRE CLOUD and GREGALIA. (RANPURA, 1310/9 to Admty. etc.).

Following from Resolution Island (begins) 1209 GMT "SSSS from 60° 28' N. 32° 40' W. ESMOND and BENGORE HEAD torpedoed". Bearing 89½ uncalibrated sector. 1235 GMT "SSSS 60° 24' N. 32° 37' W. EMPIRE CARIBOU and GREGALIA torpedoed". Bearing 81½ uncalibrated sector. (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1517Z/9 to Admty.) All four British ships in O.B. 318 Convoy. (D.S. 613, 10/5 D.O.R. 10/5).

Use of
Salvage
Tugs,
Iceland.

F.O.I.C. Iceland is requested to operate tugs stationed in Iceland without waiting for instructions from F.O.I.C. Greenock. If in doubt whether torpedoed ships are salvageable a report should be called for from S.O. Escort Group. Action taken should be reported to C. in C. W.A. repeated. F.O.I.C. Greenock, A.C.O.S. (C. in C. W.A. 1820B/9 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

SANGRO
(torpedoed 6/5)

Arrived HEATHER with 4 Italian Survivors from SANGRO. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1945/9 to Admty.).

CITY OF
WINCHESTER.

Following has been read. SSSS 8.20 N., 26.14 W., CITY OF WINCHESTER torpedoed 2112/9. (RANGITATA via Portishead Radio 2216/9) British 7120 tons, from Oban to Table Bay. Position about 400 miles S.S.W. of Cape Verde Islands. (D.S., 613, 10/5).

War Diary.9.5.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1411B/9).

1146/8.

By D/F at 1146/8 G.M.T. an enemy U-Boat was in 60° N. - 25° W. Indication of area only. (D.D.I.C. 1447B/9).
My 1447/9. Correction. Time should read 1146/9 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1559B/9).

p.m./9.

Estimate one German U.Boat arriving Lorient or Saint Nazaire P.M./9. (F.O.S., 1609B/9 to S/M's on Patrol, Area A).

2206.

A.F. Position 00.20 N. 20.15 W.
(C. in C. S.A., 2206N/9 to Admty.).

2334.

Admty. message A.F. position 8.20 N. 26.14 W.
(C. in C. S.A. 2334N/9 to G.B.M.S. 6A).

Submarines Attacked.By COLUMBIA

Contact with S/M. lost 0050/9 after attack at 0042 by COLUMBIA. Have carried out cross search and box search around area with no further contact. Contact had been held by one or other ship practically consistently up to last attack. ST. LOMAN agrees with impression that a S/M was sunk but have no concrete evidence except for oil streaks seen 7 patterns were fired by ST. LOMAN and 2 by COLUMBIA. ST. LOMAN has 4 charges remaining. Request instructions (COLUMBIA 0935/9 to C. in C. W.A).
Your 0935/9 report position of attack. ST. LOMAN remain in position of contact until daylight/10. COLUMBIA rejoin convoy before dark/9th. (C. in C.W.A. 1251B/9 to COLUMBIA).
Your 1251B/9. 053° 00' N. 017° 50' W. ST. LOMAN instructed. COLUMBIA rejoined. (COLUMBIA, 1345/9).

/Submarine....

War Diary

9.5.1941.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

By COLUMBIA
-Contd.

Submarine contact in 053° 55' N., 017° 10' W contact held briefly after attack. H.E. held short while longer. Continuing hunt, request air co-operation. (COLUMBIA 2011/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

Unless still in contact at daylight join S.L. 72 at 1400 M.S.T. /10 in position bearing 304° 63 miles from position of contact referred to in my 1251/9. S.L. 72 is proceeding on course 059° speed 6½ knots (C. in C. W.A., 2328/9 to ST. LOMAN)

By NIAGARA
ST. CLAIR

NIAGARA and ST. CLAIR attacking submarine in 054° 42' N., 014° 00' W. 8 patterns dropped. Oil patches and periscope sighted. Still in contact. (NIAGARA, 1447/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

Contact lost after search and cross search ST. CLAIRS d.cs expended, NIAGARA 10 remaining. Request instructions. (NIAGARA 2010/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

If not in contact at daybreak proceed to join H.G. 60 (C. in C. W.A. 2245/9 to NIAGARA, ST. CLAIR)

By BULLDOG

My P.C. and S. 60° 40' N., 33° 30' W., 045° 6 knots. (BULLDOG, 2000Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

*W.D. Note. - U.110 was sunk by BULLDOG, BROADWAY
and AUBRIETIA See p. 328*

Bulldog - Comdr. A.D. Baker-Cresswell

War Diary

10.5.41.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

296

Home Commands

The Ocean Boarding Vessel HILARY of the Northern Patrol has intercepted the 5719 ton Italian tanker GIANNA M about 700 miles West of Cape Finisterre and is keeping her in company till she can board her.

The two battle cruisers were still at Brest at 0840 today.

British Air Activity

The A/C detailed to R/C Narvik last night were forced to return by the weather; but after aircraft attacked Calais, Dunkirk, Ostend, Antwerp, Kristiansand Harbour and several M/V's during the night.

Enemy Air Activity

Two British tankers, the BRITISH STATESMAN and the SAN ROBERTO, in Convoy F.N.464 were bombed and damaged off the Humber early this morning ~~in Convoy F.N. 64~~ but were both towed into the Humber by 1310 where SAN ROBERTO was beached.

The A/S Trawler HUDDERSFIELD TOWN was attacked without damage at 0230 off the Smalls; the Trawler TANKERTON TOWERS was sunk off St. Govans Light Vessel by a near miss bomb at midnight 9/10; and CHASSEUR 41 was attacked and slightly damaged at 0025 this morning near the Nab Tower.

/SS. BLUSH ROSE....

10.5.1941.
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

SS BLUSH ROSE was damaged by air attack today 16 miles S.W. of Bardsey Island.

Fighter A/C were sent to help several Convoys during the day; and the station at Jan Mayen engaged German A/C at close range at 0805 this morning and is asking for additional A/A men, guns and W/T equipment.

Mining

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

Aircraft Mines of a new type, without parachutes and designed against rivers, docks and basins, are now being laid by the Enemy. The sweeping procedure for these is not yet known; but one was located intact today on land at Belfast and will be examined by experts.

Mines were exploded by sweepers today off Swansea and Liverpool, and one Mine detonated spontaneously off Spurn Point.

The Clyde was opened today between sweeping operations.

298

10.5.1941.
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

8th D.F.
Bombed.

At 1327 today Capt. (D) 8 reported enemy aircraft bombing in 37.25 N., 06.18 E. At 1339 B, FORTUNE (destroyer) was hit and her speed reduced to 8 knots; further bombing at 1550B by 10 bombers recalled in no hits.

MARTIN PECHEUR
Sunk.

The Vichy French MARTIN PECHEUR which CORINTHIAN intercepted on 1/5 and was sending in to Gibraltar sank as the result of a fire, believed to be accidental, in 37° 7' N., 8° 31' W., presumably today.

South Atlantic

Convoy
W.S. 8 A.

MAURITIUS, escorting Convoy W.S. 8 A is to continue with the convoy to Durban, but may repair serious defects at Simonstown if another escort is then available. NELSON, which had been ordered on 7/5 to exchange with MAURITIUS and take this Convoy to Durban, is to escort EAGLE to Freetown instead.

This convoy is not to be delayed in leaving Freetown on account of the collision between HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN and DOMINION MONARCH on 8/5. If the former is not able to sail, her personnel are to be distributed among remaining ships and transferred at Durban to SCYTHIA.

South African
Minesweepers.

The first group of 4 magnetic minesweepers provided by the Union Govt. is ready to sail.

/A/S Forces.....

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Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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South Atlantic. (contd).

A/S Forces.

Admty. reply to C. in C. S.A's requests for augmentation of his A/S forces in Free-town area is contained in 1236B/10.

Mediterranean.

Operation
M.D. 4.

The Fleet, escorting the Convoy for Alexandria, was attacked by aircraft some 12 times today; but no damage is reported.

Malta

A Sunderland was destroyed at its moorings today by enemy aircraft.

Suez Canal.

Enemy aircraft raided the Canal last night and dropped mines, some without parachutes. The Canal is open from Kantara to Suez, but is closed between Port Said and Lake Timsah and Deversoir. 1 mine or bomb exploded spontaneously at 0020 today at km. 14.7. 5 U/X mines remain, and 5 objects which may be U/X.B's or mines.

Crete.

For urgent defence, A.N.F. 30, containing personnel, stores, and 6 tanks was to leave Alexandria this evening, and an M.T.B. Flotilla tomorrow morning. The M.N.B.D.O. Convoy has arrived at Suda Bay.

Dodecanese.

2 ME. 110 units (some 60 aircraft) are reported to have been fitted with extra tanks, and one unit may operate from Rhodes, from which place Alexandria would be within its radius of action.

/Corinth....

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

300

Mediterranean. (contd).

Corinth Canal.

The Giornale d'Italia today claims that the Corinth Canal is now open to traffic. It was thought that the demolitions arranged during Operation "Demon" would block the Canal for 2 months, apart from any ship which might be sunk by mine placed in the Canal.

Kythera and islands in Cyclades Occupied.

Germans occupied today the island of Kythera (Cerigo) between Crete and the Peloponnese. The Italian press states that the islands of Andros, Tenos and Therma have been occupied.

Enemy Shipping

According to information at the disposal of the Chiefs of Staff at home, if sinkings of enemy merchant ships at the rate of recent months continue, a position of considerable embarrassment to the Axis Powers in the Middle East may shortly arise.

Dutch S/MS.

Admty. have no objection to the Dutch s/ms at Gibraltar taking their turn on patrol in the Mediterranean if C. in C. considers it desirable. Dutch s/m's have been instructed to carry out the orders of British authorities under whom they may be working, whatever the nationality of the enemy.

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Basra
Convoys.

Convoy B.P. 2 consisting of 3 personnel ships for Basra, entered Rooka Channel this morning.

KANIMBLA is to escort the Basra portion of B.P. 3 until 60° 30' E.

German
Units.

D/F bearings indicate possibly 3 German Units, 2 of which may be in the vicinity of the Saya de Malha Bank and the third to the south-east.

America & West Indies.

VAN KINSBERGEN

Dutch Naval authorities wish this ship to return to U.K. to exchange some ratings and then to take a large number to the Netherlands East Indies. C. in C. has been asked when he can release her. She is the largest of the Dutch ships attached to the Royal Navy.

U-Boat Campaign.

Following the torpedoing of 4 ships of Convoy O.B. 318 yesterday afternoon, a fifth vessel, the Dutch HERCULES, was torpedoed at 0501 G.M.T. this morning about 420 miles S.W. of Iceland. S.S. AELBRYN is also reported torpedoed.

S.S. CITY OF EXETER is believed to have been torpedoed at 0012/10 650 miles S.S.W. of Freetown.

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Policy.

DEVONSHIRE.

When ready for sea DEVONSHIRE should be sailed for Scapa to work up. (D.O.D. H. 1216B/10 to C. in C. W.A.).

Defence of U.K.

Immobilisation
of Northern
East Coast
Ports.

Admiral Peters 2019/9/5. I consider this would only obtain if enemy had complete land, air and sea superiority. Report follows. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0943/10).

Lowestoft
and Great
Yarmouth
A/A Guns.

Your 1601B/6. 4 heavy A.A. guns allocated from May allotment for each Yarmouth and Lowestoft. (D. of L.D. 1154B/10 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

Movements.

SURCOUF.

A. Request SURCOUF be sailed 14/5 for Bermuda proceeding South of Ireland and routed as necessary by C.S. in C. of Stations through which she will pass.
B. SURCOUF to dive by day to Meridian 19° W. and thence on surface at C.O.S. discretion. (F.O.S. 0121B/10 to C. in C. Plymouth).

GARTH.

My 1647/8 and 2120/8. 24 hours due to late delivery of certain main engine parts. (F.O.I.C. London 1040/10).

BERWICK.

My 1823B/10. Postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1047B/10).

TRINIDAD.

Your 1039/1 (No.14039) Estimate earliest date by which steam can be raised is 31/5, and date of sailing 7/6. These dates will be confirmed as soon as possible. The two after boilers and two inner shafts only will be available for use. Further details. (Dockyard, Devonport 1058/10 to Adty).

/CLYDE.....

War Diary.

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Saturday. 303

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

CLYDE.

Now intend to sail CLYDE to Halifax as previously arranged. (F.O.S. 1237B/10).

Operations.

HILARY.
Interception
of Enemy
Tanker
GIANNA M.

Have intercepted enemy tanker. Weather too bad to board her. Will keep her in company. (HILARY 2045/10).
My D.R. Position is 044° 28' N. 025° 52' W. Intercepted Italian tanker GIANNA M. Weather prevented boarding. Am keeping her in company steering 064° speed 7 knots until I can board her. Request instructions. (HILARY 2230/10 to Admty).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 2000/9. R/C of Narvik forced to return uncompleted owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0156/10).
Air patrol today. ~~UNST~~ "Hornet" in operation ~~HORNET~~
Search for U boat reported in Adty 0047B/10 by one Hudson West of Shetlands to 6° W. one sortie only. (C. in C. Rosyth 0616/10).
A R/C by 2 A/C will be made by moonlight tonight from Bergen to Haugesund to locate shipping inside Fiords. (C. in C. Rosyth 1942/10).

Plymouth
Command.
Convoy
Escorts.

Ops. 517 10/5. Your 1622/8. Am loth to forgo night escorts during moon period, and 19 group should be able to relieve 10 Group of commitment concerned and agreed to between A.O.C's without this sacrifice of protection to Shipping. I have instructed 19 Group accordingly. (A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command 1100/10 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Calais,
Dunkirk,
Ostend,
Antwerp
bombed and
M/V's
attacked.

Narrative of operations on Night 9/10. (H.Q.B.C. 1640/10).

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
F.N.464.
SAN ROBERTO.

(British Tanker,
 5890 tons).

bombed.

BRITISH STATESMAN
 (British Tanker,
 6991 Tons)

bombed.

Help. Enemy aircraft attacking convoy "Agent".
~~AGENT~~. My position 53° 41' N. 0° 45' E.
 SOUTHDOWN 0116/10).

Send tugs to assist SAN ROBERTO at 62 C.
 buoy who has been bombed but is not in
 immediate danger of sinking. PINTAIL
 is standing by her.

(SOUTHDOWN 0200B/10 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

BRITISH STATESMAN damaged in engine room
 by bomb near 62 B buoy. YORKSHIREMAN

proceeding to assist. SAN ROBERTO
 damaged in engine room near 62 C buoy.

SABINE proceeding to assist. (F.O. Humber
 0324/10).

Your 0220. 20 groups Auxiliary M/S detailed
 to R/V with BRITISH STATESMAN. Tug

YORKSHIREMAN should reach her 0800.

(N.O.I.C. Humber 0345/B/10 to PYTCHLEY).

Departure SABINE and YORKSHIREMAN at
 0450 to assist SAN ROBERTO and BRITISH
 STATESMAN. (F.O. Humber 0452/10).

Have transferred towing of BRITISH STATESMAN
 to tug SABINE. Am rejoining convoy. My
 position H.3 buoy. (PYTCHLEY 0755B/10).

Arrivals PINTAIL towing SAN ROBERTO, tug
 YORKSHIREMAN in attendance at 1310.

SABINE towing BRITISH STATESMAN at 1250.
 (F.O. Humber 1402B/10).

Boarded BRITISH STATESMAN, no urgent salvage
 assistance needed but requires craft to

supply steam as we have to anchor her,

Have taken SABINE to render urgent assistance
 to SAN ROBERTO whom we are beaching near

Haile Sand Fort. Too dangerous to bring
 up river, craft now 40 feet aft, and vessel
 sinking slowly.

Pump on oiler being made ready to deal with
 SAN ROBERTO. SCOTSMAN towing vessel towards

shore. K. 21 standing by. Hasten salvage
 assistance from Hull. (Chief Salvage

Officer in SABINE 1605/10).

Convoy "Frank Two"
FRANK TWO.

Fighter, A/C are being despatched to assist
 convoy ~~FRANK TWO~~. (Rosyth W/T 0123/10).

Convoy "Alpha"
ALPHA.

Help. A/C attacking convoy "Alpha" in posn.
 54° 31' N. 0° 33' W. (Rosyth W/T 0140/10).

/VICEROY.....;.....

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

VICEROY.

Enemy aircraft bombing. My position (?).
(VICEROY 0207/10).
My 0207. No hits. (VICEROY 0220/10).

CHASSEUR 41.

Attacked by enemy plane near Nab Tower at 0025. 2 low level bomb and machine gun attacks made and 6 bombs dropped, 1 of which passed through superstructure without exploding. Plane engaged with close range A.A. weapon throughout both attacks and after striking mast made off to southward with tail on fire. Both attacks were made from height of about 30 feet. 1 minor casualty sustained. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1102B/10).

TANKERTON
TOWERS.

(Trawler) Reported by D.O. Tenby as having been sunk by near miss from enemy plane at midnight/9 off St. Govans L.V. Plane was burning lights but switched off to attack. Crew of 8 saved. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1108B/10).

HUDDERSFIELD.
TOWN.

(A/S Trawler) Reports being attacked 180 degs. Smalls 5 miles at 0230. No damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1110B/10).

Convoy
E.C. Even.

Fighter protection is being sent to the aid of even numbered E.C. Convoy.
(Rosyth W/T 1535/10 and 1826/10);

Jan Mayen.

Jan Mayen reports opening fire on German A/C over station at 0805 to-day at close range. C.O. has asked for additional men, A/A guns and reliable W/T. Necessary men have been got ready; only guns available from Iceland (c) are Bren. More powerful high frequency transmitter was requested in my 1117/17/4 to Admiralty. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1853/10 to Adty.).

Convoy F.N.

Fighters have been despatched to convoy "Lunch".
LUNCH. (Rosyth W/T 2035/10).

/A/C crashed.....

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Saturday. 306

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

A/C crashed
off
Yarmouth.

Aircraft observed to crash in flames on bearing 037° from 052° 57' N. 002° E. and burned on water (?watched) shortly before (launch?) investigated. (Capt. D.16 2354N/10).

NADIN. MIMOSA.
SANTIAGO, CANTAL
Barge GLITTO,
No. 30 Hopper
Barge.
No. 20 Camel
Barge.

Reported by Lloyds to have been damaged during an Air-Raid at Liverpool before 9/5. (D.S. No. 613).

Mining.

Enemy
A/C Mine.
New Type.

Enemy is laying aircraft mines without parachutes particularly aimed at rivers, docks and basins. Description. Mine has instantaneous fuse of new type for impact on land and intricate booby trap. Expert naval assistance must be summoned to recover any samples reported. Sweeping procedure not yet known but expect to be able to issue instructions shortly. Magnetic sweeps should be tried. (D.T.M. 1123B/10).
Your 1123B/10. One of these located intact on land at Belfast. Request expert be sent. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1614/10 to Adty.).

Denmark
Strait
Barrage.
Proposals.

Your 1657/9. Details as follows in the order given.
On completion of SCOTT's survey it may well appear that a lay as follows would add considerably to the effectiveness of the Denmark Strait barrage. Suggest consideration be given to laying these fields in place on S.N. 70 and that the latter should be inserted in the programme after S.N. 67 provided units are available. (R.A.M. 1134/10 to Adty.).

/SN.9B.....

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining. (contd).

SN.9B.

Your 1441/8.
Concur that 1 M.L. Squadron should sail for SN 9B at 12 30 MS T/13.
(ii) HERMIONE will provide close escort.
(iii) F.O. 10th CS in NIGERIA, with KENYA is to leave patrol as necessary to provide cover while M.L. are north of 62° N. subsequently returning to patrol.
(C. in C. H.F. 1238B/10).

THISTLE.
(Mined 8/5).

Wreck in position 52° 28' N. 1° 47.5 E.
(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1820/10).

Swansea.

Mines exploded by single L. Van 073° two miles 1.75 cables from Mumbles Head Light.
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1835/10).

Spurn Point.

Spontaneous explosion at 0028 in 143° S P P 3.9 miles. (F.O. Humber 1845B/10).

River Thames.

Mine recovery party will be working from 1000/11th off Tate and Lyles Factory Silvertown at a distance of 150 feet. Shipping should keep well clear of this area for 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. London 2044/10).

Mine report to 1800/10. Two Mines detonated by L.L. Trawler as follows.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2128/10).

Clyde.

River has been open to traffic between sweeping operations. 3 vessels for W.S.80 passed down river. Attempt is being made to countermine mining off Dumbarton River will be opened between sweeping operations 11/5 air raid damage nothing further to report. (N.O.I/c Glasgow 2301/10).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Visual R/C of Brest at 0840B/10 shows both battle cruisers present in same positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1148B/10).

War Diary.

10.5.1941. 308
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

C.W. and
C.E. convoys.

C. in C. Nore's letter 0205D/77 and C. in C. Portsmouth's letter 1870/495 C/41. A meeting was held at Admty. on 8/5. Decided that CW and CE Convoys should continue to run as at present. Objections to night hopping are (A) Long range artillery attack and A/C attack on ships lying in Dover Harbour and off Shoreham respectively waiting for tide. (B) Difficulty of providing fighter protection for single ships. (C) Masters would be unwilling to sail unescorted. Ministry of Shipping have promised to allocate more shipping to this service with a view to increasing number of ships per convoy. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1229B/10 to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth).

S.C. 30.
H.X. 124
escorts.

Owing to shortage of escorts divide your destroyers between S.C. 30 and H.X. 124. Report disposition before closing convoys. Destroyers of 12th Group to join S.C. 30 as soon as relieved by 3rd Group. (C. in C.W.A., 1244B/10 to MALCOLM). C. in C. 1244. WATCHMAN, BURWELL detailed for H.X. 124. (S.O. Escort Group 12, 1437Z/10 to C. in C.W.A. etc).

W.S.8C.

^{JAKOB VAN}
Intend sailing HEEMSKERK for Inverary at 0730/11 to provide air protection during period of assembly of Convoy W.S.8C. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1750B/10 to S.O.C.T.C).

W.S.8B.

Convoy W.S.8(b) carrying personnel and military stores for the Near East will be ready to leave the U.K. on 22/5. Details (8 ships). ARGUS, will sail with Convoy from Clyde. VICTORIOUS will R.V. with convoy off Oversay Light. 6. Ocean escort to Freetown will be provided by DUNNOTTAR CASTLE sailing from Clyde and a cruiser to be provided by C. in C Home Fleet. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2256B/10 to C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F) Delete SAMARIA (D.O.D.H. 1250B/19)

War Diary.10.5.41.
Saturday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.EDWARDIAN.

(M/S Trawler). Damage. temporarily.
Ship tight and in no danger.
(Salvage Officer, Harwich 0915/10.)

MELROSE ABBEY.
(Grounded 28/3.)

Tug ABEILLE IV sailed to stand by MELROSE ABBEY salvage operation.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1145/10.)
My 1145/10/5.
Tug ABEILLE IV returned Aberdeen.
Intend repeating operation. 11/5.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1605/10.)

GOATFELL.

Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to defects.
(F.O.I.C. London 1455/10.)

Aberdeen.

Vessels aground in Entrance. Port closed.
Anticipate floating at 2230.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1942/10.)
My 1942/10. Port now open.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2245/10.)

CUTTY SARK.

⁺
My 1243/26/4. Work on CUTTY SARK condensers delayed by enemy action. Examination has revealed numerous other defects which necessitate docking. Not anticipated that CUTTY SARK will be in a condition to proceed for docking for rudder post defect before 30/5. (F.O.S. 2116B/10.)

LEOPARD.

A.M. 1817/22/4 and my 1040B/7. F.S. LEOPARD taken in hand at Hull for retubing boilers and refit. Job No. E.R. 5840. approximate date of completion ~~and~~ September dependent on supply of new tubes.
(F.O.Humber 2155B/10.)

War Diary.

10.5.1941,
Saturday. 310

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Italian Unit.

D/F bearings from Gibraltar at 0020 G.M.T. 279° second class. Italian Naval Unit. (F.O.C.N.A. 0137A/10 to N.A. Stn).

→ O.G. 60

Arrivals DEPTFORD, Netherlands Submarine 023, with O.G. 60. (S.O.(I) Gib., 0930A/10 to Admty etc).

MARON.

To leave patrol to arrive Gibraltar 0800/16. (F.O.C.N.P. 1230/10 to Western Patrol).

→ O.G. 60

Gibraltar Section and HENRIK IBSEN arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 1254/10).

Enemy A/C attack, FORTUNE hit.

At 1327 Capt. (D) 8 reported enemy aircraft bombing in 037° 25' N 006° 18' E and at 1339B FORTUNE hit, maximum speed 8 knots flotilla in company. At 1550 B, further bombing 037° 25' N 005° 45' E., 10 bombers, no hits. (F.O.C.N.A. 1452A/10, to Admty).

Reported Fall of Spanish Govt.

My 1500/9. This appears to refer to Cabinet changes in Madrid. Am sending report by Furze. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1744/10 to D.N.I.)

French Ships.

Gibraltar 1631/10 French Auxiliary Vessels VICTORIA, ARIZONA, STRABON, full. Destination unknown passed Eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1825A/10).

PAVLA, Swiss Cargo.

Your 1508/24. PAVLA should be sailed for Bermuda if you are satisfied that Master and crew are reliable. If possible cargo of 400 tons of copra for account of Swiss Govt. should be discharged at Gibraltar. Remaining cargo may also be discharged at your discretion. (D.T.D. 1852B/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/C Patrol.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.10.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (contd).A/C Patrol.

One Catalina flying boat will carry out patrol as far as Meridian 000° 11/5 leaving Gibraltar 0600.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1904A/10 to S.O. Force H).

Explosions.

Reported from Portimao two heavy explosions and flames on vessel off coast.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1909/10 to Admty). Probably French MARTIN PECHEUR see 1051/11

South Atlantic.

W.S. 8A
MAURITIUS
NELSON
EAGLE.

Cancel A.T. 2306/7. MAURITIUS is to continue as escort for convoy W.S. 8A. to Durban. NELSON is to escort EAGLE to Freetown. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0012B/10 to C. in C. S.A.) Departure Durban NELSON and EAGLE in accordance with Admty 1732/1. Route 15 miles South of R.4. E.T.A. Capetown 1600Z/12. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1236Z/10 to Admty). A.T.'s 0012B/10 1929B/9 and C. in C. S.A. 1851/9. As NELSON and EAGLE will have to reach Freetown by 23/5 at latest, they are to proceed there in company. If circumstances permit EAGLE will boiler clean at Freetown. Subject to C. in C. E.I. being able to arrange onward escort of W.S. 8A from Capetown, MAURITIUS is to repair serious defects at Simonstown. If escort can not be provided MAURITIUS is to repair defects at Durban. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1635B/10 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.I.)

South African Sweepers.

Referring correspondence between Dominions Office and High Commissioner for U.K. In connection with proposed early provision of magnetic sweepers by Union, Director of Seaward Defence informs me what first group consisting of SEKSERN, IMHOFF, TREERN and GRIBB fully manned by S.D.F. and ready for fitting with L.L. Sweep gear, are ready to sail. Request early decision whether Admiralty wishes to accept these vessels. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1207Z/10 to Admty)

W.S. 8A.....

War Diary.10.5. 1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)W.S.8A.
collision.

Your 1941/8 W.S.8A should not be delayed on account of HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. Every effort should be made to repair HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN sufficiently to sail in convoy further repairs to be carried out at Durban. If her inclusion impracticable personnel on board should be distributed if possible amongst remaining ships of convoy and escort for voyage to Durban where they will be transferred to SCYTHIA. (D.O.D. (F) 1232B/10 to C. in C. S.A.) My 1941/8. Temporary repairs to DOMINION MONARCH will be completed and ship will sail with Convoy. Not yet possible to give final decision on HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. (C.in C. S.A. 2221N/10 to Admty.)

A/S Forces
Freetown
Area.

Admty reply to C. in C. S.A. 2345N/7 and 2225N/8. (D.A/S.W. 1236B/10.) See Lion Copy.

OLE WEGGER
SOLGLIMT.

Norwegian oil refinery ships, captured in South Atlantic between 14/1 and 16/1 were identified in Bordeaux by air reconnaissance on 5/5. (D.S.613 10/5.)

Argentina
and Enemy
Ships.

Rome broadcast states Argentine Govt., will not confiscate belligerent ships refuging in their harbours. There are 16 Italian ships and 3 Germans which have been sold to an Argentine Company, in Argentine harbours (D.S. 613, 10/5.)

BULOLO
ASTURIAS
Refits.

UKARM No. 169. B.A.R.M.'s 0700/8 is being repeated to you. Request you reply. (D.O.D.(F) 1253B/10 to B.A.R.M.)

BANFORA
(French).

My 1951/17/4 s.s. BANFORA has been at Freetown for 23 days, still on board 119 women and children and 170 men. No suitable accommodation on shore. Very desirable arrangements be made for repatriation and special arrangements made for neutral ship to do this.(C. in C.S.A., 1303N/10 to Admty.)

ALCANTARA
FITZROY.

Re transfer of some personnel from ALCANTARA in Montevideo to FITZROY. If so, delay sailing of FITZROY as necessary. ALCANTARA may be one day late. (R.A.S.A.D. 1407Z/10 to S.O. (I) Montevideo.)

/JOAO PESSOA.....

MOST SECRET

312(A)

1236B/10 May.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To C. in C. South Atlantic. 998.

Date 10. 5.41.

Naval Cypher (One time table).

From Admiralty.

Your 2345 H/7 and 2225W/8. Your difficulties are appreciated but situation should improve with arrival of Corvette reinforcements. ARMERIA, BURDOCK, ASTER and WOODRUFF sail 15th May with Convoy C G 82, MIGNONETTE and BERGANOT should be ready to sail from U.K. in early June, STARWORT and LOVENDER in mid June, and VERVAIN and CLOVER at the end of June. This will give you force of 20 Corvettes.

2. No HUNT Class destroyers can be spared from U.K. where their A/A qualities are urgently required.

3. It is hoped that 6 HUDSON aircraft will reinforce you shortly.

4. Experience in Western Approaches shows that U-boats are best driven to a distance from coast by aircraft patrols, the safety of independently routed shipping then depending on maximum dispersion of routing and that of convoys on evasion backed by escort. A/S Striking Forces are best employed reinforcing convoy escort until U-boat is located, then breaking off to search and hunt. With only limited aircraft available those are best employed on search and patrol of sector covering shipping routes in use maintaining one available to join convoy and hunt shadowing U-boat if H-bar signal or other sign of enemy's presence.

5. With regard to routing A.M. 0001/1, Section IV., para. 6. has been amended to comply with your 2301/29/4. and 1757/7/5. and steps have been taken to ensure that ships from both North and South America should not be sent to Freetown.

Concur that a lane of approach without adequate air and surface patrols is undesirable.

6. A/S Attack Teacher should arrive Freetown in June or July and Johnston target in July.

1236B/10.

D.A/S.7.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

3rd S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.E.S.

A.C.E.S. (H).

A.C.E.S. (M).

A.C.E.S. (T) (2).

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

D. of P. (2).

D.O.D. (F).

F.D.O.D. (F).

D.C.D. (H).

D.W.I. (4).

D.S.D.

D.D.O.D. (H).

D.A/S.7.

D.M.S.

I.P.

W.D.

Duty Capt.

Head of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

S.P.S.

D.T.D. (2).

F.I.D. 10 (Asy. Cdr. Wilson).

020

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

313

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

JOAO PESSOA.
(German).

My 1948Z/8. Names of German ship reported entering in proximity is JOAO PESSOA. (N.A. Rio do Janeiro, 1531Z/10).

BOSILJKA

Yugoslav ship which arrived Pernambuco 14/4. With exception of Chief Wireless Operator, all Yugoslav Officers and men refused to continue voyage to Suez. Remaining ten British members of crew and full complement officers and men from British ESKDENE will man vessel and take her to Barbados, as instructed by Ministry of Shipping. One Finn from Yugoslav ship will also proceed to Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 1614/10 to N.S.O.(I) Freetown).

PRIMULA
EMPIRE TROOPER.

PRIMULA is to escort EMPIRE TROOPER to Takoradi and Lagos leaving Freetown 1800/11. On arrival at Lagos PRIMULA is to complete with fuel from LUCIGEN and then proceed direct to Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A., 1621N/10 to PRIMULA).

CRITON
intercepted by
CILICIA

Vichy French ship CRITON detained by CILICIA in position 10° 11' N 20° 17' W 1000N/9 is being sent to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1633N/10 to Admty).

Oiling ships
at Trinidad.

Your 1401/9 a.m. 2142/9 refers. (D.T.D. 1650B/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

EAGLE
defects and
programme.

EAGLE 0829Z/9 EAGLE is required at Gibraltar as early as possible and is to sail earliest time with NELSON for Freetown, fuelling Simonstown and St. Helena, boilers to be cleaned at sea. In the circumstances is it required to swing aircraft for adjustment of compasses, and if so, where? As many as possible could be done at Simonstown but ship not to be delayed unless other instructions sent. EAGLE is required Freetown not later than 23/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1851N/10, to N.O.I.C. Simons-town).

My 1851/9.....

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

314

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd),

EAGLE defects
and programme.
(Contd).

My 1851/9. EAGLE arrived Durban 9/5 reports on arrival Capetown will have 12 out of 21 boilers oversteamed. If boiler cleaning carried out at sea will take approx. 16 days. EAGLE also requires to swing 17 aircraft for adjustment of compasses. Has been told to proceed earliest time with NELSON. Ship may be able to reach Freetown 23/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1937^N/10 to Admty). EAGLE is to complete to full stowage of Swordfish at Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A. 2145^N/10 to EAGLE).

CITY OF
VENICE.

Cancel my 1046/9. CITY OF VENICE arrived St. Helena. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1907B/9).

Enemy Units.

My 1331/6. Indications suggest unit near 20° S 15° W at 2015Z/5 possibly moved to position within 300 miles 20° S 2° E at 1836Z/9. (C. in C. S.A. 2015^N/10 to S.A. Sqdn).

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Proceed through J.36 D then operate in K.I.A. and J.I.C. my 2015 (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (C. in C. S.A. 2031^N/10 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

BULOLO
S.L. 74

Departure 1500/10/5. BULOLO as Ocean Escort to Convoy S.L. 74 in accordance with C. in C. S.A.'s 1935/9. Local A/S escort ASPHODEL, CALENDULA, AMARANTHUS, ANCHUSA, until 1800/19. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2349^N/10).

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

315

Mediterranean.

GRIMSBY
WATERHEN
assisting
RAWNSLEY
(torpedoed by
a/c 8/5).

Your 2213/9. Detach WATERHEN to Suda Bay with all despatch. GRIMSBY await further orders.

(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0103/10 to GRIMSBY). GRIMSBY's 1020C/10 and verbal report from WATERHEN establishes that RAWNSLEY has no steam for winches and a heavy deck cargo. Unloading not practicable without a properly equipped ship alongside. Consider best chance of salvage is towage by tugs to Alexandria. GRIMSBY must escort CITY OF CANTERBURY sailing to-night with WATERHEN during daylight hours 11th. Can you provide towage and escort.

(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1325/10 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

While endeavouring to recover tow from RAWNSLEY today heading grass line got round starboard screw. All efforts free this failed, no diving gear in ship. Is diver available Suda Bay if so should ship proceed there as soon as possible.

(GRIMSBY, 1545C/10 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.) GRIMSBY's 1545/10 Have been in communication by telephone and GRIMSBY is complying with my 1327/10 amended re my 1648/10 (N.T. in W.D.)

(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1822/10 to C. in C. Med).

Canal
Minelaying
Raids.

Further minelaying raids on Suez Canal night of 9th/10th. The canal is closed to traffic between Port Said and Lake Timsah and Deversoir. Traffic may move freely between Suez and Deversoir and in Lake Timsah itself.

(S.B.N.O. Suez 1005C/10 to C. in C. Med).

My 1005/10. The "Y" channel is now open to traffic from Suez to including Lake Timsah.

(S.B.N.O. Suez, 1047C/10 to C. in C. Med).

My 1005/10 . The canal is now open to all traffic south of Kantara.

(S.B.N.O. Suez 1433C/10 to C. in C. Med).

S/Ms

Intend following submarine dispositions. UNBEATEN leave P.M./11 for coast patrol east of Tripoli. UNION leave P.M./14 for Kuriat. UPHOLDER probably leave P.M./14 to relieve UNIQUE South of Messina.

(Cdr. S.1. 1054B/10 to Capt. S.1.)

UNBEATEN.....

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

316

Mediterranean (contd).

UNBEATEN.

Leaves Malta p.m./11 through 035° 31' 014° 13' and 035° 00' 014° 30' thence 180° to Area V. Anticipate she will leave Malta Sanctuary about 0001B/12.
(Cdr. S.I. to UNDAUNTED, 1124B/10).

→ Enemy Shipping Black Sea to Aegean.

9 ships including Italian CAPO ARMA Roumanian SULINA Bulgarian BALKAN and CHIPKA reported leaving Black Sea shortly for Aegean, reliable B.O.
(Capt. S.I. 1125C/10 to RORQUAL).

Main Fleet.

Main fleet and convoy will be in your vicinity approaching from westward during 11th and will probably arrive Alexandria a.m./12.
(Capt. S.I., 1131C/10 to TRIUMPH)*

VENDETTA.

Arrived noon. Protection after leaving arranged.
(N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh 1215/10 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria). *
** Tobruk at 1215/10 See p. 319.*

POINT JUDITH

Greek, 4810 tons, reported sunk by enemy action before 30/4, presumably in Greek waters. No casualties.
(D.S. 613 10/5).

→ CAPO ARMA CHIPKA

Istanbul arrival 9/5 Italian CAPO ARMA Bulgarian CHIPKA.
(N.C.S.O. Galata 1226/10). See also p. 318

ECEABAT.

12056 74210 Cipher 10/5. Is first of request for ferry boat specially ordered by Turkey and urgently required for Troop Movement, Marmora. Ref. M.E. Q(P) 62832 of 8/5. Turks aware she left Aden and suspected her at Suez. Effect of Turks of taking her over without notification will be serious. If therefore vital retain for British use Ambassador considers essential inform Turks officially possible saying detention was only temporary and largely due to difficulty finding a convoy at present or other suitable excuse (M.A. Ankara to A.O. 1230/10).

TAKU.....

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

317

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

TAKU.

If safe to do so when near Malta, make a short area report, and time position and course of any enemy ship sighted south of 038° 10' and West of 012° 10'.
(Cdr. S.1. 1325B/10 to TAKU).

Situation.

Alexandria open no mines exploded since 7/5 Suez Canal raided night 9/10 with mines, some without parachutes present state believed to be 6 mines and 3 new type. Open from Kantara to Suez. For Urgent defence of Crete A.N.F.30 4 ships containing personnel stores and 6 tanks leave p.m./10. M.T.B. Flotilla leaves a.m./11 Western Desert. 5 Eureka boats leaving shortly to train with local soldiers at Mersa Matruh.
(R.A., Alexandria, 1426C/10 to C. in C. Med).

Raiders of German A/C.

2 Messerschmidt 110 units involving about 60 aircraft reported to have been fitted with extra tanks. One unit may operate from Rhodes, from which place Alexandria would be within its radius of action.
(D.N.I. 1454B/10 to C.O.I.S. Alexandria.)

Defence of Crete.

(?Following received) (? Alexandria).
C. in C. Med., from M.E. from General Wavell. After consultation with Freyburg have decided not to send any further infantry to (?Crete) with possible exception of one battalion but to meet as far as time allows his request for arms and equipment. Am sending a few tanks. Army and air force staff officers from here are visiting Crete today. T.O.O. 0858/10 G.M.T. (ands).
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1456C/10 to C. in C. Med)

Kythera Occupied by Germans.

Germans arrived with motor bicycles on Island Kythera at 9 hours local time this morning. Complete occupation Island expected by noon.
(N.A. Athens 1525/10 to Admty).

Italian Warship....

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

318

Mediterranean. (contd).

Italian.
Warship.

From D/F bearing Italian warship call signs 2 K A was approx. 20 miles N.W. Sirte at 0706 G.M.T./10.
(C.O.S. Alexandria, 1540C/10 to V.A. Malta.)

CHIPKA
CAPO ARMA.

My 1705/8 Bulgarian. CHIPKA Italian CAPO ARMA arrived here to-day to load. Shell Company has placed Sequester upon CAPO ARMA for a debt of £7,500 and 15000 U.S. dollars.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1650/10 to C. in C. Med).
See p 316.

Dardanelles.
defences

Delay has occurred in work owing to impossibility of enforcing terms of contract for erection of heavy guns Dardanelles.
(N.A. Angora 1703/10 to Admty).

Sinking of
Enemy
Shipping.

Chiefs of Staff No. 102 to C. in C. Med., and M.E. We note that Gen. Wavell in his telegram No. I/60931 dated 1/5 states that your information points insufficient sea going shipping left Aegean for large scale sea borne operation. In this connection our information is that, If sinkings of enemy merchant ships at the rate of recent months are continued, a position of considerable embarrassment to the Axis powers may shortly arise.
(1st S.L. 1747B/10 to C. in C. Med).

PANDORA

Leave patrol p.m./13 for Gibraltar (route) You may proceed on surface by day when west of 007° E. TRUANT reports Merchant ships approaching Cavoli Island dawn from Northward and N.E. and 1 passing between Island and Mainland.
(Capt. S.l. 1855/10 to PANDORA).

Mining of
Suez Canal.

Canal Area raided by about five enemy planes between 0315 and 0430/10 between Port Said and Deversoir. Seven probable mines dropped all exploded on landing except one which remains in the Canal at 32.4. About 10 bombs also dropped caused slight damage and no casualties. Spotting by Egyptian Army considered good.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area. 1901/10).
Situation report 1900/10. One mine or bomb exploded spontaneously 0020 today at 14.7.km 5 unexploded mines remain in the canal and five objects which may be either U.X.B.'s or mines.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area. 1903C/10)

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1900/10th May

IN.

DATE: 11.5.41.

318A)

RECD: 0359.

From: N.S.O.(I) Istanbul.

Interdepartmental Cypher (10) by Cable RECIRCULATION BY
N.I.D.III.

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

Part one reference B I C telegram 1/347 of May 10th to Middle East and War Office, same French Consular source who remained at Salonica up to May 1st (a) (corrupt group) emptied of shipping till April 19th when one steamer arrived (possibly STOS) followed by four others up to May 1st. (b) population welcomed Germans in relief at the escape from destruction of the City. Invaders at first of conciliatory attitude hardened with the prolonged Greek British resistance. (c) German Officers showed acute disappointment at the failure to force the British Forces to capitulate and (at the evidence of) dislocation of Middle East campaign time table (d) from persons close to General Antonescu; latter convinced that secret arrangement exists between Germany and Turkey to allow passage of "volunteers" and war material to Iraq.

Part two reporting Officer Chanak reports that Germans in Aegean using for transport of troops Greek Kaiks powerfully re-engined by them. Reliability unassessed.
1900/10

Comment by N.I.D.

Paragraph (b) It is unlikely that the large Jewish population of Salonika welcomed the Germans.

Paragraph (c) Is interesting.

Paragraph (d) There has so far been no corroboration from any other source of this statement.

Part two. It is probable that the Germans are using Greek Caiques for the transport of troops to various islands in the Aegean which they have occupied but there have been no reports about these vessels being powerfully re-engined.

Advance copy sent O.I.C.

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

jf

War Diary.

10.5.1941. 319
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

→ VENDETTA
HARROW.

VENDETTA arrived 0105 sailed 0315, disembarked 7 British Officers, 89 O.R.'s 20 tons of stores and ammunition, embarked 350 patients. HARROW arrived 0845, sailed 2030, disembarked 4 British Officers, 34 O.R.'s and 10 tons of ammunition, embarked 2 British Officers, 101 O.R.'s. Patients.
(S.T.O. Mersa Tobruk. 1928/10).

Dutch S/Ms
in Med.

Your 0948/12/4 and S.1's 1905/25/4. Should you consider it desirable, so that submarines of 8th Flotilla may share work of the flotilla evenly and to reduce wear and tear of machinery in older British submarines, there is no objection to Dutch submarines at Gibraltar taking their turn on patrol in Mediterranean. A submarine escort with the H.G. and O.G. convoys must be retained but a total of three can keep the present programme going. Dutch submarines have been instructed to carry out the orders of British authorities under whom they may be working whatever the nationality of the enemy.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2251B/10 to C. in C. Med).

Situation
report No. 22.

Alexandria. Harbour open; Suez Canal. Mined again night 9/10th still open south of Kantara. Western Desert. Situation unchanged
→ VENDETTA evacuated 350 wounded from Mersa Tobruk night 9/10th.
Successful destroyer attack on Benghazi harbour at 0100/8 2 ships approaching harbour destroyed vide C. in C. Med., 1804/8 Crete. S.S. RAWNSLEY anchored (✓ somewhere) Hierapetra M N B D O Convoy with A/A guns and A/A personnel arrived Suda Bay. 10th M.T.B. Flotilla leaves Alexandria 0500 via Mersa Matruh and Mersa Tobruk for Suda Bay.
(N.O. i/c Alexandria 2341/10).

Malta.

Report on reaction to air raids by civilian population.
(Officer Administering Govt., Malta, No T.O.C./10) See Lion Copy.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN No. T.O.O./10th May

From Officer Administering the Government
Malta.

Date 12.5.41.
Recd. 2150

CYPRUS

Addressed Secretary of State for the Colonies.

13074/2/41.

No. 166 Secret and Personal.

Your telegram of 2nd May Secret and Personal. I am very grateful for your message of sympathy for civilian casualties and loss of property in recent air raids. Full particulars of casualties and damage will very soon be telegraphed to you in periodical report for which you asked in your secret telegram No. 97 of 28th March. Small number of casualties in comparison with destruction of buildings is due partly to movement of population from areas most liable to attack and partly to increasing provision of safe shelters dug in rock particularly in most dangerous areas.

2. The outstanding feature of last month has been the frequent occurrence of night raids by about 40 bombers dropping parachute flares and mines as well as bombs. Damage both from mines and bombs has been widespread but has been greatest in Valletta Saint John's Cathedral has been damaged and Law Courts and banks destroyed. A mine fell on the civil hospital and the 100 patients who had not already been removed were carried out in the night without one casualty. There has also been extensive damage to dwelling houses and shops. Main street and several others are blocked with great quantities of stone from destroyed buildings and will take long time to clear with our limited resources.

3. This extensive damage to their principal city which was founded immediately after the Great Siege in 1565 and has stood unchanged since the time of the knights has been profound shock to Maltese sentiment and damage to several large churches including (corrupt group) Cathedral of Saint John has given deep offence. Added to that but separate from it is material loss caused to large numbers of individuals by the destruction of property and businesses which it has taken them years to acquire. Nevertheless the reaction of the people is deserving of the highest praise. They have been hardened in anger towards the enemy and are facing their own individual calamities with cheerfulness and fortitude. With the first light after the destruction of their homes and shops they are busily engaged with hammers and boards covering up damage where they can and rescuing their stock and possessions from among the debris to make another start. As one of them recently said after the destruction of his home "we will endure anything except the rule of these barbarians and savages". The homeless are received by others especially among the poorer classes with most remarkable hospitality and people in undamaged areas have been living for nearly a year with comparative cheerfulness in conditions of close overcrowding and consequent discomfort.

4.

4. The great majority are, I am sure, quite unshaken in their belief in final victory and the Prime Minister's recent statement that Malta with Egypt and Gibraltar will be defended with the full strength of the Empire meant very much to the people here. They ask for retaliation against Italy. They know that it is the Germans and not the Italians who have done them greatest injury but retaliation upon Germany from England is too far off to give them the same satisfaction that they would derive from retaliation upon Italy whose reaction they could vividly picture and whose present immunity so close at hand is a source of lively irritation. Unfortunately that balm has been for some time lacking.

5. I am very sure that the people would be greatly heartened by a message from H.M.G. at the present time. They feel they are sharing in the Empire's struggle and though they know that their misfortunes are very much less than those of the people in England, they would like it to be known there that they are sharing in that way too.

No. T.O.O./10

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 2nd S.L.
 3rd S.L.
 Vice Controller
 4th S.L.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 NAVAL SEC.
 C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 OPS. (4)
 O.D. (5)
 D.N.I. (4)
 O.I.C. (2)
 D.S.D. 9.
 M. (2)
 Press Division
 D. of P. (3)
 D.M.S.
 D.M.S. Basement
 D.D.T.M.
 D.N.A.D.
 I.P. (3)
 W.D.

Received from Colonial Office
 1440/18th May.

War Diary.10.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Enemy Supply
ships and
whale catchers.

For N.O's I/C (1) An armed Merchantman Raider was recently sank by CORNWALL due to good work of 2 of her victims getting out an enemy report in what must have been very trying circumstances (2) Although raider is destroyed and there is at present no definite news of another being active in Indian Ocean there may be supply ships and some German manned whale catchers at large. Latter are known to have been co-operating with raider. (3) Several converted whale catchers are operating as Auxiliary Anti-Submarine and Mine Sweeping ships off the South African Coast under orders of Union of South Africa. (4) Masters of British allied merchant ships are informed confidentially of the above and instructed to treat all whale catchers sighted on ocean route with suspicion,. Those sighted within area bounded 040° E and 080° E and N of 030° S are reported by W/T. Whale catchers outside this area are reported to Naval Authorities at the next port of call. (C in C. E.I. 0406Z/10 to E.I. Stn.)

CORNWALL
action with
raider. 8/5

When report of BRITISH EMPEROR sinking was received CORNWALL closed towards position at high speed and carried out vigorous search in compliance with your orders received. Suspicious vessel was reported by a/c over 60 miles away at 0219Z/8. All day chase ensued enemy disguised himself very effectively as LJDR (TAMERLANE, Norwegian). Watch was kept on her by a/c at intervals. She was sighted by ship at 1100Z/8 and on being closed turned away at about 17 miles. She carried out normal mercantile procedure, making raider report. Disguise was not fully penetrated until about 12000 yards. After second warning shot was fired closing to her she turned and opened fire at 1215Z. Her fire to begin with was fast and accurate. She blew up with large explosion 10 minutes after opening fire. Explosion was very big and would appear to indicate she carried mines. (CORNWALL 0631Z/10 to C. in C. E.I.)

B.P. 2

Convoy B.P. 2 consisting of 3 personnel ships for Basra entered Rooka Channel at 0530 G.M.T. /10.
(C. in C. E.I. 0654Z/10 to Admty etc).

Minesweeping.....

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Minesweeping.

Your 0129/8 propose to construct four more Skids at Colombo.
(0714Z/10)

Navicerts for Persian Gulf.

Admty 0110/9. Do these orders apply equally to Dhows?
(C. in C. E.I. 0802Z/10 to Admty).

KANIMBLA
B.P. 3

My 1238/1 and my 1540/6 KANIMBLA is to continue with Basra portion B.P. 3 until 0600 30' E then return to Bombay at 15 knots. Commodore R.I.N. is requested to arrange R/V on 14th for KANIMBLA and NEVASA about 20 miles to seaward of S.C.1 buoy and to sail NEVASA accordingly. KANIMBLA is to escort NEVASA to 0600 E whence KANIMBLA is to return to Bombay.
(C. in C. E.I. 0824Z/10 to KANIMBLA, ANTENOR).

CARTHAGE

To leave patrol so as to arrive Point Armour Forteau A.M./13.
(C. in C. E.I. 1132Z/10 to CARTHAGE).

DANAE
DUCHESS OF YORK

My 0452/10 (N.T. in W.R.) DANAE with H.T. DUCHESS OF YORK in company expects to arrive Johore Shoal Buoy 0900Z/14.
(C. in C. E.I. 1142Z/10 to C. in C. China).

Orders to
DELPHINIUM

Orders, route etc., for DELPHINIUM to leave Mombasa a.m./14 and escort hired transport SONTAY from Mombasa to Gulf of Aden.
(C. in C. E.I. 1150Z/10 to NO.i/c East Africa & Zanzibar, DELPHINIUM).

German Raider
PINGUIN.

Result of interrogation of prisoners
(CORNWALL 1415Z/10 1430Z/10) See Lion Copy.

Iraq.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

32(A)

FROM H.M.S. CORNWALL

Date

11.5.44

Recd.

11.5.44

NAVAL CYPHER A.2 BY CABLE

Addressed C. in C. East Indies.

IMPORTANT

Your 0652 5th Following results of interrogation of prisoners.

<u>Information.</u>	<u>Source.</u>	<u>Grading.</u>
Unofficial name of raider - PINGUIN	survivors	A.5.
Tonnage 5,000	German and British survivors	A.1.
Armament 5-5.9" } 3-4 inch } torpedo tubes and } one aircraft. }	German and British survivors	A.1.
200 mines of which 40 to 50 have been laid	German ratings	B.1.
Left Germany June 1940	1 Officer and 20 20 German ratings.	B.1.
One supply ship from Germany in February	German ratings	B.1.
One other supply ship probably expected shortly	German ratings	L.3.
One prize sent "home" with 300 to 400 prisoners in February. This was probably OLE WEGGER	German Officers & German ratings 3 German ratings	B.1. B.0
Possibly one other prize sent home	10 German ratings	C.4.
Not working on positive information	German prisoners by deduction	C.4.
Instructed to send home captured tankers when possible.	1 Officer and several German ratings.	C.3.
Fitted with some form of Slaveening apparatus for following ships at night	British survivors	B.2.
No knowledge on lower deck of other German ships sunk	German ratings	B.1
British Mercantile raider reports sent out before the action.	H.M.S. CORNWALL W/T	A.1.
Report in German sent out during action powerful enough to reach Germany and supply ship if any.	2 German W/T ratings	B.1.

1st Lord

A.C.N.S. (T) (2)

1415Z/40

1st S.L.

NAVAL SEC.

4th S.L.

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

V.C.N.

Spe. (4)

D.T.D. (4)

D.S.P. (3)

I.F. (3)

A.C.N.S.

C.S. (5)

D.T.D. (M)

D.S.M.S.

W.D.

D.S.P. (4)

O.I.C. (3)

D.S.W.

D.P.D.

321(3) 81

SECRET

MESSAGE 1430Z/10 May

C IN

From: H.M.S. CORNWALL.

Date: 13.5.41.

Recd: 0037

Naval Cypher (A2) by Cable

Addressed to C. in C. East Indies.

IMPORTANT

Part 4 and final of my 1430/10.

Information

Source

Grading

Small ship of whale catcher type was alongside three days before the action.

EMPIRE LIGHT prisoners ~~and~~ British survivors who were ~~rescued~~ picked up

A 2

No German ship working in co-operation

C 4.

Raider normally patrolled at slow speed with frequent stops of two to three hours

British survivors

A one.

After sinking a ship raider steamed 13 to 14 knots for 24 hours then stopped and sent up aircraft.

British survivors

A 1.

Aircraft in frequent use

British survivors

A 1.

1430Z/10

Parts 1, 2 and 3 already circulated under T.O.O. 1415/10

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

/MC

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Iraq.

Naval situation report Iraq 1500 G.M.T./9/5 Basra all quiet. Under threat of being permanently displaced majority of dredger dockyard artists and labourers at Fao are returning. Navy is taking over control of Basra W/T station and all river communications (C. in C. E.I. 1502Z/10 to Admty etc).

German Units.

(1) D/F Bearings of German target probably in Indian Ocean have been obtained as follows (a) 1636/9 Aden 140° 2nd Class (b) 2136/9 Mauritius 012° 1st Class (c) 1338/10 Mauritius 010° 2nd Class, answered by a Station bearing 080° 3rd Class (?Second Degree) (d) 1425/10 Mauritius 040° 2nd Class. Remarks. There are possibly 3 German units, 2 of which may be in vicinity. Saya De Malha Bank and the 3rd to S.E.. (C. in C. E.I. 1736Z/10 to Force V). Request early remarks on my 1736/10th being passed to you.
(C. in C. E.I., 1740Z/10 to Admty).

CORNWALL
GLASGOW
-hunt for
raiders.

Your 1030/10 and my 1736/10 CORNWALL and GLASGOW are to leave Seychelles as soon as ready on 11/5 and proceed at 23 knots weather permitting to search for Enemy ships around Saya de Malha Bank as arranged by CORNWALL, speed being reduced whenever convenient.
(2) For information. KETTY BROVIG and COBURG were found and sunk in 008° 40' S 061° 25' E on 4/3. (3) Attention is drawn to E I W M 52 and my 0814/7 (to GLASGOW only) (4) CORNWALL report outline of intention before sailing to me only.
(C. in C. E.I. 1908Z/10 to CORNWALL).

Iraq.

Divergence of view between C. in C. India and C. in C. Middle East on Iraq policy.
(C. in C. M.E. 2025/10 to W.O.) See Lion Copy

DEMPO

Ref. Suez's 1714/7. In view of para 3 of my 0300/8 it is essential that sailing date of DEMPO from Suez be expedited as she will be required in Durban for first flight of Group B scheduled to sail Durban about 30/5
(D.S.T. 2139B/10 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

322(A)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

2025/10 May.

IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date. 11. 5. 41.

Recd. 0725

Cypher

Addressed The War Office, repeated C. in C. India.

IMMEDIATE.

12160 0/63234 cipher 10/5.

Reference 5412/G from Arminia.

1. There is obviously some divergence of view between C. in C. India and myself on Iraq policy. As we are both vitally interested consider it desirable to state my opinion clearly and it must then be for War Cabinet to decide policy.

2. At this critical period essential that our limited resources be concentrated on our really vital military interests. In Iraq these are from my point of view as follows. (A) Avoidance of major conflict with Arabs (B) Security of oil supplies from Abadan (C) Security of oil supplies from Kirkuk (D) Maintenance of air route to India. All these are of minor importance compared with the security of Egypt and Palestine.

3. India naturally does not appreciate fully effect on military position in Middle East which large scale Arab uprising against us in Iraq would have. It would have repercussions in Palestine, Aden, Yemen, Egypt and Syria which might absorb very large proportion of my force in maintaining internal order. ~~Finness in dealing with enemy attack on Habbaniya will have on whole good effect but unless we can get back to normal relations with well-disposed Iraqi government at very early date suggestions that we propose to occupy country and suppress Iraqi independence will be exploited by enemy with serious results.~~ Already loyalty of Transjordan frontier force is in grave doubt. Hence my anxiety for political solution as early as possible. Do not think strength of Arab national feeling is realised by India as it is here.

4. Supply of oil from Kirkuk to Haifa can only be obtained by Iraqi goodwill. Iraqis are at present in position to destroy refineries and cut off supply and to imagine that we could by Military occupation secure this long and vulnerable supply is to my mind illusory.

5. Security of Abadan oil depends largely on having force available at Basra to protect refinery and to keep open Sharpoal Arab. Anti-aircraft defence will be required and will be difficult to provide.

6. Maintenance of air route to India can be secured if Habbaniya and Basra remain in our hands.

7. On above premises my view is that occupation of Mosul and Kirkuk are unnecessary and are certainly not within our resources for some time. Do not consider possibility of Axis forces advancing on these places need be seriously considered at present especially in view present relations between Germany and Russia. Should Germans secure passage through Turkey they would be much more likely to /advance.....

advance through Syria direct on Palestine and Egypt.

8. As regards Bagdad do not consider occupation desirable except temporarily to secure favourable government or at request Iraqi government. Consider Bagdad can more easily be occupied from Northern Palestine than from Basra. Line of communication from latter is most difficult and vulnerable if tribes hostile, it will probably be easier to keep open Desert route for small force at all events which can base itself on Habbaniya on arrival there. Effect on hostile elements of action from this direction instead of the Axis assistance they expect may also be considerable.

9. Policy which I recommend therefore for immediate (repeat immediate) situation is (A) to do everything possible to secure political settlement on lines C.O.S. 96 as soon as possible and to resume normal relations with Iraqi Government. (B) Force at Basra to secure and organise base and endeavour to establish good relations with tribes but not to move forward till strong enough to be effective which I do not feel it will be for some little time. (C) Habforce will move from Palestine to Habbaniya and thence if situation permits on Bagdad with view to influencing political situation.

10. Further policy and number of troops required can be considered in light of events. From recent discussion with Nuri and Regent it is quite obvious that they expect if friendly government secured we shall not maintain more troops in Iraq than necessary to work line of communication.

11. Am flying to Palestine tomorrow to discuss action of Habforce and question of T.J.F.F. Propose visit Basra as soon as possible and if situation in Middle East permits to fly on to India for discussion of problem with C. in C., unless C. in C. would prefer to meet me Basra.

12. Deputy C. in C. and deputy A.O.C. in C. agree.

2026/10.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt.,
D.O.D. (F).
D.D.I.C.
Recd. by hand from War Office 1510/11

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. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.N.I. (4)
I.P.
W.D.

D.C.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
N.I.D. 10 (Paynter, Gair, Wilson)

f.m.d.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.10.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Indo-China
Negotiations.

Your 0908Z/8. Present position is that in view of difficulty in getting French to adhere to terms of agreement, we have informed Jouan that unless French goodwill is shown by satisfactory assurances and particularly by lenient treatment for M. Egal, future agreement is in jeopardy. A reply from Decoux is awaited. Shipments of oil were suspended following discovery that some had been exported to Madagascar in French tanker LOT. Resumption will depend on general course of negotiations.
(C. in C. China, 0221Z/10 to Consul-General Saigon.)

ELSA ESSBERGER
RAMSES.

Kobe departure 8/5.
(Capt. G.S. Singapore 0307Z/10 to Adnty).

KONTUM
(French).

Arrival 10/5 KONTUM.
(Manila 0321Z/10).

America & West Indies.SURCOUF

Request French Cruiser Sub. SURCOUF be sailed 14/5 for Bermuda proceeding South of Ireland and routed as necessary by C. in C. of station through which she will pass. SURCOUF to dive by day to meridian 019° W and thence on surface at C.O.'s discretion. Bombing restriction will be arranged by F.O. (S).
(F.O.S. 0121B/10 to C. in C. Plymouth).

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Your 1456/9 Proceeding Halifax for fresh beef, E.T.A. 0900P/14. Request fire bricks held by N.S.O. and other stores be supplied on arrival.
(ROYAL SOVEREIGN 0830Z/10 to F.O. 3 B.S.)
For Adm. French. Intend sailing ROYAL SOVEREIGN for Norfolk p.m./14 to arrive 0300Z/17. Request confirmation that this time of arrival is suitable.
(R.A. 3 B.S. 1712P/10 to N.A.)

Adm. Lais.....

War Diary.

10.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Adm. Lais.

Your 1301/9. Adm. Lais and two orderlies should be allowed to leave on EXCALIBUR. Request you book passages. (Head of M 1500B/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

VAN KINSBERGEN

Dutch Naval Authorities are anxious for VAN KINSBERGEN to return to U.K. to exchange some ratings and then to take a large number to N.E.I. and return others to U.K. Request report how soon reduction of your commitments in West Indies will allow you to release her for this service. Her further employment after return from N.E.I. will be reconsidered in light of situation then existing. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1507B/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

→ Raider Report
7/5.

Your 1830/8. This was ACHILLES. (D.D.I.C. 1543B /10 to N.A. Washington).

S/M
Reports.

Submarine reported in 056° 28' N 035° 33' W at 2049Z/10. This might be THUNDERBOLT. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2231Q/10 to CIRCASSIA SALOPIAN).

Australia.

QUEEN ELIZABETH.
U.S.11.

N.O.I.C. Singapore's 0805/9 and P.S.T.O. Egypt's 2011/7. Request your views on drydocking of QUEEN ELIZABETH. para 4 of my 0323/6 refers. Suggested this would give ILE DE FRANCE time to proceed to New Zealand is desired without delaying U.S.11 on that account alone. Para 2. of your 0655/29/4 to D. of S.T. only refers. (D. of S.T. 2127B/10 to A.C.N.B.). Your 0323B 6th and R.A. Malaya 0805Z/8th. If QUEEN ELIZABETH docks at Singapore U.S. 11 will not be affected provided boiler cleaning carried out Singapore. (A.C.N.S., 0938Z/10 to D. of S.T. recd. 0853/11)

New Zealand.

→ Raider Report
7/5.

Admty 1634 (?B/9). My 2030Z/9. Confirmed this was ACHILLES. (N.Z.N.B. 0725Z/10 to Admty).

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War Diary.10.5.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.CITY OF
WINCHESTER
(?)
(torpedoed
9/5.)Ships Attacked.

S S S S Following has been read. 0020 N., 2015 W., CITY OF KIMBERLEY, uncertain torpedoed. DE MILC 2212 G.M.T. (Anselm, 0131/10.) (Name corrected, see next signal.)

S S S S Received from CITY OF KIMBERLEY believed to be corrupt version of that received from CITY OF WINCHESTER. (C. in C. S.A., 1122N/10, to Admty.) British, 7120 tons, on passage from Oban to Table Bay. Torpedoed about 740' West of Freetown. (D.O.R. 10/5.) May have been CITY OF EXETER, 9654 tons, on passage from Liverpool to Durban and Calcutta. (D.S., 614, 11/5.)

AELYBRYN
(?) (in
convoy
O.B.318.)

Dutch tanker, 2317 tons. Following received:- Addressed Navycharge Greenock. From Port Patrick Radio. Rec. at 0301 G.M.T. S S S S 59.22 N., 34.28 W. HERCULES torpedoed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0301/10, to Admty., C. in C. W.A.) (Liverpool W/T 0303/10.)

May have been British AELYBRYN, 4986 tons, which is known to have been in same convoy. Was bound from Hull to Father Point. (D.S. 614, 11/5.)

Amend name in my 0400 and my 0805 (N.T. in W.R., but repeated in 1425/12 q.v.) to read AELYBRYN. She is still floating in position 059° 24' N., 033° 48' W. hole in stern. Rudder and propeller probably gone. Water in boiler room and up to cylinder spares in engine room. Shall I leave DANEMAN standing by until tug can arrive and proceed join H.X. 124 or shall I attempt to tow? DANEMAN has 137 survivors from various ships on board. (HOLLYHOCK, 1450Z/10, to C. in C.W.A.) Your 1450Z/10. Instruct DANEMAN to return to Iceland with survivors. HOLLYHOCK stand by AELYBRYN, do not attempt to tow. Tug is being sent. (C. in C. W.A., 2212B/10, to HOLLYHOCK.)

O.B.318.
(attacked
9/5.)

O.B.318 scattered. (RANPURA, 0335Z/10, to Admty.) W.D.Note:- 4 ships in this convoy - EMPIRE CLOUD, GREGALIA, ESMOND and BENGORE HEAD, were torpedoed by 2 or 3 U/Boats on 9/5.

/EMPIRE CLOUD...

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10.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. Contd.

EMPIRE CLOUD.
(torpedoed
9/5.)

ZWARTE ZEE proceed to 060° 30' N., 033° 05' W., to assist EMPIRE CLOUD. ZWARTE ZEE pass to THAMES. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1034/10, to ZWARTE ZEE.)

My 1034/10. - Tug keeping wireless watch on 500 kcs. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1053/10, to BULLDOG, AMAZON, etc.)

Cancel previous orders. Proceed to assist EMPIRE CLOUD torpedoed in 60° 30' N., 33° 05' W., at 1435B/9. En route pass through 61° 00' 29° 00' W.

(C: in C. W.A. 1212B/10 to THAMES, ZWARTE ZEE) Your 1100/10. (N.T. in W.R.) Stand by EMPIRE CLOUD Tug is on the way. (C. in C. W.A., 2219B/10 to ST.APOLLO.)

OAKDENE
(torpedoed
6/5.)

My 0933/7, British Steamer OAKDENE sunk by single torpedo at noon G.M.T./6 from unsighted submarine in 06° 19' N., 27° 55' W. (C. in C. S.A., 1220N/10, to Admty.)

QUEEN MAUD
(torpedoed
5/5.)

QUEEN MAUD sunk by three torpedoes 0905 G.M.T./5 in (?01)° 54' N., 16° 41' W., submarine about 200 feet long with black number, possibly 63. Chief W/T Officer lost with ship. 22 survivors arrived Freetown 8/5. Remaining 16 in one boat not yet accounted for. (C. in C. S.A., 1224N/10, to Admty.) British, 4976 tons, in Convoy O.B. 309, bound from Cardiff to Alexandria. (D.S. 614. 11/5.)

War Diary.10.5. 1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's Reported.

0616. My 0616/10 Search for U/Boat will be continued throughout daylight. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0928/10. to C. in C.H.F.)
- 1040 G.M.T. Following has been read, S.O.S. CITY OF SHANGHAI submarine in sight 7.45 N., 27.20W., at 1040 G.M.T. (Bissau Radio via Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 1040N/10.) Admiralty message A F position 0745N, 27.02W at 1040 G.M.T. (C. in C. S.A., 1104N/10, to G.B.M.S. 6A.)
1200. One submarine submerged in 60.10 N., 3.22 W., based on a fix at 1200. (Coastal Command Duty C., 1211/10, to No.18 (R) Group H.Q's.) Have lost touch with enemy submarine. In 60.10 N., 3.22 W., met 3 cruisers 2 destroyers, informed 2 destroyers searching (A/C. C.C., 1320/10, to 18 Group H.Q.) (Pitreavie 1835/10.) Estimated dispositions of U/Bs. on 10/5. (D.D.I.C. 1542/10 to N.A. Washington, 1549B/10, to A.I.G.62 etc.)
- 1435 G.M.T. By D/F at 1435 G.M.T. U/B in 47° 30' N., 6° 00' W., unreliable fix probably homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1758B/10.)
- 1711 G.M.T. By D/F at 1711 G.M.T. U/B in 58° N., 36° W., indefinite fix. (D.D.I.C. 1949B/10.)
1835. Following has been read S S S S 55 01N., 25 17W., PORT CAMPBELL, submarine sighted 1835/10 de GPK. Port Patrick Radio. (Liverpool, T.O.R. 2044/10.) My 1320B/10 (N.T. in W.D.) this U/B has now been placed to S.W. of Brest homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 2124B/10 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.)
- 2049 G.M.T. Following from Resolution Island (begins) 2049 G.M.T. Following rebroadcast from MAS Island SSSS 5628N., 3533 W. Submarine sighted DE PVDJ (Ends) (Ottawa, 2323Z/10.)

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10.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

By COLUMBIA
9/5.

Your 2218/9 and my 2011/9. Contact established at 2030/9 and held 2300, 4 attacks being carried out with no definite result. Have insufficient fuel to meet and escort S L 72 for more than 100 miles but have sufficient to return with H G 60. Request instructions. (COLUMBIA, 0115/10, to C. in C. W.A.) Your 0115/10. Escort S L 72 as long as possible. (C. in C. W.A., 0604B/10, to COLUMBIA.)

By BULLDOG
9/5.

(U. 110)

Sail tug to assist BULLDOG in approx., 60° N., 32° W. BULLDOG report p.c. and s. (C. in C. W.A., 0656/10 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)
C. in C. W.A.'s 0856. Report name of Tug and what the crew consists of. (D.C. Approved C.N.S., 0840B/10 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

By NIAGARA
ST. CLAIR,
9/5.

Contact lost. NIAGARA and ST CLAIR proceeding to join H.G.60. (NIAGARA, 0700/10, to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary11.5.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

3 M.T.B's left Harwich tonight for offensive patrol between Zeebrugge and Hook of Holland.

British Air Operations

98 aircraft attacked Hamburg last night. Damage was caused at shipbuilding yards and other establishments.

Destroyer
claimed sunk.

18 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked shipping at sea last night and claim to have sunk a 2000 ton destroyer or Naval auxiliary off Texel by two direct hits. Two 500 ton coasters are also believed to have been destroyed.

Coastal Command aircraft in the early hours of today attacked the Docks at La Pallice, merchant vessels in the Fiords at Aalborg and shipping off the Dutch Coast.

War Diary

11.5.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Attack on
London.

London and the Thames Estuary were attacked last night. A.P. Base ship GYPSY was sunk at Tower Pier. GOATFELL (Eagle Ship) was slightly damaged. The following 8 vessels attached to R.N. A/P London were lost:- FALAISE, MISS ENGLAND, NOMAD III, JAKE II, SAFARI, COMET I, ALTAIR, IGLOO. The enemy losses were heavy.

Tug CAMEL was damaged by a plane which dropped 2 bombs at Plymouth at 0007 today.

VANITY was unsuccessfully attacked at 0210 off the Smalls.

SS SOMERSET in Convoy *S.L. 72* was sunk by air attack at 0900 in 55° 31' N., 15° 31' W.

H.M.D. EUNICE AND NELLIE was slightly damaged by air attack at 2155 today, presumed off Brightlingsea.

Daylight R/C by a few enemy aircraft over the Bay of Biscay is now a regular feature.

Mining

The Thames was reopened at 1758.

A mine laid at Harwich at 0030 detonated at 1005.

MOST SECRETWar Diary11.5.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanMalta

A minesweeping base is being established at Malta, where technical officers and some further gear have arrived, though there is still a grave shortage of spare gear.

Operation
M.D. 4.

Unsuccessful attempts to attack the Fleet escorting Convoy "Tiger" were again made today. A shadower was successfully prevented from reporting the Fleet by jamming from Alexandria and Malta.

LibyaTripoli
bombed and
mined.

Tripoli harbour was bombed last night by 4 Wellingtons. Four F.A.A. Swordfish with a flare carrying Swordfish, laid mines at Tripoli during the R.A.F. raid.

Bombardment
by LADYBIRD.

LADYBIRD bombarded Gazala North landing ground at 0130. AURORA II and SVANA swept the channel. It is stated that the guns cannot be located or silenced without air spotting.

5th D.F.
bombard
Benghazi.

5th D.F. (5 ships, detached from the Fleet escorting Convoy "Tiger") fired 866 rounds at short ranges at shipping and military objectives at Benghazi early today. A merchant ship is reported hit. A shore battery opened fire ineffectively after about 7 minutes and 20 minutes after ceasing fire enemy dive bombers attacked for over an hour. Our ships suffered no damage.

Suez Canal

The Suez Canal was again raided last night for the third time in four days and it is believed 4 mines may have been dropped in the Canal, which is still open from Kantara up to and including Lake Timsah and between Deversoir and Suez.

3 Submarines were sighted off Famagusta early this morning.

War Diary11.5.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTAmerica & West Indies

SURCOUF is to patrol in the North Atlantic before proceeding to Bermuda, in order to intercept enemy supply ships.

U-Boat Campaign

SS HOYANGER reported at 1723 being followed by a submarine on the surface in 53° 15' N., 37° W.

War Diary.

11.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

NORFOLK.

Departure C.S.1 in NORFOLK for Scapa.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0645/11).

GALATEA
ARETHUSA

Scapa arrival GALATEA, ARETHUSA.
(A.C.O.S. 1014/B/11).

BERWICK

Cancel my 1047/10. My 1823/7. Intend to sail BERWICK from Spithead at 2130/12 for Rosyth escorted by WIVERN and WILD SWAN to destination and BERKELEY and BLENCATHRA till dark on 13. Routed Westabout by Irish Sea and Minch.
(E.T.A. 0800/14).
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1247B/11).

FURIOUS.

1415/11 sailed FURIOUS escorted by WINCHELSEA.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1427/11).

Operations.

Patrols.

2 M.L.s on Patrol 10' S.E. Start.
2 M.L.s on Patrol 8' S. Lizard.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1428/11)
My 1428/11. Add 2 M/Ls on patrol 6'S Eddystone.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1646/11).

M.T.B.
Sweep.

Weather permitting one unit of M.T.B's is to carry out an offensive patrol between Zeebrugge and Hook of Holland tonight. Any ships met East of 2° 15' E may be attacked without challenge. Report M.T.B.'s detailed and time of sailing. One Unit of M.G.B's is to be kept at immediate readiness from 2200 until dawn.
(C. in C. Nore 1530/11)

3rd D.F.
(A/S striking force).

Proceed in INGLEFIELD with INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, ESCAPADE at best speed to Hval Fiord.
(ii) After refuelling proceed as necessary operating in accordance with my 1521/11 to Captain D.3. only.
(C. in C. H.F. 1524B/11 to D.3).

Orders for.....

War Diary.11.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations (contd).Orders for
TRIDENT.

My 1625B/10. Owing to defect in TUNA you are to remain on patrol until further orders. Probable extra time on patrol 48 hours. (Capt. (S) 3 1937B/11 to TRIDENT).

Patrol
Zeebrugge.
Hook.

Harwich 11/4. Departures M.T.B. 32, 31, 34. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2135B/11)

British Air Activity.Fighter
Protection.

Request fighter protection for convoy ^{'Wheel'} ~~WHEEL~~ (Group of M.V. 's from Flamouth to Bristol Channel) in position 088° 13 miles from 51° N 50° W. (Rosyth 0017/11).

Tanker-type
M/V/attacked.

On 10/5. about 45 miles S.W. of Belle Isle one aircraft attacked a Tanker type of vessel of about 1000 tons. No results were observed. The vessel carried considerable W/T equipment, the aerial being in the form of four stranded framework between masts. (H.Q.B.C. 0050/11)

Blenheim A/C are escorting ^{'Sapper'} ~~SAPPER~~ and ^{'Wheel'} ~~WHEEL~~ until 1st Light when single-engined fighters will take over. (C. in C. Plymouth 0246/11).

R/C Flight
to Bilbao.

One Sunderland to fly R/C. from base to Bilbao Gijon and return to Pembroke Dock. Aircraft to outside Territorial waters at distance from coast decided by Captain of aircraft in view of cloud cover and weather conditions. Object of R/C is to report on return trend of enemy shipping. (Plymouth 1010/11).

Own A/C fired at.....

War Diary.11.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. Contd.Own A/C
fired at by
convoys.
Proposal.

During the recent moonlight period much firing has taken place from convoys at friendly bombers both outward and inward. Enemy aircraft engaged in low level bombing attacks on shipping at night, attack from seaward and landward side. There is insufficient time to identify aircraft before the attack takes place. If waste of ammunition and danger to our own bombers is to be avoided it seems imperative that they should fly at a greater height when approaching or leaving our coasts unless weather or other conditions make this impossible.
(C. in C. Nore 1034B/11).

Patrols.

Parallel track sweep will be carried out by 3 Whitley A/C in following area commencing 1400 today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1304/11).
Patrol "Hornli" now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1450/11)

Hamburg
Emden, and
M/Vs attacked.
One destroyer
claimed sunk.

Narrative of Operations on night 10/11. One enemy destroyer of approximately 2,000 tons received two direct hits amidships and is claimed as a total loss. Two 500 ton coasters were also hit and probably destroyed.
(H. Q. B. C. 1800/11)

Enemy Air Activity.Ramsgate
Bombed.

At approx. 2355/10 Enemy aircraft dropped incendiary bombs on Ramsgate. No. damage to Naval personnel or property.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0135B/11).

F.W. A/C.....

War Diary.

11.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

336

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

F.W. A/C
off
Rockall.

1 F.W. aircraft in 56.56 N. 14° W course
140° height 5000 feet.
(CAIRO, 0750/11).

Plymouth.
CAMEL (Tug)
damaged.

Single hostile plane dropped 2 H.E. in
Homoaze at 0007/11.
Tug CAMEL alongside No. 3 wharf damaged by
near miss and making water in one compartment
aft. Leakage under control. Casualties.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0905/11).

VANITY

VANITY reports when N.W. of Smalls at 0810 being
attacked by aircraft. 3 bombs dropped. No
damage.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0920/11).

SAN ROBERTO
(bombed 8/5).

Re your 1719B/8 SAN ROBERTO with Mk. VI
Balloon bombed. Reported proceeding Humber.
(D.E.M.S. Methil, 1116/11 to Admty).

Chatham
bombed.

During Desultory bombing of District between
0000 and 0100 today one bomb, estimated to
be heavy calibre A.P., fell in No. 1 Basin
West Side causing extensive settlement in
neighbourhood but no serious damage.
(S.C.E. Chatham, 1235/11).

London
bombed.
GYPSY
(A/P Depot ship
sunk).
GOATFELL
(Eagle ship)
damaged.

GYPSY at Tower Pier sunk at approx 0130
GOATFELL extensive superficial damage
caused by splinters. P.L.A. buildings
received direct hit but F.O.I.C.'s Office
undamaged. Casualties in GYPSY, GOATFELL.
No other damage to or casualties in H.M.
Ship or establishment or merchant ships so
far reported but communication bad.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1236/11 and 1242/11).

Clyde.

A bomb which exploded at Scotts Shipyard
at Greenock between a destroyer and submarine
building shifted both vessels longitudinally
and transversely as reported in my 2245/7.
I consider that these effects might be of
sufficient interest to Bomber Command to
justify inspection by an R.A.F. Officer.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1410/11 to N.L.O. Turnhouse)

War Diary.

11.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Air Activity.

Wing Guards
on Enemy A/C.

A.M. 2026/24/4. At 0200/8th May 2 engined aircraft flew very low over Hamoaze and Sound through balloon barrage. Balloon barrage trawler estimates height 150 ft. and saw what at first appeared to be the wings burnt out, but what was subsequently seen to be framework from each wing joined together in front of propellers. Written report follows.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1610/11).

SOMERSET

Sunk by Air attack at 0900 today. All crew saved and on board (corrupt group). Request air escort 55° 31' N 15° 31' W.
(KEPPEL 1701B/11).

Deptford
bombed.

In air raid 10/11th May, many incendiary bombs were dropped on this Yard. Damage. One fire watcher wounded.
(Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford 1720B/11).

Thames
Estuary.

My 1242/11. Enemy activity in Shoeburyness Sheppey Area on night of 10/11th May as follows.
At 0250, 0253, 0257 single aircraft approaching in succession on a southerly course carried out low level bombing attack on 8 M/V's anchored in the eastern Southend anchorage to within about ten cables of the boom. Height of planes estimated at from 600 - 1,000 feet. Each plane dropped two objects all of which are believed to have exploded. No damage was done to the ship and although planes were heavily engaged by Patrol vessels they were not seen to have been damaged. It would appear that planes approached in such a way as to avoid the main balloon barrage, and attack ships to the east of it.
(S.O. TL.D.F. 1747B/11).

SUMBA
(Bombed 5/5).

H.MT. SUMBA refloated and entered Barry Docks.
(N.O.I.C. Barry 2005/11).

War Diary.

11.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining.

River Thames.

All navigation in the river is to cease between Tower Bridge and Dagenham.
(F.O.I.C. London 0407/11)
Amend my 0407/11 to read all navigation is to cease between Tower Bridge and No. 4 Sea Reach Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. London 0534/11).
My 2044/10. Operation will now take place 1500/12th. Shipping should keep well clear of this area for 24 hours after this time.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1452/11).
Cancel my 0534/11 river is open for navigation
(F.O.I.C. London, 1758/11)

Harwich.

Port closed owing to minelaying in harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0800B/11).

B.S. 56
(Minelaying off
Sunderland).

B.S.56 and my 1013B/8. Do not expect escort will be available before about 16th owing to shortage of corvettes.
(C. in C. Nore 1111B/11 to TEVIOTCBANK.)

1 Magnetic mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 1005/11 in Harwich Harbour 1 Cable 180° from Guard buoy. Mine laid 0030/11.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1207B/11).

My 1428/11 (N.T. in W.D.) request you sail BRIGHTON if she is serviceable to R/V with me in 115° North of Rona 9 miles at 1300/M.S.T./16.
(R.A.(M) 1429/11, 1942/11).

Belfast.
New type
Mine.

My 1614/10. 2,000 people evacuated on account of mine. Northern Ireland Government request expert be sent with utmost despatch. Housing problem now difficult.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1941/11).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Brest between 0815 and 0845. Visual R/C shows battlecruisers still present. (D.D.I.C. 1045B/11).

D/F.

Reference Admty's 194A Z. 1349/28/3. At 1750B/10 when in 059° 00' N 017° 40' W WELLPARK reported Loud Oscillations on 352 KC/S on a bearing 071°. (WESTCOTT 1705B/11 to Admty).

German Main Units.

Reported in Baltic 8/5 graded B.1. (D.D.I.C. 2240B/11).

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Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

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Shipping & Convoys

MOOLTAN

Fitted out as a troop transport, due to complete in London Docks on 19/5. She is required at Clyde on 26/5. C. in C. Nore requested to sail her as convenient arranging escort with C. in C. Rosyth. (D.O.D. (H) 1617B/11 to C. in C. Nore.)

Ocean Convoys
for Methil, calls
at Loch Ewe or
Oban.

Remarks on proposals on Par. 2 of ^{A.M.} 1638B/8/5.

(6) Regretted that with existing available trawlers and A/A escorts there appears to be no alternative to present system of East Coast ships putting into Loch Ewe or Oban.

(7) To enable Eastbound ships to proceed direct it is estimated that an increase of 30% of trawlers and A.A. escorts would be required over and above those now allotted to Scottish Coastal convoys. (C. in C. W.A. 2204/11 to Admty.)

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War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

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WELSH PRINCE

Returned from H.X. 123 for repairs to steering. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1335Z/11)

WINONA COUNTY
SALANDO

Returned from H.X. 126, both for engine repairs. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1336Z/11)

TUNA

C. in C. Plymouth 1428B/11. TUNA escorted by LA MOQUEUSE diverted to Falmouth to effect repairs. (Capt. S. 3. 2155B/11)

SELKIRK
FRANC TIREUR

Cancel my 1140/11 not to all addresses. Intend sailing SELKIRK in tow Tug KENIA and ROSS with A.P. Tr. FRANC TIREUR in tow escorted by a Destroyer from (D) 16 at 0630 on 13/5 for Tilbury S.O.A. 6 knots. Request onward towage be arranged for FRANC TIREUR to Harland and Wolf North Woolwich, SELKIRK and ROSS being taken in hand by Green and Silley Weir Tilbury. Request fighter protection, and Capt. (D) 16 report names of Destroyers detailed. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2347B/11 to C. in C. Nore.)

NORFOLK

Collision between NORFOLK and SPARTA off Inchkeith. No apparent damage to SPARTA no damage to NORFOLK. (NORFOLK 2345/11)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.

TRUANT
and French
GALLIUM.

Intercepted by French destroyer and four S/M's in position 036° 50' N. 000° 45' W. at 0215 A. GALLIUM proceeding with destroyer course 355°. Shadow till 0600. Proceeding Gibraltar 12 knots. (TRUANT, 0644A/11, to F.O.C.N.A). TRUANT'S 0644A/11. The security of RENOWN ARK ROYAL and FORTUNE is of greater importance than the interception of GALLIUM. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1042B/11 to F.O. Force H). Catalina aircraft report four French submarines destroyers T. 61, T 132, in position 160° Cape Palos 6 miles at 1022B/11 steering 20° speed 12 knots. S.S. GALLIUM in the vicinity steering same course. (F.O.C.N.A., 1428A/11 to V.A. Force H).

French
Units.

French S/M PASCAL escorted by French sloop minesweeper ANNAMITE will pass through Strait from east to west approx. noon G.M.T/12. (F.O.C.N.A., 1024A/11, to S.O. Force H., TRUANT).

SAINT FRANCOIS
(French) may
supply U/B's.

My (? 1147/20/4) French sailing vessel SAINT FRANCOIS has sailed probably for Oporto. May load provisions in Portugal which are suspected to be intended for German (? submarines). (Consul, Vigo, 1025/11 to Gibraltar).

FORTUNE
(bombed).

M.L's 130 (S.O.) 168 129 and 135 will be sailed to reach position 142° Cape de Gata 20 miles by 0800B/12 as A/S screen for FORTUNE or as required by you. (F.O.C.N.A. 1048/11 and 1450/11 to S.O. Force H).

MARTIN
PECHEUR.

My 1909/10 (explosions on ship off shore) Vessel appears to be French MARTIN PECHEUR, crew landed at Olhao and Faro. British armed guard proceeding in open boat to Gibraltar. (N.A. Lisbon 1051/11 to Admty.) See also 1917B/11. *See also next page*

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic. (contd).

Operation
"Tiger".

My 1950/9 Add to para 6 Torpedoes evidently non-magnetic. (S.O. Force H. 1057/11 to Admty).

German
Unit.

At 0948 G.M.T. D.F. Bearings of German Naval Unit from Gibraltar was 326 first class sensed 11125 Kc/s. (F.O.C.N.A., 1151A/11 to N.A. Stn.).

Boarding
of ERIN.

Your 2344/7. Guard of two officers and seven ratings arrived Setubal from Casablanca on Portuguese auxiliary sailing ship. (N.A. Lisbon 1152/11 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

French
M.V. A.

Gibraltar 1444/11 French sloop LA GRANIÈRE, French S.S. WINNIPEG eight with number apparently civilians on deck passed West-bound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1735A/11 to Admty. etc)

MAURICE DELMAS
ANDRE MOYRANT
(French).

Secret source graded B2 reports French merchant ships MAURICE DELMAS and ANDRE MOYRANT will leave Bordeaux shortly for Mediterranean to be handed over to Germans after passing Gibraltar. (A.C.NS.(F) 1742B/11 to F.O.C.N.A., Force H., F.O.(S))

REPULSE.

To leave convoy after dark 12/5 and return to Gibraltar at best speed reporting E.T.A. to F.O.C.N.A. when well clear. (1st S.L. 1747B/11 to REPULSE).

MARTIN PECHEUR.
scuttled.

French MARTIN PECHEUR with armed guard from CORINTHIAN (?rapidly) sunk believed scuttled in 057° 07' N. 008° 31' W. presumably p.m. /10. Crew landed. Armed guard proceeding Gibraltar in open boats. Adjust speed to search position and route towards Gibraltar in daylight. LOCH OSKAIG sailed 1000/11 and was ordered to investigate on passage to patrol. Catalina aircraft will search in same area from 0800/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1917B/11 to VELOX, WRESTLER). *See previous page*

/French.....

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Sunday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd)

French
Convoys.

* See also P 310

French auxiliary vessel VICTORIA^{*} passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1630/10 escorting French M.V's ARIZONA, STRABON and MEDJERDA. French survey ship AMIRAL MOUCHEZ passed Gibraltar westbound at 0700/11 escorting French M.V's CAP TOURANE and EDEA. (D.O.R., 12/5). <

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE.

To sail at 1800/11/5 overtake and escort S.L. 74. Admty. is requested to issue necessary instructions as to destination. A.M. 0104/30/4 Para. 3 not to DORSETSHIRE refers. (C. in C.S.A., 1027N/11 to DORSETSHIRE).
Departure 1800/11 DORSETSHIRE to overtake and escort convoy S.L. 74. (S.O.I. Freetown 1911N/11 to Admty.).

EAGLE.
NELSON.

My 1851/10 not to Admiralty. EAGLE and NELSON required Freetown 23/5 at latest. Boiler cleaning on passage a secondary consideration but should be done if possible. (C. in C.S.A. 1311N/11 to EAGLE).

CRITON
(French).
(intercepted
9/5).

Arrival 1600/11 CILICIA escorting French S.S. CRITON. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1801N/11 to Admty.).

'LL' sweepers.

Your 0957B/9. 'LL' sweepers urgently required in Mediterranean. Sailing of GOS VI and HEKTOR VII should not be delayed by waiting for remainder of Group 152. (D.M.S., 1837B/11 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/MANDURA.....

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

MADURA.
"Q" Report.

Following has been read. Q Q Q Q
disguised Merchant Raider 1° 50' S. 6° 05' W.
course 048° speed 11, MADURA suspicious.
(Freetown T.O.R. 1907Z/11).
MADURA's QQ QQ at 1807 (position).
Proceed direct and investigate area.
(C. in C. S.A., 2027N/11 to PRETORIA CASTLE).
Cancel my message 1855/11. (MADURA (via
Freetown W/T), 2235/11 to Any British M of W)

NICOLAOS D.L.
(overdue).

My 1815/18/4. (report by RUPERT DE LARRINAGA
of sighting of burning wreck carrying
deck load of timber) N.C.S.O. Trinidad
reports that NICOLAOS D.L. sailed from
Trinidad with deck load of timber. (C. in C.
S.A. 2146N/11 to Admty.).

Mediterranean.

Tripoli
bombed and
mined.

Result of Maryland recco. day 10/5, 1
Wellington 148 Sqn. and 3 Wellingtons
delivery flight ex U.K. and 5 Swordfish
850 Sqn. F.A.A. despatched Tripoli harbour
night 10/11. 4 Wellingtons dropped 12600
lbs. G.P. and 1360 incendiaries. Several
hits on Spanish Mole. Several sticks
across harbour results unseen due to
smoke screen. 4 Swordfish with cucumbers
and 1 carrying flares times to arrive at
target during above raid laid cucumbers
in following positions from north end of
Mole. No opposition due to Wellington
diversion. All aircraft returned safely;
all times G.M.T. (H.Q., R.A.F. Med.,
0600/11).

GRIMSBY
to escort
CITY OF
CANTERBURY
and WATERHEN.

Have been searching vicinity of R.V.
since 0545 but no sign of CITY OF CANTERBURY
and WATERHEN. My maximum on one propeller
now 10½ knots. (GRIMSBY, 0849/11 to S.B.N.O.
Suda Bay).

/Mining.....

War Diary.

11.5.41.
Sunday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Mining of
Suez Canal.

Suez Canal raided for third time in four days night of 10th/11th May. Possibly four mines laid k.m. 88.7 to 89.2. Two bombs dropped on beach near port Fuad. No damage or casualties.

2. In previous raid four objects probably time bombs fell in canal. Reckoned that two exploded spontaneously after 26 and 33 hours. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1055c/11.) Operational Summary No. 335 up to 1200/11. Night 10th/11th 4 or 5 enemy aircraft operated over Suez Canal. Bombs reported dropped on Salt Works Port Said and near Shallufa. A.A. Guns Port Said engaged enemy unsuccessfully.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1111/11.)

Submarines.

Add to My 1033B/11. Also passed to C. in C., Mediterranean S.O.S./MS Malta and S1 with T.O.O. 1114B/11.
(F.O.S., No.T.O.O./11.)

Italian
Unit.

Unknown Italian warship was in 039° 25' N., 024° 10' E., at 2006 G.M.T./10.
(Capt. S.1 1255C/11 to RORQUAL.)

CACHALOT.
REGENT

To arrive
Amend route. / Marsamxett 0600B/14. Italian destroyer was reported mined in 037° 15' 011° 07' on 24/4.*REGENT will leave Malta p.m./12 (route) (Cdr. S.1. 1314B/11, to CACHALOT.) * See also next page.

German
Shipping,
Levant.
RODNIA.

German Deutsche Levant Linie reported to be opening large shipping offices shortly at Smyrna and announces regular sailings from Black Sea to Greece. Bulgarian RODNIA, 4159 tons, under charter to D.L.L., is due at Novorossisk about 14/5 for a cargo of grain. Endeavours being made by Germans to obtain further tonnage for Russian grain cargoes. (D.S., 614.)

BASARABIA
TRANSYLVANIA.

Roumanian, both 6672 tons, American Press message from Istanbul states being converted into armed merchant cruisers.
(D.S. 614, 11/5.)

/REGENT.....

War Diary.

11.5.41.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

347

Mediterranean. Contd.

REGENT.

Will leave Malta p.m./12 routed south of Pantellaria through Skerki Channel to 038° 10' 009° 00' which should be reached about 0500/15, thence as ordered you.
(Cdr. S.1, 1323B/11, to Capt. S.8.)

RAMB IV.

C. in C. M.E. 1850/9. C. in C. Med.'s 1254/26, C. in C. E.I's., 0430/23. RAMB IV may be employed temporarily as a hospital ship in the Mediterranean and Red Sea. Subsequently she may be de-rated and employed for the transport of wounded and civilians from Italian East Africa. Italian Gov., will be informed. Hoped to reply shortly to C. in C. Med., on general question of capture of hospital ships raised in his 1154/26/4. (Hd. of M., 1332B/11, to C. in C. M.E., C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I.)

Italian Units.

Two Italian ships believed destroyers bearing 120° and 116° 2nd Class at 0748.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1404B/11, to Capt. D.5.)

Appointments.

Admiralty have approved V.A.Pridham-Wippell to be V.A.Com., 1st. B.S. and 2nd., in Com., Med. Fleet. R.A. Rawlings to be R.A.Com., 7th, C.S. R.-A., Glennie to be R.A., Com., Med., Destroyer Flotillas. All to date 12/5. The Flags of V.A.Pridham Wippell and R.A.Rawlings are to be transferred to QUEEN ELIZABETH and ORION respectively as arranged by the Flag Officers concerned. The flag of R.A. Glennie is to be hoisted in **WOOLWICH** at 0800/12, and transferred to DIDO as arranged by R.A. (D).
(C. in C. Med., 1558C/11.)

Malta Air Raid.

Report Malta up to 1600/11/5. 1700 hours 10/5 about 7 M.E. 109's split up and scouted Island at 20,000 feet. 1 M.E. 109 dived and machine gunned west bound Sunderland at its moorings.
No casualties. Aircraft burnt out and sunk.
(H.Q., Med., 1650/11.)

/PASTEUR.....

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Recd. 1540 11/5/41.

From C. in C. Middle East, Cairo.

CYPHER

Addressed
The War Office, Repeated Creforce Canal.

12408 MELPO/62674 cipher 8/5

Crete Force for Minister.

1st. Maintenance Greeks is now mainly question of maintenance Crete. Any subsidiary Islands held by Greeks should be maintained by local onward shipments from Crete.

2nd. Suggest only possible satisfactory method for maintenance Crete and Islands is organisation similar to that agreed to maintenance Malta.

3rd. First necessity is co-ordinated demand from Crete covering all requirements (except Naval) for British Army Greek Army and Greek civilians through one channel. This can be arranged By Anglo Greek Committee in Crete passing all demands on Middle East.

4th. In Egypt demands will be met by M.E.S.C. and Middle East in co-operation.

5th. Greek Government should have representative in Cairo to co-operate with M.E.S.C. on supplies and authorised to approve proposals for passage of Greek cargoes arriving in Middle East. Operations of Greek Purchasing Committee now working in Egypt would be co-ordinated by this Greek Government representative under M.E.S.C.

6th. All convoy needs would be arranged by C. in C. Mediterranean who would also be responsible form all naval requirements Greek Navy. R.A.F. providing aviation petrol.

7th. Whole time Secretary has been engaged to co-ordinate shipping arrangements between M.E.S.C., G.H.Q. Ministry of Shipping and Principal S.T.O.

8th. Middle East to be responsible for accounting for all quantities handed over to Greeks and to have Accountant in Crete.

9th. British Minister in Crete please state proposals agreed by Greek Government.

10th. Proposals agreed Embassy, Cairo. Sir H. Barker. M.E.S.C. C. in C. Mediterranean has agreed in principal but has not seen this detailed cable. Request approval.

Desp. 1320/11.

- 1st. Lord.
- 1st. S.L.
- 4th. S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- Ucy. Seco
- P.S.O. to 1st. S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- Ops (4)

- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- O.I.C.
- D.S.D. 9
- Adl. Herman Hodge.
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- E.P.S.
- D of P (3)
- M (2)
- W.D.
- I.P. (3)

Recd. by Hand
at 0305/13

D.H.

War Diary.11.5.41.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.PASTEUR
(French.)Departure 11/5. Capetown 23/5.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1742C/11.)Movements,
Alexandria.British forces are expected to arrive Alexandria as follows and have been warned of your arrival. 0530/12 DIDO, CALCUTTA, and destroyers. 0900, Battle Fleet. 1200, Convoy.
(Capt. S.1 1751C/11, to TRIUMPH.)Malta
Minesweeping.My 2310B/10 and 1535B/10 to R.A.i/c Alexandria only. Request the 20 - 4000 Amp Ammeter for SWONA be flown Malta with T L T 65 fuse. Sweeping will come to a standstill unless I can get this gear very quickly.
(V.A. Malta, 1808B/11, to R.A.I.C.Alexandria) With arrival of additional LL sweep etc., a minesweeping base is being established in Manoel Island destroyer depot. All available and suitable auxiliary vessels are being converted for LL or S/A gear. Grave shortage of spare gear, (my 2310B/10.) Personnel being provided from FERMOY recently bombed and sunk in No.5 dock but essential that following should be drafted immediately: (V.A. Malta, 2012B/11, to Admty.)Convoy.
AUCKLAND.

Bring BELRAY and 3 other ships with most personnel into Alexandria. Detail remainder to Port Said from close off Alexandria routed independently along 10 fathom line. (R.A.I.C., Alexandria, 1830/11, to AUCKLAND.)

UNBEATEN.
FORESIGHT.

Submarine safety route established from 035° 31' 014° 13' through 035° 00' 014° 30' thence 180° to Tripoli coast. UNBEATEN leaves Malta 2030B/11 approx., position midnight 035° 31' 014° 13'. FORESIGHT will be south of Malta during night 11/12. (V.A. Malta, 1847B/11, to Capt. D.5.)

/Gazala.....

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Gazala
Bombarded
by LADYBIRD.

Situation report. Little Military or air activity. LADYBIRD bombarded Gazala North landing ground at 0130 and observed glow of several fires. Channel swept by AURORA II, SVANA. A few shells fired at latter when returning. Personnel state unable to locate or silence guns without air spotting.
(S.O. Force I, 1929/11, to C. in C. Med.)

Benghazi.

Bombardment night of 10-11/5 by 5th D.F., See V.A. Malta, 1325B/12 and D.O.R., 13/5.

Suez Canal
Mines.

Situation 1930/11. One mine exploded by L L and one by S/A sweep. Five unexploded mines and two unexploded objects probably time bombs remain in canal from raid of 7/8. Four unexploded mines in canal from raid of 10/11. Nothing remains in canal from raid of 9/10. Canal is closed Port Said to Kantara and Lake Timsah exclusively to Great Bitter Lake owing to objects. Railway working normally.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1932C/11, to Admty., etc.)

AUCKLAND
VOYAGER
VAMPIRE.

+
My 2105/11. (N.T. in W.D.) AUCKLAND VOYAGER, VAMPIRE each have troops on board, latter also requires ambulance for serious casualties. Request berth alongside. Greek Chief of Naval Staff on board AUCKLAND. Please inform Greek C. in C. and Liaison Officer. Intend flying flag of former. Strong reason.
(AUCKLAND, 2107C/11, to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

U/B.Report.

Villagers report seeing three submarines (group omitted) (? on surface) early this morning in approx., (?35°) 26' N., 33° 47' E. Vessels later submerged and disappeared. Investigation indicates that vessels sighted were in fact submarines.
(N.C.S.O. Famagusta 2130/11, to C.O.I.S. Alexandria.)

/Situation.....

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Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Situation
Report 23.

Alexandria, ORION, AJAX and PERTH arrived. Convoy of four ships with tanks and men left for Crete.

Suez Canal. Again raided night of 10/11. Possibly four mines dropped in canal which is still open from Kantara up to and including Lake Timsah and between Devesuir and Suez.

Western Desert. No change. Mersa Tobruk bombed 9/5. URANIA alongside No 41 jetty damaged. Benghazi attacked by 5th D.F., result not yet reported.

(R.A. Alexandria 2255/11 to Admty.)

(URANIA - ? Panamanian)

East Indies.

Basra

Following is my estimate of minimum forces required to secure Basrah area and to ensure free use of port. (a) and (b) (Military) (c) In addition (1) Air component. (2) Naval Force. Naval craft to secure sea approaches and patrol Shatt el Arab. (General, Basrah, 0226/11 to C. in C. M.E.)

Iraq

Policy and objectives. (C.inC. & A.O.C.inC. M.E. 0355/11, Amended 2130/11) See Lion Copy.

CORNWALL
action with
raider.

My 1856/8. CORNWALL 0631/10 and 1430/10 are passed to you. Extracts will be sent N.Z.N.B. and A.C.N.B. Enquiry being made as to whether raider imitated recognition procedure. (C. in C. E.I., 0648Z/11 to Admty.)

My 0648/11. Recognition procedure was not imitated by raider. The only signal she made was the R distress message as from TAMERLANE. (C. in C. E.I., 1040Z/11) Your 0652/5. Following results of interrogation of prisoners. (CORNWALL, 1415Z/10 to C. in C. E.I.,) See Lion Copy.

/CERES.....

MOST SECRET

350(A)

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

0355/11 May

IN

From C. in C. and A.O.C. in C. Middle East.

Date 11.5.41.

Recd. 1155.

Cypher.

Addressed General Basrah Air Officer Commanding Habbaniyah.
Repeated Military Palestine, Palforce, C. in C. India and
War Office (for Chiefs of Staff in reply to C.O.S. 96 to C. in
C. India only.)

IMMEDIATE.

12230.

0/63340 cipher 10/5.

First of three parts Begins.

1. Our objects in Iraq are to restore a friendly Government which will honour its treaty obligations and thereby safeguard ourselves against Axis intervention in Iraq.

2. To achieve this we must defeat and discredit the leaders of armed forces and Rashid Ali in eyes of army and people and enlist the friendly tribes. Vigorous action against hostile Iraqi army and airforces is essential.

3. If Iraqis express wish to make terms it is probable the Ambassador will be in a position to negotiate. Failing his ability to do so the following is a guide as to terms which have been approved by H.M.'s Government. You will however not enter into negotiations yourself but will (? report that) Iraqis are willing to negotiate.

Case A. If approached by Rashid Ali or army. (a) Liberate Ambassador and his Staff and British Military Mission and other British personnel. (b) Rehoisting of British flag at Embassy Baghdad with our ceremonial, public recognition of Ambassadors previous position and immediate restoration of Embassy communications. (c) Acknowledgement that treaty will be honoured in both letter and spirit. This will imply (? have) no interference etc. (d) Handing over or destruction of all (? aviation) petrol in Iraq. (e) Occupation of following of certain key points which will be decided at the time.

Case B. If Rashid Ali and Golden Square disappear and approach is made by other political leaders friendly to British, paragraphs (a) (b) (c) of Case A apply and (d) and (e) will not necessarily be insisted upon.

Part two.

4. Meanwhile following instructions give general guide in political dealings with civil population and tribes. Any action suggesting we have any intention of infringing Iraq independence or introducing British administration or control is to be avoided. Every encouragement is to be given to local Iraq administration to function so far as is consistent with safety of our forces. Political officers are to be regarded as liaison officers between Iraq administration and British forces and not as administrators except where Iraq administration is inoperative. As long as Iraq administration meets our military requirements it is not (repeat not) to be interfered with or superceded because it is inefficient in other directions.

5/.....

5. With regard to tribes throughout Iraq our policy is to enlist their friendly co-operation to ourselves and to ensure that they will oppose present regime and support Government friendly to us. First task is to counter-act Axis propoganda amongst them. Second is by judicious use of money payments to secure co-operation main tribal leaders if it appears that object cannot be obtained without this. Shiah elements may be given impression that His Majesty's Government without interfering in internal politics will view favourably larger Shiah representation in a national Government. They may be informed that British Military Mission consistantly advised against conscription particularly in tribal spirit.

Last part.

6. Our propoganda directed to Iraq and neighbouring Arab Countries will be on following (? lines). (a) We are fighting not the Iraqi people but Rashid Ali and Golden Square. (b) Hostilities will cease as soon as Iraq gets rid of her Axis paid misleaders. (c) We have no territorial or political ambitions in Iraq. All we want is a Government in power which will honour the Anglo Iraq Treaty in letter and in spirit and resume the old collaboration and friendship between British and Iraq peoples.

7. To direct and co-ordinate activities in tribal areas political policy and propoganda while Ambassador is not available a centre is being set up in Jerusalem which will work under orders of C. in C. and A.O.C. Middle East. This centre will organize missions to tribal areas, arrange leaflet and broadcasting propoganda in Iraq and neighbouring Arabic speaking countries as far as Iraq problems are concerned. This centre will be represented at Basrah and Habbaniya by a Political Adviser to C. in C. and A.O.C. respectively.

8. Intelligence arrangements. Original idea of an experienced service centre to deal with security and political intelligence as given in part 8 of 9286 of April 24th will be implemented as soon as possible, C. in C. A.O.C. each having his own operational Intelligence Staffs. H.Q. of this inter-service centre will be at Habbaniya with detachment at Basrah. Detachment at Basrah will for the present work under control of Senior Intelligence Staff Officer at Basrah.

0355/11.

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) Head of M.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
Duty Capt.
Head of M
E.P.S.
I.P.
W.D.
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

Recd. from War Office 2107/11.

061

MOST SECRET

350 (C)

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E 2130/11th May IN

From: C. in C. Middle East.

Date 12.5.41

Recd. 0500

Cipher.

Addressed: General Basra, A.O.C. Habbaniya, repeated
G.O.C. Palestine and Transjordan, Palforce,
The War Office, C. in C. India.

IMMEDIATE.

12368.

O/63506 cipher 11/5.

My O/63340 dated May 10th

Para 3 (c) for et cetera substitute with landing
of British troops or Air Forces or with their movement by
road, rail or air across Iraq from Middle East.

2130/11

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

* Objects in Iraq.

Received from War Office at 0940/12

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
Duty Captain
Head of M
E.P.S.
I.P.
W.D.
N.I.D. 10

JR

11.5.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

CERES

To leave Mombasa a.m./13 and proceed to position "Q" 004° S. 045° and then patrol between position "Q" and position "T" 003° N., 050° at 12 knots. Object protection of shipping. (C. in C. E.I., 0742Z/11 to CERES)

CORNWALL
GLASGOW

Sailed 1400Z/11 in accordance with your 1908/10. (CORNWALL 1234Z/11 to C. in C., E.I.)

W.S. 8 A.
Escort.

Admty. 1635/10. para 2.
(1) Intend SHROPSHIRE shall relieve MAURITIUS near Capetown about 21/5 and escort W.S. 8 A to Durban.
(2) C. in C. S.A. requested to arrange R.V. and N.O.I.C Simonstown to sail SHROPSHIRE accordingly.
(3) Intend SHROPSHIRE to escort W.S. 8 A from Durban to Perim. (C.in C. E.I. 1246Z/11 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

CAPETOWN

Sailed CAPETOWN with BOTLEA and TAI KOO. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1551Z/11)

W.S. 7

Your 0311/10. Fuelling of ships ex W.S. 7 is completed. Vessels will be delayed sailing by shortage of tugs and cargo lighters. Cargo deadweight on board for discharge Suez (details) (S.S.T.O. Suez 1848C/11 to Admty.)

Yugoslavian
SS SUPETAR

Ref. 1020Z/24/4 from N.O.i/c Port Sudan. Request result of investigations. (D.N.I. 1901B/11 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal,)

Enemy
Unit.

Your 1740Z/10. Bearings from U.K. stations at 1643Z/9 were sent to you, but no position was obtainable. None of the other transmissions were intercepted by U.K. stations. (D.D.I.C. 2238B/11 to C. in C. E.I.)

21.10.1947.

TOP SECRET

351A
OUT

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

HUSH

0050B/11th May

To: C in C. China 909
Repeated C in C. East Indies 122

Date 11.5.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (F).

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT AIDAC

- A. The supreme Naval Commander in Far East will be called C in C. Eastern Fleet.
- B. On outbreak of war with Japan, C in C. China assumes the duties of C in C. Eastern Fleet and continues to do so until arrival of main fleet at Singapore or when decided by Their Lordships.
- C. On arrival of main fleet at Singapore, or when so directed by Their Lordships, C in C. Main Fleet, who will have been appointed to command the fleet on passage, will become C in C. Eastern Fleet, will remain in command of Main Fleet and fly his flag afloat. Title of Fleet will be Eastern Fleet.
- D. Duties of C in C. Eastern Fleet will be:-
- (i) Collaboration with C in C. Far East and Allied Commanders regarding the general strategy of the war in Far East.
 - (ii) The exercise of unified strategic direction of all naval forces in the Eastern Theatre (see note) with the exception of local defence forces and those under Commander in Chief, United States Asiatic Fleet.
 - (iii) The distribution of Naval Forces throughout the Eastern Theatre and general plan for their employment, Commanders in Chief of each station retaining operational command of forces within their stations.
 - (iv) Exercise of the above powers to be limited by right of any Dominion or Associated Power to withdraw or withhold forces, provided, prior information is given to Commander in Chief, Eastern Fleet.
- E. On C in C. Main Fleet assuming the title of C in C. Eastern Fleet, C in C. China will continue to carry out his present duties with the exception of those taken over by C in C. Eastern Fleet in accordance with paragraph D.
- F. Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, New Zealand Navy Board and C in C. East Indies will exercise operational control over the naval forces, other than

the Main Fleet, operating on their stations.

G. C in C. China will deputise for C in C. Eastern Fleet during the latter's absence.

H. C in C. Eastern Fleet will be provided with a Chief of Staff and a Chief Staff Officer: The former dealing with the duties given in para.D and the latter with the Fleet. During the absence of C in C. Eastern Fleet his Chief of Staff will be attached to staff of C in C. China.

I. Above arrangements apply to situation Japan and U.S. belligerent. If one only of these powers enters the war the situation will be reviewed.

0050B/11.

Assistant Sec. to 1st S.L.

Note: The Eastern Theatre comprises the East Indies, China, Australia and New Zealand British Naval stations except the Pacific area as defined in A.B.C.I. Annexes II and III.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.(5)
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 D.O.D.(F)
 D of P.
 D.N.I.
 E.P.S.
 Duty Captain
 N.I.D.10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)
 Head of M. (8) (M/PD 09836/41 and for C.I.G.S.
 C.A.S.
 W.C.O.(4)

CC.

352

War Diary11.5.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSChinaIndo-China

My 0831Z/8. Following acceptance of satisfactory assurances regarding Egal, following agreement with Indo-China was agreed to. (C. in C. China, 0929Z/11 to Admty.) See ~~Lion Copy~~ page 352A

America & West IndiesSURCOUF

Your 1915/29. Request route of SURCOUF may be amended as follows. C. in C. W.A. 2322B/10 Cancel last position and substitute (c) 035° N., 040° W. Patrol within 150 miles of this position as long as endurance permits thence proceed to Bermuda. Object is to intercept enemy supply ships. Request E.T.A. Bermuda may be signalled before sailing. (C. in C. A. W.I. 1001Q/11 to Admty.)

POINT LOBOS
(Panamanian)

Request you arrange for British SALVAGE CHEIFTAIN to proceed to assistance of British POINT LOBOS. Report any further information you may have of POINT LOBOS including present position. (C. in C. A. W.I., 1032Q/11 to Consular Shipping Adviser, Panama.)

Your 1032Q/11. Nothing further from POINT LOBOS since her original report advising disabled with leaking boilers in 11° 52' N., 90° 25' W., noon position 8/5. Vessel stated would send later message if required assistance. Suggest you send Salvage orders by wireless to endeavour to contact POINT LOBOS. (Consular Shipping Adviser Panama 1943/11 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U-Boat
Reports.

A.E.4/11/5/41. Following received from Chief of Naval Operations. Commander Task Force I has intercepted following 2 U-Boats reports (1) 57° -39' N 34° -30' W., at 1647/11 G.M.T. (2) 53° -15' N., 37° 00' W., at 1639/11 GMT. (Washington, 1050/11 to Admty.)
Comment:- (1) This U-B. was reported by SS SOBURG (SC 30) (2) Reported by SS HOYANGER probably H.M.S THUNDERBOLT.

See also p. 355

/Mortier Bay.....

MOST SECRET

352(A)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0929Z/11th May

IN

From C. in C. China.

Date 13.5.41.

Recd. 0353.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (10) BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty Repeated Governor Straits Settlements, Governor Hong Kong, Governor Burma, Government of India, H.M. Ambassador Tokyo, H.M. Ambassador Washington, Consul General Saigon.

550. My 0831Z May 8th not to Saigon. Following on acceptance of satisfactory assurances regarding Egal following points and agreement with Indo China were discussed and agreed to.

2. C. in C. China to obtain permission from United Kingdom to allow two oil tankers already agreed to to proceed as arranged. For subsequent shipments Decoux will specify precisely quantities and types of oil required.

3. Decoux will supply C. in C. China with a resume of economic agreement between Japan and Indo China through Consul General Saigon.

4. Jouan was informed if, as appeared, most favoured nation treatment had been granted to Japanese on a reciprocal basis, we should probably ask similar rights for ourselves and also for equivalent rights in regard to customs tariffs etc. He said he would let us have full particulars of arrangements made with Japan in regard to these points.

5. It was agreed to investigate possibility of obtaining from British resources repair materials for French cruiser LAMOTTE PICQUET. Separate telegram is being sent on this subject.

6. Decoux has expressed a wish to send ship to India to collect 1500 tons of Indian cotton for Indo China. The views of Government of India on this are requested.

7. Jouan was informed we were prepared to agree to a ship to be found by French proceeding Australia to load foodstuffs, principally 4000 tons of flour and 1000 tons milk for Indo China and that we would take up any surplus space not required by French. We are informing Australian Government of this proposal and asking for concurrence.

8. In light of foregoing and of Decoux's reactions to case of E. Egal, it is recommended that our agreement should remain in force and very early instructions in confirmation of this are requested and permission vide paragraph two for supply of oil.

0929Z/11.

097

Advance copy Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F).

A.C.N.S.(T)(2).

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

Nav. Sec.

P.A.S.(S).

D.O.D.(F).

D.D.O.D.(F).

D. of P.(2).

D.N.I.(4).

D.E.W.D.

D.S.D.9.

D.D.I.C.

D.T.D.(2).

Hd. of M.(5).

I.P.

W.D.

Ad. Chalmers,

N.I.D.10 Pay Cdr. Wilson.

Duty Captain.

War Diary

11.5.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Mortier Bay

Your 2341B/9 to R.A. 3 only. BUXTON with suitable special (? R.A.F.) officers is being sailed ~~for~~ Mortier Bay at 1600 P today to investigate and report on local conditions. (R.A. 3 1541P/11 to Admty.)

A.M.C.
Escorts

Your 1020B/10. Escort programme is based on approx. adherence to your 1200B/4. Important that A.M.C. should not be delayed at Iceland on present arrival or commitments due to resumption of Bermuda convoy cannot be met. Request ALAUNIA may be sailed to arrive Halifax not later than a.m./22. Delayed arrival of DERBYSHIRE can be accepted. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1839P/11, to F.O.C.N.P.)

SHEHERAZADE
MEROPE
(French tankers)

Following is extract from Fairmiss telegram GV74 from Galveston Texas 2311Z/11 T.O.O. 10/5 Arrival French ship SHEHERAZADE, Departure French Ship MEROPE- Tampico. (Galveston, Texas, 2311Z/11 to D. of S.T.)

Australia

MAROUKO PATERAS

Greek. MAROUKO PATERAS left Miike 13/4 for Fremantle. Ship has not arrived. (A.C.N.B. 0155Z/11.) Cancelled 0738Z/13)

See Page 363

ALEXANDRE ANDRE

Request information as to what action was taken on my 1630/8/3 Re suspect W/T Operator in Belgian SS ALEXANDRE ANDRE (D.N.I. 1914B/11 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary11.5.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedO.B. 318
7/5, 9/5.

From evidence available it would seem that U-Boats which attacked Convoy O.B.318 at 2115 /7 1200/9 and 1228/9 all approached and penetrated screen from beam quarter or astern. At 1200/9 five ships including all three destroyers were spread in A/S line one mile ahead of Convoy. Remaining three escorts were in beam and quarter position. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1601/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

SURAT
(Torpedoed 6/5)

Has now sunk. (D.S. 614, 11/5).

FERNLANE
(Torpedoed 7/5)

Norwegian, 4310 tons, Manchester to Freetown. DORSETSHIRE reports following intercepted on 500 kcs. at 0846/7/5 SSSS FERNLANE torpedoed 10° 02' N., 20° 17' W. at 0810 G.M.T. (Ends) Ship is overdue at Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1803N/11, to Admty. (D.S. 616, D.O.R., 13/5)

EMPIRE CLOUD
(Torpedoed 9/5)

Following survivors landed from AMAZON today. SS EMPIRE CLOUD 7 Officers 15 ratings. SS BENGORE HEAD 4 officers 9 ratings. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1848/11)

EMPIRE CARIBOU
AELYBRYN

Picked up (corrupt group) survivors on raft and overturned boat at 2122/11 in position 059° 15' N., 033° 45' W. from SS EMPIRE CARIBOU (? report of) HOLLYHOCK standing by AELYBRYN in position 059° 45' N 032° 40' W., at 1615/11. Drifted one point 7 knots 080°. (Cdr. D. 12 2120/11 to N.O.I.C. Iceland)

Submarines Reported

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1502B/11)

/1630....

War Diary11.5.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.

1630

Following has been read. SSSS, submarine sighted 53.15 N., 37.00 W. (Yard N. Loyat) (Halifax 1630/11)

Following has been read. SSSS de GLD Lands End. Submarine sighted (portion missed) R.15N37.W. HOYANGER 1630/11 (position incompletely received) (Portishead Radio 1650/11)

1700

Following has been read:- De Unknown vessel 57.30 N., 34.30 W., submarine on surface. (Plymouth W/T 1700/11 T.O.R. 1952/11) Devonport. De Ozka corrections 57.39 N., 34.30 W., SOBORG sighted submarine surface Ends. (Valentia Radio 1718/11 to Admty.)

Following has been read. 57.39 N., 34.30 W SOBORG ??? sighted submarine on surface. (Halifax, 1721Z/11)

C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1738Z/11 re reported submarine on surface, probably THUNDERBOLT. (B.S. 3 1827P/11 to Admty.) Ref. Admty. Message A.F. Position 57° 30' N 34° 30' W., at 1700/11 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1910/11, 2112B/11) *see p 352*

1723

Following has been read. SSSS de GCK de LCOQ 53° 15' N., 37° W., Submarine following on surface. (HOYANGER, 1723/11)

If D.12 has not joined by 2100 M.S.T. report your P.C. and S. (C. in C., W.A. 1931B/11 to AUBRETIA)

Your 1931B/11. D.12 has not joined. My P. C and S 057° 55' N., 035° 28' W., 270° 6. AUBRETIA investigating submarine report. Dense fog, request position routeing instructions S.C. 30. (NIGELLA 1900Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

1752

By D.F. at 1752Z/11. An enemy U-Boat was in approx. 58° 30' N., 34°-35° W. (D.D.I.C. 2102B/11)

Mediterranean3 U-B's
Cyprus.

N.C.S.O. Famagusta 2130/11. See FOREIGN STATIONS.

War Diary

11.5.1941.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

1630

One submarine submerged 184° 150 miles from Munker Rock (Faeroes) (LORD MIDDLETON to Scapa W/T 1630/11)
Cancel my 1630. Have investigated and attacked contact. Consider negative U-Boat. Am proceeding. (LORD MIDDLETON 1700B/11 to S.O.T.N.P.)

1520

52.33 N., 12.39 W., 295° Valencia 100'. Catalina A/C sighted line of foam and subsequently a periscope and dropped 2 d/c's. (D.S. 612, 12/5)

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

357

Home Commands.

M.T.B.
Sweep

One unit of M.T.B's (3) carried out an offensive patrol last night between Zeebrugge and Hook of Holland. No enemy ships were sighted.

Morale of
Dutch Tugs.

Tugs THAMES and ZWARTE ZEE refused to sail to bring in damaged ships today without escort. Morale is reported to have been deteriorating for some time and as it is unlikely an escort will be available every time tugs go to sea N.O. i/c Iceland urges that their crews be relieved by British crews as neither tug is likely to be of any further use with Dutch crews.

British Air Operations

69 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Hamburg and 65 Bremen industrial and shipbuilding centres last night. Minor attacks were made on docks at Dieppe and Bremerhaven, Rotterdam oil storage, Emden, Kiel and other naval objectives.

3 Blenheims of Coastal Command attacked the E-Boat base at Ijmuiden last night.

Enemy Air Operations

SS FOWBERY TOWER was bombed and sunk off the Humber in the early hours of this morning.

Convoy F.N.465 was bombed twice or three times in the early hours of this morning, but no damage resulted.

/Convoy O.BM 322...

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

358

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Convoy O.B.M322 was bombed in the early hours and SS NOREG was slightly damaged by incendiary.

QUEEN EAGLE was apparently attacked in the early hours of this morning, near Yantlet North Buoy (Thames Estuary).

During an attack on the Tyne SS RICHARD DE LARRINAGA was bombed and damaged at 0215 today while joining convoy E.C. 18.

It is reported that the Irish Free State SS DEGERIN was machine gunned and bombed at 0043 today near the Tuscar. No damage occurred.

SS ST. PATRICK reported being bombed at 2335 G.M.T. near the South Tuskar.

Irish Free State SS MENARA reported being bombed unsuccessfully at 0230 between Skoner Island and Bishop Rock, by 2 Heinkels.

British overseas Flying Boat MAIA was bombed and sunk in Poole Harbour at 0130 today. The attacking aircraft was shot down subsequently.

Attacks on
Yeovilton

Damage was caused at Yeovilton R.N.Air Station in the early hours of this morning.

Pembroke
Dock.

There was an air attack on Pembroke Dock last night. Two land mines fell in the Naval Dockyard and caused damage and casualties.

/Harwich.....

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

359

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Harwich
Area

There was considerable enemy air activity in Harwich area last night. Parkeston Quay was attacked and damage was caused to BEEHIVE (Base Ship)

St. Eval

Damage and several casualties were caused at St. Eval from 0018 to 0443. The aerodrome is unserviceable.

Yarmouth

No Naval damage was caused as the result of attack on Yarmouth last night, but the water supply is practically out of commission.

Mining

Four Naval aircraft laid mines off Cherbourg this evening.

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night off the Tyne and Thames Estuaries and in the Bristol Channel.

Minelaying was suspected in the early hours of this morning off Yarmouth and Lowestoft Roads.

Port Ellen (Milford Haven) was closed from 0201 to 1315. Belfast is open except between 2300 and 0500 daily. The Tyne was closed from 1055 to 0915. The Humber was reported safe for shipping movements at 0919B.

*
SS FLINT is reported sunk today by explosion off Dingle Oil Jetty (presumably Liverpool)

"F" HOPPER BARGE -

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

360

Mediterranean

Malta

V.A. Malta today outlined his proposals for further convoy movements whilst the Mediterranean Fleet is primarily engaged with Central Mediterranean operations. He considers it imperative to press on with the building up of stocks to meet the ever increasing requirements of aviation spirit.

Malta was attacked for 5½ hours last night by about 30 aircraft, the main target being Luqa Aerodrome, where damage was caused. No damage was caused in the Dockyard.

Appointments

V.A. Pridham-Wippell was today appointed V.A. 1st B.S. and 2nd i/c Med. Fleet with flag in QUEEN ELIZABETH; R-A Rawlings R.A.C. 7th C.S. with flag in ORION, R-A Glennie R-A (D) Med. Fleet

Cruiser Organisation.

ORION, AJAX and PERTH form the 7th C.S. NAIAD, PHOEBE, GLOUCESTER and FIJI form the 15th C.S.

Swordfish attack on convoy

4 Swordfish were despatched this evening to attack a southbound convoy of 7 merchant ships sighted by A/C.R/C. The Swordfish attacked with torpedoes at 2030 in 34° 1' N 12° 39' E. One destroyer and one merchant ship are believed to have been hit. Surprise was achieved and there was no opposition.

Libya

LADYBIRD was sunk by air attack in Mersa Tobruk Harbour at 1505 today.

Nine Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour and 3 attacked ships off the port last night.

Suez Canal

A further section of the Canal has been opened between Kantara and Tireh.

12.5.1941.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

361

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation
M.D. 4.

The Fleet returned to Alexandria this morning. C. in C. Med. reports that the success of the operation was largely attributable to unprecedented weather conditions.

The enemy losses in the air were 9 certain and one damaged. Of the 7 British aircraft lost 5 were due to forced landings failing to find the carrier, or other accident.

Greece

AUCKLAND (with the Greek C.N.S.), A.S.30, VOYAGER and VAMPIRE, all with troops, arrived at Alexandria this morning.

See p. 381

Crete

SS RAWNSLEY (bombed and damaged /5) was bombed and sunk last night on the south coast of Crete.

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Secret and Confidential matter.

The instructions laid down in Form U2D, Art. 80b, regarding the disposal from H.M. Ships of secret and confidential matter in an emergency are being generally observed.

There is evidence, however, that similar precautions are not always taken in the case of combined operations.

Where there is any risk of personnel or occupied buildings being captured the secret and confidential matter carried must be reduced to an absolute minimum compatible with the satisfactory discharge of the operation.

(D.N.I. 1912B/12. "A" Mge., Home & Abroad 69A.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Iceland Shortage of Ships.

Request I may be informed when NORDKAPP may be expected to return. With SKYRACK out of action and BULL and HONNINGSVAAG required for visit to Jan Mayen and possibly East Coast of Greenland I am very short of ships for round Iceland (c) Escorts and attending Coast watchers. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1301/12.)

Conversion of fishing vessels.

Cancel A.M. 1339/7/11/40. (D.M.S. 1428B/12. to C's in C. Home Ports.)

Morale of Dutch Tugs' crews.

Both THAMES and ZWARTE ZEE refused to sail without escort today. THAMES was sent with VERITY and ZWARTE ZEE with ANGLE. VERITY reports by W/T THAMES requested her to remain with him. Have instructed VERITY to proceed in execution of previous orders. Liaison Officer F.A.A. unit reports morale believed to have been getting worse for some time and THAMES worse still. I have seen master ZWARTE ZEE and explained this is not dangerous area, but doubt if either tug will tow damaged ships back without escort. Most unlikely escort ship available every time tugs go to sea. Strongly urge crews be relieved by British crews as neither tug is likely to be any further use present crew. (N.O. i/c Iceland 2113/12.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Defence of U.K.

Yarmouth
A.A.Defence.

A.156 12/5. Following is repetition of my A.263 10/5. Request new gun defended area of Yarmouth - Lowestoft be included in terms of S.D. 158 part one para.5A, sub para 3. This will enable guns when deployed to open unseen fire as at Harwich after permission to do so has been granted by group concerned. Early amendment to document quoted is requested.
(H.Q.F.C. 0100/12 to Adty.)

Movements.

AURORA.

Your 1517/7. Request you sail AURORA for Rosyth. N.O.i/c Tyne pass to AURORA.
(C. in C. H.F. 1037B/12, to N.O.i/c Tyne.)

BERWICK.

Your 1247B/11. Request BERWICK and escort may adjust arrival Beamer Rock (Firth of Forth) to 1915/16th for basining. Suggest she should anchor at Scapa p.m./15th and leave as late as possible a.m./16th to conform to amended time of arrival carry out southern part of east coast passage in daylight and allow sufficient time for M/S Operations in Firth of Forth. Speed west of May Island should not exceed 9 knots.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1150/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Destroyer escort from Portsmouth is not required to proceed beyond Smalls.

2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange suitable air protection from daylight/14.

3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide A/A escort from Scapa to Rosyth.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1944B/12.)

BERWICK sailed E.T.A. Scapa 0730/15 escort WIVERN, WILD SWAN, BERKELEY, BLENCATHRA.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 2130/12.)

/DISCOVERY.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Movements Contd.

DISCOVERY II.

To lay and tend buoys as far north as Farne Is. Arrangements. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter protection. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to take over surface escort at Flamborough Head. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1656/12.)

FURIOUS
LONDON
ANSON.
(Op: "Sp/ia.")

Sailed FURIOUS, LONDON, ANSON, TARTAR, MASHONA, and LEGION codeword ~~GRUE~~ in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1037B/11. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2037B/12.)

Operations.

+
My 2135/11 returned. 0800B/12.
+ Re departure of Torpedo Boats 31, 32, 34.

M.T.B.
Sweep.

M.T.B. 32 reports Your 1530/11. Sweep carried out in the West Pit and Schoonweld - no ship sighted. No buoy sighted. Visibility extreme. (C. in C. Nore 1500B/12.)

TIGRIS
Operation
"Explore".

Cancel my 1029B/12. (A) TUNA is not considered fit for patrol in her present state. (B) TIGRIS is to be sailed P.M./12 to Falmouth to take over duties of TUNA in connection with Operation "Explore" and thence to patrol in her place. TUNA is to return to Holy Loch after arrival of TIGRIS and on completion of repairs. (F.O.(S) 1149B/12.)

British Air Operations.

Patrols.

Patrols ~~BART~~^{"Bart"} and ~~STAB~~^{"St.L"} now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 0740/12.)

A/C's flying
low.

S.O.T.L.D.F. reports At 2145/11 two aircraft with British markings possibly Hurricanes Exhibiting navigation lights flying about 100 feet above the water passed within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of ROYAL EAGLE near B2 Buoy.

/In view.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

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British Air Operations Contd.

A/C's
flying
low.
Contd.

In view of recent attacks by low flying enemy aircraft submit R.A.F. may be asked to caution their fighter pilots not to fly low over the water close to British ship if such action can be avoided 1153/12 ends.

Request this matter may be taken up with Air Ministry and Fighter Command.
(C. in C. Nore 1451B/12 to Adty.)

Attacks
on Hamburg,
Bremen etc.

Night 11/12th May. Details.
(H.Q.B.C. THI 1612/12.)

Enemy Air Operations.

Attacks
on F.N.65.

One enemy aircraft bombing convoy Pilot
(VORTIGERN 0101/12.)
My 0101. 11 bombs no hits.
(VORTIGERN 0112B/12.)
Further attack no hits.
(VICEROY 0243/12, 0254/12.)

Yeovilton.

Low level diving attack approx. 0100, one aircraft, East West runways unserviceable, damage by bombs.
(Yeovilton 0311B/12, 1037B/12, 1455B/12.)

Attack on
O.B.M.322.

Enemy aircraft bombing conyoy ~~9087B~~ "Susie".
My position 39° 8' N., 109° (?) 45' E.
(VICEROY 0318/12.)
Incendiary caused slight damage in NOREG.
(VICEROY 0400/12.)

S.S.FOWBERRY
TOWER sunk.

Humber, departure Tug IRISHMAN at 0515/12 to assist s.s. FOWBERRY TOWER damaged by enemy bombing near Humber L.V.
(F.O. Humber 0535/12.)
FOWBERRY TOWER reported sunk 325° 1 mile Humber L/V 36 survivors.
(F.O. Humber 0540B/12.)

/S.S. RICHARD DE...

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Air Operations Contd.

S.S.RICHARD DE LARRINAGA..

S.S.RICHARD DE LARRINAGA joining convoy E.C.18 bombed by enemy aircraft 4 cables North of 20R buoy at 0215/12. Ship now in tow of MONA'S ISLE and Rescue Tug SEA GIANT has been sent to take over. MONA'S ISLE has 32 survivors on board which includes 3 casualties. Seven of crew assisted by party from MONA'S ISLE remaining on board. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0540/12.)

St. Eval
Attacked.

0018 to 0443 12/5 (C) several casualties some fatal. Aerodrome U/S and aircraft serviceability reduced (F) Estimated 20+ E/A carried out 2 sustained attacks. Damage to aircraft not yet ascertained. Hangers damaged, Officers' quarters largely destroyed. Numerous other huts destroyed. Fires now under control. (St. Eval 0620/12.)

EUNICE AND NELLIE.

H.M.D. EUNICE AND NELLIE attacked by enemy aircraft 2155/11. Slight damage 1 casualty. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1115B/12.)

Jan Mayen.

Secret. German aircraft flew low over Jan Mayen Islands morning/10 and was engaged by Norwegian garrison who have asked for reinforcements from my Norwegian platoon expedient. F.O.I.C. has (? related) more fully to Admiralty. (G.O.C. Iceland (C) Force 1121/12.)

QUEEN EAGLE
attacked.

night
E.A. activity/11/12th May in Shoeburyness Sheppey Area was confined to one aircraft which was not seen but made three apparent attacks on QUEEN EAGLE (whose outline resembles a Merchant ship) near Yantlet North buoy. A stick of 4 bombs was dropped on each run and all bombs exploded on surface, with an exceptionally violent detonation. Little under water concussion was felt. Correct recognition lights were seen in vicinity some two minutes after explosion. There was a number of plots in the outer Estuary between 2345 and 0325 but planes were high and no minelaying is suspected. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1137/12.)

/Pembroke.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Air Operations. Contd.

Pembroke
Dock
attacked.

Enemy air raid on Pembroke Dock last night 2 land mines dropped in Naval dockyard area. Damage. No damage to oiltank. Casualties. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1205/12.)

Yarmouth
bombed.

Damage enemy action Great Yarmouth night 11 - 12 May.
No actual damage to Admiralty property, but town water supply practically out of commission estimate two days before satisfactory emergency measures in hand. (C.E.Yarmouth 1500B/12.)

Attack
on Parkestone
Quay.

During considerable E.A. activity Harwich area night 11/12th A/C made high level dive bombing attacks presumably on Parkestone quay approx., 6 bombs falling in Harbour between quay and Felixstowe Dock and two between quay and Harwich.
One H.E. fell BEEHIVE partially wrecking torpedo explosive magazine. No serious damage to contents, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1900B/12.)

Smoke
Screen in
Clyde
area.

Your 1202B/7/5 and my 1809/9 thorough investigation has been completed and it is reasonable to presume that the smoke screen together with ~~starfish~~ played an important part in preventing serious damage to the R.O.F. Bishopton and the oil tanks at old Kilpatrick during the Clyde area raids on 5/6th and 6/7th May.
It is suggested as a result of studying the bomb plots that the following additional smoke protection should be provided immediately. The River Cart for say 1 and a half miles and the River Leven for its total distance.
The hits scored on John Brown's yard and the Rothesay Dock and Messrs. Denny Bros., ^{6.} DUMBARTON would appear to have been aided by the rivers mentioned above both of which were clear of the smoke screen on the night on 5th 6th and 7th of May.
From the observer Corps Plots of raids on this area, experience shows that Loch Lomond is used by enemy as a rendezvous. If the River Leven was obscured by smoke a valuable leading mark to the Clyde would be eliminated.

/By obscuring.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Air Operations Contd.

Smoke
Screen in
Clyde
area.Contd.

By obscuring the River Cart with smoke an important leading mark John Brown Rothesay Dock Abbotsinch and Renfrew Aerodrome and the City of Paisley would be eliminated. I consider it desirable that defence by smoke should be fully developed in this district as part of Unified Defence plan including ~~S.M.A. GUNS~~, A.A. Guns etc. Report and recommendations. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1956/12, 2346/12.)

Mining.

Tyne.

Tyne closed due to suspected enemy mine-laying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0155/12.)
Port is now open.
(F.O.i/c Tyne 0915/12.)

Port Ellen.

Port Ellen is closed owing to mines dropped by aircraft. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0201/12.) +
My 0201/12 - port is open subject to local restrictions. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1315/12.)

Yarmouth
and Lowestoft
Roads.

Suspected mine laying vicinity Yarmouth and Lowestoft Roads in early hours of this morning. (N.O.i/c Gt. Yarmouth 0805B/12.)

Humber.

My 1701B/9. It is now safe for shipping movements. (F.O. Humber 0919B/12.)

Sheerness.

One S.A. mine detonated as follows:-
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0946/12.)

Dumpton.
Description
South Falls
etc.

Routine sweeping to 0800/12. Q.Z.S.238. C.1 to No. 10 buoy and Q.Z.S. 191 Dumpton to South Falls buoy nothing found.
(V.A. Dover 1043B/12.)

/Dartmouth.....

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining Contd.

Dartmouth.

Cancel my ⁺2251/2. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth
1409/12.)

Belfast.

The Port of Belfast is open except between
2300 and 0500 daily.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1630/12.)

Operation
S.N.9B.

My 1452/11 (N.T. in W.D.) all times must be
postponed 22 hours MENESTHEUS engine
defects. (R.A.(M) 1746/12.)
Your 1452/11+and 1746/12. A/S Air Escort
arranged as follows:- (C. in C. Rosyth
1930/12 to R.A.(M).
My 1452/11. Item (d) one add ST.MARY's
item (d) two for four destroyers read
three destroyers. (R.A.M.L. 1946/11.)

Mine off
Skokholm.

S.S. SAINT EUNAN reports setting up one
mine 40 yards from ship in position three
miles West of Skokholm Island at 2330/6.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1757/12.)

Clyde.

Minesweeping Report River Clyde.
No change. No further report will be
made until there is a fresh development..
Air Raid Damage. Nothing further to
report. (F.O.i/c Glasgow 2045/12.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy.

At 0030 1 Convoy 6 M.V's 2 Escort vessels.
Position 53° 44' N. 6° 42' E. Course 080°
Speed 8 knots. (A/C 0045/12).

S.S. EMPIRE
STEELHEAD.

QQQQ Disguised Merchant raider 46R35 25R25W
EMPIRE STEELHEAD being closed by unknown
vessel. (Lands End 1259/12).
QQQQ de GCK. Cancel my 1258/12 EMPIRE
STEELHEAD 1334 G.M.T./12. (Valentia Radio
1335/12 de GKU).

Brest.

Visual R/C at 0920B/12 shows both
Battlecruisers present in same positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1259B/12).
Brest 2015/12. Visual R/C shows both
battlecruisers in same positions.
(D.D.I.C. 2146B/12).

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys.

W.S. 8B.

Your 0342/9. ²⁷⁷ Confirm that F.10 can be ready but F.19 cannot be ready before end of month. Sea speed of F.10 is $6\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (D.S.T.O. Liverpool, 1300/12 to D. of S.T). Provided no unforeseen delay occurs in repairs to destroyers at Clyde, 6 destroyers can be provided in accordance with your 2256/10. Cairo will provide A/A escort. (C. in C. W.A. 1622B/12 to Admty.). My 2256B/10. S.S. ABOSSO, speed $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots, will be ready to leave Liverpool for Freetown about 18/5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail her in convoy W.S. 8 (B) and arrange for her to leave Liverpool with CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. (D.O.D. (H) 1714B/12 to C. in C. W.A).

* CHRISTIAN

Positions.

A.M. 0001/1. Sec. III para 4 and N.C.S.I. 167. Amendment of positions. (D.O.D. 1523B/12) See Summaries Folder. In future all signals amending A.M. 0001/1/5 will be numbered. Amending signals are to be numbered as follows. (D.T.D, 1633B/12) See Summaries Folder.

H.G. 59.

Congratulations on bringing convoy HG 59 safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1528/12 to Vice-Adm. Dawson) Regret congratulatory message re H.G. 59 was sent to you in error. (C. in C. W.A. to Vice-Adm. Dawson 1451/15).

H.X. 122.

Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your convoy HX 122. (C. in C. W.A. 1845/12 to Vice Adm. P.E. Parker.) 15 British 9 Allied & 2 Neutral ships. Cargoes (See D.S. 616 13/5)

S.C. 29.

Has arrived safely. Included 21 British 1 neutral and 19 allied ships. Commodore Rear-Adm. B.W. Barrow. Cargoes (D.S. 616) See also 1327/13.

/BRITANNIC.....

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys. (contd).

BRITANNIC.
SOUTHERN PRINCE
D.S. 4.

S.S. BRITANNIC, speed 18 knots, will be ready to leave Clyde on 21/5 with 2700 service personnel for Halifax. In accordance with Admty. 1151B/11 SOUTHERN PRINCE, speed 15 knots, will be ready to leave Port Z.A. for America on 21/5. BRITANNIC and SOUTHERN PRINCE will sail to Iceland in company with D.S. 4, leaves Clyde on 21/5. They will subsequently sail to meet battleship escort of H.X. 127. R.A. (M) requested to provide 2 additional destroyers for D.S. 4 (making four in all). C. in C. H.F. requested to provide cruiser escort from Butt of Lewis until battleship escort is met. (A.C.N.S (H) 1905B/12 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F).

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Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

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S.S. FLIMSTONE. Refloated and entered Tees River.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1840/12).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

German Unit

At 2315 G.M.T. German Naval Unit bearings 324 class 3. (F.O.C.N.A. 0153A/12 to N.A. Station)

MARTIN PECHEUR

My 1917B/11. Boats with armed guard on board have arrived Gibraltar. Return to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0717A/12 to VELOX) My 0717A/12 and 1917B/11. All members of armed guard ex French MARTIN PECHEUR arrived Gibraltar safely. Ship was not scuttled but sank as result of fire which apparently was accidental. French crew have landed in Spain or Portugal. (F.O.C.N.A. 1216B/12 to Admty.)

OSIRIS

O.G. 63

H.G. 63

Request date of sailing of OSIRIS from U.K. Could she escort O.G. 63? Escort for H.G. 63 might be provided by TRUANT or PANDORA in which case a Dutch Sub. could be made available to patrol in Mediterranean. Admty. 2251B/10 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1010A/12 to Admty.) F.O.C.N.A. 1010A/12. Anticipate OSIRIS will be ready to leave Holy Loch on completion working up about 5/6. (F.O.S. 2114B/12 to Admty.)

TRUANT

Ready to sail for U.S. p.m./19. Request information of route, destination and signal publications to be carried. My 1010/12 to Admiralty and F.O. (S) only refer. N.A. Washington pass to B.A.R.M. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/12 to Admty.)

GERANIUM

JONQUIL

AZALEA

After parting company pass through positions (a) 035° 40' N., 015° W., (b) 035° 10' N., 010° W. thence Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1300/12)

U.S. Units.

U.S. Warships and aircraft therefrom may be encountered to westward of meridian 030° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1518/12 to ESPERANCE BAY)

/GARDENIA.....

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Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic-Contd.

GARDENIA
COLUMBINE

S.O. (I) Gibraltar's 1534/30/4. Have GARDENIA and COLUMBINE arrived? (F.O.C.N.A. 1854/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

RENOWN

Will be at 8 hours' notice for steam until 0200/14 to make good leaking steam joints (S.O. Force H., 1900Z/12 to Admty.)

REPULSE
C.F. 1.

Cancel my 1747B/11. Remain with C.F. 1. (V.C.N.S. 2234B/12 to REPULSE)

French
Convoy

Survey ship SENTINEL passed Gibraltar westbound at 1130/12 escorting French M.V's THISBE, AISNE, and GROUIN DU COU (D.O.R. 14/5)

Lisbon
Refugees.

Your 1212/9. Proposal to divert ship to Lisbon before calling at Gibraltar cannot be approved. Understand from Foreign Office that there is possibility of rail transport being arranged for a certain number. (V.C.N.S., 2238B/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

PRIMULA
EMPIRE TROOPER

Departure 1800/11 PRIMULA escorting EMPIRE TROOPER to Lagos and thence to Simonstown in accordance with C. in C. S.A.'s 1621/10/5. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0431N/12 to Admty.)

NICOLAOS D.L.
S.O.S. 12/4.

For your information, two signals have been found on board Yugoslavian BOSILJKA passed by U.S. ship PRESIDENT GARFIELD and timed 1212 and 1319 G.M.T. 12/4, reporting S.O.S. messages being sent by Greek ship NICOLAOS D.L. in 20° S., 22.20 W. (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, 1027/12 to S.O.I. Freetown)

/NEWCASTLE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary;

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. Contd.

NEWCASTLE

Your 1459/1 and 1636/11. No Walrus available Simonstown, one available Freetown. Intend unless you have special requirements NEWCASTLE shall call Freetown. Ship can be usefully employed on Trade Routes on passage in conjunction with A.M.C. now operating. Ship would be routed through St. Helena Area in any case. Do you concur?
(C. in C. S.A. 1041N/12 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CRITON
intercepted by
CILICIA.

My 1633/10 CRITON bound from Toulon to Madagascar via Casablanca and Rufisque reached Freetown 1600/11. Has 1500 tons sand ballast, also naval stores for Diego Suarez as follows. No passengers. Officers and crew 42 mostly pro-British. Master stated he had no instructions to scuttle if intercepted and that such orders are no longer in force. When intercepted CRITON reported position of CILICIA by W/T. Request very early information whether prize proceedings are to be instituted and ship requisitioned as in previous case. If early decision crew can be provided from survivors from QUEEN MAUD and OAKDENE if retained and ship then sent down coast to load. CRITON is 9-knot ship and delay at Freetown may affect speed and prevent her sailing in convy.
(C. in C. S.A. 1231N/12 to Admty).

BELPAREIL
ARMERIA
BURDOCK.

A.T. 1236B/10. S.S. BELPAREIL with valuable cargo for M.E. will leave U.K. about 22/5 ARMERIA and BURDOCK will escort her as far as Freetown fuelling at Ponta Delgada on the way. On departure from Freetown request you will arrange A/S escort through submarine waters.

(D.O.D. (F) 1321B/12 to C. in C. S.A.)
ARMERIA and BURDOCK may call at Ponta Delgada for fuel about 29/5. Estimated fuel required 150 tons each.

(D.O.D. (F) 1322B/12 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

ARMERIA and BURDOCK will be required to escort S.S. BELPAREIL with valuable cargo to Freetown BELPAREIL loading Clyde and is expected to sail on 22/5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail and route the ships C. in C. S.A. informed
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1323B/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

Dakar Intelligence....

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Dakar.
Intelligence.

Report graded B.2 at Dakar 9/5. Warships RICHELIEU, GEORGE LEYGUES, GLOIRE, three destroyers, 5 submarines. MONTCALM believed left for Casablanca 2/5. Merchant shipping Dakar arrivals 5/5 CAPITAINE LUIGI, PORTHOS, LECONTE DE LISLE. 8/5. 2 or 3 ships which left following day for Indo China with troops. PORTHOS believed sailing for Marseilles about 20/5.
(S.O. (I) Freetown, 1741N/12 to Admty.)

W.S.8A.

Your 1232/10/5. It had been hoped to repair HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN sufficiently for voyage to sail with W.S.8A. But this now doubtful remaining ship of convoy could take 100 only escort MAURITIUS about the same. Alternative is to sail HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN later with CILICIA who is available as escort. Convoy is sailing 1600/13.
(C. in C. S.A., 1851N/12 to Admty.).
Alternative approved, see 1033B/13.

S.L.74.
Collision.

Greek ALIAKMON returned slightly damaged after collision with Greek ZEPHYROS which proceeded with convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1920N/12 to Admty.)

Mediterranean

Corinth
Canal.

Giornale D'Italia of 10/5 claims now open to traffic. (D.S. 615.) *See May 18, page 537.*

Andros
Tenos
Therma
(Cyclades) }

Stated in Italian Press to have been occupied. (D.S. 615).

M.T.B.'s

10th M.T.B. Flotilla sailing at dawn E.T.A. Mersa Tobruk 1200/12.
(N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh, 0030/12 to R.A. Alexandria.)
N.O.i/c Mersa Matruh's 0030/12. M.T.B.'s should not arrive before 2030.
(B.N.O. Tobruk, 0137/12 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATION.

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Mediterranean. (contd).

POPI VERNICOS

Have overhauled in 033° 06' 026° 20' Greek S.S. POPI VERNICOS which straggled from A S. 30 and has troops on board. Unless orders to contrary are received intend escorting her towards Alexandria until about midnight 12/13 so that I can arrive Alexandria daylight 13th.
(GRIMSBY 0130C/12 to C. in C. Med).

"Tiger"
Convoy.

Request you will report. (a) present condition of "~~TIGER~~" convoy as soon as you can break W/T silence. (b) When "~~TIGER~~" "Tiger" convoy is safely berthed at Alexandria. (1st S.L. 0824B/12 to C. in C. Med). Unloading ships of "~~TIGER~~" convoy must be carried out as quickly as possible to reduce risk from bombing before they are unloaded. (1st S.L. 1126B/12 to F.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

Convoy A.S.F. 30

Comprising LOGICIAN, DALESMAN, NIEUW ZEELAND VOLO left Alexandria 2000 /11. Due Suda Bay 2100/13. Cargoes.
(N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1030/12 to Admty etc).

Operation
M.D. 4

My 1352/4. Report of Operation. (C. in C. Med., 1030/12 to Admty amended 2332C/13)
See Lion Copy.

Benghazi bombed.

Operational Summary No. 336 up to 1200 hrs. 12/5. Night 11/12 May.
9 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour and 3 ships off Benghazi and Benina Derna and Gazala Aerodromes. Benghazi large fires started Benina 3 JU.52s 1 small aircraft set on fire. Derna bombs fell among aircraft and M.T. sheds. Gazala bombs fell among aircraft.
2. Crete. 10/5 escort patrols provided by Blenheims for convoy which left Suda Bay 9/5 and by Hurricanes for 1 M.V. and 2 H.M. Ships leaving Suda Bay evening 10/5. 2 enemy R/C's each of Suda Bay and Heraklion during day 11/5 Blenheim R/C reported 4 ships 300 tons at Melos Islands.
(H. Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1043/12).

UNIQUE, CACHALOT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (contd).

UNIQUE
CACHALOT

Leave area and proceed (route) to arrive off Marsamxett 0600b /14. CACHALOT ordered to arrive between 0600 and 2000B same day. (Cdr. S.1. 1141B/12 to UNIQUE).

TRIUMPH.
Benghazi.

4c
4d
TRIUMPH reports only S.W. approach to Benghazi is used. Arrival and departure taking place dawn and dusk along-side 10 fathom line. TRIUMPH approached within 1½' from? all directions, ? majority time spent between 15 and 20 fathom line between Benghazi and 32° N. KARKURA and ZUETINA appear unused. BURAT and EL AUEGIA are definitely in use and EL BREGA probably. All 3 are probably used as night anchorages for Coasters. All traffic sighted was coast crawling. Wrecks of Schooners exist in anchorage as follows, EL BREGA2, EL AUEGIA 1.
(Capt. S.1. 1231C/12 to TETRARCH).

Bombardment
of Benghazi
by 5th D.F.
night of 10-11/5.

Capt. D.5 reports 5th D.F. fired 866 rounds at shipping and military objectives at Benghazi at ranges between 5400 and 2800 yards. 3 fired from S.W. and 2 from W. Merchant ship alongside northern mole was engaged from harbour entrance and hit. After about 7 minutes shore battery on Giuliana Mole opened fire ineffectively. 20 minutes after ceasing fire enemy dive bombers attacked with bombs and machine guns. Three ships were missed by less than 100 yards and JACKAL had a dud bomb 20 yards from her bridge 45 minutes after ceasing fire. Capt. (D) 5 correctly decided to abandon sweep to southward and withdrew at high speed as aircraft were shadowing and attacking repeatedly. Air attacks continued for more than an hour after ceasing fire. Flotilla was not attacked during daylight 11th. (V.A. Malta, 1325B/12 to C. in C. Med).

Movement.

DIDO, CALCUTTA, ISIS, JANUS sailed to comply with C. in C. Med's 1007/11 (N.T. in W.R.) at 1420. Cannot make R/V but will overtake you 4 p.m. today. (R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1425C/12 to Capt. D.10).

Operation "Tiger".....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

12th May.

IN.

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 13.5.41.
Recd. 1400.

379A)

NAVAL CYLINDER (X) BY W/T.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated F.O.H. V.A. Malta, 489, S.B.N.O. Canal Area 306.

IMPORTANT.

364. My 1352/4. Operation M.D.4.

Fleet sailed 6th May in low visibility due to sandstorm. Bad visibility continued and in consequence neither of the M.W.I. Convoys nor Fleet appear to have been sighted until A.M. 8th May. On 7th and 8th May all destroyers in the Fleet were fuelled from BRECONSHIRE. AJAX and three destroyers were detached at 1100/7th with orders to attack Benghazi and if possible deal with three ships reported by TRIUMPH to have passed Burat steering Eastward at 1030/6. Result of this operation already reported in my 180928.

2. On the evening of 7th V.A. Malta reported Malta completely mined in and that he could not sail 5th Destroyer Flotilla. This serious situation made a decision necessary whether M.W. convoys should go on. It was decided that the risk of having to remain outside must be taken and V.A. Malta was instructed to use every possible method including moving boom if necessary and exploding depth charges at sixty feet intervals.

3. At dawn on 8th air search was carried out for possible convoy making direct from Italy to Benghazi but without result.

4. At 0800/8 a number of enemy aircraft appeared in vicinity of Fleet, two Heinkel III K, 8 two Cant 100 7 were shot down by fighters and another Heinkel 111K was shot down at 1100, one Fulmar was shot down. At this time visibility became very bad and in consequence the air search missed the carrier. One Albacore failed to return and one run out of petrol and forced landed astern of the carrier.

5. Throughout 8th May Battle Fleet was kept in vicinity of M.W. convoys and at night moved to Southward placing cruisers as protection to the Northward. As a result of bad visibility and fighter action no enemy air attacks made on Fleet or Convoy during passage to Malta.

6. The two Malta Convoys and BRECONSHIRE reached Malta at first light on 9th and at 1400 V.A. Malta reported all had entered safely, swept in by GLOXINIA who also cleared 5th Destroyer Flotilla out of harbour.

7. Visibility was again very patchy on 9th. V.A. Light Force and cruisers rejoined at 0930 bringing a shadower with them which a Fulmar shot down shortly afterwards.

8. TIGER Convoy, C.S. 15, NAHAB, QUEEN ELIZABETH, FIJI, GLOUCESTER and Destroyers were met at 1515 in position ~~150~~ repeated ~~150~~ miles South of Malta and all forces started Eastward.

50

/9.....

50

(signed C.C.Med.)

2332 C/13

9. In view of the uncertainty whether Malta would be open for ~~AVIATION~~ to fuel, her mining operation was cancelled.

10. Visibility remained bad all day and though enemy aircraft were around they appeared to have difficulty in locating our forces and there were no air attacks. At 2100 in position 35 00 North 14 40 East JERVIS and KANDAHAR attacked a firm contact. Bubbles of oil were seen after the attacks.

11. During the night 9/10th the Battle Fleet kept to North Eastward of Convoy and Cruisers to Northward.

12. Visibility improved on 10th, Battle Fleet remained in sight of convoy all day. At 1000 a number of enemy aircraft approached and one JU.88 was shot down and one damaged upon which remainder withdrew. One Fulmar and crew were lost by accident while being boosted from FORMIDABLE. The enemy regained touch at 1430 until dark and fighters were unable to drive off two very skillful shadowers due to lack of speed. Attacks by about six aircraft developed between 2100 and 2230. The Fleet had been placed down moon of the Convoy and altered course to draw attack away from latter. This seems to have succeeded as only one attack was made on convoy. Enemy made some 12 attempts to get in at Battle Fleet. Blind barrages were used and appear to have been effective as each attack turned away at about (10/0 ? 4000) yards. No torpedoes seen. No further incident occurred during the night and the fleet was assisted after 2300 by thick weather.

13. By 0700/11 the Fleet and Convoy were on the line joining Western Crete and Derna and about 80 miles North of the latter. Aircraft sighted our forces at 1000 and shadowed until 1230 when three groups started to threaten the Fleet and Convoy. Fighters got into one Group of seven JU.88 and shot down one and damaged another but at the cost of a Fulmar. The other two Groups appeared unable to find the fleet and failed to attack.

14. At 1700 D.5. and his four destroyers were detached to repeat the attack on Benghazi and to sweep Westward on the way back to Malta. Reports of this operation not yet received.

15. Fleet was again shadowed at 1630 but Fulmars drove off the shadowers. One of these tried for two hours to report Fleet's position but by means of ordering Alexandria and Malta to jam his signals and directing them as they did so the shadower was successfully prevented from getting his information through. No further aircraft made contact with the fleet.

16. The Fleet arrived at Alexandria A.M. 12th.

17. In conclusion I should like to emphasise that the success of this operation was largely attributable to unprecedented weather conditions such as might never be experienced again and also probably because the enemy was largely engaged in recovering from his efforts in Greece. These factors will need to be very carefully weighed should a further similar operation be contemplated and a loss of at least 50% of the convoy must be allowed for. Nor do I think such operations should be carried out with such slow ships or in the moon period. The speed of advance of TIGER was twelve and a half knots. This is unacceptable as it makes any prospect of (?jinking) successfully at night out of the question. It is also sad waste of their speed of such ships as NEW ZEALAND STAR who are capable of (?17) knots.

/18.....

MOST SECRET

379(S)

-3-

18. The enemy losses in the air were nine certain and one damaged.

19. Our losses were 5 Fulmars and 2 Albacores. Of these only 2 were due to enemy action the rest being caused by forced landings, failing to find carrier or other accident. The loss of EMPIRE SONG is greatly regretted and marred the operation. I have not yet been able to investigate the matter but convoy appears to have been some 5 miles off the laid down route and thus may just have caught the edge of the enemy minefield.

20. Suggested press communique follows.

1030/12.

Advance copy sent Ops.

O.D., O.I.C., 1st. Lord, A.C.N.S. (F)
O.S.C. 1st. S.L. Press.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D. of P. (2)

D.H.I.

E.P.S.

Duty Captain

N.I.D. 1. Pay. Cdr. Wilson

D.N.A.D.

I.P.

W.D.

D.P.D.

D.D.O.D. (H)

Head of M.

D.D.I.C.

War Diary.

18. 5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (contd).

Operation
"Tiger"

(page 379 A)
My 1030/12 (~~N.T. in W.D.~~) Suggest following press communique. During the period 6th to 12th May our forces have been operating in central Mediterranean. These operations included various convoy movements and attacks on Benghazi. During these operations nine enemy aircraft were shot down and one damaged. Our losses from enemy action were two fighters. Despite exaggerated claims made by the enemy during the period no damage of any sort was sustained by H.M. Ships. (C. in C. Med., 1507C/12 to Admty).

Oil
-Haifa.

No crude or furnace oil is to be released for commercial purposes without prior reference to me.
(C. in C. Med., 1554C/12 to N.C.I.C. Haifa).

Malta Air
Raids.

Combined Services report up to 1600 hours 12/5. Night 11/5 12/5 5½ hours raid by about 30 aircraft in 3 waves starting 1900 hours. Main target Luqa aerodrome. Damage Luqa aerodrome hangar hit, 1 Maryland burnt out 1 badly damaged 2 others slight damage. Water and electricity affected. Many bombs on aerodrome, 3 unexploded, some damage to buildings. No damage dockyard. Damage civilian property and casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1630/12).

S/Ms

UNION and REGENT leave Malta 2000b/12 proceeding westward thence searched channels. Report your position.
(S.O.(S) Malta 1646B/12 to UNDAUNTED).

7th C.S.
15th C.S.

ORION, AJAX, PERTH, form 7th C.S. NAIAD, PHOEBE, GLOUCESTER, FIJI, form 15th C.S.
(C. in C. Med., 1705C/12 to Med., Stn).

Malta Convoys
and Stocks.

HOEGH HOOD and SVENOR discharged. BRECONSHIRE will be discharged by p.m./15. Remaining ships will finish about 22/5. Following are important proposals for next convoy movement. (details). Consider it imperative to press on with building up stocks at Malta whilst the fleet is primarily engaged with central Mediterranean operations. If four fast ships cannot be found now I would prefer a small convoy at once rather than a large convoy later.
(V.A. Malta, 1758B/12 to C. in C. Med.)
See D. of S.T. 1703/14.

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (contd).

Yugoslavian
S.S. SUPETAR.*

* SUPETAR.

Your 1901B/11. Investigations tend to discount possibility of crew having false papers or being pro Axis Wireless Operator Klein has been removed for internment Palestine. Master suspected still being checked. Discontent among crew disciplinary nature which hope to settle locally. 1851C/12.

Black Sea
shipping

Reply to Admty 1547B/10 re details of shipping in Black Sea ports. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1905/12 amended 1110/15) See Lion Copy. Part 2 Turkish Ships (S.O.I. Istanbul 1812/13) See Lion Copy.

Suez
Canal.

Situation 2000/12. One mine exploded by D.W.I. at Km 88.3. Result disappointing (2) Further section of canal opened between Kantara and Tineh. Otherwise situation unchanged. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area., 2001C/12).

Situation Report
No. 24.

2. Fleet returned to Alexandria 1000 ^{"Tiger"} ~~TIGER~~ convoy arrived 1300. 3. Western Desert, LADYBIRD bombarded Gazala landing ground night 10th/11th causing several fires LADYBIRD was divebombed and sunk at Tobruk p.m. today Monday; some casualties. Western Desert situation otherwise unchanged. 4. TRIUMPH on return from patrol reports boarding and sinking a 400 tons schooner off Marsa Breoa. TRUMPH also bombarded Appollonia firing 48 rounds. 5. 7th C.S. and three destroyers sail tonight Monday for operations in support of the army in Western Desert. 6. Result of Capt D.5's attack on Benghazi given in V.A. Malta's 1313/12. 7. Canal area situation unchanged. 8. Convoy A.S.30 arrived. Chief of Greek Naval Staff Admiral Sakellariou was on board AUCKLAND who was escorting convoy. 9. M.T.B. Flotilla due Tobruk tonight Monday on passage to Suda Bay. (C. in C. Med., 2314/12 to Admty etc).

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1905/12th May.

From: S.O.(I) Istanbul.

Date: 13.5.41.

Read: 0350

Interdepartmental Cypher (10) by C & W

Addressed: Admiralty.

Your telegram 1754B/Key 10th
Part one (a) Black Sea and Danube. Cargo ships.

Number	Nationality	Total gross register tons
four	German	9350
two 3	Italian	7700 10300 (amended 1110/15)
4	Bulgarian	10400
4	Hungarian	1950
15	Rumanian	59
One	Swedish	1200
One	Panamanian	650
Tankers 4	Italian carrying capacity	20000
One	Rumanian 3	800
One	Panama	550

(b) Istanbul. Cargo ships.

One	Italian	3200
three	Rumanian	11600
One	Panama	1300

(c) paragraphs (a) and (b) do not include German and Bulgarian vessels recently passed to Aegean (d) 3 Greek ships total 3800 G.R.T. loaded for Greece before capitulation now waiting here for orders. 3 Greek auxiliary vessels total 104 tons also waiting (e) Russian vessels known to be trading with other countries Black Sea coast include twelve ships total 40 thousand G.R.T. and three tankers approximate capacity 24 thousand tons, some of which may be in non Russian ports at this moment. Details of remainder of Russian Merchant fleet not accurately known but such as available have been passed to N.S.O. (I) Mediterranean with copy to D.N.I. - notably My 411/152 dated Jan. 9th.

Part 2 Details of Turkish Merchant fleet to follow.

A.C.N.S. (T) (2)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

D.T.D. (4)

D.E.W.D. (3)

M. (2)

D.N.I. (4)

O.I.C. (2)

1905/12

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

/ 1547B/10 intended re

details of shipping in

Black Sea Ports.

D.S.D.9.

D. of S.T.

D. of P. (3)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

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East Indies.

Iranian Waters
Shipping.

My 1120 and 1126/9. S.N.O. Persian G. & GOC Basrah have suggested, in order to forestall Iranian objections to unnotified interference ships using partly Iranian water ways, which might result in opposition and cutting off Abadan oil supplies to us, action regarding Japanese ships should be referred to Iran as a matter of mutual security. Average number of Japanese ships entering Shatt el Arab is only 3 in 2 months and no oil tankers have entered during last 6 months. (C. in C. E.I., 0730Z/12 to Admty.)

GLASGOW
Repairs.

Your 1930/8. Although withdrawal of GLASGOW for so long will be severely felt if not relieved, I consider ship should be fully strengthened and alternative B accepted. I propose she should arrive Singapore about middle of June. Convoy escort commitments are becoming heavier. Request relief for GLASGOW may be urgently considered. (C. in C. E.I., 0732Z/12 to Admty.)

LIVERPOOL

My 0005/6. As result of further trials consider boiler cleaning can be deferred until arrival at final destination. Programme amended as follows. (LIVERPOOL 1131/12 to Admty. etc.)

HAWKINS

Sailed in accordance with C. in C. E.I., 1134Z/10. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1446Z/12)

Dhows for
M/S Duties.

My 0636/5 para 4. I have approved purchase of four motor dhows prices varying between 4000 and 8000 Rupees. Details will be reported. (C. in C. E.I., 1632Z/12 to Admty.)

SNAPDRAGON
for Persian
Gulf.

In view of threat of mining of Shatt el Arab by enemy aircraft SNAPDRAGON is to be sailed for Persian Gulf as soon as possible. No other 'LL' Sweepers will be operating in Persian Gulf for the present and arrangements should be made to obtain spares from remaining ships of the group. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1904B/12 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown)

(Ltr on 19/5. Sup. 587)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN 2233/12/May.

From Secretary Army Dept. India. Date 13.5.41.

Recd 1310.

CYPHER.

Addressed S. of S. India Office, Repeated C. in C. Middle East, War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

12651. 2850 cipher 12/5.

First of two parts.

Ref. Mideast O/63340 10/5 to the War Office and Ankara 1135 of 9/5 to Foreign Office.

1. We do not wish to complicate situation by unnecessary opposition to policy recommended by Middle East but we are vitally interested on both political and military grounds and our views moreover coincide with those of H.M. Govt. as expressed in Chief of Staff 96 (96) of 7/5.

2. We are strongly opposed to any negotiations or recognition of Rashid who is we know an agent of Axis. As we have publicly proclaimed this fact our prestige in all Muslim countries will inevitably be seriously diminished by recognition. Such negotiations even if it won apparent welcome in certain quarters as short-term policy would have unforeseen future reactions in Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Persian Gulf and on Muslim and other political opinion of India. It may also serve Rashid's own interests and that of Axis to play for time. Recognition would also be inconsistent with encouragement which is being given under H.M. Government's guidance both to Regent and to Iraqi notabilities such as Jamin Madfal. See also reference in F.O. telegram 753 11/5 to Palestine to rebel administration and re-establishment by Rashid Ali of constitutional government.

Second and last part.

3. On military grounds the maintenance of Rashid Ali in power constitutes a very serious menace to India as it will facilitate Axis control not only of Iraq but also of Iran and Afghanistan.

4. For above reasons we take strong exception to para. 3 of Middle East O/63340 dated 10/5. We also consider even if a pro British Government is installed it will be dependant on British support and we must occupy all key points considered necessary by us to keep out Axis and to maintain communications and also control all aviation petrol which might be utilized by enemy aircraft. We cannot feel that an Arab administration in Iraq, however friendly to us in its beginnings, could be relied on to stand firm against methods of subversion and penetration so successfully practised by Germany in other countries unless closely watched and supported by us at all important points.

War Office pass to India Office.

2233/12, Recd. from War Office 2210/13.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H.) D.N.I. D.D.I.C.
 1st Lord. A.C.N.S. (F) D.D.O.D. (H) D.C.
 1st S.L. C.S.O. to 1st S.L. D.N.I. (4) Hd. of M.
 4th S.L. D. of P. (2) I.P. D.D.I.C.
 V.C.N.S. D.O.D. (H) W.D. E.P.S.
 N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson

MOST SECRET

100

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

0925Z/12 May

IN

From C. in C. China.

Date 13.5.41.

Recd. 0021.

Interdepartmental Cypher 10 by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated Governor Straits Settlements, Governor Hong Kong, British Embassy Shanghai, Consul General Saigon, H.M. Ambassador Chungking.

548. My 0833Z May 8th not to Saigon or Chungking. At further interview today Monday Jouan communicated reply from Decoux to following effect. Decoux expresses surprise at attitude of H.M. Government and stresses fact that he had had nothing to do with arrest of Egal which had been effected by French Consul General Shanghai in conjunction with Commanding Officer French gunboats there. He maintains that he is in no position to intervene in judicial process of the case which is now in the hands of the law. In view, however, of serious consequences which might follow breaking of our agreement Decoux is prepared to arrange that, if convicted by tribunal by which he is to be tried Egal will be released from custody immediately after sentence. Egal will then be free to leave Indo China and to proceed anywhere except he hopes we will not send him back to French Concession at Shanghai. This concession by Decoux seems to me as much as we could pleasantly expect and I have accordingly informed Jouan that I will recommend to H.M. Government that, as far as case of Monsieur Egal is concerned, there is no reason why agreement should not remain in force.

Two. As a consequence of this incident Jouan has agreed to bring immediately to my notice any sign of further similar trouble and I have informed him that we will on our part refrain from interference with members of French armed forces at Shanghai as suggested in paragraph three of Admiralty telegram 54 of May 1st not to Saigon.

Three. Jouan stressed fact that British authorities in Shanghai had been kept fully informed regarding arrest of Egal and were in agreement with French Consul General in endeavour to minimize matter as far as possible.

Four. Jouan knew nothing of request for safe conduct of ships referred to in Admiralty message 2138 of April 23rd which I did not mention until agreement about Egal had been reached. He is to make enquiries on return to Saigon.

Five. Separate messages are being sent containing respectively further developments regarding agreement and information received from Jouan regarding situation in Indo China.

0925Z/12.

Advance copy Duty Capt. D. O. D. (F) D. D. I. C.

1st Lord.

P. A. S. (S)

D. D. I. C.

1st S. L.

D. O. D. (F)

D. T. D. (2)

V. C. N. S.

D. D. O. D. (F)

Hd. of M. (30)

A. C. N. S. (F)

D. of P. (2)

I. P.

A. C. N. S. (T) (2)

D. N. I. (4)

W. D.

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

D. E. W. D.

Admiral Chalmers

Nav. Sec.

D. S. D. 9.

N. I. D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
Duty Capt.

LH

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

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China

Indo-China

Following regarding situation communicated by Capt. Jouan on visit to Singapore, 12/5. (C. in C. China, 0925Z/12 and 0927Z/12 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

LAMOTTE PICQUET

My 0831Z/8, para 4. Recommend we should not provide repair materials for LAMOTTE PICQUET. (C. in C. China, 0957Z/13) See Operations Volume.

CHENONCEAUX

Departure 10/5
Haiphong 12/5. (Saigon, 0927Z/12 to M. of Shipping)

MAROUKO PATERAS

Your 0155/11. Ship named now at Hong Kong under amended orders to proceed to U.K. Cdre. Hong Kong 1151X/12 to A.C.N.B.)

America & West Indies

POINT LOBOS

My 1943/11 Agents received request for tug and water direct from ship and despatched Panama Canal salvage tug FAVOURITE at 1915/11 with approval of Ministry of Shipping, New York. (Consular Shipping Advisor, Panama, 1009/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

A.M.C's for
H.X. Convoys.

My 1021P/7. Regret no A.M.C. is available for H.X. 127 which will have RAMILLIES as escort. Dates should therefore be amended as follows: CALIFORNIA, 3/6, RANPURA 9/6, MALOJA 13/6, CHESHIRE 19/6, AUSONIA 23/6. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1113P/12 to Admty.)

Westbound
Shipping Routes

Your 2053Z/9. Concur, amending signal will be made. (D.T.D. 1527B/12 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

/Martinique....

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Martinique

Following from Navy Dept. from Fort de France 10/5. Arrived, AFRICA with cork, and FORT DE FRANCE with roofing material and cork, from Casablanca. (N.A. Washington, 1732/12 to Admty.)

FORT DE FRANCE
French

Has arrived Martinique. This ship was captured on her last voyage to Casablanca by BULOLO but was recaptured by French Cruiser. If information of departure is available in time, desirable to intercept her to Eastward of Antilles next voyage to Morocco and send her in to Trinidad. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1903B/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Orders to this effect (C. in C. A.W.I., 1032Q/13)

PRINCE ROBERT
PRINCE HENRY

As soon as practicable after arrival Esquimalt 15/5 intend PRINCE ROBERT return to Suva for escort of AORANGI and subsequent air training troop ships in accordance with N.Z.N.B's 0022Z/1/3. Request N.Z.N.B. report sailing date AORANGI from Suva and C.O.P.C. report earliest date PRINCE ROBERT can arrive Suva. Continuance of PRINCE ROBERT in this duty must depend on prevailing situation, in any case desired she return to Esquimalt at end of three months period Repairs to PRINCE HENRY will take about 30 days at Esquimalt. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1936Z/12 to N.Z.N.B.)

MONGIOIA
(Italian)

Extract from a Fairmiss telegram GV 119 from Galveston. 11/5 Arrival MONGIOIA Departure Houston MONGIOIA Galveston. (Galveston, 2332Z/12 via M. of Shipping)

MOST SECRETWar Diary12.5.1941.
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked

EASTERN STAR
(Torpedoed 7/5)
GREGALIA
(Torpedoed 9/5)
AELYBRYN
(Torpedoed 10/5)

Following survivors landed from DANEMAN today. EASTERN STAR 7 Officers 33 ratings
GREGALIA 8 Officers (?44) ratings
AELYBRYN, 10 Officers 35 ratings.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1342B/12 to Admty.)
Your 1142B/12 sent by W/R asking for copies of 0400/10 and 0805/10 from HOLLYHOCK. Following is repetition of HOLLYHOCK 0805/10 Message 0400/10 was not received. (begins) C. in C. W.A. from HOLLYHOCK. O.B. 318 scattered at 0300 G.M.T. Have searched large area without result. SS HERCULES still afloat at 0700. DANEMAN has survivors on board. Am returning to ascertain whether ship is Salveable. 0805/10 (Ends)
(C. in C. W.A. 1425B/12 to Admty.)
W.D. Note:- Name of torpedoed ship was amended to AELYBRYN in HOLLYHOCK's 1450Z/10.

LASSELL
(Torpedoed 30/4)

Consul at Bilbao reports by post intercepted wireless from Spanish SS KAULDI to owners Bilbao origin 1725/7 as follows (begins) Since 0900 proceeding to rescue survivors of British SS LASSELL in boats. Should reach position indicated midnight. Steering N. 20 W. noon position today 400 miles from Saint Vincent 270 miles from Canary Islands 200 tons bunker. Wind S.E. (ends) (N.A. Madrid, 1825/12 to Admty.)

EMPIRE CLOUD
(Torpedoed 9/5)

THAMES proceeding with EMPIRE CLOUD in accordance with your 2230B/10. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1503/12 to C. in C. W.A.) Continue to stand by damaged ship and report situation. Tugs unlikely to arrive before 14th. (C. in C. W.A. 2122B/12 to HOLLYHOCK, ST. APOLLO)
Following from Tug THAMES. Master states unless there is 1 anti-submarine ship being provided to remain with THAMES throughout journey to EMPIRE CLOUD he will be forced return Harbour. 1720Z/12 (ends)
VERITY, CHELSEA, VERBENA, LARKSPUR are now in company with THAMES, but will part company to keep R.V. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2212/12 to C. in C. W.A.) Reply: 0246/13.

/IXION.....

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12.5.1941.
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

IXION
(Torpedoed 7/5)

Arrived WESTCOTT, CAMPBELTOWN and MARIGOLD, latter with survivors ex SS IXION. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2218B/12. to Admty. etc.)

5 British seamen and 13 Chinese have arrived Greenock, and 3 Canadians and 6 gunners picked up by British NAILSEA MOOR (D.S. 616).

Submarines Reported

11/5

My position 058° 36' N., 036° 30' W. fog Visibility 5 cables. (S.O. 12th Escort Group. 0705Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 1931B 11th, addressed AUBRETIA, D.12 has not joined. My p.c. and s is 057° 55' N 035° 28' W. 270° 6. AUBRETIA investigation submarine report, dense fog. Request position of S.C. 30. (NIGELLA, 0932/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1441B/12) (F.O.S., 1622B/12)

2014

At 2014 G.M.T. German submarine bearing 255° class 3. (F.O.C.N.A. 2207A/12 to N.A. Station)

~~446~~

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Two M.T.B's carried out a sweep off the coast between Boulogne and Calais in the early hours of this morning.

RODNEY is to refit in the U.S.A.

British Air Operations.

Minor attacks were made last night on Dunkirk, Ostend and St. Nazaire.

This afternoon 10 Blenheims bombed Heligoland town and a jetty and machine gunned the streets. Surprise was achieved and little opposition was encountered.

Two Blenheims attacked shipping in the docks at St. Nazaire and obtained at least one direct hit on a 12,000 ton passenger cargo vessel. A 2000 ton merchant vessel off St. Nazaire was hit and is claimed as a total loss.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S.488 was bombed at 2303 B today off the Tyne. S.S. LOTTINGE was hit but is not in danger of sinking, and GATESHEAD was slightly damaged.

A group of merchant vessels from Falmouth to Portland was unsuccessfully attacked at 1156 and 1235 off Portland Bill.

Trawler FORT RONA reported being sunk by air attack at 0030 today, 15 miles W.S.W. of Bardsey Island.

/There.....

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15.5.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations. (contd).

There was some enemy air activity in the Plymouth area in the early hours of this morning and an oil tank at Keyham Oil Fuel Depot was damaged.

Slight damage was caused at Falmouth and Lowestoft and damage at Exmouth by air attack last night.

Mining.

4 Hampdens laid mines last night off the Frisian Is. and 4 Albacores off Cherbourg.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven yesterday and today.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated last night on a fairly high scale off the East Coast and in the southern approaches to the Irish sea.

North Atlantic.

A. F.W. aircraft operated off the west coast of Spain this forenoon.

9 Survivors have arrived in Cartagena from Norwegian tanker REGINA seized by the French in Algiers.

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13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

The French S.S. BOURBONNAIS with 400 native troops for Madagascar is reported to have been intercepted this afternoon by BULOLO, about 100 miles S.W. of Dakar and is being escorted to Freetown.

Mediterranean.

Interception
of French
Ships.

Proposed policy signal is in S.O. Force H. 1034/13.

USK
lost.

USK is overdue since 3/5 from patrol off Marittimo and must be considered lost.

Malta.

Malta was raided by 20 to 25 aircraft operating singly from 1945/12 to 0115/13, bombs being dropped in various localities. Some damage was caused in the Dockyard.

Luqa aerodrome was bombed at noon today but the only service damage reported is slight damage to one Wellington.

Libya.

7th C.S., on the way to bombard Derna tonight (see 14/5) were attacked by 12 German aircraft at 1700 and shot down two and damaged two more. No ships were damaged and the attack was not pressed home.

Crete.

Suda Bay was bombed last night for 7 hours by single aircraft. No damage or casualties occurred.

/Stragglers.....

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd).

Stragglers
from
Greece.

2 small vessels sailed last night from Castello and one from Canea, for Peloponnesus to bring away soldiers. Several vessels are missing from recent trips, (by which several thousand British and Greek soldiers have been brought to Crete since 2/5) and N.A., Canea thinks the present are probably the last trips that will be made.

Cyprus.

An examination service has been instituted at Famagusta, Cyprus.

Suez
Canal.

A further section has been reopened, from Kantara to Toutineh. It is intended to resume traffic for ships urgently required to move on 17/5.

East Indies.

LAWRENCE, anchored one mile south of Kabda was ordered by the Iranian Naval authorities to notify her arrival to the Legation at Teheran and to move by 1500, failing permission to remain. The ship is in Iraqi waters, and S.N.O. Persian Gulf has ordered her to remain where she is.

America & West Indies.

CARADOC has been ordered to patrol to intercept French S.S. FORT DE FRANCE to eastward of the Antilles on her next voyage to Casablanca.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

N.W.
Approaches.

SALOPIAN, who had been escorting S.C. 30 was torpedoed at 0630 in 56° 43' N. 38° 57' W. and sank later. IMPULSIVE picked up 278 survivors.

S.S. VANCOUVER ISLAND reported being chased by a submarine on the surface at 1626 in 55° 0' N. 20° 36' W.

S.S. SOMERSBY was torpedoed a.m. today in 60° 39' N. 26° 13' W. by a S/M believed to be Italian BARBARIGO class. The ship was a straggler from S.C. 30.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

1. Admiralty 64OR/25th December 1940. Cases have occurred in which H.M. ships have carried out incorrect recognition procedure resulting in the merchant ship sending an unnecessary distress message, and in another case in loss of life due to abandoning ship.
2. The importance of carrying out the procedure correctly has been stressed to masters of merchant ships. It is even more important that H.M. ships should not fail on this point. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1256B/13 "A" Mge Home and Abroad 71A).

Policy.

Loan of
Corvettes
to
R.C. Navy.

Your 1823B/7 Approved.
(Head of M. 1145B/13 to C. in C. W.A).

4 Trawlers
for service
abroad.

Request you will detail four trawlers fitted type 123, for service abroad and signal their names to the Admiralty. They may be required to sail on or about 2/6 but 6 days' notice will be given. Tropical Clothing will be required. (A.C.N.S.H. 1257B/13 to C. in C. W.A).

Fighter
Protection
for Shipping.
Conference.

A conference will be held in Air Ministry at 1030/16th to discuss the methods for providing fighter protection for shipping and to consider means of improving the system. Authorities addressed are requested to send a representative.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1313B/13 to C's in C. Home Ports)

20th M/L
Flotilla.

A.L. M/P.D. 09652/41 of 25/4/41. Request 20th M/L Flotilla when formed may be based at Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 1507/13).

/U.S.A.....

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (contd).

U.S.A.
Coastguard
Cutters.

On arrival in Home Waters American Coast-guard cutters which have been taken over by the Royal Navy are to join W.A. Command.
2. It is most important that there should be no delay in the cutters working up and in commencing operations.
5. It is intended that these ships should work up at Londonderry, thereafter operating in the N.W. Approaches.
6. It is requested you will direct these ships into an appropriate port, informing the Admiralty.
(2nd S.L. 2316B/13 to C. in C. W.A).

CLYDE.

Your 1237B/10. CLYDE should be retained in U.K. for the present. (1st S.L. 2339B/13 to F.O.S).

Movements.

BERWICK
Escort and
Movements.

A.M. 1944B/12. Detach WIVERN and WILD SWAN in company with BERKELEY and BLENCATHRA to Plymouth at 2200/13. E.T.A. 0800/14. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0033B/13 to BERWICK).
Your 2130/12. In view of BERWICK's E.T.A. Scapa 0730/15, request she may proceed direct to Rosyth to arrive May Island before sunset/15 and proceed to anchor berth off Rosyth for the night. Ship will be basined about 0700/16. (C. in C. Rosyth 1110/13 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
Comply with C. in C. Rosyth 1110/13 provided you are up to time and your speed is proving sufficient for you to carry out this programme. Inform C. in C. Rosyth direct of your movements. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1637B/13 to BERWICK).

Clyde-
Iceland
Ferry.

D.S. 3 and CHESHIRE with LANCASTER, WELLS arrived. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1931/13).
Cancel A.M. 1905B/12. D.S. 4 is to sail as usual, R.A.(M) providing normal escort. (D.O.D.H. 2015B/13).

/VICTORIOUS.....

War Diary.

13.5.1941. 394
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

VICTORIOUS.

- A.M. 2256B/10, para 7 and 8.
In addition to the six destroyers supplied from W.A. resources, C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 4th D.F. to afford additional escort, to arrive Clyde by p.m. /21.
2. 4th D.F. may return direct to Plymouth on leaving convoys.
 3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide such escort for VICTORIOUS to Oversay light as he considers necessary. (V.C.N.S. 2011B/13).

RODNEY.

- UKARM no. 195.
1. It has been decided that RODNEY is to sail for the U.S.A. to refit.
 2. RODNEY will not embark special ammunition and will disembark at the Clyde all 16" H.E. and 200 rounds of 6" H.E. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail RODNEY for the Clyde as soon as convenient to disembark this ammunition and embark stores in accordance with A.M. 1021N/10.
 3. RODNEY will afford ocean escort to BRITANNIC and SOUTHERN PRINCE and my 1905B/12 is cancelled.
 4. Both ships will be ready to leave the U.K. on 21/5. BRITANNIC carries 2,700 service personnel.
 5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail the ships in accordance with route to be promulgated by Admiralty.
 6. C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide A/S escort to limit of destroyer's endurance.
 7. A.M. 2256B/10. Home Fleet will not now be required to provide any destroyers for W.S. 8(B) other than escort of VICTORIOUS to rendezvous. (V.C.N.S. 2014B/13).

SURFOUF.

C. in C. A. and W.I. 1001Q/11th and A.M 1829B/13th. Amend my 2322B/10th position (C) as follows. (C. in C. W.A. 2246B/13 to SURFOUF).

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay
S/M
Patrol.
Proposed
re-arrangement.

In view of recent lack of targets in Northern Bay of Biscay patrol and probability of most enemy shipping entering Gironde and La Pallice from westward it is suggested the two submarines on Bay of Biscay patrol would be better employed in southern area which cannot be regularly covered by the aircraft now available.

(ii) Propose one submarine operates between 045° and 046° N. and 002° and 004° W. and the other between 044° and 045° N. and 007° and 009° W.

(iii) 19 group will provide reconnaissance between these areas when practicable.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1256/13).

C. in C. Plymouth's 1256/13. The present employment of submarines in the Bay of Biscay is based on the following considerations.

1. The exceptional advantages of operating in the free for all area.
2. The latest shipping routes so far as they are known as indicated by Adty's 2047B/12.
3. Large areas whereby as much scope as possible is afforded to the commanding officers.
4. German submarines are more effective than Italian and there is always the possibility of an encounter on their route between Lorient and their operation areas, Admiralty's 1758B/10 being a recent example. (F.O.S. 2559B/13).

SOKOL.

You should spend a portion of your time on patrol in area 10 miles either side of lines joining 047° 20' N. 004° 46' W. 046° 45' N. 004° 46' W. Keep special good look out for M/V's approaching from westward Fishing craft sighted may be an indication of the approach of M/V's and they should be treated with especial caution. (F.O.S. -1449B/13 to SOKUL).

/M.T.B.....

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday. 396

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

M.T.B.
Patrols.

Weather permitting one unit of M.T.B's is to carry out an offensive patrol between Ostend and Flushing tonight. Any ship met East of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1456B/13 to BEEHIVE).

Intend to sail two M.T.B's at 0001 tomorrow to carry out a sweep off enemy coast between Boulogne and Calais. (V.A. Dover 1847B/12) Harwich departures M.G.B's 60 and 65. (F.O. Harwich 2037B/13). Departures M.T.B's 43 and 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2138B/13).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Air patrols today: "Unst", "Hornli"
(C. in C. Rosyth 0630/13).

Firing at
Unseen
Targets.

It is essential in view of the increased number and weight of enemy night air attacks on H.M. Ships and convoys that the Rules governing fire by H.M. Ships at unseen targets should be agreed as soon as possible. Adty. proposals to meet this urgent requirement were passed to H.Q. Bomber, Fighter, and Coastal Commands in your 1050 of 1/4/41. A reply that will enable the rules to be put into force at a very early date is requested. (A.C.N.S.H. 1455B/13 to Air Ministry).

Low
Flying by
Own A/C
at Night.

Following from C. in C. Nore begins.
(Repeats C. in C. Nore 1034B/11).
2. Admiralty concur. (D.of L.D. 1512B/13 to Air Ministry).

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ST. PATRICK
bombed.

(British, 1922 Tons) Received 2355 G.M.T. from ST. PATRICK. AAAA 5 miles E. by S; Tuskar. ST. PATRICK bombed 0135. (Burnham Radio, Recd. 0215/13).

Plymouth
Keyham
Falmouth
Exmouth
bombed.

Some enemy aircraft in area between 0046 and 0104 and again between 0146 and 0421. No sustained attack developed but at approx. 0049/0329 a stick of H.E. and 30 incendiaries fell at Keyham Quarry causing fire and damage to No. 2 tank. Casualties and damage at Keyham College, Exmouth and Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 0518/13, S.C.E. Devonport 1645/13).

SELKIRK.
(Bombed 4/5)
FRANC TIREUR
(Bombed 5/5).

Departure SELKIRK towed by tugs KENIA and LYNCH. ROSS towing A/P trawler FRANC TIREUR, escorted by QUORN. All for London except QUORN and KENIA. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0651B/13).

DEGERIN.

Captain of S.S. ST. PATRICK reports the Irish Free State S.S. DEGERIN being machine gunned and bombed when 4 miles E. by S. of Tuskar at 0043/12 no damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1110/13).

MENARA.

s.s. MENARA 962 tons Irish Free State report sighting two Heinkel Seaplanes on water at 0230/12 between Skoner Island and Bishops. Planes took off and attacked ship from height of 200 feet each dropping one small bomb which missed. No damage. Two wounded. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1121/13)

Convoy "Range".
RANGE.

Help, enemy aircraft attacking convoy "Range" RANGE 222° 5 miles from Portland Bill speed 7 knots. (OLVINA 1200/13). Cancel my 1200. (OLVINA 1226/13). ~~RANGE~~ was attacked by one Junkers 88 at 1156 and by two unidentified planes at 1235 when off Portland Bill. Bombs were dropped on both occasions but no damage reported. Air escort was in area. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1635/13).

/RICHARD.....

War Diary.

13.5.1941. 398
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

RICHARD
DE LARRINAGA
(Bombed 12/5).

My 0550/12. SEA GIANT returned to Harbour at 0930/12. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1540/13).

FALAISE
MISS ENGLAND
NOMAD III
JAKE II
SAFARI
COMET I
ALTAIR
IGLOO
(Thames
A/P Motor
Boats) sunk
on Night
10/11.

Following eight vessels attached to R.N. A/P London were lost through enemy action on night of May 10th FALAISE, MISS ENGLAND, NOMAD III, JAKE II, SAFARI, COMET I, ALTAIR and IGLOO. (F.O.I.C. London 1545/13).

Lowestoft
bombed.

Enemy action damage Lowestoft 0300/13/41. Details. (C.E. Great Yarmouth 1754B/13).

SOMERSET
(Bombed 11/5).

Arrived Clyde S.S. PERTH with 60 survivors from S.S. SOMERSET. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1830B/13).

Flying Boat
MAIA sunk.

Your 2259B/13. My 0412/13 read British Overseas Flying Boat Maia bombed and sunk in Poole Harbour at 0130/12 by enemy aircraft which was subsequently shot down by A/P and other vessels, 1 German airman picked up and in hospital 0412/12. (N.O.I.C. Poole 2130/13).

Convoy
F.S. Even.

Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy ^{"Ayerla"} ARENA in 55° N. 1° 10' W. 20C Buoy. (Rosyth W/T 2303B/13) (FRANKLIN 2315/13).

BLUSH ROSE.
damaged.

(British, 645 Tons) Attacked by A/C on 10/5 16 miles S.W. of Bardsey Island. Some damage to engines. (D.S. No. 616).

/STROMBOLI.....

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

STROMBOLI.)
(Norwegian)
1576 Tons)
submerged.)
KENTAR)
(Dutch,)
5878 Tons)
damaged.)

In air-raid on Liverpool before 10/5.
(D.S. No. 616).

FINLAND
damaged.

(British, 1353 Tons) Damaged during air-
raid on Belfast on Night 4/5 May.
(D.S. No. 616).

Mining.

B.S.56.

My 2204B/13. B.S. 56 is to be carried
out as soon as practicable. Request pro-
posed movements, programme.
(C. in C. Nore 0934B/13 to TEVIOT BANK).

River
Thames.

Owing to countermining Operations vessels
are warned to keep to the south side of
Woolwich Reach when passing Tate and
Lyles Factory Silvertown at 1715/14th.
(F.O.I.C. London 1832/13).

Milford
Haven.

2 red mines detonated by L.L. as follows.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2234/13).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Battlecruisers SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU
were seen to be at Brest in usual berths
at 0815/13. (D.D.I.C. 1314B/13).

Suspicious
Vessel.

Following read from Lands End Radio
Disguised M/V Raider 44° 42' N. 30° 57' W.
EMPIRE STEELHEAD suspicious, following.
(Liverpool 2336/13).
Cancel my 2336/13 EMPIRE STEELHEAD.
(Lands End W/T 2345/13 G.M.T).

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

C.F.1.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange that on arrival in U.K. MONARCH OF BERMUDA should proceed to Liverpool and EMPRESS OF JAPAN to Clyde. (D.S.T. 1104B/13 to C. in C. W.A).

H.X. 122.

On time at R.V. with all ships. Good weather apart from fog after leaving Halifax. (D.T.D. 1325B/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). Cargoes D. S. 616.

S.C. 29.

On time at R.V. with 40 ships YORKMOOR proceeded to Reykjavik for engine repairs; all others now reported. Good weather, except for 52 hours fog after leaving Halifax. (D.T.D. 1327B/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Cargoes D.S. 616.

Suspect Ships.

My 1648/16/2. Following ships are suspect. Belgian ALEXANDRE ANDRE ROUMANIE Norwegian BRAGA, BUENOS AIRES CHRISTINA KNUDSEN ELISE. FRAM. GRENANGER, IVARAN. MELINE. NORDANGER. Greek EUGENIE LIVANOS British ex Danish INGER TOFT. Danish KIRSTEN MAERSK. THINA. S. Dutch STAD. MAASSLUIS, THEANO TJKIKANDI. Egyptian RADAMES. A.M. 1818/16/2 is cancelled. N.C.S.O. Halifax is requested to inform N.C.S.O. Sydney who has not received formers. (D.T.D. 1427B/13 to Halifax, Bermuda, Freetown, Gibraltar).

Liverpool Escorts.

My 1850B/8. Commencing with next incoming group Liverpool escort groups will proceed to Liverpool on completion of escort duty. (C. in C. W.A., 1834B/13 to Capt. D. Liverpool).

W.S.8B.

Admiralty 2256B/10 is being repeated to you for information. (H.W.R. 1936B/13 to C. in C. Plymouth).

BRITANNIC
SOUTHERN
PRINCE.

} RODNEY to escort. (V.C.N.S., 2014B/13)
See Movements.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ROCKINGHAM.

E.T.A. 0530/14. Request pilot and also tug be available to stand by (?Ship) from Calshot Spit as only one engine is available. (ROCKINGHAM 0800/13 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

RODNEY.

RODNEY is at 24 hours notice with Port Horse Power flexible couplings seized. (C. in C. H.F. 2215/13).

War Diary.

13.5.1941. **402**
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Interception
of French
ships.

S.O. Force H., 1034/13 to Admty.
(See Operations Volume).

O.G. 61
JONQUIL.

Proceed with GERANIUM and AZALEA to join SCARBOROUGH during daylight as extra escort for O.G. 61. Estimated p.c. & s. of SCARBOROUGH at 1200/13 is 043° 12' N 020° 52' W 1700 6½ knots, routed through 039° 40' N 020° 00' W 035° 40' 015° 00' 010° 00'. Remain with O.G. 61 as long as fuel permits. Netherlands S/M O. 21 has been ordered to R/V with O.G. 61 at 0900/13 and if convoy is not met by 1200/13 O. 21 proceed Gibraltar on route and at speed of convoy.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1116B/13 to JONQUIL).

VELOX
WISHART.

My 1306/2 VELOX will be sailed 14/5 for Freetown provided WISHART can be sailed simultaneously or nearly so. No reply yet can be given about HECTOR.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1144/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

German
A/C.

Focke Wulf aircraft has been operating off West Coast of Spain since 0915, and at 1120 was in 37° 00' N 15° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1205B/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

REGINA
survivors.

Cartagena reports arrival of 9 survivors of tanker REGINA in motor launch. I am trying to facilitate onward journey to Gibraltar.
(N.A. Madrid, 1253/13 to Admty).

OSIRIS

Your 1010/A/12. OSIRIS will not be ready to leave U.K. until about 5/6, and will, therefore be unable to escort O.G. 63.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1333B/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PANDORA.
REGENT.

After crossing 009° E proceed through 037° 00' 001° 00' E 035° 45' 002° 45' W 035° 45' 004° 30' W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1410A/13 to PANDORA, REGENT).

See also p. 407

Aircraft in Operation.....

MOST SECRET

N.A.

402(A)

1121/13th May.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From: Naval Attache Madrid.

Date: 14.5.41.

Recd: 0805.

INTER DEPARTMENTAL CIPHER V 12 BY CABLE.

RECIRCULATION (AT REQUEST OF N.I.D.III)

Addressed: D.N.I.

Secret and Personal.

1. Decree signed to be promulgated at once taking all Moroccan affairs away from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and putting them under control of Ministry of Army.
2. Although censorship under Ministry of the Interior all references to Foreign Affairs are the responsibility of Minister for Foreign Affairs.
3. Larraz Minister of Finance resigned months ago resignation now accepted to be replaced by Benjumea Minister of Labour and Agriculture who will be succeeded by Under Secretary.
4. Falange divided and (?miserable) threatening German intervention on their side and accusing Britain of dividing army and party. No possibility of German intervention at present not ready. Germans confused and furious.
5. New policy cannot be openly pro British and cannot openly profess its Anti German attitude. But this is great victory A 2 repetition A 2.

1121/13

Advance Copy sent to D.N.I.

128

N.I.D. Comment.

1. This should put a check on German infiltration and propaganda in Spanish (and French) Morocco, but will not necessarily lessen Spanish aspirations in that area.
2. Possibly a sop to Suner.
3. Larraz is no loss to us Benjumea is a weakling.
4. New appointments have undoubtedly caused consternation in ranks of Falange, who are doing their utmost to throw blame on to H.M. Government. Broadcasts on May 10th stated that London not only intervenes in Spain on questions of propaganda and economy, but also politically. "The English are boasting that Samuel Hoare has proved himself more powerful than the Spanish Foreign Minister" - London thinks that she governs Spain more than the Spaniards themselves".

H.M. Ambassador has stressed the necessity for utmost reticence on the part of the British Press and B.B.C. in referring to these charges.

There is no indication as yet as to the form which German reactions will take.

5. The fact remains that, in addition to being entirely in our favour and a great set-back for Suner and his German friends, the Spanish people realise the significance of these events and welcome them.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(T)(2)

D.N.I.(4)

D. of P.(2)

Hd. of H.

W.D.

13.5.1941.403
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Aircraft in
Operation
"Tiger".

Fulmar pilots strongly of opinion behaviour of enemy aircraft suggests Fulmars mistaken for Hurricanes. Suggest B.B.C. announcement that on return British force Gibraltar confirmed our loss of two Hurricanes and not 14 aircraft as stated in Italian broadcast (S.O. Force H., 1456/13 to Admty). Remarks re weather etc., in operation "Tiger".
(S.O. Force H., 1541/13 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

French
Convoy.

French destroyer FRONDEUR passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1840/13 escorting French M/Vs AZROU, and TLEMCCEN.
(D.O.R. 15/5).

Corvettes.

My 1234/1. Re sailing Corvettes ARMERIA, BURDOCK, ASTER and WOODRUFF. Delete ARMERIA and BURDOCK. My 1321B/12 which refers is being passed to F.O.C.N.A.
(D.O.D. (F) 1835B/13 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Lisbon
Refugees.

As Admiralty do not approve of transport calling suggest ARDEOLA is utilized. No other shipping is available, Report maximum number that can be embarked. E.T.A. Gibraltar of Transport not yet known.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1906/13 to N.A. Lisbon).

ERNANI
(Italian).

There is indication ERNANI will shortly sail from Las Palmas.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2233A/13 to N.A. Stn).

South Atlantic.

EAGLE
NELSON.

Your 1851/10 and 1311/11. EAGLE reports oiler cannot lie alongside at St. Helena in even slight swell without severe damage to both oiler and ship's bilges which extend over six feet from side below water line. Fuelling by selstirrup is not practicable as adequate hoses are not supplied. Above is based on previous experience in exposed anchorages and his personal knowledge of St. Helena. In view of this NELSON and EAGLE intend proceeding Freetown direct at 13knots so as to arrive a.m./23 unless ordered to contrary.
(S.N.O. Simonstown, 0633Z/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET

403(A)

M E S S A G E

1541/13th May.

MOST SECRET

IN

From S.O. Force H.

Date 13.5.41.
Recd. 1825.

NAVAL CYIPHER D BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean, V.A. Malta,
F.O.C.N.A.

809. In operation TIGER we were exceptionally favoured by weather conditions. Failure of enemy to locate force on D one or D two probably reduced scale of air attack, but main reason for success was cloud conditions on D 3, which

- (a) Handicapped C R 42's in dealing with Fulmars
- (b) Made accurate bombing difficult and
- (c) Prevented formations attacked by Fulmars from reforming, and in some cases correctly locating fleet.

In clear weather I do not consider Fulmars could have operated effectively with C R 42 present in same force.

(i) If any repetition of operation is intended consider special arrangements should be made for intensive bombing of Sardinian and Sicilian aerodromes on D 2, D 3 and D 4.

1541/13.

Advance copy P.O., C.S.O., Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

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

MG

13.5.1941. 404
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

EAGLE
NELSON(contd).

My 0633/13th. Capetown departures 0650/13 NELSON and EAGLE for Freetown direct. Speed of advance 13. E.T.A. outer and Freetown searched channel 0900/23.
(Capt. I/C Simonstown, 0703Z/13).

W.S.8A.

Your 1851/12. Approved for HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN to be escorted by CILICIA, sailing as soon as possible to overtake convoy.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1033B/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

GARDENIA
COLUMBINE

Your 1854/12. Arrived a.m./8. (F.O.C.N.A.)
(C. in C. S.A. 1151N/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CUMBERLAND
ALCANTARA
movements.
ASTURIAS.

CUMBERLAND visits Buenos Aires 15/5 - 17/5 ALCANTARA arrive L32 15/5 and is to R/V with CUMBERLAND and ABBEYDALE at F.O. at daylight 18/5 to discharge drafts and stores. ALCANTARA fuels at Montevideo 19/5 then proceed to K 32 K 33. CUMBERLAND patrols L.31 L.32 ASTURIAS is to enter Rio de Janeiro to fuel 1200 G.M.T./23 then proceed to R/V with ABBEYDALE at F.O. P.M./27 to embark stores and draft ? details ALCANTARA subsequently patrolling L.31 L.32. I will arrange all visits.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1250Z/13 to ASTURIAS, ALCANTARA, NEWCASTLE.)

Look out ships
in S.L. Convoys.

Your letter No. 253/047 dated 22/2/41 and your signal 2013/1/5. Request you will arrange trials as proposed in A.M.1832/31/3 on the next occasion when an S.L. convoy is sailed without warship escort other than A.M.C. Proposal A in your 2013/1 is preferred as the limitations which B would impose would it is considered defeat the object. It is not intended look out ships should be stationed in known U/B danger areas.
(D.T.D. 1331B/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

NELSON weather

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NELSON
weather
casualties.

Ref. 1044Z/13 report of casualties. NELSON to Admiralty repeated to you and my 1315 13th to you. (N.T. in W.R.) On turning seawards after passing Table Bay breakwater NELSON forecastle swept by two successive heavy seas resulting in four ratings overboard, and approx 25 injured. Two lost overboard. Five injured landed, ship ultimately sailed 1317/13. (N.O.I.C. Capetown, 1430B/13 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Routeing
of Shipping.

Your 0001/1st sec. 3 para (6) As amended by your 1219/5. Questions are being raised as to where ships of convoy speed from South America may bunker on passage to Bermuda, notably may oil burning ships bunker at Trinidad. Request general information on these points be issued. (C. in C. S.A. 1537N/13 to Admty).

BOURBONNAIS
intercepted
by BULOLO.

French BOURBONNAIS 4484 tons, was intercepted by BULOLO about 100 miles S.W. of Dakar on 13/5. She had on board 400 native troops for Madagascar and is being escorted to Freetown. (D.S. 617, 14/5 and D.O.R.14/5 no signal received in W.D.)

PORTLAND
(German).

Left Talcahuano on 30/1, is now believed to have arrived at Bordeaux at end of March, where it is reported she was sunk in harbour during a British air raid. (B.4) (D.S. 617,14/5).

ARCOLA)
*TAGETE)
TODARO)
*TRIGETE.

Italian tankers at Teneriffe, reported (A.2) on 11/5 to have had their bottoms cleared by divers, to be painted grey, and to be keeping steam. (D.S. 617,14/5).

MAURITIUS.

My 0115/13 Requesting stores for MAURITIUS be sent to Freetown. MAURITIUS should be at Freetown about 11/6 further movements unknown. (C. in C. S.A., 1633N/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.13.5.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Air Attack on
Enemy Convoy.

Following information of convoy sighted by Maryland recco 4 Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. 3 with torpedoes and 1 carrying flare, despatched night 12th/13th. Convoy contacted and attacked at 2030 in 34° 01' N 12° 01' N. 12° 39' E., course 236° speed 10 knots,. Weather fine, clear, no flares used. 1 DR and 1 M/V 8000 tons believed hit. M/V at first smoking followed by large explosion. DR emitting large column of smoke, not smoke screen. Attack was complete surprise. No opposition. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 0700/13 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E).

USK
lost.

Regret to report USK is now overdue since 3/5 and must be considered lost. USK was on patrol off Marittimo and reported 26/4 that she was shifting berth to Cape Bon in view of intense A/S activity. Nothing further has been heard. (C. in C. Med., 1011C/13 to Admty).

Air Operations.

Summary No.337 up to 1200 hours 13/5. Day 12/5. 1 sweep of Suez Canal by 2 D.W.I. Wellingtons exploded 1 mine. Night 12/13 May.

2 Enemy aircraft dropped bombs in Aboukir Bay. No damage reported. Western Desert. Following details of Wellington raids night 11/12. Benghazi 1 large fire on each of Moloz, Italia, and Cathedral Mole with several small fires on latter. Further bombs fell near 2 ships 5,000 tons anchored outside harbour. Derna. 1 bomb near large ship just outside harbour.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1057/13).

Evacuation from
Peloponnesus.

2 small vessels sailed last night from Castello also one from Canea all for Peloponnesus to bring away soldiers. Several vessels are missing from recent trips and present are probably last that will be made. Have had to guarantee full replacement value for losses. Several thousand British and Greek soldiers have landed on Crete in this manner since 2/5. (Britnavat Canea 1131/13 to C. in C. Med).

Turkish Aerodromes.....

War Diary.

13.5.1941. **407**
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Turkish
Aerodromes.

Danger of German occupation of aerodromes in preparation in Thrace and Anatolia. (1st S.L. 1143/13 to C. in C. Med). See Lion Copy.

Operation M.D.4
EMPIRE SONG
(mined 9/5).

My 1956B/9. Transport EMPIRE SONG in "Tiger" exploded two mines almost simultaneously on starboard side and some seconds later another same side. All presumably cut by p.v.'s. Four hours after first mine the whole forepart of ship exploded after part then sinking immediately. Master considers fire caused somehow by concussions. All ships company, Naval and Military personnel on board taken off by FORESIGHT and now at Malta with following exceptions. (V.A. Malta 1209B/13 to Admty).

REGENT
PANDORA.

Anticipate approx position as follows REGENT 038° 10' 009° 00' at 0200B/15 thence as directed by Capt (S) 8. PANDORA 038° 25' 009° 00' at 2100/15 thence as directed by F.O.C.N.A. (Cdr. S.l., 1211B/13 to PANDORA, REGENT).
See p. 402

Situation
report 25.

~~Western Desert~~
WESTERN DESERT. LADYBIRD see my 231/13, (p.409). Tobruk Harbour is being kept open and supplies continue to be unloaded from small ships in spite of scale of air attack. Scale enemy advance reported 12th in Sollum area does not seem to have materialised and Military situation unchanged. 7th C.S. operating tonight 13/14 against Derna. ~~Derna~~ Derna ~~ORBIT~~ Grate. My 2341/10 RAWNSLEY bombed night 11/12 and sank after explosion. Fear little of her military cargo had been unloaded owing to transport difficulties on South coast. Only three M.T.B's of 10th Flotilla have sailed for Suda remainder returning Alexandria with defects. Some bombing at Suda Bay but no serious damage. Canal Area. Canal still closed but further section reopened Kantara Toutineh. One mine exploded 12th. Trawling results DMSA pointing. Malta (as H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0700/13). (C. in C. Med., 1355/13 to Admty).

Palestine

MOST SECRET

407(A)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1143B/13th May.

OUT

To C. in C. Mediterranean. 938. Date. 13.5.44

Naval Cypher (One time pad)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No.104 addressed Commanders-in-Chief, Mediterranean and Middle East. Begins.

We are concerned at danger that aerodromes which we are preparing in Thrace and Anatolia may fall into German hands and be of more use to them than to ourselves.

2. Political repercussions make complete cessation of work on aerodromes in Turkey unacceptable but Turks would probably agree to cease work on Muratli and Luleburgaz in Thrace and obstruct all aerodromes in that area.

3. It might be possible to slow down work on more vulnerable of the aerodromes in Western Anatolia without arousing Turkish suspicions by making excuse that work on aerodromes elsewhere for example Palestine and Southern Iraq has become more important.

4. If you agree we suggest that you approach Turks on these lines through Military Mission. Foreign Office have been informed of our views. Ends.

1143B/13

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
N.I.D.10 (Pay Cdr.Wilson)

Asst. Secretary to 1st S.L.

D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
Duty Captain.
E.P.S.
Head of M.
I.P.
W.D.

095

War Diary.

13.5.1941 **408**
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Palestine.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 105 addressed Cs. in C. Med and M.E. You will have seen Damascus telegrams Nos. 54 and 55 to F.O. dated 12/5. What is your appreciation and what action, if any do you propose?
(1st S.L. 1633B/13 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Air Raids.

Combined services report Malta up to 1600/13/5. Times G.M.T. Night 12/13. 1945 to 0115 hours, 3 air alarms. 20 to 25 aircraft operating singly dropped bombs in various localities causing following damage. (Army) Navy. Some damage to dockyard. Further damage to Bighi hospital, no casualties. Day 13/5. 1200 hours small formation JU88's escorted by 25 ME 109's dropped bombs on Luqa aerodrome. Slight damage to 1 Wellington from bomb splinters. Civilian casualties. Maryland recco Tripoli. 12 Medium 15 small M/Vs 3 destroyers 6 T.B.s 11 seaplanes. Usual hospital ship outside harbour. Following convoy seen at 1130 G.M.T. 4 miles out heading for harbour 2 medium M/Vs 4 destroyers 1 fleet auxiliary 3 unidentified aircraft escorting. Maryland Eastern Tunisian coast. 0600 hours 1 large 4 small M/Vs 4 destroyers 35.05 N. 12.30 E course 010° speed 8 knots. Convoy unladen. 0800 hours 1 6" cruiser 1 destroyer 35.04' N 12.38' E. course 036° 18 knots.
(H.Q. Med., 0635/13).

Enemy Units.

Turkish Ferry Boats.

M.A. Ankara in his 1230/10 to W.O. states Turks anxious about disposal of ferry boat ECEABAT believed to have been at Suez since 10/4. Provided safe passage could be arranged boat should be allowed to proceed and you should inform N.A. Ankara accordingly. Further 7 ferry boats due in Egypt end of May. Request whether these can be regarded as vital requirement for British Naval and Military purposes, and whether you recommend their retention.
(Head of M. 1736B/13 to C. in C. Med).

Black Sea.....

13.5.1941. 409
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Black Sea
Shipping.

My 1905/12. Part 2, Turkish Merchant Fleet, etc. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1812/13 to Admty). See Lion Copy.

ITHAKA.
CORDELIA
YALOVA

Report graded B.3 that these German Steamers left Constanza 1800 (2 groups mutilated) 12/5 for Salonica. Cargoes believed ammunition with forage on top. Will telegraph arrival Bosphorus. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1920/13 to Cairo for C. in C. Med.)

Famagusta
Examination
Service.

An Examination Service is in force at Famagusta Cyprus. Ships are to stop in vicinity of Turks Island Buoy in position 035° 09' N 033° 56' E to await instructions. Ships proceeding westward of line running 330° 152° through Turks Island buoy without permission are liable to be fired on. (C. in C. Med., 2035C/13 to N.O.I.C.'s etc).

LADYBIRD.
sunk.

Received two direct hits and sank in Mersa Tobruk harbour at 1505/12 during dive bombing attack by at least 40 aircraft. One hit aft and one amidships. After part disintegrated. Remainder on fire for many hours but some salvage may be possible. Foremast gun continued firing after ship hit and on fire. Casualties as in N.O.I.C. Mersa Tobruk 2133/12 (N.T. in W.D.) (C. in C. Med., 2331/13 to Admty).

From: S.O.(I) Istanbul.

Date: 13.5.41.

409(A)

Recd: 2350

Interdepartmental Cypher 10 by Cable.

Addressed: Admiralty.

Black Sea Shipping.
 My 1905 ~~Mag~~ ^{12th}. Part ~~two~~ ² (a) Turkish Merchant fleet consists of 125 ~~repeat 125~~ ships total 190,000 repeat 190,000 + 800 G.R.T. (including one tanker capacity 4,700 tons).

In addition for ships 7,000 repeat 7,000 + 400 tons earmarked as A.M.C.'s.

65 repeat 65 Bosphorous ferry steamers 19,000 repeat 19,000 + 700 tons. 29 repeat 29 tugs two repeat two 300 tons (b) there is a large number of sailing and auxiliary Caiques from 20 to 250 tons details not readily available but 150 and 200 such probably Istanbul and Beach Sea Ports. (c) Turkish vessels in Bosphorous today include (one) approximately 26 repeat 26 ocean going ships 54 repeat 54 thousand 900 tons (two) 65 repeat 65 ferry steamers 19 repeat 19 700 tons (three) some Turkish tugs and large number of lighters (four) also 60 repeat 60 British and ex (French?) Danube grain and oil barges capacity about 51 repeat 51 thousand metric tons.

Add to part one (a): six repeat six Bulgarian auxiliary sailing vessels total 600 tons deadweight. No repeat no similar vessels under Romanian flag.

1812/13

*See also 1215/14*Shipping in Black Sea Ports.

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

A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (T)(2)
 C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 Ops. (4)
 O.D. (5)
 D.T.D. (4)
 D.T.D. (M)
 D.E.W.D. (3)
 M. (2)
 D. of S.T.
 D. of P. (5)
 D.N.I. (4)
 O.I.C. (2)
 D.S.D. 9.
 I.P. (3)
 W.D.

War Diary.13.5.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.LIVERPOOL.

Sailed from Colombo at 0050Z/13/5. E.T.A. Johore Shoal Buoy 0700Z/17.
(C. in C. E.I., 0400Z/13, to C. in C. China.)

CANBERRA.

To leave Aden a.m./14 and proceed 15 knots to establish a patrol in area bounded by equator, 002° N., and longitude 55° and 62°. Speed on patrol 12 knots. Object protection of shipping. (C. in C. E.I., 0654z/13, to CANBERRA.)

B.P.5.

My 1130/8. Sailing dates for B.P.5., Bombay and Karachi for Basra.
(C. in C. E.I., 0734Z/13 to Cdre.R.I.N.)

Iraq.
Army
Plans.

All army troops at Habbaniya will come under Habforce after arrival flying column at Habbaniya. Flying Column will advance on Baghdad as soon as possible with view securing control main railway station and civil airport and getting into touch with British Embassy. Representatives of Regent should accompany column with view getting into touch with elements favourable to Regent in Baghdad.
(C. in C. M.E., 1310/13, to G.O.C., Palestine.)

LAWRENCE.
Iran
Attitude.

Anchored one mile south of Kabda, was boarded by Iranian naval officer who requested formal notice of arrival be given to Legation at Teheran and permission obtained to remain there, failing which ship had to move by 1300z/10/5 (or received) (?1300z/13/5.) Since ship is in Iraqi waters S.N.O. Persian Gulf ordered her to remain where she was and I concur. Minister Teheran informed.
(C. in C. E.I., 1916z/13, to Admty.)

SECRET

MESSAGE 0927Z/12 May

IN

From. C in C China.

Date 13.5.41.

Recd.0636

Inter-Departmental Cypher By W/T

Addressed Admiralty. repeated. Governor Straits Settlements
Governor Hong Kong C in C Far East British
Ambassador Chungking British Ambassador Tokio
British Embassy Shanghai British Minister Bangkok

549. Following information regarding situation in Indo-China was communicated by Captain Jouan on visit to Singapore May 12th 1941.

2. Japanese have so far made no demands for further Naval or Air bases or military facilities in Indo China and Jouan promises to let us know at once if there is any sign of their doing so (Chungking airmail telegram one May 10th refers)

3. Japanese troops in Indo-China at present do not exceed figure of 6,000 laid down in September agreement. The maximum number, which was reached in February when the Japanese pressure was most intense, was 11,000.

4. Japanese do not seem unduly interested in the question of bases and no signs have been noted of their carrying out intended reconnaissance of such bases as Camranh Bay. Jouan said he had several times spoken to Sumita on matters connected with bases but latter had given no hint of demands to come.

5. Japanese have so far used only two of the three aerodromes permitted them by September agreement, namely, Gialam and Haiphong, but they have now asked for Laokai and expect to commence using it in about a fortnights time. Number of Japanese aircraft in Indo China is very variable. In March there were only about 20 aircraft at Gialam. Early April about 120 aircraft arrived and there are now between 120 and 140. These reinforcements and third of ~~aircraft~~, which is on Chinese frontier, are believed by French to be intended for operation against the Chinese.

6. At Saigon there were now no Japanese troops, One cruiser and four troop transport aircraft had been stationed there up to middle of April but had now left. There are now only two Japanese Officers at Saigon for duty in connection with Armistice commission, namely one Colonel and one Commander

7. After Japanese mediation French had feared extensive further demands but in practice the only outstanding requirements were for authority to establish a daily Air Service between Bangkok and Hanoi, and a fortnightly flying boat service between Japan Saigon and Bangkok.

The French

(2)

The French

had not yet replied to these requests and were endeavouring to delay acceptance as long as they could

8. Jouan said he believed recent visit of Major Ewens had been satisfactory and that Decoux would welcome monthly visits by British Officers so long as agreement remains in force.

9. Losses of Japanese aircraft by accidents are frequent, the most recent incident one in which three bomber aircraft took off together, two collided and crashed and eight lives were lost.

10. Jouan said Sumita had asked him whether it was true that he (Jouan) had been to Manila to take part in discussions with U.S., British and Dutch, staff Officers. He mentioned this as illustrating that Japanese constantly suspect French of working with us.

0927Z/12

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

Ops. (4)
 M. (30)
 D of P. (3)
 O.I.C.,
 D.S.D.9
 I.P. (3)
 W.D.
 D.N.A.D.

411

War Diary.13.5.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Japan,
Indo-China,
Thailand.F.E.W.30. Situation.
(C.O.I.S., Far East, 0831z/13, to Admty.,
etc.)ERITREA
MUNSTERLAND
(German.)Kobe Departure Italian sloop ERITREA
probably 11/5. Nagoya departure MUNSTERLAND
12/5. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 1057Z/13, to
Admty., etc.)D'ARTAGNAN
(French.)Departure for Manila.
(N.C.S.O., Shanghai, 2359Z/13.)LAMOTTE-PICQUET.
(French)*Le repairs. (C. C. China, 0957Z/13 to Admty.)*
*See Operations Volume.*America & West Indies.FORT DE FRANCE.
(French.)Particularly desired to intercept French
FORT DE FRANCE to eastward Antilles on her
next voyage to Casablanca, and efforts
being made to obtain early information of
departure. Adjust patrol at your discre-
tion but ship is not to be intercepted
within 20 miles of French or neutral
territory or within Caribbean Sea.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1032Q/13, to CARADOC.)Adm. Lais.Your 1500/10. Admiral Lais and 2 orderlies
left Bermuda 13/5 in U.S. EXCALIBUR for
Lisbon, under original safe conduct.
Suggest H.M. Ships be informed that baggage
already thoroughly searched. Admiral has
requested that his movements be reported to
Italian Embassy, Washington. No action
taken by me.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1101Q/13, to Admty.)Visits to
U.S. Navy
Air Service.Ref. Admty., letter A 0269/41 approving
in principle interchange of visits by
officers of F.A.A., and U.S., Naval Air
Service. Possible to spare two officer
observers at present for a few weeks to
visit ships and stations in U.S. Visits
are principally required to aircraft
carrier. (Names of officers.) (Piarco, 1142/13
to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/U.S. Submarine.....

412

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

U.S.
Submarine.

Following received from Washington, One U.S. Submarine leaves New London about 14/5 and is due to arrive Bermuda 18/5. (D.D.I.C. 1148B/13, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Greek
Shipping.

There is urgent need for good Greek shipping mission in Canada. Greek Seamen generally appear to distrust owners over wage questions which is principal cause of crew trouble in these ships and many are willing to sign on British ships at British wages and only ask for a square deal. Noteworthy that they seldom if ever raised crew trouble over non supply of L.A. Armament as has been the case with other nationalities. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1339Z/13, to Adty.)

MONGOLIA.

Italian ship MONGOLIA sailed Houston 11/5 and arrived Galveston same day. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1509Z/13.)

Merchant
Ships W/T
receivers.

C.O.A.C. suggests possible some of success of last eight Halifax convoys is due to strict orders concerning oscillating W/T receivers and private broadcast receivers. Suggest Bermuda might well take similar action as if only one ship is allowed to oscillate the security of the whole is imperilled. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1643z/13, to Adty.)

C.G.Cutters.

U.S. Cutters SEBAGO, CHAMPLAIN, and CAYUGA, were commissioned 12/5 as H.M. Ships WALNEY, SENNEN, and TOTLAND respectively. These three ships will sail for (?Halifax) 14/5. (MALAYA 1655/13.)

SURCOUF.

Request you will comply with C. in C.A.W., Is, 1001Q/11. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1829B/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

REVENGE.

To part company with H.X.125 forthwith and return to Halifax. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2332B/13 to REVENGE.)

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

SHEHERAZADE
(French.)

Left Galveston, Texas, 12/5 for Casablanca.
(Galverton, Texas, 2333/13 to M. of S.)

Australia.

Suspect W/T
op: in Belgian
ALEXANDRE ANDRE.

Your 1914B/11. Emile Rene Wuytt interned.
Your report forwarded by air mail not yet
received. (A.C.N.B. 0524Z/13, to Admty.)

MAROUKO
PATERAS.

Cancel my 0156Z/11. Ship in Hong Kong.
(A.C.N.B., 0738Z/13.)

414

War Diary.13.5.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.General.Summary.

Periodic summary of Anti-U-boat campaign for April. (D.T.D., 1954B/13 to A.I.G.12, 19.) See Lion Copy.

Ships Attacked.EMPIRE CLOUD.
(torpedoed 9/5.)

Your 2212/12. Order THAMES to proceed EMPIRE CLOUD and inform him that ST.APOLLO is standing by ship and will escort him throughout operation. (C. in C. W.A., 0246B/13 to N.O.I.C.Iceland.) Am proceeding in company with THAMES whose compass and guns are out of action to assist EMPIRE CLOUD in 059° 30' or 35' (?) N., 028° 33' W. My 2100/13 position 061° 38' N., 027° 28' W., Course 194°. Speed 12 knots. I have no information as to condition or possible movements of EMPIRE CLOUD. Am assuming she is stopped. (ANEMONE, 2130B/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

AELYBRYN
(torpedoed
10/5.)

ZWARTEZEE sailed for AELYBRYN 2330/12. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0839/13, to C. in C.W.A.) HOLLYHOCK standing by AELYBRYN is to escort, ZWARTE ZEE with tow to Reykjavik. (C. in C. W.A., 1056B/13 to HOLLYHOCK, ZWARTE ZEE.)

CALCHAS.
(torpedoed
21/4.)

Following received from Consul St. Vincent. Arrived St. Vincent 10/5 21 survivors from British ship CALCHAS, 11 men 1 woman British, 9 Chinese. (N.A. Lisbon 1122/13, to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

SALOPIAN
A.M.C.

Following received from Cdre H.X. 124 intercepted. SS SS 056° 43' N., 038° 57' W. A.M.C. (? torpedoed.) abandoned. T.O.O. 0630 (ends) Am proceeding position given in orders from Cdr. D. 12. My p.c. and s. are 059° 01' N., 036° 03' W., 213° 24 knots. Fuel remaining does not permit greater speed. A.M.C. considered to be SALOPIAN. Weather. (AMAZON, 1600Z/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

SOMERSBY.

Torpedoed A.M/13. See 14/5.

SECRET

MESSAGE

1954B/13th May

OUT

4/4(A)

ADDRESSED: A.I.G. 12
19

DATE 13/5/41

NAVAL CYEPHER (C)

FROM: Admiralty - Pass to N.C.S.O's.

Following periodic summary of anti-U-boat campaign for April. 2. At the beginning of the month one of the home-ward bound Atlantic convoys was located by a U-boat and subsequently attacked by her and others prior to the A/S escort meeting the convoy. A number of ships were sunk and one of the U-boats following up the convoy was sunk days later.

3. The probability of U-boats operating further west had been foreseen and shortly after this attack arrangements were brought into force to base some escort vessels on Iceland (C) so as to enable convoys to be escorted further to and from the westward than hitherto. Additional aircraft have also been moved to Iceland (C) for the same purpose. The operation of Gibraltar and Sierra Leone convoys remains as before escort groups being based on U.K.

4. The considerable increase in the distance over which cross-Atlantic convoys are escorted will it is hoped have a beneficial effect.

5. There were no other U-boat attacks on convoys until the end of the month when a daylight attack was made on a homeward bound convoy. 4 ships were sunk. A number of contacts were obtained by escort vessels and a number of most promising attacks ensued. The results cannot as yet be assessed but the rough-handling the enemy undoubtedly received will it is hoped have a discouraging effect so far as these new tactics are concerned.

6. There has been an increase of U-boat activity in the Freetown area and in consequence additional escort vessels and aircraft are being based there to counter this menace.

7. The number of U-boats estimated to be at sea at any one time has been as follows N.W. Approaches 10 to 18. Azores area 2 to 3, Freetown 2.

1954B/13

for D.T.D. (172)

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
Nav. Sec.
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
O.D.8.
D.N.I.
D. of S.2A.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)

D.S.D.9
D. of S.T.
I.P. (3)
D.A/S.W.
O.I.C.
W.D.
I.M.N.G.

Commanders-in-Chief, Flag
Officers-in-Charge, and Naval
Officers-in-Charge ashore at
home.
Staff Officer (Intelligence)
Gibraltar. Freetown
Malta. Kingston
Alexandria. Singapore
Bombay. Hong Kong
Colombo. Shanghai
Bahrein. Wellin
Capetown.
D.N.I. Melbourne.
N.O.i/c Aden.
N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.

13.5.1941. 415
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

→ VANCOUVER ISLAND.
(escaped).

Following has been read. SSSS de GPK now 55. 00N 20.36 W. VANCOUVER ISLAND being chased by submarine on surface. (Port Patrick Radio, 1626/13).

WRAY CASTLE.
(torpedoed
5/5).

43 of crew of S.S. WRAY CASTLE due Freetown in Portuguese SS LORENCO MARQUES 14/5. Vessel torpedoed at 2047 G;M.T/5 in 006. 48' N., 013. 35' W., two torpedoes. Vessel sank in 5 minutes. Crew picked up by Portuguese ANGOLA and landed Sao Thome. C.Bs. supposed destroyed. Above obtained from Master of ANGOLA at Loanda and is subject to confirmation by Master of WRAY CASTLE after arrival. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2159N/13 to Admty.).

Submarines Reported.

2207/12.

My 2207A/12, bearing was from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 0103/13 to N.A. Stn).

→ 1609.

Following has been read. SSSS De GPK. 54.56 N. 20.48 W. VANCOUVER ISLAND. Submarine sighted on surface. (Port Patrick 1609/13). Admty., message A.F. position. 54° 56' N: 20° 48' W., at 1609/13 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1645/13).

1900.

Following has been read. SSSS Submarine Raider 8. 57 N., 16.53 W. EGBA sighted periscope. (Freetown 1907/13, 1918 G.M.T/13) G.B.M.S. 6A. Admty. Message A.F. 008. 57N., -016. 53W. 1900/13. (C. in C. S.A. 1916/13 to All British Merchant Ships) Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1616B/13).

Submarines Attacked.

By VISENDA.

One submarine 062° 17' N., 014° (933') W., have attacked. (VISENDA, 2235B/13, to S.O. Trawlers N.P).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.14.5.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.M. T. B.
Patrol.

One unit of M.T.B's carried out an offensive patrol last night between Ostend and Flushing. There is nothing to report.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command cancelled all operations for last night and today on account of the weather.

A balloon barrage was seen over Brest for the first time last night.

An aircraft of Coastal Command on offensive patrol attacked with torpedo at 1145 today a 5,000 ton ship in an escorted convoy of 5 in 52° 25' N 4° 10' E (18 miles west of IJmuiden) and believes the vessel was hit.

Enemy Air Operations.

Examination Vessel M.A. WEST was sunk by air attack at 1427 today off Yarmouth.

Convoy F.S#88 was attacked again at 1850 today in 53° 28' N 1° E. but no damage is reported.

S.S. JESSIE MAERSK...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.14.5.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Operations. (contd).

S.S. JESSIE MAERSK in Convoy WN 26 was attacked at 2323 off Peterhead and had casualties but, it is believed no damage.

Convoy OB 321 was attacked this morning in the N.W. Approaches by 2 F.W. S.S. KARLANDER was badly damaged and had to be sunk.

Mining.Operation
S.N.9B.

1st M.L.S. and 4 destroyers left Port Z. A. at 1035 to lay mines off the S.E. coast of Iceland (c) with HERMIONE and escort and C.S.10 in NIGERIA, with KENYA, providing cover.

Harbour defence patrol craft MINICOY and an R.A.F. launch were mined about 1300 today off Milford Haven and sank.

Mediterranean.Syria

Owing to the use of Syrian aerodromes which is being made by German aircraft proceeding to Iraq, the War Office today informed C. in C. M.E. that he was free to act against German aircraft in Syria and on French aerodromes, irrespective of the possible effect of ^{each} such action on relations with Vichy and Free French.

Fleet Operations....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.14.5.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. (contd).Fleet
Operations.

V.A. 1st B.S. in QUEEN ELIZABETH with BARHAM, 3 cruisers and 7 destroyers left Alexandria p.m. today to operate south and west of Crete. Convoy A.S.31 is leaving Suda Bay tonight for Alexandria with personnel not required, escorted by DIDO, CALCUTTA and 4 destroyers.

Malta

Luqa Aerodrome was attacked by about 18 aircraft from 2200/13 to 0200/14; aircraft and buildings were damaged.

Libya

The bombardment of Derna, aerodrome by 7th C.S. last night was abandoned owing to the failure of communication with spotting aircraft.

Crete

Suda Bay was intermittently bombed last night and was dive bombed p.m. today, S.S. DALESMAN was hit and beached. Maleme and Candia was also heavily bombed and machine gunned; some aircraft were damaged on the ground at Maleme.

East Indies.

CANBERRA left Aden this morning to patrol between equator and 2° N, and 55° - 62° E.

America & West Indies.

The elimination of enemy shipping has enabled C. in C. A.W. & I. to employ his available ships in a more offensive manner. Two groups have been formed to patrol in the central North Atlantic with the object of intercepting raiders and supply ships. One group consists of a "D" class cruiser and oiler and the other of VAN KINSBERGEN and PRINCE DAVID.

War Diary.

14.5.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Conference
on Fighter
Protection
for
Shipping.

Cancel my 1313/13. Regret it has been found that notice is too short to enable all Naval representatives concerned to attend on date proposed. (A.C.N.S.(T) 0028B/14.)
Cancel my 1313/13. A preliminary conference presided over by the Director of Home Operations will be held in Admiralty at 1100/16 to discuss items on an Agenda prepared by Air Ministry with regard to improving the system for providing fighter protection for shipping. Authorities addressed are requested to send a representative. (A.C.N.S.(T) 0029B/14 to C's in C. Home Commands.)
Al47 14/5. Your 1313/13. If convenient to you propose to hold conference at 1030/23. (H.Q.F.C. 1745/14 to Adty.)

SURCOUF.

My 1427/14. I estimate that SURCOUF is perfectly qualified for the mission of long duration foreseen. Such mission however can be assumed in a usual manner only if this ship has got the spare crew to be used as help and spare hand. Almost all this crew is now missing. Following 14 Ratings are badly needed. Most desirable that SURCOUF should find these men at her future base for immediate replacing of the certain losses of the voyage. (SURCOUF 1503/14.)

3 Trawlers
and
4 Whalers
for
Mediterranean.

Request you will sail the following mine-sweeping vessels for the Mediterranean via the Cape, as they become available:-
(a) Trawlers. LORD IRWIN, CORDELA, LORINDA, NORSE.
(b) Whalers: GOS.7, KOS 10, KOS 11 KOS 12.
2. (a) The endurance of the trawlers will be given by the reply to Adty., 1646/24/4.
(b) The endurance of the whalers is estimated to be 1900 miles at 10 knots. Request you will report the route adopted.
3. C's in C. concerned are requested to arrange for onward route from Freetown.
4. The sailing of ships should not be delayed in order that they may proceed in company. (D.O.D.(F) 1636B/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

* Given as L.L. Transfer on the high.

War Diary.

14.5.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Iceland.

Your O.760 cipher 12/5.
What additional garrison do you recommend.
(War Office 2020/14 to G.O.C. Iceland.)

Movements.

REPULSE
ARGUS.

My 2256B/10. REPULSE will be required to afford ocean escort to Gibraltar to ARGUS and VICTORIOUS.

2. This force will sail in company with convoy W.S.8.(B). The position where this force is to be detached from the main convoy will be promulgated by Admiralty. (V.C.N.S. 1105B/14. to REPULSE.) Been ordered (?E.T.A.) Clyde with ARGUS, EMPRESS OF JAPAN, and 5 destroyers at 1415B/15. ARGUS is discharging 812 squadron to Campbeltown, E.T.A. 0930B/15. (REPULSE 2254B/14.)

VICTORIOUS.

VICTORIOUS is to sail from Rosyth at 0530/15 and after degauss ranging off Burntisland is to sail for Scapa carrying out programme as in VICTORIOUS's 1558/12. Capt. (D) 6 is to sail AURORA, SOMALI, BEDOUIN, and ESKIMO from Rosyth A.M. 15th to R/V as required by VICTORIOUS and act under orders of VICTORIOUS as close escort to Scapa. (C. in C. Rosyth 1120/14.)

BERWICK.

Admiralty 1944B/12 Para. 3. Request you sail one Destroyer to provide A/A escort from Dunnett Head to May Island. (C. in C. H.F. 1423B/14 to R.A.D.) Scapa departure PUNJABI to escort BERWICK. (A.C.O.S. 2230/14.)

/FURIOUS.....

421

War Diary.14.5.41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. Contd.FURIOUS.

At Daylight/15 detach TARTAR, MASHONA to Scapa. LEGION to H.G. 61 for which orders follow. (C. in C. W.A. 1637B/14 to FURIOUS.)

KOS. 5.

KOS 5 at present at Greenock is to be sailed as early as convenient for duty under N.D.I.C. Faroos.
(D.O.D.H. 1640/14.)

SURCOUF.

Sailed 2130 SURCOUF escorted by WILD SWAN 2. Escort parts company in 049° 45' N., 004° 27' W., proceeding thence to Needles. E.T.A. Bermuda 14/6/41. (C. in C. Plymouth 2232/14.)

Operations.M.T.B.
Sweep.

M.T.B.'s report sighted nothing. Visibility 5000 yards. Approached to two miles Weneuyne Bank. North West Hinder Buoy extinguished. No activity ashore. M.G.B.'s nothing to report. Conditions very good. (BEEHIVE 1027B/14.)

Jan Mayen.

Request you will ask Jan Mayen report on the ice conditions around the island. (C. in C. H.F. 1052B/14 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.) HONNINGSVAAG and H.J.BULL sailed for Jan Mayen 2000 tonight with additional personnel and stores. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1849B/14.)

British Air Activity.Patrols.

Patrol ~~UNST~~ ^{"Unst"} being flown 0500 - 0800/14.
Patrol ~~ROSYTH~~ P.M./14.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0312/14.)
Parallel track A/S Sweep will be flown by 3 Whitleys from 2200/14 to 0110/15 covering following area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1822/14.)

3 Whitley.....

War Diary.14.5.41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. Contd.Patrols
Contd.

3 Whitley aircraft from following Datum Line at 1400/15 to sweep to a depth of 300 miles on track 304°.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1936/14.)
My 1936/14. Amend to read "datum line 58° 04' N., 05° 49' W - 59° 02' N., 05° 12' W" and amend track to 282°.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2344/14.)

Heligoland
pombed.
2 M/V's
damaged or
sunk.

Night 13/14. All operations were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather. On 13/5 at Heligoland, ten A/C dropped 4 tons of bombs. The main streets were machine gunned, and a gun-post and barrack blocks were also machine gunned. A 12,000 ton passenger cargo vessel lying at St. Nazaire received at least one direct hit, and large flash and flames were observed from amidships. This is claimed as very severely damaged. A 2,000 ton merchant vessel off Ushant was also hit and left listing to port and settling by the stern. This is claimed as a total loss.
(H.Q.B.C. 0415/14.)

Operation "Harley".
~~HARLEY.~~

^{"Harley"} Operation HARLEY completed 1600 today.
(C.D.B. 1700/14 to 41 Group.)

5000-Ton
M/V attacked
off Helder.

Ref. ^{Rover.} ROVER. T/22 reports sighted convoy of 5 MV (1 of 5000 tons and 4 of 2,500) 2 EV. 6° 700 Tons in 52° 25' N., 4° 10' E., at 1142,00, 220T., SP 5-6 kts. At 1145 dropped torpedo from 80 ft. at 600 yards range. Aimed at largest MV. Torpedo seen to run straight and large column of black smoke seen. Actual hit not seen owing to misty weather and avoiding action taken by aircraft. Intense heavy and light flak from all seven ships. No hits registered by flak. (Chatham 1737/14.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.14.5.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.LOTTINGE
(Bombed
13/5).

SEA GIANT is to proceed immediately to 20 C Buoy to assist MONA'S ISLE standing by damaged vessel. On no account is vessel to enter Tyne if in danger of sinking or drawing more than 25 feet. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0014/14).
MONA'S ISLE towing LOTTINGE to South of Swept Channel to anchor between T. and T.2 Buoys. Vessel report steam available and in no danger of sinking. SEA GIANT standing by. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0103/14).
SEA GIANT returned to Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0222/14).

Convoy O.B. 321
KARLANDER
(Norwegian,
1843 tons)
sunk.

2 F.W. Condors attacked OB. 321. KARLANDER boiler room, engine room, and hold flooded, Salvage impossible. CAMPANULA sinking her by gunfire. Crew in rescue ships.
(VANQUISHER 0815B/14)
Your 1426B/14 reference my 0815B /14. P.c. & S. 055° 31' N 014° 42' W 286° 7½ knots.
(VANQUISHER 1600B/14).

Aircraft report.
(H.Q. 15 Group 2235/14).

Greenock
Air Raid.
damage.

Reference East India Graving Dock - Port of Greenock bomb damage items were as follows Details. Greenock Harbour Trust states repairs quite beyond financial capacity of the Trust. After full discussion it is agreed that necessary drive will only be forthcoming if Admiralty arrange for repair of docks and supply of two pumps.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1200/14 to Admty).

Convoy
attacked.

At 0815 saw Condor a/c attacking Convoy of 30 M/Vs and 6 escort ships in 54° 55' N 13° 10' W. One bomb seen to drop. No damage to convoy so far as known. A/C report (Limavady 1500/14 to Admty).

M.A. WEST.

(Examination vessel) Sunk by hostile aircraft 105° approx. 1 mile harbour entrance at 1427 today. Crew safe. (N.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth 1504/14)

Convoy
W.N. Even.

Convoy ~~being~~^{chitty} being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft bearing 120° course 100° my position 57° 43' N. 1° 43' W. (HASTINGS 1635/14).

Figh-ter Aircraft.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.14.5.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.→ Convoy
W.N. Even.
(contd).Fighter Aircraft being despatched to assist-
ance of Convoy ~~CHITTY~~ Convoy ~~SINCLAIR~~ Sinclair.
(Rosyth 1651/14).Shoeburyness
Signal Station
bombed on
night 11/12.Following damage to R.N. S.S. Shoeburyness
caused on night 11/12 as a result of small
bomb falling 100 yards away. Functioning of
premises not interfered with.
(O.C.W. Sheerness 1710/14).Ryde
bombed.Air raid at dawn on 12/5 caused damage
to MEDINA. Estimated cost of damage £100.
(S.C.E. Portsmouth 1800/14).Convoy F.S.†88Enemy A/C bombing convoy ^{"Arena"} ~~ARENA~~ in 53° 28' N
1° E.

(EMPIRE SOLDIER 1850/14).

Fighters are being sent to assist convoy ^{"Arena"} ~~ARENA~~
(Nore W/T 1905B/14).Enemy A/C bombing convoy ^{"Arena"} ~~ARENA~~ in position
53° 28' N 1° E.

(EMPIRE SOLDIER 1950B/14).

Brest.
Balloon
Barrage..Sortie W/584. Further examination reveals
for first time Balloon Barrage of 33 balloons
over Brest.
(C.I.U. Medmenham, 2015/14 to H.Q.C.C.)→ Convoys W.N.
Even and "Daffodil"
DAFFODIL.Air protection being sent to Convoy ^{"Chitty"} ~~CHITTY~~
and ~~DAFFODIL~~ "Daffodil".
(Rosyth W/T 2243/14).JESSIE
MAERSK.(Danish 1972 tons). Attacked by aeroplane
seven miles south by West of Peterhead.
(Lyness W/T Recd. 2323/14).
Position 57° 15' N 1° 38' W.
(Lyness W/T Recd., 2334/14).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.14.5.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Plymouth.

Owing to suspected minelaying do not arrive at Seaward End of QZS 188 before 0700. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0248/14 to VIDETTE).

Operation B.S. 56.

Intend TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER and CATTISTOCK to sail from Spurn Point at 0715/15 and arrive Tyne 1915/15. Sail from Tyne at 0530/16 and R/V with minesweepers at 200 Buoy at 0715/16, proceeding thence through Gap B and five miles west of B.S.55 to initial position. Laying will begin at 1300/16. Return from south end of line to 18 Buoy and thence to Humber. (S.O. M/L Immingham 1005/14).

S.N. 9 B.

Departure Port Z.A. R.A. (M) in AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, ELECTRA, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, ST. MARYS. (TRELAWNEY 1035/14).

R.A.F. Launch 316 sunk.
MINICOY
(Harbour Defence Vessel) sunk.

Sunk by acoustic mine outside swept channel in position 104° St. Annes 14 cables. One survivor. Harbour defence vessel MINICOY who proceeded to her assistance was also sunk by acoustic mine her position 094° St. Annes 11 cables. Four survivors. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1423/14). MINICOY was mined at about 1300 today in Milford Haven and sank immediately. The following are missing presumed drowned. Names. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1625/14).

River Thames.

Cancel my 1832/13. Operation will now take place 1830/15th. (F.O.I.C. London, 1515/14).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.14.5.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Convoy off
Boulogne.

Report of 1 large ship 5,000 to 10,000 tons and 8 to 10 smaller vessels 10 to 20 miles S.W. Boulogne 5 to 10 miles off the Coast, course North.

One aircraft to verify this and report on conditions over target and cloud cover available.

(Chatham, 1115/14)

→ Brest.

Both battlecruisers in usual positions. Rade Abri and Rade de Brest obscured by cloud. Floating dock has left dry dock since last night and is now seen at its previous position alongside 150 ton electric crane. A balloon barrage around the town and along the breakwater was seen for the first time on last night's Sortie W/584.

(P.R.U. St. Eval 1125/14).

Brest 1845/14. Both Battlecruisers still present in their usual positions.

(D.D.I.C. 1949/14)

Wooden
Vessel West of
Brest.

At 1135 sighted wooden vessel at anchor in 48° 28' N 08° 24' W approx 60 ft. very broad in beam, big hold, wheelhouse.

1 life boat, auxiliary motor, 2 small masts, wearing French flag on after mast, 300 yards astern was a ring of oily scum.

(Plymouth Broadcast 1700/14 to H.Q.19 Group).

→ Brest. Both battlecruisers in normal positions. One M/V approx 380 ft. has arrived in Rade Abri where another M/V 300 ft. is still present. 530 ft. M/V still anchored in Rade De Brest. Balloon barrage still in position.

(P.R.U. St. Eval 2125/14)

FARNDALE's
Trawler.

Trawler you are escorting is to be referred to as the Norwegian FROYEN. Inform trawler. (A.C.O.S. 2337B/14 to FARNDALE).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.14.5.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

W.S. 8 B.

Revised proposals for embarkation of Personnel.
(D.S.T. 0746 B/14 to P.S.T.O. West Scotland, etc).

H.G. 60

Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all ships of convoy H.G.60.
(C. in C. W.A. 1149/14 to Vice Adm. Mackworth)

F.N.(M)
and
F.S.(M) convoys
superseded.

Coastal colliers are mostly slow ships. In order to expedite their movements and so assist in building up stocks of coal in South of England during summer months, the F.N.(M) and F.S.(M) convoys are to be superseded by F.N.(S) and F.S.(S) convoys on an early date agreed between C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Rosyth. The E.C.(M) convoy is from the same date to be for ships of not less than 7 knots from Southend to Methil and for ships of not less than 8 knots from Methil onwards.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1936B/14 to Cs. in C Nore, Rosyth)

Warning of
Hostile
Aircraft.

A black flag is to denote that aircraft has not been identified and should be regarded with suspicion.
Hoisting of the flag is to be accompanied by a long blast on the whistle or syren, to be repeated by all ships of the convoy. This signal is not to be used on East Coast of U.K.
(D.S.D. 1957/14 to G.B.M.S. all areas except A.I.G.12)

Service
Personnel.

Re number of Government personnel who may travel in unescorted merchant ships.
(4th S.L., 1958B/14 to Cs. in C.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.14.5.1941.
Wednesday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.ULSTER
MONARCH.

12 pdr. H.A.IX mounting in ULSTER MONARCH is permanently distorted. Gun was lifted, but repairs are not possible in time available. Request allocation of another mounting may be made for future occasion of ship being taken in hand.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1637B/14).

MOST SECRETWar Diary14.5.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSGeneralRaiders

My 1936B/7. Intelligence (D.D.I.C. 2217B/14) See Lion Copy.

North AtlanticLisbon
Refugees.

Your 2238B/12 and my 1906/13. Request early information as to date of arrival these transports. No hotel accommodation ashore as ARDEOLA is not passenger ship and refugees will have to be put in between deck it is most essential that transfer transport takes place on arrival of ARDEOLA. Also desirable ARDEOLA should arrive Gibraltar simultaneously first transport so that voyage may be made if necessary. (F.O.C.N.A., 1006/14 to Admty.)

Interception of
French Ships.

Ref. S.O. Force H's 1034/13/5 and Admty. 2028/27/4 (N.T. in W.D.) I am unaware of and instructions given to REGENT regarding either of the above messages. PANDORA had orders to comply (?with) Admty. 2028/27/4 on leaving my station. My 1020/20/4 refers (F.O.C.N.A. 1040/14 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Explosions

Your 1841B/13 my 1909/10 and my 1051/11. This does not appear to be same case as reported French broadcast no lives lost and explosion in sight of Portuguese coast. (N.A. Lisbon, 1104/14 to Admty.)

ERNANI
(Italian)

Now alongside the jetty loading cargo previously loaded into warehouse. (Consul, Las Palmas. 1220/14 to Admty.)

Gibraltar

Your 1932/6. Policy re evacuation. (Hd. of M., 1300B/14 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume.

/Dutch S/M's....

SECRET.

429/A

Addressed, C. in C. Home Fleet 539. Date 14.5.41.
 Naval Attache Washington.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic. 285.
 C. in C. South Atlantic 92.
 N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 875.
 R.A. South American Division 57.
 C. in C. America and West Indies, 74.
 Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, 172
 C. in C. China. 934.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 51.
 C. in C. East Indies, 192.
 New Zealand Naval Board, 172.

Inter-departmental Cypher (10).

From Admiralty,
 NITE.

My 1936B/7. Atlantic A unit, probably a surface craft, was D/Pd. within 150 miles of 27° 30' N. 27° 30' W. on 12th May.

Now known that SCHEER sank STANPARK on 20th January having previously captured SAIDE JORD & BARNEVELDT which were sent to Bordeaux with prisoners. SCHEER had R/V with NORDMARK, alias DIXIE, SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA, in estimated position 20°S. 15° W. on 28th January. She could not have sunk BURMOCHUS, which may have been attacked by No. 10 and No. 46. latter a new raider believed to have left port beginning of January. NORDMARK reported to carry torpedo tubes below bridge and one 5.9" gun on poop. Graded B.2.

German ship PORTLAND which sailed TALCAHUANO January 30th made R/V with NORDMARK in S. Atlantic and then took prisoners back to Bordeaux. Rio Grande performed similar service mid-November 1940.

NORDMARK appears to have left Germany in September 1940 and acted as supply and prison ship for SCHEER, 10, 33, 46, SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. She may now have reached France.

Indian Ocean. H.M.S. CORNWALL investigating RRRR from BRITISH EMPEROR located No. 33 by A/C and after all day chase sank her in 003°50'N. 057°48'E. on 8th May. 33 made RRRR as from Norwegian ship TAMERLANE but finally turned and opened fire. After ten minutes blew up with big explosion. 150 mines reported on board. Armament 5-5.9", 3 or 4 torpedo tubes, one aircraft.

One whale catcher in company with 33 - 5th May. D/P indications of at least one other unit in Indian Ocean. No.33 left Germany June 1940, attacked DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA 30th July N. of Ascension, then following in Indian Ocean - FILEFJELL, BRITISH COMMANDER, MORVIKEN, BEN VON, NORDVARD, STORSTAD, which mined SPENCER GULF and possibly BASS STRAITS No.33 mining HOBART and then sinking NOWSHERA, MAIMOVA, PORT BRISBANE, PORT WELLINGTON, R/V with SCHEER and NORDMARK 6th January approximate position 17°S. 17°W. then captured whale refineries and remained with them till about 17th February. May have attacked CONFORD CHINE on Plate route. Sank EMPIRE LIGHT 25th April, CLAN BUCHANAN 28th April, BRITISH EMPEROR 7th May, north of Seychelles.

Pacific. Mine washed ashore N.S.W. 7th April now thought to have been laid in November 1940.

2217B/14.

D.D.I.C.

Green line 8.

1st Lord.

D.T.D.(4).

1st S.L.

D.T.D.(M).

4th S.L.

Cdr. Holbrook.

V.C.N.S.

O.I.C. (4).

A.C.N.S.(H).

D. of P. (3).

A.C.N.S.(F).

D.S.D.9.

A.C.N.S.(T). (2).

D.A/S.W.

Naval Sec.

W.D.

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

D.P.D.

Ops (4).

D.S.D.(2).

D.N.I. (4).

M. (2).

O.D. (5).

I.P. (3).

War Diary14.5.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.Dutch S/M's
use in
Mediterranean.

Admty. 2251/10. Dutch submarines do not carry sufficient internal fuel to operate at this distance from Gibraltar and Dutch C.O. consider fuel in external tanks might leak through vent if latter was sprung by depth charge even though cotted. Suggestions. Request early approval. (S. 8., 1625A/14 to F.O.S.)

Damage to Ships.
B.B.C. News.

B.B.C. news today stated none of H.M. Ships sustained any damage during operations in Central Mediterranean between 6/5 and 12/5. Repairs to RENOWN as result of gun accident and to FORTUNE as result of near miss are inevitably common knowledge here. As Dockyard employs 14 different nationalities, I consider such false statements furnish material for enemy propaganda. (F.O.C.N.A. 1814/14 to Admty.) (Reply: 1130/16)

South AtlanticMAURITIUS
W.S. 8 A.

Departure 0800/14. MAURITIUS escorting convoy W.S. 8 A. (less HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN) Local A/A escort WISHART, DUNCAN, BOREAS and HIGHLANDER until p.m./16. (S.O.I. Freetown 1157N/14 to Admty.)

NELSON
Fuelling
St. Helena.

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 0633/13. (?) Several types of ships have fuelled alongside successfully at St. Helena since last October with little difficulty. Oiler there has stirrup gear 315 feet 3½" and 120 feet 5" hose with necessary adaptation. Passage at 13 knots approved but approach through at least last 800 miles to Freetown should be at 18 knots. If endurance in doubt, fuelling by stirrup method St. Helena should be further considered. (C. in C. S.A., 1317N/14 to NELSON)

Submarines
Argentine

The acting President last night informed H.M. Ambassador that decree banning entry of submarines to Argentine waters would be signed last night Tuesday. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1415/14 to D.N.I. etc.)

/DORSETSHIRE...

War Diary14.5.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.DORSETSHIRE

C. in C. S.A. 1027N/11 and 2137N/12
Destination of DORSETSHIRE is Tyne, where she will be taken in hand for a short refit by Messrs. Palmers of Hebburn. (D.O.D. (H) 1831B/14 to C. in C. S.A.)

Munitions
landed at
St. Vincent.

British Consul St. Vincent report 1805/11 states 100 officers and N.C.Os, 800 Portuguese troops and about £50,000 worth of munitions and equipment were landed St. Vincent 11/5. Should like information whether this is likely to be directed against occupation of islands by British or U.S.N. or whether in view of possibility of attack by Axis Powers. (C. in C. S.A., 1839N/14 to Admty.)

ARUNDEL CASTLE

Return to port of departure. (C. in C. S.A., 1926N/14 to ARUNDEL CASTLE)
Admty. 1337B/7. ARUNDEL CASTLE sailed from Freetown 14/5 routed to U.K. in error has accommodation for 40 first and second class 200 troop deck only remainder of space having been filled with cargo at Cape. Has been recalled to be re-routed to Gibraltar. NEA HELLAS expected to arrive Gibraltar about 23/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1927N/14 to F.O.C.N.A. Admty.)

NEA HELLASVENEZUELA

Overdue shipping. Swedish VENEZUELA Faroes departure 13/4 due Rio de Janeiro 2/5 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1956N/14 to Admty.)

South African
Whale Catchers.

My 1207B/10/5. In view of reallocation which is understood to have been arranged between Dominions Office and Union High Commissioner of whale catchers fitting out in S.A., request early confirmation that (1) NOBLE NORA group at Durban (Admty. 2021/18/2) will not be manned by Admty. My 2352/24/3 to Admty. refers. (2) NORDOEN, MEKTOR VI, POL I, and POL V, will be turned over to Union Govt.

/(3).....

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

South African
Whale Catchers-
Contd.

(3) Eight whale catchers for LL sweeping at present belonging to Union Govt. will be made available to Admty. fully manned on same basis as 22nd A/S group.
(4) Officers appointed by Admty. to vessels in groups 1 and 2 above now understood to be on passage to S. Africa to join ships should be sent on to Alexandria for disposal. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2009B/14 to Admty.)

ADAMELLO
FAUSTO

Italian, at Montevideo. Crews allowed to return to their ships, but guards are to remain on board. (D.S., 618, 15/5)

Durban
Defences.

Request you bring to notice of South African Government desirability of providing anti-torpedo defence across harbour mouth at Durban. (Head of M. 2051A/14 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Mediterranean.

"Tiger"
Convoy.

*EMPIRE SONG
had been sunk (name)
9/5*

Report estimated date on which each ship of "Tiger" Convoy will be unloaded.
(1st S.L. 0037B/14 to R.A. Alexandria.)
CLAN CHATTAN 15. CLAN LAMONT 17. CLAN CAMPBELL 19, NEW ZEALAND STAR about 22.
Ref your 0037/14. These are earliest dates and without allowing for interruption. (R.A. Alexandria 1256C/14 to Admty.)
Request you inform A.O.C. Med. that T.L. appreciate the important part R.A.F. at Malta played in getting "Tiger" through. (1st S.L., 0038/14 to V.A.M.)

Air Report.

Operational Summary No 338 up to 1200 hrs. 14/5 1941. 13/5. During afternoon one enemy aircraft reconnoitred Suez Canal. Night 12/13. Suda Bay bombed by single aircraft for 7 hours during night. No damage or casualties. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1043/14)

Suda Bay
Bombed.

/Malta Convoy..

MOST SECRETWar Diary14.5.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta Convoy

Propose CLAN CHATTON, CLAN LAMONT, CLAN CAMPBELL and NEW ZEALAND STAR for next Malta convoy. THERMOPOLYAE, TALABOT, SETTLER, AMERIKA, to be released on return to Egypt. (C. in C., Med., 1108C/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt, D. of S.T.)

ITHAKA
CORDELIA
YALOVA
German.

Believed loaded with ammunition, left Constanza 1800/12 for Salonika, estimated speed 9 knots. Cargo believed camouflaged with tobacco on top. (Capt. S. 1. 1111C/14 to RORQUAL)

ITHAKA entered Bosphorus south bound 1100 C. hours. Particulars as on previous voyage. (S.O.I. Istanbul, T.H.I., 1251/14 B.S.T.)

CORDELIA 1400 tons YALOVA 3800 tons entered Bosphorus 1800C. and 1930 C hours Estimated speed 9 and 10. (S.O.I. Istanbul 2038/14 to Cairo for C. in C. Med.)

*See also next page*Corinth Canal.

Cancel my 1050/4. Did you receive full report Corinth Canal despatched 8/5 possible time of origin 1214? (N.A. Canea, 1152/14 to Admty.)

Shipping in Black Sea Ports.

My 1812/13 para C (2) of 65 ferry steamers, only about (? fifty) Bosphorus, nine Smyrna, and remaining six probably Dardanelles. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1215/14 to Admty.)

German Ships in Spanish Ports.

Cartagena reports reason to believe all German ships in Spanish Mediterranean ports are to go to Marseilles immediately as Germans require more shipping for transport Europe to North Africa. (No (? assessment.) (N.A. Madrid 1315/14 to Admty.)

CAMPINA German Ships for Aegean.

Roumanian tanker CAMPINA passed Istanbul 0845 C today for Aegean. Fully loaded 3800 tons petroleum. Speed 10 (details) Ref. my immediately preceding telegram (1920/13) German ships not signalled yet. Possibly calling Bourgas. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1510/14 to Cairo for C. in C. Med.)

/Malta.....

War Diary14.5.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Malta
Air Raids.

Report Malta up to 1600 hours 14/5. Times G.M.T. Night 13/14. About 18 aircraft over from 2200 to 0200 hours. Target Luqa aerodrome where 12 bombs dropped. Some bombs Imtarfa Hospital, negligible civilian damage and no casualties. 2 patrols during day of about 10 M.E. 109's First patrol 14000 to 10000 covering recco JU. 88 and 2nd dropping small bombs Luqa and Takali aerodromes. No casualties. 2 Hurricanes shot down. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1635/14)

Malta
Supplies.

Your 1758/12. Every merchant ship which can be provided for U.K. import programme is of utmost value at present. Whilst recognising special difficulties of Malta, would urge that stock position there appears satisfactory, and it is hoped next supply convoy can be limited and especially use of refrigerated ships and tanker can be avoided. We would much prefer at present one or two ships for small convoy to a large convoy of four fast ships. (D.S.T., 1703B/14 to V.A. Malta.)

ITHAKA
CORDELIA
YALOVA
(German)

N.A. Ankara reports reported to have sailed Constanza 1800/12 presumably for Aegean. Speed 9 knots. Local authorities informed. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1731/14 to Admty.)

*See previous page.*German Aircraft
in Syria.

You are certainly free to act against German aircraft in Syria and on French aerodromes irrespective of possible effect of such action on relations with Vichy and Free French. We realise that you cannot with certainty differentiate between German and French aircraft but this cannot be helped and it should be impressed on the French in Syria that it is they who are drawing the war to their country by conniving at and indeed assisting German penetration. (W.O. 2215/14 to C. in C. M.E. Chiefs of Staff No 107.)

[Attacked on 15/5, see page 465]

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

LAWRENCE
Attitude of
Iranians.

My 1916/13 S.N.O.P.G. informs me that LAWRENCE has sent letter ashore explaining that she is in Iraq^W waters. Iranians have mounted Bren guns on shore and trained them on ship. S.N.O.P.G. has referred matter to Minister Teheran explaining that LAWRENCE has been at Fao without objections for over a week and pointing out present dispositions of H.M.B.F. in Shatt-El-Arab^h area, none of which does he consider as constituting a visit to Iranian port. He also communicated with Iranian C. in C. on the matter. (C. in C. E.I., 0054Z/14 to Admty.)

My 0054/14/5. Consul Khorramshahr visited local Iranian C. in C. Latter was not unfriendly but apparently trying to save face. S.N.O. Persian Gulf intends to take no action until he hears from Teheran. In meantime he has instructed LAWRENCE to avoid any incident. (C. in C. E.I., 0710Z/14 to Admty.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH

In view of A.C.N.B.'s 0938/10 request you arrange for QUEEN ELIZABETH to proceed Singapore for docking. (D. of S.T., 0747B/14 to C. in C. E.I.)

America Shipping
Suez.

Re discharge of increased shipments, Suez and Port Sudan, chiefly in American ships. (D. of S.T., 0815B/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.) See Lion Copy.

AQUITANIA
ILE DE FRANCE

Your 1834/10. Dangers of these large ships using Durban and Colombo during S.W. Monsoon. (C. in C. E.I., 1228Z/14 to Admty) See Lion Copy. *See page 235 B.*

CAMERONIA
HECTOR
CARTHAGE

D.S.T.O. Mombasa 1120/12. H.T. CAMERONIA carrying 1000 prisoners and 800 service personnel, is to sail from Mombasa a.m./16 escorted by HECTOR. CARTHAGE is to leave Durban a.m./17 and proceed to R.V. with HECTOR and CAMERONIA in about 021° S., on 19/5. After making R.V. CARTHAGE is to escort CAMERONIA to Durban and HECTOR (A.M.C.) is to proceed to Mombasa at 15 knots. CAMERONIA route. (C. in C. E.I., 1102Z/14 to N.O.I.C. East Africa.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0815B/14th May.
OUT.

To: P.S.T.O. Egypt Date 14.5.41.
Repeated R.A.Alexandria for A.D.P.
S.O.(I) Alexandria for Barker.
C. in C. Middle East.

Interdepartmental Cypher (10)

~~From D. of S.T.~~

*American
shipping
Suez*

IMPORTANT. Shipments of cased vehicles from U.S.A. and Canada to Middle East will be greatly increased during May and succeeding months and arrivals during July may be as many as 9000 vehicles. Most of these will be carried in American ships which cannot proceed beyond Suez and for political reasons must not be delayed there more than time actually required for discharge.

2. It has been stated that capacity to clear unassembled vehicles does not exceed 100 daily at Suez and 50 daily at Port Sudan the latter being single pack. Limiting factor is presumably clearance from port rather than discharge from ship.

3. In view of desirability of making utmost use of all American tonnage offered request you will state whether these figures are confirmed and if not your estimate of capacity of both ports to deal with this traffic under present conditions assuming priority over other shipping.

4. You should consult C. in C. Middle East who is understood to have received similar enquiry from War Office together with request for further information regarding assembly at Port Sudan and Mombasa.

5. Request immediate reply as American ships are now beginning to load.

0815B/14.
D. of S.T.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 Capt. |
| A.C.N.S. (T) (2) | 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) | D. of S.T. |

MOST SECRET

43 (B)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1228Z/14 May.

IN

From C. in C. East Indies.

Date. 15.5.41.

Recd. 0150.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) (by cable).

138

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated N.O.i/c Alexandria for P.S.T.O. Egypt,
Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, N.O.i/c Simonstown,
N.O.i/c Durban.

IMPORTANT.

645. Your 1834/10. In addition to the doubts expressed by Master of H.T. AQUITANIA regarding the use of Durban by his ship the Masters of AQUITANIA and ILE DE FRANCE have now both protested against their ships being required to berth in Colombo during the force of the S.W. Monsoon, i.e. between mid-June and mid-August.
2. Master of AQUITANIA considers his ship is too long (901 feet) and margin of loaded draught (36 feet) over depth in harbour entrance (41 feet but liable to decrease to 39 feet during monsoon) too small for safe handling.
3. Master of ILE DE FRANCE states draught when fully loaded is just under 36 feet and a slight list increases it considerably (57 inches per ten degree list). Draught on leaving Colombo 6th May was 36 feet. He also considers margin of draught over harbour depth too small in view of sand in harbour during monsoon, particularly in harbour entrances.
4. Port Authorities are in agreement with both masters and consider that berthing of these large ships in Colombo during height of S.W. monsoon is attended with grave risks and should be avoided if at all possible.
5. In view of statement of master of ILE DE FRANCE concerning draught it appears doubtful if this ship is any better than AQUITANIA for using Durban but as she is the smaller ship she would probably be the more suitable.
6. If AQUITANIA returns to U S convoys it is for consideration in view of paras two and four whether she should not proceed to Trincomalee during the S.W. monsoon for fuel and water in preference to Colombo but anchor outside repeat outside the boom in the Northern examination anchorage. From the point of view of security I am reluctant to make this suggestion but I see no alternative and there are the following factors to be taken into account.
 - (A) Stay should not exceed 36 hours.
 - (B) Submarine threat at present non-existent.
 - (C) Ship under coast defence guns and seaward reconnaissance by aircraft and patrol craft can be provided.
 - (D) The anchorage is as well sheltered as in the inner harbour.
7. Fuelling and watering of three ships at Trincomalee would present difficulties but if distilling ship STAGPOOL (not in Mediterranean) and two tankers could be made available these difficulties could probably be overcome.

/8.....

See 435

8. There is no doubt that these large liners using harbours for which they were not designed cause considerable anxiety to the port authorities concerned and certainly the grounding of one of them in a harbour entrance might have serious repercussions. Colombo for example is inadequately provided with tugs suitable for such an emergency.

9. N.O.i/c Alexandria pass P/L copy to P.S.T.O.Egypt.

1228z/14.

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. (3).
 W.D.
 Duty Capt.
 Hd. of M.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D.(2).
 N.I.D. 10.(Pay.Cdr.Wilson).
 D. of S.T.

MOST SECRETWar Diary14. 5. 1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.CORNWALL
action with
raider 8/5.

Re disposal of prisoners and British survivors. (C. in C. E.I., 1332Z/14 to Governor, Seychelles)

Convoy B.P. 3.

Consisting of 4 personnel ships, arrived Rooka Flat at 0930Z/15 and proceeds to Basra. (C. in C. E.I., 1536Z/14 to Admty.)

German Planes
at Damascus.Approx. 14 German planes painted in Iraqi colours reached Damascus on 11/5. It is likely that German planes will continue to use Syrian aerodromes unhindered by Vichy. These planes destined for assistance of Iraqi forces. Graded A.1.
(D.N.I., 1555B/14 to C. in C. E.I., S.N.O. P.G.)Ceylon Naval
Volunteer Force.In June, 1940, Governor of Ceylon informed me Board of Ministers was anxious to consider placing Ceylon Naval Volunteer Force at disposal of H.M. for General Service for duration of War. In September after considering essential conditions which I had outlined, Ministers expressed their regret that financial position and constitutional difficulties precluded their proceeding with suggested offer. In January. I attended a Meeting of the Board to explain any doubtful points. I have just been informed Ministers have again decided against such an offer.
(C. in C. E.I., 1718Z/14 to Admty.)W.S. 7.
Cargoes, Suez.

Owing shortage of tugs and lighters at Suez it is not possible discharge cargo from W.S. 7 as well as from U.S. 10 B and other essential ships. Submit after embarking personnel ships ex W.S. 7 should be sailed for Aden forthwith, cargo being discharged at Mombasa or Durban and returned to Suez in suitable smaller ships. (S.S.T.O. Suez, 1837/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

436(A)

0900/14th May

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From. C. in C. Middle East.

Date 14.5.41.

Recd 2120.

CYPHER

Addressed. Spears Mission Brazzaville. Repeated. The War Office for Spears Mission.

13122. 0/64055 cipher 13/5.

At most satisfactory interview to-day between C. in C. and General Catroux following points were settled. Following for General de Gaulle from General Spears.

Para 1. Syria General Catroux is to broadcast from Jerusalem informing French in Syria of German penetration. His later propaganda will depend on circumstances.

Para. 2. Catroux is to prepare leaflets which should be ready to drop over Syria on night Thursday to Friday.

Para. 3. Free French now in Kistina in Palestine will remain there. They are on railway and can be moved on frontier rapidly. In any case this is only form of transport available.

Para. 4. Should response to propaganda be satisfactory C. in C. will give Free French all support he can in view of circumstances at the time.

Para. 5. Jibuti. (6 groups omitted) Colonel Brosset will be used in consultative capacity by General Cunningham.

Para. 6. Catroux goes to Palestine 15/6. So do I.

0900/14

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

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)

D.N.I. (4)

Ops (4)

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (2)

D. of P. (3)

M. (2)

D.S.D. 9.

I.P. (3)

W.D.

VP Adl. Chalmers.

Received from War Office 0325.

MOST SECRET

436(B)

M E S S A G E

2025/14th May.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 15.5.41.

Time 0700

CIPHER.

Addressed War Office. Repeated C. in C. India. G.O.C. Basra. A.O.C. Iraq. G.O.C. Palestine and Transjordan pass Highcom and Palforce.

IMMEDIATE.

13059. 9339 cipher 14/5.

For C.O.S. from C. in C. and A.O.C. in C.

One. Reports from Basra indicate local authorities there will not dissociate themselves from Rashid Ali's Government and that influential locals will not co-operate with us in setting up alternative local administration for fear of ultimate reprisals.

Two. For British to turn out hostile Iraqi officials and make new appointments even if latter would co-operate would provide further propaganda for Rashid Ali. Only way to get over this is for Regent to set up alternative Government which H.M.G. would then recognise. This would also remove lurking suspicions of Regent's entourage that we intend to take over administration of country.

Three. Suggest therefore that immediately Habforce is established Habbaniya, Regent should move to Ramadi and appoint Cabinet which H.M.G. should then recognise as De Jure Government of Iraq. One member of Cabinet preferably Minister interior then to go to Basra, dispose of recalcitrant officials and appoint others. If German air situation rules out Ramadi Basra or some other suitable centre should be substituted.

Four. H.M.G. will have to finance Government in first instance. This expedient seems only method of giving friendly Iraqis some focus and we consider it should be tried. If it fails position will be same as other allied Governments outside their territories. Merely to take representative of Regent with Habforce will not have same effect but will give impression that he is merely creature of British who intend occupying country or alternatively that we are hedging on question of recognition of Rashid Ali.

2025/14

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

Received from War Office.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Captain.
E.P.S.
Hd. of M.
I.P.
W.D.
N.I.D.10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

MOST SECRET

436 (c)

M E S S A G E 2027/14th May.

MOST SECRET.

III.

From MICE Middle East.

Date 15.5.41.

Time 0440

CIPHER.

Addressed A.O.C. Iraq. G.O.C. Basra pass Shaiba. Repeated The War Office. C. in C. India. G.O.C. Palestine and Transjordan pass Palforce.

IMMEDIATE.

13046. 9340 cipher 14/5.

One. H.M. Consul Kermanshah forwards following information given by Kettaneh of Beirut who arrived Kermanshah from Bagdad on 12/5.

Begins. Situation Bagdad. Iraqi forces Bagdad partly in Zawieh just beyond Doctor Maxs House with only remaining A.A. gun munitions and transport in gardens round Feisals new Mosque opposite Y.M.C.A. and in depots between Royal Hospital and cemetery. Defence Ministry in Sandersons house near British Institute. Rashid Ali spends mornings at Foreign Ministry. Other Ministries being transferred to new building Rashid Street next new Tigris Hotel. Cabinet split Rashid, Younis Sabatsheikj Ali Mahjud, Musa Shahbandar tentatively favour continued resistance. Najy Sahqat at Ankara, Naji Suwegdi at Riyadh. Rest of Ministers applying for visas for Syria. Tewfig Suweidi fleeing Teheran 13/5. Most Palestinians applied permission go Syria. Mufti planning flight to Nejd. Ibn Saud reluctantly agreed. Robba reported back staying with Rashid. Two German twin engined planes arrived A.M. 10/5 probably with diplomatic and military mission. Said Fehmi only one of Goldit Square who fought at Habbaniya gone mad in hospital. Morale of troops low. Looting started by small units in neighbourhood Bagdad. Three of four Suheil brothers arrested. Banks closed. Banknotes scarce. Prices risen. Government declared moratorium. Foodstuffs being requisitioned. No reimbursement. Posts and telegraphs held up except for Gaillanists. Funds for Army and Red Crescent being extorted from Jews. Several murders including some British subjects. Conditions likely progressively deteriorate.

Three. Troops being sent by night behind Aqarkuf through Jezirat opposite Ramadi and ferried across. Others being concentrated Diwaniyeh Liwa under Ibrahim Rawi for attack on Basra.

Four. Bombing and strafing of troops would be useful now. Also bombing W.T. Station on right bank Tigris. Morale of civil population Bagdad could be undermined by nightly dropping of flares and noisy pyrotechnics. Flares recently dropped caused great consternation. Temperament of Officers now running Country, arrival of Italian air instructors and of German Missions makes abandonment of hope or negotiation imperative. Ends.

Five. Comment by M.E.I.C. Kettaneh regarded as generally reliable informant and man of sound views.

2027/14

Advance copy D.N.I.

Recd. from War Office at 1325.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

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

D. of P. (2)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D.N.A.D.

I.P.

W.D.

Duty Captain.

Hl. of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

N.I.D.10. Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Indo-China

My 0929Z/12. Jouan supplied following brief details of Japan Indo-China Economic Agreement.
(C. in C. China, 0255Z/14, to Admty.)

America & West Indies

→ BULOLO
→ ASTURIAS

Admty. 1253B/10. Request early reply as to when BULOLO and ASTURIAS are to be expected. Docking details request are also urgently required. (B.A.R.M., 1059/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U.S. Naval Aircraft Liaison.

Piarco 1442Q/13 (N.T. in W.R.) Request you will approach U.S. Authorities with view to obtaining their concurrence Suggest that object of visit should be "To study U.S. methods of operating naval aircraft" and that officers might be attached for a period to aircraft carriers operating from Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1201Q/14 to N.A.Washington)

Adm. Lais

Admty. 1500/10. Passages arranged in EXCALIBUR sailed 12/5 at total cost of 1050 dollars American. Admiral Lais had no funds so I had to order passages at Admiralty expense. Request covering approval. (Care. i/c Bermuda, 1208Q/14 to Admty.)

→ MONTCLARE
→ BULOLO
→ ALBONIA
→ ASTURIAS

Your 2002B/6. Ships can be taken at Simpson Yard, Bathlehem Steel Co. Boston Mass. Job Nos. MONTCLARE 118, BULOLO 119, ALBONIA 120, ASTURIAS 121. (Washington, 0318/14 to Admty.)

VAN KINSBERGEN

Your 1338B/13 (N.T. in W.D.) Position is that elimination of enemy shipping has enabled me to employ available ships in a more offensive manner. Two groups have been formed to patrol in central North Atlantic with the object of intercepting raiders and supply ships, one group consists of a "D" class cruiser and oiler and the other of VAN KINSBERGEN and PRINCE DAVID. Advantage is being taken

/of reconnaissance.

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

VAN KINSBERGEN
-Contd.

of reconnaissance provided by American (? and other) forces. Under these circumstances I am most reluctant to release VAN KINSBERGEN for service mentioned in your 1507B/10 which I suggest is uneconomical use of a fine little ship. If it is decided to remove her, I consider she should be relieved by a vessel of at least similar strength. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1001Q/14 to Admty.)

U.S. Forces
Newfoundland
& Nova Scotia.

U.S. Naval Attache has been advised that beginning 16/5 2 plane tenders and 4 destroyers will be based at Argentina, Newfoundland. On or about 18/5 a squadron of patrol planes will pass along east coast Nova Scotia en route for Argentina but clear of territorial waters. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1604Z/14 to C.O.A.C. Halifax)

H.X. and
S.C. Convoys.

Your 1254/30/4. Bunker requirements. The following guiding principle has been agreed by Admiralty and Ministry of War Transport (begins) Masters of ships in H.X. and S.C. convoys should be informed or estimated distance of route and speed of convoy and instructed that in addition to the normal safety margin they should allow for an extra distance of 300 miles for possible rerouteing at sea. (ends). Following is now general policy
2. (a) Diesel tramps should arrive at U.K. destination with sufficient oil for a further 5,000 miles voyage.
(b) Diesel liners and all oil fired liners and tramps should arrive at U.K. destination with sufficient oil for return voyage to North American port.
(c) It is of great importance to bring in even small quantities of oil, therefore subject to foregoing wherever maximum cargo carrying capacity is not prejudiced ships in (a) and (b) should bunker to maximum capacity.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1917B/14 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

/Sydney.....

War Diary14.5.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies-Contd.Sydney and
Bermuda Convoys.

Your 2049Z/9. Difficulties are appreciated but alternative (A) is undesirable for the reason you state and (B) is unpracticable owing to inadequate numbers of escorts available. Considered that risk of collision should be small if Commodore of each section are instructed not to effect a junction in thick weather. If considered desirable D/F procedure between groups could be instituted but this would involve breaking W/T silence. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2022B/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

AustraliaMinesweepers
construction.

Following is position regarding first 10 A.M.S. built or building for Admty. BATHURST and LISMORE now at Singapore. GOULBURN and BURNIE temporarily attached to 20MSF. BENDIGO completes in May. RARMBOROUGH completes in June. BALLARAT, TOOWOOMBA complete in July. WYRALAN completes in August. KALGOORLIE completes October. Request decision as to proposed destination of Admty. AM.S., First M.T.B., A.M.S. for Commonwealth, INTHGOW and KATOOMBA, complete in June and July. (A.C.N.B., 0317Z/14 to Admty.)

*MARBOROUGH
XX LITHGOW

U.S. 11.
QUEEN ELIZABETH
ILE DE FRANCE

Your 2127/10. Consider docking advisable in view of S.S.T.O. Egypt's 2011C/7. Refer my 0938Z/10. Anticipate if docking is limited to 10 days, use of ILE DE FRANCE would delay convoy four days. Anticipate sailing date 21/6 from Sydney. (A.C.N.B. 0347Z/14 to D. of S.T.)

Greek Crews
Morale.

From recent visit at least 4 Greek vessels at Fremantle, S.O. (I) Fremantle has observed a definitely changed demeanor of crew following upon German occupation of Greece, reluctance to sail to Europe, desire for discharge in Australia, marked decline in enthusiasm for war. Reports from Australian sources point desirability of Greek vessels being taken over by Ministry of Shipping. (D.N.I., Melbourne 1351Z/14 to Admty.)

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE CLOUD
(Torpedoed 9/5)

Your 2130B/13. EMPIRE CLOUD was in 60° 23' N., 31° 34' W. at 1100/10 drifting 110° at 1½ knots. ST. APOLLO is standing by. (C. in C. W.A., 0209B/14 to ANEMONE) EMPIRE CLOUD taken in tow for North Channel by THAMES in 059° 32' N., 028° 44' W. at 1000/14 towing speed 6 knots. ST. APOLLO escorting. Condition of EMPIRE CLOUD entirely satisfactory for towing at full speed. Engine rooms and after holds flooded but ship riding high in water. Am proceeding to meet H.X. 124 ST. APOLLO requests destination of EMPIRE CLOUD. (ANEMONE 1100B/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

SALOPIAN
(Torpedoed 13/5)

*(Late Company
S.C. 30)*

Detach one Destroyer to assist AMAZON in search for survivors of SALOPIAN torpedoed and abandoned in 56° 43' N., 38° 57' W., at 1600 Z/13. Report name of ship detached. (C. in C. W.A., 0957B/14 to D. 3.)

My 1600Z/13 your 0957B/14 and 1003B/14. Since 2200Z/13 have searched area bound by following positions 057° 25' N., 037° 55' W., 056° 48' N., 039° 00' W., 056° 23' N., 039° 00' W., 056° 23' N., 037° 55' W.

Area south of latitude 056° 43' N., was searched during dark. Easterly set one knot experienced throughout 13th.

According to intercepted distress message referred to in my 1600Z/13 A.M.C. was torpedoed at 0630Z/13. Have just sufficient fuel to reach Reykjavik and am returning forthwith. My p.c. and s are 057° 17' N., 037° 42' W., (?1480 480) 13 knots. (Weather) (AMAZON, 1000Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C. 30 in company with H.X. 124 0900 G.M.T. P.C. & S 060° 30' N., 030° 45' W., 072° 7 knots, 53 ships. CIRCASSIA, 12th escort group Iceland portion less NORTHERN PRIDE, AUBRETIA and NIGELLA in company. One Corvette two trawlers sighted joining 1000. AMAZON detached 1400 13th to investigate 056° 43' N., 038° 57' W. SSSS Armed Merchant Cruiser torpedo transmission from ship's boat intercepted message by Commodore H.X. 124. SALOPIAN left SC 30 in 059° 04' N., 038° (? 15') W., at 1825Z/12, proceeding direct route for Halifax. 12th group

/have on board....

War Diary14.5.1941.
WednesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedSALOPIAN
(Torpedoed 13/5)
-Contd.

have on board survivors 11 from EMPIRE CARIBOU 43 from GANDA?, H.M.S. AUBRETIA 26 from ESMOND, H.M.S. NIGELLA 33 from EMPIRE CLOUD. My P.C and S 061° 25' N., 029° 00' W., 045° 12, proceeding to Iceland for fuel. Weather report. (SCIMITAR, 1600Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.,) Your 0957B. My P.C. and S are 058° 00' N. 035° 42' W., X 16 240° 28 knots. (IMPULSIVE 1800B/14 to C. in C. W.A.) My 0957B/14 and 1003B/14. Proceed with your whole force to carry out this search. (C. in C. W.A., 1816B/14 to D. 3.) Request I may be informed under whose orders Captain D. 3 is supposed to be operating. (C. in C. H.F., 2243B/14 to Admty.) Your 2243/14. It is considered that D.3 must work under C. in C. W.A., in order to co-operate with his forces. This should have been made clear by a signal from Admty. (1st Sea Lord. 2354B/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

** Not late word see 20/6*EASTERN STAR
(Torpedoed 8/5)
GREGALIA
(Torpedoed 9/5)
AELYBRYN
(Torpedoed 10/5)
All in O.B. 318.

Norwegian EASTERN STAR, 5658 tons, chartered Cosmopolitan Line, New York, torpedoed and sunk in 061° 29' N., 024° 12' W., at 2120Z/8/5. All C.B.'s seen to sink in weighted bags. No casualties. GREGALIA 5802, torpedoed and sunk 1338Z/9/5 in 060° 34' N., 032° 37' W. Masters C.B's sunk in iron chest, C.B's from W/T office in weighted bags. No casualties. AELYBRYN 4986, torpedoed 0450Z/10/5 in 059° 21' N., 035° 21' W., all C.B's dumped overboard in 2 hamper bags and seen to sink. S. Johnson, Jamaican, killed. (N.O.I.C., Iceland, 1147/14 to Admty.)

** Position incorrect see BR1337972.*FERNLANE
(Torpedoed 7/5)

Norwegian Motorship FERNLANE, 0815 G.M.T./7 010° 02' N., 020° 17' W., approx. Submarine. Vessel sunk by three torpedoes, no casualties, all passengers and crew saved. Large submarine light

/grey....

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14.5.1941.
WednesdayWar DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedFERNLANE
(Torpedoed 7/5)
-Contd.

grey colour freshly painted two guns on deck. All C.B's and documents thrown overboard in weighted bag. (V. Consul, Bissau, 1148/14 to Admty.)

SOMERSBY
(Torpedoed 13/5)

British 5170 tons. G.M.T. 1330 P.C. & S 60° 28' N., 19° 25' W. 102° 8 knots with 6 ships of Convoy S.C. 30. MARIKA PROTOPAPA joined today has on board all officers and men of SOMERSBY torpedoed 13th a.m. 60° 39' N., 26° 13' W. submarine believed Italian of BARBARIGO class. Request additional escort. (NORTHERN PRIDE, 1331/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

Unknown Ship

Detach one Corvette to proceed to assist unknown ship reported by aircraft on fire and sinking in 54° 50' N., 13° 30' W. Corvette report own name and position of convoy when well clear of convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1426B/14 to VANQUISHER)

MANCHESTER PORT
(escaped)Intercepted at 1427 G.M.T. SSSS 54.38 N., 20.59 W. MANCHESTER PORT chased by submarine 1426/14. (Port Patrick Radio, 1428/14N, to Navycharge, Greenock, Valentia W/T 1429/14)
SSSS MANCHESTER PORT 54.38 N., 21.00 chased, steering 050° (Portishead Radio, 1439/14, Port Patrick Radio, 1443/14)
Being chased by Submarine position now 54.46 N., 20.36 W steering 058°.
(MANCHESTER PORT, 1530/14)
Chased, position now 54.49 N., 20.16 W steering 095°. (Valentia Radio, 1635/14 Port Patrick Radio, 1636/14)
Chased position now 54 - 39 N., 19 - 58 W steering 160°. (Cleethorpes Radio, 1735A/14 Pt. Patrick Radio, 1737/14)
Submarine still following position now 54.26 N., 19.58 W., steering 215° (Liverpool W/T, 1837/14 T.O.R. 2042/14)
Submarine still following, position now 54 -17 N., 20-16 W., steering 270° (Plymouth W/T, 1934/14)

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14.5.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0312

Sighted U-Boat on surface in 061° 56' N.,
026° 00' W. (CHELSEA, 0312B/14 to C. in
C. W.A.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1412B/14, F.O.S. 1528/14)

General situation estimated at 1100/14
was not substantially changed, but a U-
Boat is now operating so far west as
1050 miles W. of Barra Head. (D.S. 617,
14/5)

1630

Sighted submarine on surface in 058° 15'
N., 035° 10' W., (IMPULSIVE, 1630B/14
to C. in C. W.A.) (C. in C. W.A., 2121B/14
to W.A.)
IMPULSIVE's 1639B/14 (1630B/14?) Purport
of my 1816B/14 (AMAZON's search for
survivors of SALOPIAN) may be delayed at
your discretion. (C. in C. W.A. 2247B/14
to IMPULSIVE, D.3.)

Submarines Attacked

By VISENDA

Have attacked (enemy) S/M position 062°
16'N.013° 28'W dead reckoning.
(VISENDA 0715/14 to S.O.T.N.P.)
Position 062° 06'N.013° 21'W dropped 5
pattern on positive sub contact. Latter
3 produced quantity air bubbles. No
further contact since 1305. All depth
charges expended. Remaining in vicinity
with VISENDA. (NORTHERN PRINCESS,
1415B/14 to S.O.T.N.P.)

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

All operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled on account of the weather.

Aircraft of Bomber Command this afternoon attacked a convoy of 5 merchant vessels escorted by 3 Flak ships about 20 miles north of Langeoog, and claim to have sunk 3 ships of 5000, 4000 and 1600 tons respectively.

Enemy Air Operations.

M.T.B. 50 was bombed and damaged this afternoon near C. Buoy, and was towed to Dover.

Convoy E.G. 20 was bombed at 1058 off Harwich. No damage is reported.

Patrol vessel PERSPECTIVE, anchored in Humber entrance shot down an enemy aircraft at 0023 today.

It is reported that S.S. BEBINGTON was damaged during air raid on Birkenhead today.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off St. Catherine's Point, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Falmouth and the East coast.

Mediterranean.

Danger
areas
extended.

Owing to new German activities in the Eastern Mediterranean H.M. Govt. have decided to give notice that the limits of the areas in the Mediterranean, declared dangerous to shipping in February and April last are extended to include all waters to the eastward of a line drawn from Ras El Kanais (on the coast of Egypt) to a point 3 miles 180° from Cape Khelidornia (Turkey), with the exception of Turkish Territorial waters.

Air
Reconnaissance.

An important signal regarding air reconnaissance in the Mediterranean was made by C. in C. Med. at 1807C today.

Malta

About 20 aircraft operating singly, attacked Malta between 2230/14 and 0315/15. No naval or R.A.F. damage was caused. Raids were carried out again both this morning and this afternoon and damage was caused at Luqa.

Libya

3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

Our troops captured Sollum and other places today. N.O.I.C. has proceeded to Sollum.

Tobruk was bombed last night and today but no damage or casualties were caused.

/Cyprus.....

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15.5.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Cyprus.

Nicosia and other places were bombed today by 8 Italian aircraft. No Service damage or casualties occurred.

Greek Fleet.

Greek destroyers are now operating as local escort from Alexandria and Greek s/m's are exercising with their own T.B's.

Syria.

Action against German aircraft. (see 1310/15. p. 465)

East Indies.

Iraq.

A mine watching organisation is to be set up for the Shatt-el-Arab.

America & West Indies.

Sabotage is suspected in S.S. BUTESHIRE (British), which is on fire at Buenos Aires.

New Zealand.

PURIRI (minesweeper) is reported lost whilst engaged in sweeping the enemy minefield laid in Hauraki Gulf in June last.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Pending further experience, C. in C. W.A. has decided to vary regular air escort of individual convoys with sweeps, searches and the operation of air striking force based on U-boat sightings and intelligence. Air escorts in low visibility and in darkness, except on moonlight nights, will be abolished.

N.W.
Approaches.

Two submarines were attacked this evening first by aircraft and subsequently by destroyers and corvettes in the neighbourhood of Convoy O.B. 521, 500 miles west of Blacksod Bay.

South
Atlantic.

S.S. BENVENUE reported being torpedoed at 2030 G.M.T. in 4° 27' N. 18° 25' W.

East Indies.

CANBERRA at 2118Z today read a corrupt submarine distress message.

War. Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Air Escort
of
Convoys.

Pending further experience it has been decided to vary regular air escort of individual convoys with sweeps, searches, and the operation of air striking force based on U-Boat sightings and intelligence.
2. Air escorts in low visibility and in darkness except on moonlight nights will be abolished.
3. N.C.S. Officers are to inform Masters of above modification orders re air escorts at night.
(C. in C. W.A. 0055B/15).

SYRINGA
HOLLY
ST. MELANTE
RUNSWICK BAY.

My 1753D/6. These vessels will form 100th M/S Group.
(D.M.S. 1219B/15).

Conference on
Fighter Protec-
tion for
shipping.

A.M. 0029B/14. Meeting with the R.A.F. will be held in Air Ministry at 1030/23.
2. C. in C. Fighter Command will preside.
(D.O.D. H. 1322B/15).

Trawler
Division I.

Admiralty 1257/13 and your 1526B/14.
Following trawlers detailed for Foreign service from June 2nd INDIAN STAR, SPHENE, *LORNULD, DRANGEY.
Two of these trawlers have been taken from Irish Sea escort force, and must be replaced by trawlers from Division 1 which will reduce their number to 18, which will not be sufficient to provide escort for W.N.- E.C. convoys running to their normal schedule. Request therefore that COVENTRY CITY, ST. CATHAN and LE TIGER, which have been allocated to Belfast, may join Division I as soon as possible, otherwise it will probably be necessary to withdraw trawlers from Londonderry and Greenock Escort Groups which is not desirable.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1628B/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

* ? LORD NUFFIELD

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

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~~450~~

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RODNEY.

My 1458B/14 RODNEY will not now arrive at Greenock before p.m. 18th.
(C. in C. H.F. 1314B/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

REPULSE
ARGUS.

Arrived REPULSE, ARGUS, OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, and EMPRESS OF JAPAN.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550B/15)

SPRINGTIDE
SPRINGDALE
CORBRAE.

At 1854/9.
When ready for sea on completion of de-perming trials request you will sail and route SPRINGTIDE, SPRINGDALE and CORBRAE in company to Freetown.
CORBRAE is allocated to C. in C. S.A.
SPRINGTIDE and SPRINGDALE are allocated to C. in C. China.
(A.C.N.S. F 1800B/15).

FARNDALE.
STELLA PEGASUS I.
FROYEN.

} Arrived Scapa from Faeroes.
(A.C.O.S. 2231/15).

Operations.

3rd.D.F.

Operate as striking force under C. in C. W.A.
(C. in C. H.F. 0122B/15 to Capt. D.3).

Patrols.

C. in C. W.A. 1637B/14. Carry out A/S sweep approx on Meridian 20° W as far as 56° N thence to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1012B/15 to TARTAR).

On completion of working up at Holy Loch about 30/5 intend that RUBIS should carry out a short working up Patrol before embarking on a minelaying programme. It is proposed that this Patrol should be carried out in the area between latitudes 49° 20' N and 50° 40' N and between longitudes 11° W and 14° W. with the object of intercepting U Boats, and that she should proceed to the area escorted as far as 10° W and thence by West coast of Ireland.
(F.O.S. 1042/15).

Your 1650/14.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (contd).

Your 1650/14. Intend sailing M.L.'s 146 (S. O.), 152, and 103 at 2015 to-day arriving south Shipwash Buoy at 2115, 53 Buoy at 2215, then patrolling along Q.Z.S.117 M.L.103 is to part company and proceed from South Falls Buoy at dawn to Dover. M.L's 146 and 152 are to return to Harwich arriving 52 buoy at 0445. E.T.A. Harwich 0615 Request Fighter protection from 2015/15 to dark and again from Dawn to 0615/16. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1225B/15 to C. in C. Nore). Departure M.L. 146 - 152 - 103. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2000B/15).

NORFOLK is to sail from Scapa p.m./17 and proceed to Hval Fiord. NORFOLK and SUFFOLK are to maintain the Denmark Straits patrol in accordance with paragraph (one) of my 1546/2. (C. in C. H.F. 1235B/15).

BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER are to be sailed a.m. 18th. to patrol between N.P. line T.R.34 and the South Coast Iceland (C). It is anticipated they will leave patrol on 26/5. NIGERIA and KENYA are to leave patrol at 1200/18 and return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1606B/15).

British Air Operations.

Caution to
fighter
pilots.

Reference C. in C., Nore 1451B/12, request action may be taken as suggested by C. in C. Nore. (D. of L.D. 1240B/15 to Air Ministry.)

701 Sqn.

Under consideration to disband number 701 Squadron in view of urgent need for ~~fighters~~ aircraft for ship-borne duties. Request your views. (5th S.L. 1408B/15).

Escort for B.S.56.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941. 451
Thursday. 452

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations. (contd).

Escort for
B.S.56

Close escort will be provided by one Blenheim fighter from 0530 to 1430 and A/S escort by one Blenheim bomber from 1430 to dusk tomorrow Friday.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1700/15 to TEVIOT BANK).

3 M/Vs
claimed
sunk.

Day 14, and night 14/15 May. All operations cancelled owing to unfavourable weather conditions. Day 15, 3 vessels of a Convoy are claimed as destroyed totalling some 11,000 gross tons. A 5,000 ton M/V attacked by two aircraft received two direct hits amidships and others on the stern. A 4,000 ton heavily laden M/V attacked by three a/c received four direct hits.

A 1,600 ton heavily laden M/V was attacked by one a/c and seen later emitting large volumes of brown and grey smoke. These three ships are claimed as total losses. (H.Q.B.C. 2305/15).

Enemy Air Activity.

JESSIE MAERSK
(Bombed 14/5).

Received at 2221 G.M.T. from JESSIE MAERSK Begins:- Think two men hit with machine gun bullets otherwise O.K. Not being attacked at moment. Don't know if coming back.

(Scapa W/T 0022/15).

M.A. WEST
(Bombed 14/5).

(Examination Vessel). My 1504B/14. Reported position of wreck of M.A. WEST 52° 34' N 10° 45' 30" E.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0118B/15).

FORT RONA.

(Trawler) Reports when steaming in convoy with two other Trawlers at 0030/13th. 15 miles W.S.W. of Bardsey Island being sunk by near bomb misses from enemy plane. No casualties. Both machine guns salvaged. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0950/15).

Convoy E.C. Even.....

15.5.1941 ⁴⁵²
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.(contd).

Convoy E.C.
Even.

Enemy bombing convoy ^{"Night"} ~~NIGHT~~ my position
51° 51' N 1° 36' E. course 046° speed 8
knots.
(Even E.C. Convoy., 1058/15).
Fighters have been sent to assist Convoy
~~NIGHT.~~ "Night"
(Nore W/T 1125B/15).

Enemy
Radiator off
Brixham.

NO.I.C. Dartmouth reports that a brand new radiator covered with oil, from an ME 109, was picked up in trawl on 14th May 15 miles S.E. of Brixham. As this was the type of aeroplane used in the attack on Brixham p.m. 11th it is thought that one of these must have been shot down.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1508/15).

M.T.B. 50
damaged.

My 1634B. M.T.B. 50 arrived Dover in tow of yacht CHICO at 2025. At 1511 in vicinity of C one buoy two Dorniers carried out shallow dive attacks one on each ship, with bombs and machine guns. Five bombs dropped by each aircraft. Near misses caused extensive damage to all engines of M.T.B.50. No damage to CHICO and no casualties in either case. Enemy aircraft engaged by CHICO and tracer seen to enter aircraft but apparently without effect.
(V.A. Dover 2131B/15).

Long range enemy aircraft operating in your vicinity. Attack may be expected on O.B.321 or O.B.322.
(D.D.I.C. 2340B/15 to S.L.A. W.A.)

DAN-Y-BRYN
(British, 5117
tons)
CASTILIAN (
British 3067 tons)
PRINCE RUPERT
CITY (British
4749 tons.)

) Damaged before 13/5 in Air-Raids on Hull.
) (D.S. No. 618).

DENCADE

(Tug) Damaged in Air-Raid on Brixham, before
10/5. See B.R 1337 Page 104.
(D.S. no 618).

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation
B.S.56.

Departures TEVIOTBANK, PLOVER, and CATTISTOCK in company at 0730. E.T.A. Tyne 1915/15. (F.O. Humber 0801B/15). TEVIOTBANK, PLOVER and CATTISTOCK arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2023/15)

Swansea.

Red mine exploded single "L" 070° 2 miles 2 cables from Mumbles Head Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1050/15).

Milford Haven.

My 1423/14. One ground mine detonated simultaneously with casualty MINICOY in position 092° St. Ann's Head Light 14 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1102/15).

Tyne.

At 1040/15 one Mine exploded by S.A. gear. Details. (P.M/S North Shields 1220/15).

MINICOY and
R.A.F. Launch
316.

F.O.i/c Milford Haven 1423/14. Request you will order an early inquiry on the loss of these vessels and on the instructions issued and route ordered for the passage of R.A.F. Launch 316. (V.C.N.S. 1401B/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

Motor Boat MV S316 proceeding Barry to Aberporth 14/5 wrecked by mine 14/5 off Milford Haven. Missing three. Rescued uninjured one. Names. (R.A.F. Cardiff, 1745/15).

Brightlingsea.

Brightlingsea reports:- Mine exploded by shrimpers trawl at 0939/15 in about 51° 45' N 10 04'.5 E. Damage to shrimpers small boat. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1408B/15).

Clyde.

May 16th. The river will be closed between Princes Pier and Duglass between 0600 and 1100. The River will be open to traffic both ways after 1100 with the following restrictions (F.O.I.C. Glasgow. 1641A/15).

Operations. B.S.57.....

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Operations
B.S.57
to B.S.60

Proposals contained in your No. 2249/0528A/15 of 13/5 are concurred in. Request you will issue orders for the operations, allocating short titles B.S.57 to B.S.60 inclusive. (V.C.N.S. 1924B/15 to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat.

Possible E boat reported vicinity of number 5 buoy at 0015B.(C. in C. Nore 0044B/15)

Brest.

Photographs of Brest at 1400/15 show no change. (D.D.I.C. 1618B/15).

Suspected sabotage.

Suspected sabotage to experimental tail cable laid in East Gate near Rame Head, believed committed since 16/8/40. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1635/15).

Miscellaneous.

Kinnaird Head
Light House.

Your 0926/28/4. Kinnaird Head Light House has now been camouflaged. (C. in C. Rosyth 1158/15 to Admty).

Humber
proposed moving
of Light
Vessel and
Buoys.

Approval is requested to move the Humber L/V and Channel Buoys as follows on account of obstruction of the present channel by wreck of FOWBERRY TOWER. (F.O. Humber 1650/15).

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

455

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.9

My 0335/25/4 ANSELM not now due in U.K. until about 5/6 but will probably still proceed to Avonmouth for discharge and embarkation. TAMAROA due U.K. about 26/5. with frozen meat cargo from New Zealand is now likely to be discharged and prepared for next outward voyage with troops in Avonmouth.
(D. of S.T. 0402B/15 to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth).

.W.S.8B.

My 0746/14. Following slight modifications of embarkation arrangements for W.S.8B. are proposed.
(D.S.T. 0447B/15 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland).
Your 0746B/14. F.16 and F.18 will embark K.G.V. If baggage for Gourock ships does not arrive earlier 48 hours in advance cannot guarantee date can be maintained, vide my 1205B/11.
(P.S.T.O. West Scotland. 1015B/15 to D. of S.T. A.M. 2256B/10. Route for W.S.8B.
(D.O.D.(H) 1552B/15 to H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.)

H.G.59

Regret congratulatory message was sent to you in error.
(C. in C. W.A., 1451/15 to Vice-Adm. Dawson).
Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all ships of your convoy H.G.59.
(C. in C. W.A. 1456/15 to Vice-Adm. Willam.)

H.X.123

Congratulations on bringing to U.K. your convoy H.X.123 with such success.
(C. in C. W.A. 1509/15 to Rear Adm. H.H. Rogers).

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

BROADWAY.

Arrived BROADWAY with defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0920B/15).

GOATELL.

Have developed engine trouble. Intend to proceed to anchorage Southend keeping tug in attendance until anchored. Anticipate proceeding early tomorrow.
(GOATELL 1850/15).

CARNATION

My 1241A/3/5. Consider trouble experienced is more annoyance than defect. Am sailing ship to base 16/5 for further experience under running conditions.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1814/15).

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

VELOX

Departure 2310 VELOX delayed by defects (route) to Freetown or as ordered by C. in C. S.A. E.T.A. Freetown 0700Z + 1/22. (F.O.C.N.A. 0028B/15 to Admty).

Force H.

Intend RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, and SHEFFIELD proceed to sea p.m./16 to simulate operation to eastward and to carry out exercises returning p.m./17. (S.O. Force H., 0924/15 to Admty).

Dutch S/Ms

Your 1625A/14 approved. (F.O. (S) 1032B/15 to Capt (S) 8).

PANDORA
REGENT

Do not cross Meridian 002° W until after 1600A/17. Force H accompanied by aircraft are exercising west of 002° W during 16th and 17th. Report p.c. & s. and E.T.A. Gibraltar on crossing Meridian 000° 00' (F.O.C.N.A. 1210A/15 to PANDORA, REGENT).

B.D. Vessels
calling Azores.

Boom Defence Vessels JENNET, PUNNET, BOWNET, RENNET, LUMINARY and S.S. FOREMOST 101 are expected to arrive Fayal (Azores) 22/5. Request arrangements to provide 600 tons of coal. FOREMOST 101 may require about 200 tons oil fuel for which she should call at Ponta Delgada. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1313B/15 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

REGINA

My 1253/13 Cartagena now reports these men Norwegians from Norwegian Tanker seized by French in Algiers. (N.A. Madrid 1901/15).

MOST SECRET.15.5.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic."R" Reports
NEVADA
GERAMIC
GERAMIC

My 1215/9. Report now received from Master that coded cancellation was broadcast to V.P.U. on 600 metres at 1140 and on 36 metres at 1230 and repeated to G.K.U. on 36 metres at 1240 but no answers received.
(C. in C. S.A. 1205Z/15 to Admty).

Spanish Ships
suspected of
reports to
U/Bs.

British CITY OF VENICE's noon position 1/5 011° 30' N. 027° 31' W. During forenoon Spanish MENDILINE ship followed his zigzagging astern with apparent intention of ascertaining CITY OF VENICE's courses. At 1630 G.M.T./1 EAKP (AXPE-MENDI) made his own position to EAAQ (ALTUNA-MENDI) as 008° 53' N. 027° 52' W no acknowledgment from latter ship. Master of opinion Spanish ships are reporting sighting to U-Boats.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1555/15 to Admty).

+ Now
MONTE TEIDE

* Now MONTE ALBERGIA.

German
whale
catchers.

Masters of British and allied merchant vessels should be informed confidentially some German manned whale catchers are at large and may be co-operating with armed merchant raiders in South Atlantic. Such vessels met with on ocean routes should be treated with suspicion and the sighting should be reported to Naval Authorities at next port of call.
(C. in C. S.A., 1605N/15 to S.O.I's).

Reports of
Southbound
ships.

Your 2154/21/3. Would like earlier warning of ships entering Station. Propose that they be reported crossing 24° N instead of 20° N.
(C. in C. S.A. 1608N/15 to Admty).

S.L. 75

Request information whether cruiser escort is being provided for S.L. 75.
(C. in C. S.A., 1647N/15 to Admty).

CUMBERLAND

CUMBERLAND wearing flag R.A. R.A.S.A.D. arrived Buenos Ayres 1730 G.M.T./15 and leaves for patrol 1730 G.M.T./17.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1735Z/15).

Raider 3/5.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Raider
3/5.*
HOENFELS

A vessel closely resembling German HOENFELS and German raider TAMESIS alias ATLANTIS (No. 16) was sighted by S.S. RARANGA at 1023Z/3 in 24.45 S., 24.29 W. (Details). My 0141N/8/4 to S.A. Squadron only may refer.
(C. in C. S.A. 1909N/15 to Admty).

Protection of
Shipping in
Freetown.

Reply to Admty 1236/10.
(C. in C. S.A. 1917N/15) See Operations Volume.

BUTESHIRE
sabotage.

British on fire aft commenced in No. 5 lower hold has spread to no. 4., sabotage suspected at Jamaica.
(D.E.M.S. Officer Buenos Aires, 2258/15 to Admty).

EAGLE
NELSON.

My 1635B/10 and your 1517N/14. Not now essential for EAGLE and NELSON to reach Freetown by 25/5. EAGLE may boiler clean on arrival at Freetown.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2349B/15 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.Landing
Craft
programme.

A.T. 1517/17/3 is revised as follows.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0124B/15 to C. in C. Med).
See Lion Copy.

Situation
Report 26.

V.A.1 in QUEEN ELIZABETH, BARHAM, NAIAD, PHOEBE, PERTH, and 7 destroyers left Alexandria p.m./14 to operate S. and W. of Crete. Convoy A.S. 31 leaving Suda Bay tonight 14th for Alexandria with personnel not required, DIDO, CALCUTTA, and 4 destroyers escorting. Crete. A.A. guns of M.N.B.D.O. are now in action at Suda Bay and Maleme and very shortly at Heraklion.

Western Desert.....

MOST SECRET

459(A)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To C.in C. Mediterranean 986 B.1.
Repeated S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 661.
S.S.T.O. Port Said.
A.S. Alexandria.
C.in C. Middle East.

Date 15.5.41.

NAVAL CYPHER A.2.

From Admiralty.

It has been decided to retain Raiding Craft Carriers in Home Waters and to re-allocate certain Landing Craft.

2. A.T.1517/17th March arrival programme is revised as follows:-

<u>Approx. date of arrival</u>	<u>Method of Shipment</u>	<u>T.L.C.</u>	<u>M.L.C.</u>	<u>A.L.C.</u>	<u>S.L.C.</u>	<u>Turoka</u>
Already arrived	Various	18	24	34	4	13
May-June	Independent sailings	-	12	29	-	11
August	3 M.L.C. Carriers	-	31	-	-	-
August-September	Independent Sailings or W.S.Convoy	16	-	-	8	-
September-October	"	15	-	15	4	-
TOTAL		49	67	78	16	24

0124B/15

for Head of M

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

1st Lord
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th 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)
Duty Captain
D.D.I.C.
W.D.
Head of M. (2) (M/PD.09569/41)
E.P.S.
D.C.O.
D.D.T.S.D. (C.O.)
D. of L.D.
I.P.

MOST SECRETWar Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Situation
Report 26.
(contd).

Western Desert. Bombardment of Derna aerodrome by 7th C.S. night 13th/14th cancelled apparently due to weather. Ships not yet returned. GNAT bombed Gazala successfully R.A.F. and F.A.A. bombed W/D aerodromes heavily night 13th/14th. Work at Tobruk hampered by enemy battery which covers entrance to harbour. GNAT dealing with it today. Salvage commenced of LADYBIRD whose bow is still afloat, APHIS rejoined inshore squadron p.m./14. Canal Area. Situation as in S.B.N.O. Canal Area 1945/13. (C. in C. Med., 0021C/15 to Admty).

MAURO
CROCE
(Italian).Departure 15/5 Barcelona for Genoa.
(Barcelona 0331/15.DALESMAN
(bombed 14/5).Dive bombed aft. No casualties.
(S.T.O. Suda Bay 0900C/15) See also 1210/15CORDELIA &
ITHAKA. &
YALOVA.

My 1111/14. First ship entered Bosphorus 1100/14 last two 1800/14 all for Aegean. (Capt. S.I. 0941C/15 to RORQUAL).
My 1731/14. Ships entered Bosphorus 14/4 (?14/5) for (?Ancona or Trieste). Local Authorities informed.
(S.O.(I) Med., 1211C/15 to Admty).

Suez Canal.

Intend to resume traffic in canal for ships urgently required to move on 17/5. Mines in northern sector will then be over nine days old and in centre sector over six. Ships will be (?) preceded by LL and S/A sweepers and tug will be standing by.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1031C/15 to Admty etc).

A.S. 31
Greek Escort.

Request you will arrange 3 Greek destroyers to R.V. with convoy A.S. 31 at 0600/16 to relieve British destroyers and escort convoy to Port Said. STUART, VENDETTA, ISIS to return with despatch to Alexandria on relief.
(C. in C. Med., 1103C/15 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria)

DIDO and CALCUTTA....

War Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd)→ DIDO
CALCUTTA.

DIDO and CALCUTTA are to part company with convoy at 2100/15 and proceed independently at best speed to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1105/15 to DIDO.)

Benghazi
bombed.

Operational Summary No. 339 up to 1200 hours 15/5.
Night 12/13. 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi, bombs bursting on railway and buildings near Military Headquarters etc. 2 small ships seen anchored outside harbour. Only sunken ships seen in harbour.

Tobruk Raid.

Day 14/5.
25 JU. 87's dive bombed Southern side harbour and distillery Tobruk. No damage or casualties. Several JU 87's damaged by A.A. fire. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1106/15).

Shipping in
Black Sea
Ports.

Ref. my 1905/12 Para (a) correction.
For two Italian 7700 read three Italian 10,300 tons.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1110/15 to Admty).

KANDAHAR

Take NUBIAN, KINGSTON, JUNO, COVENTRY under your orders. Sail at 2000/15 and proceed at speed of advance 15 knots on course 330° until 0800/16. DIDO will sail to overtake you as early as possible am./16.
(C. in C. Med., 1147/15 to KANDAHAR).

*see also next page*Air damage,
Suda Bay,
DALESMAN
LOGICIAN.

NIEUW ZEELAND sailed p.m./14 with 1880 personnel. LOSSIEBANK sailed p.m./14 with 1886 personnel. DALESMAN badly bomb-damaged direct hit No.5 hold. Aground aft. Engine room flooded. Endeavouring to discharge Nos. 1,2 and 3. Fear ship total loss. LOGICIAN slightly damaged by near miss. Dynamo cylinder head, bilge and tank line fracture, ship leaking slightly into after hold. Discharging as quickly as possible.
(S.T.O. Suda Bay, 1210C/15 to D.S.T.London).

Italian PIER LUIGI.....

War Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Italian
PIER LUIGI2,600 tons passed Istanbul 130 C. hours for Dedeagatch. Estimated speed 78½. Ship half loaded.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1309/15).Soviet Ships.

Press message from Beyoglu, Pera, states Soviet has chartered 8 Black Sea ships totalling 20,000 tons, to Germany and that goods are already being transported to Southern Italy via Odessa, Constanza, Varna, the Bosporous, the Dardanelles, and the Corinth Canal to Italy. (D.S. 618, 15/5).

Greek
Naval Units.Morale and proposed employment.
(C. in C. Med., 1329C/15) See Lion Copy.R.A.(D) Med.My 1147C/15. Request you will transfer your Flag to DIDO and proceed as soon as possible to join KANDAHAR'S Force. Hoped that DIDO will be able to sail at about 0400 - 0500/16. If no developments have taken place by 1000/16 escort should turn back to join you and you should then proceed to pass Kaso Strait 2300/16 unless otherwise ordered. COVENTRY should be detached to be off Candia at 0530/17
(C. in C. Med., 1537C/15 to R.A.(D) Med).*See previous page*Malta Air
Raids.Report Malta up to 1600 hours 15/5. Times G.M.T. Night 14/15, 2230 to 0315 hours 4 air alarms by approx 20 aircraft operating singly. Visibility poor, majority of bombs in sea, others Valletta, Luqa and Zabbar. R.A.F. and naval damage nil. No claims by guns or aircraft. Day 15/5. Morning and afternoon raid by 15 to 20 109's in each case some dropping bombs. Target Luqa. (Aircraft damaged). Minor damage to civilian property no casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1610/15).Routes for
S/MSCancel my 1445/14/4 route in future will be made according to circumstances.
(V.A. Malta 1718B/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

UPHOLDER CACHALOT.....

MOST SECRET

462 a
462(A)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1329C/15th May.

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 16.5.41.

Recd. 10.48.

NAVAL CYPHER (Mediterranean One T.T.) BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty.

410. Sakarelliou called on me today and discussed situation of Greek Navy.

(II) After some weeks of incessant and unopposed air attacks Ships Companies have lost faith in their ability to face aircraft and in particular have no trust in their anti-aircraft guns with which they are equipped.

Modification of Admiral's view is that ships should be given immediate employment in order to restore morale but feels that it should be service so far as possible in waters less likely to air attack. He hopes by this means to bring back the morale of the ships (?companies) in three or four weeks.

(IV) Am arranging therefore for torpedo boats to work on local patrols at Alexandria and for destroyer(s) to act as escort for ship's running to Haifa and Port Said from Alexandria. Hitherto ships on these routes have had to run unescorted.

(V) At present it is intended Greek warship(s) should communicate with Greek Cruiser GIORGIOS AVEROFF using their own code and cypher.

(VI) I consider arrangements proposed will do for a short time and are desirable politically but evidently this can only be a stop gap arrangement and ships must be under unrestricted service if they are to be of any real value to us.

1329C/15.

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

Advance copy sent Duty Captain,
D.O.D. (F) and D.D.I.C.

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MOST SECRET.War Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATION.Mediterranean. (contd).UPHOLDER
CACHALOT.

UPHOLDER Leaves Malta p.m./15 through 035° 51' 015° 15' for area M 036° 40' 015° 10' - 000° 80 - 50.
C. in C. Med., 0940/4. CACHALOT leaves Malta P.M./16 through 035° 20' 014° 12' and 033° 30' 025° 00' thence as ordered by you.
(S.O.S/Ms Malta 1719B/15 to Capt. (S)1).

M.L's for
Candia.

My 1156/14. Send M.L's to ^{Candia}~~CANDIA~~ as A/S protection during disembarkation.
(C. in C. Med., 1723/15 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

PHOEBE

After dark report your E.T.A. and nature of damage.
(C. in C. Med., 1725/15 to PHOEBE).

Turkey.

Interview of Ad. Kelly with Gen. Asim Gunduz. (N.A. Angora, 1731/15) (See Lion Copy).

Turkish
Ferry
boats.

N.A. Angora 1801/15. See Mediterranean Volume.

Air
Reconnaissance.

Situation owing to enemy long range fighters in Greece and Sicily. Need for reconnaissance aircraft. (C. in C. Med., 1807C/15 to Admty)
See Mediterranean Volume.

Turkish S/Ms

Turkish Govt. finally approve (a) S/Ms to be taken over in U.K. and necessary personnel to be sent to U.K. (b) S/Ms will fly Turkish flag on passage.
Every effort is being made to hasten departure of crews.
(N.A. Ankara 1824/15 to Admty).

German
A/Cs.

My 1415/14 German aircraft presumably same as left today for Bucharest with four passengers.
(NSO. (I) Istanbul 1835/15).

RORQUAL.....

MOST SECRET

462(A)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1731/15 May IN

From N. A. Angora.

Date 16.5.41.

Recd. 1025.

Inter-departmental Cypher SPECIAL by Cable.

RECIRCULATION (at request of N. I. D. III).

Addressed C. in C. Mediterranean, Admiralty, Repeated H.M. Ambassador Angora, SAVING.

Following from Admiral Kelly.

Discussed situation with General Asim Gunduz May 15th:-

Von Papen brought nothing but friendly messages on his return, strictly in accordance with Hitler's last speech, and asking for extension of commercial relations on exchange basis but no war material. No other demands yet presented.

(2) Russians are allowing barbed wire purchased by Turkey in Sweden to pass without permission or license but no guns.

(3) The German camp in Iraq forestalled by us is intended to encircle Turkey and cut off her communications by Red Sea and Persian Gulf with British Forces. This communication is vital to Turkey who already has 6,000 tons material at Basrah waiting transit.

(4) I was shown treaty governing transit of war material over Alippo - Mosul railway. Notice of five days required for complete train and 48 hours for two or more waggons but no lists have to be furnished and no (? charges) with any loads consisting of war material.

(5) I hinted the possibility of Turkish Government's policy not being entirely in agreement with that of General Staff given in my 1257/6, and was informed that only three people count - the President the Marshal and President of Council, and that policy will always be based on strategy.

(6) General Staff stress urgency of military occupation of Syria by British before German help has developed to a dangerous degree in Iraq. If necessary and possible administration could be left in French hands. If political considerations prevent this (corrupt group) it should be at once carried out if French allow passage of German troops into Spain. In order to assist us two Turkish army corps are now being concentrated on Syrian border - the seventh and seventeenth - which will relieve our anxieties on that side. Turks consider in such ways they can help us while retaining their neutrality.

1731/15.

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) & D.D.I.C.

1st Lord	E.P.S.
1st S.L.	D. of P.(2)
V.C.N.S.	Admiral Herman Hodge
A.C.N.S.(F)	Duty Capt.
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)	I.P.
Nav. Sec.	W.D.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)
D.N.I.(4)	
D.D.I.C.	
D.S.D.9	
D.O.D.(F)	
D.D.O.D.(F)	
Hd. of M.	

MOST SECRET.War Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (contd).RORQUAL

Memorandum S.O.12 para 5, amend to read leave patrol to arrive Alexandria 25/5. (Capt. S.I. 1839C/15 to RORQUAL).

Danger Zone.

Broadcast of navigational warning, E of a line drawn from Ras-el-Kanais in a direction 24° to 3 miles 180° from Cape Kheledonia, Turkey. (Head of M., 2247B/15 to C. in C. Med). See Lion Copy.

SALVIA
Patrol.

Weather unsuitable for M.L.'s. SALVIA carrying out A/S patrol off Candia from 2200 until completion of the operation. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1950C/15 to C. in C. Med).

Situation Report
No. 27.

Fleet movements as in my 1321/15. 7th C.S. attacked by 21 JU 88 1700/13 shot down two in flames and damaged two more. No damage to ships and attack not pressed home. 7th C.S. bombardment night 13/14 abandoned due to failure of communication with spotting aircraft.

Two. Western desert. Gulf of Sollum having been captured by army, N.O.I.C. proceeding there by car. Crete. Suda Bay dive bombed p.m. 14th, DALESMAN hit and beached. Maleme and Candia also heavily bombed and machine gunned. Ten enemy aircraft shot down and two probables during 24 hours to 2200/14, two Hurricanes one Fulmar two Gladiators lost.

Alexandria. Greek destroyers are now operating as local escort from Alexandria and Greek submarines are exercising with their own T.B.D.'s. Unloading "~~FIGER~~" "~~Tiger~~" convoy continues satisfactorily. (C. in C. Med., 2355C/15).

46(A)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 2247B/15th May OUT.

TO: C. in C. Mediterranean 26. Date. 15.5.41
Repeated V.A. Malta 97C
F.O.C.N.A. 304.
S.O Force H. 890 B 2.
Air Ministry
H.M. Ambassador, Angora.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Cwing to new German activities in E. Mediterranean it has been decided to broadcast the following navigational warning:-

H.M. Government give notice that the limits of the areas in the Mediterranean which have been declared dangerous to shipping in February and April, 1941 are extended to include all waters to the eastward of a line drawn from Ras El Kanais in a direction 024 deg to a point 3 miles 180 deg from Cape Kheledonia in Turkey with the exception of Turkish territorial waters. Any vessel sailing in these areas without the permission of British Naval authorities will do so at their risk and peril.

2. The Turkish Government have been informed of our intention to issue this notice and you should arrange for the necessary broadcast at first convenient opportunity. Within the extended area aircraft, surface ships and submarines may then attack at sight any vessel navigating without our permission.

3. Care is to be taken to avoid interfering with Turkish coastal shipping which on account of navigational difficulties in some areas may navigate outside territorial waters.

4. Within Turkish territorial waters the instructions in my 2302/26/4 apply.

5. H.M. Representatives at Angora and Beirut are being instructed to inform you and Headquarters R.A.F. Middle East 24 hours in advance of the time of sailing, the route, speed and tonnage and chief distinguishing feature of any neutral ship permitted to navigate in this area.

2247B/15

for Hd. of Military Branch 86.
Approved 1st Lord

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L
- 5th S.L
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- C.S.O to 1st S.L
- P.A.S. (S)
- D. of P (2)
- D.N.I (4)
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.C.D. (F)

- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.I.C.
- Hd. of M (14) M/07503/41 for F.O C.O W.
Commr. Brewer & Air Ministry
- D.A/S.W.
- D.N.A.D.
- Hydrog
- D.E.W.D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.D.T.S.D. (C.C)
- I.P.
- W.D.
- E.P.S.
- N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson.
- D.C.C.

War Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.ROVER

Your 1048/6. Refit can be undertaken at Bombay if spare battery supplied from Singapore (C. in C. E.I. 0626Z/15 to C. in C. Med).

INDRAPOERA

Your 0300B/8 INDRAPOERA sailed 0700/15 calling Capetown for two days repairs to engines and can arrive Halifax on due date (to embark troops for U.K.) (S.S.T.O. Durban, 0855B/15 to D. of S.T.)

CLAN
BUCHANAN.

Your 1850B/13 to S.O. (I) Colombo. Agents in Madras also request information required for arrangement of their homeward loading programme. Request I may be informed when agents can be told confidentially. (C. in C. E.I. 1100Z/15 to Admty) Reply: 1915/18.

Shatt-el-
Arab.

Mine watching organisation to be set up. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1108Z/15)
See Operations Volume.

AQUITANIA
ILE DE
FRANCE.

Port Authorities with both Masters ~~and~~ consider that berthing of these large ships in Colombo during height of S.W. monsoon is attended with grave risks and should be avoided if at all possible. Ends. (C. in C. E.I. 1230Z/15 to Admty etc).

Action against
German Aircraft
in Syria.

H.Q. P and T.J. Command Operation Report No. 11 to 1600 14/5. R/C aircraft reported. 1045 having sighted at 0845 at Palmyra aerodrome 2 J.U. 90, 1 unidentified fighter 4 additional unidentified aircraft being refuelled. Striking force 1 fighter Blenheim, 2 Blenheim bombers, 2 Tomahawk fighters despatched via H 4 and attacked 3 J.U. 1 CR. 42, 2 unidentified biplanes on the ground. No visible results, but considered likely at least 3 aircraft severely damaged. No opposition from the ground or air. No casualties. All aircraft returned safely. All times G.M.T. (H.Q. Palestine and Transjordan Command, 1510/15, to H.Q., M.E.)

Navicerts,
Persian Gulf.

Your 0802/10, yes, but in initial stages Dhows should be treated leniently. (D.E.W.D. 1755B/15 to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary.

466
15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Cutters Departure New York for Halifax H.M. Ships
SENNEN, WALNEY, and TOTLAND, ex U.S.
Coastguard cutters. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa,
000Z/15 to Admty.)

SURCOUF. SURCOUF sailed from U.K. 14/5 due position
55° N., 40° W., about 24/5. SURCOUF will
patrol within 150 miles of this position
proceeding so as to arrive Bermuda 14/6.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1231Q/15 to DIOMEDE.)

PRINCE
ROBERT. To be sailed A.M./16 for Suva to arrive
29/5 for escort in accordance with my
1936Z/12. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1336Z/15, to
C.O.P.C. Esquimalt.)

U.S.
Naval
Aircraft
liaison. Piarco's 1442/13 Navy Dept., welcome
suggestion and would like officers to come
to Washington at once. After a period at
Navy Dept., arrangements will be made for
visits to bases and ships as desired.
(N.A. Washington, 1616/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Note:- Mentioned in C. in C.A.W.I.'s 1201Q/14).

ASAMA
MARU,
suspicious. Seattle reports A.O. that ASAMA MARU
recently arrived in U.S.A. Took circuitous
route. On approaching Honolulu proceeded
N., then W., then S., to below Honolulu.
No reason known for this action.
Information whether any suspicious ship was
contacted is being sought from passengers.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1837Z/15, to Admty.,
amended 1846Z/16.)

French
Fleet. From Navy Dept., from French Admty.,
Disposition of French Fleet 14/5.
(N.A. Washington, 2352 B/15 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

ILE
D'OUessant
SANANDREA. Arrival 15/5 French ILE D'OUessant.
Departure 15/5 Italian SANANDREA Norfolk
16/5. (New York 2212Z/15.)

From. Naval Attache. Washington.

Date. 16.5.41.

Recd. 0535.

Map X by Cable.

Addressed. Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

Following from Navy Dept. From French Admiralty. No.1540/15.

Disposition of French Fleet May 14. at Toulon. Battleships STRASBOURG and PROVEIGE. Carrier, COMMANDANT TESTE. Cruisers, ALGERIE, FOCH, COLBERT, DUPELIX, LA GALISSONNIERE, JEAN DE VILLENE, MARSEILLAISE. Destroyers. AIGLE GERFAUT, LION, TARTU, VAQUELIN, VOLTA, CASSARD, KERSAINT, LYNX, TIGRE, VAUTOR, MOGADOR, (Damaged) CHEVALIER PAUL, L'INDOMPTABLE, PANTHERE, VAUBAN, VERDUN, BALISTE, LANSQUENET, LE HARDI, TRAMONTANE, CASQUE, LA BAYONNAISE, MAMELUK, TROMBE, POURERAS, FOUQUEUX, LA POURSUIVANTE, TORNADE, TYPHON, L'ADROIT (Ex-EPEE), FOURDERRAS, FOUROYANT. (Ex-FLEURET) BISON (Ex-FILIBUSTIER), SIRCOO (Ex-CORSAIRE), Submarines, ACHERON, ACTEON, AMAZONE, AMPHITRITE, ARGO, ARGONAUTE, BEVEZIER, L.E DIAMANT, PRESNEL, GALATHEE, GLORIEUX, HENRI POINCARRE, HEROS, LE CENTAURE, LE CONQUERANT, REDOUBT, SABLE, LE TOUVANT, NAJADE, PASCAL, PERLE, SIRENE, SYBILLE. Gunboats. AILETTE, BATAILLEUSE, BEAUTEPS, BEAUPRE. River Gunboats. CALAIS, CHAMOIS, COMDT, RIVIERE, CURIEUSE, D'ALGNEUSE, D'IBERVILLE, DUBOURDIEU, ELAN, ENGAGEANTE, IMPETUEUSE, LASSIGNY, LURONNE, RAERAS, TAPAGEUSE. North Africa Battleship, DUNKERQUE at Oran (Damaged). Destroyers, ALBATROS, MILAN, BOMBARDE, BORDELAIS, FRONDEUR, IPHIGENIE, LA PALME, LE MARS, POMONE. Submarines, ARIANE, CADAN, CALPYSO, CIRCE, DANAE, DIANE, EURYDICE, MARSOUIN, NAUTILUS, REQUIN, SAPHYRERAS, SAPHIR, SOUFFLEUR, TURQUOISE. CASABLANCA. Battleship JEAN BART. (Seven Seven PCT Complete). Cruisers. GLOIRE, PRIMAUGUET. Destroyers. EPERVIER, LE MALIN, ALOYON, BRETONAIS, BOULONNAIS, SEMOUN, TRAPPE. Submarines. ANTIOPE, ARETHUSE, CERES, IRIS, MEDUSE, PALLAS, PSYCHE, ORPHEE, THETIS, VENUS. Gunboats. COMMANDANT BORY, GRACIEUSE, GAZELLE at Dakar. Battleship RICHELIEU (Damaged) Cruisers. GEORGES LEYGUES, MONTCALEM. Destroyers. LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE. Subs. ARCHIMEDE, ATALANTE, AURORE, CASABLANCA, OREADE, SIDI-FERRUCH, SULTANE, VESTALE. Gunboats. BOUDEUSE, BOUGAINVILLE, COMMANDANT DELAGE. Riverboats. D'ENTRECASTEAUX, LA SURPRISE, at Madagascar. Subs. L'ESPOIR, VENGEUR. in West Indies. No change since my 1225 Mar. 31 in Indo-Chim Cruiser LAMOTTE PICQUET. Submarine MONGE, PEGASE. Gunboats. ADMIRAL CHARNER, ARGUS, AVALANCHE. River Gunboats. BALNY, COMMANDANT BOURDAIS, MARNE, DOUDART-DE-LAGREE, VIGILANTE, MYTHO, FRANCIS-GARNIER, ANE, TAHURE, DUMONT D'URVILLE. Following units unaccounted for. Destroyers. GUEPARD, VALMY. Subs. D'ALPHIN, ESPADON, PHOQUE. Gunboats. RANNAMITE, LA GRANDIERE. (The departure of these units from Beirut was announced Apr. 23 destination unknown) Destroyer AVENTURIER is condemned. Ends

2352B/15

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

BOUGAINVILLE still at Beirut in the French hands. Inclusion in this list was in error. (N.I.D. 2, in response to H.D. inquiry, 7.11.1941)

War Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.New Mine-
sweepers.

Your 0317/14 please see my 1409/16/4 addressed C. in C. China and repeated to you. Admiralty A.M.S. should be sailed to Singapore on completion accordingly. (D.M.S. 1748B/15 to A.C.N.B.)

New Zealand.PURIRI
mined sunk.

Regret to report loss of H.M. Minesweeper PURIRI while engaged in sweeping enemy minefield laid in Hauraki Gulf, June, 1940. One Officer and four ratings lost, all belonging to N.Z. Naval Forces. (N.Z.N.B.0109Z/15 to Admty). Your 0109Z/15. Request you will announce loss of PURIRI as desired but not how or where loss took place so as not to disclose to the enemy that minefield has been located. (D.P.D. 1927B/15 to B.Z.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ship Attacked.MANCHESTER
PORT.

Following has been read:
SSSS MANCHESTER PORT 54.20N 22.25W. Submarine sighted. (Port Patrick T.O.R. 0420/15).

SALOPIAN
(torpedoed
13/5).

Request Catalina aircraft may assist destroyers searching for survivors of SALOPIAN. Search commences at 1000Z/15 from approx. 057° 03' N 038° 58' W in direction 323° and reciprocal for length of 50 miles. (Capt. D.3. 0813Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Iceland). Your 0813Z/15. Not available 15/5. My 1201Z/15 stands unless you signal to the contrary.

(Catalina, 1606/15 to D.3).
Have recovered 278 survivors in 0560 52' N 040° 10' W. Am proceeding to Hvalfiord (corrupt) for (corrupt) through 060°N 036° west, speed 20 knots.
(IMPULSIVE, 1030B/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
Provided you are satisfied there are no further survivors proceed to carry out previous instructions.
(C. in C. W.A. 1324B/15 to D.3).
Request I may be informed as soon as any confirmation of sinking SALOPIAN is received.
(R.A.3 1839P/15 to Admty).

EMPIRE
ENDURANCE
(torpedoed
20/4).

British WHINNYFOLD 210 tons reported life boat of EMPIRE ENDURANCE found 1530/10 in 060° 00' N 009° 00' W.
(A.C.O.S. 1656/15 to Admty).

BENVENUE

(British 5920 tons, ex O.B.314 for Cape and Bombay). Following has been read;
SSSS 4.27N., 18.25W., BENVENUE torpedoed.
(Freetown W/T 2030/15 de V.P.U.)

S/Ms Reported.

0642

By D/F at 0642/15 G.M.T. position of Italian U-Boat probably homeward bound, was approx 46° N - 47° N., 6° W. This position is an indication of the area only.
(D.D.I.C. 0921B/15).

0722.....

War Diary.15.5.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

0722

→ By D/F at 0722/15 G.M.T. Position of Italian U-Boat was $54^{\circ} - 55^{\circ}$ N. $17^{\circ} - 19^{\circ}$ W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1010B/15). My 1010B/15. It is probable that convoy O.B. 321 was reported at 0722/15 G.M.T. and that other U-Boats have since been informed. (D.D.I.C. 1159B/15 to VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA) My 1159B/15. D/F Bearing indicate that a second Italian S/M has sighted O.B. 321 at 1111Z/15. (D.D.I.C. 1354B/15 to VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1418B/15).

1630.

Following has been read. From Aircraft. Am over enemy submarine in 54.27 N., 18.40 W. (Liverpool, 1530/15).

Estimate one German U-Boat North of Finisterre en route to Saint Nazaire. (F.O.S. 1556B/15 to SOKUL, TIGRIS, TRIDENT).

2030;

Admiralty message A.F. position 04.27 N. 18.25 W. at 2030Z. (C. in C. S.A., 2000N/15 to G.B.M.S. 6A).

Submarines Attacked.

→ VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA attacking firm contact in $054^{\circ} 18'$ N. $018^{\circ} 46'$ W. (VANQUISHER 1715B/15 to C. in C. W.A). My 1715B/15. 4 patterns dropped on firm contact bombed by aircraft. Lost contact after last pattern, slight oil not from Depth charge observed. Area searched 9 miles by 9 miles. WINCHELSEA remains in vicinity VANQUISHER rejoined convoy. HIBISCUS and RHODODENDRON attacking second contact bombed by second aircraft in $053^{\circ} 46'$ N $019^{\circ} 07'$ W. (VANQUISHER 2009B/15 to C. in C. W.A).

Following has been read. Am over enemy submarine in position 55.07 N., 11.12 W. (Liverpool W/T, 2034/15).

/Submarine.....

MOST SECRET.War Dig.15.5.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/MS Attacked.

Submarine brought surface by aircraft in position 053° 46' N 019° 38' W attacked by HIBISCUS and RHODODENDRON. 5 patterns dropped lost contact after last pattern slight trace of oil on surface. Am rejoining convoy. Search has been carried out in 4 mile circle around point of lost contact. (HIBISCUS, 2126B/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

If circumstances permit act as Striking Force with O.B. 521 until noon/16. (C. in C. H.F. 1905B/15 to TARTAR).

Assist RHODODENDRON attacking U-Boat in position 053° 46' N 019° 07' W at 2009B/15 RHODODENDRON inform TARTAR if contact is lost. (C. in C. W.A., 2206B/15 to TARTAR). Cancelled 0144B/16.

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.