

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.6.1941.
MondaySITUATION REPORTPrincipal Events

→ "C.A.M." Ships initiated.

Naval forces are only to operate off the coast of Syria if proper fighter protection is allocated.

LE CHEVALIER PAUL (Vichy French destroyer) torpedoed S.E. of Crete by aircraft.

→ C.A.M.
Ships.

A few merchant ships are being fitted with catapults in order to provide air protection for convoys outside the range of shore based aircraft. These ships are designated Catapult Aircraft Merchant Ships short title C.A.M. Ships.

Home Commands

Denmark Straits
Patrol.

Until further orders, only one cruiser is to be on patrol in the Denmark Straits. Whenever possible a destroyer is to be on patrol in company with the cruiser.

Brest

Two unidentified ships were sighted by aircraft leaving Brest at 2100B yesterday, course West. All available M.T.B's from the Nore and Portsmouth Commands were ordered to concentrate at Dover, armed with torpedoes, and Force H., which left Gibraltar yesterday evening covering VICTORIOUS to the westward was ordered to act on the assumption that the ships were warships. These orders were cancelled at 0344B when it was established that the ships were merchantmen.

/Submarine.....

War Diary16.6.1941.
MondaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands-Contd.Submarine
to be based
at Lerwick.

As close submarine patrols off the coast of Norway are impracticable during the summer months F.O.S. proposes to base a submarine at Lerwick, available for intercepting enemy units breaking out.

HERMIONE

On relief today in the Denmark Straits by EDINBURGH, HERMIONE when ready is to rejoin the Western Approaches Command. She will escort FURIOUS to Gibraltar.

British Air Operations

5 Wellingtons of Bomber Command attacked Dunkirk Docks last night.

25 Blenheims operated today against shipping off the Frisian Islands and Dutch coast; there were no outstanding results.

Enemy Air Operations

Fishing trawler ATLANTIC was bombed and damaged at 1500 3 miles S.E. of Eddystone.

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.6.1941.
MondaySITUATION REPORTMiningOperationsB.S. 64.

TEVIOT BANK and HOLDERNESS sailed from Humber at 0815B but returned at 1220 owing to a defect in the former ship.

S.N. 66.

RA.M. reported this operation completed at 0737B (minelaying near Faeroes)

B.S. 58.

GUILLEMOT and PLOVER sailed from Harwich at 2035 to lay mines in the East Coast Barrier.

Two Hampdens laid mines off Dunkirk last night.

Mines were detonated today off Great Yarmouth, Sheerness and Hartlepool.

The area off Erith which was closed on 14/6, was reopened to navigation this afternoon.

MediterraneanSubmarine Operations.

CLYDE reports sinking a 4000 ton south-bound ship on 1/6 off Serpentera (S.E. coast of Sardinia) On 8/6 she sank a 2500 ton laden north bound ship by gunfire in the Gulf of Policastro.

* UNBEATEN attacked an enemy convoy escorted by the liner OCEANA or NEPTUNA this morning off the Straits of Messina and obtained 2 hits, probably on the escorting liner.

/Operation.....

* not OCEANIA, as ship was at Naples from 6th to 25th.
Letter from owners, "Italia" in CN1 432/55

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.6.1941.
MondaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean-Contd.Operation
"Tracer"

8 more Hurricanes led by a Blenheim left Malta today for M.E.

Western
Desert.

Wellingtons attacked Benghazi last night.

Palestine & SyriaNaval forces
withdrawn
owing to lack
of fighter
protection.

C. in C. Med. reported that he had been forced drastically to curtail the daylight operations of forces supporting the Army on the coast of Syria as there is no fighter protection available, all being required by the Army, and he cannot afford to have his destroyer strength further reduced. He therefore ordered C.S. 15 to withdraw his force (LEANDER and 6 destroyers to be increased to 8 destroyers) to Haifa during daylight, except when special operations are called for or until fighter protection is available. Later, at the request of the Army C.S. 15 was authorised to continue day operations provided proper fighter protection is allocated.

The A.O.C. has been asked to do all possible to eliminate the French destroyers.

LE CHEVALIER PAUL
Torpedoed by
Aircraft.

Naval aircraft of 815 Squadron were despatched to intercept and attack the French destroyer^{which} CHEVALIER PAUL which was sighted yesterday afternoon by a Sunderland hit the ship with 2 torpedoes at 0300 today 55 miles 96° Cape Greco (34° 56' N., 34° 5' E) A few minutes later CHEVALIER PAUL made S.O.S. in this position. Blenheims were despatched to search for the ship, but failed to find her; however a merchant vessel of 3000 tons in 34° 54' N., 35° 30' E course 21° was bombed on giving no reply to challenge and one hit is claimed. LE CHEVALIER PAUL may have reached Tripoli, as C.S. 15 was too far south to intercept; but at 1600 a large number of rafts, boats, wreckage and oil were found in the approx. position where the destroyer was attacked. C. in C. Med. considers ~~the~~ CHEVALIER PAUL was sunk by 815 Squadron.

/Force B.....

War Diary

16.6.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Palestine & Syria-Contd.

Force B. encountered 2 French destroyers off Beirut at 0430 today and chased them into harbour. JERVIS and KIMBERLEY may have scored hits. Our forces suffered no damage.

COVENTRY is temporarily out of action with defects.

East Indies

CHAKDINA captured a dhow laden with foodstuffs off Ras Bir, 50 miles south of Perim, at 0600 today. Another ran ashore and was abandoned. CHAKDINA's motor boat was fired on from the beach.

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

15th M.L.F.

Your 2043/14 and A.C.O.S. 1130/15. I agree that M.L.'s are required in both places. Consider that disadvantages of dividing the Flotilla must be accepted until another Flotilla becomes available. (C. in C.H.F. 1103/16 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Iceland (C).

Your 71220 (MO.8) 9/6. During present phase battle of Atlantic existing arrangements for combined H.Q. works well, i.e., Admiral and group captains in one H.Q. in Reykjavik each with a direct tie line to me at Artun and I have base details with them. If invasion attempted I agree complete combined H.Q. necessary and should therefore always be in operation. Feel that I have not quite convinced Admiral and group captains of necessity as they are deeply immersed in present phase and reluctant at once to take precautionary measures against problematical but of course really vital menace. Am preparing plans for combined H.Q. at Artun. Communications already established here as outlined in my letter of 14/5. (G.O.C. Iceland (C) Force 1937/16)

Movements.

HERMIONE.

Adty. 2344/B/15. If fuel permits return direct to Scapa with despatch weather permitting. (C. in C.H.F. 1013B/16 to HERMIONE.) *See next page.*

Netherlands
T.B.'s.

Your 1740B/14. Situation regarding Netherlands Z class T.B.'s is as follows. (D.O.D.(H) 1021B/16 to C. in C.W.A.)

/AURANIA

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - contd.

AURANIA.

F.O.I.C. Iceland's 2215Z/15. AURANIA is to remain with O.B. 334 until reaching 45° W. when she is to break off and proceed independently to Halifax passing through Belle Isle Straits. (C. in C.W.A. 1035B/16 to AURANIA.)

TIGRIS.

Arrangements for sailing for patrol.
(Capt. (S) 3 1053B/16)

N.E.F.

Your 1738Z/15. Following ships of N.E.F. are now on passage to St. Johns.
A. Escorting O.B. 331 E.T.A. 19/6. ASSINIBOINE, HARVESTER, ABERDEEN, LONDONDERRY, ARROWHEAD, PRIMROSE, CAMELLIA.
B. Escorting O.B. 332 E.T.A. 20/6. HAVELOCK, PHILANTE, SANDWICH, MAYFLOWER, HEPATICA, TRILLIUM, WINDFLOWER, SNOWBERRY, EYEBRIGHT.
(C. in C.W.A. 1129B/16 to C.C.N.F.)

→ HERMIONE.

Your 1013B/16. Fuel insufficient. Intend oiling at Hvalfiord. E.T.A. Scapa 1500B/18 where most necessary to clean for first time one boiler which will have steamed 950 hours also embarking essential naval stores, provisions etc. Anticipate ready in all respects to sail from Scapa p.m./21.
(HERMIONE 1205B/16 to C. in C.H.F.)

See previous page.

→ FURIOUS.
→ HERMIONE.

FURIOUS will be ready to leave Clyde for Gibraltar on 19/6.
2. Ocean escort will be provided by HERMIONE.
3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to:-
(A) Provide A/S escort to limit of destroyer's endurance.
(B) Arrange route and R/V for HERMIONE.
(C) Sail ships at convenient time after completion of loading.
4. C. in C.H.F. is requested to sail HERMIONE to R/V with FURIOUS as ordered by C. in C.W.A.
5. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to provide inward A/S escort. (D.O.D.(H) 1302B/16.)

/HERMIONE's

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

HERMIONE

HERMIONE's 1205B/16. Consider proposed programme is necessary and should be carried out. HERMIONE can arrive Clyde a.m./22. (C. in C.H.F. 1934B/16.)

HERMIONE's 1205B/16 not to all addressees. In view of C. in C. H.F. 1934B/16 delay of sailing from Scapa until 21/6 must be accepted.

2. A.M.1302B/16, para.4.

C. in C.H.F. is requested to inform C. in C. W.A. of time at which HERMIONE will be able to make R/V West of Islay. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2352B/16)

KUJAWIAK.
(Polish
destroyer.)

Intend to sail KUJAWIAK at 0900/17 for full power trials ~~and~~ Rosyth. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2322/16.) *Delayed - See p. 498*

Operations.

M.T.B.'s.

All available M.T.B.'s are to be concentrated at Dover forthwith. (1st S.L. 0049B/16 to C. in C. Nore, Portsmouth, V.A. Dover.) All available M.T.B.'s are to be sailed for Dover forthwith armed with torpedoes. (C. in C. Nore 0124B/16 to N.O.I.C. Harwich.) Cancel my 0049B/16. (1st S.L. 0349B/16) Cancel my 0124B/16 M.T.B.'s return to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 0425B/16.)

Intend to sail with ACTIVE at 1800Z/17 to relieve MANCHESTER. (route) (SUFFOLK 2000Z/16)

Denmark Straits
patrol.

Until further orders only 1 cruiser is to be on patrol in Denmark Straits. EDINBURGH leave patrol forthwith and return to Scapa. Whenever possible 1 destroyer is to be on patrol in company with cruiser. (C. in C.H.F. 1105B/16th.)

C. in C.H.F.1105B/16. SUFFOLK is to relieve MANCHESTER at 1200Z/18. (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 1322Z/16.)

/Biscay patrol

War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.Biscay
patrol.

Your 2049/7. Admty. concurs that the proposed area might be fruitful but it can only be established at the expense of present normal patrols. It has moreover the very grave disadvantage of being outside the sink at sight area.

2. Proposals to extend the existing sink at sight area are now under active consideration. Should such extension be possible, the disposition of submarines in the Bay will be reconsidered. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1120B/16 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M to be based
at Lerwick.

As close patrols off Norwegian Coast are impracticable in summer months and in order to keep a S/M available in a good position for intercepting enemy units breaking out of or into North Sea it is proposed that so far as possible one S/M of 9th Flotilla should be based at Lerwick. Lerwick is suggested as it is thought that a S/M would be inconspicuous there if berthed say between two trawlers and with camouflage netting. Advantages of Lerwick over Sullom Voe. S/M would be kept available for patrol at 4 hours notice. Request your remarks. (F.O.S. 1221B/16 to A.C.O.S.)

M.G.B.
operation.

Carry out H.D. Three (A) 2145/16. Code word "Slave". Fighter protection arranged. (C. in C. Plymouth 1329/16 to S.O. 3rd. M.G.B.F.L.)

My 1329/16. Fishing craft are not to be interfered with. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1749/16)

KRONBERG.(KRONBERG²)

Send Finnish S.S. KRONBERG under armed guard to Kirkwall if met. She was met at 1307/13 in 060° 58' N. 015° 30' W. and ordered to proceed there but has not arrived. (C. in C.H.F. 2142B/16 to C.S. 18.)

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Patrols.

^{"Stab", "Bert", "Stand", "Sleeve",}
Patrols STAB, BERT, STAND, SLEEVE will be
flown p.m. today. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1404/16.)

Attacks on
shipping.

Day 15/6. Blenheim aircraft continued
their attacks against shipping off the German
Dutch and French Coasts. A 1,000 ton cargo
vessel 8 miles south of Borkum and three
miles west of the Hague a 4,000 ton M/V and
an 'E' Boat 12 miles west of the Hook of
Holland are claimed as total losses.
Between Vlieland and Haarlem a 5/6,000 tons
M/V escorted by at least six Flak ships is
claimed as damaged.
Night 15/16 June. Dunkirk Docks. 5
Wellingtons attacked. 2 Hampdens successfully
laid mines. (H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 1602/16.)

Breach of
Regulations.

Skipper of Steam Trawler WILLIAM HANBURY
C.Y. 1322 reports that when 7 miles W.N.W.
of Skerryvore at 0930/6 G.M.T. a twin engined
plane approached and proceeded to practise
dive bombing over his ship. He was on the
point of opening fire when he saw the
distinguishing marks to be British.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1731B/16.)

Enemy Air Operations.

ATLANTIC.

Fishing Trawler ATLANTIC has returned to
harbour and reports having been bombed by a
three engine machine at 1500 today when 3
miles S.E. of Eddystone. Weather thick at
the time. Ship damaged by one hit and one
near miss. Three bombs were dropped in all.
2 wounded. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2005/16.)

War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Tees and
Hartlepool.

Port of Tees and Hartlepool closed in accordance with my 1103/14 and my 1018/15. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0456/16.)
One acoustic mine detonated (position) at 0532/16. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0936/16.)
Port of Tees open in accordance with my 1103/14. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1400/16.)

Operation
B.S. 64.

Departures TEVIOT BANK, HOLDERNESS in company at 0815B/16. (F.O. Humber 0816B/16.)
Operation is postponed. Am returning to harbour owing to engine defect requiring 48 hours to make good. (TEVIOT BANK, 1007B/16.)
Arrivals TEVIOT BANK, HOLDERNESS in company at 1220. (F.O. Humber 1230B/16.)
My 1007/16. 19/6 is earliest date on which TEVIOT BANK will be able to carry out B.S.64. (TEVIOT BANK 1705/16/6.)

Operation
S.N.66.

S.N. 66 completed. (R.A.M. 0837B/16.)

My 1135B/14. Amend para. 2 to read. Begins. After lay AURORA provide A/A Escort for R.A. M/Ls. and return to Scapa. KENYA return direct to Scapa. NIGERIA, refuel Skaale Fiord, and make a patrol. Ends. (C. in C.H.F. 0915B/16.)

Thames
Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 1440/14/6 (position). (Capt M/S Sheerness 1010/16.)

Reference my 1543/14 area between Dartford Creek and Littlebrook Power Station on south side of channel is open to navigation. (F.O.I.C. London 1722/16.)

/Dartmouth

War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.Dartmouth.

Mines cut 15/6 by 9th M.S.F. in Q.Z.Y. 208. 9 weed encrusted Dutch Vickers, 1 German Z type or French Brequet very old, 3 French 32 Sautter Harle new. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1509/16.)

S.S. ALA
(sunk 13/6)

A.M.1829B/15. S.S. ALA in tow of tug SECURITY was routed by the inshore coastal route through the Looe Channel by which all coastal trade has been running for six months. Shoreham Harbour can only be entered and departed from at high water and this makes it often necessary to use the Looe to make the Gate at Portsmouth during daylight. The tow was routed by this Channel primarily due to this route being very much safer from air attack as air escort is not practicable for these small sailings. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1543B/16.)

Yarmouth.

Positions of 2 magnetic mines detonated today. (F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1901B/16.)

Operation
B.S.58.

Departures. FITZROY, SUTTON at 2008. GUILLEMOT, PLOVER at 2035. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2037B/16.)

Operation off
Belgian Coast.

Harwich departures M.T.B's 22, 32, 30. M.G.B. 64, 58, 62. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2202B/16.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Two ships
leaving
Brest.

Two unidentified ships were sighted by aircraft leaving Brest at 2100B/15 course West. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0034B/16 to C. in C.H.F. S.O. Force H. CUMBERLAND, SHEFFIELD, F.O.(S)). My 0034B/16. Photographs show that these ships were merchant ships. (1st S.L. 0348B/16 to advisees of former.)

/Brest

War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.Brest.

Brest 1300/16. SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU and PRINZ EUGEN still present. (D.D.I.C. 1500B/16.)

Oslo.

German Warships and arrivals. (N.A. Stockholm, 1821/16.)

3 Boats.

Following has been read. 3 enemy Motor boats bearing unknown course 310° speed 20 knots, my position 53° 0' N. 2° 50' E. (Nore W/T 2227/16.)

Casualties and Defects.KUJAWIAK.
(Polish
destroyer.)Have been delayed by defective stern gland. Am proceeding to Rosyth at 0830 and thereafter to Scapa as previously arranged. (KUJAWIAK 1325/16.) *S. p 493*Shipping and Convoys.S.L. 76.
SHEFFIELD.
CUMBERLAND.

SHEFFIELD and CUMBERLAND are to part company with S.L.76 after dark 16/6 and proceed to Scapa (route) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail SHEFFIELD after refuelling to Rosyth, where she will be taken in hand for repairs. Prisoners of war on board SHEFFIELD will be landed at Rosyth. C. in C.H.F. is requested to afford CUMBERLAND opportunities of carrying out H.A. practices at Scapa before she is sailed for Chatham. My 2237/4/6, 1609/14/6 and C. in C. Nore 2158/10/6 refer. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1337B/16 to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F. etc.)

/Catapult

499

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

Catapult
(CAM) ships.

A few merchant ships are being fitted with catapults in order to provide air protection for convoys outside the range of shore-based aircraft. These ships are designated Catapult Aircraft Merchant ships with the short title of CAM ships, and are henceforward to be referred to by this short title. N.C.S.O's are to inform Masters of Merchant Ships fitted with catapults of this title. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1524B/16 "A" Message.)

W.N. and
Ocean Convoys.

Your 1909B/14. HX.130 has been told to report E.T.A. at Loch Ewe and if necessary W.N.42 will be diverted to Loch Ewe to await their arrival. The position as regards sailing W.N. Convoys in conjunction with arrival of Ocean Convoys remains as in my 1259/23/5.(C. in C.W.A. 1830/16 to Admty.)

Troop Transport
from Aberdeen.

N.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 0828/16 (Not to C. in C. H.F. or Admty.) Request has been made for escort for S.S. AMSTERDAM for Lerwick and S.S. LADY OF MANN for Long Hope, with troops, from Aberdeen 18/6. This duty involves escort vessel being absent from Scapa for 2 days. There are no Home Fleet or working up destroyers available. Understand this will be a weekly commitment for another 6 weeks and it appears unlikely that it can be met in future except when a sufficiently worked up "Hunt" is available. (R.A.D.1957B/16 to C.in C.H.F.)

S.L. 75.

Arrived safely. 16 British and 6 Allied ships. Commodore, Adm. Crooke. Cargoes (D.S.650)

500

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H.,
Brest report.

Assume the ships referred to in A.M. 0034/16 (Two unidentified ships leaving Brest) are warships and take action accordingly. (1st S.L. 0057B/16 to S.O. Force H). Cancel my 0057B/16. (1st S.L., 0346B/16. to S.O. Force H).

CLYDE
Prisoners.

Due 1705A/16. I have 7 Italian prisoners of war, 4 seriously injured. (weather report) (CLYDE 0719A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Convoy.

Gibraltar 1720 15/6 French Destroyers SIMOUN, AVEYRON, CARIMARE, LORRAIN full and ARAGAZ light passed Eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gib., 0845A/16 to Admty, C. in C. Med).

CAUDEBEC
LE TRAIT.
(French).

One German Bomber crashed at Callao (South Portugal) A.M./15 seven killed A.I. Two others reported crashed C.3. French M.V. CAUDEBEC and LE TRAIT reported Setubal, arrived 13/6. (N.A. Lisbon, 1027/16 to Admty).

Force H.
VICTORIOUS.

Force H. VICTORIOUS sailed 2330B/15 routed through 035° N. 010° W. 035° 30' N. 015° 00' W. S. of A. 17 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1028B/16 to N.A. Stn).

Submarines
Policy.

In view of present obscure situation may I be kept informed of policy for submarines in Western Basin both re (A) French Warships proceeding to E. Mediterranean. (b) French M.V. escorted by French Warships which are sighted within free for all area. (F.O.C.N.A., 1058A/16 to C. in C. Med).

TAIGETH^E
ARCOLA
Italian.

Are ready to sail and have anchored outside harbour. (Consul, Teneriffe 1110/16 to D.M.I.) (F.O.C.N.A., 2324A/16 to N.A. Stations).

/SHEFFIELD.....

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

SHEFFIELD
HERMIONE.

Your 1806/15 crossed Admty 2346B/15. Particularly desired to take this opportunity to repair SHEFFIELD and to give her ship's company some leave. HERMIONE will take her place temporarily and hoped this will not be too inconvenient. (1st S.L., 1121B/16 to S.O. Force H).

Oilers for
Gibraltar,
Freetown.

Admty 2238B/12. In order to give escort a reasonable chance of meeting these ships proceeding Gibraltar, request following information should be included in route signals. (F.O.C.N.A., 1228A/16 to Admty).

SCYTHIA.

Your 1243B/9. Anticipate SCYTHIA will be ready to sail for U.K. on 23/6 with approx. 1300 personnel of whom about 650 will be service personnel. In view of your 1938B/14/5 and your 2154B/13 request confirmation ocean escort will be available. (F.O.C.N.A., 1250A/16 to Admty) See also Admty 2109/16, South Atlantic.

Enemy A/C
reports.

On 15/6 at 0800 S.E. of Sagres an aircraft of unknown nationality course N.W. at 0900 to N.W. a German aircraft. At 1020 off Oitavos a German aircraft course N, at 1000 off Cape Roca a German aircraft course N. 180 knots. At 0800/15 off Cape Roca a French transport course N 10 knots. (N.A. Lisbon, 1258/16 to Admty).

French M/S

French M/S LA GRACIEUSE Class alone bound North 9 knots position 26₅ P C L 25. (SCOTTISH, 1445A/16 to V.A.C.N.A.)

VICTORIOUS
RENOWN
ARK ROYAL.

My 2250B/14. Position X amended as follows:- 49° 00' N. 29° 30' W. Ships are to keep to the westward of 28° W after passing 45° N. (D.O.D. (H), 1601B/16 to S.O. Force H, C. in C. W.A.)

/CHATEAU YQUEM.....

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.- Contd.

CHATEAU YQUEM.

C. in C. Med., 2346/14. Ship purporting to be CHATEAU YQUEM sighted and photographed 036° 38' N 000° 40' W 12/6. course 360°. She passed Gibraltar eastbound 4/5 and was due westbound early June according to usual habit. (S.O.(I), Gib., 1722A/16 to Admty).

SEVERN.

Proceed forthwith to patrol off Palermo. W H P 2 Palermo 5 reverse order of patrol. You have full discretion as to time spent in each area. Cross 009° E westbound on 30/6. CLYDE intelligence follows. (F.O.C.N.A., 1910A/16 to SEVERN).

CLYDE
R. of P.

My 2010A part 1 CLYDE reports 4,000 tons Southbound ship torpedoed and sunk off Serpentera 1/6. 6,000 tons ships missed. Eastbound escorted Transport unsuccessfully attacked in Gulf of Terranova 2/6. Nothing sighted off Ischia Channel, minor traffic only South of Naples. 8/6. One destroyer attacked, torpedoes ran under and same day 2500 ton laden Northbound ship sunk by gunfire in Gulf of Policastro. No merchant vessels sighted in Stromboli Messina area. Periscope R/C of Palermo 12th revealed considerable shipping and one 6 inch cruiser in port. 14th sank by gunfire 500 ton Auxiliary sailing vessel 20 miles S. of Sardinia strongly suspect hydrophone fitted A/S vessel 7 prisoners. Surface A/S activity otherwise non-existing, slight air patrols. Minesweepers having sweeps similar to LL sighted sweeping in Boca Piccolo Naples and Gulf Gioja. (F.O.C.N.A., 2010A/16 to C. in C. Med).

FARNDALE.

Your 1730A/16. My P.C. and S. are 035° 38' N 010° 32' W 180° 20 knots. (FARNDALE 2101A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Convoy.

Gibraltar 1845/16 DAHOMEY, LIEUT. DE LA TOUR, CONDE, FORT DE SOUVILLE all full escorted by sloop eastbound in territorial waters. (S.O.(I) Gib., 2221A/16 to Admty)(See also D.O.R., 17/6.)

/RUMBA.....

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

RUMBA.

Expected to call at Fayal about 23/6. Request arrangements may be made for the Fayal Coal Supply Comp. to provide 90 tons coal. Permission is being asked through Ambassador. (D.O.D. (F) 2356B/16 to N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada).

South Atlantic.

EAGLE.

EAGLE 0228N/16 (Hush, N.T. in W.D.) Request information if EAGLE intention to return is approved in order instructions may be given to oiler BISHOPDALE. (C. in C. S.A., 1125N/16 to Admty).

MARKHOR
sailing craft
signal.

At 0230 G.M.T. 24° 55' S 02° 10' E. passed small sailing craft which fired one green rocket. Returned daybreak searched locality without result. Passage resumed 16/6. (MARKHOR, 1227/16 to Admty).

Forces Z and F
BISHOPDALE.

Your 0815N/16. Request you will recall Force "Z" and Force "F" to Freetown forthwith. Forces may be employed on passage to Freetown as desired by you but Force "Z" should keep well clear of position ordered for daylight 17th. C. in C. A.W.I., Bermuda, is requested to recall R.F.A., BISHOPDALE to Bermuda. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1501B/16 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I.) *See p. 512*

VILLE DE
STRASBOURG.
(French).

Departure Trinidad 11 ^{? June} July, 8½ knots. (Walvis Bay, 1502Z/16).

Force F.

Admty 1501/16. Return to (?Freetown). (C. in C. S.A., 1631N/16 to S.O. Force F., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)

/FRANKFURT.....

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

FRANKFURT
HERMES.
(German).

Rio de Janeiro reports FRANKFURT has commenced loading. HERMES appears to be ready for sea, and now it seems unlikely she will bunker, before sailing.

(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2016Z/16 to R.A.S.A.D.)
Rio de Janeiro reports HERMES has obtained clearance. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2042Z/16 to R.A.S.A.D.)

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

Proceed to Capetown passing through K.36 D, L 36 B, L one A, centre of L one then to Capetown. (C. in C. S.A., 2057N/16 to PRETORIA CASTLE).

SCYTHIA
CAMERONIA
(escort).

C. in C. S.A.'s 2317/13. and 2127/14. In view of large number of personnel in SCYTHIA and CAMERONIA they can not be allowed to proceed unescorted by either a cruiser or an A.M.C. As SCYTHIA has already sailed DUNCAN should escort her as far as Gibraltar. If this is not practicable she should be recalled to Freetown and sailed with escort stated. Anticipated cruiser escort will be available from Gibraltar to U.K. about 4/7 CAMERONIA should be sailed with escort to Gibraltar if possible in time to take advantage of this escort to U.K. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to inform C. in C. S.A. on what date he will be able to provide inward A/S escort to Gibraltar for these ships after taking into consideration. Repeat Operation "~~FRANCIS~~" completing about 3/7. Details in A.T. 2046B/16.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2109B/16 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

PAMPANO.

Pernambuco reports Italian PAMPANO has come alongside quay to discharge grain cargo. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2158Z/16 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

→ Operation.
"Tracer".

Your 0921 Z/15.
(a) First three between 1550 B and 1740 B. Fourth formation arrived 1840 B 14.
(b) Bad navigation. W/T communication established at 1643 B. (c) No.
(V.A., Malta, 1035B/16 to S.O. Force H.)

ABDIEL.

To embark 12 Aircraft torpedoes as arranged by S.O. Aircraft Carriers, Med. Fleet. Sail 1200/17 with all convenient despatch for Famagusta disembark torpedoes and return to Alexandria on completion. Passengers or equipment for Cyprus may be embarked if required.
(? 1152C/16 to ABDIEL.)

TAKU.

Leave patrol p.m./18th (route) to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 0550/22. RORQUAL is expected in 033° 45' N. 025° 00' E. at 0500C/19 proceeding direct to arrive Alexandria 21st. (Capt. S.I. 1431C/16 to TAKU.)

→ Operation
"Tracer".

C.S.R. up to 1600 hours 16/6. "Tracer". 8 Hurricanes left Malta led by 1 Blenheim for Middle East. Of 4 Wellingtons due from Gibraltar 1 failed to arrive cause unknown. Another crashed in sea near Malta cause unknown all crew killed.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1600/16.)

French
destroyer.

Operational Summary No. 37 up to 1200 hours 16/6 1941. 15/6. 2 Sunderlands located and shadowed French Destroyer north of Cyprus apparently en route to Syria.

BENGHASI Benghazi.
DERNA Derna
BARDIA Bardia
bombed.

Night 14/15. 5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour. 1 Wellington bombed Derna. 1 Wellington bombed enemy camp 3 miles south Bardia.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1620/16.)

/Movements....

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General Contd.

Movements.

Summary No. 206. (C. in C. Med., 1828C/16.)
See Lion Copy.

Benghazi
bombed.

Preliminary Summary Operations No.1,16/6.
Bombing night 15/16 Wellingtons attacked
Benghazi large fires and explosions also
ships Benghazi harbour aerodromes. Also
aerodromes Cyrenaica bombs and spikes and
M.T. concentrations Bardia.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 2214/16.)

ATLAS
SULLBERG.
(German.)

Arrived 15/6.
(Valencia, 230/16, to M. of W.T.)

S/M. Refits.

S. 1's 2118/3 Concerning TAKU etc.
Propose to defer these refits until reliefs
are forthcoming unless condition of submarine
necessitates their being taken in hand.
(C. in C. Med., 2250C/16.)

Italian
Warships.

From D/F bearings at 1540 G.M.T. on 16/6
Italian warship call sign six Z P was in
037° (?N) 018° 20' E., and call sign two
C Z in position 20 miles S.W. of Cephalonia.
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 2358C/16, to V.A.Malta.)

CLYDE
ROFF

See p. 502

506A

1828C/16th June.
IN.

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE.

From. C. in C. Mediterranean. Date. 16.6.41.
Recd. 2331.

N.V.L. CODE L.2. BY W/T.

Addressed. Mediterranean Fleet. Repeated N.O.I.C.
Palestine Ports. 201 Group, 204 Group,
H.Q. R. M. Middle East, N.O.I.C. Cyprus.
F.O.C. North Atlantic. 969 Force 'I'
N.O.I.C. Port Said, R.A. Alexandria,
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 587, V.A. Malta,
S.O. Force 'H' S.O. Force 'I'.

IMMEDIATE. Movement summary number 206 part .. H.M.S.
THOBE, H.M.N.Z.S. LEANDER, 6 destroyers operating from
Haifa. 2 destroyers return to Alexandria on relief by
H.M.S. MAIAD. H.M.S. MAIAD, H.M.S. KINGSTON, H.M.S.
JAGUAR, leave Alexandria 1800/16th due Haifa 0800 17th.
H.M.S. NIZAM leaves Alexandria 2230 16th due Haifa 1100
17th. H.M.S. DEFENDER and RODI pass through 034° 32'
North 033° 47' East about 2300 16th thence RODI to Port
Said arriving 1900 17th and H.M.S. DEFENDER to Haifa
arriving 0600 17th. H.M.S. ILEX and H.M.S. ISIS may
leave Haifa shortly for Alexandria. Part B. H.M.S.
GLENROY, H.M.S. PROTECTOR, H.M.S. AUCKLAND, H.M.S.
FLAMINGO due to leave coast westward P.M. 17th repetition
17th. H.M.A.S. PARAMATTA H.M.S. CRICKET H.M.S. GNAT
at Mersa Matruh. H.M.S. PEONY proceeding Alexandria
to Mersa Matruh P.M. 16th.

1828C/16.

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

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Fin, Admiralty House.
- Ops. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- O.D.8.
- M. (2)
- O.I.C.
- Mails.
- Movts.
- D.S.D.9.
- I. (3)
- D.R/S.W.
- W.D.
- E.S.
- D.P.S.
- N.L.O. Australia House.

EC

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Syria.French
Destroyer.

French Destroyer last seen 2115 hours 35° 49' N 32° 40' E course 083° 20 to 24 knots. She was then firing at something. (Group H.Q. M.E. 0045/16 to R.N.A.S. Ford).

ISIS.
damaged.

ISIS safely berthed in Haifa. Following received from ISIS. As far as is at present known have sustained following damage. Large hole in 60 station starboard, forward fuel tank and No. 1. boiler room flooded. Hull badly strained at 134 station. Tail shafting bent. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 0150/16 to F.O. 15 C.S., Capt. D.2).

DEFENDER.

Departure Haifa 0200/16.
(DEFENDER 0237C/16 to C.S.15).

2 Destroyers.

Bearing 150° distance 6 miles approx. course 18° my position 087° 20 miles 34° N 35° E. (Capt. D.14 0435/16 to Alexandria Base Ship W/T Station).

LE CHEVALIER
PAUL.
(torpedoed.)

CASSARD? hit by 2 torpedoes at 0300 position 096° Cape Greco 55. (C.O.R.N.A. S. Ford 0510/16 to Group H.Q. M.E). The Following has been read:-
S.O.S. LE CHEVALIER PAUL. 25 miles 200° from Latakia. (Nore W/T 0516C/16 to Whitehall W/T).

NAIAD.

My 1234C/14. Take NIZAM, JAGUAR, KINGSTON, under your orders. Sail 1800/16 to arrive at Haifa 0800/17 to disembark ammunition on arrival as arranged. by N.O.I.C. Haifa. (C. in C. Med., 1104C/16 to NAIAD.)

See previous page

/R/V with.....

War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Syria. - Contd.NAIAD.
Contd.

R/V with NAIAD in 031° 17' N 029° 24' E at 1930 today. Have steam for full speed at that time. (NAIAD, 1657C/16 to JAGUAR, KINGSTON).

PROVIDENCE.

French liner PROVIDENCE reported approaching Mersin 1300/15. (C. in C. Med., 1241C/16 to F.O. 15 C.S.)

Lack of
fighter protec-
tion.

Cannot afford casualties to destroyers. No fighter protection (all required for Army) C.S.15 to withdraw to Haifa during daylight. (C. in C. Med., 1004C/16 to C.S. 15 and 1006C/16 to Admty) See Lion Copy. (508A)

Destroyers
shortage.

Your ?1930C/16. When the purport of my 1108C/16 is carried out you will have a total of eight destroyers at your command. We are so short of these vessels that more cannot be spared for a single commitment. Rest periods will be given at Alexandria by dint of relieving Destroyers as far as substitutes become available. (C. in C. Med., 1130C/16 to C.S.15).

Vichy
destroyer
bombed.

Following from H.Q. P.T.J. Two Blenheims arrived (?C) G P S searched for damaged Vichy destroyer from 0400 (? dead reckoning) in S.E. direction at 1230. Destroyers are not found but (? said to be) position (? 034°) 54' N 035° 30' E course 021° was bombed on giving no reply to challenge. One hit claimed. R/C of Latakia at 1030 reports medium amount of shipping larger than coastal sailing craft. T.O.O. 1521/16 (ends). (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1759C/16 to C.S.15)

/Enemy M.V.....

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E.

1006c/16th June,

5086.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From C. in C., Mediterranean.

Date. 16.6.41.

Recd. 1625.

Naval Cypher One Time Table by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

I have been forced to curtail drastically the daylight operations of forces on Syria coast, there is no fighter protection available as it is all required for the Army.

Yesterday Sunday two destroyers were badly damaged and I cannot afford in present state of (Mediterranean Fleet) to allow my destroyer strength to be further reduced. Repair facilities are also totally unable to cope with destroyers already damaged and several are waiting their turn to be taken in hand.

I have therefore ordered C.S.15 to withdraw his force to Haifa during daylight except when special operations are called for or until fighter Protection is available.

1006c/16

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

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

REC.

~~814~~

War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Syria. - Contd.Enemy M.V.
attacked.

X.2587 A 89 16/6. Ops. Summary up to 2000 hrs. 16/6. 2 Sorties failed locate damaged Destroyer S.W. Tripoli attacked M.V. 3,000 tons believed direct hit. (H.Q. R.A.F., P.W.J., 2005/16).

Situation
Report. 58.

Syria. 815 Sqn. did not locate ^{LE}CHEVALIER PAUL at dusk/15 but carried out successful torpedo attack at 0400 in 35° 18' N 35° 18' E scoring one confirmed hit and one unconfirmed. ^{LE}CHEVALIER PAUL not since located but may have reached Tripoli as C.S.15 was too far south to intercept.

2. C.S.15 was instructed to with-draw by day to Haifa owing to absence of fighter support but at request of Army for continued support was authorised to continue day operations provided proper fighter protection allocated.

3. Force B encountered 2 French destroyers off Beirut at 0430/16 and chased them into harbour. JERVIS and KIMBERLEY may have scored hits. No damage to our force.

4. NAIAD and 3 destroyers have left Alexandria for Haifa to relieve 2 other destroyers. COVENTRY temporarily out of action with defects ILEX and ISIS have arrived Haifa. Both damaged by near misses and each has boiler room flooded. Casualties.

5. Western Desert. Details of Army operations not yet received. Active fighting taking place Movement forward of seaborne supplies delayed 24 hours. (C. in C. Med., 2358C/16 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Transports
at Massawa.

C. in C. E.I., 1242Z/15. Request you will comply with para 2. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 0142C/16 to N.O.I.C., Port Tewfik etc).

Vichy Ships.Admty 1332/27/5 para (ii) does not cover contingency of escorted Vichy ships. Request confirmation that existing procedure as given in Admty 1407/10/1 will apply.
(C. in C. E.I., 0620Z/16 to Admty).CERES.My 0820/15 CERES is now to leave Durban 18/6 and arrive Seychelles 24.
(C. in C. E.I., 0808Z/16 to CERES).B.P.6.Convoy B.P.6 arrived.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1132Z/16 to C. in C. E.I., etc).CORNWALL
suspicious
ship.Ref. A.M. 0110/14. Yes. I consider stronger reasons were required in this locality to justify an only escort parting company from a 20 knots personnel convoy.
My 0406/13 is passed to you. It indicated my opinion that encounter with ORNA was genuine. ORNA's failure to regard challenge will be investigated on arrival Aden.
(C. in C. E.I., 1220Z/16 to Admty).DUMONT
D'URVILLE.
(French Sloop)Report A.2 ship is based Diego Saurez.
(S.O. (I) Capetown, 1453B/16 to Admty etc).U.S. Consular
Shipping
Reports.

The present system used by U.S. Consuls for reporting shipping movements to America does not seem satisfactory. Reasons. Suggestions. Request policy be promulgated both at present time and should America enter the war. (C. in C. E.I., 1710Z/16 to Admty).

/AQUITANIA.....

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

AQUITANIA
tropical
accommodation.

On arrival at Trincomalee Master of AQUITANIA? reported temperature of only spaces in which prisoners could be carried with reasonable attempt to guard them ranged from 97° to 101° and that men started to collapse. Master recommends alterations to existing accommodation before carrying prisoners again in the tropics. Concur.
(C. in C. E.I., 1748Z/16 to D. of S.T.)

Operations
against Dhows.

Motor Boat Patrol from CHANTALA located three Dhows 0330Z/16 two miles South of Anghar. Motor boat withdrew after trying to tow one laden foodstuffs under steady rifle fire from shore.
2. CHAKDINA captured one Dhow 0600Z/16 and another was run ashore and abandoned five miles North Ras Bir. Both carrying foodstuffs. Motor boat fired on from beach.
(S.N.O. Red Sea 1804Z/16 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

DAUNTLESS
EMERALD
Collision.

DAUNTLESS, EMERALD, in collision Malacca Straits 2230 G.H./15. Both proceeding to Singapore own steam. Casualties EMERALD 14 killed or missing 5 injured. DAUNTLESS not known.
(C. in C. China, 0331Z/16 to Admty).

N.E.I., Navy
conference.

With concurrence Govt. Gen. of Netherlands E.I., Vice Adm. Helfrich and Major Gen. Berenschot arrive Singapore tomorrow for elucidation dates and points arising out of A D.B and D B conference report, principally in regard to command. (C. in C. China, 0419Z/16 to Admty).

NINGPO.
mined
15/6.

M.V. NINGPO while at anchor in examination anchorage Singapore A.M./15 damaged by floating mine which had fouled starboard propellor. No casualties.
(C. in C. China. 0421Z/16 to Admty).

/GOUVERNEAU.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.- Contd.GOUVERNEUR
GENERAL
PASQUIER
(French.)Departure 16/6 GOUVERNEUR GENERAL PASQUIER
Singapore.
(Saigon, 0915Z/16).America and West Indies.SHEHERAZADE
(French).Your 1944B/14. 8 of SHEHERAZADE crew have
already joined de Gaulle and hoped to
recruit more. Anticipate therefore that
considerable difficulty may arise in obtaining
crew to steam ship to North Africa if ship
is (?released). Suggest of greatest
importance that this valuable ship and cargo
should not be allowed to proceed to
Casablanca and so come under enemy control.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0048Q/16 to Admty).MALOJA
AUSONIA
ASCANIA.Intend sailing MALOJA as escort for H.K.
134 and AUSONIA as escort for S.C.35.
Escort for B.H.X. 134 ASCANIA returning to
Halifax. Intend both MALOJA and AUSONIA
to proceed to Iceland with Air Force Personnel.
(R.A. 3 B.S., 1151P/16 to Admty etc).DUC
D'AUMALE
(French).St. Thomas arrival for bunkers 15th DUC
D'AUMALE. From New York for Martinique.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1154R/16 to Admty
etc).St. Thomas reports DUC D'AUMALE sailing
P.M. today for Martinique.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2012R/16 to Admty etc).BISHOPDALE.Return to Bermuda forthwith.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1243Q/16 to Oiler
BISHOPDALE.) *See p. 503*Ships from
Wabana.Request you consider possibilities of
ships loaded at Wabana joining convoy at N.F.
rendezvous.
(D.T.D. 1805B/16 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

/MADIANA.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.MADIANA,
DUCHASSELEY.
(French
fishing
schooners.)

N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F., 1020Z/10, 2341Z/11.
Request (i) your early decision regarding
French ship brought in by R.N. for search
and also (ii) your recommendations regarding
seizure of French fishing ships or other
French ships brought in by H.M.C.s for
search for submission to Canadian Govt.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1817Z/16 to Admty).

Enemy
Intelligence,
Copenhagen.

Following from Diplomatic source.
Copenhagen 14/6. German Naval Units
concentrated in this area including several
heavy One(S)?.
(N.A. Washington, 1910/16 to Admty).
N.I.D. Comment.
The only heavy units likely to be in this
area are the old Battleships SCHLESIEEN &
SCHEESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

Australia.Japanese
Aircraft,
R/C.

My 1109Z/10. Air search carried out from
Gavutu and Rabaul proved negative but
further air R/C extending northwards to
Kapingamarangi now arranged. During the
period 13 - 15/6 further report of unknown
aircraft received from Lorengau Tabar
and Rabaul. Plane sighted at Rabaul was
a land plane and was seen by military observer.
Consider all aircraft sighted to be Japanese
and that they have been carrying out A/C from
Ternuas or other base.
(A.C.N.S. Melbourne, 0840Z/16 to Admty etc).

New Zealand.Pacific
Islands.

Defences in British and French Islands in U.S.
area of Pacific Islands south of equator
including area in which support of U.S.
Pacific Fleet is proposed.
(N.Z.N.B., 1646M/16 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

16461/16th June

MOST SECRET

IN

513A

From New Zealand Naval Board.

Date 17.6.41.

Recd. 1302.

NAVAL CYPHER X BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty.

314. Reference paragraph 5 of telegram GLEEM from British Military Mission in United States to Chiefs of Staff, United Kingdom, the following are defences existing or proposed in British and French Islands in United States area of Pacific Islands South of equator including area in which support of U.S. Pacific Fleet is proposed.

(1) Fiji (Viti Levu) two six inch guns at Suva covering the entrance and two four point seven guns covering Navula Passage. It is proposed that two six inch guns should replace the four point seven inch which would then be mounted at Suva. One N.Z. Brigade group consisting of 3069 all ranks and including one field gun battery (six 18 pdrs. on beach platforms at Suva) two D.H. 89 and two D.H. 86 reconnaissance aircraft at Nandi with R.N.Z.A.F. personnel.

(2) Makatea. Free French garrison of 35 with machine gun posts established to cover landing places.

(3) Tahiti. Two old 65 MM and three old 47 MM guns. No further supplies of 65 MM ammunition available when existing stocks of 400 rounds is exhausted. 300 rounds of 47 MM ammunition only available but attempts are being made to get further supplies from England. Local defence force of 300 of doubtful fighting value armed with rifles and 2 machine guns. 16 machine guns with ammunition and 1000 grenades being sent by Free French Headquarters.

(4) Mauru and Ocean Island. Field artillery and a small detachment of Australian Military Force.

(5) Noumea, New Caledonia. Existing French defences are old 4.4 inch. It has been approved for two 6 inch Mark VII guns to be provided and also a minefield of 100 miles in due course. Guns are at Sydney ready for shipment but Vichy activities have rendered provision of guns unpropitious for time being. Gun emplacements are being prepared.

(6) Tulagi and Vila. R.N.Z.A.F. advance operational bases have no defence and none are proposed.

(7) Fanning Island. Garrison 100 all ranks. One 3.7 inch Howitzer being replaced shortly by one 6 inch gun.

(ii) This signal is being repeated for information to New Zealand Air Liaison Officer Ottawa who communicated text of Military Mission's telegram under reference.

16461/16.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.N.I.(4)

D. of P.(2)

Duty Captain

E.P.S.

Head of M.(8)

I.P. (2)

N.I.D. 10 (Pay.Cdr.Wilson)

W.D.

D.T.S.D.

D. of L.D.

D.D.O.D.(H)

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Explosion
Report.

Following received Butt of Lewis (begins)
RANGITIKI reports 7½ hours late passing
parallel, also that at 0550 G.M.T. an
explosion in sea in 059° 09' N. 007° 23' W.
Draught at destination 32 feet. T.O.O.
1233B/16 - (ends) (N.O.I.C. Stornoway
1330B/16 to Admty.)

ROBIN MOOR.
(torpedoed
21/5.)

CITY OF WELLINGTON arrived Capetown with
35 survivors of U.S. Ship ROBIN MOOR
rescued on 2/6 in 020° 11' N. 033° 04' W.
This completes list of passengers and crew.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1710B/16 to Admty. etc.)

PENDRECHT
(torpedoed
8/6.)

12 survivors from PENDRECHT torpedoed and
sunk 8/6 in 045° 18' N. 036° 40' W. landed
by^s ALRESFORD. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.
1720Z/16.)

Submarines Reported.

2215/15.

Your 2208B/13 S/M at 2215 G.M.T./15 in
vicinity 042° N. 047° 30' W. (N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa, 0243Z/16 to Admty.)

0700.

U.Boat sighted by fishermen about 0700/16
approx. position 065° 33' N. 024° 47' W.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1435/16 to Orkneys and
Shetlands.)

Estimated U.B. dispositions. (D.D.I.C.
1448B/16.)

/1620

War Diary.

16.6.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. - Contd.

1620.

Following received. Submarine sighted
045° 13' N. 042° 17' W. at 1620Z/16. (Ends)
(R.A. 3. B.S. 1638P/16 to North Atlantic
Escort Force.)

3/5.

Master ^{→ Panamanian*} BEACON HILL on arrival Halifax
reports Panamanian tanker GEORGE G HENRY ^{USA.}
westbound Teneriffe to Aruba was stopped
about 3/5 600 miles W of Teneriffe by U-Boat
and examined. Thence proceeded on voyage.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1751Z/16 to Admty.)
** Lloyd's Register*

U.S. Report.

Submarine report 045° 13' N. 042° 17' W.
from Nerk. Understand originator is U.S.
Warship. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1948Z/16 to
Admty.)

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Principal Events.

Ship attacked by raider in South Atlantic.

S/M's are to sink at sight French merchant ships in certain areas of Mediterranean.

Home Commands.

German main units are shown by photographic R/C to be located as follows:—^{ADMIRAL}
Kiel: TIRPITZ, SCHEER, LUTZOW, HIPPER.
Brest: SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, PRINZ EUGEN.

British Air Operations.

At 1730 7 Beauforts with Fighter Escort of 25 Spitfires, were despatched to attack 2 enemy destroyers off Cherbourg. These had been previously reported off Calais, Le Touquet and Le Havre by Spitfires on photographic R/C's. One hit (unconfirmed) was claimed on the stern of one destroyer.

Five aircraft of Bomber Command last night attacked the docks at Boulogne and 4 Ostend. Two Swordfish of Coastal Command bombed Dunkirk.

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. DEEDON (Coaster 314 tons) received minor damage in air attack at 0230 today at Lunnan Bay.

S.S. STOCK FORCE in Convoy F.S.518 was bombed and set on fire about 2400/17 and entered the Tyne. Damage was slight.

Convoy F.S.517 called for help at 2320 East of Mable Thorpe.

R.F.A. MOORDALE was bombed and machine gunned in Portsmouth Eastern Approach Channel at 1150/17 by 3 enemy fighters. MOORDALE and ARCTIC PIONEER, escorting her, returned the enemy's fire, and 3 British fighters detailed to protect the ships drove off the enemy after the first attack. Neither ship was seriously damaged, but both had slight casualties.

Mining.

Operation
B.S. 58.

PLOVER, reported this operation completed at 1042B (minelaying in East Coast Barrier).

M.T.B.
Operation.
M.T.B. 22
damaged.

3 M.T.B's carried out a minelaying operation off the coast of Belgium last night. Whilst returning this morning M.T.B. 22 was badly damaged by a mine off the Sunk Buoy but reached Harwich under her own power.

Mines were detonated off Hartlepool and amongst a convoy between Whitby and Tees.

/Humber.....

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining-Contd.

Humber.

The Humber was closed at 0228B.

M.G.B. 71
damaged.

M.G.B. 71 was damaged by underwater explosion at 2350/17 and was towed into Grimsby.

Thames
Estuary.

A mine exploded at 1907 near the wreck of the *AUDACITY (sunk by mine 15/6) off Sheerness. It is thought that the small motor fishing boat DORIS II L.O. 183 was blown up by this explosion.

*AUDACIOUS. See p. 466

North Atlantic.

It is reported that work is in progress on the passive defences of Dakar.

South Atlantic.

S.S. TOTTENHAM (U.K. to Table Bay) reported being shelled by a warship raider at 2040Z today in 7° 39' S. 19° 12' W. LONDON and PRETORIA CASTLE have been sent to the area. It is considered most likely that a merchant ship raider is concerned, as no German warship is known to be out. (See Home Commands)

LONDON and EAGLE are to form a hunting group under the orders of C. in C.S.A.

PRETORIA CASTLE intercepted French S.S. DESIRADE at 2125/17 and sent her under armed guard to St. Helena.

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

French merchant ships, whether escorted or not, are to be sunk at sight by S/M's if encountered in the previous declared zone where enemy ships may be sunk under similar circumstances.

Netherlands S/M O.24 after her first patrol reports that she has sunk a 7,000 ton tanker and a ship of 500 tons.

Malta.

Two separate aircraft dropped bombs on Malta last night, No damage or casualties occurred.

Western Desert.

The Army have been compelled to withdraw in face of superior forces.

Aegean patrol.

TORBAY has returned from Aegean patrol and reports sinking the following:-

(a) By gunfire: 1/6 a German caique with personnel and stores for Mitylene. 3/6 a Caique with oil drums for Mitylene. 12/6 an Italian schooner with troops, ammunition and stores for Lemnos.

(b) By torpedo: 6/6 French tanker ALBERTA. The crew are reported to be pro-British. (See 8/6) 10/6 Italian tanker GUISEPPINA GHIRARDI.

(c) By ramming: 11/6 a caique proceeding to Mitylene.

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

The Newfoundland Force now comprises a separate command.

U-Boat Campaign.

Survivors have been picked up from Belgian S.S. MERCIER (Liverpool for Montreal Ex O.B 550) presumed torpedoed about 770 miles East of Halifax before today.

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SEAWOLF.

Proceed through $046^{\circ} 30' N.$ $008^{\circ} 00' W.$ to your patrol position. T.B.R. arranged from 0400B/18. (Capt. (S) 5 1011B/17 to SEAWOLF).

SOKOL.

Movements after leaving patrol after dark 19/6. (Capt. (S) 5 1044B/17). Her orders. T.B.R. arranged covering your route. (Capt. (S) 5 1055B/17 to SOKOL).

→ VICTORIOUS.

Adty. 2250B/14. Route to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1126B/17 to VICTORIOUS).

A.M.C's.

In view of A.M. 2141B/14. It is now impossible for me to comply with A.M. 1946A/3/5. (F.O.C.N.P. 1541B/17).

KUJAWIAK.

Orders for sailing from Rosyth to Scapa. (C. in C. Rosyth 1753/17).

PANDORA.

Orders for arriving in U.S.A. (C. in C. W.A. 1752Z/17).

RUBIS.

Informing them of her movements. (C. in C. W.A. 1852B/17 to LANCE, VENOMOUS).

ST. ALBANS.

ST. ALBANS who has joined me with 250 tons oil only was detached at 2200B in $054^{\circ} 30' N.$ $011^{\circ} 22' W.$ with following orders. To pass through $051^{\circ} 45' N.$ $026^{\circ} 35' W.$ at 2200B/19 course 214° speed 17 knots reversing course at 2359B/19, if not met, to $34^{\circ} 19'$ knots. ST. ALBANS must be detached on 21/6 in $010^{\circ} W.$ to proceed to Mogille at economical speed. (Capt. (D) 4 2210B/17 to C. in C. W.A. VICTORIOUS).

/CUMBERLAND.....

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

CUMBERLAND.

Your 1212B/17 and your 1447B/17. Admiralty have directed that CUMBERLAND is to be escorted by WINDSOR and HAMBLEDON... The latter is required to fit S.A. gear at Chatham beforehand. In view of other commitments for HAMBLEDON it is not considered she will be available to escort CUMBERLAND before p.m./26. Suggest therefore that CUMBERLAND should be sailed from Scapa on 27th to arrive Sheerness about 1630/28.

Speed should be reduced to 12 knots on passing 52 Buoy. Request fighter protection may be arranged for daylight passage on 27 and fighter escort from daylight on 28 until arrival and also E.T.A. Flamboro' Head and speed on passage be communicated 24 hours before sailing to allow sweeping arrangements to be made. (C. in C. Nore 2302B/17 to C. in C. H.F).

Operations.

TJALDUR.

Faeroes S.S. TJALDUR has been seized. I have engaged as temporary crew survivors from DIANA to take ship to Kirkwall. Propose sailing prize escorted by A/S ship from Faeroes. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1100B/17 to A.C.O.S)

S/M for
Lerwick.

Fully concur. (A.C.O.S. 1741/17 to F.O.S).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Operations.Patrols.

^{"Sentry"}
~~SENTRY~~ being flown today 1200 to 2000
 STAB and BERT will be flown P.M. today
 weather permitting. (C. in C. Rosyth 1200/17).
 My 1200/17. ~~STAB~~ also being flown.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 1700/17).

Enemy Air Operations.V.4.

Two bombs fell astern near Dyck Buoy, but
 were thought to be jettisoned. (C. in C. Nore
 1130B/17).

Thames
Estuary.

During night of 16th/17th June there was
 considerable air activity over the estuary
 between 0030 and 0500. Aircraft at about
 3500 feet on a north-westerly course and
 which subsequently fired correct recognition
 signals were engaged by our own ships in
 both Barrow Deep and Boom Areas between 0320
 and 0505. At 0500 an aircraft thought to
 be possibly a Heinkel 111 passed over Boom
 Area at about 2000 ft. height and was fired
 at but gave no recognition signal. In the
 early morning a number of home-coming
 British bombers were recognised. No signal
 warning ships of these aircraft was
 received. (S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1447/17).

Convoy
F.S.

^{"Booby"}
 Help ~~BOOPY~~ 53° 25' N. 0° 57' E. 148 7.
 (LUDLOW 2320/17).

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Humber.

Humber closed to navigation owing to minelaying anticipated opening 1000. (F.O. Humber 0228B/17).

Tees and
Hartlepool.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed in accordance with my 1103/14 and my 1015/15. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0449/17).
Ports of Tees and Hartlepool open in accordance with my 1103/14 and my 1018/15. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1435/17).

Operation
off Belgian
Coast.
M.T.B. 22
damaged.

Arrival M.T.B. 30. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0610B /17)
Arrival M.T.B.'s 22 and 32. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0640B/17).
Arrival M.G.B's 64, 62, 58. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0648B/17).
0520B/17. About 1½ miles 090° from Sunk buoy. Explosion believed to be due to two or three acoustic mines very close together and exploding almost simultaneously. Boat returned to Harwich under own power but is extensively damaged. No fatal casualties. (BEEHIVE 1102B/17, C. in C. Nore, 1130B/17).

Convoy
E.C. 54.
Whitby
to Tees.

LIDDESDALE reports:- One Ground mine exploded at 0925 between first and second ships starboard column between 19 A Buoy and 19 B Buoy. 0942B/17. Ends. (C. in C. Rosyth 1116/17). *See also p. 573.*

L.L. Drifters detonated one red mine in 54° 39' 15" N. 01° 07' 40" W. at 0903/17. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0955/17).

Operation
B.S. 58.

Operation B.S. 58 completed. (PLOVER 1042B/17)

/Operation....

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-Contd.

Operation
B. S. 59.

Operation B.S. 59 is to be carried out tomorrow night as ordered in my 1742B/13 with following amendments. (C. in C. Nore 1430/17).

Thames
Estuary.

Magnetic mine detonated by M.M.S. 39 and M.M.S.1 (?) 123° Nore L.V. 3 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1658/17).

Operation
B.S. 64.

Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 0800/19. Laying will begin at 1245. (TEVIOT BANK 2125B/17).

Enemy Intelligence.

Oslo.

My 1811/16. (1821/16 intended) Further intelligence. (N.A. Stockholm 1005/17).

2 destroyers.

2 German Destroyers reported off Calais at 0930/17. Course 246° 25 Knots. (D.D.I.C. 1035B/17 to C.'s in C. Home, V.A. Dover, A.C.O.S. H.Q.C.C).

Brest.

Photographic reconnaissance of Brest at 1030B/17 shows SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU and PRINZ EUGEN present in same positions. (D.D.I.C. 1324B/17).

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence-Contd.Convoy
and
destroyers.

Following JIM CROW report received from 11th Group. Twenty ships 15 miles North of Le Treport at 1525 in half moon formation in pairs line abreast. Ten ships in front about 2000 tons each. Behind each ten is a Flak ship. One pair of escorts half mile behind convoy and one pair escorts quarter mile in front of convoy. Three miles in front are two destroyers. M.E. 110's in vicinity. Haze over sea. Visibility of 6000 feet 10 miles. Convoy proceeding South. (V.A. Dover 1514B/17).

LÜTZOW.
ADMIRAL HIPPER.
ADMIRAL SCHEER.
TIRPITZ.

At Kiel 1130B/17. (D.D.I.C. 1647B/17,
1852B/17).

Casualties and Defects.S.S. EXPLORER.

Request you will sail SEAMAN to stand by S/S EXPLORER proceeding slowly to Clyde from Ringdove Rock, Tiree, where ship grounded at 0130B/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0458B/17).

Tug SEAMAN sailed 0900B in accordance with your 0458B/17. Delay in establishing W/T communication with SEAMAN is being investigated. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1001B/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Request you will investigate and inform me reasons for delay in sailing of SEAMAN in accordance with my 1438B/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1012B/17 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry). Your 1012B/17/6. Explanation of delay. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1750/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/HUTOR.....

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.-Contd.HUTOR.

14 survivors landed at Reykjavik ex Norwegian HUTOR. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1250/17).

EMILE
BAUDOT.

Arrived with boiler trouble. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 2003B/17).

Shipping and Convoys.W.S.9B.

As NEA HELLAS cannot be ready in time she will not now be included in W.S. 9B. (D.S.T. 0406B/17 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland etc.)

Aberdeen
Troop
Transport.

My 1800B/1, R.A.D's 1957B/16 and C. in C. H.F. 1212/17. It is considered essential that a fast surface escort should be provided for these troop transports. As no escorts are available from Home Fleet or Rosyth request War Office be informed that these troop movements cannot take place until escorts become available. (A.C.O.S., 1211/17 to Admty.).

Escort
for Troop
Ships.

R.A.D. 1957B/16 and A.C.O.S. 1800B/1/6. This regular commitment cannot be met by H.F. Destroyers of which there are only just sufficient for Capital ships and who are seriously in need of practices and a period at the Base. Only ship soon available is HAMBLEDON who is due to sail for Nore on 19/6 on completion of practices. (C. in C. H.F. 1212B/17 to Admty.). R.A.D's 1957/16. HAMBLEDON should escort these ships when working up is completed. Delay of two days in arrival at Chatham must be accepted. W.O. state that commitment will be fortnightly from this date. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2354B/17 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Nore, etc.)

/End.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys-Contd.End to
End Escorts.*
/elsewhere called
"Disposal"

My 1502/B/15 Cancel para 2 and substitute:-
 2. If numbers of running escorts were to become reduced appreciably it would be necessary in the interest of obtaining maximum protection from available escorts between Eastern R/V and Western*Departure point (or Halifax, if escort is extended) to arrange for slow OB convoys to join up with faster OB convoys at Eastern R/V.
 3. Onward escort for combined convoys could then be provided by Newfoundland escort force as in the case of H.X. and S.C.
 4. This junction, which in practice may well prove difficult to achieve, would be effected by routeing the slow convoys outside and the faster one through the Minches. 5. The combined convoy method suffers, however, from the disadvantages of reducing the speed of the faster convoy for the ocean passage to that of the slow, with consequent delays in trade, and further entails the escorts having a shorter period of harbour time with detrimental effects on maintenance and personnel. (C. in C. W.A. 1218B/17 to Admty.).

O.B. Convoys
at Eastern
R/V.

W.A.C.I's part 152 para 9 insert new clause J. (C. in C.W.A. 1221B/17 to Cpts. (D) Londonderry and Greenock).

W.S.9B.

Will be ready to leave U.K. on 28/6. List and sailing ports. Ocean escort GALATEA to Suez, CATHAY to Freetown, an 8-in cruiser to vicinity of Azores, etc. (A.C.N.S(H) 1535B/17 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. R.A.(M)) See Lion Copy.
 A.M. 1535/17. ANSELM will proceed in W.S.9B as far as Freetown only. Request onward escort for this ship with R.A.F. personnel from Freetown to Takoradi. (D.O.D.(F) 2316B/17 to C. in C.S.A).

MOST SECRET

528 A

~~M E S S A G E~~

155517/17th June.

MOST SECRET

OUT.

To: C. in C. Western Approaches. 988. Date 17.6.41.
C. in C. Home Fleet. 260.
R... (H).
Repeated C. in C. South Atlantic. 880.
R... (D) Home Fleet. 558.
F.O.I.C. Liverpool.
F.O.I.C. Greenock.
F.O.I.C. Belfast.
F.O.I.C. Cardiff.
C. in C. Plymouth.
N.C.S.O. Liverpool.
N.C.S.O. Clyde.
N.C.S.O. Milford Haven.
F.O.C.N.A. 995.
F.O.C.N.P. 196.
H.M.S. GALATEA.
H.M.S. CATHAY.
H.Q.F.C.
H.Q.C.C.
S.O. Force H. 149.

NAV.L CYPHER A.1.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

- Convoy W.S. 9(D) will be ready to leave U.K. on June 28th.
2. Ships will sail from the following ports :-
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| From Devonmouth : | MILROA |
| From Newport : | BRUNDEL CASTLE |
| | PIMPIS |
| From Mersey : | RANGITATA |
| | ATHLONE CASTLE |
| | MONARCH OF BERMUDA |
| | INSELM |
| | ELIZABETH BLAKE |
| From Clyde : | MILROA |
| | ORONSAY |
| | PULASKI |
| | CLIN FORBES |
3. Speed of slowest ship 12 knots.
4. Ocean escort will be provided as follows :
- GALATEA to Suez
 - CATHAY to Freetown
 - An 8" cruiser to vicinity of Azores, which C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to detail.
5. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to :
- Provide one Δ /S cruiser to approx. 25 degrees W.
 - Provide 7 destroyers as Δ /S escort to limit of destroyers' endurance
 - Sail ships in accordance with route to be provided by Admiralty and arrange R/V's for different sections.

/ 6.....

6. R.A.(M) is requested to provide 3 destroyers in order to make A/S escort up to 10.
7. Main convoy conference will be held at Greenock, and Commodore should be embarked in a ship from Clyde. Arrangements should be made for Senior Officers of Escorts to attend.
8. F.C.I.C. Cardiff is requested to arrange a convoy conference for Bristol Channel ships and to pass this signal to N.C.S.O.'s Avonmouth and Newport.

1535B/17.

D.O.D. (H)
Approved A.C.N.S. (H).

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

War Diary

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CLYDE

Reports of patrol and sinkings on 14/6, etc. (F.O.C.N.A., 1010A/17 to SEVERN) See Lion Copy.

Force H,
VICTORIOUS

Position of RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, VICTORIOUS and HESPERUS at 1200B/17, 038° 20' N. 015° 40' W. course and speed as requisite to comply with your 2250B/14 and 1601B/16. HESPERUS completed with fuel a.m./17. (S.O. Force H, 1044B/17 to Admty.)

JACQUES
ODETTE
(French)

Extract from a Fairmiss telegram from Lisbon. Departure 16/6. Believed for Casablanca. (Lisbon, 1215/17 to M. of W.T.)

Cable
Operation

Cable and Witeless require repair to cable in Azores area in 38° 55' N 28° 24' W and 37° 55' N 25° 19' W. In view of A.M./2059B/2 should these repairs be undertaken by MIRROR? One A/S Trawler would accompany as escort and operation B (see my 1220/28/4) would be carried out en route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1226A/17 to Admty.)

S/M's for
A/S work.

Your 1006A/12. (Employment of submarines against shadowing U-Boats.) Request you will arrange for this proposal to be adopted for trial on N.A. Station East of 12° W, a strip of T.B.R. being arranged astern of the convoys where our own aircraft are likely to sight the submarine. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1259B/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Ships
orders to
S/M's.

French Warships are not to be attacked in Western Mediterranean except if sighted in Gulf of Gioja proceeding south through Straits of Messina. Instructions regarding Fr. B.C.DUNKERQUE however, remains in force. French Merchant ships whether escorted or not are to be sunk on sight in free for all areas. (F.O.C.N.A., 1410A/17 to SEVERN).

529A

SECRET MESSAGE 1010A/17th June. IN

From F.O.C. North Atlantic. Date 17.6.41.

Recd. 2238.

NAVAL CYPHER 0 2 BY W/T.

Addressed H.M.S. SEVERN. Repeated Capt. (S) I. Commander (S) I.

H.M.S. CLYDE reports considerable shipping and one 6 inch cruiser in Palermo 11th June traffic entering from Westward passed close round Cape Gallo inside QB 52 and kept far inshore to harbour.

Shipping routes in Gulf of Gioja confirmed.

Policastro area route 180 Palinuro 2, 180 Iscolleli 1, 270 Scalea 2, 270 Bonifati 2.

Naples area merchant ships using route joining centre Boca Piccolo to point Licosa. Gulf of Terranova (Sardinia). Shipping steering 055° from harbour entrance to position 155 Cape Figaro 8 cables which possibly indicate minefield at Southern part of Gulf.

CAGLIARI. Southbound shipping passed 1 mile from Cape Ferrato round Serpentara at less 1 mile thence between Cavoli Island and Carboner.

Surface A/S activity nil repetition nil except hydrophone fitted sailing vessels, H.M.S. CLYDE sank one south of Spartevento Cape 14th. Air Patrol slight.

Cape Bellavista Imperatore Orlando Cape light intermittent otherwise none lighted.

Density layer at periscope depth on Eastern side Tyrranean Sea pocket of less density at 150 feet.

H.M.S. CLYDE sank one 25 hundred ton ship in Policastro Gulf and 4 thousand ton ship off Serpentara. 1010A/17.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F).
- A.C.N.S.(T)(2).
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- Ops.(4).
- O.D.(5).
- O.I.C.
- D.S.D.9.
- D.N.I.(4).
- D.D.T.M.
- M.(2).
- D. of P.(3).
- D.T.D.(4).
- D.T.D.(M).
- D.A/S.W.
- E.P.S.
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S.Basement.
- D.E.W.D.(5).
- F.O.S. by courier.
- I.P.(3).
- W.D.

E.B.

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

→ SEVERN

My 1910A/16 and your 1121B/17. In order to avoid overlap of patrols intend SEVERN to leave patrol off Palermo p.m./20 and proceed patrol coast of Italy north of 040° N. SEVERN to pass through $038^{\circ} 30' 013^{\circ} 30'$ not later than 0200B/21. SEVERN subsequently patrol coast of Italy and Sardinia complying with my 1910. (F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/17 to V.A. Malta.)

→ UTMOST
→ SEVERN

UTMOST leaves Malta p.m./17 to patrol off Italian coast between $038^{\circ} 40'$ and 039° ($?40'$) from p.m./22nd to p.m./24 proceeding through $038^{\circ} 00' 011^{\circ} 17'$ $038^{\circ} 12' 011^{\circ} 50'$ $038^{\circ} 44' 014^{\circ} 48'$. Estimated position 2130B/20 $038^{\circ} 15' 012^{\circ} 08'$ make good 90 miles per day. Estimated SEVERN arrives patrol off Palermo a.m./19 from west. (F.O.C.N.A. 1635A/17 to SEVERN UTMOST). See also p. 535.

NORFOLK

On return to U.K. about the end of June it is intended that NORFOLK should be taken in hand by Middle Dock Co., South Shields, for repairs and to fit R.D/F Type 284. (D.O.D.(H) 1637B/17 to C.S.1, NORFOLK).

9th M.L.
Flotilla

Your 1820A/12 and A.M. 1916B/7, latter not to R.A.C.F. Flotilla maintenance staff for 9th M.L. Flotilla similar to that of 3rd M.L. Flotilla will proceed to Gibraltar in Flotilla Escort and spare crew in Flotilla. TIERCEL not returning Gibraltar A.M. 1218/5/1 refers. (D.A/S.W. 1729B/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PANDORA
Force H.

You may encounter PANDORA who will be in estimated position 44° N 24° W. at 0800/18 steering 254° 11 knots on the surface. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1809B/17 to F.O. Force H.)

/MARSDALE.....

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.MARSDALE

Request you will arrange for MARSDALE to proceed to Gibraltar. As soon as convenient, after fuelling, she should be sailed to patrol area C.1. returning to Gibraltar on completion. Probable that her prize crew now in U.K. will be sent out by the next O.B.V., in which case a R/V in the vicinity of C.1. will be arranged by F.O.C.N.P. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1921B/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SCYTHIA
CAMERONIA

A.M. 2109B/16. Regret that final escort arrangements to U.K. for SCYTHIA and CAMERONIA have necessitated these ships being delayed. Recent losses in the Mediterranean, and requirements for extra Convoys and Trade protections have made it essential to alter cruiser dispositions. Hope these ships will be escorted to U.K. from Gibraltar after operation "RAILWAY" about 4/7. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1923B/17 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

S/M. O.24,
2 M.V.'s
sunk.

All mark (?4) torpedoes fired broke surface and were sighted and avoided target. 4 mark 4 torpedoes remain for rear tube. All ammunition expended. Consider that further chances of success slight. Have sunk tanker 7000 tons and ships 500 tons. Pending instructions am proceeding to area E. (Netherlands Sub. O.24 2330A/17 to Capt. S.8.)

South Atlantic.INDIA

Overdue shipping. Norwegian ship INDIA due Lourenco Marques 12/6 from Bahrein not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0929/17 to C. in C.E.I.).

/BRILLIANT.....

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.BRILLIANT

Departure (? 0600)/17 BRILLIANT to R/V with EAGLE and DUNEDIN. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1013N/17.)

DUNCAN
WRESTLER

Your 1456/15. As DUNCAN is now on the way to Gibraltar request WRESTLER may be sailed for Freetown as early as possible. (C. in C. S.A. 1155N/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ HERMES
FRANKFURT
(German)
PAMPANO
(Italian)

HERMES at Rio De Janeiro has obtained clearance papers and possibly may leave without bunkering. FRANKFURT has commenced loading PAMPANO now alongside at Pernambuco. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1130N/17 to Admty.)

→ HERMES
(German)

Rio de Janeiro reports application for clearance was withdrawn by Ship's Agent late last night Monday. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1241Z/17 to R.A.S.A.D., LONDON) My 1241Z/17 N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro reports present position is that HERMES is ready for sea and only requires taking out clearance to enable her to leave and by private arrangement with port authorities this may be concealed until after ship has sailed. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1822Z/17 to R.A.S.A.D.) Following from N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro I do not think German ship HERMES will sail tonight. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2120Z/17 to R.A.S.A.D.)

LONDON
EAGLE

For the present LONDON and EAGLE are to form a hunting group under your orders. Request you will accelerate Boiler cleaning of EAGLE as much as possible. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1534B/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

Fuelling
at Sea.

Request you will signal in due course a report on fuelling at sea from R.F.A. BISHOPSDALE. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1540B/17 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)

/ERIDAN.....

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.ERIDAN
(French)

My 1045/9 and B.N.A. Washington 1635/12/6. ERIDAN was released before GLOIRE or aircraft appeared. One aircraft appeared while corvettes were leaving the area, aircraft did not approach them. (C. in C. S.A. 1559N/17 to Admty.)

DIDO

C. in C. East Indies 1248Z/15. It is not desirable that DIDO should call at a South American port. Request you will amend route accordingly. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1926B/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

ORDUNA

Fire occurred in No.3 hold of H.M.T. ORDUNA Convoy W.S.8B at sea on ? 6/5. Possible sabotage. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1931N/17 to Admty.)

DUNCAN
SCYTHIA

Departure 1730/15 DUNCAN escorting SCYTHIA until 1800/17 and then returning to Freetown. (S.O.I. Freetown 2015N/17 to Admty.)

TOTTENHAM
"R" report.

Following has been read. From Freetown (Sierra Leone) Base Ship W/T station. R R R R = 7. 39 S 19. 12 W TOTTENHAM at 2040 G.M.T./17 being shelled now. (Ascension Radio, 2336/17) TOTTENHAM, British, 4762 tons, for Table Bay from U.K. Position approx. 320 miles W. of Ascension. (D.S. 652). S.S. TOTTENHAM RR RR reported in 007° 39' S. 019° 12' W. at 2040Z/17. Proceed towards area. LONDON detach HIGHLANDER to proceed to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 2019N/17 to LONDON, PRETORIA CASTLE) My 2019N/17. Action taken with LONDON subject to Admiralty requirements. Is Warship known or likely to be out, or likely that merchant raider has been mistaken for warship? (C. in C. S.A., 2059N/17 to Admty.)

War Diary

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

CAPO ARMA
Italian.

Departure 15/6 Braila 17/6.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, No. T.O.O./17 to M. of W.T.)

FLORIDA II
(Italian)

(Bombed and set on fire by R.A.F. at Sfax on 31/5). Believed to be still afloat on 13/6 and insurers hoping to salvage the wreck. (D.S. 651)

TETRARCH

As relief submarine cannot reach Dardanelles until 22/6 you will be required to remain on Patrol until 22nd. (Capt. S.1, 0911C/17 to TETRARCH amended 2145C/17).

Enemy
Schooners

3 Schooners 034° 38' 012° 10' 020° 6 knots at 0746B/17. (Cdr. S.1, 1009B/17 to S/M's Malta Force.)

CLYDE

Sinking of enemy ships on 14/6 etc. (See F.O.C.N.A. 1010A/17, Lion Copy).

Benghazi
bombed.

Ops. Summary No.372 up to 1200 hrs. 17/6/1941. Night 15/6. 4 Wellington bombed Benghazi harbour starting 2 fires. 5 Wellingtons bombed Derna Satellite Gazala north and south and Martuba landing grounds and Bardia. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1039/17)

French ships
orders to
S/M's.

Reported 4 French Cruisers may leave Toulon shortly with reinforcements for Syria. These ships are to be sunk at sight if encountered eastward of line Marsala Ras Ashdir or if passing southward through Straits of Messina. French Merchant Ships whether escorted or not are to be sunk at sight if encountered in the previous declared zone where enemy ships may be sunk under similar circumstances. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1105B/17 to Subs., Malta Force).

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General Contd.

D.10.

My present orders received via N.O. Tobruk are to leave Mersa Matruh with VOYAGER 1300/17. Request confirmation. (Capt. D.10 1109C/17 to R.A. Alexandria).

JANUS

Request you will arrange for transit of canal for JANUS. Repairs will be completed outside Mediterranean. N.O.i/c Port Said pass to JANUS. (C. in C. Med., 1112C/17 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).

UPRIGHT.
salvage
of PERSEO

Reported crew may shortly be boarding PERSEO in position 3 miles East of No. 0 Buoy Kerkenak to effect salvage. Consider one visit to locality might be fruitful. R.A.F. may also attack. (Cdr. S.1., 1120B/17 to UPRIGHT.)

UTMOST

Will leave Malta P.M./17 to operate off Italian coast between 038° 40' and 039° 40' between P.M./22 and P.M./24 proceeding through (route). Estimate her position at 2130B/20 and 25 will be 038° 15' 012° 08' and 038° 54' 015° 13' respectively making 90 miles per day. Request any relevant information from CLYDE's experience may be signalled direct to UTMOST and that SEVERN may be warned accordingly. (V.A. Malta, 1121B/17 to F.O.C.N.A.) See p. 530.

CACHALOT

Proceed through 035° 20' 014° 14' and 035° 30' 014° 14' to arrive off Grand Harbour at 0630B/19. (Cdr. S.1., 1129B/17 to CACHALOT).

Rumanian
oil for
France.

Following from Navy Dept. from U.S. Ambassador Vichy dated 13/6. Graded B.1. (1) Official Roumanian source in Vichy confirms that CAPITAINE DAMIANI and ALBERTA were sent to

/Constanza.....

MOST SECRET

535A

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1543C/17th June

IN.

FROM: C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 19.6.41

Recd. 0725

NAVAL CYMBIER X BY CABLE.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. East Indies, A.S.L.
D.E.M.S. Port Said.

937. Admiralty 1746B/4 not to A.S.L.
Large extension of D.E.M.S. arming to Persian Gulf and Red sea was based on threat of German aircraft operating from Iraq and Syrian aerodromes. For the moment I feel Eastern Mediterranean is entitled to the lions share of the A.A. weapons to arrive. My proposed distribution which follows does not fully meet C. in C. East Indies requirements stated in his 1304Z/10 being passed to Admiralty.

2. Factors affecting proposals are (1) daily average 60 British and allied ships in canal ports requiring H.A./L.A. gun. Many have not been stiffened. (11) Present labour and repair position in Egypt precludes undertaking heavy arming work such as stiffening heavy machine gun platforms and protection except to a very limited extent in Canal area. Consider bulk of this work must fall on East Indies station. (111) Canal area will shortly have adequate D.E.M.S. personnel and can deal with mounting and changing guns in ships already prepared. Proposed distribution of A.A. weapons (Read in 5 columns)

Item Colombo Bombay Aden Canal area 3 inch or 12 pounder? 10/10
blank 30 6 pounder blank blank blank 20 Oerlikons 10 10 blank
all balances Lewis or similar blank blank 100 800 P.A.C Equipments
50 50 50 all balance P.A.C rockets (and containers) 100 100 100
all balance kites blank blank 20 20 spare wire 20 20 20 140.

1543C/17

1st Lord

D.D.I.C.

1st S.L

E.P.S.

2nd S.L

D.T.D. (2)

3rd S.L

N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr Wilson

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)

N... 1st S.L

D. of P (2)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I (4)

D.S.D.

D.N...D.

D. of L.D.

D.../S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P. (2)

V.D.

Duty Captain

Hd. of H

D.T.S.D.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

17th. June 1941. IN

535(B)

From H.M. Ambassador, Angora.

Date 19/6/41

Circulated at request of N.I.D. (3)

Addressed Foreign Office.

Assistant Naval Attache at Istanbul (Constantinople) reports that about a week ago the German Naval Attache in answer to enquiries from the United States Naval Attache whether the German sacrifices of men and material to capture Crete had been worth while, stated that the importance of the island to Germany lay principally in opening the Mediterranean route to the Italians for sea borne supplies of oil and grain from the Black Sea and also emphasized the propaganda value in Spain and Portugal of the German ability to supply Spain with food by this route.

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean informed.

No. T.O.O.

First Lord.	O.D. (5)
First Sea Lord.	D. of P (3)
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (L)	D.T.S.D.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.E.W.D. (3)
Parl. Sec.	M (2)
N.A. 1st. S.L.	O.I.C. (2)
Naval Secretary	D.S.D. 9
D.N.I. (4)	W.D.
Ops (4)	

D.H.

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.General.Rumanian
oil for
France
Contd.

Constanza in order to test the possibility of supplying France with some of Roumania's oil which she has contracted for. Quantity tentatively agreed at 15,000 to 20,000 tons per mensem this to be petrol.
(2) Dated 14/6. A Foreign Office official states that due to torpedoing of CAPITAINE DAMIANI* the scheme to ship petroleum products from Black Sea to France may be abandoned. (N.A. Washington 1241/17).

* ~~See P. 562.~~Electrical
Plant,
Malta.

My 1844/12/3 and 0930B/5/3.
Owing to extensive nature of damage it is proposed to abandon No.1. Generating Station and concentrate all plant in underground Station. Request approval for this in principle. (A.S. Malta, 1638B/17 to Admty.)

Malta
Raid.

C.S.R. Malta up to 1600 hrs. 17/6. Night 16/17 0045 hrs. 2 separate aircraft dropped bombs causing no damage or casualties. Night 16/17, 8 Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. despatched to attack shipping in Lampedusa Harbour. All turned back due to 10/10 clouds at 800 feet. (H.Q., R.A.F. Malta, 1700/17).

830 Sqdn.

C. in C. Med's 2048/14. After personnel referred to in S.O. Aircraft Carriers Med.'s 0935 of 31/5 have arrived Sqdn. will have 14 pilots, 13 observers and 13 air gunners. Intend to retain 11 complete crews sending 3 pilots, 2 observers and 2 air gunners to Alexandria or U.K. in accordance with my 1157B/29/5. Therefore one completely fresh crew will be required to bring the Sqdn. up to full complement. (State of aircraft). (V.A. Malta 2002B/17 to Admty.)

Roumanian
tanker
CAMPINA

Entered Bosphorus 1330 G.M.T./17 in transit for Aegean with 3650 tons benzine. (Capt. S.1., 2145C/17 to TETRARCH).

/LISBOA.....

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General Contá.

LISBOA
(German.)

Arrived 16/6.
(Valencia, T.H.I.2215/17 to M. of W.T.)

MAYA
(Italian.)

Length 345 feet, fully laden, believed for Syria, passed Istanbul 1500C/17 speed 7 knots. Dark grey hull large grey funnels aft, 2 mast. (Capt. S.1., 2356C/17 to TETRARCH).

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Syria.

Mines.

A stretch of the Syrian Coast 33.32 N, to 34.47 N. is dangerous due to enemy mines. (D.W. 651)

COVENTRY

C. In C. Med.'s 1108C/16. Intend to sail 2030/18 to arrive Haifa 0530/19. (COVENTRY 0946C/17 to C.S.15).
Your 1052C/16. Proceed on completion to Haifa to relieve PHOEBE. N.O.I.C. Port Said pass to COVENTRY. (C. in C. Med., 1101C/17 to COVENTRY).

Floating Objects.

A row of objects have been observed which look like barrels. Are floating close in-shore. (Callsign M.I.J.1. 2030/17 to C.S.15).

Gunboat.

Reference 1815 (N.T. in W.D.) from Call sign (MIJ1), this is gunboat steering north and shelling, position not reported. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 2135/17 to PHOEBE).
My 2130? enemy has retired W.N.W. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 2217/17 to S.N.O.A. Malta).

Situation Report 59.

Syria. Large number of rafts boats wreckage and oil found at 1900/16 in approx. position of attack on CHEVALIER PAUL. One Sworfish failed to return and rubber dinghy was found in same position. Consider CHEVALIER PAUL was sunk by 815 Sqdn.
2. Vichy Troops have recaptured Queneitra but our troops are across the roads Queneitra Damascus and Queneitra Merajayoun.
3. My 2358/16, para 4. Only casualties in ILEX and ISIS were one cut head and one broken leg.
5. ABDIEL has left Alexandria with F A W torpedoes and other urgent stores due Famagusta tonight 17/18.

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Syria.Situation
Report 59
Contd.

6. Western Desert. Army have been compelled to withdraw in face of superior enemy forces.
7. Submarines. TORBAY returned home from Aegean Patrol and reports following sinkings.
(A) By gunfire 1/6 German caique with personnel and stores for Mitylene. 3/6 caique with oil drums for Mitylene. 12/6 Italian Schooner with troops ammunition and stores for Lemnos.
(B) By torpedo 6/6 French tanker ALBERTA. See my 2321/9. 10/6, Italian tanker GUISEPPINA GHARIARDI, see my 2346/14.
(C) By ramming 11/6 caique proceeding to Mitylene.
8. ALBERTA grounded and was attacked again by TORBAY and set on fire when being towed away. She was then abandoned. Crew are reported Pro British and uncertain about cause of sinking. N.A. Ankara requests no mention be made of circumstances. (C. in C. Med., 2309C/17 to Admty.) (Note: Para 4 has been called for).

East Indies.Raider
Report
21/5.

Greek ELIAS G. KULUKUNDIS under Swiss flag and charter arrived Madras in ballast from Lisbon last port of call Las Palmas reports. In position 22° 30' S. 7° 07' E. at 1930/21/5 stopped and boarded by German raider. Boarding officer examined papers of crew and holds and ordered him to proceed. Raider approached from astern. Raider appeared to be cargo boat about 6000 tons. Mainform bow cruiser stern. Other details not distinguishable owing to bad light but upper works believed light brown similar to some British ships. (C. in C. E.I. 0120Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

/SONTAY.....

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.SONTAY

N.O.I.C. Massawa's 0742/14 reports that SONTAY requires four to six weeks for extensive engine repairs. Desired that these repairs be carried out in S. Africa concurrently with fitting as Troop Transport. Request confirmation that vessel will be able to proceed to S. Africa and anticipated date of sailing and arrival Simonstown. (D.S.T. 0314B/17 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

CARSO
Italian

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1720/19. N.T. in W.R. See Admty. 2238B/10. ~~V.S. Durban~~ is now attempting to bring (?CARSO) to Kilindini. (N.O.I.C. E.Africa, 0643Z/17 to Admty.)

W.S.9A.

Request information whether Ocean Escort for W.S.9A. to Durban will continue with Convoy to Aden. (C. in C. E.I. 0744Z/17 to Aden).

EMPRESS
OF JAPAN

Your 1014/10. Presume EMPRESS OF JAPAN is intended to return to U.K. from India. Request if practicable she return via Colombo, bringing from Bombay the 267 service passengers ex DURBAN CASTLE, and lift at Colombo approx. 100 naval personnel (including myself) who will then be awaiting passage to U.K. (C. in C. E.I. 0840Z/17 to Admty.)
Reply: 1830/18.

GLENEARN
towage.

Your 1141C/9. In view of Cmdre. R.I.N. 1135/13 and S.N.O. Red Sea 0924/16. I do not consider towage GLENEARN to Bombay should be attempted under present conditions. Suggest ship be towed to Aden to wait weakening of monsoon provided S.N.O. Red Sea arrange suitable berth. (C. in C. E.I. 1642Z/17 to C. in C. Med.)

/African.....

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.African
Troops,
escort.

4300 West African troops will shortly require escort when returning from East Africa to West Africa. Date of release from service in East Africa is uncertain but they may be ready in time to return in ships of W.S.8A. or later. In that event you will be advised of priority as between West African troops and the prisoners of War at present earmarked for the W.S.8A. ships. P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1715/14 and 1205/15. (D.O.D.(F) 2031B/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

SONTAY

Your 1220/15 re repairs.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 2105/17 to S.T.O. Massawa.)

China.French
ships.

No cargo 1035 Sunda Strait - passed 15/6 CHENONCEAUX, Saigon to Madagascar, DUPLIEX, Marseilles to Saigon, French and native troops, 25 private passengers. Dutch report nothing suspicious. (C.S. Singapore, 0509Z/17 to Admty.)
Departure D'ARTAGNAN - Saigon.
(Shanghai 2356Z/17.)

DAUNTLESS
EMERALD

My 0331Z/16 DAUNTLESS and EMERALD arrived Singapore. First examination afloat shows following damage. (C. in C. China, 0857Z/17 to Admty.)

America and West Indies.St. John's
N.F. Base

Your 1041P/15. We will certainly do what we can. (1st S.L. 0106B/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/RESOLUTION.....

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies Contd.RESOLUTION

Armuk 387 16/6. The earliest possible tentative date of completion of RESOLUTION for essential defects and damage repair is (date) although this date may require extension. (Details).
(B.A.R.M. 0524/17 to Admty.)

FORMIDABLE

Armuk 362 16/6. Your Ukarm 446. FORMIDABLE can be accepted for refit on East Coast. Navy Dept. requires to know approx. time required in dock and more details of damage repairs before Yard can be decided on. (Enās) (1438/13)
(B.A.R.M. Washington, 0525/17 to Admty.)

DESPATCH

To leave Bermuda 19/6 and establish patrol within 150 miles of 025° N. 040° W. Object is to intercept enemy raiders or supply ships. Leave patrol so as to arrive Bermuda 30/6. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0952Q/17 to Care. West Indies.)

ST. CLAIR
H.X.133
CHAMBLEY

My 1738Z/15. Owing to damage to propeller ST. CLAIR will not now be available H.X.133. CHAMBLEY will be sailed approx. two days late to overtake and join (?escort).
(C.C.N.F. 1237Z/17 to C. in C.W.A.). See 2019/17.

Rumanian
oil for
France.

N.A. Washington 1241/17 see Mediterranean.

S.S. EVERLEIGH
SCOTTISH
TRADER

HX.133 my 1826Z/16. EVERLEIGH D.G. not safe under 23 fathoms. SCOTTISH TRADER D.G. defective. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1244Z/17).

Dakar
Casablanca

BENTY.

(1) Following from Navy Dept. from Dakar dated 13/6. Graded A - O Sailed; CHELMA and BENTY for South. 14/6 a submarine net has been placed across entrance to the inner harbour.

/A ship.....

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Dakar
Casablanca
Contd.

A ship recently arrived from Casablanca brought ten light and ten medium tanks. From Casablanca dated 15/6. Graded B - O A convoy of four ships including SOUVILLE, LIEUTENANT DELATOUR and DAHOMEY sailed apparently for Oran and Marseilles. Three more ships have steam up but have not yet sailed. Stated to be carrying Cocoa fibre, Copra, Coconut Oil and other tropical raw materials. (N.A. Washington, 1245/17 to Admty.)

Air R/C

Admty. 2208B/13. Following are details of aircraft available this command for R/C and patrol duty. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1337Z/17 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Newfoundland
Force.

My 2155Z/6. Newfoundland Force to comprise a separate command, is in effect forthwith. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1600Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

PRINCE
DAVID
C. in C.

PRINCE DAVID wearing flag of C. in C. A. and W.I. sailed 1600P/17 E.T.A. Bermuda 1300Q/19. (Route). R.A. 3 B.S. 1619P/17 to N.O.I.C. Bermuda).

SOVAC
"R" report
4/6.

Philadelphia report (begins). Warship sighted at 1130/4 in 53° N. 31° W. by Master of British Ship SOVAC. Raider signal sent by W/T. British Destroyer markings 1-49 stopped and boarded ship. Apparently correct challenge procedure etc. carried out. Subsequently signal cancelled (ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1641Z/17 to Admty.) Position amended later see 1541/18.

LIVERPOOL

Armuk 388 17/6. An informed destination of LIVERPOOL was freely discussed by Officers and Men at Manila. Request all ships proceeding to U.S.A. may be warned. (Ends) 1751/16. (B.A.R.M. 1855/17 to Admty.)

/ST. CLAIR.....

MOST SECRET

543A

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1337Z/17th June IN

From C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Date 18.6.41.

Recd 1254.

Naval Cypher (A1) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty, repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. America and West Indies, H.Q.C.C., Commodore Commanding Newfoundland Force, C. in C. Western Approaches, R.A.3.

Admiralty 2208B 13th June. Following are details of aircraft available this command for reconnaissance and patrol duty.

Yarmouth Nova Scotia. One squadron of 12 Bolingbroke Mark one capable of six hours at 140 miles per hour with 1000 pounds bomb load five Bolingbroke Mark One presently available. This squadron of aircraft now being converted to long range four gun fighters equivalent to Blenheim Mark one fighters.

Dartmouth Nova Scotia. One Squadron 12 Hudsons capable of 7 hours at 150 miles per hour with 1000 pounds bomb load. 9 Hudsons presently available. One squadron eight Stranraer flying boats capable of seven hours at 90 knots with 1000 pound bomb load. Five Stranraer presently available. One Squadron six Catalina flying boats capable of 24 hours at 100 knots with 1000 pound bomb load. This Squadron in process of formation and aircraft not yet fitted with bombing equipment. Four aircraft presently available for unarmed long range reconnaissance.

Sydney Nova Scotia. One Squadron 12 Bolingbroke Mark IV capable of 11 hours at 140 miles per hour with 1000 pound bomb load equivalent to Blenheim Mark IV. This squadron in process of formation two aircraft presently available.

Newfoundland air port. One Squadron 12 Douglas Digby capable of 16 hours at 110 miles per hour with 2200 pound bomb load 9 aircraft presently available.

Note:- (a) No depth charges for aircraft available at this command.

(b) The above unit may then be in flight from alternative bases as the landing demands.

1337Z/17.

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

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

jf

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies Contd.

ST. CLAIR
Collision

My 1237Z/17.
ST. CLAIR in collision with S.S. CLAM. Can steam 14 knots on one shaft. Intend to sail ST. CLAIR as escort to damaged Tanker ENSIS to Halifax approx. 20/6. Request information of docking facilities immediately available. No apparent damage to S.S. CLAM. (C.C. Newfoundland, 2019Z/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). *See next page -*

French
Shipping

Para 1 of my 1153/5 (?1753B/5).
Vessels engaged in inter-island trade in the West Indies should also, if encountered, be allowed to proceed. Selected vessels may occasionally be permitted to trade between the islands and South and Central American ports with approved cargoes. The names and dates of sailing of such selected vessels will be specially notified to you. (Head of M. 2337B/17 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.17.6.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.HAVTOR
(torpedoed
11/6)

Norwegian HAVTOR 1524 on charter to M. of S. torpedoed by submarine at 1845Z/11 in approx. 063° 35' N. 028° 05' W. Ship sunk by gunfire at 2305. Master states all C.Bs. dumped in weighted bags and seen to sink. My 1223/17 to Admty. only is list of six killed. 1221/17.

ENSIS
(torpedoed
8/6).

Has arrived safely at St. John's N.F., in spite of considerable damage. No casualties. (D.W. 651). *See previous page.*

MERCIER

Following intercepted from KEMI at 1555Z/17 addressed to Cape Race. (Begins) Have rescued 4 passengers and 22 crew name of MERCIER in position 043° 35' N. 047° 50' W. Other lifeboat still missing, number of men missing 42 (ends). Serial R/C has been asked for. (C.C. N. Force, 1706Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.).

MERCIER, Belgium, 7886 tons, from Liverpool for Montreal with general cargo, had been in O.B.330. Presumably torpedoed about 770 miles E. of Halifax before 1200/17. (D.S. 652.)

Following from KEMI 1555 G.M.T. addressed Cape Race (quotes). Am broadcasting notice to all ships to keep sharp look-out for missing life-boats approx. above position Officer in Charge Cape Race. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1802Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

U.S. Navy Dept. has ordered C.G. cutters now within 200 miles of 043° 35' N. 047° 50' W. to proceed to search for survivors MERCIER. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2042Z/17 to Admty.)

War Diary.

17.6.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

- 1730/16. Following received from Washington. Task Force reports U/B in 45° 13' N. 42° 17' W. Course 215°, 15 knots at 1730/16 G.M.T. (Ends). (ALUSNA, 0155/17 to Admty.) A.F. Message (D.D.I.C. 0035/17).
- 1653(?) Submarine sighted 42°00 N, 63°05 W. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1653Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
- 1650 Following received from Opnav also being sent C.N.S. Ottawa. At 1650 G.M.T./17 destroyer OVERTON ~~sighted~~-contacted unidentified submarine 42° N. 63°05 W. lost contact 1742 G.M.T. heard unmistakable submarine echo and propeller noises. (ALUSNA, 2030/17 to Admty.)
- 1727? C.O.A.C. Halifax 1727Z/17 U.S. Ships made report and Navy Dept. states from their report they assumed a sound contact. Later reports state lost contact. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2039Z/17 to Admty.)

547

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

Norwegian
patrols.

The Norwegian patrols by Coastal Command are to be modified.

Objectives at Boulogne and Rotterdam were amongst the primary targets of Bomber Command last night.

Minor attacks by aircraft of Coastal Command were made last night on the docks of Ostend and Cherbourg.

Four Blenheims of Coastal Command were despatched last night to attack 2 enemy destroyers reported off Jersey. The enemy were not located, but some merchant ships were attacked; results were not seen. A Beaufort on special patrol in the Bay of Biscay today attacked and probably hit with 2 bombs below the water line a merchant vessel 53 miles S.W. of Ushant.

Enemy Air Operations.

KUJAWIAK (Polish destroyer) on passage from Rosyth to Scapa to work up was machine gunned by A/C at 1134 today and suffered casualties and slight damage.

S.S. HARLAW sailing independently received very slight damage from attack at 0030 in 56° 58½' N. 1° 53' W.

S.S. JIM, proceeding to join Convoy F.S.518 was bombed and slightly damaged off the Tyne in the early hours of this morning.

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

3 Beauforts of Coastal Command laid mines off Brest last night and 4 Hampdens of Bomber Command laid mines off the Frisian Islands.

Shipping and Convoys.

The extension of the U.boat danger zone to cover the whole Atlantic necessitates a change in policy with regard to certain convoy escorts. (See Admty.1251B/18.)

Outward bound ships of under 15 knots are to be sailed in convoy and not independently.

North Atlantic.

It is reported from South Africa that the German Intelligence Service is sending agents to Africa in considerable numbers. Sailings take place from Portugal.

South Atlantic.

DESIRADE, intercepted yesterday by PRETORIA CASTLE, is proceeding to Walvis Bay at 7 knots with engines damaged by sabotage.

549

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

S/M O.24, working from Gibraltar, reports having sunk one 7000 ton tanker and one 500 ton ship in the Gulf of Genoa area.

River class S/M's are considered structurally unsuitable for ferry service to Malta, the passage of which necessitates diving under the deep mine field, CLYDE has twice sustained slight crushing.

Two Wellesly aircraft dive bombed Beirut harbour (apparently last night) hitting the mole. No French destroyers were seen.

Alexandria.

A few aircraft attacked Alexandria early this morning. No appreciable damage was caused, and none to ships or to the port, which is open.

Western
Desert.

Operation "Battleaxe" has been cancelled. Tobruk continues to be supplied by destroyers unloading at night.

Palestine
and Syria.

A torpedo aircraft has been ordered to carry out a dusk attack on 2 Vichy destroyers reported this afternoon off the Syrian coast probably proceeding to Beirut. The destroyers, however, returned to Beirut half an hour after being reported.

French aircraft are reaching Syria daily from Tunis and from Marseilles.

550

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

N.W.
Approaches.

S.S. NORFOLK was torpedoed at 0154 in
57° 17' N. 11° 14' W.

North Atlantic.

Capt. (D) 8 (FAULKNOR) sank a German
U-boat at 1113B/18 in 36° 0' N. 8° 0' W.
Several survivors were picked up. (U. 132)

It is reported that S.S. PHIDIAS was sunk
by gunfire by submarines on 8/6 in 48°
25' N. 26° 12' W.

551

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

HERMIONE.
FURIOUS

Your 2352B/16. HERMIONE can R/V 0700B/22.
(C. in C.H.F. 2327B/18 to Adty. etc.)

Operations.

S/M at
Lerwick.

My 1741B/17. No bulk supplies of Diesel Fuel are held in Shetlands. (A.C.O.S. 1023B/18 to F.O.S.)
A.C.O.S. 1741/17 and F.O.S. 1221B/16. Your first commitment is A.S. training at Scapa. When this has been met one submarine is to be kept at Lerwick when available.
(F.O.S. 1132B/18 to Capt.(S) 9)

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

MANCHESTER is to relieve SUFFOLK on patrol a.m./24. (C.S.18 1830B/18 to SUFFOLK, MANCHESTER.)

British Air Operations.

Patrols.

^{"Stand"}
~~STAND~~ being flown a.m. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0300/18.)
~~SLEAVE~~ now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1726/18.)

Norwegian
Patrols.

Patrols detailed in CC/G2/3/6 (See below) are putting too great a strain on resources of 18 group. Propose if you agree to cancel them and substitute following while conditions are normal. Should circumstances necessitate, former patrols can be reinstated immediately. P.R.U. to cover coast Bergen to Kristiansand South once per day when possible. If not covered by P.R.U. stand incorporating modified ~~SLEAVE~~ to be flown at last, and ~~STAND~~ at first, light. C. in C. H.F. has not been consulted. (H.Q.C.C. 1015/18 to Admty.)

/CC/G2/3/6/41

552

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations. - Contd.

Norwegian
Patrols -
Contd.

CC/G2/3/6/41. Following patrols to be flown until further notice:-

A. "Stand" at dawn and dusk subject to cloud cover.

B. Modified "Sleeve" at dusk from 58 00 N. 06 30 E. to 57 00 N. 05 00 E. if visibility conditions preclude proper "Sleeve". This patrol in lieu of "Hornli".

C. P.R.U. Sorties from Stavanger to Trondheim. If unsuitable for P.R.U. Aircraft to be flown by G.R. Aircraft with cloud cover. Patrols at dawn and dusk to cover outer Fiords and locality of towns.

(H.Q.C.C. 2330/3)

A.M. 1237B/3. Paras. 2 and 3. Norwegian Patrols and Reconnaissance. In order to conserve aircraft propose, subject to your concurrence, to modify the present patrols as follows:-

Cancel present instructions for P.R.U. "Stand", ~~STAND~~ and modified ~~sleeve~~, and substitute (as H.Q.C.C. 1015/18.)

2. The more extensive programme will be reinstated immediately it appears to be necessary. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1805B/18 to C. in C.H.F.)

A/S Sweeps.

A/S Sweep at 1000 by 3 Witleys centre track 273° from Cape Wrath to depth 300 miles. (C. in C. Rosyth 0730/18.)

The following A/S Sweep to cover O.B. 336 and CANADIAN STAR will be flown tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth 2044/18.)

Bomber Command
Operations.

Night 17/18 June. 6 Wellingtons attacked Boulogne docks and harbour installations. Of 8 aircraft detailed, 7 Wellingtons bombed dock area at Rotterdam. (H.Q.B.C., T.H.I. 1631.)

Protection of
"Future".

Summary of air protection arranged for Code Word ~~Future~~ 19/6. (A.C.O.S. 2151B/18.)

553

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. JIM.

S.S. JIM bombed abeam T.2 buoy at 0000. Slight damage to ship, one man slightly injured. Vessel has returned to Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0210/18.)

S.S. STOCK
FORCE.

Bombed and on fire at 2400/17. Ship now entered Tyne. Fire out, damage not serious, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0330/18.)

S.S. DEEDON.

Report of air attack. 1. 0230/17, 3. 314 Tons, 4. Coaster, 5. Independent, 6. Minor damage, 7. Lunnan Bay, 8. No distress signals made armament not fired. (N.C.S.O. Sunderland 1555/18.)

KUJAWIAK.

On passage Rosyth to Scapa to work up, was undoubtedly attacked by A/C with M/G fire between 22 and 23 buoys as 1134/18. 1 K. 2 slightly and 2 V. slightly W. Ship proceeded Dundee. At least 15 M.G. bullet holes found although reported that A/C was not seen or heard. Slight damage (details) (C. in C. Rosyth 1750/18.)

S.S. HARLAW.

N.C.S.O. Methil reports HARLAW on passage independently from Aberdeen to Methil attacked by single A/C at 0030/18/6 in 56° 58½' N. 01° 53' W. 4 bombs no hits, very slight damage, no casualties. (C. in C. Rosyth 1611/18.)

Mining.

Tees and
Hartlepool.

Ports closed in accordance with my 1103/14 and 1018/15. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0456/18.)
Ports open in accordance with my 1103/14 and my 1018/15. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1201/18)

/Operation

War Diary

18.6.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining- Contd.

Operation
B.S. 59.

Initial position (PLOVER 0630B/18)
Your 1403/17. COTSWOLD detailed. (D. 16.
1028/18 to C. in C. Nore.)

D.S. 6.

CHARLESTON^w and ST. MARYS detailed for
D.S. 6. (R.A.M. 0944/18)

M.G.B.71.

M.G.B. 71 damaged by underwater explosion
at 2350/17. Apparently to the southward of
Q.Z.S. 247. M.G.B. 69 towed M.G.B. 71 into
Grimsby. (F.O. Humber 1011/18)

Thames Estuary
DORIS II

At 1907/17 a mine was observed to explode
approx. 3 cables S.E. of Outer Bar Bell Buoy,
Sheerness, close to wreck of *AUDACITY
sunk by mine on 15/6, wreckage of fishing
gear found. It is now thought that small
motor fishing boat DORIS II L.O. 183 was
blown up by this explosion (C. in C. Nore.
1547B/18)

* AUDACIOUS See P. 466 12/6/41

Unknown type
of Mines.

Cut today. Details. (M.S. 9 2137/18)

Liverpool

Port of Liverpool including Q.Z.S. 211 open
at 0600B/19. Attention is called to 811 A
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2302B/18)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest

R/C 0800B/18 shows both battle cruisers
and PRINZ EUGEN present in same positions.
(D.D.I.C. 0933B/18 P.R.U. St. Eval 1045/18)

German Main
Units.

Stockholm 1017/18 D.D.I.C. 1329B/18.
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

554A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1017/18th June.

FROM: Stockholm.

Date: 18.6.41.

Reed: 1735.

Naval Cypher 1 T.T. by Cable.

Recirculation by N.I.D.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

Following from Naval Attache.

Following from Most Secret Sources.

- (1) German Warship movements.
 - (a) TIRPITZ.
 - (1) 1700 June 11th off Sassnitz.
 - (2) P.M. June 12th sighted in Oslo Fjord with unknown cruiser.
 - (3) Another report states she was expected to berth alongside one and two quays or two and three quays.
 - (b) HIPPER Class cruiser June 12th between Fehmarn and Gedser course West.
 - (c) LUTZOW sailed from Gotenhaven to Danzig on June 5th.
 - (d) NURNBERG reported still at Copenhagen on June 13th.
 - (e) EMDEN expected Oslo 13th with Admiral Raeder on board.
 - (f) SCHLESSEN and SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN. One at Gotenhaven June 16th. One apparently still aground on Drogden by Grund Holmatunge buoy undamaged June 16th.
- (3) Russia. Naval Units.

On June 14th MARAT, OCTOBER REVOLUTION, and MAXIM GORKI, together number small craft at Tallin, where there was great activity in port.

Accurate grading of each separate report not possible, but average grading estimated at B 2 repeat B 2.

1017/18.

Note:- Paragraph 2 deleted on instructions of D.D.I.C.

N.I.D. Comment.

- 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.
 - N.A. 1st S.L.
 - D.C.
 - D.O.D. (H)
 - D.O.D. (F)
 - D.D.O.D. (F)
 - D.D.O.D. (H)
 - D.N.I. (4)
 - D.D.I.C.
 - D.S.D. 9.
 - D.T.D. (2)
 - D. of P. (2)
 - D.A/S.W.
- Para. 1. (a). Mainly incorrect - TIRPITZ is now at Kiel.
 - Para. 1. (b) Incorrect - The three Cruisers of this Class are at Kiel, Bremen and Brest, and have been there all this month.
 - Para. 1. (c) Improbable - LUTZOW is now at Kiel.
 - Para. 1. (d) Considered probable.
 - Para. 1. (e) Considered probable as regards EMDEN nothing known about Admiral Raeder's movements.
 - Para. 1. (f) These ships are thought to be probably in the Western Baltic or Kattegat, but these exact locations are not
 - Para. 3 is normal and probable.

Hd. of M.
E.P.S.
I.P.
D.

MOST SECRET

554(B)

SECRET

MESSAGE

1329B/18th June OUT

To A.I.G. 17.
S.O. Force H.
Naval Cypher C.

Date 18.6.41.

From Admiralty.
IMPORTANT.

German Main Units.

Battleship TIRPITZ - Kiel, 17 June alongside.
Battlecruisers GNEISENAU - Brest 18 June in dry dock.
SCHARNHORST - Brest, 18 June alongside.

Pocket Battleships.

ADMIRAL SCHEER - Kiel, 17 June, in floating dock.
LÜTZOW - Kiel, 17 June in dry dock.

8" Cruisers.

HIPPER - Kiel 17 June, in dry dock.
PRINZ EUGEN - Brest, 18 June, in dry dock.
SEYDLITZ - Bremen, 17 June, completing.

6" Cruisers.

LEIPZIG) One reported off Copenhagen,
NÜRNBERG) 12 June (Graded B.2.)
KÖLN - reported at Gdynia. 14 May. (B.2.)
EMDEN - reported at Sassnitz, 9 June, (B.2.)

1329B/18
D.D.I.C.
(Green Line 8)

1st. Lord.
1st. S.L.
4th. S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
Nav. Sec.
N.A.1st. S.L.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty House.
Ops.(4)
O.D.(5)
D.N.I.(4)
D.T.D.(4)

D.T.D.(M)
O.I.C.(3)
D. of P.(3)
Cdr. Holbrook.
D.S.D.9.
D.A./S.W.
I.P.(3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.S.D.(2)
M.(2)

555

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

S.S. EXPLORER.

Arrived Clyde with SEAMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0130B/18.)

S.S. CITY OF AUCKLAND.

O.B.335. CITY OF AUCKLAND returned to port. Bow damage having collided with SKARAAS, latter evidently proceeded on. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1644B/18.)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.C.11.

C.O.A.C. Halifax 1653/17. Request that if possible destroyers may be made available to escort T.C. 11 on western leg of the voyage. (V.C.N.S. 0153B/18 to C. in C.W.A.) Your 0153B/18. Escort of 3 destroyers can be provided from Halifax to position A. subject to their being fit for service, and orders to implement this have been given but it will entail sailing one homeward bound convoy without destroyer escort between Canada and Iceland. C.O.A.C. Halifax has been asked to supply 2 additional destroyers for T.C.11. Failing this 2 further destroyers from Newfoundland Force can probably be made available but this will depend on escort arrangements made by C.C.N.F. whose reply I await. (C. in C.W.A. 1555B/18 to Admty.)

HAVELOCK,
HARVESTER,
ASSINIBOINE.
(T.C.11.)

Leave convoys forthwith and proceed to Halifax whence you will be required for escort 21/6. Fuel Bt. Johns if necessary. (C. in C.W.A. 1541B/18.)

Admty. 1854/7. HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, ASSINIBOINE have been ordered to Halifax to escort T.C.11 to position A. Request whether you can supply 2 additional destroyers. Failing this I will endeavour to provide 2 more destroyers from Newfoundland Force. (C. in C.W.A.1558B/18 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)
Your 1558B/18. SKEENA and ST. LAURENT and possibly BUXTON available. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2006Z/18 to C. in C.W.A.) *See also p.568.*

/Troop

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

Troop
Transport,
Aberdeen.

Admty. 2354B/17. HAMBLEDON will be available to leave Scapa for this duty after 1400/19. (R.A.D. 0950/18 to A.C.O.S.)

Capital Ship
Escorts.

With North Atlantic convoys. Policy. (V.C.N.S. 1251B/18) See Lion Copy.

H.X.129.

Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all ships of your convoy H.X.129. (C. in C.W.A. 1019B/18 to Commodore R.P. Galer R.N.R.)

Ships under
15 knots.

Outward bound ships of under 15 knots are to be sailed in convoy and not independently. (D.T.D. 1345B/18 to N.C.S.O's Home.)

Halifax
A.M.C.'s.

Following withdrawal of A.M.C's from Denmark Strait patrol intend that for the present A.M.C's of Halifax Escort Force should be employed as follows:-

2. B.H.X. and H.X. or S.C. convoys will continue to be escorted by A.M.C's as far as the point of junction, the A.M.C's then returning to their bases as ordered by -B.S.3 except where conditions in para.3 apply.

3. Those A.M.C's carrying personnel for passage to U.K. via Iceland will for the present continue to act as ocean escorts to H.X. convoys, being routed in to Iceland by C. in C.W.A. in accordance with A.M. 2141B/14/6. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1839B/18 to B.S.3 etc.)

INDRAPOERA.
U.S.personnel.

New York reports first contingent of 400 U.S. Key men and technicians refused to embark in INDRAPOERA as accommodation and feeding arrangements were considered unsuitable. 2. Cabin accommodation and service of meals and usual second class amenities considered essential. 3. British ship must be used. 4. In view of extreme urgency of bringing these men to U.K.request you provide for them in one of the ships of T.C.11 on lines of para.2. (D. of S.T. 2315B/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Reply.0415/19)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1251B/18th June. OUT.

To:- C. in C. Home Fleet 274, Date 18.6.41.
 C. in C. Western Approaches 39,
 C. in C. America and West Indies 723,
 F.O.i/c Iceland (c) 208.
 R..(3) 313.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 526,
 C.O.A.C. Halifax.
 C.C.N.F.

Naval Cypher (A.1)

From Admiralty,

The extension of the U-Boat danger zone to cover the whole Atlantic necessitates a change in policy with regard to employment of capital ships with North Atlantic convoys.

2. In future, capital ships will not be employed as normal convoy escort when, as is the case today, the location of enemy warships is known.

3. The ships of the 3rd B.S must, however, be stationed in the best position to join and escort our convoys when the raider threat actually develops.

4. It has been decided, therefore, that one battleship should be stationed at Hvalfiord and the other two remain at Halifax.

5. One of the two latter may be ordered to Newfoundland, using a temporary advanced base, when the raider menace first becomes acute.

6. R.A.(3) is requested to:-

- (a) Station one ship at Hvalfiord as soon as convenient.
- (b) Cease sailing battleships as ocean escorts to HX convoys.
- (c) Retain the other two ships at Halifax.

7. REVENGE should complete the duties ordered in A.M. 1746B/8.

1251B/18.

D.O.D.(H) Approved V.C.N.S.

1st Lord.

D.N.I.(4)

1st S.L.

D. of L.D.

2nd S.L.

D.N.A.D.

3rd S.L.

D.A./S.W.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

I.P.(2)

V.C.N.S.

W.D.

A.C.N.S. (H)

Duty Captain.

.C.N.S. (F)

Head of M.

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

D.T.S.D.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.D.I.C.

D. of P.(2)

E.P.S.

D.O.D.(F)

D.T.D. (2)

D.D.O.D.(F)

N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.O.D.(H)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders

My 1733B/11.

TOTTENHAM shelled in 07° 39' S. 19° 12' W. at 2040 G.M.T./17. Raider may be No.16 which sank ZAMZAM 17/4 and may also have attacked Swedish ships TROLLSHOLM due Capetown 17/4, and SIR ERNEST CASSEL due Capetown 17/5 whose crews are now interned in Germany. No.16 may also have been the raider which stopped the MASTER E.^{W.C.}KULUKUNDIS in 22° 30' S. 7° 07' E. on 21/5. As she has been at sea for 440 days she may be returning home.

No raider No. 46, 36 (ONION) may have been intended

No news of No.46 still thought to be at sea. No.21 which returned to Brest at end of 1940 is believed to be PARANAGUA of Hamburg South American Line. (D.D.I.C. 1649B/18 to C. in C. H.F., etc. etc.)

North Atlantic.

Force H, VICTORIOUS

Latest intelligence of U-boats indicates that safest course for you is to pass through 45° N. 18° W. thence towards 51° N. 20° W. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange amended R/V for A/S escort. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0030B/18 to F.O. Force H, VICTORIOUS, C. in C. W.A.)

Straits of Gibraltar.

There is urgent need for some means of attacking enemy warships attempting passage in Strait during absence of Force H observing that submarines may not always be available. (2) Suggest possibility of fitting two in number 18 inch L.C. tubes in Fairmile motor launches be considered. If approved request equipment be sent for fitting seven boats locally. (3) Suggest also one of the other Flotillas of M.Ls. earmarked for Gibraltar be fitted with tubes before sailing. (V.A.C.N.A. 1048A/18).

/French.....

558

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

French
Cargoes

My 2231A/14. Confirmed that a large quantity of cotton was loaded at Dakar. This was not discharged at Casablanca. (S.O.I. Gib., 1104/18).

WISHART

Will be sailed to R/V with homeward bound (group omitted) as extra escort to Gibraltar. (Route). (F.O.C.N.A. 1116A/18 to DUNCAN amended 1946A/18) *NT & W.D.*

U/B U.138
Sunk

By D.8. (F.O.C.N.A. 1122A/18 etc.) See U-Boat Campaign.

0.24 enemy
ships sunk.

S/M. 0.24 reports having sunk one 7000 ton Tanker and one 500 ton ship in Gulf of Genoa area. (F.O.C.N.A. 1136A/18 to Admt.)

Enemy
shipping.

Following are known dispositions Italian, MAURO CROCE and DERNA at Genoa. German (? ATLAS) SULLBERG and LISBOA at Valencia; OTTO LEONHARDT and TIRPITZ at Cartagena. My 1330/11 Para. 2 Portuguese VILLA FRANCA 2045 tons and Spanish URIBITARTE 3456 tons left Gibraltar for Genoa 16/6. (F.O.C.N.A. 1308A/18 to 0.24.)

CLYDE
defects.
Petrol
transport.

CLYDE again experienced crushing of stern at 250 feet during patrol. Consider (? divers) unsuitable for continued ferry service to Malta as passage necessitates diving under deep minefield. Request information re transport of petrol. (A) should OSIRIS be used (B) should OTUS be used. (C) If requirements are urgent should CLYDE be used after patrol stand off? (S.8, 1325A/18 to F.O.S.)

/BERGAMOT.....

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

BERGAMOT

C. in C. S.A.'s 2305N/15. From Ponta Delgada proceed to Freetown through 020° 00' N. 020° 30' W. 008° 30' N. 016° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1624A/18 to BERGAMOT)

German A/C
unknown
cruiser.

June 17, 2000 at Caminha sighted a German aircraft coming from E. going N. At 1000 off Cape Santa Maria an unknown cruiser course E. 10 knots. (N.A. Lisbon, 1800/18 to Admty.)

COREOPSIS,
FLEUR DE LYS

Well done. If still with S.L.76 leave at daylight 19th and return to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 2241B/18 to COREOPSIS, FLEUR DE LYS.)

South Atlantic.

SIR ERNEST
CASSEL

Swedish, 7739 tons. Agents in Great Britain have received a cable from owners stating that crew is interned in Germany. Ship had been overdue at Capetown from Clyde since 17/5. Presumably sunk by enemy action. (D.S. 652, 18/6).

DESIRADE
(French)
intercepted.

Place armed guard on board, navigating party if necessary and send into Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A. 0041N/18 to PRETORIA CASTLE) Only prize officer boarded DESIRADE. Armed guard were stopped. Have withdrawn officer. Proceeding north speed 9 knots with Frenchman. Intend taking further action at dawn. (PRETORIA CASTLE, 0046Z/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

See also p. 561

S.S. TOTTENHAM
Raider Report,
LONDON.

Your 2059N/17. Concur with diverting LONDON. Most likely to be Merchant ship raider. No warship known to be out. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0200B/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

/ASTURIAS.....

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

ASTURIAS

My 2233/22 ASTURIAS has been delayed and will probably not arrive until about 7/7.
(C. in C. S.A. 0445N/18 to B.A.R.M.)

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings at 2357Z/17 indicate surface unit within 150 miles of 010°S. 001°W. reliability 55%. (C. in C. S.A. 1023N/18 to NEPTUNE)
D.F. bearings of enemy surface unit on 17/6. Movements of LONDON, CITY OF DURBAN, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, PRETORIA CASTLE. (C. in C. S.A. 1313N/18 to S.A. Station) See Lion Copy.
Your 1359N/18 (incorporated in 1313N/18.)
Transmissions at 2118/17 and 2136/17 were from same unit. Position thought to be in vicinity of 7.39 S. 19.12 W. Admiralty has no information of transmission at 2359/17. Request bearings and traffic. (D.D.I.C. 2100B/18 to C. in C. S.A.)
→ Your 1313N/18 my 1232Z/18 ALCANTARA will be sent to J on arrival. (R.A.S.A.D. 2116Z/18 to C. in C. S.A.)
My 1313N/18. Cancel P.
(C. in C. S.A. 2212N/18 to S.A. Station).

INDIA

My 0929/17. Arrived.
(S.O.I.) Capetown 1530/18 to Admty.)

COMMANDANT DUBOC.

F.S. Required to return to U.K. on completion of present refit at Durban. C. in C. S.A. is requested to sail her accordingly.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1325B/18 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)

→ ALCANTARA NEWCASTLE

In view of Raider report ALCANTARA after leaving Rio de Janeiro A.M./19 is proceeding J.33. NEWCASTLE remains in K.32, K.33.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1404Z/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

ERLANGEN German

Commenced coaling this morning. She has permit for 1100 tons. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1420Z/18 to D.N.I., S.A.D., etc.)

HERMES (German)

My 2044/28/5 (N.T. in W.R.). Further description. (S.O.I.) Montevideo 1545Z/18 to S.A.D.) See also p.562.

/FRANKFURT....

SECRET

MESSAGE

1313N/18th June

IM

From C.in C. South Atlantic.

Date 18.6.41.

Recd. 1819.

560A

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY W/T.

Addressed South Atlantic Station Squadron. Repeated Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

839. D/F bearings indicate presence of enemy surface units as follows some already reported in other signals though not to all addressees. (Read in 4/ Columns)

Distinguishing Letter	Time	Position	Area	Reliability
M	2136Z/17	001° 30' N. 020° 00' W.	Within 60 miles	65%
N	2118Z/17	006° South 020° West	Within 150 miles	55%
O	2357Z/17	010° South 001° West	Within 150 miles	55%
P	2359Z/17	Line joining Equator 005° W. & 020° S. 030° W.	Within 100 miles	65%

RRRR report at 2040Z/17 in position 007° 39' South 019° 12' West. No enemy Warship known to be out RRRR probably Armed Merchant Raider. M likely to be Auxiliary. N Armed Merchant Raider. O possibly Merchant Raider. P no indication.

Movements. H.M.S. LONDON from approximate position 003° North 022° West proceeding towards N and RRRR reports investigating area round M on passage. CITY OF DURBAN in H 34 D to remain there. H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA from Freetown to patrol in H 34 C and D I 34 A and B. H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE from approximate position 015° South 011° 30' West towards N.

Suggest R.A.S.A.D. move a unit of his command if available for J 34 approaching on line joining two positions given in P.

1313N/18.

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

/ Presumably should be 5 columns.

1st Lord	D.T.D. (4)
1st S.L.	D.T.D. (M)
4th S.L.	O.I.C. (3)
V.C.N.S.	D. of P. (3)
A.C.N.S. (H)	Cdr. Holbrook
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.S.D. 9.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.A/S.W.
Nav Sec.	I.P. (3)
N.A. 1st S.L.	W.D.
Capt. Pim Admiralty House	D.P.D.
Ops. (4)	D.S.D. (2)
O.D. (5)	M. (2)
	D.N.I. (4)

DIC

War Diary.18.6.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.FRANKFURT
German

Following description received from Rio de Janeiro. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1601Z/18 to S.A.D.)

NATAL
(German)Santos reports NATAL has applied for custom clearance for Hamburg. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1915Z/18 to R.A.S.A.D.)
NATAL has received clearance from customs and maritime police. Have no information as to what action Brazilian authorities in Rio de Janeiro are taking. (N.C.S.O. Santos, 2215Z/18 to R.A.S.A.D.)Lagos
defences.Very important look out post should be established on end of West of Mole if not there already and gun if possible. Is there room for 12-pounder or 4" gun and could this be mounted or manned if supplied?
(C. in C. S.A. 2017N/18 to DRAGON, STURDY(?) Command Lagos etc.)DESIRADE
intercepted.PRETORIA CASTLE reported at 2125/17 Vichy French ship DESIRADE intercepted. Was told to put guard and navigating party on board and send to Simonstown. Much delay caused by difficulty in communication but ship now reported 1945/18 in detention, engines damaged by sabotage but proceeding to St. Helena at 7 knots. Do not know why ship was not boarded and taken in charge at once. (C. in C. S.A. 2111N/18 to Admty.) *See p. 559*LATI Lati Co:
(Italian),
Spanish
supply ship.Spanish sailing vessel DELFIM or DELFIRE registered at Teneriffe, is carrying aviation spirit for Italian ~~LATI~~ Company at Sal Cape Verde Is. from Cisneros. Route Cisneros Spanish water to Cape Blanco and then Sal. Also reported in touch with submarine at sea. If met she is to be intercepted and sent in for examination. (C. in C. S.A., 2121N/18 to S.A. Sqdn.)

/BUTTERFLY.....

War Diary.18.6.1941.
Weñnesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.General Contd.Dinghy
sighted
by A/C

Following has been read Y Y 1 five in dinghy posn. 33.09 N. 27.22 E. 5 too rough to land all seem O.K. (Malta, 1315/18).
Following has been read. Men in dinghy found (position). Proceed to position Sunderland shadowing. (Malta, 1320/18)

Policy

Chiefs of Staff 134 re policy in Syria, Libya, Cyprus, Malta. (1st S.L. 1344B/18 to C. in C. Med.). See Mediterranean Volume,

REGENT

Your 1551C/13. In view of delay intend sailing REGENT P.M./19 through (route) thence to patrol within 50 miles radius of Benghazi unless otherwise ordered by you. (Cdr. S.1. 1346B/18 to Capt. S.1.)

Alexandria
Raid.

Air Raid 0400 to 0515/18, about seven machines and seven bombs. One Egyptian killed, no appreciable damage. (R.A. Alexandria, 1410C/18 to C. in C. Med.)

Malta
Air Raid

C.S.R. Malta up to 1600/18. Enemy air activity. Night 17/18 June. Six enemy aircraft approached but only four crossed Coast dropping a few bombs on land and majority in sea. No military damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta 1600/18)

U.S.11A.

D. of S.T's 0556B/13 (U.S.11A not programmed to call at Aden: P.S.T.O. Egypt to advise A.C.N.B. re personnel.) and A.C.N.B's Z/11, personnel should remain on board to Middle East. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1623/18 to A.C.N.B.)

/UPHOLDER.....

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General Contd.

UPHOLDER

UPHOLDER reports Blank.
(Cdr. S.1., 1626B/18 to Capt. S.1.)

Personnel
in unescorted
ships.

Request confirmation that Admty. 1958/14/5, 1704/9/6 and 2154/13/6 are intended to apply to ships running unescorted between Egypt and S. Africa, India and Australia. If this restriction is insisted upon it will seriously affect scheme for evacuating some 40,000 persons from M.E. (C. in C. Med., 1648/18 to Admty.) Reply: 1937/19.

Middle East
situation.

C, in C. M.E. 1714/18 to War Office. See Lion Copy.

IKI
KARDASHLAR

Turkish schooner, sunk by M.T.B. Report of incident. (C. in C. Med., 1754C/18 to Ambassador, Angora). See Lion Copy.

MAYA
(Italian)

Reported passed Istanbul for Aegean 17/6 with 5000 tons fuel oil. Destination believed Syria. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1811C/18 to Admty.)

Black Sea

Summary of information. German preparations Black Sea area. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1915/18 to S.O.I. Med.) See Lion Copy.

S/M Movements

Summary 26. Movements.
(Capt. S.1., 1951C/18 to Med. Fleet).

Benghazi
bombed.

Prelim. Op. Summary No.3. Bombing night 17/18. 6 Wellington Benghazi on Cathedral Mole. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 2053/18).

/JANUS.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

1714/18 June.

IN.

From C. in C. Middle East

Date 19.6.41.
Recd. CO15.

564A

CIPHER.

Addressed:- The War Office repeated C. in C. India, Military Attache, Ankara Prodrone Jeddah.

IMMEDIATE.

21148. 1/74087 cipher 18/6.

Personal General Collins from Shearer. Syria. Just prior to and immediately following our penetration into Syria German personnel of all categories were hurriedly withdrawn. From unconfirmed but believed reliable source understand six hundred German and Italian personnel evacuated via Turkey by railway alone. Confirmed evidence that Air Force personnel in Aleppo removed by air! This was clever move to refute our allegations of German infiltration and to make issue clear cut between Vichy troops and ourselves and Free French. Most prisoners deny any knowledge that Northern Provinces of Syria were due to be handed over to Germans and that infiltration on considerable scale had already started. At first Vichy resistance was thin and sporadic. Later stimulated by intensive propaganda that important French Forces were being transported from North Africa by sea plus considerable German Air Forces. Vichy morale which was at first low has more recently soared. This attitude further stimulated by local successes and general slowing down of our advance. It no longer seems practicable to take line that our forces meeting with little resistance. Local opinion in Palestine and Egypt is suspicious of this and asks why faster progress not made. Our troops, especially Australians, resent implied belittlement of their efforts. Best line would seem to stress fact that Vichy Forces had been misled. German infiltration was in fact well under way on technique similar to that used in Bulgaria. Arrival of reinforcements from North Africa pure myth except for French Aircraft which is reaching Syria daily from Tunis and from Marseilles. To all French well wishers for ultimate British victory it must be obvious that our move into Syria was essential to prevent establishment of German front which would have meant serious consequences to our whole strategical position in Middle East.

East Africa capture of Assab by combined operation cleans Italians out of their last port on Coast of East Africa and their first original foothold there.

Capture important from point of view mopping up operations since certain amount of sea-borne supplies arrived by Dhow in Assab, though occupation of Dessye had already cut road communications with Hinterland. Also deprives Italians of aerodrome. In Jimma area main efforts by East and West African and Belgian troops and patriots under British Officers take increasing hand in operations. Patriots are advancing from Magi in South - West and have taken Shoa Ghimirra. To the North they have occupied Lakenti and are driving the Italians West of River Dadessan. Patriots also responsible for Pralormo's surrender with two thousand remnants of 24th Division South of Soddu. Gazzdra's position must be most difficult and despite heavy rains and difficult Terrain one can be optimistic that he will be unable to hold out much longer. Gondar and Chelga are both being hammered by land and air and Debra Tabour is encircled. Ground operations this area by patriots led by British Officers. In order to counter axis propaganda that we are not taking Hirma because we are unable to do so stress point that there are no military or political advantages in occupying the town. Nor will it be necessary to contain the Italian

Garrison/.....

Garrison which will rot of itself when completely surrounded by patriot troops. Western Desert. Important to counter axis propaganda that this was important battle designed to divert attention from so called failure of operations in Syria. Present operations should be described as of local significance centering around endeavour to occupy Halfaya which has already changed hands four times.

Iraq. As British Forces have now been substantially increased stress spectacular effort of small column in covering enormous distance from Palestine and arriving practically intact outside Baghdad in time to forestall arrival of German Aircraft and so obliging Rashid Ali and his gang to flee. Apart from a short period of disturbance in Baghdad. Quickly suppressed by Iraqi troops, comparative calm has been maintained in Basra Mosul and in other important centres in the country. New Government is taking firm hold and conviction of H.M.G. good intentions is everywhere gaining ground. H.M.G. proclamation to support the promise of freedom to Syria has also impressed the Arab world. Main theme to treat Rashid Ali as rebel against his own Government and that our penetration into country has justified itself by results obtained in countering axis activities which if allowed to develop unhindered would shortly have brought Iraq under iron domination of Germany.

1714/18 June.

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

Received from War Office 6035/20th June.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 4th S.L.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F).
 Nav. Sec.
 N.A. to 1st S.L.
 Ops. (4).
 O.D.(5).
 O.I.C.(2).
 D. of P. (3).
 H (2).
 E.P.S.
 D.N.I.(4).
 I.P.(3).
 W.D.
 D.P.D.
 D.N.A.D.
 Admiral Chalmers.

gc.

MOST SECRET

564(S)

M E S S A G E 1754C/18th June

MOST SECRET

IV

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 20.6.41.

Recd. 0607.

I.D.C. 12 BY CABLE.

Addressed Ambassador Angora. Repeated Ambassador Cairo,
Foreign Office, Admiralty.

IKI
KARDASHLAR

955. My 1215 C 9 June. Further report of Schooner received. While on patrol South of Cape Inanur on June 2nd M T B 215 sighted at (2245) a vessel burning a dim light. On proceeding to investigate vessel extinguished its light and attempted to escape. M.T.B. closed and observed vessel to be Schooner of about 150 tons very heavily laden with oil drums. A depth charge was then dropped about 40 yards from Schooner in order to make her stop whereupon the crew of 5 took to their boat. M.T.B. went alongside and boarded. Engine was still running but stopped soon afterwards and showed that fuel had been turned off and starting handle removed making it impossible to re-start engine. The ship's papers and a sample of the oil from the drums were taken. Ship was making water as a result of depth charge and was set on fire before leaving and finally blew up with a terrific explosion at 0100.

2. The sample of oil has been analysed and is a mineral lubricating oil but is described in ship's papers as olive oil.

3. Consider that Commanding Officer M.T.B. was fully justified in action taken in view of :

- (a) Suspicious behaviour of ship in a declared danger area when she heard the M.T.B. approaching to investigate.
- (b) The fact that she was carrying a cargo of oil towards the oil producing ports of Tripoli and Haifa.
- (c) The fact that the starting handle was removed prior to abandoning ship.

4. The whole incident took place well outside Turkish territorial waters.

1754C/18.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D.../S.W.
I.P. (2)

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

MG

1915/18th June.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN 564D

From S. O. (I) Istanbul.

Date 19.6.41.

Recd. 1738

Interdepartmental Cypher (V) 14 by Cable RECIRCULATION

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

Reference my 1600 June 8th part 3 following summary of information here all sources including C.X. on German preparations Black Sea Area.

- Part one (a) Roumanian Shipping being degaussed, TRANSYLVANIA, ~~BASARABIA~~ fitted paravanes.
- (b) DACIA and ~~CAROL~~ being fitted for minelaying armed with four inch and (?) T.E. alterations to funnels, masts first intended now abandoned. Work pressed forward, expect to complete end of June. Roumania work on (?armour) being hurried no details of armament.
- (c) Torpedo boats SBORUL and NALUCA undergone refit, manned by picked Roumanian crews.
- (d) Reports A.S. that twice weekly service to Istanbul by TRANSYLVANIA, ~~BASARABIA~~ will be shortly suspended.
- (e) Swedish Steamer LOLA has been fitted approximately 1000 berths for illegal Jewish immigrants, now taken over for troop carrying.

While semi-officially hinted in Roumania these measures are for war against Russia Roumanian Naval opinion believes shipping may be used against Turkey and/or in Aegean Sea.

- Part two (a) Confirmed that self propelled pontoons brought by rail being assembled Constanza harbour: used in pairs to support what appears to be tank carrying platform with ramp. Only half dozen of latter believed completed; same also reported Sulina.
- (b) In Constanza few German troops other than coast defence but preparations spoken of for arrival of 150,000 repeat 150,000 and existence of many hutments establishments, some recently completed.
- (c) General expectation in Roumania of war against Russia, evidently encouraged by Germany. Roumanian mobilization resulted in shortage of harvest labour.
- (d) Similar report received of expectations of imminent war in Hungary.

1915/18.

N. I. D. Comment.

- Part I. (a) The latest reliable report about the Roumanian merchant ships TRANSYLVANIA & ~~BASARABIA~~ is that they were resuming the Constanza - Istanbul run. It is however, quite possible that they are now being fitted with paravanes.
- (b) This confirms earlier reports that these two ships are being armed and fitted as minelayers.
- (c) These are ex Austrian Torpedo Boats of 262 tons built in 1913.
- (e) This is new information. The LOLA (1200 tons) has been detained at Constanza since the outbreak of war.

N. I. D. 3.

Advance copy O. I. C.

V. C. N. S.	Ops (4)	D. T. D. (4)	E. P. S.
A. C. N. S. (F)	O. D. (5)	D. T. D. (M)	W. D.
A. C. N. S. (T) (2)	D. of P. (3)	D. of L. D. (2)	D. S. D. 9.
Nav. Sec.	O. I. C. (2)	D. A. S. W.	M. (C) for War
N. A. Ist. S. L.	D. S. D. 92)	D. E. W. D. (3)	Office M. I.
D. N. I. (4)	D. P. D.	D. T. M.	

e. d.

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General Contd.

→ JANUS
COVENTRY.

JANUS arrived Suez 18/6. Departure Port Said
COVENTRY 2150/18. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 2215C/18
to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

UTILITAS
Italian
Tanker

Entered Bosphorus 1430C/18 fully laden for
Aegean. Grey Hull small black funnel aft,
foremast only. (Capt. S.7., 2325C/18 to
TETRARCH.)

→ COVENTRY

My 0946C/17, amended E.T.A. 0645C/19. (Haifa).
(COVENTRY, 2330C/18 to N.O.I.C. Haifa.)

Syria.

A/C attack
Beirut

Following from 829 Sqn. Two Wellesly carried
out dive bombing attack on Beirut Harbour, one
hit Mole, second did not drop, neither saw
Destroyers. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 0250/18 to
15 C.S.)

Shipping
Routes.

Ships trading in British interests are not
to route through an area bounded on North by
36° N. or West of 35° E. on South by 33°
30' N. or East by Syrian coast. (C. in C.
Med., 1048/18 to N.O.I.C's Cyprus, Palestine,
etc.)

Area for
A/C attacks
on Enemy
Shipping.

Request aircraft based in Palestine should
only attack Merchant vessels within the area
given in my 1048/18 unless special request is
made. Aircraft based Cyprus or Alexandria
are given route of British controlled shipping
and can therefore decide whether ships outside
this area should be attacked or not. (C. in C.
Med. 1050/18 to H.Q., P. and T.J.)

/Bombardment.....

566

War Diary.18.6.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Syria. Contd.Bombardment.

Army intend mounting strong attack on Damour position in 2 or 3 days time. You should be prepared to bombard Ridge with a 6-inch cruiser as required by Milpal. Gen. Blamey is proceeding shortly to visit Milpal to confer on this action. (C. in C. Med., 1542C/18 to C.S.15.)

Enemy Destroyers.

Two unknown vessels with air support proceeding S. of Beirut position 10 miles N.W. Saida. (MIJI, 1623/18, to Haifa W/T).
My 1623. Two destroyers. (MIJ.1, 1630/18.)
Enemy now steering North. (MIJ.1, 1636/18.)
My 1636. Enemy disappeared to North my position 7 miles South of Saida. (MIJI, 1652/18.)

A/C to Attack Destroyers.

Operation Order 162 of 18/6. Observation one torpedo aircraft is to do dusk attack on Vichy destroyers reported off Syrian Coast probably South of Beirut proceeding Beirut. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1812/18, to C.S.15.)
Your 1855 (N.T. in W.R.) confirmed. R.A.F. are laying on an attack on Beirut harbour (? dusk) today and (? nothing further during the night.) (C. S. 15, 1913/18 to Haifa W/T.)

Suspected Minelaying.

Activities enemy Destroyers this afternoon were suggested of minelaying. Approx. position area 4 miles from coast of Southern limit 5 miles (? North of) Saida. (N.L.O. Palestine 2001C/18 to F.O. 15 C.S.) See also 0925/19.

R/C Beirut.

Operational Summary up to 1900/18. Sorties 17/6 not reported in previous summary protective patrol over fleet. No interceptions. R/C Shipping Beirut Latakia. 3 Sorties Swordfish 815 Sqn. from Cyprus moonlight sweep Tripoli to Beirut no vessels seen. (H.Q.R.A.F. P.T.J. 2115/18 to H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. etc.)

/Situation.....

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Weñnesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Syria Contd.

Situation
Report
No.60.

Syria. No details of activities of C.S.15 Force. French Destroyer moved to southward toward Siñon but returned to Beirut half an hour after being reported, no reliable reports available of military situation.

2. Western Desert. Operation ~~BATTLEAXE~~ "Battleaxe" cancelled. Tobruk continues to be supplied by destroyers unloading at night.

3. Alexandria. Small scale air raid about 0400/18. Some bombs and mines but little damage and none to ships or port. Port is open. (C. in C. Med., 2228/18 to Admty.)

East Indies.

W.S.9A.
GALATEA
W.S.9B.

Your 0744Z/17. Onward escort for W.S.9A due Durban about 5/7 must be provided from E.I. Station. Admty. will always inform you if you are not required to provide onward escort for W.S. Convoys from Cape Ports. W.S.9B due Durban about 28/7 will be escorted to Suez by GALATEA. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1250B/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

STRATHAIRD
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

Can be received in outer harbour at Massawa at present time. But owing to danger from mines I consider such large and valuable ships should only be sent to Massawa if smaller ones are not available and escort in Approaches can be provided. (C. in C. E.I., 1314Z/18 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.
DURBAN
CASTLE

Your 0840Z/17. To affect exchange of crew, intended that EMPRESS OF JAPAN should return to U.K. via Vancouver, Panama Canal, Halifax. All passenger and troop accommodation will be filled eastbound from Halifax to U.K.

/Propose.....

568

War Diary.18.6.1941.
Weñnesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.DURBAN
CASTLE
Contd.

Propose you return in DURBAN CASTLE ex W.S.9A. which could be diverted homewards via Colombo and the Cape. Request information as to whether you will be able to provide escort for DURBAN CASTLE as far as Durban so that the possibility of using all the accommodation in this ship for voyage home may be investigated. (D.O.D.(F) 1830B/18 to C. in C. E.I.).

Assab
Facilities

C. in C. East Indies 1028/14. Following further information required with a view to using Assab for transshipment purposes. (D.T.D. 2112B/18 to S.N.O. Red Sea.)

America and West Indies.Transfer
of Tankers

Without fast tankers, supply of oil and aviation spirit to Malta is now limited. Negotiations for transfer of two NEOSHO type tankers from U.S.A. have been in progress; culminating in First Lord's message to Purvis, dated 8/5. (No answer yet received.) Please take this up, using every endeavour to get an early and favourable decision. (4th S.L. 0124B/18 to Brit. Naval Delegation, Washington (for Adm. Little). Reply 1530/19.

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN

Propose ROYAL SOVEREIGN proceed direct Bermuda for gunnery practices on completion of refit about 24/6. Date required at Halifax would be signalled later when date leaving Norfolk is known. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1201P/18.)

T.C.11.

Your 1447Z/17 not to Admiralty. Approved to employ SKEENA and ST. LAURENT local escort T.C.11 for first three days subsequent to returning to Halifax. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1348Z/18 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.) (See also Shipping & Convoys.) P.555

/O.A. KNUDSEN.....

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Weñnesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies Contd.

O.A.KNUDSEN
(chased 6/6)

Reports having been chased by suspicious vessel 048° 50' N. 027° 16' W. on 6/6. Report following. (Aruba N.W.I., 1426/18 to Admty.)

SOVAC "R"
report 4/6

My 1641Z/17 (report re boarding of SOVAC by warship in position 53° N, 31° W. Philadelphia amends position to 49.12 N. 34-34 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1541Z/18 to Admty.)

PASTEUR

My 1833Z/22/5. Repairs will be completed. Impossible to dry dock due to dense fog. Proceeds to Halifax p.m./18/6. (N.S.H.Q. 1546Z/18 to D. of S.T.)

PANUCO

Italian Ship 256 renamed PANUCO. Mexican Flag sailed Vera Cruz 16/6. Arrived Tampico 17/6. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1711R/18 to Admty.)

T.S.R's for
CAM Ships

Ref. M.A.P. 6163 (T.O.O. 1923/29/5/41). These T.S.R's must come from current programme for U.S. Navy and in order to assess urgency of requirements, essential that I should know details of their proposed strategical employment. (Brit. N. Staff, Washington, 1735/18 to Admty.)

A.M.C's.

In Halifax Escort Force, employment on convoy escort. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1839B/18 to B.S.3. - see Shipping and Convoys).

Bases for
convoy
escorts.

Your 1213B/15? Consider situation can best be met and administration simplified by definite allocation of sloops and corvettes to be based at Halifax or Sydney Cape Breton. Proposals. (C.C.N.F. St. John's N.F. 2156Z/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

MALAYA

Armuk 396 18/6. Sailing of MALAYA from New York is tentatively fixed (date) (1235/18) (B.A.R.M. Washington, 2359/18 to Admty. etc.)

570

War Diary

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

MANUNDA
ORANJE
WANGANELLA

Report received from Master that Red Cross markings on deck of MANUNDA were inspected from the air by C.O. of a hospital ship at Suez who reported they were not distinguishable above a height of 800 feet. Intend to extend Crosses on upper decks MANUNDA, ORANJE, WANGANELLA, as far as practicable. (A.C.N.B. 1026Z/18 to Admty.)

U.S.12

Approximate date and numbers.
(A.C.N.B. 1319Z/18, to D. of S.T.)

U.S.Liaison

Re appointments for liaison with U.S. Pacific Fleet. (A.C.N.B., 1415Z/18 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

570(A)

18th June.

MOST SECRET.

I.N.

From Australian Commonwealth Naval Board,
Melbourne.

Date. 19.6.41.

Recd. 1410.

Naval Cypher "D" by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C., China. New Zealand Navy Board,
Wellington.

99. Reference F E 8 Paragraph 9 A.C.N.B. Melbourne would welcome appointment on their staff of a representative of C. in C., U.S. Pacific Fleet if latter considers it is necessary in addition to U.S. Naval Attache already attached to American Embassy Canberra. Officer normally carries out his duties in Melbourne.

(ii) A.C.N.B. Melbourne consider their liaison requirements with United States Pacific Fleet would not be full time job and it would be very difficult to spare suitable officer from Australia.

(iii) If Admiralty concur Canadian Navy Board suggest their liaison with U.S. Pacific Fleet be conducted by British Naval Attache or Liaison officer suitably briefed serving with that Fleet.

(iv) Subject to Admiralty concurrence paragraph (iii) officer nominated could be acquainted with situation in Australia - New Zealand Area either

(a) in Washington or
(b) by Cdr. Harries visiting Honolulu for a short period. Under prevailing circumstances Australian Minister in Washington considers it undesirable for Cdr. Harries to be absent from Washington for any length of time

(v) Request (a) Admiralty concurrence's paragraph (iii) and
(b) which alternative in paragraph (iv) preferred.

1415Z/18

1st Lord
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
Sec.
Naval Sec.
P...S.(S)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Duty Captain
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
Hd. of M.(5) for action
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
D.D.I.C
D.S.D.9.
E.P.S.
Admiral Bailey
Admiral Bellairs
I.P.(2)
W.D.

MOST SECRET

571

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ship's Attacked.

MERCIER
(torpedoed
? 17/6)

All ships left 49.16 N. 42.21 W.
Finnish Steamer KEMI picked up 27 men from
torpedoed steamer now bound Finland and
cannot take over there because 4 men very
ill. Please can any other ship take them
on board. (KEMI, 0037/18, via Nore W/T)

MERCIER
YSELHAVEN

Following from Cape Race 2230 G.M.T./17.
Following received from HAMMARLAND for
Mattclark Bulevarden 34A Helsingfors (begins)
Picked up from Belgian Steamer MERCIER 45
men, also ten men from Netherlands Steamer
YSELHAVEN. Will land them somewhere.
Signed, Norstram. (Ends). (N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa, 0420Z/18 to Admty., C.O.A.C. Halifax
1221Z/18 to Admty.)
Following received: HAMMARLAND (Finnish)
now advised only 35 men picked up from
MERCIER. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1220Z/18 to
Admty.)

HAVTOR

Norwegian, 1524 tons, torpedoed and sunk on
11/6, one day out from Reykjavik on her way
to Pictou, Nova Scotia, in ballast. Master
and 13 saved, 6 lost. (D.S. 652, 18/6)

SCOTTISH
MONARCH

British, 4719 tons, which had been overdue at
Freetown from Loch Ewe since 2/6, now known
to have been torpedoed and sunk in 12.58 N,
27.20 W. 23 survivors landed at Freetown.
(D.S. 652)

S.S. NORFOLK

Following has been read: SSSS 57 - 17 N
11 - 14 W. NORFOLK. (Liverpool W/T 0154/18)
NORFOLK, British, 10,948 tons, independent
from Newport for New Zealand via New York and
Panama Canal. Position about 130 miles W.
by N. of Barra Head. (D.S. 652).
NORFOLK at 0201. Now abandoning ship.
(Liverpool W/T, 0203/18).

/Detach.....

War Diary.18.6.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.s.s. NORFOLK
Conta.

Detach SKATE if fuel permits otherwise one corvette to proceed to assistance of NORFOLK torpedoed and abandoning ship in (position) at 0400B/18. Ship detached report name when well clear of convoy, aircraft co-operating. (C. in C. W.A., 0442B/18 to WALKER). Am proceeding in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s 0442B/18th. Expect to reach NORFOLK at 1300B/18. Can remain for 12 hours. (SKATE, 0721/18 to WALKER).

Following has been read. Have located 2 life-boats 15 men in position 57.15 N. 11.20 W, sea moderate. (Liverpool W/T, 1045/18).

Aircraft reports 2 life boats 15 men in position 057° 15' N. 011° 20' W. at 1045B/18 sea moderate. (C. in C. W.A. 1101B/18 to SKATE.)

After picking up survivors search for Submarine bombed by A/C in position 56° 25' N. 10° 58' W. at 1015B/18, aircraft co-operating. (C. in C. W.A. 1136B/18 to SKATE.)

1104 airborne on search for NORFOLK survivors.

1430, BPRA 1115 (approx.) sighted 2 life-boats under sail and DR approaching accompanied by Whitley A/C.

1515 DR finished picking up survivors DR signalled by R/T that there were 2 further lifeboats in a Westerly direction. Commenced search creeping line ahead from BPRA 1115.

1527 BPRA 0204 sighted wreckage and oil patches presumed left by sunken NORFOLK and one waterlogged lifeboat with 10 survivors S/C to contact DR.

1532 BPRA 0713 sighted 4th lifeboat with 5 survivors informed DR by R/T giving bearing and distance 1611 DR concluded rescue of lifeboat and set course for second S/C for base.

1627 NSDU 5645 sighted cylindrical object in sea resembling a D/C floating on end investigated believed flotation chamber of magnetic mine.

1632 message sent to Group NORFOLK sunk 4 boats rescued.

1759 landed base. (A.C.H.Q. Liverpool 1840/18, to H.Q.C.C., etc.)

/ROBIN MOOR.....

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked Contd.

ROBIN MOOR
(torpedoed
21/5)

My 1710/16. Member of crew of ROBIN MOOR photographed submarine which sank her. This clearly shows U-Boat of type U.77. Photograph in charge of American Consul General Capetown, Washington informed. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1010/18 to Admty. etc.)

Unknown
ship.

Ref. 1136/17 ^{1116 111219 - See p. 524} from LIDDESDALE (██████████.) Master of CITY OF BOMBAY reports when in 54° 33' N. 0° 37' 20" W. at 0933/17 an explosion occurred under water approx. 60 feet off on the port beam. (N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough, 1430/18 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

EMPIRE DEW
(torpedoed
12/6)

At 2100B/18 in position 053° 13' N. 018° 36' W. picked up 20 survivors including Capt. from B.M.S. EMPIRE DEW torpedoed 11/6 (? 0230/12/6) in position 051° 00' N. 030° 00' W. One more boat with 9 men supposed to be further West. (ST. ALBANS, 2130B/18 to Admty.)

PHIDIAS
(sunk 8/6)

43 survivors from PHIDIAS blown up by shelling by submarine 8/6, 048° 25' N. 026° 12' W, landed by EMBASSAGE. Form S.A. by mail. (08) killed, list of survivors follows. (N.C.SO. Sydney C.B. 2320Z/18 to Admty.) British, 5623 tons, on Govt. service with stores from Clyde to Middle East and Cape.

Submarines Reported.

1653/17
Air R/C

Your 1653Z/17. It is presumed you are taking necessary action including air reconnaissance to locate and attack this submarine. Would be of assistance if you would signal a broad outline of normal employment of your aircraft and numbers you have available. (V.C.N.S. 0154B/18 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

/Your.....

574

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Weñnesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine Reported.

1653/17
Air R/C
Conta.

Your O154B/18. Weather did not permit air reconnaissance. My 1337Z/17 outlines aircraft available at this command. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1721Z/18 to Admty.)

1650/17

Following received from OPNAV also being sent C.N.S. Ottawa (begins) At 1650 GMT/17 destroyer OVERTON ~~909B~~ contacted unidentified submarine 42° N. 63° 05' W. lost contact 1742 G.M.T. Heard unmistakable submarine echo and propeller noises. Ends. (D.C. 0316B/18 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)

0345

Am over enemy Submarine in position 61.48 N., 22.25 W. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, via Lyness, 0345/18, to Admty., C. in C. H.F., etc.)

At 1214A, a German U-boat bearing 268° class 2 made first sighting report on 11125 KC/S. This is probably H.G.65. (F.O.C.N.A. 1413A/18 to N.A. Stn.)

My 1413A/18. Admiralty state they consider it was unlikely that this was a first sight report of a convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 2229A/18 to WELLINGTON).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1418B/18)

Newfoundland

Following from C. in C. W.A: It is known U-boat operating near Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Escort vessels keep look out from moment of sailing. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1544Z/18 to G.B.7A.)

1948

By D/F at 1948 G.M.T. Italian U/B in position 46° N. 3° 30' W. unreliable fix. Probably outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 2226B/18)

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Weñnesday.

575

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C

I am attacking enemy submarine position N.N.5. D.U. 25 02 have dropped depth charges patrolling position awaiting instructions. (Maintenance Command Duty F. 1015/18 to Aldergrove.)

U/B claimed
sunk by D.8

U. 138 -
CB 04050/41
(6) and (7)

Captain (D) 8. reports he has sunk a German U-boat in position 036° 00' N. 008° 00' W. at 1113B/18. Further report follows. (F.O.C.N.A. 1122A/18 to Admty.) My 1122A/18. Capt. D.8 reports following prisoners of war: FEARLESS 3 officers and 23 ratings, FOXHOUND one officer. (F.O.C.N.A. 1618B/18.)

By ST.ALBANS

At 0850/18 obtained echo in position 053° 51' N. 004° or 014° 52' W. carried out counter attack and one deliberate attack, echo then disappeared. Continued search until 1200, obtained several non sub echoes, but found no evidence of destruction. At 1200/18 continued for R/V on account of fuel situation. Consider not unlikely submarine was attacked, but non sub also possible. Your 1030B/18 addressed Capt. (D) 4. E.T.A. position 051° 00' N. 020° 00' W. at 0800B/19. (ST. ALBANS 1950B/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

576

War Diary

19.6.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Principal Events

Arrangements for continuous A/S escort of north Atlantic convoys.

VANESSA damaged by air attack.

Attack on shipping off Cape St. Vincent by F.W. Aircraft.

Vichy French COMPIEGNE intercepted in Sunda Strait.

Newfoundland
Escort Force.

As continuous escort of convoys to and from Halifax is now essential C. in C. W.A. proposes to base all sloops and corvettes of Newfoundland Force, together with Coastguard Cutters, on Halifax, the destroyers of the force remaining for the present based on St. Johns and joining or leaving convoys near that port. H.X., S.C. and north routed O.B. convoys will thus be escorted between Iceland and Halifax by sloops, corvettes and cutters, with the addition of destroyers between Iceland and Newfoundland.

War Diary

19.6.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Northern
Patrol.

SUFFOLK and ACTIVE are patrolling in the Denmark Strait, NIGERIA is patrolling S.E. of Iceland.

It is reported that on 14/2 the German ship damaged in Karmoyssund on 14/2 was the SS SARDINIEN and that an 8000 ton tanker was damaged at the same time.

British Air Operations

Bremen was one of the primary targets of Bomber Command last night; 77 aircraft attacked. 49 aircraft attacked the German warships at Brest. Minor attacks were made on Emden, Bremerhaven and Wilhelmshaven.

9 Blenheims with strong fighter escort attacked the docks and harbour installations at Le Havre today.

3 Blenheims of Coastal Command, with Fighter escort were sent this evening to attack a heavily escorted merchant vessel off Etaples, and claim a direct hit.

578

War Diary

19.6.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Convoy F.S.518 was bombed at 0029 today in 53° 0' N., 1° 25' E. VANESSA (escorting) was hit amidships at 0045 in 52° 54' N., 1° 34' E. and was towed to Yarmouth.

Mining.

Operations
B.S. 59

PLOVER with COSTSWOLD, laid mines last night in the East Coast Barrier.

B.S. 64

~~REVIOT BANK laid mines today in the East Coast Barrier.~~ (postponed 24 hrs - See p.584.)

Liverpool was reopened at 0600.

Mines were detonated off Belfast.

A German submarine is reported to have been mined and sunk on 11/5 off Le Verdon.

War Diary19.6.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTShipping & Convoys.

To speed up coastal shipping, C. in C. Plymouth proposes a 2-day instead of the present 3-day convoy cycle, if air and surface escorts can be provided.

North Atlantic

Four ships were attacked early this morning off Sagres by 3 F.W. aircraft. SS EMPIRE WARRIOR and Swedish SS GUNDA were damaged and sank whilst in tow. It is reported that one aircraft was hit and probably a second.

MediterraneanEastern
Mediterranean

C. in C. Med. would like to have more submarines for employment against Axis shipping, which includes a high proportion of tankers, in narrow waters unsuitable for mines.

Palestine
& Syria

French destroyers this morning carried out a short bombardment at Sidon but retired under cover of their defences when our forces arrived. Little fighter protection is available for our ships.

/3 aircraft.....

War Diary

19.6.1941
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

3 aircraft of 829 Squadron dive bombed Beirut harbour at 2130 and in addition to obtaining hits on a large jetty, a ship, believed to be a submarine was hit or near missed.

East Indies

C. in C. E.I. 0728Z/19 contains an important strategical recommendation.

China

Vichy French COMPIEGNE was intercepted today by a Dutch patrol vessel in Sunda Strait and taken to Tanjong Priok.

U Boat Campaign.

SS CATHRINE in SK76 was torpedoed and sunk today, probably about 250 miles SW of Ireland.

581

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

S/M ferry
service to
Malta.

- A. Reporting damage to CLYDE and asking for directions. (See S.8 1325A/18 to F.O.S. (in North Atlantic)).
- B. No objection to employ OSIRIS for this purpose due Gibraltar on 22/6 en route to Alexandria. OTUS could also be used, but in my view RIVER Class should not be so employed.
- C. Request I may be informed of action taken. -(F.O.(S) 0149B/19 to Adty.).

Movements.

ECLIPSE.
ECHO.

R/V off Swona at 2000B/19 and proceed in company to Reykjavik where you will act under the orders of Senior Officer H.F. To arrive p.m/21. (R.A.D. 0915B/19).

HAMBLEDON.

To escort AMSTERDAM and LADY OF MANN carrying troops to Lerwick and Long Hope respectively. Orders. (R.A.D. 1032B/19).

SHEFFIELD.

To sail for Rosyth 0430/20. Arrangements. (C. in C. H.F. 1416B/19).

St. John's
Escort Force.

Leave convoys and proceed St. Johns N.F. forthwith. (C. in C. W.A. 1604B/19 to ABERDEEN, SANDWICH, PRIMROSE, WINDELOWER, TRILLIUM, HEPATICA.) See also p. 586

/FURIOUS.....

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

FURIOUS.
HERMIONE.

Admty. 1302B/16, 2352B/16.
(1) Sail FURIOUS, LEGION, LANCE from Clyde, VANQUISHER from Londonderry to R/V with HERMIONE in position. (a) 270° Oversay 10 miles at 0700B/22.
(ii) Route to Gibraltar.
(iii) Senior Officer A/S escort VANQUISHER.
(iv) Order for destroyer leaving convoy will be given subsequently. (C. in C. W.A. 1731B/19 to N.O.I.C Greenock & Londonderry).

M.L's and
A/S Trs.
for Freetown.

My 1922B/14. M.L. 263 will sail with 17th M.L.F. also M.L. 274 if latter is ready in time. (D.A/S W. 1957B/19 to C. in C.W.A).

CHALLENGER.

Urgently required to proceed to Bathurst to carry out a survey of approaches for entry of deep draught ships. To sail to Greenock to embark stores. (D.O.D.(H) 2308B/19 to C. in C.W.A).

Operations.

S/M's on
Patrol.

Warning that special caution is necessary in certain area. (F.O.S. 1016B/19 to S/M's on patrol in Area A).

Northern
Patrol.

Your 1846B/14. Request you will order HILARY to patrol eastern half and CAVINA western half of K.2 passing through K 1. (D.O.D.(F) 1521/19 to V.A.N.P). Orders. (F.O.C.N.P. 1800B/19).

A/S Sweep.

When convoy disperses sweep through position A 052° 30' N. 032° 00' W. (B) 053° 30' 025° 00' if endurance permits and keep good look out for overdue ships. (C. in C. W.A. 1716B/19 -to GENTIAN, ZINNIA).

583

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Patrols.

~~Part~~
~~now~~ took off 0300/19. (C. in C. Rosyth 0302/19)
~~stand~~ now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 2218/19)

Bomber
Command
Operations.

Night 18/19 June. Primary target Bremen was attacked by 77 aircraft. German Warships at Brest. 49 Aircraft dropped a large number on the dock area although the actual ships could not be seen. Minor attacks, Emden, Bremerhaven, Wilhelmshaven. (H.Q.B.C., T.H.I. 1322/19).

Patrols
on coast
of Norway.

Your 1805B/18. Concur as a means of gaining information of general activity on coast, provided other intelligence is sufficiently reliable and quick to ensure placing of effective patrol(s) in time to intercept a fast ship breaking out. (C. in C. H.F. 1707B/19 to Adty.).

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S.

Enemy aircraft bombing 55° 0' N. 1° 25' E. (CATTISTOCK 0029/19).

VANESSA,
damaged.

Bombed 0045/19 in 52° 54' N. 1° 34' E. Hit, both boiler rooms flooded. Taken in tow by VESPER. Later, 2 tugs took her in tow and brought her to Yarmouth 1218B. (VESPER 0045/19, VANESSA 0105B/19, C. in C. -Nore 0221B/19, 0734B/19, F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0232B/19, 0340B/19, 1218B/19. Salvage Officer Yarmouth 1540B/19).

MOORDALE.
ARCTIC
PIONEER.

R.F.A. MOORDALE while employed in replacing buoy in Portsmouth Eastern Approach Channel was attacked at 1150/17 by 3 enemy fighters. Attack was at low level 3 bombs and machine guns. Fire was returned by MOORDALE and ARCTIC PIONEER escorting her. Air protection had been provided and 3 British fighters arrived immediately after the first attack and drove off enemy aircraft. Two men in MOORDALE and two in ARCTIC PIONEER slightly wounded. No serious damage to either ship. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1037B/19).

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Tees and
Hartlepool.

Ports closed in accordance with my 1103/14 and my 1018/15. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0459/19). Port open in accordance with my 1103/14 and my 1018/15. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1148/19).

Operation,
B.S. 59.

Completed. (PLOVER 0820B/19).

Operation
B.S. 64.

Operation B.S. 64 is postponed 24 hours owing to fog. All times in my 2125B/17 to be 24 hours later accordingly. (TEVIOT BANK 0911B/19).

Operation
B.S. 60.

Operation B.S. 60 is to be carried out tomorrow night Friday. Arrangements. One ~~HUNT~~ ^{HUNT} to act as escort. (C. in C. Nore 1120B/19 1500B/19).

Belfast.

L.L. drifters detonated one mine inside Tails Van of Sweep in (position) at 1120B/19. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1310B/19).

Sweeps.

Q.Z.H. 5.7.5. Request you will arrange to sweep New Channel reporting as soon as sweeping is completed. (C. in C. Nore 1635B/19 to F.O.I.C. Humber, Yarmouth).

My 0810/19. Search completed to 3 miles East side of Q.Z.S. 244 from 5 miles south of No. 32 buoy to 5 miles North of No. 32 buoy. Negative result. (C. in C. Rosyth 2206/19).

585

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

BORE X.

Finnish motor ship BORE X left for South America today. (Petsamo 1100/19).

NÜRNBERG.
EMDEN.

At Oslo 18/6. (B.2). (N.A. Stockholm 1101/19).

Vessels
Leaving
Petsamo.

Routeing instructions by German Consul. (Helsinki, T.H.I. 2051/19).

Casualties and Defects.

ICARUS.

ICARUS returning to harbour with damaged forecastle. ANTELOPE is to proceed as soon as possible to relieve ACTIVE in 066° 40' N. 019° 00' W. Acknowledge. (Capt. (D) 3 1616Z/19 to ANTELOPE).

U.S.A. Cooperation.

Recognition
Signals.

June 24 - 30. (D.S.D. 1031B/19).

Spenavo.

Cable address of the Special Naval Observer, London. (Spenavo 1651/19). Any co-operation practicable in guarding flight of 10 Lockheed planes is requested. (Spenavo 1652/19 to Adty.)

586

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Halifax
Convoy
Escorts.

Now essential to escort convoys to and from -Halifax. Propose to base all Sloops and Corvettes of Newfoundland Force, together with Coastguard Cutters, on Halifax, destroyers of the force remaining for the present based on St. Johns. H.X., S.C. and North-route O.B. convoys will thus be escorted between Iceland and Halifax by Sloops, Corvettes and Cutters, with addition of destroyers between Iceland and Newfoundland. Intend to implement this policy forthwith pending concurrence of Canadian Authorities as to use of Halifax. (C. in C. W.A., 1620B/19 to Admt. etc.).

H.X. 134.
S.C. 35.

My 1620B/19. No ships of Newfoundland Force will be available to escort H.X. 134 and S.C. 35 between Halifax and Newfoundland. To provide escort for these convoys between Newfoundland and Iceland ABERDEEN, SANDWICH, PRIMROSE, WINDFLOWER, TRILLIUM and HEPATICA have been ordered to St. Johns forthwith. (C. in C.W.A., 1621B/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, etc.). *See p. 581.*

Destroyer
Escorts to
Newfoundland.

My 1620B-/19. Should it become necessary to provide destroyer escort between Halifax and Newfoundland this commitment could be met:- (a) By ? basing 8 short leg destroyers on Halifax to reinforce Canadian destroyers now employed on local escort. (b) By ? basing all destroyers of Newfoundland Force at Halifax and ordering them to fuel at St. John's on outward and homeward passage with convoys. (2) I intend to adopt one of these alternatives should the occasion arise. (C. in C. W.A. 1625B/19 to Admt. etc.).

/Coastal.....

587

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Coastal.
Shipping.

To speed up, proposed to institute a 2-day
convoy cycle instead of present 3-day.
Programmes. (C. in C. Plymouth 1845/19)
See Lion Copy.

O.B.
Convoys.

Dispersal Star is no longer required for
Northbound O.B convoys. (D.T.D. 2001B/19
to N.C.S.O's).

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

WRESTLER.

Your 1155N/17. Intend to sail WRESTLER for Freetown 19/6. (F.O.C.N.A., 0028B/19 to G. in C.S.A.).

→ DUNCAN.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1946A/18. E.T.A., R/V 2200Z/20. Speed of advance 14½ knots. (DUNCAN 0600Z/19 to WISHART).

SEVERN.

Comply with my 1610A/17. (F.O.C.N.A. 0910A/19 to SEVERN).

→ WISHART.
SCYTHIA.
→ DUNCAN.

My 1946A/18. SCYTHIA E.T.A. now reported as 1300B/22. Estimated P.C. and S. of DUNCAN at 1200B/20 028° 20' N. 013° 05' W. 039° 13½ Endeavour to join during daylight/20. (F.O.C.N.A. 1114A/19 to WISHART).

French
convoys.

OUED FES

Gibraltar 18/6, 1606, Light Cruiser MILAN, PIERRE CLAUDE laden westbound. 0655/19, destroyer TEMPETE, OUED FES deck cargo army lorries and waggons, LA MARSA empty, westbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1143A/19 to Admty. etc.)

Western
Patrol
MARSDALE.

A.T. 1921B/17 para. 2. Request you will order MARSDALE to proceed to patrol L.2 instead. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1520B/19 to F.O.C.N.A.).

8. D.F.

Part company as requisite join Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNER with FORESTER, FOXHOUND and FEARLESS at 0900B/21. P.C. and S. of Capt. (D) 8 at 0900B/21 037° 10' N. 015° 15' W. 286° 17 knots. (Route). (F.O.C.N.A. 1750B/19 to FURY) Cancelled See 0118/20.

Force H.

My 1052B/17 (N.T. in W.R) Request you sail A/S escort to pass through 036° N. 012° 50' W at 0700A/21 steering 320° 16 knots. (S.O. Force H., 2001B/19 to F.O.C.N.A.);

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Air Attacks on Merchant Ships.

EMPIRE WARRIOR
Air Attack.

Following has been read. AAAA 57.05 N. 07.20 W. EMPIRE WARRIOR. (Gibraltar W/T No T.O.O Recd. 0742/19). British, 1506 tons, Bound from Tyne and Cardiff for Pomaron, Portugal. Had sailed in O.G. 64. (D.S. 654). Your 0655/19. Am in 037° (? 16') N. 007° 20' W. but have not sighted EMPIRE WARRIOR. (ALOUETTE, 0820A/19 to F.O.C.N.A). Vice Consul Villa Real de Santo Antonio reports EMPIRE WARRIOR bombed and damaged by 4 aircraft off Guadiana Isham 0730/19. Trawler attempting to tow into shallow water. (N.A. Lisbon 0958/19 to Admty.).

EMPIRE WARRIOR
Sunk.

My 0958/19 EMPIRE WARRIOR now reported sunk 1½ miles off mouth of Guadiana. (N.A. Lisbon 1201/19 to Admty). EMPIRE WARRIOR sunk by near misses from three Fokke Wolff aircraft off Guadian Bar. Master reports that one aircraft hit and probably a second. No casualties. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1305/19 to Admty.).

4 M.V's
A/C attack.

At 0400/19 6 miles south Sagres an aircraft attacking 4 merchant vessels who at 0700 were 6 miles to east with one aircraft 9 miles to south west circling. At 0900 these vessels were stopped off Lagosta. At 2000/18 passed Sagres going north Spanish tug towing an unarmed destroyer. (N.A. Lisbon, 1245/19 to Admty.). My 1245/19. 4 M.Vs. were proceeding N. W. at 1100, two of them were damaged and being towed. At 0900/19 a German aircraft passed Montedor going North. (N.A. Lisbon 1532/19 to Admty.). 2 ships damaged by Fokke Wolff Aircraft, are being towed by two other ships to North up Portuguese Coast from Lagos. Request air escort. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1536/19 to F.O.C. N.A.).

/GUNDA.....

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Air Attacks on Merchant Ships-Contd.

GUNDA.

Swedish SS GUNDA in tow SS PETREL in position 270 St. Vincent one mile at 1100/19 proceeding Lisbon at 7 knots. ERIDGE proceeding to support. (F.O.C.N.A. 1908A/19 to OSIRIS) 1770 tons, from Hull and Tyne for Lisbon. Had sailed in O.G. 64. (D.S. 654). No trace of EMPIRE WARRIOR or wreckage in vicinity of R.10 Guadiana. Am proceeding to join GUNDA. (ERIDGE, 2015A/19 to F.O.C.N.A)

GUNDA
sunk.

2145A GUNDA sunk 037° 36' 30" N, 009° 53' W. after having her in tow one hour, PETREL. Crew safe on board STARLING and PETREL. Am laying dan buoy over wreck. (IMPERIALIST, 2150A/19 to F.O.C.N.A).

South Atlantic.

NATAL.
(German).

f page 592

N.C.S.O. Santos reports 2215Z/18 that NATAL has received clearance from Customs and maritime police. Has no information action being taken in Rio de Janeiro by Brazilian authorities. (C. in C.S.A., 0344N/19 to R.A.S.A.D). *See also next page.*

BARHAM.

Arrived. (N.L.O. Durban, 0957Z/19 to Admty. etc.).

ANSON.

Arrived Capetown 1630/18 and sailed 0326/19 for Durban E.T.A. point of arrival 1400/22 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1043Z/19 to Admty. etc.).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

Enemy
Ships.

My 1130/17. Rio de Janeiro, German HERMES cancelled clearance late 17/6 and again obtained clearance 2100/18. German FRANKFURT should be ready for sea at end of month. Santos, German *NATAL has applied for clearance -for Hamburg. Mar del Plata, German ERLANGEN commenced coaling. Has permit for 1,100 tons. Pernambuco. Italian BUTTERFLY along-side loading more cargo. Italian PAMPANO discharging grain. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1044N/19 to Admty.) *See previous page 9

LONDON.

My 2019/17. and my 1313/18. Patrol in I 34 having regard to position raider may have reached. In addition to traffic shipping information signals following have been diverted south-west of St. Pauls Rock and may be met. (C. in C.S.A., 1105N/19 to LONDON).

VIKINGS.

Free French VIKINGS is proceeding to patrol Lagos Takoradi route. Should arrive Takoradi about 21/6 and will require fuel. (C. in C. S.A. 1109N/19 to Govr, Nigeria, etc.).

ABOSSO.

Position of ABOSSO 1200Z/19 estimated to be 000° 10' N. 007° 55' W. course 321° steering for position (0007°) 45' N. 014° 00' W. speed of advance 12.5 knots. Endeavour to meet at 0600/20. (C. in C.S.A., 1247N/19 to CROCUS, AMARANTHUS).

→ NATAL
(German).

Following unassessed report from Santos. Reported that last night there was trouble with crew of NATAL. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1315Z/19 to R.A.S.A.D). *See also 2053/19, 22-10/19.*

Policy
U.S.A.

Your 1217/12. Policy in event of U.S. entering the war is contained in Admty. 1904/13 which is being passed to you by safe hand at first opportunity. Admty's 2209B/13 to C. in C.S.A. is being passed to you in one time table. (C. in C.S.A. 1525N/19 to R.A.S.A.D).

/FRANKFURT.....

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

FRANKFURT
HIMALAYA.

Rio de Janeiro reports German FRANKFURT has shifted berth to receive 1000 tons bunker, Italian HIMALAYA is to berth alongside for loading. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1601Z/19, to E.A.S.A.D).

MIGNONETTE.

Attack on U/B, 17/6 (C. in C.S.A., 1951N/19) See U-Boat Campaign.

TEBRO
Italian.

My 1449/27/5. Santos now reports loaded only 11,109 bales of cotton. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2014Z/19 to S.A.D).

→ NATAL
(German).

Santos report graded B.2. states cargo brought by German ship NATAL is being shipped to Rio de Janeiro in Brazilian ARARIBA of Lloyd Nacional due to sail from Santos 20/6. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2053Z/19 to S.O.I. Freetown). *See two preceding pages*

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Proceed direct to J.35 and patrol in that area. (C. in C.S.A. 2101N/19 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

ALCANTARA.

Sailed 1230Z/19. Captain had instructions to R/V South with you. Understood he would report his sailing. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 2101Z/19 to R.A.S.A.D).

→ NATAL
(German).

Santos reports NATAL has cancelled request for clearance as permission to leave has been refused by Brazilian authorities. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2210Z/19 to R.A.S.A.D).

See two preceding pages.

/FORTUNSTELLA.....

593

War Diary.

19.6.1941.

Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.-Contd.

FORTUNSTELLA
(Italian)

A.2. Source report that FORTUNSTELLA at Necochea has received orders to raise steam and be ready to sail as soon as instructed. Estimated she has 1000 tons bunkers on board. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, 2220Z/19 to Admty. etc.).

HERMES
(German)

Rio de Janeiro reports clearances have lapsed. (S.O.I Montevideo, 2231Z/19 to R.A. S.A.D).

Mediterranean.

Air Units.

Doubtful whether a reply to the whole of Admty. 2205B/15 would serve any useful purpose. A detailed reply on similar lines but modified as necessary to bring in into line with existing situation should be sent. (1st S.L. 0241B/19 to C. in C. Med.)

TORBAY.

Summary of sinkings in Aegean 1/6 - 11/6. (D.S., 653, 19/6).

URANO
(Italian)

Entered Bosphorus 1630C/18 for Aegean. Reliable report a minimum 8 ships will transit Bosphorus for Aegean during next 48 hours. (Capt. S.1 0257C/19 to TETRARCH).

Fuel in
external
tanks.

S.O. Subs. Malta 2050B/16. Aviation spirit both bulk and cased is being tested. Not yet confirmed no contamination has taken place. Will inform you of result of test of petrol from RORQUAL and CACHALOT. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1023B/19 to F.O.I.(S))+

/UNBEATEN.....

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

UNBEATEN.

Leave patrol p.m./21 by reverse of outward route to arrive off Marsamxett 0630B/22. (S.O. (S) Malta, 1149B/19).

Kavalla Shipping.

German Military Sea-borne traffic Northern Aegean is operated and controlled from Kavalla 040° 55' 024° 25' which is northern terminal port. Service operated by commandeered Greek sailing vessels between Kavalla Kastro and Mitylene ships sail when possible avoiding noise and proceeding at night. ships sail with Greek crews and German guards - (Capt. S.1, 1155C/19 to TETRARCH, PERSEUS).

MAYA.
CAMPINA. (Romanian)
(Italian).

My 1051C/19. MAYA and CAMPINA proceeded Aegean 2250C/19. (S.O.I. Istanbul, (?1) 216C/19 to Mid. East 201 for C. in C. Med.)

URGE.

Intend URGE leave P.M./22 for area M 036° 40' 015° 10' - 000° - 80- 50. (S.O. (S) Malta 1343B/19 to Capt. S.1).

PERSEUS.

Leaves vicinity of Alexandria about 1800/19 for Antikithera Channel. (route). (Capt. S.1, 1619C/19 to RORQUAL, TAKU).

Request for S/MS.

I can usefully employ as many submarines as can be made available in Eastern Mediterranean. A (? reasonable) volume of Axis shipping plying in Aegean between Greek and Italian ports and Dardanelles, contains a high proportion of tankers and being tied at several points to narrow foci in waters unsuitable for mines provide an excellent target. "T" class submarines are most suitable for this employment but no type would be unacceptable. (C. in C. Med., 1637C/19 to Admty.).

WARSPITE.....

595

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

WARSPITE.

Completes seaworthiness defects on 22/6. Two alternatives (a) To send her with all despatch to whatever refitting port is chosen. (b) To keep her here until BARHAM or other battleship reinforcement is in sight. I incline to the former proposal. (C. in C. Med., 1649C/19 to Admty.) Concur (a) See Admty. 0057/21.

Destroyers
Air
Protection.

(? Following) require fighter protection 21/6. Two destroyers passing through 052° 12' N. 025° 32' E. at 0500/21 thence course (? 115°) speed 21 knots to Mersa Matruh. (Capt. D.7, 1715C/19 to R.A. Alexandria).

TARVISIO.

Italian Fleet Oiler TARVISIO entered Bosphorus 15.30 G.M.T. in transit with full cargo believed for Italy. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1850C/19).

N.I.D. Comment. The TARVISIO is a Fleet Auxiliary of 10915 tons. She carries four 4.7 inch guns and two 5 inch A.A. guns, has a speed of 10 knots and can carry a cargo of 8000 tons of oil. She is reported as having passed Istanbul for Constanza on 11.6.41.

Personnel
in Unescorted
Ships.

Your 1648/18. Not clear which particular restriction is likely to limit numbers to be moved. Restriction in total numbers is due to the desirability of boat accommodation being available for survivors of an attack. Assumed you will take action in accordance with para 4 of Admty. 1958B/14/5 should exigencies of evacuation scheme necessitate exceeding total numbers allowed by passenger certificate. (4th S.L., 1957B/19 to C. in C. Med).

/Service.....

596

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Service
Personnel
in Unescorted
Ships.

Request reconsideration of Admty. 1958B/14/5. In order to expedite return of ratings to U.K. necessary to reconsider limitation of 100 ratings in each ship. (C. in C. Med., 2111C/19 to Admty.) Reply: 2254/21.

Italian
Ships
Lost.

Red Cross enquiries for ^{M/V} Warship RAMB II, Auxiliaries SABANDIA reported lost and SILVIA left Trapani for Tripoli 24/2, ship PAGANNINI, -motor ship EGEO, tug (PIPHINI?) 29 of Massowa Flotilla. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 2359C/19 to Admty.).

Syria.

Enemy
Unit.

One unknown unit 5 miles N.N.W. of Saida believed Submarine. (Call Sigh MIJ 1 0810/19) Enemy using flying boat for sea reconnaissance (M.I.J. 1 0817/19). My 0815, vessel now shelling near Saida. (M.I.J. 1 0845/19). My 0810. Enemy is Destroyer in same position. (Haifa W/T 0924/19 to Med. Stn.) Cancel my 0924, vessel not yet identified. (M.I.J. 1 via Haifa W/T 0945/19).

Reports for
C. in C.

You must keep me informed what you are doing. All I have heard is that French ships are shelling coast apparently unopposed -Have no proper arrangements been made for fighter protection of your forces? (C. in C. Med., 0927/19 to C.S.15).

Suspected
Minelaying.

My 2001/18. Area in which (? unknown) vessel is now operating leads (? to) belief that mines were not laid. (N.L.O. Palestine 0925C/19 to 15 C.S).

/CASSARD.....

597

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Syria-Contd.

CASSARD.

French destroyer CASSARD now reported likely to proceed north of Crete to pass Kaso Straits about 0800/20 to arrive Beirut dawn/21. Object is to locate and sink her. 201 Group is requested to provide reconnaissance to locate her. H.Q. P. and T.J. Command is requested to arrange for 815 Sqn. to attack this ship. S.o. 15 C.S. is requested to make disposition to attack her on Syrian coast if air attack fails. (C. in C. Med., 1021C/19 to S.O. 15 C.S. etc.). C. in C. Med's 1021C/19. Suggest 815 Sqn. endeavour to make a dive bomb attack as late as possible consistent with making a recourse to torpedo attack if bombing fails. Desirable that first sighting report reaches 815 Sqn. by 1300. Hope to send 2 Fulmars as fighter escort for daylight attack. (R.A. (A) Med., 1027C/19 to H.Q. P and T.J. etc).

Destroyer Relief.

Request you will sail HOTSPUR, HAVOCK, DECOY P.M/20 to arrive Haifa 0700/21 as relief for 3 destroyers of force B. Suggested HERO, KIMBERLY and JACKAL should be relieved having been longest on coast. Request you will ensure bow protection gear in HAVOCK and HOTSPUR is fully efficient. (C. in C. Med., 1055C/19 to F.O.(D) Med). Take HAVOCK and HOTSPUR under your orders and leave Alexandria at 1300C/20 arriving Haifa at 0700C/21. (F.O.(D) Med., 1355/19 to DECOY, amended 1724/19). Return to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 1635C/19 to DECOY)..

/CANADA.....

598

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Syria-Contd.

CANADA.
(French).

Following received from H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. American Consul General in U.K. was informed at 1700/18 by French Authorities that French hospital ship CANADA is expected Beirut night 18/19 or day/19. Will bear the usual Red Cross insignia and will be brilliantly lit at night T.O.O. 0717/19 (ends) CANADA should be diverted to Haifa. (C. in C. Med., 1403C/19 to C.S. 15).

Signal from Malta T.O.O. 1220B/19 reported hospital ship flying French flag in 036° 40' N. 019° 10' E. course 090° 12 to 15 knots. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 2045C/19 to C.S. 15 etc.).

Am informed by Embassy from information received from American Minister that CANADA is expected Beirut shortly. If intercepted intend to send her to Haifa for examination before allowing her to proceed to Beirut. (C. in C. Med., 2353C/19).

Policy.

Chiefs of Staff No. 135. (1st S.L. 1802B/19 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

Shore
Targets.

My 2047 FF targets now named are machine gun posts at 12421975 and 12451975 also the wooded area due West of these points and in addition any movement of transports or personnel North of Rosnebiyounes. Do not consider any of these targets call for cruiser fire at present. (N.L.O. Palestine, 2147C/19 to LEANDER).

A/C attack
on Beyrout.

19/6. 2 Albacores and 1 Swordfish dropping flares carried out dive-bombing attack on Beyrout Harbour at 2130 hours. 4 hits seen on large jetty from lettered position A to D and 1 hit alongside to Westward believed to be a submarine. (829 Sqdn., 2353/19 to C.S.15).

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1802B/19th June.

MOST SECRET

OUT.

To: C. in C. Mediterranean 49.

Date 19.6.41.

598A

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME.

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 135 for Commanders-in-Chief, Mediterranean and Middle East. Reference their 0/73150 of 14th June.

Begins :-

1. Defence Committee agree with outline proposals for terms subject to following observations.
2. In general, our primary object is to obtain strategic control in Syria at the earliest possible moment. The enlargement of the Free French forces and the prestige of the movement must be subordinated to that main aim. Subject to this, de Gaulle should be given facilities for recruiting in his own fashion military and civil personnel for Free French movement.
3. Reference your para. 1 Defence Committee consider that negotiations should be for "Cessation of hostilities" rather than for "armistice".
4. Paragraph 2 should read "Hostilities to cease at once and Vichy forces to concentrate in selected areas. All compliments of war to be accorded".
5. We agree with your para. 5 but suggest last four words should read "as (repeat as) and when possible". Apart from danger of stiffening and prolonging resistance we cannot evade our undertaking to repatriate those Frenchmen not wishing to join de Gaulle. It is in de Gaulle's interests as well as our own to clear up situation as soon as possible.
6. Following additional clause should be added after your para. 5. "High Commissioner, his Staff and all French officials and nationals, other than those who are prepared to remain will be repatriated as and when possible".
7. Add at the end of your para. 7 "and operated for the time being under Allied Military direction".
8. Your para. 9 could be omitted. We understand that German and Italian nationals are leaving Syria. The phrase internment might imply continued existence of Vichy Administration.
9. Additional clause should be added providing for disclosure of minefields.
10. Alternative item 3(a) referred to in your para. 10 is acceptable.
11. Reference Washington Telegram No. 2826 of 18th June repeated to Cairo as No. 2134 for Commanders in Chief, Foreign Office reply to Washington will be repeated to you. Ends.

1802B/19.

Assistant Secretary to 1st S.L.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Captain

E.P.S.
Head of M. (8)
I.P. (2)
N.I.D. 10 (Pay.Cdr. Wilson)
W.D.

599

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Madagascar.

Strategic importance of, and question of control. (C. in C. E.I., 0728Z/19 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

CORNWALL.

To leave Aden a.m./20 and proceed to Port Victoria Seychelles, arriving 24/6. (C. in C. E.I. 0802Z/19 to CORNWALL).

CARTHAGE.

To leave Aden a.m./21 and proceed to Mombasa arriving 26/6. CARTHAGE is to clean boilers on arrival. (C. in C. E.I., 0804Z/19 to CARTHAGE).

C.M.11.

Now expected to arrive Suez P.M./22. (C. in C. E.I., 1146Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria etc.)

Transport
of Prisoners.

My 1704B/9. Cancel sub para. (ii) of para. 1 and substitute:- No more than 1450 Prisoners -and 100 Guard may be embarked in any one ship. Limitation may be disregarded in case of ships of more than 18 knots speed for passages in the Indian Ocean and Australian waters, but proportion of guard to Prisoners of War should not be less than 7 per cent. War Office agree. (D.O.D.(F) 1941B/19 to C. in C.E.I., etc.).

600

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

N.E.I.
Navy.

My 0813Z/18. Visit of C.s. in C. successful. Suggestion for exchange of visits of naval units. (C. in C. China, 0245Z/19 to Admty.) Approved. (V.C.N.S. 1710B/1/7).

ST AUBYN.
ST. SAMPSON.

Returned Singapore owing to damage to latter in collision with merchant ship. Expect to be able to sail both tugs again in about three weeks. (C. in C. China, 0313Z/19 to Admty.).

N.C.S.O's
Withdrawn.

N.C.S.O's Boc and Sourabaya have been withdrawn to date 4/5 and 13/6 respectively. Former not required owing to reduction in allied trade with Indo China and consequent lack of shipping. Latter withdrawn as a result of arrangements made with Dutch in regard to control of shipping in N.E.I. Archipelago under which necessary routeing is carried out from Batavia. Brit. Consul (corrupt group) very desirable Brit. N.Os. continue as Naval Reporting Officers. (C. in C. China, 0413Z/19 to Admty.)

SIKKIANG.

My 1223Z/9. Decoux asks decision regarding SIKKIANG. No ship large enough to take 1700 men for direct voyage is available. (C. in C. China, 0505Z/19 to Admty.).

French
Ships,
Arrest.

Question has been raised of arresting French ships ARAMISE, D'ARTAGNAN, MARECHAL, JOFFRE, CHENONCEAUX in Philippines Court for debt should they call at Manila. Request your views. (Head of M. 1154B/19 to C. in C. China)

Chinese
Officers
in R.N.

Your 0351/20/5 and Ambassador Chungking's No. 8 of 28/5. Proposal approved in principle for up to 6 Officers. Request you will make necessary arrangements. Although service they can render without British Commission is limited presume you prefer them to serve as Chinese Officers. (Head of M. 1510B/19 to C. in C. China).

601

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S. personnel,
PASTEUR.

Your 2315B/18. (-see under Shipping) 375 Special workmen from U.S.A. for U.K. arrive Halifax 6 p.m. 20th July (? June) in special train to embark immediately on arrival in PASTEUR. Sparks New York has made special arrangements regarding accommodation acceptable to party. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0415Z/19 to D.S.T).

FORMIDABLE.

Re details of damage to FORMIDABLE. (D. of D., 0508B/19 to BARM Washington).

DENBYDALE.
(R.F.A. Oiler)

Admty. 1845B/28 (Refers to Part I of Admty. 1851B/28 re positions of independent merchant ships) Br. DENBYDALE not arrived. (S.O.I Jamaica 1132R/19).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Your 1201P/18. Admiralty has no objection. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1231B/19 to R.A.3).

SHEHERAZADE
(French).

Protest if under pressure of Govt. of U.S.A. Foreign Office might be disposed to allow SHEHERAZADE to continue her journey and proceed to Casablanca. (Adm. Comdg. F.N.F.L. 1305B/19 to Admty.).

Suspicious
Flare.

Report received from coastguard cutter that DIXIE clipper sighted flare (unread) in 36.53 N. 41.25 W. Have (unread) near position and circled two hours. Cutter now searching nearby. Proceeding voyage. Master. -(Portishead Radio T.H.I. 1455/19).

Transfer of
Tankers.

From Admiral Little. Your 0124B/18. Question discussed with Adm. Stark from Naval Staff. While possibly not fully appreciating danger to Malta, they point out that all vessels of NEOSHO type are employed with Fleet. Navy Dept. cannot release two ships without prejudicing movements of their own warships. In view of this categorical attitude it would not be politic for me to approach higher authorities. (N.A. Washington 1530/19 to Admty.).

/Wabana.....

602

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Wabana
Ships.

Your 1805B/16. Suggest best arrangement Wabana Ships should junction with Newfoundland Escort. If this intention is carried out, request instructions what information concerning convoy is to be passed to C.C.N.F or N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1542Z/19 to Admty.).

RAMILLIES.
REPULSE.
Convoys.

Your 1251B/18. RAMILLIES was earmarked for H.X. 155 for which no alternative ocean escort is available due to unforeseen delay with CIRCASSIA. She could then proceed Hval Fiord with local escort from Eastern R/V. If sailing of this convoy with only local escort is acceptable very suitable alternative offering better protection would be for RAMILLIES to accompany REPULSE with T.C. 11 proceeding Hval Fiord from position A vide your 1854/7 with HAVELOCK, HARVESTER and ASSINIBOINE as escort. Request immediate decision. (R.A.5, 1545P/19 to Admty.).

T.C.11.

Your 1854/7 Convoy T.C.11. Master of INDRAPOERA states ship unable to exceed 15 knots which will prejudice arrival of convoy by 30/6 vide D.S.T's 1852/7. Suggest divide convoy into fast and slow sections from Position A onwards if separate local escorts can be provided for BRITANNIC and INDRAPOERA and enemy information and weather conditions at time justify such action. (R.A. 5 B.S. 1641P/19 to Admty. etc.).

AURANIA
Ice condition
Belle Isle.

Your 1051B/19. Assume AURANIA will be instructed to remain with O.B. 554. Your 1055B/16. Ice condition still make use Belle Isle Straits inadvisable. (R.A.5 1731P/19 to C. in C. W.A).

/Dakar.....

603

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Dakar
Intelligence.

Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar dated 18/6. Graded A.O. Arrived FORT ARCHAMBAULT with 3800 tons ? coal, BOURGES with 1900 tons coal PALLAS with 6000 to 7000 metric tons fuel oil, MONTESQUIEU returning 17th SOMJA tanks from North Africa, 250 native soldiers and 250 trained tank corps personnel (N.A. Washington 1839/19 to Admty.).

HERMES.
FRANKFURT.
(German).

From Navy Dept. from Rio de Janeiro dated 18/6. HERMES and FRANKFURT have just secured clearance papers requiring departure not later 20/6. (N.A. Washington 1841/19 to Admty.)

Suspicious
Transmission.

HARVESTER reports hearing unidentified supersonic transmissions and echoing sounds while in thick fog 090° St. John's N.F. 45 miles at 1400Z/19. (C.C. N.F. 2054Z/19 to Admty. etc.).

CHAMBLY
H.X. 133.

My 1237Z/17. ^ECHAMBLY will sail 1000/21 to overtake H.X. 133. (C.C.N.F. 2122Z/19 to C. in C. W. A., Admty.).

ZAMZAM
(sunk 17/4).

Following report of ZAMZAM sinking C3 given U.S. Naval Authorities by Newspaperman Passenger. Raider named *TAMESIS estimated displacement 9000 tons, DRESDEN in company. (details) Capt. Jäger of DRESDEN quoted that raider carried a number of torpedo tubes and regulation armament of German Light Cruiser. Captain's name Rogge. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2146Z/19 to Admty.)

*Raider C ATLANTIS

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

NEO HEBRIDES.
(French).

Extract from a Fairmiss telegram from
Newcastle, N.S.W.
Departure 17/6 Sydney N.S.W. 17/6.
(Newcastle, 1130/19 to M. of W.T).

AQUITANIA.

C. in C. East Indies. 1748Z/16 (quoted).
Presumably these are spaces normally used
by troops. Request you take action to
improve conditions. (D. of S.T. 1801B/19
to A.C.N.B).

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EMPIRE DEW
(torpedoed
12/6)

Keep a good look out for a life-boat with 9 men which may be somewhere to the westward of 053° 13' N. 018° 36' W. (C. in C.W.A. 0019B/19 to WANDERER, DEPTFORD, WESTCOTT).

INVERSUIR
(torpedoed
3/6)

(2/6 BR1137)

Have recovered in position 054° 34' N. 015° 32' W. at 0930/18 third mate's life-boat and 3 Officers and 7 men of tanker INVERSUIR. Ship was torpedoed at 0157B/3 in approx. position 048° 30' N. 028° 30' W. and sank about 18 hours later after submarine had returned and fired altogether 6 torpedoes and 25 shells into her. Whole of crew were seen to get away in boat. Some may have been picked up by submarine. Ship left Liverpool 29/5 in convoy bound for Aruba. (WANDERER, 0545B/19 to C. in C.W.A.).

ROBIN MOOR
(torpedoed
21/5).

S.O.(I) Capetown reports. Photographs taken by crew of U.S. ROBIN MOOR clearly shows she was sunk by U 77 type. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1042N/19 to Admty.).

Submarines Reported.

2336/18.

By D/F at 2336 G.M.T. U/Boat in 59° 30' N. 24° W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0216B/19).

0036.

By D/F at 0036 G.M.T. Italian U/Boat in 47° 30' N. 7° W. unreliable fix. Homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 0321B/19).

0200.

Submarine reported in 065° 05' N. 023° 50' W. at 0200/19. Report graded C.2. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0900/19, to Admty. etc.)

/1901.....

606

War Diary.

19.6.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1901.

Intercept at 1901 G.M.T. radio telephony D.E. G.M.C.G. (No trace) Unidentified submarine on surface unescorted position 7 miles S.W. Bardsey Island going northwards. (Port Patrick, No, T.O.O./19 recd 2128).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1427B/19).

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C's
and
SALADIN.

Enemy S/M sighted by A/C 0940/19 course 100° in 56° 10' N. 10° 58' W. ELECTRA, ANTHONY, BEVERLEY, SALADIN hunted with A/C co-operation. S/M sighted again by A/C 1120/19 in 55° 19' N. 9° 43' W; 1530/19 in same position: attacked by A/C 1545/19. In sight 1645/19; 1755/19. BEAGLE, SALISBURY ordered to hunt 1831B/19, Attacked by SALADIN 9 times from 1940/19 in 1120/19 position.
A/C Duty L to 15 Group, 0940, 0941, 0945/19.
A/C Duty P to Aldergrove, 1058, 1120, 1315, 1540, 1645/19.
ELECTRA, 1115B, 1537B, 1630B, 2344B/19.
F.O. (D) H.F., 1200/19.
C. in C. W.A. 1221B, 1556B, 1821B, 1831B, 1834B, 1857B, 2045/19.
A/C Duty H., 1359, 1530, 1545/19.
A/C Duty J., 1510/19.
A/C Duty V., 1755/19.
SALADIN, 1940, 2330B/19.

By MIGNONETTE
17/6.

MIGNONETTE on passage to Freetown attacked U-boat in 012.04 N. 018.12 W. at 0004/17. U-boat sighted on surface then dived. Is any information available as to whether U-boat likely to have been on passage North or Southbound or on patrol in this (?Area) on convoy route? (C. in C. S.A. 1951N/19 to Admty.) Reply: No information. (D.D.I.C. 0251B/20).

War Diary.

20.6.1941.
Friday.

607

SITUATION REPORT.

Principal Events.

German warning to their shipping in Baltic to return to home or Swedish ports.

Cruiser redispositions are outlined in Admty. 1532B/20 to C's. in C. Home and Abroad.

Home Commands.

It is reported that the Germans have warned all German and Dutch shipping in the Baltic, Gulf of Finland and Gulf of Bothnia to return to Germany or Swedish ports and territorial waters.

Enemy Air Operations.

M/S Tr.
RESMILO sunk
LORD ASHFIELD
damaged.

M/S Trawler RESMILO was sunk and M/S Trawler LORD ASHFIELD was damaged by air attack in the early hours of this morning, off Peterhead.

Attack on
F.S.520.

Convoy F.S.520 was attacked at 2352 today in 53° 16' N 1° 15' E by torpedo bombers. S.S. CORMOUNT was hit and was towed to Ipswich, S.S. SCHIELAND (Dutch) was sunk. Convoy F.N.82 was attacked close by about the same time, but no damage has been reported.

Tanker INVERARDER was bombed and damaged while at anchor off Spithead in the early hours of this morning, and was beached.

H.M.T. CAPSTONE destroyed an enemy plane which attacked her at 0419/20 in approx. 50° 6' N 5° 32' W.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining.Operation
B.S.64.TEVIOT BANK with MENDIP laid mines today
in the East Coast Barrier.Tees and
Hartlepool.The routine closing of these ports during
the morning, was cancelled at 1146.
S.S. ILSE was sunk by mine at 2345/20 in
Hartlepool Approach Channel.Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary,
off the Humber and Tyne.South Atlantic.Lagos.5 magnetic mines have now been accounted for
off Lagos. Three of these were exploded
today, 16 days after a ship was sunk off
the entrance.A floating mine was reported at 1119 today in
05.27 N, 00.02 W.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Italian S.S. NINETTO G broadcast S.O.S. this evening from position 38° 10' N 13° 40' E. (north coast of Sicily).

Western
Desert and
Libya.

C. in C. Med., reports that TAKU on 11/6 torpedoed a ship in Benghazi harbour causing fire and explosions, and sank one ship in convoy 12/6, position unknown.

6 Wellingtons were detailed to attack Benghazi last night, but only 3 started and 2 actually bombed.

Alexandria.

No important damage was caused in a minor air raid at 2100/20. About 50% of the workmen in the dockyard are now at work.

Palestine and
Syria.

C. in C. Med., considers that French warships at Beirut are probably one of the mainstays of the defence and if kept on the run by C.S.15's force, F.A.A., and R.A.F. they will soon depart or be destroyed.

A destroyer, probably VAUQUELIN, was sighted by a/c at 1340 in 35.56 N, 29.29 E. steering E., but was afterwards lost.

JERVIS reported a Vichy 3/M at 2354/20 about 25 miles N.N.W. of Beirut.

S.S. KIRKLAND arrived at Haifa today from Cyprus, damaged by enemy action.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

The term "Aden Force" lapsed from today. S.N.O. Red Sea Force will administer all naval units, ports and establishments in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

U-Boat Campaign.

Portuguese S.S. GANDA was torpedoed by an unknown S/M at 1830 G.M.T./20 in 34° 10' N 11° 40' W.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.GENERAL.Cruiser
dispositions.

Hoped that circumstances will permit following to be adopted.

2. EXETER to relieve GLASGOW proceeds to Singapore to refit.
3. MAURITUS has relieved SHROPSHIRE who is proceeding to U.K. to join Home Fleet.
4. NEPTUNE to Med. LEANDER, as soon as she can be released by C. in C. Med., to return to New Zealand, when it is anticipated N.Z. N.B. will wish to refit ACHILLES.
5. AUSTRALIA to relieve CANBERRA shortly on E.I. Station.
6. LONDON to work with EAGLE from Freetown.
7. BIRMINGHAM to relieve NEWCASTLE beginning of July. NEWCASTLE to refit in U.S.A.
8. One 8" Cruiser, when available, to operate in South Atlantic south of equator as directed by C. in C. S.A. and in emergency to join R.A.S.A.D.
(V.C.N.S., 1532B/20).

HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Action to be
taken if
Germans occupy
the whole of
France.

Your 1332/27/5. Concur. To prevent confusion propose Admiralty 1407/10/1 be cancelled if and when these instructions are put into force.
(C. in C. H.F. 0952B/20 to Admty).

Defence of United Kingdom.Aultbea.

B.3. Defence now complete and Gate operating.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1731B/20).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.CHITRAL.To sail with convoy W.S.9 (B) to Halifax.
-Arrangements. (D.O.D. (H) 1312B/20).Operations.M.T.B.
operations.Instructions for M.T.B. offensive patrol
between Nieuport and Zeebrugge tonight Friday.
(C. in C. Nore, 1426B/20 to BEEHIVE).
Instructions for M.T.B. offensive sweep tonight
Friday from Thornton Ridge Buoy in approx.
direction 160°. (C. in C. Nore 2140B/20 to BEEHIVE).British Air Operations.P.R.U. R/CsStavanger to Lister in Operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1122/20).
Oslo in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0954/20).Attacks on
Le Havre.Day 19/6. The Docks and Harbour Installations
at Le Havre were attacked by 9 Blenheims with
strong fighter escort.
(H.Q. B.C. 1234/20).Enemy Air Operations.AAAA0044 G.M.T. automatic A A A A heard strength
2, no bearing obtained.
(Port Patrick Radio 0046/20).

/RESMILO.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.6.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Operations-Contd.RESMILO
sunk
LORD ASHFIELD
Damaged.

RESMILO sunk by enemy aircraft at 0140 at Peterhead south breakwater. LORD ASHFIELD damaged by near miss, believed no serious casualties, reached Aberdeen in tow of tug ATTENTIF. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0330/20, 0600/20, F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1105/20)

A/C destroyed
by H.M.T.
CAPSTONE.

0419/20 in 50° 6' 6" N., 5° 32' 6" W. No survivors. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1330/20)

VICTORIOUS

You were reported by enemy A/C at 1000B/20 (D.D.I.C. 1537B/20 to VICTORIOUS)

INVERARDER

(Oiler) bombed and damaged by enemy aircraft at 0012/20 and was beached near Motherbank buoy. Casualties Nil. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1937B/20)

Scapa Flow

One hostile A/C height about 22,000 feet circled the Flow at 1800/20. Ships in Flow probably visible. (A.C.O.S. 1943/20)

Convoy
F.S.5 20.

Help 53° 16' N., 1° 15' E., (VORTIGERN 2352/20)

Convoy F.N.

Enemy bombing 53° 20' N., 1° 0' E. (WALLACE 2354/20)

MiningTees and
Hartlepool

Ports closed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0459/20) Negative my 1103/14 and 1018/15, Ports of Tees and Hartlepool now open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1146/20)

Operation
B.S. 60.

Amended Position (PLOVER 0800B/20) Your 1120B/19 EGLINTON detailed. (D.16 1002/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

/War.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.War Channel.

INTREPID reports that while proceeding at 26 knots in East Coast War Channel on 15/6 explosions, presumed to be acoustic mines, occurred 2-3 cables from the ship in the following positions:-
 At 1150 in 53.33.24 N. 00.37.48 W.
 At 1244 in 54.47.48 N. 01.05.36 W.
 At 1314 in 55.00.54 N. 01.11.24 W.
 At 1315 in 55.01.00 N. 01.11.30 W.
 (R.A.D., 0915B/20 C. in C. Rosyth, 1101/20)

Operations
S.N.70 B.

Intend to carry out as follows with AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, BRADFORD, CASTLETON, WELLS. Sailing 1900/23.
 (R.A.M./L, 1116B/20).
 Operation completed.
 (TEVIOT BANK, 1830B/20.)

Op: B.S 64Tyne.

Details of 3 S.A. and 1 magnetic. mines detonated 20/6.
 (E.M.S.O. North Shields 1715/20 F.O.I.C. Tyne 1816/20).

Thames
Estuary.

3 S.A. Mines detonated 20/6 as follows.
 (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1732/20).

Humber.

The Following 3 mines exploded 20/6.
 (F.O. Humber, 1855B/20).

Enemy Intelligence.Destroyer.

A/C report. One destroyer bearing 090° 5 miles course 075°. My position 3556N. 2925 E. Fix 1300. (Nore W/T 1340/20 to Whitehall W/T).

Oslo
(LEIPZIG.)

Photographs at 1300/20 show enemy Cruiser presumed LEIPZIG in Oslo Port protected by anti-torpedo defences. (P.R.U. Wick 1930/20).

/German cargo.....

War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.German cargo
ships in
Baltic ports.

It is reported that all German cargo ships in Baltic ports along Gulf of Finland and Bothnia as far North as Vassa have received orders to leave for German ports by 21/6 at latest, whatever their condition of loading. Graded B3.

(Secret Sources, No. T.O.O.)

Germans have warned all Baltic German and Dutch shipping off Swedish coast either to return to Swedish ports or to keep within their territorial waters. B. one.

(N.A. Stockholm 2201/20).

Casualties and Defects.ANTELOPE.

Am returning to harbour evaporator broken down. (ANTELOPE 0316Z/20).

FURIOUS.

Although ship could be kept running she ought to have 2 to 3 weeks for boiler cleaning etc. at first convenient opportunity after operation ~~RAILWAY~~ "Railway".
(FURIOUS, 1249/20 to Admty).

PHOTINIA.

My 2107/17. Returned to Reykjavik for repairs. (N.C.S.O., Reykjavik, 2235/20).

Shipping and Convoys.Slow ships
for Iceland.

Difficulty experienced in inducing masters of slow ships bound for Iceland to sail without escort which is rarely available. Suggest such ships would save distance and have a better chance of obtaining escort if sailed from East coast ports to Kirkwall instead of Loch Ewe.

(N.C.S.O., Loch Ewe, 0942B/20 to Admty).

Your 0942B/20. No escorts are available Kirkwall and as ships have to be routed through Skopen Fiord there is little difference in total distance.

(A.C.O.S., 1900B/20 to N.C.S.O., Loch Ewe).

/Captures.....

War Diary.

20.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

Captures.

Instances where M.V.'s captured through being duped or failing to adopt adequate counter measures. Need for organisation and discipline when attacked. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1345B/20 to AIG.26 and 19) See Lion Copy.

W.S.9 B.

A.M. 1535B/17 DEVONSHIRE will not be ready to operate before Monday 30/6. (C. in C. H.F., 1352B/20 to Admty). Your 1352B/20. In view of this delay in DEVONSHIRE a large 6" cruiser can be accepted as escort for W.S. 9(B). (A.C.N.S. (H) 1901B/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

Halifax
Convoy
Escorts.

Your 2156Z/18 crossed my 1620B/19. Advantages of separate escort force between Halifax and Newfoundland. Experience suggests that the more continuous the escort the better especially in foggy weather, when "meets" are difficult. Glad of your further comments when system outlined in my 1620B/19 has received sufficient trial. (C. in C. W.A., 1605B/20 to C.C.N.F.)

616A.

CONFIDENTIAL. M E S S A G E 1345B/20th June O U T

To: A.I.G.26. + Date: 20.6.41.
A.I.G.19. /

Repeated: C. in C. America & West Indies.770
C. in C. South Atlantic.952.
C. in C. East Indies.739
C. in C. China 181
F.O.C.R.I.N. 450.
F.O.C.N.A.39
A.C.N.D. Melbourne
N.O. Wellington 261.

BASEGRAM Naval Code (J) Confidential & P/L BY T/P.

From: Admiralty.

NITE.

Pass to N.C.S.O.'s.

Several instances have occurred where Merchant ships have been captured through being duped or through failing to adopt adequate counter measures when approached by raiders or on sighting a suspicious vessel. The following are examples.

- (1) Failure to transmit an immediate distress message on sighting a suspicious vessel.
- (2) Permitting unknown ships to approach within easy gun range. This includes overhauling as unknown ship proceeding on a similar course.
- (3) Obeying orders dropped by aircraft wearing British markings, resulting in immediate capture.
- (4) Japanese trawler believed to have reported ships positions to raider. Although Japanese morse was heard in the vicinity no suspicion was aroused.
- (5) Bad look out, and no masthead look-out kept, through false sense of security.
- (6) No watch kept on guns in more remote ocean waters and lack of organised means of bringing the crew to action stations in emergency, particularly at night.
- (7) Vital delay in opening fire through lack of clear understanding by guns crews of the Master's intentions.
- (8) Failure to immobilise ship's armament including machine guns when capture becomes imminent. This becomes of particular importance when a captured ship is subsequently used as a prison ship.
- (9) Lack of co-ordination between bridge and engine room as regards action required in emergency.

The capture of a ship enables a raider to replenish vital supplies and thus increases her capacity for further depredations, whereas delay in capture or the infliction of even slight damage on the raider may have the opposite effect and give time for our forces to intercept her, or at least for other ships in the vicinity to escape.

It

It is realised that many ships have shown a high standard of organisation and discipline when attacked but it is intended to promulgate the above instructions in A.M.S.I.'s for the information of all concerned.

N.C.S.O.'s at ports abroad should in the meantime issue copies of this message to ships calling at their ports.

1345B/20.

for D.T.D. (369)

Approved by A.C.N.S.(T)

+ C. in C. Portsmouth.
 C. in C. Plymouth.
 C. in C. Western Approaches.
 C. in C. Nore.
 C. in C. Rosyth.
 A.C.O.S.
 F.O.C., Dover.

✓ Staff Officer (Intelligence)-

Gibraltar	Freetown
Malta	Kingston
Alexandria	Singapore
Bombay	Hong Kong
Colombo	Shanghai
Bahrein	Wellington
Capetown	
D.N.I. Melbourne.	
N.O.I.C. Aden.	
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.	

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

War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.MARSDALE.

Proceed to L.2. (F.O.C.N.A. 0122B/20 to MARSDALE)

S/M's for
Malta.

Submarines on passage to Malta are to carry from Gibraltar as much of the more urgent requirements of the Island as practicable. Details of carrying capacity. OSIRIS and THRASHER due Gibraltar about 21/6 and P.33 due 25/6 are all full to capacity with submarines stores. OSIRIS if possible should fill one external fuel group with white oil or petrol. OTUS when sailed for the Eastern Mediterranean is to call at Malta loaded to capacity. (D.O.D.(F) 0149B/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ 8 D.F.

Cancel my 1750B/19. Part company as requisite to join S.O. Force H. and Capt.(D) 8 in FAULKNER with FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, FORESTER at 0800B/21. P.C. and S. of Capt. (D) 8 at 0800B/21, (?036°) 00' N. 012° 50' W. 320° 16 knots to R/V with S.O. Force H. at that time. Capt. (D) 8 (?leaves) Gibraltar 1000B/20 (route). Contact not to be made during darkness. (F.O.C.N.A. 0118B/20 to FURY.)

AVOCETA.
GUNDA.

British AVOCETA with refugees on board left Lisbon 0030A/20 for Gibraltar. AVOCETA expect to pass Setubal at 1200A/20 and Cape Trafalgar at 1200A/21. R/V and escort AVOCETA to Gibraltar. GUNDA sank in position 037° 36' N. 009° 53' W. Crew safe. (F.O.C.N.A. 0940A/20 to ERIDGE.)

→ Force H.
Escort.

Departure 0900A FAULKNER, FEARLESS, FORESTER, FOXHOUND to R/V in accordance with S.O. Force "H" 2001B/19. FURY to R/V S.O. Force "H" in accordance with F.O.C. N.A. 0118B/20. (S.O.I. Gib., 1000A/20 to Admty. Force H.)

/THRASHER

War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.THRASHER.

Intend to sail for Malta p.m./22 (route).
THRASHER has stores for Malta and Alexandria.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1309/20 to C. in C. Med.)

A

ARK ROYAL
Hurricanes.

My 1645B/19. Sea Hurricanes are provided as
alternative fighter equipment and are to be
maintained on Deck, a report being forwarded
regarding difficulties of aircraft maintained
and operated in this matter. Stores and
spares will be forwarded first opportunity.
(D.N.A.D. 1311B/20 to ARK ROYAL.)

Lisbon
Refugees.

Your 1816/12. In view of delay to SCYTHIA
to await escort, there will be time for
AVOCETA and AGUILA to make second trip from
Lisbon and you may arrange accordingly if
necessary. (D.O.D.(F) 1321B/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Convoy.

One Fr. Sloop BOUGAINVILLE Class escorting
2 fully laden French Merchant ships 3000 and
4000 tons deck cargo timber in position
036° 37' N. (? 009°) 41' W. course 340°
7 knots. (OSIRIS 1529A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)
(S.O.I. Gib., 1755A/20 to Admty.)

ERNA
OLDENDORF
(German)

With cargo Iron ~~are~~ ready to leave 20/6
cleared for Hamburg probable destination
French port. (Bilbao, 1753/20 to Admty.)

EMPIRE STRAIT
Incident at
Melilla.

On 18/6 a clamp with wire secured to it was
attached below water to stem of British
EMPIRE STRAIT when alongside loading jetty
at Melilla. Night of 18/19 two attempts
made by unknown swimmer to approach bows
of ship. Can you obtain results of further
investigation as ship sailed before this
was completed? (S.O.I. Gib., 1818/20 to
N.A. Madrid.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.W.S.8.B.EXETER escorting Convoy W.S.8.B. arrived.
(N.L.O. Durban, 0610Z/20 to Admty. etc.)Enemy ships.

My 1044/19. At Rio de Janeiro: Clearance for HERMES has lapsed. FRANKFURT to receive 1000 tons bunkers. HIMALAYA to berth alongside to load. At Santos: Reported NATAL has cancelled request for clearance as permission to sail has been refused by local authorities. At Quequen: A2 FORTUNSTELLA ordered to be ready to sail when instructed. Estimated she has 1000 tons bunkers. (S.O.(I) Freetown 0920N/20 to Admty.)

Van Velden.

Your 2126/24/3 and Simonstown 980/870 of 20 May 1941. C. in C.E.I. informs me that ~~VAN VELDEN~~ has been requested by Admiralty to visit Massawa with a view to undertaking salvage of approximately thirty Italian ships in that area understand ~~VAN VELDEN~~ will shortly return to South Africa to discuss details with me. Request information as to basis on which negotiations for this large undertaking should be conducted.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1307B/20 to Adty.)

Treatment of Vichy Ships.

My 220G/1st June does not cancel any of the instructions for the treatment of Vichy French ships contained in my memorandum 125/62 dated 15th November 1940 and amendment to this. My 220G and former 211G/25th May and 126G/24th December refer to South America waters and defined area in which the general instructions as to interception shall or shall not take effect. The rules governing treatment after interception itself for escorted or unescorted ships remain as in the memorandum and amendment quoted.
(C. in C.S.A. 1348N/20)

/DRAGON

620

War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.DRAGON
minesweeping.

Re Precautions against acoustic mines. (C. in C.S.A. 1311N/20, 1401N/20 to DRAGON.) Your 0933/20 very satisfactory. Sweeping should be continued on the assumption that up to 8 mines were laid. (C. in C.S.A. 1709N/20 to DRAGON.) My 2131/19. DRAGON reports three mines exploded probably by magnetic sweep as improvised acoustic not working blue magnetic. (details) If explosion reported in my 2131/19 is same lay which appears probable in spite of different characteristics this now makes five mines accounted for. (C. in C.S.A. 1725N/20 to Admty.)

Ex-Roumanian
ships.

Ex Roumanian Ships OLTUL, SIRETUL, and PRAHOVA now under Panama Flag re-named ESMERALDA, OMEGA, TROPICUS, respectively are suspected of possessing enemy characters and if (corrupt group) should be sent into nearest British Port, Owner has been placed on Statutory List. Last information, ESMERALDA at Pernambuco, OMEGA Lisbon and TROPICUS Los Angeles, ends. (C. in C.S.A. 2143N/20 to S.A. Station, A.I.G. 231 G.)

Lagos
Minesweeping.
S/M off Duala.

My 1917/10. Magnetic sweep has exploded three mines off Lagos on 20/6, 16 days after ship was sunk off entrance, another explosion unidentified 19/6 but probably mine acoustic or magnetic. Consider precautions should be taken off Free French Ports. Report received from R.O. Victoria vessel resembling S/M sighted in vicinity of base buoy Duala 0900/20. (?Spar) magnetic sweep will be sent as soon as possible. Request information what contact minesweeping vessels and guns available. (C. in C.S.A. 2319N/20 to B.N.L.O. West Africa)

War Diary.

20.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report 61.

Syria. Little activity while troops are reforming at Sidon. Force B. continuing patrols. French destroyers carried out short bombardment but retired under cover of coast defences on arrival of our forces. Little fighter protection available. Western Desert. No change in general situation.

→ Submarines. TAKU torpedoed one ship in Benghazi harbour on 11/6 causing fire and explosions, and sunk one ship in convoy 12/6 position unknown.

Alexandria. Air Raid night 17/18 did not materially affect dockyard labour situation. About 50% of workmen are now at work. (C. in C. Med., 0020C/20 to Admty.)

→ TAKU.

Your 0925C/19 (? My P.C. and S. are) 032° 20' 018° 49' 115° 8. Consider Ras El Hilal worthy of investigation (weather report) (TAKU, 0307/20 to Capt.S.1.) Your 0307/20. Report P.C. and S. of convoy. (Capt. S.1. 0926C/?20 to TAKU.)

Enemy Convoy.

4 destroyers, 3 merchant vessels P.C. and S. are L.B.C.C. 0026 350° 10 knots. (A/C F.1 Sqdn. 0740Z/20 to Hal Far.) W.D. Note: Position indecypherable L.B. = 162° E .

TARVISIO.
Italian Naval Officer.

Entered Bosphorus 1830C/19 believed for Italy. (Capt.S.I. 0939C/20 to TETRARCH.)

See 19/6 - p 595 -

REGENT,
enemy ships.

Proceed with despatch direct to 033° 00' N. 020° 00' E. 4 Merchant Ships, 1 Destroyer 180° Spartavento Cape 10 course 100° 11 knots at 0800B/20. May be proceeding Benghazi through 036° 00' 020° 00'. Blenheims attacking. (Cdr.S.I. 1024B/20 to REGENT.)

GLENEARN
towage.

Your 1642/17. Agree. (C. in C. Med. 1115/20 to C. in C, E, I.)

CACHALOT

622

War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.CACHALOT.

Intend sailing CACHALOT after exercises p.m./21 from 035° 31' N. 015° 17' E to vicinity of 033° 00' 021° 40' thence along coast to 023° 00' thence as ordered by you. Estimate who will arrive Ras - Aamor about 0430B/25. (Cdr. S. L. 1116B/20 to Capt. S. I.)

Occupation of France.

Your 1332B/27 (Complete occupation of France by Germans) No remarks. (C. in C. Med. 1133/20 to Admty.)

JANUS.

My 2021C/15. JANUS is at Suez and will be ready for ocean passage in about 48 hours. Request destination. (C. in C. Med. 1145C/20 to Admty.)

"Thark".

Operation "Thark" cancelled. (Capt. S. I. 1203C/19 to Cdr. S. I.)

Enemy Convoy.

3 Merchant ships 1 destroyer 3 torpedo boats in position 180° Lampedusa 17 course 350° speed 10 knots at 0940B/20. (V.A. Malta 1205B/20 to UNION.)

CELENO.

It is reported that the ?Italian Tanker CELENO fully laden 5,000 tons entered Bosphorus at 0830 G.M.T. (? in transit) for ? Aegean. (D.S.O.I. Istanbul, 1210C/20.)

*See also next page -*Roumanian shipping.

^A
~~BE~~SARABIA sailing for Constantza 19/6 cancelled, sailing of ALBA JULIA loaded here also suspended. TRANSYLVANIA with few passengers arrived today. Both liners anchored Bosphorus which is most unusual. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1230C/20 to S.O.I Med.)

830 Sqn.

V.A. Malta 2002/17. 6 Swordfish from ARK ROYAL, 4 fitted with A.S.V. and all fitted with external auxiliary tanks are to be flown to Malta for 830 Sqn. Crews are to be provided by ARK ROYAL. (5th Sea Lord, 1300B/20 to V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H.)

/UTILITAS

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

UTILITAS.
URANO.
(Italian) 18/6 arrival, departure UTILITAS Fiume, URANO Trieste 23/6. (Istanbul 1555C/19 to M. of W.T.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. Your 1332/10/4. Decided that LE TRIOMPHANT should proceed to Aden via the Cape. Future movements would then be considered. Date of completion uncertain. (A.CN.S.(H) 1746B/20 to C. in C. Med.)

PERSEUS. Starboard engine out of action. Returning to Alexandria E.T.A. 0900/21. (PERSEUS, 1830C/20 to Capt. S.I.)

KIRKLAND
damaged. KIRKLAND arrived 0730/20. Has sustained damage by enemy action survey arranged date of completion repairs to be signalled later. (P.S.T.O. Haifa 1839/20 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

RINGULV.
(French) From Casablanca 18/6 (B - O) Norwegian RINGULV chartered by French line before armistice and lying in Orrece since June 1940, has been requisitioned by naval authorities and re-named *SAINT MARTHE.* She will be sent to Marseilles under French crew. (B.A.D. 1840/20 to Admty.)

**Lloyds index shows SAINT MARTINE*

CELENO.
ALBANO.
(Italian) Loaded Italian tanker CELENO entering Bosphorus 1130 for Aegean also Italian tanker ALBANO at 1530/20. ALBANO has bridge right forward. Capt. S.I. 2015C/20 to TETRARCH.) *See previous page*

Benghazi
bombed. Preliminary Operations Summary No.4. Night 19/20. Out of 6 aircraft detailed only 3 started for Benghazi and 2 actually bombed. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 2026/20)

/NUBIAN

War Diary.

20.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

NUBIAN.
JANUS.
ILEX and ISIS.

Final repairs. 2 destroyers can be repaired in India and 2 in Simonstown area. In view of V.A. Malta's 0822B/11 request you will signal your intentions as to the temporary and final repair ports of these vessels. (Controller 2223B/20 to C. in C. Med.)

S/M's carrying Petrol.

Your 2050B/16 to Capt.(S) 1 only. As identification flares cannot be used safely by S/M's transporting petrol suggest following special arrangements be made pending further investigation. (i) S/M's to be covered by total bombing restrictions. (ii) All concerned be informed S/M's cannot use identification flares (F.O.S. 2246B/20 to S.O. (Subs) Malta.)

Syria.

PARTHIAN.

Sail PARTHIAN (route) to arrive on patrol at 1200/23 in area north of 033° 48' N. and within 15 miles radius of Ras Beirut. Object destruction of Vichy warships. Vichy submarines are known to be operating in area. There are thought to be mined nets covering Beirut roads. No other mines are known to exist. If PARTHIAN finds it necessary to retire further seawards by night F.O.C. C.S. 15 is to be so informed. (C. in C. Med. 1032C/20 to Capt. S.I.)
Cancelled: see 1047/21. *Cancellation also cancelled*
See p. 649

French Warships and Batteries.

Policy for attack on. (C. in C. Med. 1220C/20 to C.S.15) See Mediterranean Volume.

Bombardment.

Consider a repetition of this morning's shooting would be unsound until coastal advance is resumed. Military have no other targets for ships as yet. Therefore no naval requirement for tomorrow. If this morning's shooting is repeated at a later date suggest time of firing should be altered. Request information regarding ships at sea if you consider practicable. (N.L.O. Palestine 1840C/20 to F.O. 15 C.S.)

/Enemy

War Diary.

20.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Syria. Contd.

Enemy Unit.

299. Enemy speed is 20. (Group H.Q. M.E., 1540/20 to ?)

Beirut bombed.

Op. Summary up to 2000/20/6. 2 sorties Albacores, 1 sortie Swordfish 829 Sqn. dive bombing Beirut Harbour night 19/6 4 hits on large jetty and 1 ship hit believed submarine. (H.Q. R.A.F. P. and T.J. 2050/20)

Situation Report No.62.

Syria. French destroyer probably VAUQUELIN sighted by air reconnaissance on 1340/20 in 35° 56' N. 29° ' ? 29') E. steering E. but has since been lost by shadower. Further search in progress.
2. 3 F.A.A. aircraft divebombed Beirut Harbour 2130/19. Destroyers are located but submarine possibly hit.
3. Western Desert. No new developments.
4. Alexandria. Minor air raid on Alexandria at 2100/20 no important damage. (C. in C. Med. 2304C/20 to Admty.)

Vichy S/M.

Position of Vichy S/M 028 34° N. 35° E. 18 x 21. (JERVIS, 2354/20 to Haifa W/T.)

East Indies.

Aden Force.

As from 20/6 S.O. of Red Sea Force will administer all Naval Units ports and establishments in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The term Aden Force will lapse. E I T (M) will be amended. (C. in C.E.I. 0422Z/20 to E.I. Station.)

Visits, Dutch Units.

C. in C. Chin's 0245/19. I also recommend this and if approval is given I hope Dutch Units will visit Colombo and Trincomalee. (C. in C.E.I. 0558Z/20 to Admty.)

/W.S.9.A.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1758/20. June.

IN

Date. 22.6.41.

From Naval Attache Angora.

Recd. 1045.

INNER DEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (14) by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean, H.M. Attache Angora.

AIDAC.

Following from Admiral Kelly.

920

Secret.

- (1) Discussed Turkish-German treaty with General Asin Gunduz who insists Britain obtains at least as much advantage as Germany as Turkey protects Syria and Iraq from North. There is no question of transport of war material through Turkey nor would this be accepted. Bulgarians are now to demobilize. Turks have released forty thousand men in Thrace for work in fields and will extend this to fifteen per cent effectives. These men are not demobilized and no change is to be made in disposition of troops. Practically the whole army of officers and men and horse transport are to be employed this summer on intensive agriculture by which it is hoped to take a maize crop after wheat which will build up large reserves. General expects great commercial exchange with Germany including Chrome, but Britain will always be able to buy all we can pay for.
- (2) He admits possibility of a few German officers coming to bring Turkish text books, all of German origin, up to date. There will be no question of German officers visiting Turkish defences in way British have done, they will be treated on same terms as other Attaches. No change is anticipated in any British personnel employed with Turks.
- (3) The treaty was signed largely to leave the Germans free to deal with Russians who are expected to yield on each point as it is asked for commencing with Ukraine, and perhaps later Caucasus, when inviolability of Turkish territory would again help us: but we must foresee possible German activity in this sphere and reinforce in time. There are reported large exchange of German troops, front line troops sent to Russian front being relieved in West by reserves. The marshes in West Russia will not be suitable for manoeuvres before middle July.
- (4) General implores us to keep rigid control on British press not to allow any suggestion treaty is to our disadvantage as Germans would at once seize on this. Also all the Turks are pleased and relieved at treaty and adverse criticism would make people say we had more or less force(d) them into conflict to be overrun like Greece.
- (5) Referring to passage of armed Italian auxiliary vessels through Straits General Staff sent stiff protest to Turkish Govt: who accepted their point of view and note has been sent to Italian Govt: asking for explanations and saying if ships are as described their next passage would be resisted by force of arms.
- (6) General's reassuring statements were evidently meant and his personal friendship and for our country was stronger than ever. Ends.

1758/20.

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

* ? Group omitted from text.

1st Lord.	Sec.	D.O.D.(F).	Hd. of M.	I.P.(2).
1st S.L.	Nav.Sec.	D.D.O.D.(F).	D. of P.(2).	W.D.
V.C.N.S.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D.P.D.	D.S.D.	Admiral Bellairs
A.C.N.S.(H).	D.O.D.(H).	P.A.S.(S).	Duty Capt.	
A.C.N.S.(F).	D.D.O.D.(H).	D.N.I.(4).	D.D.I.C.	

625B

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2015/20th June

IN

From The War Office.

Date

Recd.

CYFHER

Addressed C. in C. Middle East.

73564 cipher (M.I.14) 20/6

IMPORTANT

MOST SECRET.

Personal D.M.I. to Shearer.

Following may be of value to Joint Planning Staff.

One. J.I.C. appreciation after capture Crete was Germany would concentrate ready to attack Russia probably about end June. Since then evidence appears conclusive this forecast accurate. Relative weakness of air forces now in Libya indicate probability Germans do not contemplate offensive there until Russian question settled. Considered Germans will continue to build up their resources and carry out all aggressive action possible in North Africa.

Two. In event of Russia satisfying all German demands we do not consider that Germany will be able to regroup her air forces for a large scale attack in Libya for at least four weeks after a Russian surrender without fighting.

Three. If Russia resists timings of various stages of campaign must be speculative. If Germans completely successful in 3 - 4 weeks regrouping might need further 4 - 6 weeks. If campaign longer then regrouping would take 6 - 8 weeks. It therefore seems minimum period between outbreak of war against Soviet and renewal of major attack in Libya likely to be seven weeks. Decision to revert to Libya must depend on progress of campaign and need to maintain air threat in Soviet territory.

2015/20

Received from The War Office at 1920/21/6/41.

Advance copy sent D.D.I.C.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).
NAVAL SEC.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Duty Captain
D.D.I.C.
D.O.D.(F).
D.D.O.D.(F).
D. of P.(2).
E.P.S.
D.N.I.(4).
Head of M.
D.S.D.(2).
D.N.A.D.

W.D.
D.T.S.D.
I.P.(2).

893

War Diary.

20.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

W.S.9.A.

Admty. 1250/18. Intend HAWKINS to escort W.S.9.A. from Durban to Aden. (C. in C.E.I. 1140Z/20 to Admty.)

Convoy B.P.7

Will leave Bombay 0530Z/?25 R/V with Karachi portion in position as arranged at 1030Z/27. (Cdr.R.I.N. 1412Z/20 to C. in C.E.I.)

U.S. 11 A.

Reply to Admty. 1707/14 re use of giant liners. (C. in C.E.I. 1456Z/20 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

SEVE.

Ex Italian tanker SEVE now refloated. This makes additional five hundred feet berth main quay available. (N.O.I.C. Massawa No. T.O.O./20.)

China.

French ships.

Colonial Office telegram 825 6/6 to Gov. Straits Settlement. Decoux agrees to accept crew and service personnel ex ESPERANCE in Indo China and will arrange passage from Singapore in GOUVERNEUR GENERAL PASQUIER when date of arrival here is known. (C. in C. China, 0345Z/20 to Admty.)

Chinese for
German ships.

Shanghai reports A.1 that Melchers have engaged 6 Chinese crew which are awaiting passage Japan and are recruiting 4 more Chinese crew for 10 German ships in Japan. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0709Z/20 to Admty.)

MAROSA.

Norwegian, stopped by Japanese cruiser 17/6. (Cdr. Hong Kong 0751Z/20 to C. in C.)

MOST SECRETMOST SECRETMESSAGE

1456Z/20 June

IN

From: C. in C. East Indies.

Date: 20.6.41.

Recd: 1827

Naval Cypher (D) by W/TAddressed: Admiralty repeated C. in C. Mediterranean, S.N.O. Red Sea Force,
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area.IMPORTANT ADAC RESEGIM

S.11A

222. Admiralty 1707 14 being passed to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area and C. in C. Mediterranean (i) Normal ports are considered impracticable for following reasons (a) Unopen state of sea in (?open) anchorage at this season (b) Port Sudan too small (c) Assab and Massawa danger from mines too great at present (ii) Kamaran is practicable but 1050 miles from Suez. Slight risk of floating mines being met in approaches exists. (iii) Nearer anchorages which could be used (depending on weather) are (a) latitude of 029 degrees 50'. Between Ras Sudr and Ras Metarna. 26 miles from Suez (b) Latitude 029 degrees 05'. South of Zafarana. 60 miles from Suez. (c) latitude 028 degrees 40'. North of Ras Abu Baka. 80 miles from Suez (d) latitude 027 degrees 47' longitude 033 degrees 38'. West of Shab Ashrafi 150 miles from Suez. (iv) several better sheltered anchorages have been considered but ruled out as these ships require at least 500 yards swinging radius at single anchor and at least 7 fathoms water (v) the nearer anchorage is to Suez the fewer would be the number of ferry ships required but anchorages 3 (a), (b) and (c) would require protection against air attack, say, one AA cruiser and sleep (?1/1 ship) : fighter aircraft available. The large transports should proceed to sea to obtain protection at night (vi) If risk of air attack at the time is considered serious I recommend anchorage 3 (d) assuming survey can be relied upon and there are no coral pinnacles. Ferries would have to go alongside large transports as it is unlikely that tugs and lighters in sufficient numbers could be made available. Absence of swell and strong wind is therefore necessary. (vii) Estimated minimum repetition minimum total amount of fuel and water required to enable transports to return to Ceylon would be 7,000 tons and 4,000 tons respectively. A large oiler and water tanker or distilling ship would therefore be necessary. If the large transports were delayed over 2 or 3 days demand for water would increase.

1500/20

Advance copy sent 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)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D. of P. (2)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Duty Capt.

Head of M.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (M)

D. of S.T.

N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)

/MC

627

War Diary.

20.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ARICA.
WINNIPEG.

Your 1136Q/17. French volunteers not employed on ARICA should be utilized on WINNIPEG otherwise will have to be sent to England as passengers. (D. of S.T. 0050B/20 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

Aircraft crossing Atlantic.

Admty. 2345B/8. On 20/6 ten Lockheed Landplane transports scheduled to depart from Miami, Florida, for Trinidad via San Juan Puerto Rico, arriving at Belem on 21/6. Thence to Natal on 22/6 departing for Bathurst same afternoon. E.T.A. Bathurst is forenoon of 23/6. (D.O.D.(F) 1027B/20 to A.W.I. and S.A. Stations.)

PANDORA.

After position "D" pass through new position "E" 38° N. 41° W. thence as previously ordered by R.A.3. (D.O.D.(H) 1149B/20 to PANDORA.)

→ T.C.11.

Proposed disembarkation ports. (D.S.T. 1202B/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Vichy Intelligence.

Following from Navy Dept. Graded B.O. Algiers 18/6. Secret instructions to Navy Units in North Africa direct from Darlan: No change in current directives for land, sea and Air Forces; Vichy objective is to limit, rather than to extend, Franco-British conflict; Maintain high level of training and vigilance and keep all units in state of readiness to meet any emergency. (N.A. Washington, 1210/20 to Admty.)

→ RAMILLIES.

Your 1543P/19. Should be sailed with T.C. 11. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1211B/20 to R.A.3.)

Halifax Base.

C. in C. W.App' 1611/19 and 1625B/19. As Senior R.N. Officer in Canadian waters all administrative questions concerning H.M. Ships and R.N. personnel are dealt with by me. If H.M. Ships in addition to those of North Atlantic Escort Force are to be based Halifax, essential that a Senior Officer of Auxiliary vessels with suitable administration and base accountant staff should be sent to Halifax. (R.A.3 1607P/20 to Admty.)

/Italian

628

20.6.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Italian
Fleet.

From Rome 18/6 B.2. Estimated state of Italian Fleet. (B.A.D. Washington, 1820/20 to Admty.) See also Summaries Folder.

Service
Personnel.

Your 2154/13/6. (1) Request confirmation your ruling maximum numbers service personnel. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1831/20 to Admty.)

SURCOUF.

Propose to sail SURCOUF from Bermuda on 24/6 to establish patrol within 100 miles of 030° N. 040° W. returning to Bermuda 15/7. Object interception of raiders and supply ships. Proposed instructions to SURCOUF. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1902Q/20 to Admty.)

SHEHERAZADE.

Your 0048/16. Your anxieties appreciated and shared. U.S. attach importance however to maintaining contact with French in Africa and regard sending of supplies as pre-military operation. Report whether crew remaining is sufficient to enable ship to sail at once. Volunteers are not of course to be included in the crew. (Head of M. 1931B/20 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Your 1931B/20 para. 3. Yes. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2202Q/20 to Admty.)

Belle Isle.

Request approx. earliest date when a large convoy could make the Belle Isle passage. (A) As an emergency measure. (B) With reasonable safety not emergency. (D.T.D. 1950B/20 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

French Ships
stopped.

New York reports French Line Casablanca has stopped all its ships (presumably in American Service) and landed all passengers at Casablanca. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2041Z/20 to Admty.)

/GUADELOUPE

War Diary20.6.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.GUADELOUPE.
(French)Departure 19/6, GUADELOUPE Martinique.
(New York, 2200Z/20 to M. of W.T.)Newfoundland
Force.C. in C. W.App. 1620B/19 concur. C.O.A.C.
Halifax's staff will be strengthened and
facilities provided. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa,
2214Z/20 to Admty.)Australia.HOBART.To sail from Fremantle a.m./26 for Aden
via Port Victoria Seychelles where fuel
is available. Passage should be made at
approx. 18 knots. (F.O.C. Aust.Sqdn.
0021Z/20 to HOBART.)CAPITAINE
ILLIAQUER.
(French)Arrived 19/6. (Newcastle N.S.W. 0020Z/20
to M. of W.T.)

War Diary.20.6.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.S. NORFOLK
(torpedoed
18/6.)

Your 1150B/20. Herewith repetition of message referred to. From SKATE, have picked up 64 survivors from S.S. NORFOLK am returning to Lough Foyle for fuel. 1646/18 (Ends) (C.. in C.W.A. 1409B/20 to Admty.)

ENSIS.
(torpedoed
8/6.)

Request whether MIGNONETTE carried out orders contained in my 1625B/8. (C. in C.W.A. 1533B/20 to C. in C.S.A.)

S.L.76.
(13/6)

Request information of two ships torpedoed in S.L.76 on 13/6. (D.T.D. 1759B/20 to CUMBERLAND.) Reply: 1539/21.

WELLFIELD.
(torpedoed
4/6)

Summary I.D. form S.A.
1. British ship WELLFIELD.
3. 2330/4 048° 34' N. 031° 34' W.
4. First surfaced close to vessel after attack.
5. Circled ship and presumably dived about 2351.
6. 2 torpedoes fired submerged and 1 when on surface.
7. Ship sunk.
9. U.38, large, dark grey, no guns observed.
10. Torpedoes.
11. Complete set including S.P.'s 02272.
12.13 and believed 14. Believed all dumped in weighted bags. (N.C.S.O. New York, 2330Z/20 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U.B. dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1437B/20.)

2007.

Am investigating suspicious wake or swirl in P.H.E.G. 0902. 48.09 N., 06.58 W. (A/C U.1. 2007/20 to 19 Group H.Q.)

War Diary.

20.6.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By SALADIN
etc., 19/6.

U/B appeared, stopped and from echo sounding on bottom. Large area of oil. (C. in C.W.A. 0009B/20, ELECTRA 0130B/20, SALADIN 0145B/20.)

SALADIN and BEVERLEY return to Harbour, SCIMITAR join BEAGLE. Hunting as in my 1006B/20. (C. in C.W.A. 1054B/20 to SALADIN, SCIMITAR.)

Your 1006B. My P.C. and S. are 056° 05' N. 010° 36' W. 183° 18 knots. SALISBURY proceeding ahead with despatch. (BEAGLE 1134B/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

My 1054B/20. BEVERLEY is to remain on contact until daylight/21. Samples of oil should be obtained. (C. in C.W.A. 1135B/20 to BEVERLEY.)

Your 1006B/20. In company with SCIMITAR SALISBURY and aircraft since 1350 searching the area. Nothing seen. (BEAGLE, 1541B/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 1501/20. Large area of oil. Small amount still rising. Not diesel. Barnacles encrusted wood and bales of cotton evidently dislodged from bottom. Anti-sub and echo sound contact resembles shipwreck. Oil sample taken. (BEVERLEY, 1613B/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

If nothing found BEAGLE and SCIMITAR return to harbour at 2200B/20. SALISBURY continue to hunt. It is estimated S.L.76 will be in the vicinity to Northward at 2200B. (C. in C.W.A. 1635B/20 to BEAGLE, SCIMITAR, SALISBURY.)

Return to Base. (C. in C.W.A. 1823B/20 to BEVERLEY.)

U/B attacked
by MIGNONETTE
17/6.

Your 1951/19. No information available. (D.D.I.C. 0251B/20 to C. in C.S.A.)

By A/C.

Am investigating suspicious oil patch in position K.D.P.C. 4550 (58.45 N., longitude indecipherable) (A/C Duty S. 0550/20 to ~~ALDERGROVE.~~ Aldergrove.)

/Have

War Diary.

20.6.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C -
contd.

Have bombed oil streak still moving 0.3.T
two knots 55° N., 11° W. P.C. 19 C. 3. 3.
(Home Fleet A/C, 0715/20 to ~~ALBANY~~ ~~ALBANY~~.)
One bomb on suspicious oil patch 55° N. 11° W.
533 Hudson also over spot. (A/C N.1, 0735/20)
Proceed immediately to hunt U.boat reported
by aircraft in 055° 16' N. 010° 41' W. at
0715B/20, aircraft co-operating. (C. in C.W.A.
1006B/20 to BEAGLE, SALISBURY.)
Can remain searching until 2200 tonight.
SALISBURY can remain at sea for 4 days.
(BEAGLE, 1025B/20 to C. in C.W.A.)
Following read from Liverpool. Bombed,
oil half mile long N.F.D.U.1035(?) (A/C
1330/20 to 15 Group H.Q.)
H.64 position is 55.19 N. 9.42 W.
H.21 proceeding 55.12 N., 10.28 W.
(A/C 1345/20 to 15 Group H.Q.)

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

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

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

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

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

633

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Principal Events.

Heavy air attack on Kiel and TIRPITZ.

Acoustic mining of East Coast War Channel.

S.S. CRITON sunk by Vichy French.

German BABITONGA intercepted.

Home Commands.

M.T.B.
Operations.

M.T.B's from Harwich carried out offensive sweeps last night between Nieuport and Zeebrugge and south-east of Thornton Ridge.

Engagement
with E-boats.

On receipt of reports of suspected E-boat activity at 0200/21, M.G.B's 58, 59 and 65 were ordered to patrol off Brown Ridge Buoy where, at 0400, they sighted three E-boats which retired at once to the Eastward. A running fight ensued until 0500 when the M.G.B's broke off within about 22 miles of IJmuiden. Considerable damage was caused to the E-boats by Oerlikon fire and one rating in M.G.B. 59 was wounded. As a result of this action C. in C. Nore proposes that the re-arming of the 6th M.G.B. Flotilla with Oerlikon Guns and twin 5 inch Turrets may be given high priority, and that the allowance of Oerlikon magazines in M.G.B's may be increased to at least six per gun.

/Finland.....

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands-Contd.

Finland.

At 1115 today Finland set up a full postal, telephone, and telegraph censorship.

It has been decided to base the 4th M.L. Flotilla on Iceland.

ECHO sailed from Iceland at 1730Z today to join SUFFOLK on the Denmark Straits Patrol.

British Air Activity.

A force of 117 A/C attacked the industrial centre, shipbuilding yards, and TIRPITZ last night at Kiel, but the results were not observed. Calais and the docks at Boulogne were also bombed.

Mining.

Operation
B.S. 60.

PLOVER with EGLINTON laid mines last night in the East Coast Barrier.

Mining of
East Coast
War Channel.

In view of the recent laying of enemy Acoustic Mines on a large scale in the War Channel between the Thames and Tyne, Oropesa Trawlers are to sweep ahead of the East Coast Convoys.

/Following.....

War Diary.21.6.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining-Contd.

Following the mining of S.S. ILSE off the Hartlepool Approach Channel at 2345 last night, the ports of Hartlepool and Tees were closed in the early hours today until 1830 and 1700 respectively.

At 2007 the Destroyer ARROW was damaged by a Mine off Flamborough Head; but can steam at 10 knots and has been ordered to Middlesbrough.

At 0912B the Collier KENNETH HAWKSFIELD in F.S.520 was mined and sunk off Southwold, one mine exploding under the ship and two more about 200 yards astern of her.

At 1540B the British GASFIRE in Convoy E.C. 36 was mined near 54E Buoy (Nore).

War Diary.

21.6.1941.

Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Raider.

A raider report was transmitted at 1002 today by an unknown ship from 2° 00 S., 27° 00 W.

S.S. CRITON
Sunk by
Vichy French.

At 1049 Freetown intercepted a "Q" report from the ex-Vichy CRITON in 9.06 N., 13.40 W. From report of aircraft sent to investigate it is thought she has been sunk by a Vichy French Ship.

BABITONGA
scuttled.

German BABITONGA, which left Santos on 24/4 for Brest with a cargo of cotton, was intercepted today by LONDON near St. Paul's Rocks, disguised as the Dutch JAPARA. The ship scuttled herself as LONDON approached. 42 prisoners were taken.

BIRMINGHAM.

On completing the escort of W.S.9A to Durban, BIRMINGHAM is to relieve NEWCASTLE in South American Division. NEWCASTLE is to refit in U.S.A. in August if she can be accepted there.

Takoradi.

N.C.S.O. Takoradi reports the harbour closed for 2 days from today.

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Syria.

2 enemy destroyers were reported in 35.55 N., 35.33 E. (N.E. of Cyprus) and another enemy unit with 20 aircraft in 34.22 N., 34.35 E. at 0800 this morning.

Vichy hospital ship CANADA was brought into Haifa for examination today by JACKAL. C.S.15 in NAIAD with 3 destroyers covered the operation.

Libya.

Benghazi was bombed last night by 3 Wellingtons.

Alexandria.

2 air raids last night by a considerable number of aircraft caused no military damage but started a large cotton fire. There were some military and civilian casualties.

Suez Canal.

The Suez Canal has now been dredged to give a channel 133 ft. wide for ships drawing 34 ft.

China.

COMPIEGNE.

French COMPIEGNE was stopped by a Dutch patrol vessel in Sunda Strait on 19/6 and refusing to be searched was taken next day into Tanjong Priok. 2 Germans in her were arrested.

War Diary.21.6.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.4th M.L.
Flotilla

It has been decided to base the 4th M.L. Flotilla on Iceland. Orders. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1529B/21).

M.L.'s.
215, 225,
227, 249.

N.O.I.C. Stornoway's 1916B/19 and Aäty. 1616/6/4. As these boats have now arrived at Stornoway but have had no working up, it is particularly requested that they be given at least three weeks working up period at Stornoway before being used operationally. Experience has shewn this to be of very great importance. (R.A.C.F. 1545/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.Iceland W/T
arrangements.

Your 1714/17. Present situation. Details. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1224Z/20).

Movements.POLLUX II.

Your 1401/21. Destination of POLLUX II. Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 1713/21 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

HARPASA

HARPASA has been engaged for conveyance of military stores and vehicles and will be ready to sail about 7th July. She should be sailed in an O.B. convoy with instructions to break off as necessary for Reykjavik. (D.T.D. 2003B/21.)

Operations.Engagement
with 3 E-boats

On reports of suspected E boat activity being received at 0200/21 3 M.G.B's patrolling to seaward of force on B.S.60 were ordered to patrol in vicinity of Brown Ridge at 0221B/21. Contact was made with 3 E-boats retiring to Eastward at about 0400B/21. Engagement lasted until 0500 when M.G.B's broke off within 20 miles of Ymuiden. Hits obtained on two E. boats from Oerlikons. (C. in C. Nore 1104B/21)

BEEHIVE's Preliminary Report (0902B/21) herewith. Proposed alterations in armament of M.G.B's. (C. in C. Nore 1630B/21). See Lion Copy.

/CONQUEROR.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

1630B/21st June

IN

638A

Date 21.6.41

From C. in C. Nore

Recd. 1659

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty

IMMEDIATE

502. My 1104B/21. BEEHIVE's Preliminary (0902B/21) Report herewith:-

Immediate. Your 0221B/21 to M.G.B.59. G.B.'s 58, 65 report that at 0400 Brown Ridge Buoy 180 degs. 5 miles two E.Boats sighted on port bow 1500 yards. M.G.B. 58 closed opened fire at about 1250 yards with Oerlikon firing all three pans hits observed. M.G.B. 65 closed and opened fire with Boulton Paul Turret range 1000 yards firing 2400 rounds apparently ineffective but drew enemy's fire allowing M.G.B. 58 to reload. One E.Boat now turned to the Southward at high speed M.G.B. 58 having reloaded one pan again endeavoured to close opening fire at 1250 yards definite hits observed in after part. M.G.B.65 having reloaded turret closed to 1000 yards and fired about 1200 rounds apart from drawing fire no results. M.G.B.59 had been stopped due to engine trouble now joined sighting an E. Boat on port bow opened fire with one pan of Oerlikon at 1500 yards no hits observed. A second E.Boat now sighted to Northward making very inefficient smoke. First E. Boat was closed by M.G.B.'s 59 65 fire reopened at 600 yards hits observed forward and aft Oerlikon Pans expended. M.G.B. 65 fired 1200 rounds of .303 this time hitting presumed ineffective. M.G.B. 58 joined opened fire at about 800 yards hits observed E. Boat made smoke a third E.Boat fired on M.G.B. 58 from starboard bows no hits. M.G.B. 58 closed up and engaged at 1200 yards. M.G.B. 59 passed under stern of E.Boat formation range 600 yards very effective fire considerable damage caused. Near E.Boat now dropped three depth charges which exploded well clear throwing exceptionally high columns of water. Enemy was now scoring hits jamming Oerlikon of M.G.B. 69 and wounding one rating. M.G.B.'s 58 65 carried on action Boulton Paul jammed and all Oerlikon ammunition expended chase continued for further ten minutes enemy was drawing away making smoke Lewis guns now being used action broken off in approximate position 22 miles from Ijmuiden. 0902B/21 Ends.

2. Confirmation of ineffectiveness of Boulton and Paul turrets against E. Boats has been obtained. Request re-arming programme of 6th M.G.B. Flotilla with Oerlikon guns and twin .5" turrets may be given greatest priority possible. BEEHIVE reports completion of M.G.B. 61 delayed by non arrival of .5" turrets, at Brightlingssea.

3. M.G.B.'s 58 and 59 were severely handicapped and opportunity for decisive action missed by being allowed only two magazines for Oerlikon gun, and having to break off action to reload. Request allowance of magazines may be increased to

/at

at least six per gun.

4. Written report follows.

1630B/21

Advance copy to P.O. N.A. 1st S.L. D. of P. Ops. O.D.
O.I.C. Press.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Controller
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- NAV. SIC.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pin, Admiralty House
- Ops. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (H)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D. of P. (3)
- D.S.D. 9.
- D.A./S.W.
- I.P. (3)
- D.
- D.P.D.
- D.S.D. (2)
- H. (2)
- D.T.S.D. for action
- B.H.S.
- Press Division
- D.
- Deputy Controller (2)
- C.I.N.O.
- H.F.
- P.
- D.H.O. (4)
- D.A.S. (3)
- S.W.R.
- D. (4)
- D.N.C. (2)

} Bath

AFP

War Diary.21.6.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. Contd.CONQUERORYour 2109B/20. Arrived.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1105B/21 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)Kolbeinsey
Islands.
Proposed
bombarment.

Propose carrying out daytime bombarment of Kolbeinsey Islands whilst on patrol in Denmark Strait. (MANCHESTER, 1141B/21 to C.S.18)

M.L. Patrols.

Your 1001B/21. Intend sailing following M.L. on patrol tonight. Q E 4.106 105 222. Q E 5.214 187 189 to arrive patrol at dark. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1458B/21).

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

ECHO sailed 1730Z. E.T.A. position 066° 40' N. 019° W. 0830Z/22. (Capt. D.3., 1733Z/21 to SUFFOLK).

British Air Activity.Patrols.^{"Stand"}
~~STAND~~ (Flown Twice) and ^{"Sleeve"}~~SLEEVE~~ last night. Nothing to report. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0824/21). Patrol ~~SLEEVE~~ now in operation. Only other recco. possible to-day in prevailing weather was P R V of Kristiansand South. Result not yet available. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2026/21).Kiel
(TIRPITZ)
attacked.Day 20th June. Two A/C attacked a 100 tons vessel 23 miles West of Den Helder. The vessel is claimed as sunk.
Night 20/21 June. A force of 117 aircraft were detailed to attacked the industrial centre, the shipbuilding yards, and the Battelship TIRPITZ at Kiel. Results not observed. Calais and the docks at Boulogne were also bombed. (H.Q.B.C. 1450/21).Shipping
protection.

Reference memorandum on arrangements for protection of shipping by short range fighters paragraph 12. Following areas proposed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1657X/21.)

A/C in
FURIOUS

Following aircraft embarked. 42 Hurricanes Mark two A plus one spare. 22 Hurricanes Mark two C. Three sea Hurricanes. 64 Hurricane pilots now on board. (FURIOUS 2300B/21).

War Diary.21.6.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Convoy FS.520.
SCHIELAND
(Dutch. 2249
tons) sunk.
CORMOUNT
(British,
2841 tons)
damaged.

In a Torpedo-Bombing attack on Convoy FS.520 off the Wash at about 2352B/20, SCHIELAND was sunk in about 53° 18' 30" N. 1° 1' E. and CORMOUNT was damaged but was able to continue with the Convoy and was towed by the Tug KENIA into Harwich and thence to Ipswich where she was safely moored alongside at 2400/21. Nine survivors from SCHIELAND are on board MENDIP, and 2 wounded men from CORMOUNT were landed at Yarmouth by WHITSHED.
(VORTIGERN 0007B/21, 0030B/21).
(WHITSHED, 0151B/21, 0530B/21, 0545B/21).
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0805/21, 1451B/21, 2114B/21).
(C. in C. Nore, 1153B/21, 2225B/21).
(Salvage Officer, Harwich 2400/21).

DE RESKE
attacked
14/6.

Reports whilst fishing 15 miles W. by N. Blaskets at 0630B on June 14th being attacked by a four engine bomber marked 'G'. Ship machine-gunned. No casualties, superficial damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1145B/21)

Convoys
E.C. Even

Help convoys ^{"SEAL"}SEAL and ^{"PADDLE"}PADDLE.
(VENOMOUS, 2355/21). Fighters have been despatched to assist Convoy PADDLE. (Nore 0007/22.)

Mining.ILSE
(British
2844 tons)
sunk.

Sunk by mine on west side of Hartlepool Approach Channel at 2345. Believed one of crew missing.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0050/21).
My 0050/21. Position 54° 41' 12" N. 1° 10' 42" W. All crew saved except one missing, believed killed. Vessel has back broken but not parted. Salvage officer has operation in hand.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0530/21).

Hartlepool
Tees.

My 0002/21. (Hartlepool closed). Add Port of Tees closed. Probable time of opening both ports 1100/21. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0307/21) Port of Tees now opened.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1700/21).
My 1700/21. Port of Hartlepool now open.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1830/21).

Operation
B.S.60.

Completed. (PLOVER, 0759B/21).

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

641

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

B.S.66.
B.S.67.

Lines given in A.L. M.07445/41 of 22nd May will be known as B.S.66 and 66 respectively. Intend laying B.S.66 on night 1/2 July and B.S.67 on night 3/4th. Preliminary M/S search will be carried out. If negative result obtained minesweepers will probably be dispensed with during operations. (C. in C. Nore, 1056B/21.)

Convoy
F.S.520
KENNETH
HAWKESFIELD
(British
Collier,
1546 tons)
sunk.

Following received from PUFFIN begins:-
KENNETH HAWKESFIELD of F.S.520 mined in about 052° 18' N. 001° 59' E. Believed acoustic. One exploded under ship and two about 200 yards astern. Ship sank in two minutes. Stem at present above water. Have 19 survivors which total crew, 2 injured seriously. 0945B. Ends. (C. in C. Nore, 1239B/21) (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1951B/21).

Departure tug DIVERSION at 1710 to assist vessel mined near 54 E. Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1732B/21).

Operation
B.S.65.

By TEVIOT BANK on date to be chosen by C. in C. Nore. Details. (D.D.O.D. (M) 1255B/21)

S.N.70B.
KENYA
ARETHUSA
AURORA.

R.A.(M) 1116B/20. KENYA and ARETHUSA are to provide A/A escort and cover during Operation S.N.70B, sailing from Scapa as necessary. R/V with R.A. M/L in position 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles at 0200/24th.
(ii) AURORA is to relieve ARETHUSA a.m./25. ARETHUSA is then to proceed to patrol West of Iceland (c) - Faroes minefield. KENYA and AURORA return to Scapa when released by R.A. M/L. (C. in C. H.F., 1526B/21).
Your 1116B/20. On passage to and from operation S.N.70B. you should pass to Westward of North Rona and S.N.3. (C. in C. H.F., 1615B/21 to R.A. M.)

Convoy
E.C.36
GASFIRE
(British,
2972 tons)
mined.

Convoy E.C.36. GASFIRE (? mined) in vicinity 54 E. buoy. H.M. Trawler PETER HENDRIKS picking up survivors and towing wreck out of channel. (LEEDS, 1540B/21).

/Sweep.....

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

642

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Sweep of
New Channel

Your 1635B/19. Q.Z.S. 264 swept by 'LL' and S.A. Eastern half swept by Oropesa, Western half will be completed by 2200 to-day. (F.O. Humber 1831B/21).

ARROW
damaged.

Heavy explosion at 2007 about 50 feet abreast stern, probably mine, in position 107° Flamboro Head 4½ miles. Dynamos appear to be badly damaged. Main W/T Transmitter out of action. Capable of steaming at 10 knots. Intend proceeding Newcastle. (ARROW, 2034/21). Your 1034/21. Proceed into Middlesbrough. (N.O.I.C. Tyne, 2153/21 to ARROW.) ARROW now passing 19 A. buoy. Two tugs have left Hartlepool and are proceeding to her assistance. My 2153 passed to her by C.G. Whitby. Following received from ARROW begins Both dynamos out of action, oil fuel tanks leaking, turbine and boiler feet broken, boiler fan broken. E.T.A. Middlesbrough 0430/22 ends. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2347/21).

Harwich

My 1547/21. Additional S.A. Sweep 261 Q.Z.S. One green mine detonated in 51° 54.7' N. 1° 41.5' E. at 2045. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2147B/21).

War Channel.
Convoy
precautions.

It is evident that the enemy is laying many acoustic mines in the War Channel between the Thames and Tyne. Delay action devices may be set to defeat routine sweeping but to catch convoys. It has been decided to transfer certain S.A. fitted Oropesa Trawlers to the Rosyth Escort Force to sweep ahead of convoys. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide nine S.A. fitted Oropesa trawlers and C. in C. Nore five for this purpose. This should allow two trawlers per convoy, one being stationed ahead of each column. Group 77 allocated to Tyne will be available shortly to join this force. C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. Nore are requested to make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible. (D.M.S., 2337/21).

*Suggested abandonment of this scheme (CC Nore 1410B/25)
page 712*

War Diary.21.6.1941..
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.E-Boats.

Suspect E-Boats activity.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich 0125/21).
E-boat sighted South of number 5 buoy steering
North at 0309. (C. in C. Nore, 0353B/21).

Trawlers
in Denmark
Straits.

Cruiser on Denmark Straits Patrol often sight
Icelandic trawlers between whom it is understood
there is much R/T traffic. It is important to
check whether movements of our own ships are
being reported. Can you check this. (C. in C.
H.F. 1107B/21 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

Finland.

The following report is advised by C.T.O. The
Great Northern Telegraph Company report that at
1115/21/6/41 Finland instituted a full postal,
telegraph, and telephone censorship. (Chief
Telegraph Censor 1130/21).

Baltic
shipping.

The following has been received from Stockholm.
Graded B. one.
Germans have warned all Baltic German and Dutch
shipping off Swedish Coast either to return to
Swedish waters or to keep within their territorial
waters. (D.D.I.C. 1206B/21).

Petsamo.

Following Norwegian vessels arrived here from
Kirkenes 2330/20. All have proceeded to
Trifona anchorage except HORNOY. (Petsamo
2003/21).

Shipping & Convoys.C.A.M.
Ships.

Propose following policy for operating Catapult
aircraft merchant ships. (C. in C. W.A.
1022B/21 to Admty.)
Fighter catapult ships are to be operated in
accordance with following policy. (A) ARIGUANI
and MAPLIN to work with OB/HX/SC convoys on
Northern routes. (B) PEGASUS and SPRINGBANK
to work with OB/OG/HG/SL convoys on Southern
routes. (C) all ships to spend minimum of four
days rest period at Belfast after every second
round trip. (C. in C. W.A., 1025B/21 to F.O.I.C.
Greenock, Belfast, etc.)

/Aberdeen.....

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

Aberdeen
Troop
Transport

C. in C. H.F's 1212B/17.
In future C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange for a Hunt or Wair to escort the troopship from Aberdeen to Orkneys and Shetlands and back.
C. in C. Nore is requested to lend a destroyer to Rosyth Escort Force during the period concerned. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1233B/21 to C. in C's Rosyth, Nore.)

Anti U/B
Trial,
O.G.66.

Whilst O.G.66 is in N.A. Area a trial anti-U-Boat operation will be carried out by S/m Escort. (Details). (C. in C. W.A., 1836B/21 to SCARBOROUGH).

MELBOURNE
STAR
DEUCALION

Request you will arrange special escort. (D.O.D.(H) 1957B/21 to C. in C. W.A.).

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ERNA
OLDENDORFF.
(German)

Left here yesterday evening 20/6. (Bilbao, 1057/21)

Cutters from
Algiers.

Keep a look out for 4½ tons sailing cutter reported left Algiers for Gibraltar 14/6. Cutter may contain a Capt. Beresford, Black Watch, and 2 Frenchmen. If met embark occupants. (F.O.C.N.A., 1206A/21 to O.24).

GUNDA
(Bombed 19/6).

STARLING and PETREL arrived here midday 21st June with 21 survivors of Swedish Steamer GUNDA attacked by enemy bomber seven miles South west Sagres 0555 G.M.T. June 19th. Vessel was taken in tow by STARLING and PETREL but sank 2034 269° 3.1 miles off Cape Sardo in 57 fathoms. (Consul Porto 1640/21).

*Report

French
Convoy.

SIMON
Destroyer ~~ST. MOUN~~ French ship, FELIX HENRY westbound. 100 Destroyer L'ALCYON, French ships ALSINA and unidentified armed tanker about 8000 gross tons not laden Eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 2345A/21).

South Atlantic.

SHROPSHIRE.

Leaves Freetown 1500/21 to overtake S.L.78 22 June and escort to position V. (C. in C. S.A., 0145N/21)

Mine.

Floating mine reported in 005° 27' N 000° 02' W at 1119/20. (C. in C, S.A., 0210N/21 to G.B.M.S. 6.a).

ASTURIAS

My 0445/18. ASTURIAS should arrive Newport News 4/7. (C. in C. S.A., 0245N/21 to B.A.R.M.)

LOVSTAD

Overdue Shipping LOVSTAD due Durban 17th from Aden not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0847/21).

"R" Report.

Following has been read.
R R R R L X D Q (Signal letters undecypherable)
Position 0200 S. 27.00 W. Ordered to stop by warship. (Freetown, W/T 1000Z/21).

"Q" Report
CRITON.

Following has been read.
QQQQ 9.06 N. 13.40 W. CRITON suspicious vessel. (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 1049/21).

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

BABITONGA
intercepted
scuttled.

German BABITONGA disguised Dutch JAPARA intercepted 002° 05' S. 027° 42' W. Scuttled as LONDON approached. 42 prisoners now on board. Ship left Santos 24/4 bound for Brest cargo of cotton 44% fuel remaining. (LONDON, 1217Z/21, to C. in C. S.A.)

Your 1217/21. Endeavouring (? endeavour) to find out whether vessel was near 020° S. 015° W. on 5/5 020° S. 005° E. on 9/5 or 30° S. on 26/5. (C. in C. S.A., 1821N/21 to LONDON). This plainly shows use of (?strongest) German ships as auxiliaries. Suggest Admiralty be asked for full particulars to assist representations to Brazilian Government. (R.A.S.A.D., 2339Z/21 to Ambassador, Rio de Janeiro).

Bathurst
Precautions.

A.M.0038B/14, subject to your discretion the use of Bathurst by shipping can now return to normal. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1222B/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM
NEWCASTLE.

Admty 1532B/20, para 7. After BIRMINGHAM has completed escort of W.S.9 A to Durban request you will sail her as convenient to relieve NEWCASTLE in South America Division. On relief NEWCASTLE will probably proceed to U.S.A., (A.C.N.S. (F) 1323B/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

NATAL's
cargo.

Santos reports 1,000 bales of wool have arrived from Argentine to be loaded in German NATAL. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1610N/21).

FORTUNSTELLA
(Italian).

Position remains the same. She has steam up and is ready to proceed to sea at short notice but unlikely she will sail at night also she can only leave within one hour of high water. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 1745Z/21).

NORDERNEY
(German).

N.C.S.O. Para 1530/10 Capt. NORDERNEY returns to Para today and is reported to have stated he had ordered ?orders from German Embassy here to sail. No date given. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1846Z/21).

/Enemy shipping...

647

War Diary.21.6.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic ContdEnemy
Shipping.

Rio de Janeiro reports German FRANKFURT is loading all hatches. Italian HIMALAYA berthed alongside preparatory to loading. German HERMES nothing further to report.

(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1856Z/21 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.WARSPITE

Your 1649C/19. Concur with your proposal (a) WARSPITE should be sailed for Bremerton U.S.A., by Pacific route. (1st S.L. 0037B/21 to C. in C. Med.)

*34 see page 737
26/10/41*Suez Canal

Dredging in Suez Canal now completed giving channel 133 feet wide for ships drawing 36 feet. 143 feet for ship drawing 32½ feet. Salvage operation under Fleet Salvage Officer using tug CONFEDERATE about to commence. (C. in C. Med., 1221C/21.)

MESARO
TORCELLO
Italian.

Passed Istanbul 1630/20 for Aegean. (Capt. S.1., 1235C/21 to TETRARCH.) Request an early reply to my 1255/7th concerning proposed movement of Greek warships. (C. in C. Med., 1251C/21.)

Alexandria
Raid

Air raid 2110 to 2130 and 0300 till 0500. Many planes but no military damage. Large cotton fire. Military casualties 1 killed 6 wounded civilian 4 dead 23 injured. (R.A. Alexandria, 1346/21 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

PARTHIAN

Operation B.S. Appendix 2. Safety route is established for PARTHIAN from end of Alexandria searched channel to 034° 30' 033° 30'. Thence on course 110 to coast between 1800C/21 and 1200C/23 PARTHIAN will proceed on surface by day. (1st S.F., 1459C/21 to Med. Fleet.)

*See also next page -*Enemy
Report.

QQQ3 - Noon fix (?HBYP) 0721 1456 Enemy course and speed are 110° 10 knots. (A/C of Med. Sqdn. 1605/21.)

/Enemy Convoy.....

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy
Convoy.

At 1120Z/21. 3 Merchant ships approx. 2,000 tons, 1 Merchant ship 7,000 tons probably A.M.C. in position 300° Agostoli 25 course 110 speed 10 knts. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1720B/21 1737B/21 to C. in C. Med).

PARTHIAN
PERSEUS.

* PARTHIAN leaves Alexandria 1800C/21 for 034° 30' N. 033° 30' E. PERSEUS will leave to-night probably about midnight for 032° 38' N 028° 30' E. (Capt. S.I., 1741C/21 to TAKU).

** See previous page.*

Transport
of Prisoners.

Ref. Admty signal No. 87014 dated 10/6. Submit Admiralty be requested to increase the number of prisoners which may be carried in one ship from Middle East, Red Sea Ports, Aden and E. African Ports to India, South Africa or Australia and that guard may be reduced to 7% in case of Italian other ranks prisoners. (Middle East, 1855/21 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Benghazi
bombed.

Prelim. Op. Summary No. 5. Night 20/21 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi, causing large fire near central Mole. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 2150/21).

UTMOST,
operation.

If successful at first objective consider second operation should be carried out on North Sicilian coast between 014° and 015° E. in preference to position to north of first objective but not West of 014° E. due to SEVERN's recent activity near Palermo. URGE operating similarly on East Sicilian and South Calabrian coast during coming week. Position of operation and whether action (group omitted?) left to you. No British S/M will be near your area. (Cdr. S.I. 2245B/21 to UTMOST.)

Service
Personnel.

Your 2111/19. Reasons for limitation of Naval Personnel to be carried in unescorted Merchant Ships. If of assistance to you War Office have no objection to Navy making use of Durban transit camp which has a capacity of 10,000. (D.O.D. (F) 2254B/21 to C. in C. Med).

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Syria.

Enemy Destroyers.

2 enemy destroyers 35.55 N. 35.33 E. Unknown enemy 34.22 N. 34.35 E. 20 Aircraft. Positions at 0800. (K.L.6 (Med., A/C) 0900/21 to (G.8 W. (Med. A/C))

A/C and S/MS.

The following has been read.
326 A A A negative attack any submarines south 32° 30' N. (Med., A/C 1005/21).

PARTHIAN.

Cancel my 1032C/20. Owing breakdown in another submarine PARTHIAN must now be employed in Aegean and will not be available for Beirut.
(C. in C. Med., 1047/21 to C.S.15).
Cancel my 1047C/21.
(C. in C. Med., 1808C/21 to C.S.15).

Vichy Destroyers.

Possible Vichy destroyer(s) reversed course about 1500 yesterday. Further search being made by No. 201 group No. 998 Sqn. today. Request 815 Sqn. stand by to attack. If not located in daylight suggest 815 Sqn. attack destroyers in Beirut.
(C. in C. Med., 1103/21 to A.O.C., P.T.J.)
332A for 272 Squadron G.H.Q. V T V A13821 6 mentioned enemy aircraft over destroyers off Syrian Coast. Doubtful any these destroyers are today's four funnel objective. (Med., A/C 1153/21 to R.N.A.S. Ford).

(?) CANADA.

Your 1036/21 (N.T. in W.R.)
(A) Yes.
(B) Hospital Ships must obey orders of warships by international law. Most undesirable to show force but obedience must be (?obtained). It must be made clear at earliest possible moment that she is not being captured but only diverted for examination and release if complying with Geneva convention. (C. in C. Med., 1235C/21 to C.S.15).
QQ1 one hospital ship 260 10 090 34° N., 31° E. 1007. (Med., A/C 1352/21).
QQQQ(Armed Merchant Ship Raider) 25 MQ1 two funnel H ship position of enemy is 34.12 N., 31.05 E. Enemy course and speed are 090 10. (Med., A/C 1405/21).

/Detach one.....

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Syria.

(?) CANADA
Contd.

Detach one destroyer to intercept French Hospital ship CANADA reported by flying boat in 034° 08' N. 031° 00' E at 1400/21 course 90° 10 knots. Ship is to be taken into Haifa. Flying boat is shadowing. (C. in C. Med., 1455C/21 to HERO). Your 1455C/21. JACKAL detailed, earliest interception 2000 C. (HERO, 1610C/21 to C. in C. Med). Your 1455C/21. to HERO. Am proceeding 1900 in NAIAD with three destroyers to intercept or take over escort as well as provide cover. (C.S.15, 1715B/21 to C. in C. Med). C. in C. Med., 1455C/21. Ship detached is to report P.C. and S. of CANADA after diversion. NAIAD and three destroyers are proceeding to your support and if nothing is heard from you will pass through position 034° 02' N. 033° 56' E. at 2330/21 course 274° speed 24 knts. (C.S.15 1801/21 to HERO, JACKAL, KIMBERLEY.) Your 1801/21. Detach JACKAL to Alexandria when relieved by one of your destroyers. (C. in C. Med., 2011C/21 to C.S.15). My P.C. and S. 214 34° N., 33° E., 25, 113, 13. CANADA in company apparently friendly. (JACKAL, 2015C/21 to C.S.15).

Air
Protection.

Your 1630/21 (N.T. in W.D.) Protection will be arranged provided ships do not go beyond radius of 75 miles from Haifa. There will be half an hour gap between patrols. Request your plan of movements as well as initial position. (H.Q. P.T.J., 1817/21 to C.S.15).

Beirut.

Your 1259/21. (N.T. in W.D.) Confirmed but merchant ships in Beirut Harbour should not be sunk if avoidable. (C. in C. Med., 1916C/21 to C.S.15).

Vichy
Activity.

Reaction to Syria. (D.N.I., 1925B/21 to C. in C. Med etc). See Lion Copy.

/Situation.....

650A

SECRET

MESSAGE

1925B/21st June GWT

Date 21.6.41

Addressed C.in C. Mediterranean 113
 ,, South Atlantic 988
 M.O.C. North Atlantic 60
 V.A. Malta 195
 M.O. Force H. 169
 C.O.I.S. Alexandria
 C.in C. America & West Indies 801

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

From Admiralty
BASEGRAM NITE

The discord in Vichy circles, previously reported, continues and there is not much outward change in the situation. Up to the present no retaliatory action has been taken elsewhere as a result of the Syrian operations.

2. Position regarding use of French bases in N. Africa remains obscure though believed Franco/German staff talks initiated by Darlan were concerned with joint defence of Morocco and Dakar against American intervention.

3. Despite this we have acquiesced in the wishes of United States to allow controlled supplies to be transported to French North and/or West Africa.

4. Minor points in connection with Vichy activities include -

- (a) Sale of lorries stored in Tunisia for use in Libya.
- (b) Continued reinforcement of Dakar from North with both men and material.
- (c) German infiltration believed continuing in French Morocco, though less obtrusively.
- (d) Stocks of essential metals in unoccupied France are being put at the disposal of Germany

1925B/21

For D.N.I. (Tel. 2061)

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

O.I.C. (2)
 D.S.D. 9
 D.N.I. (4)
 M. (2)
 D.of P. (3)
 Admiral Chalmers
 I.P. (3)
 W.D.
 E.P.S.

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Syria-Contd.

Situation
Report
No. 65.

Cancel my 2359/21. Following is a repetition of my 2349C/21. Syria. VAUQUELIN was not again sighted by air R/C until approaching Beirut at 0841/20 escorted by about twenty aircraft. Force B swept to North of Beirut during the night but did not make contact.
2. Hospital ship CANADA intercepted by aircraft in 34.12 N. 31.05 E. at 1405 steering East. JACKAL intercepting at 2000 and escorting to Haifa covered by C.S.15.
3. Western Desert. Sandstorm. Little activity. Alexandria.
4. Second air raid during night from 0315 to 0515 by about twenty aircraft. Many flares some bombs no mines. No naval or military damage. Ends. (C. in C. Med. 1020C/26).

East Indies.

EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.

Admty. 1830/18. Programme. (D.S.T. 0402B/21 to P.S.T.O. India).

Mine
watching
Shatt-el-
Arab.

Proposed organisation. Details. (C. in C. E.I. 1128Z/21).

DURBAN
CASTLE.

Adty. 1830/18. Anticipate that escort can be made available for DURBAN CASTLE as far as Durban. (C. in C. E.I. 1210Z/21 to Adty.).

MAURITIUS.

To leave Aden a.m./22 and proceed to Mombasa arriving 27/6. (C. in C.E.I. 1242Z/21 to MAURITIUS)

SONTAY
defects.

Your 2105/17 and D. of S.T. 0314/17. (1) SONTAY requires new cylinder cover and brackets which are being made Asmara. Endeavouring to expedite. (2) Vessel unable to proceed until repairs complete -(N.O.I.C. Massawa 1301Z/21 to P.S.T.O Egypt.)

MOST SECRET

651A

To: C.O.I.S. Singapore, for C. in C. Far East
and C. in C. China.

Naval Cypher (D)

From D.N.I.

AIDAC.

Following Special Intelligence dated 16th June.

Japanese Government consider it essential to obtain, without delay, facilities for the establishment of air bases in Southern Indo-China and freedom for Naval and Merchant ships to use harbours in that area.

Berlin is being asked to obtain Vichy's consent to these facilities. Berlin is to be told that Japan has, of course, no territorial ambitions but only wishes to protect Indo-China against British aggression and the De Gaulle movement. Japan intends to obtain these facilities with or without Germany's assistance.

Harbours are SAIGON and CAMRANH. Aerodromes are SAIGON, BENHOA, PHNOMPENH, KOMPONTRACH, NHATRANG, SOCTRANG, TOURANE, SIEMREAP.

2313B/21
N.I.D.4. (182)
for D.N.I.

D.N.I. (4) }
D.D.I.C. } ONLY
D.S.D. 9. }

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Arrest of
French Ships.

Your 1154B/19. Information indicates these ships have been avoiding use of Manila since 20/5. Only CHENONCEAUX has paid one visit for purpose of completing with fuel for voyage to France. Reported this policy was due to fear that ships might be placed in "Protective custody". Should another visit take place and one vessel be arrested, presumably the others would not call. Net result would be that we should deprive French of one fuelling base, but as they seem to have largely relinquished this voluntarily it might not be of much consequence. I suggest as arrest of these ships by U.S.A. would not contravene our agreement it might be well to encourage such action with a view to obtaining a possible bargaining factor over Decoux. (C. in C. China, 0225Z/21 to Admty.).

COMPIEGNE
intercepted.

Following received from B.N.L.O. Batavia: French ship COMPIEGNE stopped by Dutch Sunda Strait Patrol vessel 19/6, refused to be searched so was taken into Tanjong Priok A.M./20 now undergoing search. Ship is carrying 910 military personnel, 410 civilians including 2 Germans - latter arrested Cargo according to ship's papers is not contraband - search continues. Captain made feeble excuse for refusing plan. Ship short of food. T.O.O. 0408Z/20. (Ends). (C. in C. China, 0241Z/21 to Admty., Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0307Z/21 to Admty.).

America and West Indies.

WARSPITE.

Admty. 1651B/15. Could WARSPITE be accepted if she arrived Bremerton in first week in August? (1st S.L. 0040B/21 to B.A.R.M).

NEWCASTLE.

Can NEWCASTLE be accepted for refit in U.S.A. about 1/8 and if so at what yard? (A.C.N.S.(F) 1517B/21 to B.A.R.M).

Mortier Bay.

C. in C. A. & W.Is' 2015P/15. Whilst agreeing that Mortier Bay has serious disadvantages, it is considered that handicaps are shared by other anchorages in Southern part of Newfoundland. C.N.S. Ottawa requested to investigate as an urgent requirement erection of a D/F beacon, shore D/F station and shore W/T station at the entrance to Mortier Bay. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1522B/21 to C. in C. A.W.I., C.N.S. Canada).

/Halifax.....

21.6.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

Halifax
Depot
Ship.

Considered that a Depot Ship for escort forces at Halifax will become a necessity. Choice appears to be between GREENWICH and SANDHURST. As regards machine tools GREENWICH is considered slightly better.
(C. in C. W.A., 1423B/21, to Admty.)

Air
protection
for Convoys.

Maximum air protection permitted by weather is being provided by Eastern Air Command for all convoys within range of aircraft based in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1606Z/21.)

Aircraft
Crossing
Atlantic.

A.T. 1027B/20. Dates and R/T arrangements.
(D.O.D.(F) 1904B/21, to A.W.I., and S.A. Stn.)

Suspicious
Ships.

Report by ^{not identified} AUTAUGA of suspicious ships on 11/ June in 045° N., 051° W.
(C.C. Newfoundland 2051Z/21.)

134OR/21st June

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

From - British Naval Delegate
(Washington)

Date - 21/6/41
Recd. - 2348

Naval Cypher (A.1) by Cable.

Circulation at
Request of N.I.D.3

Addressed - Admiralty

REPLY. Cancel my 1820/20 and substitute the following state. B.2.

Battleships ready: ^{ANDREA} DORIA, ^{GIULIO} CESARE, probably ready Italian Battleships
LITTORIO, ^{GALEAZZO} GIULIO.

Heavy Cruisers ready: TRIMTO, Italian Cruiser TRIESTE, Italian
Cruiser GORIZIA, probably out of service Italian Cruiser BOLZANO.

Light Cruisers: Of the 10 remaining 7 are ready, ^{GIOVANNI DELLE} RANDE NERE is
seriously damaged.

Destroyers: Of original 61 ready 35 seriously damaged 2 sunk 15.

Torpedo Boats: Of original 67 ready 23 sunk 16 and 21 considered
unserviceable.

U-Boats: Of original 121 ready 55 unfit for use 7 presumed lost
32.

1938 programme none of the 12 3400 tons Cruisers are known to
be ready. Italian Battleship LITTORIO is now flagship.

134OR/21st June.

Comment by N.I.D.

Battleships. Correct.

Heavy Cruisers. Correct except that damage to BOLZANO cannot
be confirmed.

Light Cruisers. Correct but, although ^{GIOVANNI DELLE} RANDE NERE was reported
to be damaged in Battle of Cape Matapan this
cannot be confirmed.

Destroyers. Of original 61, 26 are believed sunk and two
seriously damaged, leaving 33 in service, some of
which are refitting.

Torpedo Boats. Of original 67, 6 have been sunk, leaving
48 in service a certain number of which are
refitting.

Submarines. Losses shown are approximately correct.

Information concerning Captain class Cruisers and identity
of Fleet Flagship believed correct.

- V.C.N.S.
- N.A. to 1st B.L.
- Ops. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D.A./S.M.
- M.B.

654

21.6.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.U - BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.EMPIRE DEW
(torpedoed
12/6.)On arrival land survivors at Princes Stage
thence berth at Gladstone Dock.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1058/21, to ST. ALBANS.)INVERSUIR
(torpedoed 3/6)Clyde arrival CORINTHIAN with 23 survivors from
INVERSUIR, also MARON and MORETON BAY.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2029B/21, to Admty.)S.L.76.
(13/6.)Your 1759B/20. (requesting information of two
ships torpedoed in S L 76.)

S/S DJURDJURA..

S/B EIRINI KYRIAKIDIS. 1539B/21.

S/M's Reported.

20/6.

If nothing found by 0800B/21 return to harbour.
(C. in C. W.A., 0030B/21 to SALISBURY.)

2033/20.

By D/F at 2033Z/20, enemy U/boat, 47° /48° N.,
34° 35° W. U.S. Naval authorities informed.
(D.D.I.C. 0445B/21 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

0139/14.

TUNA reports 0139B/14 sighted possible U/B in
46° 00 N., 09° 25' W., approx., course 100° speed
12 knots. Range 2 miles. Hydrophone effect
was heard over a period of half an hour. Two
trawlers wearing Spanish colours were sighted
11 times during the period of patrol, no A/S
activity was observed. On each occasion
trawlers appeared to be the same and did not
seem to be fishing.

T.O.O. 1831B/20.

(F.O.S., 0812B/21 to Admty., etc.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1409B/21.)

20/6.

Detach one Destroyer, name to be reported to
join FORTUNE in U-Boat hunt in 55° 49' N.,
08° 15' W. Aircraft is being sent. If
necessary FORTUNE can fuel at Londonderry.
Take samples of fuel oil on the sea.
(C. in C. W.A., 1605B/21, to VETERAN.)
Cancel my 1605B/21. Contact considered wreck.
Destroyer detached return to Convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1751B/21, to VETERAN.)

War Diary.

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Principal Events.

Germany attacked Russia this morning. German ALSTERUFER, believed to be a raider, was sighted and attacked north of Madeira.

Early this morning Germany attacked Russia along the western frontier of the latter, and later announced that a state of war existed between herself and Russia. Later Italy announced that she was in a state of war with Russia.

Great Britain has offered all assistance possible to Russia.

All Finnish ships met at sea are to be sent into a British port.

Germany has announced certain mined areas in the Baltic and operational zones in which any vessel is liable to destruction by mines or other means, in the Arctic and Black Sea.

Home Commands.

M.T.B.
engagement.

In the early hours of this morning two of our M.T.B's on offensive patrol had a short indecisive engagement with several enemy escort vessels off Etaples. M.T.B. 71 suffered slight superficial damage and 2 casualties.

656

War Diary.

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

Blenheims of Coastal Command attacked shipping in the Bay of Biscay today.

Enemy Air Operations.

H.M. minesweeper BEECH was sunk during air attack in the early hours of this morning on the Orkney Islands.

S.S. SKUM (Norwegian) was damaged in the early hours of today during attack on Convoy E.C.36 off Cromer.

There was an air attack on Southampton last night. Damage was very slight. Several parachute mines were dropped on land.

Convoy B.B.37 was attacked off St. David's Head at 2350, but no details are known.

Mining.

Further mines were exploded today in the East Coast War Channel.

Mines were detonated off Sheerness and the Medway River was closed early this morning.

All but one of the mines dropped at Southampton last night appear to have fallen on land. One fell in the Hamble River.

657

War Diary.

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

^{TOR}
ALSTERUFER
attacked.

(see
p. 673)

MARSDALE, on Western Patrol, sighted at dawn today a suspicious vessel resembling the German ALSTERUFER to the northward of Madeira, but lost sight of her at 0905A. The enemy ship is thought to be raider. Air search was made and the ship was twice unsuccessfully attacked by Catalina flying boats this evening and after dark. P.33 and FOXHOUND have been ordered to the area, and a further air search is to be made early tomorrow.

Mediterranean.

6 Blenheims today attacked and escorted enemy convoy off Lampedusa and claim to have severely damaged two 6000 ton merchantmen.

Libya.

6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night. In addition to hits on the moles one ship was hit and set on fire.

Palestine
and Syria.

Naval aircraft with torpedoes last night attacked 3 destroyers anchored north of Beirut. No hits were seen but from Air R/C a damaged destroyer was subsequently seen in Beirut harbour.

Blenheims bombed the destroyers in Beirut today and hit and believed sank one. A merchant vessel was also hit and set on fire.

U-Boat Campaign.

VIENDA this afternoon engaged an enemy S/M on the surface in 62° 24' N. 14° 20' W. and was damaged and had her Captain killed and several men wounded before she lost contact. It is believed that the U.Boat was hit before submerging.

SS CALABRIA (Swedish) a straggler from S.L. 76 was torpedoed and sunk at 0130 today about 100 miles west of Inistrahull.

658

War Diary

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Finnish
Shipping

All Finnish ships intercepted at sea are to be sent into a British port. Masters are to be informed that this step is being taken to prevent any risk of their falling into enemy hands, (D.T.D. 1553B/22)

Movements.

FURIOUS
VANQUISHER

To avoid U-boats alter course forthwith to pass through 055° 45' N. 010° W, 055° 45' N. 12° W. thence to position (a) and as ordered in my 1731B/19. (C. in C. W.A. 1142B/22 to FURIOUS, VANQUISHER.)

MALAYA

MALAYA is expected to leave New York for Halifax about 8/7.

2. After working up at Halifax for about 7 days she will proceed to the Clyde.

3. On arrival in Clyde MALAYA will pay off and recommission, then proceeding to Scapa to work up. (D.O.D. H. 1658B/22).

NIGERIA

C.S.10 is to sail NIGERIA and three destroyers as detailed by R.A. (D) H.F. to arrive Skaalefiord and complete with fuel by 2000/26. (C. in C. H.F. 1901B/22).

KENYA

My 1526B/21. On passing latitude 62° N. on the return passage KENYA is to be detached to Skaale Fiord to refuel, arriving about 2000/26. (C. in C. H.F. 1903B/22 to R.A.M.L.)

Operations.

Kolbeinsey
Islands.
Proposed
bombarment.

Your 1141B/21. Approved, subject to concurrence of N.O.i/c Iceland. (F.O.C. 18th C.S. 0858B/22 to MANCHESTER.)

M.T.B.
engagement
off
Etaples.

At about 0200 today whilst on offensive patrol M.T.B.5 (with S.O. 11th Flotilla embarked) and M.T.B.71 encountered several enemy escort vessels off Etaples on Northerly course. A short and indecisive gun action was fought without any suitable torpedo target being sighted. M.T.B.71 has one killed and one slightly injured and suffered slight superficial damage. No damage or casualties to M.T.B.5. (V.A. Dover 1155B/22).

659

War Diary.22.6.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

My 1122/22. P R U R/C: of Kristiansand South now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1630/22). Ops. 682/22/6. It is proposed to institute the following Patrols in the vent of an attempted break-in of an Enemy ship. Details. Patrol ~~WALKER~~ to be re-named ~~FOX~~. New Patrols ~~TRAP~~ and ~~LORRAINE~~ described. (H.Q.C.C. 2120/22). See Summaries Folder.

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy F.S.

Help ~~BEECH~~ ^{"Booby"} GKUF 0223. (URSULA 0003/22). Fighters have been despatched to assist Convoy ^{"Booby"} ~~BEECH~~. (Nore, 0013/22).

S.S. SKUM

Great Yarmouth 22/6 departure Tug DIVERSION to assistance of S.S. SKUM at 0143. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0145B/22, C. in C. Nore 0351B/22)

Orkneys
bombed.
BEECH
sunk.

Aircraft passed low over the Orkneys early a.m./22 Two bombs were dropped near Kirkwall and one man killed by Machine-gun fire from aircraft. Ground defences were in action. During the raid H.M. Minesweeper BEECH anchored at Scrabster was bombed and sank immediately. Eight survivors reported. (A.C.O.S. 0540/22).

A/C off
Tiumpan
Head.

At 0230 trawler LOCH AWE 3 miles E.N.E. from Tiumpan Head reports hearing plane and loud explosion. Tiumpan Head lighthouse confirms plane, Aultbea confirms A/A fire during same period. N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1251B/22).

SCHIELAND
(Bombed
20/6)

Position of wreck.
(C. in C. Nore, 2315B/22).

Convoy
B.B.37

Convoy B.B. being bombed position 51° 53' N.
5° 41' W. (BLANKNEY 2350/22).

660

War Diary.22.6.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.ARROW
(Mined 21/6)

My 2347/21. If in no danger of sinking intend to anchor ARROW on arrival at No.20 buoy until completion of 'LL' and S.A. search approx. 0700/22. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0114/22).
ARROW anchored at 20 buoy.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0430/22).
ARROW arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough 1015/22).

Mine off
Southwold

Mine believed acoustic exploded by sweepers in 52° 18' N. 1° 58' E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0212B/22, 1113B/22).
M/S GALVANI reports having exploded acoustic Mine 1 mile S.10 E. of No.54 E. Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0450B/22).
Acoustic mine exploded 159° No. 54 E. buoy one mile also contact mine 198° 54 E. buoy 12 cables.
(C. in C. Nore 0531B/22 to D.16, MACKAY, EGLINTON.)
M/S operations night of 21st/22nd Oropesa search 60% S.A. sweep 80' areas C and D. Acoustic mines number not yet confirmed exploded 1 mile 170° 54 E. buoy. M/S operations today S.A. sweep ahead of F.S.21. (Cdr. M/S A/P. Lowestoft 1015B/22).
My 1015B/22 following received from Cdr. M/S A/P at sea. Begins: Only one mine exploded during operations. Almost certainly acoustic but doubt exists. Ends. (Cdr. M/S. A/P. Lowestoft 1255/22).

Medway.

Medway closed owing to suspected mining.
(C. in C. Nore, 0449B/22).

N.L.1.

My A5/579/41 of 12/6 para. 4. Intend to lay N.L. one tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1241B/22).

S.A.Trawlers
for Rosyth
Escort
Force.

Admiralty 2337/21.
The nine S.A. fitted Oropesa trawlers from the Rosyth command are being assembled at the Tyne. Commencing with F.S.23 F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail one pair to sweep ahead of each south-bound convoy. Operating instructions.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1309/22).
My 1309/22. Every endeavour is to be made to fit these trawlers with balloons or failing this with kites before sailing. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1713/22).

/Admiralty.....

661

War Diary.

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.A.Trawlers
for Rosyth
Escort
Force.
Contd.

Admiralty 2337/21 and my 1309/22.
Two of the nine S.A. fitted Oropesa trawlers
are to be sailed as soon as possible for Sheerness to equalise the sweeping forces for north and southbound convoys.
Names to be reported.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2355/22 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

S.N.70B.

Amend my 1116B/20 as follows.
(R.A. M.L. 1511B/22).

Southampton
and Hamble
River.

Following received from F.O.I/c Southampton begins:-
"A number of Parachute Mines and Bombs were dropped in Southampton during last night. Six Mines did not explode and are being dealt with by Admiralty Officers. One of these, beside No.5 Dry Dock, has already been rendered safe. Damage was caused to shed which has been burned out on a previous occasion. No other damage. One Mine fell near Hamble River entrance and is believed to have exploded, but sweeping operations are being conducted as a precaution. T.O.O. 1232/22". Ends. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1603B/22).

Harwich.

My 2147/21. At 2045B/21 one Mine exploded by Sweeper as follows. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1851B/22).

S.A.Destroyers
on East Coast

A.L. T.O. 7530/41. Owing to the intensive acoustic mining of the swept channels on the East Coast, one destroyer fitted S.A. gear type A. or C. is always to be available, and two at short notice, in each of the Nore and Rosyth Commands.
2. It is further requested that you will report the shortest notice for S.A. sweeping at which destroyers can be held without embarking booms and disembarking pom-poms. (D.O.D. H. 1924B/22)

Enemy Intelligence.

German
Main
Units.

D.D.I.C. 1215B/22. See Lion Copy.

/6 M/V's.

CONFIDENTIAL

M E S S A G E

1215B/22 June.

OUT

TO. A.I.G. 17.
S.O. Force H.

Date. 22.6.41.

Naval Code 'J' & P/L BY T/P.

FROM. Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

German Main Units.

Battleship - TIRPITZ - Kiel, 21st June, alongside.

Battlecruisers - GNEISENAU - Brest, 21st June, in dock.
SCHARNHORST - Brest, 21st June, alongside.

Pocket Battleships ADMIRAL SCHEER - Kiel, 21st June, alongside.
LÜTZOW - Kiel, 21st June, in dock.

8" Cruisers HIPPER - Kiel, 21st June, in dock.
PRINZ EUGEN - Brest, 21st June, in dock.
SEYDLITZ - Bremen, 17th June, completing.

6" Cruisers LEIPZIG - Oslo, 20th June.
NÜRNBERG - Reported at Copenhagen 20th June (Graded B.2) ^(see next page)
KÖLN - Reported at Gdynia, 14th May (B.2)
EMDEN - Reported at Oslo, 18th June (B2)
Not seen at Oslo, 20th June.

Old Battleships SCHLESSEN } Reported in Western
SCHLESWIG - HOLSTEIN } Baltic, probably
Kattogat, Belts or
Sound 16 June
(Graded B. 2)

(DDIC 1215B/22)
for D.D.I.C.
(Green Line 8)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (F).
A.C.N.S. (T). (2).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
OPS. (4).
O.D. (5).
D.N.I. (4).
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
O.I.C. (3).
D. OF P. (3).
Cdr. Holbrook.

D.S.D. 9.
D.A/S.W.
I.I. (3).
W.E.
D.F.D.
D.S.D. (2).
M. (2).

War Diary.22.6.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence Contd.6 M/V's.
off Brest6 Merchant Vessels bearing 180° distance 5 miles
course 270° - My position 47° 40' N. 5° 20' W.
(A/C Duty L. 1335/22 to 19 Group H.Q.)14 M/V's
off Lorient14 enemy merchant vessels bearing 090° 6 miles
approx. course 16 (3) my position 47° 18' N.
6° 27' W. (O/C Duty W. 19 Group 1500/22)
Enemy previously reported is accompanied by 2
Heinkel 115. (O/C Duty W. 19 Group 1550/22).
Please signal composition of convoys reported in
Aircraft Duty L's 1335 and Duty W's 1500 (both
aircraft of 19 Group). (A.C.N.S. H. 2256B/22
to H.Q.C.C.)NÜRNBERGNÜRNBERG at Copenhagen p.m./20/6 in free harbour,
alongside Malmö train ferry quay. Graded B.1.
(N.A. Stockholm 2107/22).11 M/V's.S F S 11 Merchant vessels bearing 340° 20 miles
steering 250°. My Position 47° 8' N. 5° 37' W.
(A/C Duty Y. 2151/22 to 19 Group H.Q.)Casualties and Defects.WINCHELSEAHave developed engine defect and am unable to
maintain speed of escort. Intend returning to
Londonerry. (WINCHELSEA 1400B/22, Capt. D.
Londonerry 2151/22).

663

War Diary.22.6.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

? raider ^{for}
ALSTER
chased by
MARSDALE
attacked by
Catalina.

(See p. 673)

Chasing suspicious vessel distant 15 miles. She was trying to make to N.E. when sighted at dawn speed about 16 knots resembles German ~~ALSTER~~^{for}. My position 36° 7' N. 18° 50' W. Vessel disappeared at 0905A in 35° 52' N. 18° 42' W. Speed 17 knots. (MARSDALE 0900A/22, 1130A/22, F.O.C.N.A. 1015A/22.)

Informing Ships and Authorities N.A. 2 Catalina aircraft leaving to search 1230B. (F.O.C.N.A. 1059B/22.)

My 1559A/22 and 2032. Carrying out the purport of my 1559A/22. FOXHOUND and Catalina aircraft will not now join you. (F.O.C.N.A. 1119A/22 to AVON VALE.)

W.D. Note. Code time is evidently wrong. Establish patrol near 043° 00' N. 010° 40' W. German raider ~~ALSTER~~^{for} reported in approx. 037° 40' 018° 00' at dawn/22 steer N.E. 16 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1136A/22 to P.33.)

At 0940A I sighted LADY HOGARTH 090° 12 miles. Made contact with her in 035° 55' N. 018° 27' W. at 1040A. She had seen nothing. Estimated suspicious vessel doubled West and will be in 036° 17' N. 018° 43' W. steering 040° at 1200A. (MARSDALE 1145/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

It is believed that German ~~ALSTER~~^{for} is fitted as a supply ship. (D.D.I.C. 1225B/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

AVON VALE may be used to intercept. It seems possible ship will go to Madeira.

2. Can you shadow by Catalina. (V.C.N.S. 1254B/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1059B/22 MARSDALE reports ship last seen in 035° 52' N. 018° 42' W. at 0905A speed about 17 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1331A/22, 1731A/22 to N.A. Stn.)

Proceed independently at best speed toward Madeira. Further instructions follow. SPRINGTIDE continue with convoy to Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A. 1541A/22 to AVON VALE.)

My 1540A/22 MARSDALE reports sighting suspicious vessel in 035° 52' N. 018° 42' W. at 0905A/22 Ship may be proceeding to Madeira. Proceed to establish patrol to northward of Island and endeavour to intercept FOXHOUND will join you p.m./23. Catalina Aircraft has been ordered to assist patrol. Ship is believed to be Enemy Supply Ship. (F.O.C.N.A. 1559A/22 to AVON VALE, 1745A/22 to LADY HOGARTH.)

My 1559A LADY HOGARTH rendezvousing SILDRA in 033° 27' N. 017° 20' W. at 1200A/23 and escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1743/22 to AVON VALE.)

/My.....

War Diary22.6.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.? raider TOR
ALSTERUPER
chased by
MARSDALE
attacked by
Catalina.
Contd.*(Sep. 675)*My 1528A/22 and my 1559A/22. Catalina flying boat was attacking enemy ship steering $45^{\circ} 12'$ knots in $037^{\circ} 17' N. 016^{\circ} 20' W.$ at 1945A/22. Enemy ship is either armed merchant raider or supply vessel. FOXHOUND rejoin Capt. (D) 8. Capt. (D) 8. arrange R/V. (F.O.C.N.A. 2032A/22 to Capt. (D) 8., FOXHOUND 2117A/22 to North Atlantic Station).CORBRAE
KOS 10.
KOS 11.

Departure 2000A. CORBRAE, KOS 10, KOS 11, routed (details) thence direct to Freetown or as ordered by C. in C. S.A. Local escort ERIDGE until 2100A/24. E.T.A. Freetown 0900A/3/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 2130B/22 to Admty.)

My 2117A/22. Aircraft reported position of enemy at 2100A/22 $037^{\circ} 30' N. 016^{\circ} 04' W.$ Aircraft attacked without result. (F.O.C.N.A. 2139A/22 to Capt. (D) 8.)My 2139A/22. Two Catalina flying boats leaving 0001A/23 to carry out search for enemy ship. (F.O.C.N.A. 2213A/22 to 8th D.F.) My 2139A/22 aircraft report P.C.S. of enemy ship at 2143A/22 $037^{\circ} 33' N. 015^{\circ} 58' W. 045^{\circ} 12'$ knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 2327A/22 to Capt. (D) 8.)NORD ATLANTIC
(German)

Returned to Vigo 0930/22 after loading fully from German tanker MAX ALBRECHT. Details of appearance. (Consul Vigo 0935/22, Coruna 2100/22).

S.S.TIRPITZ

Reported loading at Cartagena 6000 tons olive oil. (N.A. Madrid 1248/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FURIOUS

* MARSDALE's 0900A/22. Sailing of destroyers to R/V with FURIOUS and later escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1202A/22 to Admty.) * See previous page

Cable
Operation.Your 1226/17 approved.
(Admty. 2028B/22 to F.O.C.N.A.68).

War Diary.

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DESIRADE
(Intercepted)
17/6.

My 2111/18. Damaged by sabotage PRETORIA CASTLE escorting to Walvis Bay arriving about 27/6. (C. in C. S.A. 1331N/22 to Admty.)

LONDON

Return Freetown when fuel situation requires. (C. in C. S.A. 1905N/22 to LONDON.)

CITY OF DURBAN

Return to Freetown. Route. (C. in C. S.A. 1925N/22 to CITY OF DURBAN.)

Takoradi harbour.

Your 1637/22/6. N.C.S.O. Takoradi reports harbour closed for 2 days from 21/6. (C. in C. S.A. Station, 1945N/22 to DRAGON).

GABCON

Re coal refused at Luanda. (C. in C. S.A. 2146N/22).

S.S. CRITON sunk.

S.S. CRITON reported at 1049 G.M.T./21 QQQQ 009° 06' N. 013° 40' W. suspicious vessel. CRITON had left with Convoy S.L.78 19/6 and even if had left convoy this seemed a most unlikely position being about 43' N.W. of Freetown and close inshore. It was thought longitude was in error and position should have been on convoy track from Freetown. Sunderland was following on this track and SHROPSHIRE left to overtake convoy shortly after. Walrus aircraft sent up at 1500 reported at 1645/21 sunken merchant vessel about 7 miles south of CRITON position reported, masts and funnel showing above water, one empty boat and some wreckage about 6 miles away. BRILLIANT was sent out to investigate. That Walrus was not sent up sooner was due to misunderstanding for which I must accept entire responsibility. Subsequently learnt that CRITON left convoy 1407 G.M.T./20 in 009 38 N. 015 20 W. Nothing more heard of CRITON and appears little doubt sunken M.V. is her. Appears probable that faulty navigation took her North and near French Coast was sighted by air patrol from Konakri intercepted by French Ship and sunk or sunk herself. Think it unlikely that enemy ship would have been in such position at that time. Air patrol at dawn 21st sighted nothing and at dusk 21st and dawn 22nd sighted nothing except sunk ship. CRITON had on board British crew and a token prize crew. (C. in C. S.A. 2121N/22 to Adty.)

War Diary.

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Convoy
attacked

P.C. and S. of enemy 3 destroyers 6 M/Vs. 000°
Lampedusa 15 020° 7 knots. (A/C 8 H.S.Q.
0605Z/22 to B.7.G., Cdr. S.1., 0907B/22 to UNION,
UNIQUE, UPRIGHT, A/C 0630Z/22, 0645Z/22, 1555Z/22).
At 1930B/22. One merchant ship in two of second
merchant ship with two escort vessels in 036° 00'N.
012° 10'E. course 300 two knots. (V.A. Malta
2132B/22 to UNION.)

URGE
URSULA

My 1343B/19 URGE delayed 24 hours. Sailing
URSULA p.m./24 for area L 035° 20'N. 011° 27'E.
342° 30' 70. (Comdr. (S)1, 0940B/22 to Capt.
(S)1.)

→ CANADA

Your 2237C/21. Ship searched. Attitude friendly.
Details. Nothing irregular discovered. Ship
allowed to proceed. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1021/22
to C. in C. Med.)

Air Raid on
Alexandria.

Op. Summary 377 up to 1200/22/6.
Egypt. Night 20/21 June. 30 Enemy A/C bombed
Alexandria harbour area for 2 hours. Slight
damage few casualties.

→ CANADA
(French
Hospital
Ship.)

Day 21/6. Sighted by A/C 200 miles north of
Alexandria. Escorted Haifa by destroyer for
examination. Night 20/21. R/C reported 5 small
ships approaching Benghazi harbour.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1031/22 to Air Min.)

UNIQUE
UNION
UPRIGHT

To leave patrol for Marsamxett 26/6.
Cancel my 1045B/21 to UNION.
(Cdr. S.1., 1109B/22 to UNIQUE, UNION, UPRIGHT.)

Alexandria
bombing.

Your 1412/14. From positions of mines and
bombs it does not appear that there has been
deliberate attack on civilian population.
(Admty. 1741B/22 to C. in C. Med. 135.)

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 21/22. 6 Wellington bombed Benghazi.
Bombs on Giuliana and Cathedral Mole. One
ship hit and reported on fire. (H.Q. R.A.F.
M.E., 1834/22 to Air Min.)

/Malta.....

667

War Diary.22.6.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.Malta.

Night 21/22 June. 7 aircraft over only 1 stick on land. No damage no casualties. R/C 21/6. (details.)

Attack on Convoy.

Convoy 6 Medium M/V's 4 Drs. 2 M.T.B's. 23 miles North of Tripoli 1605/21, off Lampedusa 0645/22. 6 Blenheims attacked convoy off Lampedusa. 1 6000 ton M/V badly hit claimed severely damaged. Other bombs close misses. (H.Q. Malta, 1900/22).

TARVISIO and URANO passing Dardanelles.

Para. four of Ambassador's telegram No.1513 to Foreign Office regarding paragraph B. of S.O.(I) Istanbul telegram No.1150/11 to D.N.I. Turkish General Staff and Ministry of National Defence were visited almost daily during this period.

(2) Both agreed that Italians had violated ~~MONTEBELL~~ ^{montreux} convention and had strongly advised Ministry of Foreign Affairs accordingly.

(3) Decision and resulting action unfortunately rested with latter Ministry who are "Nigger in the wood pile".

(A) Full report by next air opportunity. (N.A. Angora 1258/22)

ORION (Cruiser.)

Following programme intended for ORION. N.O.i/c Durban is requested to forward further programme for passages to U.K.

(11) ORION has fuel capacity one thousand tons only. State of armament as follows.

(C. in C. Med. 1532C/22).

RAMB IV.

(Alleged Italian Hospital Ship.) Taken over 8/6 by C. in C. Med. No medical staff on board. Master and crew interned. Ship being fitted out as hospital carrier. Suggest Italian Govt. be informed. (C. in C. Med. 1938C/22). See Lion Copy.

Italian Hospital Ships.

Non-recognition by H.M.G. of certain vessels as hospital ships. List of bona-fide hospital ships and treatment of same. (Admty. 2038B/22 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1938C/22nd June

IN

Date: 23.6.41.

Received 0540.

FROM: C. in C. Mediterranean.

Naval Cypher "D" By Cable

667A

Addressed: Admiralty. Repeated S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area
634, G.H.Q. Middle East, D. of S.T., C. in C.
East Indies, P.S.T.O. Port Said Egypt.

IMPORTANT

21. Admiralty's 1332/11 May not to all
addressees and my 1350/4 June.

RAMB IV taken over without incident on 8th
June. No medical staff on board.

2. On 4th Master requested Swiss Consular
Representative Suez to obtain from Italian Government
instructions as to route for return to Italy. In conse-
quence Swiss Charge D'Affaires Cairo has received telegram
from his Government:- Begins "Italian Government requests
you to (?grant) permission for RAMB IV (corrupt group)
transit Suez Canal; acknowledge" Ends. He now requests
information as master and crew are now interned.

3. Suggest Italian Government be informed at once
of our intentions, if necessary in advance of declaration
referred to in Admiralty 2015 13th June Paragraph 1, pre-
judice to capture of further (?enemy) hospital ship being
accepted. Only after this has been done, intend to inform
Swiss Charge D'Affaires, Cairo, in similar terms and to
release letters referred to in S.B.N.O. Suez Canal's 1821
17th June.

4. RAMB IV now being fitted out as a hospital
carrier for short voyages.

1938C/22.

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

1st Lord	D. of P. (3)	M. (6) for action
1st S. L.	Ops. (4)	D.T.D. (4)
V.C.N.S.	O.D. (5)	D.T.D. (M)
A.C.N.S. (H)	O.I.C. (2)	D. of S.T.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.S.D. 9.	M.D.G.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	I.P. (3)	D.N.I. (4)
Sec.	D.L./S.W.	N.L.
Nav. Sec.	W.D.	File X.
P.I.S. (S)		

LRW.

664(B)

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2038B/22nd June.
OUT.

To. C. in C. Mediterranean 139. Date. 22.6.41.
V.A. Malta. 199.
S.O. Force H. 171.
F.O.C. North Atlantic. 70.

NAVAL CYPHER (C).

From. Admiralty.

Italian Government have notified several small vessels as hospital ships. They are probably following the example of German Government who notified 64 small vessels detailed for rescuing airmen from the sea. Vessels for this purpose are not recognised by H.M.G. as coming within the scope of Hague Convention X and Italian Government has been informed accordingly.

2. Following Italian ships have been recognised as bona fide hospital ships:- CALIFORNIA (13000 tons), GRADISCA (14000 tons), AQUILEA (9500 tons), TEVERE (8500 tons), PO (2300 tons), ARNO (8000 tons), VIRGILIO (12000 tons), SICILIA (9000 tons), TOSCANA (9500 tons).

3. The above ships and such others as are subsequently notified in A.F.Os as recognised hospital ships should be treated under current instructions issued for hospital ships. Ships bearing red cross which have not been recognised by us as hospital ships should normally be captured as enemy merchant ships, but are liable to be sunk in accordance with standing instructions governing enemy merchant ships.

2038B/22.
for Head of M. (808)

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

War Diary.22.6.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Syria.Air
Operations.

R/C ended 1015/22 report no sign of (? enemy destroyers) between Beirut (corrupt group.) (? Corrupt group) believed one destroyer (? sunk in) Beirut (? harbour) (corrupt group) (? three) badly damaged no longer visible. One s/m seen in harbour this morning not observed this afternoon but may still be there. One M/V in harbour on fire. (N.O.I.C. Haifa via Malta 2010/22 to P.O.N.A. Etc.)

Air attack
on Beirut.
Destroyer hit.

Op. Summary up to 2000 hours 22/6.
11 Squadron Blenheims dropped 24-250 pounds H.E on Vichy destroyer Beirut scored direct hit and vessel believed sunk. 4 sorties dropped 16-250 pounds H.E. and scored 1 hit on a merchant vessel alongside northern mole Beirut vessel set on fire. (H.Q. P.T.J., 2143/22). X.5032.
829 Squadron Albacores and Swordfish 2 Sorties torpedo attack night 21-22 on destroyer. Result unknown bombed across Wharf Beirut result unknown. Fighter action 3 Squadron Tomahawks under control 1 A.U.S. Corps 12 sorties ground attack on M.T. and Sweep. 1 sortie search up Syrian Coast for Destroyers negative result. (Jerusalem, 2143/22).
My 2010. Photos show what might be destroyers or s/ms. in harbour. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 2359/22).

East Indies.ENTERPRISE

To leave Trincomalee a.m./23 and proceed Colombo to arrive a.m./24. (C. in C. E.I. 0724Z/22, Force T.)

CERES

My 0808/16 on completing with fuel at Port Victoria, CERES is to escort IMPALA (now at Port Victoria) to Colombo proceeding through 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ degrees Channel. (C. in C. E.I. 0730Z/22 to CERES).

Assab

Details of berths, lighters etc. now available. (S.N.O. Red Sea. 1582/22).

669

War Diary.

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

COMPIEGNE

My 0307/21 ship released 21/6 and proceeding Saigon. (C.O.S. Singapore 0047Z/22).

HAKUSHU
MARU

HAKUSHU MARU incident. (N.L.O. Shanghai 0217Z/22 to C. in C. China.) (See Lion Copy.)

LINOIS
(French)

Saigon departure 21/6 for France. (Capt. Staff Singapore, 0932Z/22 to Admty.)

Vichy
France.

Action to be taken in the event of war or general hostilities with Vichy France. (Admty. 2034B/22 to C. in C. China.) See Operations Volume.

America and West Indies.

OSAGE

S.O.S. aground Fox Island. (Valentia Radio 0500/22 Admty.)

F.O.I.C.
Trinidad

Flag of Admiral Sir Michael Hodges hoisted as F.O.I.C. Trinidad a.m./22. (F.O.I.C. Trinidad 1003Q/22).

CANTON

Leave Bermuda 22/6 and proceed Freetown to arrive 1200N/6/7. Route. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1042Q/21 to CANTON).

* SALVAGE
~~VON~~ TIRPITZ

Following information given by German electrician on board SALVAGE is reported for what it is worth. Electrician was not a Nazi and appeared to be sincere.

SALVAGE to have attended on BISMARCK and ~~VON~~ TIRPITZ to leave Germany between 1/7 and 8/7. (C. in C. A. & W.I. 1111Q/22 to Admty.)

** Not identified*

St. Johns
N.F.

Necessity for developing the base. (C. in C. W.A. 1226B/22). See Lion Copy.

DOLABELLA
NAILSEA MANROE
SKELDERGATE

DOLABELLA arrives from H.X.133 in collision with NAILSEA MANROE. SKELDERGATE from H.X.133 collision damage. (N.O.I.C. Halifax (?) 1520Z/22 to Admty.)

/Shipping.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
0217Z/22 June

669A.

From N.L.O. Shanghai.

Date 23.6.41.
Recd. 1120.

NAVAL CYPHER A BY CABLE.

Addressed C.in C. China Repeated N.O.i/c. Hong Kong,
Brit. Ambassador Nanking, Brit. Ambassador Tokyo
C.O.S. Singapore, Admiralty.

Following protest received from Japanese C.in C. begins. About 0315 G.M.T. 7th June in approx. position 1 mile West of Chung Chau Island (latitude 022 degs 10' North longitude 115 degs 48' East) HAKUSHU MARU Number 2 Flying flag of Naval Requisitioned Vessel and engaged in blockade operations was signalled to stop by British Destroyer. Since action was within Chinese territorial waters ship ignored warning and maintained Northerly course until fired on apparently by machine guns to prevent aggravating of situation ship stopped and Officer from Destroyer boarded and ordered inspection of Junk in tow.

Believed British Authorities are fully aware Japanese Navy is now engaged in blockade operations in Canton Bay and vicinity action of destroyer is much regretted as it obstructs operations. Japanese Navy therefore cannot be held responsible for unforeseen developments arising from repetition of similar incidents. Since action of destroyers in stopping and boarding Japanese vessel within territorial waters of another country is flagrant violation of international law strong protest is made and attention is called to fact of Boarding Officer neglecting to sign ship's log. Ends.

Request instructions regarding reply.

0217Z/22.

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

1st Lord

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

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

Sec.

Nav.Sec.

N.A.1st S.L.

P.A.S.(S)

D. of P.(3)

Ops (4)

O.D.(5)

D.N.I.(4)

O.I.C.(2)

D.S.D.9.

M.(6)

D.T.D.(4)

D.T.D.(M)

D.E.W.D.(3)

E.P.S.

Admiral Bellairs

N.L.

I.P.(3)

W.D.

File X.

Lion

MOST SECRET

669B

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1226B/22nd June

IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches

Date 22.6.41.

Recd. 1938.

NAVAL CYPHER (A1) BY T/P

Addressed Commodore Commanding Newfoundland Force Repeated Admiralty, Chief of Naval Staff of Canada.

AIDAC

410. Most Secret.

Your 1847Z/21. No repetition no reduction of space outlined in Admiralty's 1941B/23 / is or ever has been contemplated.

Of the two alternatives mentioned in my 1625B/19 alternative (a) is much the most desirable as (b) would entail destroyer steaming an extra 1200 miles on each round trip.

In either case it is essential to develop St. John's Newfoundland in accordance with Admiralty 1941B/23 for following reason:

(i) It is anticipated use of Iceland may have to be discontinued during winter months and this will entail Newfoundland force operating direct between United Kingdom and St. John's N.F. and Halifax.

Experience has shown that strain on repair and maintenance facilities is greatly increased during winter and would be quite beyond capacity of any one port for a force this size.

(ii) It is anticipated that with the advent of new construction the force will be gradually and substantially increased. In the event of the U.S. entering the war it is certain American ships employed on convoy work will require occasional use of these facilities.

1226B/22

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

/ 1940/23/5 intended.

1st Lord	D.O.D.(F).
1st S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F).
2nd S.L.	Duty Captain
3rd S.L.	D.D.I.C.
Vice Controller	D.N.I.(4).
4th S.L.	D. of P.(2).
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D.(2).
A.C.N.S.(H).	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.S.(F).	D. of L.D.
A.C.N.S.(T) (2).	E.P.S.
Secretary.	Head of M.(8).
N.A. 1st S.L.	W.D.
D.O.D.(H).	I.P.(3).
D.D.O.D.(H).	N.I.D.10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson).

MOST SECRET

670

War Diary.

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Shipping
Routes.

All shipping should be routed well clear of an area within 100 miles of 30 degs. North 40 degs. West. (C. in C. A. & W.I. 1553Q/22.)

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN

B.A.R.M's 2340/21.
To return to U.K. temporarily. Arrangements.
(Acmdy. 1659B/22 to C. in C. A. & W.I. 813
etc.)

SURCOUF

Orders for patrol to intercept Enemy Raiders and supply ships. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1901Q/22).

CARADOC

Reports that starboard turbine shows evidence of bad stripping and is out of action. Ship has been ordered to Bermuda. (C. in C. A. & W.I. 1902Q/22.)

WARSPITE

WARSPITE will be accepted first week in August. (B.A.R.M. 2355/22 to Acmdy.)

671

War Diary.

22.6.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EMPIRE DEW
(torpedoed
12/6)

Arrived ST. ALBANS (with survivors).
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0451B/22).

GANDA
(Torpedoed
20/6)

(Portuguese en route Angola torpedoed by
unknown submarine 1830 G.M.T./20 in 34°
10' N. 11° 40' W. (N.A. Lisbon 1909/22).

Submarines Reported.

1848 G.M.T.

By D/F probably homeward bound, approx. 45°
00' N. 10° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 2123B/22.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C
0636-0829

Am over enemy submarine in 56.17 N., 9.09 W.,
(? on course 220° 1 knot) 471 4(?) 0 473 3.
(A/C D. Group 15, 0636/22 to call sign F.9.D.)
My 0626. 56.18 N., 9.08 W. (A/C D.,
0730/22).

Am investigating suspicious oil patch in 56.18 N.,
9.02 W. have attacked enemy with depth charges
(+473 7). (A/C D., 0829/22)
Have attacked enemy with D.Cs. Estimate no
hits. (A/C Home Duty L., 1842/22).

By VISENDA

U/B
Engaged on surface 1600/22 in 062° 24' N. 014°
20' W. Lost contact and returned Thorshaven.
Capt. of VISENDA killed and several injured.
Believed submarine was hit before submerging.
(C. in C. W.A. 1614/22, N.O.I. Iceland 1519Z/22,
VISENDA 1600/22, 1611/22, SONT 1757B/22, to
10 C.S. 2156B/22).

By NIGERIA
on 21/6.

(A)
NIGERIA (B) 1333B 21st June (C) 063° 13' N. 014°
34' W. (D) three (E) hunt not carried out.
Doubtful if contact was submarine.
(NIGERIA 2034B/22).

672

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Instructions have been issued for the treatment of Shipping in the event of war with Vichy France.

British Air Operations.

45 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked targets at Bremen last night. Light attacks were made on other German naval bases.

A/S Air escort will be discontinued for ships and convoys between Flamborough Head and Kinnaird Head as from today, unless circumstances render it necessary.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.N.483 was attacked at 0005 off Sheringham. S.S. TRELISSICK was sunk. It is believed the escort and convoy shot down one aircraft. Intermittent raids were continued throughout the night, without success.

M/S Group 11 was attacked by aircraft off Foulness at 0001 today and NOGI was sunk. It is reported that M/S Tr. SOLON shot down the attacking A/C.

H.M.S. PRINCE PHILIPPE was unsuccessfully attacked off the Needles and H.M.S. PRINCE CHARLES off the Start.

Mining.

Operation
S.N. 70B.

R.A.M. sailed from Port ZA at 1910B today with 2 minelayers and 3 destroyers, to lay mines south of the Faroes. KENYA and ARETHUSA are to provide A.A. escort and to cover the operation.

/Mining.....

673

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining-Contd.

Mining of
East Coast
War Channel.

PYTCHLEY was mined and damaged this morning off Flamborough Head. M.V. CAMROUX II was damaged by mine off the Humber this evening. Mines were detonated off the Tyne and both magnetic and acoustic mines off Yarmouth, S.S. HULL TRADER in Convoy F.N.485 was sunk by mine or bomb near 57 C Buoy in the early hours of today. A high percentage S.A. search of the War Channel off Flamborough Head has been ordered to be carried out tomorrow morning.

Thames
Estuary.

Enemy aircraft laid mines in the Thames Estuary early this morning and further mines were detonated.

North Atlantic.

(Connected to ALSTERTOR, W.I.R. 69/14)

The German ALSTERUFER was located again this afternoon by destroyers of the 8th D.F. and scuttled herself 200 miles S.W. of Finpisterre. Survivors included about 44 British.

South Atlantic;

S.L. Convoys are for the present to sail without cruiser escort.

Mediterranean.

A successful surprise attack on flying boats moored at Syracuse was made by 4 Hurricanes from Malta at dawn today.

2 Blenheims attacked unsuccessfully a 2500 ton merchantman near Kerkenah, but forced the crew to abandon ship. Blenheims were sent out again to sink her.

/About.....

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.-Contd.

About 17 enemy aircraft attacked Alexandria from 0315 to 0515 today, WARSPITE was slightly damaged by near miss.

Turkish S.S. REFAH carrying a submarine crew to Egypt for onward passage to U.K. was mined or torpedoed and sunk at 2230 today 40 miles South of Mersin.

Palestine
and Syria.

In the early hours of today NAIAD, LEANDER, JAGUAR, KINGSTON and NIZAM encountered two French destroyers and secured several hits on them before the enemy retired behind smoke screen under the guns of Nahr el Kelb which opened fire. Damaged destroyers were seen later in Beirut.

East Indies.

A combined operation at Kut has been completed and all vessels and craft returned to Basra this morning.

U-Boat Campaign.

HX 133.

WOLFE, escorting HX 133 called Louisberg and Halifax W/T four times between 0145Z and 0151Z, with every indication of priority emergency. No message was received and no further signal heard from the ship after being called. It is suspected that HX 133 is being shadowed by U.B.

675

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

→ VICTORIOUS.

Your 1216B/31/5 and Admty's 1531B/7/6.
VICTORIOUS is now allocated to Home Fleet as an operational carrier.
2. Request you will issue the necessary orders to sail her for Scapa when ready. (A.C.N.S. H. 1216B/23)

War with Vichy France.

Instructions for treatment of Shipping in event of war with Vichy. (War Cabinet 1301B/23)
See Operations Volume.

Portland.
Need for an
M.L.Flotilla.

A.M.1529/21. No M.L.'s are now operationally available at Portland.
The 4th M.L. Flotilla has been fully employed on air sea rescue work covering of convoys, and patrol work. In view of importance of maintaining these essential commitments, the reinstatement of an M.L. Flotilla at Portland is highly desirable. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1717B/23)

Holyhead
Auxiliary
Patrol.

Propose withdrawing Auxiliary Patrol at Holyhead and Menai Straits at present maintained by Auxiliary patrol yachts. Request your remarks. (C. in C.W.A. 1754B/23 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Movements.

VANQUISHER.
LEGION.
LANCE.

Detach VANQUISHER to Londonderry at limit of prudent endurance.
2. Fuel permitting retain LEGION, LANCE till relieved by 8th D.F. then to Clyde. (C. in C.W.A. 1628B/23 to FURIOUS.)

Clyde -
Iceland
Ferry.

VISENDA engaged U.Boat in 062° 24' N. 014° 20' W. D.S.6 alter course forthwith to 270° for 4 hours then rejoin route. (C. in C.W.A. 1614/22 to CHARLESTOWN, ST. MARY'S.)

→ VICTORIOUS.

It would be appreciated if 3 of your destroyers could escort VICTORIOUS from Clyde to Scapa sailing on 28/6. (C. in C. H.F. 1720B/23 to R.A.M.L.)

VICTORIOUS cont:
/C. in C.H.F.

676

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VICTORIOUS
contd.

C. in C. H.F. 1720. Only destroyers available are CHARLESTOWN and ST. MARY'S ordered R/V with PORT QUEBEC at Bar lightship at 1530/28 and escort her to Port Z.A. Delay of arrival of PORT QUEBEC at Port Z.A until 2/7 can be accepted if it is desired divert these 2 destroyers to escort VICTORIOUS. (R.A.M.L. 1731B/23)

CUMBERLAND.

My 2302B/17. Request you will station escorting destroyers as follows. Details. (C. in C. Nore 1730B/23 to C. in C.H.F.)

Operations.

East Coast
Patrols.

Your 1002. Intend sailing following M.L.'s on patrol tonight. Patrol (1) 206, 222, 224. Patrol (2) 200, 195, 196 to arrive Patrol at dark. (F.O. Yarmouth 1504B/23)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

P.R.U. for Bergen and Oslo now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1122/23)
Patrol ~~1406~~ and Pru. of Stavanger in Operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1406/23)

Escort for
S.N.70 B.

Air Co-operation for S.N.70 B. to be provided as follows. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1250/23 to R.A.M.L.)

Bremen,
Emden,
Wilhelmshaven
bombed.

Attacks on night 22/23. Details. (H.Q.B.C.1611/23)

A/S Escorts.

A/S air escort will be discontinued for ships and convoys between Flamborough Head and Kinnaird's Head as from 23/6. A/S air escort will continue to be provided as ordered from 18 Group daily between Kinnaird's Head and Cape Wrath. A/A air escort will be provided over whole area where necessary. (C. in C. Rosyth 1825/23)

677

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N483. Convoy bombed in 53° 6' N. 1° 19' E.
TRELISSICK (VORTIGERN 0032B/23)
(British 5265 At 0030/23 TRELISSICK bombed and sunk in about
Tons) sunk. 114° Sheringham Buoy 3½ miles. 44 survivors,
believed entire crew in PYTCHLEY will be landed at
Middlesbrough or Tyne. Nine injured 3 seriously.
(C. in C. Nore. 0521B/23)
Life raft still secured to wreck. Position
4.1 miles 068° from Sheringham Buoy or about
53° 7' N. 1° 24' 15" E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2222/23)

Pentland
Firth.

At 0058 Hostile aircraft were plotted to N.E. of
Orkneys and at 0114 others were approaching from
East of Wick. Red warning was issued at 0117
and bombs were dropped at Start Port Sanday,
one in sea off Duncansby Head, and others at
Sarceltt. Planes then made away to Eastward.
At no time did hostile planes pass over the
Flow. Visibility was not more than half a mile.
(A.C.O.S. 0221/23)

NOGI
(M/S Trawler)
sunk.

Departure tug DIVERSION at 0240 to assist NOGI
bombed in 52° 57' N. 01° 28' E. (F.O.I.C.
Yarmouth 0242B/23)

M/S Trawler No.61 bombed at about 0100 near 8 A.
Buoy has since foundered. Survivors in SOLON
will be landed at Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore
0521B/23)

Group 11 was attacked by A/C near 8 A Buoy at
0001 today. NOGI was near missed. SOLON and
CONTENDER took her in tow, but she subsequently
foundered in 52° 59½' N. 1° 25' E. at 0140B.
A/C was destroyed by SOLON. 3 casualties.
Names. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1140B/23)

SKUM
(Bombed
22/6.

(Norwegian, 1304 Tons) Arrival Tug KROOMAN
towing S.S. SKUM. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0805B/23)

Convoy "Review"
REVIEW.

Help ^{"Review"} REVIEW in 50° N. 4° W. 270° 17 miles, 1323.
(PRINCE CHARLES 1228/23.)
Fighters have been sent to assist ~~REVIEW~~ "Review".
(Plymouth 1320/23)

/PRINCE

678

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

PRINCE
PHILIPPE.

Needles bombed no damage. (PRINCE PHILIPPE,
1230/23)

QUEENWORTH
(Bombed 9/5)

(Q) Wreck of QUEENWORTH in 53° 33' 58" N.
1° 0' 29" E. (FRANKLIN 1816B/23)

Mining.

Convoy F.N.83.
HULL TRADER
(British
717 tons)
sunk.

Please confirm that HULL TRADER was sunk by mine
and not by bombs. Are survivors in PYTCHLEY.
(C. in C. Nore. 0459B/23 to PYTCHLEY.)
HULL TRADER sunk by Mine or Bomb at about 0200
in about 270° 57 C. Buoy 1 mile. Only 3
survivors. These are in PYTCHLEY. (C. in C.
Nore 0521B/23.)

Confirm that HULL TRADER was mined one mile
West of 57 C Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 0911B/23 to
PYTCHLEY.)

B.S.65.

B.S.65 to be carried out on 25/6 if practicable.
Destroyer escort will R/V with you at Humber
L.V. Request programme. (C. in C. Nore 1244B/23
to TEVIOTCANK.)

Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 0600/25 and
R/V at Humber L.V. with escort at 0700. Laying
begins 1245. Return to 11 Buoy and thence to
Humber. S. of A. 11½ knots. (TEVIOTCANK
1622B/23)

Thames
Estuary.

One S.A. Mine detonated at 0600/23 as follows.
Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0942/23.)
Summary of explosions etc. on night 22/23.
4 Parachute Mines definitely observed as follows.
5 Objects possibly mines heard to drop as follows.
Heavy underwater explosions were felt by a ship
near B.5 Buoy at 0150, 0222 and 0237.
At 0137 a big explosion in mid air was noticed
over Mapline Area.
R.D.F. plots and observations of aircraft
indicated possible minelaying in Knob Channel,
Gunfleet Area, and Barrow Deep, north east of
B.5 Buoy. (S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1802/23)

/Burnham

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-Contd.

Burnham.

N.A.B. ALOHA reports enemy aircraft laid mines in Whittaker Channel early this morning two of which reported exposed on Foulness Sands. (R.N.O. Burnham 0945/23).

Off Southwold.

2 "LL" Trawlers detonated 2 red magnetic mines in 052° 19' 10" N, 001° 58' E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1224B/23).

Straits of Dover.

Fourteen Vegetables 30 (S) 20 were laid at 0130/23 as follows. (V.A. Dover 1315B/23).

CAMROUX II
(British,
324 Tons).
damaged.

Damaged by mine approx. 1 mile N.E. of No. 17 buoy. No casualties. (F.G. Humber 2253B/23).

Search off
Flamborough
Head.

My 2355/22. From 0800/24 four S.A. fitted Oropesa trawlers are to carry out a high percentage S.A. search of QZS 120 and QZS 121 between 54° 05' N. and 54° 10' N. (C. in C. Rosyth 1609/23).

Tyne.

At 0650/23 one S.A. Mine detonated as follows. Details. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1654/23).

Yarmouth.

L.L. Sweepers detonated two red mines four and five cable approximately from 54 E. Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1655B/23).

PYTCHLEY
damaged.

PYTCHLEY mined 1130 in position 090° Flamborough Head 2 miles. Being towed Hartlepool. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1721/23, to PYTCHLEY, C. in C. Rosyth 1900/23).

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Main
Units.

Photographic R/C on 22/6 showed:- Bremen 1315 SEYDLITZ at Usual berth. Copenhagen 1625 I NURNBERG Class Cruiser. Copenhagen Southern Approaches 1625 SCHLESSEN. (D.D.I.C. 0918B/23).

Unknown
Unit.

By D/F at 0859/23 G.M.T. position of unknown enemy unit was 51° 30' N. 2° 30' E. Position is indication of the area only. (D.D.I.C. 1150B/23)

Finnish M/V.

Master of PLUTO intercepted 2330/21 bound for Petsamo from U.S.A. in 067° 41' N. 061° 52' W. reports possibility of 1 other Finnish vessel approximately week behind him passing 40 miles west of Cape Farewell thence following ice edge to northward of Iceland. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1213Z/23 to MANCHESTER).

Brest.

Photographic R/C of Brest at 1300B/23 shows SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and PRINZ EUGEN still present. (D.D.I.C. 1644B/23).

Warship
Movements.

(1) One large warship and destroyers passed Korsor at slow speed proceeding south 16/6. B.2.
(ii) Eight German U-boats expected Helsingfors Skerries 19/6. B.3. (N.A. Stockholm 1907/23).

Casualties and Defects.

ADVANCE
(Air Rescue
Vessel)
lost by
fire.

Probable total loss by fire whilst engaged in search for fallen aircraft off Shoreham at 0515/23 All crew saved. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0855/23).

VETERAN.

Has proceeded up harbour with defects. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1050/23).

/PERILIA.....

681

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

PERILIA
(M/S Trawler)

Arrived with steering defects and requiring bunkers. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1232B/23).

Peterhead
Breakwater.

Following received from N.O.I.C. Peterhead. At 1010/23 Warhead Mines N.I and II embedded in S. Breakwater exploded by lightning. No damage to ships. 25 ft. of Breakwater demolished to depth of 15 feet. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1255/23).

M.T.B. 105.

Will be out of action for a further period owing to torpedo tube defects sustained during S.M.D. VERNON's Trial. (HORNET 1410/23).

B.P.T. 31.

Tug KINGS CROSS arrived Fraserburgh with half of B.P.T. 31 in tow. Other half reported lost off Duncansby Head. See D. of S.T. Message 2138B/18/6. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1700/23).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian
request for
Information.

Admiral Isakov, Chief of Naval Staff, requests an answer to following questions as to naval co-operation. (N.A. Moscow 1800/23). See Operations -Volume.

Shipping and Convoys.

OB and OG
Convoys.

Proposed cycle of sailings. (C. in C.W.A. 1453B/23, 1818B/23) See Lion copy.

FN and FS
Convoys.

Forecast of sailings. (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/23) See Lion Copy.

HX 133.

By D/F at 1335/23 G.M.T. position of enemy U-boat was approx. 54° N. 42° W. This U-boat probably sighted Convoy HX 133. Convoy is to alter course drastically to port at dusk so as to displace it laterally 40 miles. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1757B/23 to WOLFE etc.).

681A

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1453B/23rd June

IN

FROM: C. in C. Western
Approaches.

Date: 23.6.41.
Received 1522.

P/L BY SECRET T/P

Addressed: All N.C.S.O.s in Western Approaches. Repeated
Admiralty, N.O.I.C.Stornoway, N.C.S.O.s Thames,
Tyne, Humber, Middlesborough, Methil.

IMPORTANT

442. My 1710B/18.
OB.342 Fast North
OG.67 Slow South
OB.343 Slow North
OB.344 Fast North.

1453B/23.

Advance Copy Ops. Trade.

Dates of sailing of outward-bound
convoys from Liverpool.

A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
N.A.1st S.L.
Ops.(4)
O.D.(5)
D.N.I.
D. of S.2A.
D.T.D(4)
O.D.8.

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.

681 B

SECRET MESSAGE 1818B/23rd, June IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches. Date 23.6.41.

Recd. 1854.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

453. Your 0045B/19. To ensure a reasonable interval between the sailing of two outward slow convoys and also between the sailing of two outward Southbound Convoys the following cycle of sailings is proposed commencing with O.B. 346

OB	South	X Day
OB	Slow North	X+2
OB	North	X+3
OG	Slow South	X+6
OB	North	X+7

To enable an alteration to be made to the current cycle a slight alteration to the arrival at the Rendezvous in the Western Approaches of SL and HG Convoys is necessary.

SL 79 should arrive at the R/V on the 17th. July, SL 80 on the 25th. July and thereafter one SL Convoy every 10 days.

HG 67 should arrive at the Rendezvous on the 19th. July and thereafter one HG every 10 days.

Request that SL and HG Convoys be sailed accordingly.

1818B/23

Advance Copy Ops Trade.

A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A.1st. S.L.
Ops (4)
O.D. (5)
D.T.D. (4) for action
D.T.D. (M)
D. of S.T.
D of S 2 A

I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.S.D. 9
D.A/S.W.
O.I.C.

D.H.

681 c

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1600/23 June

IN
DATE: 23.6.41
RECD: 1845

From C in C Rosyth.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty, C in C Nore, Ships employed on East Coast
Convoy duty Fighter Command, Coastal Command.

NOTE Convoy Message.

Forecast of Convoy Sailings.

F S527 (S) 0900 Friday 27th	LUDLOW, VERSATILE.
F S528 (F) 2300 Saturday 28th	LEEDS, VALOROUS.
F S529 (H) 1330 Monday 30th	WOLFHOUND, QUINTOCK.
F S530 (S) 0900 Tuesday 1st	WESTMINSTER, and NORE <i>Nore</i> Destroyer.
F S531 (F) 2300 Wednesday 2nd	SOUTHDOWN, STEIPNER.
F S532 (H) 1330 Thursday 3rd	VERSATILE, VILLERA.
F N485 (F) 0600 Friday 27th	WALLAGE, SLEIPNER. (Additional escort).
E C 39 (S) 0600 Saturday 28th	GARTH, WHADDON.
F N486 (H) 0600 Sunday 29th	LIDDSDALE, VORTIGERN.
E C 40 (F) 0600 Monday 30th	LUDLOW, VERSATILE.
F N487 (S) 0600 Tuesday 1st	LEEDS, VALOROUS.
E C 41 (H) 0600 Thursday 3rd	WOLFHOUND, QUINTOCK.

Timetable as in my 1130/26/5

1600/23

Advance copy Ops Trade

A.C.H.S. (T) (2)
 N.A. 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. (11)
 D.S.D. 9
 D of S.T.
 I.P. (3)
 D.A./S.V.
 O.I.C.
 W.D.
 I.M.N.G.
 E.P.S.
 A.H.Q.H.F.

DM

MOST SECRET.War Diary.23.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Sinking of
ALSTERUFER.*(Name corrected
to ALSTERTOR
W.R. 6/14)*

P.C. and S. (FOXHOUND 0001/23).

My 0027B/23 my P.C. and S. at 1730A/23 will be $040^{\circ} 55' 015^{\circ} 17' 092^{\circ}$ 18 knots. Join me before dark. Final R/V with FURIOUS. (Capt. (D) 8 0105B/23 to FOXHOUND).My 2327A/22. Aircraft lost touch at 0030A/23. Enemy's course 045° at that time. (F.O.C.N.A. 0123A/23 to Capt. (D) 8).My 2327A/22. Photograph confirms ALSTERTOR Class. Description. (F.O.C. N.A. 1303A/23 to Capt. (D) 8) One Merchant Vessel bearing 285° distance 12 miles course 020° . My position $41^{\circ} 12' N. 31^{\circ} 10' W.$ (FURY 1442/23).Following from ALSTERTYR? We have British prisoner on board and letter for you please send boat Ends. Am distant 20 miles ? 238° . (Capt. (D) 8 1601A/23 to Admty.).1 M.V. bearing 231. Distance 15. Approx. Course 030. My position $325^{\circ} 41' N. 13^{\circ} W.$ 27 miles; (Gibraltar 1605A/23).

-Daily Summary Ops. 3 surface R/C's to locate bomb and shadow German raider. 22/6. First aircraft located ALSTERUFER at 1845 dropped 3 bombs. No hits. 2 near misses. Aircraft damaged by Flak. Second Aircraft located raider at dark, dropped 4 bombs. No bursts seen. First aircraft shadowed. Second returned. Shadow lost contact midnight. 2 aircraft in area dawn 23/6 to locate, bomb and shadow, did not locate. Further R/C off DOON. Ship located by destroyers 1505. Recco X aircraft closing. Times G.M.T. (200 Group 1700/23).

Raider sunk. Proceed to Gibraltar by original route. Arrangements. (F.O.C.N.A. 2136A/23 to P.33, 2238A/23 to N.A. Station.)

My 1059B/22. Capt. D. 8th D.F. reports enemy ship sunk. (F.O.C.N.A. 2155A/23 N.A. Stn., C. in C. Plymouth and W.A.)

ATLAS
(German).

Sailed night of 21st/22nd from Valencia.

(F.O.C.N.A. 0738A/23 to O.24). *S... also p. 686*

/MAX.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

23.6.1941.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.MAX ALBRECHT.
(German
Tanker).

My 2100/22 MAX ALBRECHT at Ferrol is now apparently empty. (Coruna 1115/23 to Admty.)

BEAUCE.

Reported that French tanker BEAUCE formerly British MARYAD now at Tunis is being handed to Italy. Italian crew just arrived believed to be sailing 21/6. French Residency denies any official knowledge. (C.G. Tangier 1250/23).

French
Vessels.

1900/21 off Cape Carvoeiro a French Destroyer A (? Syrian) and two French merchant vessels course N.E. 5 knots. (N.A. Lisbon 1628/23 to D.N.I).

Gibraltar.

Communications under siege conditions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1734B/23 to Adty.) See Lion Copy.

FURIOUS.

My 1202/22. Capt. (D) 8th D.F. in (? FAULKNER) with FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, FORESTER, FURY ordered to R/V with you in daylight A.M./24. Estimate your P.C. and S. at 1200A/24 is 039° 05' N. 014° 05' W. 142° 22 Knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 2118A/23 to FURIOUS).

South Atlantic.BIRMINGHAM.

Adty. 1323/21. After escorting W.S.9A to Durban BIRMINGHAM to go to Simonstown for refit about 8/7 before sailing to relieve NEWCASTLE. (C. in C. S.A. 0031N/23 to Admty. etc.).

S.S. TEKOA.

Fire on board 21/6 slight damage, indications of sabotage exist. (D.A.M.S.O. Buenos Aires 1015/23).

LOVSTAD.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 0847/21. LOVSTAD arrived Durban. (S.O.(I) Cape Town 1221/23).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

683A

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1734B/23 June.

IN

From. F.O.C.N.A.

Date. 24/6/41

Reed 0401.

One Time By W/T.

Addressed. Admiralty.

469. Your 1300B 14 May para. (a) (iii). Information is requested as to what communications it is proposed to (?) maintain when a state of siege exists and all other naval and dockyard personnel have been evacuated here. It is estimated (a) all transmitters will be under ground by end of July but power supplies will continue to depend upon dockyard supply until November, the latter is very vulnerable as it is at present:-

(b) Under siege conditions with all transmitters and power supplies safely guarded only 2 high frequency lines 1 for direct service with Admiralty and 1 for communication with ships in the station could be maintained due to expected damage externally.

1734/23.

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)

N.A. to 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D of P. (2)

D of L.D.

D.S.D.

Hd of M. (M) FD 09961/41 for action.

Duty Capt.

D.D.I.C.

W.D.

I.P. (2)

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

Advance copy sent Duty Capt, D.O.D. (H)
and D.D.I.C.

JA.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.-Contd.

Enemy Shipping.

Rio de Janeiro reports Italian ^{ALAYA}HIMOCOTBYA has commenced to load. German FRANK~~ERT~~ loading with all despatch and should be ready for sea at any time after 24/6. German HERMES has resumed loading. Appears not unlikely two latter ships will sail together this week. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1555Z/23 to S.A.D).

PANAMA MASCOT.

Overdue shipping your 1636/21 Yacht PANAMA MASCOT arrived Pernambuco 23/6. (N.S.O.I. Montevideo 1634/23 to N.S.O.(I) Freetown).

→ HERMES.

Your 1656/22 HERMES never moved. Still alongside. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1809Z/23 to R.A.S.A.D).

Lagos.

Cancel DRAGON's 0855/23. Port of Lagos is still closed. (C. in C. S.A. 2011N/23 to N.C.S.O. Takoradi).
DRAGON advises Lagos again closed, prior to which following vessels sailed for Lagos. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi 2315Z/23 to C. in C.S.A).

S.L. Convoys.

In existing circumstances intend that S.L. Convoys should for the present sail without cruiser escort. (D.O.D.(F) 2327B/23 to C. in C.S.A)

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Tonnage capacity of port in relation to stocks of supplies necessary. (Gov. and C. in C. Malta 0030/23 to War Office) See Lion Copy.

Situation Report No. 64.

Syria. Hospital ship CANADA was intercepted by surface forces and escorted to Haifa. Report not yet received.
2. F.A.A. aircraft with torpedoes attacked three destroyers anchored North of Beirut night 21/22 not hit seen but a.m/22 aircraft R/C reports "no sign of enemy destroyer between Beirut and Alexandretta. Still believed one destroyer sunk in Beirut Harbour anyhow badly damaged and no longer visible". No confirmation.

FROM: Governor & C. in C. Malta.

Date: 23.6.41.

Recd: 0530.

Cypher.

ADDRESSED: The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

32106. COSUP. 941 cipher 22/6.

First of 2 Parts.

Most Secret. Addressed Secretary of State for Colonies as SNOCO 71, War Office, Admiralty, Air Ministry, Repeated D. of S.T. War Office. Please pass copies to all addressees including D. of S.T. Ref.

(A) Troopers telegram 73561 (Q.Ops.) of 21/6.
 (B) S. of S. for Colonies COSUP telegram 76 of 21/6 as corrected by his COSUP telegram 77 of 22/6 and
 (C) Troopers telegram F.W. 5/73333 (F.W.5) of 20/6. I understand from COSUP telegram 76 of 21/6 from S. of S. for Colonies that all supplies specified in my COSUP 926 except Fodder are to be shipped and that 10,000 tons of additional shipping space is available. This would mean a convoy of 75,000 tons for civil and co-ordinated items only and excluding Fodder. Vice-Admiral Malta, considers that the greatest tonnage which the port can handle at one time is five ships with a total capacity of 50,000 tons. (From the point of view of berthing and safety he considers the maximum number of ships in the port should not exceed seven). If, however, a convoy as suggested above were sent (i.e. in excess of 75,000 tons) it would be necessary to detain a very large tonnage of shipping in Malta until all could be unloaded and ships removed elsewhere, and to expose that tonnage to attack throughout that period. The number of ships would undoubtedly be greater than that desired by V.A.M. Five ships of about 48,000 tons and two tankers each of 10,000 tons which formed the last convoy from Egypt are still lying here awaiting escort to Egypt or elsewhere. V.A.M. considers that these ships should be removed at same time as new convoy arrives, whatever its size may be, in order to avoid the great congestion which would otherwise result.

2. If account is taken of our existing stocks our supplies could be brought up to quantity necessary to create eight months stocks by the addition of a much smaller tonnage than that which it is apparently proposed to ship in S. of S. for Colonies COSUP telegram 76. These quantities are shown in paragraph 4. On this basis the total tonnage now required would be approximately 30,000 tons excluding any bulk white oils which may be sent in a tanker and excluding Fodder. It is very desirable to include Fodder which is weakest item in the Fortress. If 10,000 tons of Fodder is sent this would bring total tonnage to about 40,000 which is the size of a normal convoy and which would not create the difficulties indicated above, provided empty ships now here are removed at same time. (The 40,000 tons does not provide for any white oils sent in bulk in a tanker. Tanker would of course be most acceptable in addition to ships carrying the 40,000 tons, and would solve one of our greatest problems). I accordingly give in paragraph 4 the quantities required to bring existing stocks up to an amount sufficient for eight months reserve. If however circumstances are such that it is considered essential to take advantage of opportunity to ship greatest possible quantity of supplies regardless of port facilities, please inform me immediately of quantity of tonnage which will be available in addition (repeat addition) to 40,000 tons required for the items specified in paragraph 4 below. If this is done I will telegraph within 12 hours of receipt how additional tonnage should be used.

3. It /.....

3. It is essential that all services and Government should complete to the same reserve, for present organisation of Fortress makes each entirely dependent on the other. E.G. convoy will not achieve its object if it completes all military stores to eight months, and does not bring sufficient flour and/or wheat to complete whole population to eight months. The basic requirements of the Fortress to build up present stocks to eight months stock except Fodder and cement are shown in paragraph 4. To complete Fodder we require 7,000 tons more than shown in paragraph 4. More than 10,000 tons has not been asked for on assumption that convoy will be about 40,000 tons. (If a quantity greater than 40,000 tons were made available as suggested at the end of paragraph 2, additional quantities of Fodder would of course be asked for). The same remarks apply to cement.

Last Part.

4. (A) Wheat 7,500 tons and Flour 5,000 tons (Flour must be fresh).

(B)(1) Coal Welsh 800 tons (11) Coal Domestic 3,000 tons (111) Coal Thornley Gas 1,000 tons.

(C) Fodder 10,000 tons, composed of (1) Maize 4,000 (11) Pick or Horse Beans 4,000 (111) Barley 1,500 (IV) Oats 500. If Beans not available increase Maize to 5,500 Barley to 2,500 Oats to 1,500 and add if possible 500 tons Ground Nut Cake.

(D) Cement 3,000 tons (note figure of 10,000 given in paragraph 2 of my Cosup 926 represents full requirement for all defence works. It could only be used if more Benzine were available. 3,000 tons represents maximum which should be sent in a 40,000 ton convoy).

(E) White oils. If tanker cannot be sent essential to send as much cased aviation spirit as possible in fore holds of ships up to maximum of 1,500 tons 100 Octane and 500 tons D.T.D. 230. If tanker is sent it should carry 1,500 tons of 100 Octane Spirit and remainder of bulk storage should be filled in proportion two parts Kerosene to one part M.T. Benzine. If available fore hold should be filled with cased D.T.D. 230 aviation spirit.

(F) Three months essential items for 28,000 men. This figure includes maximum reinforcement contemplated in W/O telegram 73179 (S.D.2) of 19/6.

(G) Three months standard Naval rations for 3,000 men.

(1) Military equipment shown in Commandeth Malta telegrams GM. 16702 of 8/6, GM. 16693 of 8/6 and GM. 16724 of 10/6. V.A.M. Malta message 1115B/12 June to Admiralty also refers to this.

5. Priority of items in paragraph 4 and proportions to be despatched is dependent on size of convoy. Earliest possible information on this point is vital. I can then give more precise information as to loading.

6. Further telegram follows showing specialised items which should be included in convoy if possible. Tonnage will be inconsiderable.

7. Imperative that one authority should be nominated in England to whom I should send all telegrams about this convoy. I alone will despatch telegrams from Malta. Only by this will confusion be avoided. A reply to W/O FW 5/73333 (F.W.5.) of 20/6 will be despatched in my GM. 16948 of 23/6. 8. Vice-Admiral Malta agrees with this telegram.

0030/23.

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

Received by hand from War Office 2120/23.

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

25.6.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report No.
64-Contd.

3. Western Desert. F.A.A. aircraft 826 Squadron successfully bombed MT concentrated near Bardia on four nights 15th to 18th. All aircraft returned.
4. Alexandria. LATONA has arrived and been unloaded. (C. in C. Med. 0043C/23).

Intelligence.

4 Merchant ships 2 Destroyers due Naples 2359B/23 from Marittimo area. (Cdr. (S) I 1025B/23 to SEVERN).

CACHALOT.

C.M.D.R. (s) 1 1116B/20. H.M.S. REGENT. Orders for proceeding to Malta. (Capt. (S) 1 1101C/23 to CACHALOT).

Ship
torpedoed in
Benghazi.

Situation Report No. 61. Particularly requested that no mention be made of ship in Benghazi torpedoed by a S/M. (C. in C. Med. 1103C/23 to Adty.).

THRASHER.

Orders for proceeding to Malta (V.A. Malta 1212B/23) See Lion Copy.

Personnel in
unescorted
ships.

Ref. C. in C. Med. 1648/18, Adty's 1937/19 would appreciate report of details of evacuation scheme referred to as Foreign Office state that it is not intended that there should be any general evacuation and that they have no knowledge that any large scale evacuation scheme is under way. (D. of S.T. 1247B/23 to P. S.T.O. Egypt.).

Attack on
convoy by
UNBEATEN 16/6.

UNBEATEN reports at 0819/16 in 37 51, 15 26, sighted large liner escorted by (corrupt group) Cant steering Southwards identified as OCEANA or NEPTUNA apparently forming seaward screen to Convoy of 3 small M.V's. UNBEATEN fired dispersed salvo 2 hits were heard.

/0926.....

685A

SECRET

MESSAGE

1212B/23rd. June IN

From V.A. Malta.

Date 23.6.41.

Recd. 1826

NAVAL CODE 'O' BY W/T

Addressed H.M.S. THRASHER, Repeated H.M.S. UTMOST,
F.O.C.N.A. Capt. (S) One.

IMPORTANT

Following positions established

A	36°	40'	11°	47'
B	36°	59'	11°	47'
C	37°	13'	11°	33'
D	37°	09'	11°	01'
E	37°	20'	10°	52'

passage D C B is to be made during daylight diving deep.

H.M.S. UTMOST arrives pos. D about dawn 28th. repeat 28th. from pos. E and 038° 00' 011° 17' and is due Malta 0630 B 30th.

Proceed through Skerki Channel and follow route given to position A thence direct to Malta searched Channel to arrive off Marsamxett 0630 B June 29th. or July 1st.

If you can not arrive posn. D about dawn 27th. repeat 27th. adjust speed to do so same time 29th. repeat 29th.

1212B/23

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A. 1st. S.L.
- Ops (4)
- O.D. (5)
- E.P.S.
- O.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (3)
- D.S.D. 9
- D.A/S.W.
- W.D.

D.H.

686

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on
convoy by
UNBEATEN
16/6.-Contd.

0926 9 depth charges dropped some way off by vessel which sounded like trawler. UNBEATEN retired deeply for 2½ hours.
1200 On taking first look since firing nothing could be seen.
1215 Two heavy explosions heard which shook the S/M, nothing in sight. Sinking of liner cannot be claimed definitely but two mark eight torpedoes definitely hit a ship but possibility remains that Convoy beyond liner was hit though most unlikely since running range too short. (S.O.S/Ms Malta 1535B/23).

Alexandria.

Air-raid 0515 to 0515. About 17 planes and bombs over wide area. Some incendiaries. Damage to houses and civilians. (R.A. Alexandria 1558C/23).

Operations
by O.24.

Tanker sunk by O.24 in 043° 08' 010° 28' on 12/6 was southbound and laden. On same day 500 ton sailing vessel was sunk in 043° 44' 009° 21'. Considerable traffic sighted hugging coast in the vicinity Leghorn attacks unsuccessful owing to torpedoes breaking surface, A/S and air activity very slight except near Spezia where Motor A/S boats employed. No evidence of Asdics no depth charges dropped. Gulf of Lyons area patrol spoilt by fog. Intend sailing Netherlands submarine O.23 similar patrol p.m./25. (F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/23 to C. in C. Med.).

Malta,
Air Operations.

East Tunisian Coast sighted convoy previously attacked by Blenheims reported in my 1383 22/6. Confirmed 2 ships heavily damaged. Dawn 23/6 4 Hurricanes successfully attacked flying boats moored Syracuse. Attack complete surprise. 2 Blenheims attacked MV 2500 tons near Kerkenah. No direct hits seen. Crew took to boats MV stopped. Blenheims made machine gun attack. No opposition. Blenheims out again to sink it. (H.Q. Malta 1620/23).

ATLAS.
(German).

Left Marseilles 21/6. (Valencia T.H.I. 2250/23).

See p. 682

War Diary.23.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Palestine and Syria.Shipping
Protection.

Request you assign PEONY to arrive Haifa 0800/25. On relief PEONY N.O.I.C. Haifa is to sail HYACINTH for Famagusta to act under orders of N.O.I.C. Cyprus for protection of shipping escorting ships to Cape Andreas and Cape Gata. (C. in C. Med. 1107/23 to R.A. (D) Med.).

1st B.S.

Detach two destroyers to join 1st B.S. off Alexandria a.m./26 as ordered by B.S.1. 2 Relief Destroyers will join you a.m./27. (C. in C. Med. 1641C/23 to C.S.15).

Situation Report No. 64. See page 684.

Situation
Report No.
65.

Syria. Two French destroyers encountered at 0148/23 10 miles north of Beirut by NAIAD, LEANDER JAGUAR, KINGSTON, NIZAM. Both French destroyers hit several times before retiring behind smoke screen under guns of Nahr el Kelb which opened fire.

2. My 0043/23 para. 2. Photographs show three destroyers two submarines one sloop in Beirut Harbour at 1515/22. One destroyer apparently damaged.

3. Western Desert. Four destroyers continue to run supplies to Tobruk working in pairs and unloading by night.

4. Submarines. My 0020/20 TAKU also bombarded El Breca (Sirte) Battery at 0400/9. Ship sank in Gergha had petrol and ammunition on board.

5. Malta. See H.Q. Malta (?900/22) for quantities of Blenheims.

6. Alexandria. Air raid by about twenty aircraft from (?0015) to 0500/23. WARSPITE near missed two (bulles (?bulges) flooded but damage not serious. Other bombs scattered in town. One big fire but very few casualties. (C. in C. Med. 2247/23).

MOST SECRET 1323/23rd June

687A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE

IN

From N.A. Angora

Date 24.6.40

Recd. 0021

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (V.14) BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean, . . .
H.M. Ambassador Angora (Saving).

AIDAC

Following from Admiral Kelly.

Secret.

Discussing Russian attack General Asim Gunduz considers we have gained a year and must profit thereby. General Staff consider Russians can hold out until next spring and Germans should lose quantity of aircraft and depot equipment.

(2) If Russian fleet can be destroyed by aircraft owing to lack of anti-aircraft defence Germans may make sea-borne landing east of Black Sea thus earlier threatening Iraq where it is of primary importance to reinforce and hold in strength.

(3) German forces in Libya will be reduced leaving defence to Italians; we must then go right through and carry out attack on Italy in preference to Greece while systematically bombarding Germany.

(4) In preliminary discussions of German - Turkish treaty no mention was made of intended attack on Russia though Turkey knew this was main reason for treaty. Germany did ask for passage of war material in sealed waggons which was refused by Turks. About Chrome German mission not yet arrived and no details yet been discussed or commercial exchanges. Turks will ask but do not expect to get guns they had already ordered, and will take principally locomotives and machine tools.

(5) Congratulating Foreign Minister yesterday on success of his second combination, he replied I hope now you are pleased.

1323/23

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F) and D.D.I.C.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H).
A.C.N.S.(F).
SEC.
NAVAL SEC.
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(H).
D.D.O.D.(H).
D.O.D.(F).
D.D.O.D.(F).
D.P.D.
F.A.S.(S).
D.N.I.(4).
Head of M.
D. of P.(2).
D.S.D.
Duty Captain
D.D.I.C.
I.P.(2).
W.D.
Admiral Bellairs.

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Kut
Operation.

My 0722/6. Kut operation completed and all vessels and craft returned Basrah. (C. in C. E.I. 0734Z/23 to Adty.).

GLASGOW.

A.M. 1808/21 Request early information of date when GLASGOW should arrive. Ship is at Colombo. (C. in C.E.I. 1056Z/23 to R.A. Malaya).

GLENEARN.

Your 0642/17 suitable berth can be arranged. (C. in C. Red Sea Force 1156Z/23 to C. in C.E.I).
? 1642/17 intended re towage GLENEARN to Bombay.

China.

S.S. YUEN SANG.
YUSANG.

Re. boarding by Japanese. (Cdre. Hong Kong 0655Z/23) See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.

Belle Isle
passage.

Your 1950B/20. Reference Belle Isle (A) now (B) 10/7. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1206Z/23 to Adty.)

VAN
KINSBERGEN.

Adty. 1546B/23. See Operations Volume.

SURCOUF.

Reply to Adty. 1301B/23. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1841Q/23 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.
My 1901Q/22. SURCOUF will not sail pending further instructions. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1842Q/23 to SURCOUF).

H.X. 133.

A.M. 1757B/23 (See Shipping) Can you send a Catalina to assist HX 133? (A.C.N.S. (T) 1913B/23 to C.C. N.F).

Convoy
H.X. 135.

Arrangements for escort in absence of A.M.C. (R.A.3 1921P/23).

CHURCHILL.

E.T.A. St. Johns 0800Z/24. Urgent evaporator defects. (CHURCHILL 2230Z/23).

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

0655z/23 June.

IN.

688A

From Commodore Hong Kong.

Date: 23.6.41.

Recd: 2001.

F.E.K. (9) BY W/T.

Addressed C. in C. China, repeated British Embassy Shanghai,
British Naval Attache for N.L.O. Tokyo, Admiralty.

865. Master of British Ship YUSANG from Shanghai to Hong Kong via Swatow reports ship boarded at 0530 June 21st in latitude 22° 57' North 116° 36' East after leaving Swatow by one officer and nine ratings from Japanese auxiliary warships no name observed but similar to ~~KAMAT U MARU~~ and with number (?13) painted on each quarter. One funnel three white bands armed with four inch guns forward aft and amidships. Boarding party arrived with pistols and swords. Machine gun in warships was kept trained on YUSANG bridge throughout. Master forced to show all ships papers under threat of being taken into Amoy repeat Amoy.

He did so as he had 717 passengers on board told that Japanese officer then stated two passengers had been seen photographing his ship prior to boarding. Passengers interrogated but denied this. Officer became very angry and threatened to search YUSANG and to detain her until cameras were produced (?) master thereupon jettisoned in weighted container unobserved all confidential books and documents.

Ship was partly searched and before officer left ship at 0755 master was forced to sign under threat again of proceeding Amoy following statement begins. Sir, hereby swear that we have not any objection against visitation made by his Imperial Japanese Majesty's Navy. Signed under protest C.R. Harris ends.

0655z/23.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st. S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (4)
O.I.C. (2)
D.S.D. 9
H. (8)

D. of P. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (II)
Adl. Bellairs. (3)
Press Divn.
D. of S.T.
I.P. (3)
W.D.

DR.

689

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

CANBERRA.
AUSTRALIA.

Your 1525B/20. To be sailed for Fremantle 6/7.
To join E.I. Station at Ceylon on 12/7.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0652Z/23 to Admty.).

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

GANDA
(torpedoed
20/6).

My 1909/22 can I confirm to Portuguese authorities and Press that no British submarine in vicinity. (N.A. Lisbon 1027/23 to F.O. Gibraltar).
Your 1109/22. S/M not British. (F.O.C.N.A. 1204/23 to N. A. Lisbon).
Your 1027/23. No British submarine in vicinity. (D.N.I. 1736B/24 to N.A. Lisbon).

VISENDA
(attacked
22/6).

Sustained damage in action with U-boat 22/6 necessitating repairs before patrol can be resumed. (F.O.C.N.P. 1450B/23).

WOLFE.

At 0145Z, 0148Z and 0151Z WOLFE called Louisberg W/T Station (V.A.S) and at 0149Z she called Halifax W/T Station (C.F.H) all with indication of priority emergency. No message received and no further signal heard from ship after being called. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2353Q/23).

Submarines Reported.

0640.

Suspect four submarines submerged QSN CFBL 5342. (Group 16 M 0640/23, 0730/23 to Reykjavik.)

0813 G.M.T.

By D/F position of U/Boat was 52° 30' N. - 53° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 1057B/23).

Convoys
shadowed.

Convoys H.X. 152 and S.C. 34 are still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 1149B/23).

0500/22.

Submarine sighted 065° 40' N. 024° 20' W. at 0500/22. Report graded C.3. (F.O.I.C. Iceland (C) 1443/23).

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1450B/23).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

23.6.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Report@d-Contd.

Convoy
H.X. 133.

My 1757B/23 Further signal at 1729 G.M.T. confirms HX 133 is being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 2151B/23).

1959.

One S/M approx. course 000 Position 5300 N. 4100 W. (? to C. in C. W.A. No T.O.O.)

By
VASCAMA.

'S/M sighted submerged by VASCAMA 0800 on Northern Patrol. 7 attacks made, D.Cs. expended. Sunderland was sent, returned to base 1706B, having expended all D.C's. (VASCAMA 1136B/23, 1320B/23, 1540B/23, 1706B/23, C. in C. Rosyth 0914/23, A.C.O.S. 1450B/23).

War Diary.

24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

692

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Between 0040 and 0047 enemy batteries on the Coast of France fired 8 rounds presumably at Convoy C.W.39 which passed Dover about an hour later without damage.

Mining.

Further minelaying off the East coast by enemy aircraft was suspected last night. Several mines were detonated today off the Humber.

Thames
Estuary

An intense minelaying attack was made last night on a small area in the Thames Estuary, and low flying planes were also sighted and engaged in other areas. The planes appeared to take their positions from certain buoys the lights of which are clearly visible. Mines were detonated in the Estuary today.

Mediterranean.

Western
Desert &
Libya.

AUCKLAND, PARAMATTA and PASS OF BALMAHA (petrol carrier) were attacked at 1730 about 30 miles N.E. of Tobruk by a force of 30 to 40 JU.87. AUCKLAND was sunk at 1800 in 32° 15' N. 24° 30' E.

There was a further attack an hour and a half later, whilst PARAMATTA was collecting survivors again by 30 to 40 JU.87. PARAMATTA shot down 3 aircraft. No further damage was caused to our ships.

Fighters were grounded by enemy action against the aerodrome.

Naval aircraft attacked Tripoli last night.

Palestine & Syria.

Sworáfish dive bombed Beirut harbour unsuccessfully last night. Albacores at dawn today obtained hits on a jetty with destroyer alongside.

LEANDER, HASTY and JAGUAR carried out a bombardment of targets in the Damour area at dawn today. There was an air raid on Haifa last night. No damage was caused to our ships.

The Syrian Govt. have protested against the bombardment of ambulances on the coast road by our ships.

War Diary.

24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

693

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

The Martinique patrol is being withdrawn temporarily.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy
O.B.336.

At 0915/24 Convoy O.B.336 reported being attacked by S/M in 55° 11' N. 38° 35' W. U.S. patrol vessels proceeded to assist the convoy S.S. KINROSS was torpedoed and sunk in this attack.

Convoy
H.X.133
attacked
2 ships
torpedoed
U-Boat
sunk.

H.X. 133 was shadowed last night, and Norwegian S.S. SOLOY was torpedoed and sunk in the early hours of today about 1000 miles west of Ireland. S.S. BROCKLEY HILL was torpedoed later.

War Diary.24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

694

HOME COMMANDS.Policy.KOS VII

N.O.I.C. Invergordon's 1527/23 and your 2002/23. It is essential that KOS VII should sail for the Mediterranean at the earliest opportunity. It is requested that she should not be used as suggested by N.O.I.C. Invergordon if this is likely to result in her missing an O.G. Convoy. (D.M.S. 1318B/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Cruisers
Fighting
Efficiency.
Effect of
extra stores
and Personnel

Your 1330B/22, 1505B/20, 1347B/22.
My 0004B/22, 1246B/22.
Details.
(C. in C. H.F., 2327B/24 to Admty.)

Movements.

9th M.L.
Flotilla

A.M. 1310B/11. Weather permitting anticipate sailing 9th M.L. Flotilla about 2/7. Propose route as follows to Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1335/24.)

4th M.L.
Flotilla

Your 1529B/21, Para 2. The 4th M.L. Flotilla will be ready to sail A.M./26. (R.A.C.F. 1647B/24.)

CUMBERLAND

CUMBERLAND is to take HAMBLEDON and WINDSOR under her orders and sail for Sheerness passing Hoxa Boom at 1045B/27. Destroyers are to be stationed in accordance with C. in C. Nore's 1730B/23.

2. Speed is to be adjusted to arrive Flamborough Head at 0400/28 and is not to exceed 12 knots after passing No.52 Buoy. E.T.A. Sheerness 1630/28. (C. in C. H.F. 2325B/24.)

Operations.

Dover
Shelled.

Between 0040 and 0047 eight rounds were fired by enemy coastal batteries, six rounds believed to fall inland from Leathercoates S.S. and two at the foot of the cliff. (V.A. Dover, 0205B/24.)

East Coast
Patrols.

Amend my 0920B/24. GAVA and LIBERATOR will patrol between position Z and 54 E. buoy. The normal H U and H V patrol will be covered by minesweeping trawlers until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1245B/24.)

/Denmark.....

War Diary.

24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

695

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

My 1830B/18. S.O. Cruisers based Hvalfjörð is to arrange further reliefs. (F.O.C. 18th C.S. 1526B/24.)

M.G.B.
Patrol

Departures M.G.B's 58 and 67. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2230B/24.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

"St. 6"
~~SEAB~~ nothing to report. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1855/24.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Yarmouth
bombed.

Superficial damage by enemy action Yarmouth 0245/24. U.X.B's. (C.E. Yarmouth 1240B/24.)

NOGI
(Bombed 23/6)

Position of wreck. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1509B/24.)

Mining.

PYTCHLEY
(Mined 23/6)

PYTCHLEY in tow of tugs arrived Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0105/24.)

War Channel
Search.

Q.Z.S. 587 Channel 1 mile each side of centre line joining new position of buoys is to be searched with Oropesa as soon as possible. (C. in C. Rosyth 1039/24 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

Harwich

Seaplane was seen to alight 5 cables 103° from 54A buoy at 2355/23. Minelaying suspected. Patrol vessel closed but A/C took off before range was closed. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1506B/24.)

Thames
Estuary.

An intense minelaying attack was made on a small area round B.2. Buoy between 0040 and 0225/24. Thirty one object without parachutes were seen to fall within one mile radius of the buoy. Planes carried four mines released two at a time, pairs being released within a few seconds of each other. Low flying planes were also sighted and engaged over Boom, Barrow Deep and Edinburgh Channels areas. Suspicious objects reported as having fallen in 3 following positions.

/It.....

War Diary.

24.6.1941. 696
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames
Estuary
Contd.

It is again emphasised that planes appeared to take their position from B.2. and B.3. Buoys of which the lights are clearly visible. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1542/24.)

Spurn
Point

Following 8 mines detonated by sweepers today. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1823B/24.)

Casualties and Defects.

VETERAN

Temporary repairs completed. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0951B/24.)

ICARUS

Port propeller badly damaged. Approx. speed 8½ knots. (Capt. D.3., 1621/24.)
Capt. D.3's 1621/24. If damage is only to propeller request N.O.I/C. Iceland to sail you to join a southbound convoy to Cape Wrath thence to Scapa for docking. (R.A.D. H.F. 2337/24 to ICARUS.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Security
Regulations

C.O's of ships proceeding to U.S.A. should be instructed as occasion arises, to warn officers and men that censorship and security regulations apply no less than in the case of other destinations, and that no mention of destination must be made either in speech or correspondence. (Head of M. 2157B/24.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian
request for
Information.

Your 1800/23. Answers to questions. (1st S.L., 2145B/24 to N.A. Moscow.)
See Operations Volume.

British
Liaison
Mission

Names etc. (Head of M. 2152B/24 to N.A. Moscow.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.
Convoys

It is desired to continue the policy of sailing a S/M occasionally with H.X. convoys in view of the presence of A/S escorts throughout voyages and the changes in composition of latter during passages involving meetings in low visibility? (R.A. 3., 1152P/24 to Admty.)

War Diary.

24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

697

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. Contd.

H.X.130.

Not (? met) as arranged, three stragglers, all ships now reported. Much fog. Commodore reports smoke reducing preparation appears to be of some value. (Admty. 1816B/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) All ships arrived safely. Congratulations to Captain. (C. in C. W.A., 2231B/24.)

S.C.33.

All ships arrived safely. Congratulations to Comdre. (C. in C. W.A. 2240B/24 to Commodore E. Rees, R.N.R.)

H.X.131.

All ships arrived safely. Congratulations to Commodore. (C. in C. W.A., 2252B/24 to Comdre. S.N. White, R.N.R.)

War Diary.

24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

698

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OSIRIS

Sailed for (?Malta). Route. Carries 70 tons of petrol in externals. T.B.R. to be arranged by V.A. Malta.

O.23

Sails 2130/25 for patrol in Gulf of Genoa. Route. To carry out short patrol in Gulf of Lion if A/S activity in Gulf of Genoa proves very heavy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1410A/24 to C. in C. M.F.)

^{S.M. STERTOR}
ALSTERUFER
(Intercepted
23/6.)

Scuttled herself 23/6 on interception by Destroyers. (200 Group, 1700/24 to Air Min.)

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON
CASTLE
NEWCASTLE

Orders for watch for Axis ships leaving Brazilian Ports. (R.A.S.A.D. 0012Z/24 to CARNARVON CASTLE.)

DIDO

Admiralty's 1926B/17. Intended programme for DIDO after leaving Durban. (C. in C. S.A., 0431N/24 to Admty.)

RUMBA

Route. (C. in C. S.A., 1545N/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Raider

D/F bearings at 1457Z, 1517Z and 1717Z/23 suggest two surface units within 150 miles of 3° S. 60° E. one possibly Auxiliary and lately in South Atlantic. Reliability 30%. Request any available information as bearings could also indicate South Atlantic. (C. in C. S.A. 1643N/24 to Capt. O/S Singapore.)

FRANKFURT
HERMES
(German)
HIMALAYA
(Italian)

My 0920/20. From Rio de Janeiro. FRANKFURT and HERMES loading. May sail together this week. HIMALAYA has commenced loading. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1708N/24 to Admty.)

S.L.79

Your 1650 23/6. Intend using alternative route expect five ships only. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1721N/24 to Admty.)

HAWKINS
BIRMINGHAM
W.S.9A.
SAMARIA

Proposed arrangements for SAMARIA to disembark R.A.F. stores. (C. in C. S.A. 2316N/24 to Admty.)

War Diary.24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

699

FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.UTMOST

UTMOST patrol north of Straits of Messina until 2130B/26 then in accordance with previous orders. Four large transports five destroyers leave Naples about 0330B/25 speed $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots for Straits of Messina. (S.O. S/M's Malta. 0934B/24 to UTMOST, SEVERN.)

U.S.A. Ships

Method of communication as to movements to be adopted by B.N.A. Washington. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Zone, 1015C/24 to Aamty.)

Malta.

My 0930B/5/5. General state of Dockyard is now as follows: FERMOY was beyond repair and has been completely broken up in No.5 Dock. (A.S. Malta, 1044B/23.)

Alexandria
bombed.

Night 22/23. Between 16 and 20 unidentified aircraft bombed Alexandria. No R.A.F. damage or casualties.

Western
Desert.

Hurricanes and Beaufighters provided protective Patrols over shipping off Egyptian Coast. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1053/24 to Air Min.)

Enemy Convoy
orders to
S/M's to
Intercept.

Orders to UNIQUE, UPRIGHT, REGENT to proceed with despatch. Four large transports 5 destroyers leave Naples 0300/25 speed $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots to arrive Tripoli (Libya) 1630/26 via Messina crossing $034^{\circ} 30'$ at 0700/26 with air escort. Blenheims will also attack. UNBEATEN and UPHOLDER in area P and N $035^{\circ} 10'N$. $015^{\circ} 15'E$. 0000 100 45. UNION carry out previous orders. (.S.O.(S) Malta, 1055B/24 to S/M's. Malta Force, REGENT.) My 1055B. Remain in area Y Z until further orders in case convoy passes West of Sicily. (S.O. Subs. Malta, 2021B/24 to UNION.) Amend orders to URGE, UPHOLDER, UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT, UNIQUE. (Cdr. (S)1, 2150/24 to S/M's. Malta Force, REGENT.)

WARSPITE

Proposed programme (to refit at Bremerton). (C. in C. Med. 1014C/24.)

F. CRESPI
(Italian)

Departure 23/6 Genoa. (Barcelona, 1300/24.)

/Russian.....

War Diary.

24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

700

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Russian War

Probable effects on situations in Libya and Iraq.
(N.A. Angora 1323/23 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
Page 687A.

Enemy
transport

Reported enemy transport with sea and air escort
will be 20 miles North of Ras El Auekia (017°
55' E.) at 1900C speed 9 knots proceeding East.
(Capt. (S)1, 1337C/24 to REGENT.)

AUCKLAND
attacked

Enemy A/C bombing 32° 25' N. 25° 8' E. No
fighters since 1300. (AUCKLAND, 1345/24 to
Alexandria.)

PERSEUS

Cancel previous orders regarding patrol.
Establish patrol in area 036° 00' 023° 00'
000° - 60 - 50. Object is destruction of
traffic between Italy and Aegean and the
reverse. (Capt. (S)1, 1455C/24 to PERSEUS.)

S.S. EOCENE

On Govt. service with cargo for Turkish
Government. Arrived Istanbul 11/4 and still here.
Possibility of getting her to Port Said.
Arrangements should be made for her to be sunk
at very short notice, if necessary to prevent
her falling into enemy hands. (A.C.N.S.(T)
1636B/24 to N.A. Ankara.)

PARAMATTA
attacked

Being dive-bombed by at least ten machines.
Am leaving position. (PARAMATTA 1707Z/24 to
N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

Libya

Night 23/24/6. 5 Wellington bombed Benghazi.
Results not observed. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1833/24)

URSULA

My 0940B/22. Delayed indefinitely by further
generator defect. (Commr. (S)1st., 1930B/24
to Capt. (S)1st.)

SEVERN
CLYDE

Not to be used to take stores to Malta from
Gibraltar. To continue to operate offensively
from Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1955B/24).

SULLBERG
(German)

Departure 23/6 Marseilles 25/6.
(Valencia 2020/24.)

/Situation.....

War Diary.

24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

701

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Situation
Report No. 66

Syria. F.A.A. Swordfish dive bombed destroyers in Beirut harbour unsuccessfully night 23/24. LEANDER HASTY and JAGUAR carried out a bombardment of targets in Damour area, at dawn 24/6. Results not yet known.
Western Desert. AUCKLAND sunk by air attack in 32° 15 N. 24 30 E. at 1800/24 while escorting petrol carrier PASS OF BALMAHA to Tobruk. PARAMATTA in company continuing to Tobruk.
Submarines. UNBEATEN attacked liner OCEANIA or NEPTUNIA steering southward in vicinity Cape Passaro Sicily at 0830/16. Liner probably sunk but possibility exists that ship of small convoy beyond liner was hit instead. (C. in C. Med., 2254/24 to Admty.)

Palestine & Syria.

Destroyers
for 1st B.S.

C. in C. Med.'s 1641/23. Request JERVIS and (? NUBIAN) be sent. Staff of Capt. (D) 2 are available to be employed as desired. Relief will be KANDAHAR and GRIFFIN. (R.A.(D) Med., 1053/24 to C.S.15.)
R/V for destroyers (R.A. 1st B.S. 1231C/24 to C.S.15.)

CARLISLE
LEANDER
COVENTRY

Take CARLISLE under your orders. Sail p.m./25 to arrive Haifa 0800/26 or as ordered by C.S.15. C.S.15 requested to sail LEANDER and COVENTRY for Alexandria on relief. (C. in C. Med., 1150C/24 to PERTH.)

Syria.

Protest by Syrian Govt. through U.S. Govt. about alleged shelling of ambulances and hospital units by British warships 14/6 between Sidon and Damour. (Admty. 1352B/24 to C. in C. Med.)
Reply: page 719 A.

ILEX
ISIS
(damaged 15/6)

ILEX. Anticipate ship will be ready to steam at 10 knots on 1 boiler by P.M./28. Could not be ready earlier for towing. Will require escort.
ISIS. Not less than 3 weeks. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1852/24 to R.A(D) Med.)

/Air.....

War Diary.24.6.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Palestine & Syria Contd.Air
Operations.

2 Blenheims unsuccessful in locating damaged 2,500 ton M/V seen by Maryland off Cape Mahedia believed to have run into Sousse. Night 23/24 5 Sworáfish F.A.A. dropped 7,000 lbs. G.P. bombs and 450 lbs. incendiaries on area of Spanish Quaje. Several hits on railway line and quay. (H.Q. Malta, 1901/24 to Air Min.)

829 Sqdn. Albacores. 2 Sorties dive bombing Beirut Harbour at dawn/24. Hits on jetty with destroyer alongside. Hurricanes. 5 Sorties escort Albacores returning from Beirut. 5 Sorties fleet protection. 4 Sorties local defence. No interceptions. 815 Sqdn. Sworáfish. 3 Sorties night 23/24 dive bombed Beirut. 1 stick on East side of jetty near destroyers. (H.Q. R.A.F. P.T.J. 1935/24.)

Beirut
Air R/C.

R/C 1300. In harbour 3 destroyers 1 sloop 1 or 2 S/MS. some M/V probably M/Ls. Damaged enemy destroyer has 2 vessels and a lighter alongside. Other 2 destroyers and M/V probably M/Ls. all have lighters alongside. May possibly intend to make (? get) away. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1953/24 to C.S.15.)

East Indies.HAWKINS

My 1112/20 proceed to Durban to arrive 1/7 calling Mauritius for fuel. Inform SHENKING to proceed independently to Mauritius. (C. in C. E.I., 0448Z/24 to HAWKINS.)

French India

Attitude. (C. in C. E.I. 0648Z/24 to F.O.C. R.I.N.) See Operations Volume.

Atma Island
occupied.

9 Fatma (5 1/2 miles E. of the N.W. side of Assab Bay)
Assab. (A) Atma Island has been occupied and four Italian prisoners taken. (B) The lamp, lens, and outer glasses of the lighthouse have been destroyed, impossible at present to instal any form of light. (C) Three five point nine C.D. guns on the Island have been sabotaged. (S.N.O. Red Sea., 1101Z/24 to C. in C.E.I.)

GLASGOW

To leave Colombo 0600Z/25 and proceed to Singapore arriving p.m./29. (C. in C. E.I., 1128Z/24 to GLASGOW.)

/LE.....

War Diary.24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

703

FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.

1332/10.

LE
TRIOMPHANTProposal by General de Gaulle that ship should work in Eastern Mediterranean.
(Admty. 2137B/24 to C. in C. E.I.)China.HAKUSHU
MARU incidentDetailed report. (Care. Hong Kong, 0247Z/24.)
See Lion Copy.EGAL

My 1151Z/16. Re release. Rubber export question. (C. in C. China, 0413Z/24 to Admty.)

S.S. YUEN SANG
YUSANG
incident.

Commodore Hong Kong's 0655Z/23. Asking him to make a really strong protest. (C. in C. China 0757/24 to Brit. Ambassr. Tokyo.)

Contraband

Method of getting rubber through. Request Dutch Naval Authorities be warned to look out for this when examining French ships intercepted in Sunda Straits. (D.E.W.D. 1341B/24 to C. in C. China.)

America and West Indies.Martinique
Patrol.

Martinique patrol is being withdrawn temporarily. Walrus is to return to Trinidad. VAN KINSBERGEN to arrive Trinidad 1/7. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1041Q/24 to VAN KINSBERGEN.)

DESPATCH
(orders)
CARADOC
(defects)

My 0952Q/17. On leaving patrol DESPATCH is to proceed Trinidad instead of Bermuda, to arrive 30/6. Redistribution necessitated by withdrawal of CARADOC due to stripped turbines. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1042Q/24 to S.O. W.I. Force.)

THUNDERBOLT(? Return to Halifax) (route).
(F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1408/23 to THUNDERBOLT.)COCLE

Made a p.l. movement signal. C.S.A. Boston instructed to warn Master against such action. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1444Z/24 to Admty.)

/KOLSNAREN.....

SECRET

MESSAGE 0247Z/24 June

IN.

From Commodore Hong Kong

Date 24.6.41.
Recd. 1135.

703 A

F.I.K. CYPHER BY CABLE.

Addressed C. in C. China 558 repeated British Embassy Shanghai and
for M.L.O. British Ambassador Tokyo, Admiralty, Capt. on Staff
Singapore.

IMPORTANT.

867 Telegram 1700 23 Naval Liaison Officer Shanghai 0211/22. See your
telegram report H.K.0901U of June 14th sent in KUSSANG June 23rd.
Following is gist of report begins (?At) (?15)45H June 7th
H.M. Ship SCOUT in Lantau Channel sighted diesel engine coaster
with indistinguishable ensign towing a Junk. Junk was in disorder
with sheets and rope ends trailing in water. H.M. Ship SCOUT hoisted
"Stop at once" and approached coaster which was seen to be flying
Japanese Merchant Flag. Coaster did not stop until SCOUT had
crossed her bow. When SCOUT stopped to lower boat coaster went
ahead again. SCOUT fired one pom pom round across bow of Coaster
which then stopped hurriedly and hoisted Japanese Transport
Flag. Officer then boarded Coaster and found vessel had no papers
and had no one who spoke English or was in uniform. Junk had
empty holes and rolls of matting on deck. Coaster was then told to
proceed Ends. The boarding took place in position 022 degs. 11' North
113 degs. 46' East.

This incident took place during a period of intensive
attacks on Hong Kong Junks by Japanese Naval Patrols close to British
Territorial Waters. Our patrols have frequently been called upon
to rescue Chinese personnel from waterlogged or burnt out Junks,
at least hundred such being brought in by our patrols about this time.
On this occasion our patrol vessel sighted a ship flying the
Japanese Mercantile Flag whose actions were considered suspicious
as she was towing Junk whose gear was in disorder. Therefore consider
patrol was justified in examining vessel to see that she was what
she purported to be. Officer did not sign log book as there was not
one for him to sign.

.0247Z/24.

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
V.G.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
A.C.N.S. (T) (2).
Sec.
Nav. Sec.
N.A. to 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (3).
D. of P. (3).
Ops. (4).
O.D. (5).
D.N.I. (4).
C.I.C. (2).
D.S.L. 9.
M (5).
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
D.E.W.D. (3).
E.P.S.
Admiral Bellairs.
N.L.
T.E. (3)
W.D.

703B

MESSAGE.

0909Z/24th June IN

SECRET.

From

C.O.I.S. Far East Singapore

RECEIVED:—

DATE 25.6.41.

TIME 0200

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER 12 BY C. and W.

Addressed

Admiralty D.N.I. D.N.I. Ottawa C. in C. East India
Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, New Zealand Naval
Board, C. in C. China, Air H.Q. New Delhi, Pass to
F.O.C.R.I.N. Admiralty H.Q. India, H.M. Ambassador Chungking
A.O.C. Far East, H.M. Ambassador Tokyo, No. 130 B.N.A.
Washington G.H.Q. Far East G.O.C. Malaya G.O.C. Burma
G.O.C. Hong Kong

F.E.W. 36. Japan considered probable Japan
will make more consequent on Russo-German conflict until
outcome becomes clearer. Although evidently this has come
as a shock to Japanese.

Netherlands East Indies. Japanese damping down
publicity about breakdown of economic discussions for which
Russo-German War offers good opportunity.

Indo-China. Japanese circulating rumour of
agreement between Indo China and Anglo Saxon powers
which may be preliminary to further Japanese activities
in Indo China.

Thailand. U.S. Government have promised to
co-operate with us in policy of economic help to
Thailand subject to obtaining satisfactory guarantees
regarding destination of rubber and tin exports.

0909Z/24

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

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- NAVAL SEC.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S.(S)
- Ops.(4)
- O.D.(5)
- D.N.I.(4)
- O.I.C.(2)
- D.S.D.9.
- H.(31)
- D. of P.(3)
- D.T.D.(2)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.N.A.D.
- D. of L.D.
- I.P.
- W.D.

War Diary.

24.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies Contd.

KOLSNAREN
(Swedish)

Master reports sighted on 16/6 ships lifeboats in approx. 4300 N. 620 W. Weather too bad to pick up, but apparently empty name showing as E. Mitchell London. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1626Z/24 to Admty.)

Ferry pilots
to report
S/M's.

It appears that Ferry Pilots are in a position to obtain sighting reports of submarines. Suggest Air Ministry be approached with a view pilots being ordered to transmit these reports to Air Ministry Station at Ganer who would pass them on to Naval Authorities. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2146Z/24 to Admty.)

War Diary.24.6.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.RANELLA

15 members of crew of Norwegian Steamship RANELLA landed Figueira Da Foz 24/6. Torpedoed 300 miles from Azores. No details. (N.A. Lisbon 1736/24.)

GANDA(torpedoed 20/6)

Aamty. 1736B/24 see 23/6.

Convoy
O.B.336

Attacked by S/M 055° 11' N. 038° 35' W. Course and speed 147° 10 knots. (Care. O.B.336, 0915/24 to C. in C. W.A., etc.) 55 12 N. 38 32 W. Convoy attacked by Submarine 0920/24 de Unknown Station. (Via Liverpool T.O.R.1138.) In view of attack O.B.336 subsequent your (?1147) B I am proceeding their assistance with AGASSIZ. GLADIOLUS proceed direct to H.X.133. My P.C. and S. 055° 32' N. 037° 25' (? 230 degs.) 15. (WETASKIWIN 1530/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

GLENPARK

The following has been read:- 55 55 N. 38 06 W. submarine in sight. (GLENPARK 1458/24.)

INVERLEE

SSSS 56 13 N. 37 R. 21 W. INVERLEE torpedoed 1905/24. (Halifax W/T 1905Z/24, Liverpool 1911/24 etc.)

H.X.133
SOLOY sunk

Norwegian SOLOY sunk 0135Z/24 054° 39' N. 039° 43' W. All crew saved by S.S. TRAVELLER. U-boat surprised by alteration of course 040° to port at 0100Z sighted 1 quarter mile on star-board bow of Commodore's ship, crash dived heading 180° and presumably fired random shots. Only signal rockets from torpedoed ship. (H.M.C.S. OTTAWA 1932Z/24.)

Submarines Reported.By WOLFE
(H.X.133)

One submarine submerged bearing 050° distance one mile. Position 54° 37' N. 39° 36' W. (WOLFE, 0130Z/24.)

/1913/22.....

War Diary.24.6.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. Contd.1913/23
2012Z/23
2218Z/23D.F. bearings from Gibraltar at 1913Z/23
German U-boats 305° third class at 2012Z/23
310° 3rd class at 2218Z/23 Italian U-boats
300 3rd class. (F.O.C.N.A., 0209A/24 to
FURIOUS, Capt. (D) 8th D.F., DEPTFORD.)H.X.133
reportedMy 1557B/23 a U-boat made further signal at
0453Z/24 in vicinity of H.X.133.
(D.D.I.C. 0812B/24 to WOLFE etc.)
My 1757B/23. Further signal at 1332Z/24
indicates that convoy H.X.133 has been again
reported. (D.D.I.C. 1618B/24.)Sighting
reports.At 1008A/24 German U-boat bearing 305° Class
two made first sighting report on 11125 Kc/s.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1028A/24 to FURIOUS, Capt. (D) 8,
DEPTFORD, JONQUIL.)
Your 1028A/24. Position of U-boat was approx.
56° N. 37° W. (D.D.I.C. 1433B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Italian U-boat has made a sighting report at
1144Z/24. No fix obtainable. (D.D.I.C.
1428B/24 to FURIOUS, HERMIONE, FOXHOUND,
DEPTFORD.)

1442Z

SSSS 5448N. 3903W. Submarine in sight.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, T.O.R. 1442Z/24.)Estimated U-boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1507B/24.)

1420

Aircraft has reported sighting submarine in
052° 28' N. 004° 33' W. at 1420/24.
(C. in C. W.A., 1716B/24 to MARON, CAIRO.)Submarines Attacked.Off
Halifax.At 0520Z/24 on patrol off Halifax believed S/M
on surface in 044° 30' N. 063° 23' W. Vessel
was pursued, disappeared. A/S contact was
obtained and D.C. attacks carried out. Search
by 7 corvettes carried out all day, assisted
by aircraft at daylight. No further results
obtained. Search continues. (C.O.A.C.
Halifax, 2007Z/24.)

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

40 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Kiel last night. Light attacks were made on Boulogne, Ostend and Sylt.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy E.C.37 and escorts shot down an enemy A/C which attacked the convoy at 0200B today in 56° 5' N. 2° 22' W. The convoy was not damaged. S.S. LEVENWOOD was slightly damaged by air attack last night whilst anchored in Tees Bay.

Convoy F.S. Odd was attacked shortly after midnight 24/25 June in 53° 4' N. 1° 16' E., No details are known.

S.S. DASHWOOD in Convoy F.N.24 was sunk by air attack in the early hours today, 22 miles E. of Cromer.

Mining.

Operations
B.S. 65.

TEVIOT BANK left the Humber at 0830 to lay mines in the East Coast Barrier, with destroyer escort.

S.N.70 B.

During this operation (see 23/6) BRIGHTON was damaged in collision with KENYA.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool which was closed from 0408 to 1100. The Humber was closed from 0139B to 0944.

It is reported in Press messages that Finland has announced the mining of waters round the Aaland Islands.

South Atlantic.

Lagos.

Six mines have been detonated and the port has now been declared open. Sweeping continues.

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean.

Libya & Western Desert.

Wellington again bombed Benghazi last night.

Convoy
attacked

At 1530 a convoy of four 20,000 ton merchant ships escorted by 6 or 7 destroyers was sighted by aircraft 35 miles south of Cape Spartivento southbound, Maryland attacked the convoy at dusk and secured at least one hit with a 500 lb. bomb. Later, 7 Swordfish attacked and torpedoed two and probably 3 of the merchant ships. Our submarines were ordered to intercept two of the merchant ships which were seen to be crippled and are now thought probably to have sunk.

Palestine & Syria.

Vichy French
S/M. sunk.

SOUFFLEUR
PARTHIAN sunk a Vichy French S/M of REQUIN class at 1248C today in 33° 49' N. 35° 26' E. (5 miles S.W. of Beirut)

C.S.15 is maintaining one cruiser and 3 or 4 destroyers off the coasts each night.

Air attacks were made today on Haifa and Acre. Little damage was caused.

U-Boat Campaign.

H.X.133.
S/M sunk.

(U.536)

GLADIOLUS sighted a submarine early this morning near H.X.133 which was attacked yesterday. GLADIOLUS, assisted by NASTURTIUM attacked with depth charges. The S/M surfaced and was sunk by gunfire at close range in 56° 36' N. 37° 8' W.

*See R 27/6 N 060° 15' N. 029° 20' W.
See p. 760.*

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Trials in
Clyde
Approaches

Your 1011B/20. Admiralty have no special information as to relative safety from enemy action or otherwise of areas in your sub-command. It appears, however, that the Clyde is at least as secure as the areas on the South and East Coasts of England normally used for trials. (V.C.N.S. 0009B/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

SURCOUF

Recommendations as in Admty. 0008B/26 to C. in C. A.W.I. (F.O.S. 1514B/25 to Admty.)

19th M.L.
Flotilla.

Request I may be informed when further units of the 19th M/L Flotilla may be expected at Holyhead. They are urgently required there for special operation in the Irish Sea. (C. in C. W.A., 1816B/25 to R.A.C.F.)

Movements.

LEGION
LANCE.

Owing to U-boat signal in vicinity I kept LEGION and LANCE until Capt. (D) 8 met at 2100B/24. By the time they could not have reached Clyde without fuelling at Plymouth. Have therefore taken them to Gibraltar, as estimate they can reach Clyde after fuelling there equally soon. (FURIOUS 0945B/25.)

VICTORIOUS
CHARLESTOWN
ST. MARY'S.

Your 1731/23. Diversion of CHARLESTOWN and ST. MARYS is concurred in. (D.D.C.D. M. 1032B/25 to R.A.M.)
My 1720B/23rd and R.A. M.L. 1731B/23. Request you sail VICTORIOUS escorted by CHARLESTOWN, ST. MARYS and WINCHESTER as early as practicable on 28/6.
2. Home Fleet destroyers will R/V off Cape Wrath to enable CHARLESTOWN and ST. MARYS to return to Liverpool for PORT QUEBEC. (C. in C. H.F., 1119B/25.)

KENYA

If unable to proceed in accordance with my 1903B/22 KENYA is to return to Scapa when released by R.A. M/L. (C. in C. H.F. 1954B/25.)

710

War Diary.25.6.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Bombing
restrictions

S.B.R. between following limits are cancelled from daylight today until further notice. 48° and 49° 30' N., 5° and 8° W.
(F.O.S. 0204B/25.)

Patrols.

A/S sweep by 3 Whitley Centre Track 278° Butt of Lewis to depth 300 miles reaching limit 1200 hours.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1116/25.)
Following in operation:- Trost and Stab. P.R.U. Reccos. of Bergen, Stavanger, Kristiansand South, and Oslo. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1122/25.)
Up to 3 A/C of 816 Squadron are to carry out a preliminary R/C of Boulogne tonight. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1340/25.)
A/S sweep by 3 Whitley A/C 278° Butt of Lewis for 250 miles reaching limit at dusk/25 also A/S sweep by 3 Whitleys 320° Butt of Lewis for 300 miles bearing datum at 0500/26. (C. in C. Rosyth 2050/25.)
Patrol "Stand" now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2312/25.)

Operation
~~WANDER~~ "wander"

Carry out operation ^{"Wander"}~~WANDER~~ tonight in accordance with my CH/G9/24/6.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1340/25 to Detling.)

Night
Operations.

On Night 24/25 Kiel was attacked by 40 A/C. Bursts were seen in the target area and some small fires. Boulogne, Ostend, and Sylt were also bombed. (H.Q.B.C., 1420/25.)

Enemy Air Activity.

775.
Convoy FN.24.
DASHWOOD
(British 2154
tons) sunk

Am standing by DASHWOOD holed making water fast in position 086° Cromer 22. Request tug immediately.
(GUILLEMOT, 0036/25, 0148B/25.)
DASHWOOD sunk by bomb at 0200 in reported position 52° 58'45" N. 01° 52'30" E. No casualties. (GUILLEMOT 0252B/25, SOUTHDOWN 0515B/25, C. in C. Nore 0713B/25, 1617B/25.)

Convoy
F.S. Even.

Help Convoy ^{"Arena"}~~ARENA~~ Position 54° 59' N. 1° 11' W. (WALLACE 0027B/25.)
My 0027. Low flying aircraft circled convoy until 0130. No damage seen.
(WALLACE 0204/25.)

/Convoy.....

711

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Convoy
F.S. Odd

Enemy A/C bombing Convoy ^{"Beatty"} ~~BOOTH~~ 53° 4' N. 1°
16' E. (F.S. Convoy 0048/25.) ^{"Beatty"} ~~BOOTH~~.
Fighters are being sent to assist ~~BOOTH~~.
(Nore, 0116B/25.)

Convoy
E.C.37.
One A/C
shot down.

Help ^{"Yield"} ~~FIELD~~ position 56° 6' N. 2° 29' W.
(LIDDESDALE, 0203/25.)
1 enemy A/C Junker shot down by convoy and escorts
E.C.37 at 0200B/25 in 056° 05' N. 002° 22' W.
Enemy was carrying out a low level attack and
dropped one bomb.
As far as is known there were no casualties.
to convoy or escorts.
A/C was observed to sink and 4 prisoners have
been taken. (VERSATILE, 0230B/25.)
VERSATILE'S 0230B. Aircraft considered to be
Heinkel 111 passed over LIDDESDALE at about 100
feet and was seen to be repeatedly hit at very
close range by forward pom poms, 2 small
bombs were dropped close on starboard quarter
which put both steering motors temporarily out
of action. No damage or casualties to convoy
or escort. (LIDDESDALE, 0429B/25.)

LEVENWOOD
(British
803 tons)
damaged.

S.S. LEVENWOOD damaged slightly by near miss
enemy bomb whilst anchored in Tees Bay. No
casualties. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0230/25.)

Mining.

Humber

Humber closed to navigation. Suspected mine-
laying. (F.O. Humber, 0139B/25.)
Humber is open. (F.O. Humber, 0944/25.)

Liverpool

Port of Liverpool closed including QZS 211 and
QZS 215 until 1100. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool,
0408/25.)
One mine detonated by LL. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2218/25.)
Port opened including QZS 211 and QZS 215.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1100B/25.)

B.S.65

Departure TEVIOTBANK at 0830. (F.O.I.C.
Humber, 0850B/25.)
Arrivals TEVIOTBANK, WALPOLE in company at
2155. (F.O. Humber, 2208B/25.)

/Off Cromer.....

712

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Off Cromer

Table cloth netting is now in process of being laid 1 mile from shore between Bacton and Cromer. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1034B/25.)

Minelaying
off Calais

My 1803/24. Operation had to be abandoned owing to minelayers being illuminated by flares dropped to seaward of them whilst in the laying area. Calais vicinity was apparently being bombed and flares were presumably from British aircraft. As no enemy action resulted it seems probable that minelayers were not in fact sighted. Intend to carry out the operation tonight and request air authorities may be warned to restrict activity in vicinity of Calais between 0100 and 0300/26. (V.A. Dover 1042B/25 Air Ministry 1515/25 to C.C.)

Dover

Routine sweeping carried out to 0800/25.
QZS 190 BU
QZS 224 and 208 by two Oropesa trawlers nothing found.
QZS 190 by two LL trawlers. One red mine detonated 216⁰.
Sandhead Buoy 7 cables.
(V.A. Dover 1104B/25.)

CUMBERLAND

CUMBERLAND with destroyers using S.A. gear arrives Flamborough at 0400/28, 52 Buoy at 1230/28, Sheerness at 1630/28. Re sweeping to be carried out.
(C. in C. Nore, 1230B/25.)

Oropesa
Trawlers
sweeping
ahead of
East Coast
Convoys.

Admiralty 2337/21.
Escorts report that some S.A. trawlers are only capable of 6 to 6½ knots.
2. This disorganises convoy programmes involving delays which are not acceptable. Moreover some ships in convoy cannot proceed at less than 7 knots.
3. Suggest this scheme be abandoned and trawlers returned to their bases channels being swept from the various sub-commands as heretofore.
4. It is considered that fast minesweepers if S.A. fitted could be used provided sufficient numbers can be made available on the east coast for this purpose and for their normal duties of oropesa sweeping.

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Oropesa
Trawlers
sweeping
ahead of
East Coast
Convoys.
Contd.

5. Alternatively consideration might be given to the use of M.L's fitted S.A. which should be able to operate except in bad weather.
6. It is to be hoped that there will be sufficient S.A. Trawlers available before the winter to render the main Channels reasonably safe from "A" mines provided the sweeping is carried out as near the time of the passing of convoys as practicable.
(C. in C. Nore, 1410B/25.)

Thames
Estuary.

Three SA mines detonated as follows. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1631/25.)
Seven magnetic mines detonated as follows.
Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1801/25.)

Yarmouth

My 1800B/23. Mines detonated 23/6, 4 magnetic and 2 acoustic. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1909B/25.)

PYTCHLEY
(Mined 23/6)

PYTCHLEY and SEA GIANT arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1921/25.)

S.N.70.B.

Lay completed. AURORA with BRIGHTON probably in Reydarfiord. WELLS with me.
(R.A. M.L., 2310B/25.) See p.714

Casualties and Defects.

STURGEON

Pressure hull cracked round exhaust trunking. Am proceeding on surface Needles Sanctuary arriving 0731. Request fighter protection and T.B.R. (STURGEON, 0331B/25.)
Your 0331B/25. Escort will meet you at N. one. Fighter Protection and B.R. arranged.
Codeword device TWO.
(Capt. S.5., 0625B/25 to STURGEON.)
My 2333B/24 returned.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0815B/25.)

DEVONSHIRE

Sea going efficiency of DEVONSHIRE will be impaired unless following hoses are supplied immediately. Hoses were first demanded in February in Devonport, then redemanded through N.S.O. Liverpool in May, and are still outstanding.
(C.S.1., 1429B/25.)

/SABOR.....

War Diary.25.6.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contd.SABOR

My 1057/25. ^{NT WD} F.N. 84. SABOR returned Humber with collision damage. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1606B/25.)

BRIGHTON(Collision with
KENYA.)

ECHO proceed with despatch toward Faeroes. ECLIPSE proceed to 066° 10' N. 012° W. Orders to follow. (C. in C. H.F., 1947B/25.) AURORA and BRIGHTON arrived Reydar Fiord. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2258/25.) R.A. (M) 1342B/25. Request tug may be sent to assist BRIGHTON. (C. in C. H.F., 2309B/25 to C. in C. W.A.) Sail THAMES and MARAUDER forthwith to stand by WELLS towing BRIGHTON estimated position at 0800B/26 063° 11' N. 012° 43' W. Steer 144° approx. (? 5) knots for Butt of Lewis. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2333B/25 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

Shipping and Convoys.W.N. Convoys.

My 1226/16. Amendments and additions. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0956B/25 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Coastal
Convoys

Your 1843/19. Not sufficient escort vessels in Portsmouth Command to work suggested 2 day schedule for quicker turn round of ships in Portsmouth/Southampton areas. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2123/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

O.B. 341A.

Intend sailing extra convoy O.B. 341(A) 2/7 routed through Minches. Code word "Shilling". (C. in C. W.A., 2245B/25 to Admty.)

O.B. 336,
337,
protection

Request that after complying with my 1233B/25 (N.T. in W.D.) SKEENA and ST. LAURENT be ordered to return through 053° N. 049° W. and 050° N. 051° W. refuelling at St. Johns N.F. if necessary. Object is to cover rear of ships dispersed from O.B.336 and O.B.335 proceeding in this direction. (C. in C. W.A. 2302B/25 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

See also p. 722

4/4A

SECRET

MESSAGE

0956B/25 June IN

From: N.C.S.O.Clyde.

Date; 25/6/41.

Recd: 1205.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed: Admiralty J. in C. Rosyth Capt D Rosyth F.O.I.C.Greenock.
F.O.I.C.Belfast N.C.S.O.'S Oban Aultbea Bethil. (Clyde Sub
Office) Glasgow Ministry of War Transport (Shipping) Gourrock.

W N Convoys

Amend and add to my 1226/16.

June.

Conferences.

Zeros.

W N 47 fast (S repeat S)
W N 48 Medium (T)

0945/30
1500/30 June.

1430/30
0730/1st July.

July.

W N 49 slow (T)
W N 50 fast (T)
W N 51 Medium (T)
W N 52 slow (T)

1200/3rd.
1200/6th.
1200/7th
1200/11th.

0300/4th.
0800/7th.
0200/8th.
2100/11th.

0956B/25.

Advance Copy sent Ops. O.D. Trade.

- A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- Ops.(4)
- O.D.(5)
- 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.

War Diary.25.6.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Operation
"Railway"

Phase One. My 1625/31/3 para 3 proposals 5 and 7 and my 1453/18/5 will apply with times amended as follows (a) para 3 1000 A and 2100 A on D one (b) Para 4 0030 A on D two (c) Para 5 0915 A and on D 2.

2. Request also forecast of weather Malta area now.

(S.O. Force H, 1041A/25.)

RUMBA

Ref. Adty. 2356B/16. RUMBA 2000/24 and now bunkering and having repair to life boats and fan air conditioning. If not ready for sea by 2000/25 captain of port has promised extension of time. As RUMBA W/T limited please telegraph route immediately.

(B.V.C. Fayal, 1115/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

P. 33

My 2136A/23 escort is ERIN.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1310A/25, 2240/25 to P.33.)

French
Ships

Gibraltar 0606/25 French Armed Trawler ~~LA~~ JACCIENNE, French Ships SURVILLE full, ALGERIE light, westbound. 0815 French Minesweeper COMMANDANT DELAGE, French Ship ERIDANII HADEN, and Motor Trawler TATIANA Eastbound.

(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1415A/25.)

FEARLESS
FOXHOUND

My 1728/25. FEARLESS unable to proceed owing to defects. FOXHOUND only two boilers available. (F.O. Force H, 2027A/25 to Admty.)

Unknown
Vessel

Sighted about 1400 in 4450 N. 1010 W. course westerly speed 13 knots. Similar British Naval Auxiliary. No markings or flag visible. (N.A. Lisbon, 2130/25.)

South Atlantic.BABITONGA
WINDHUK
NORDERNEY

If you have not already done so and see no objection on account of position of vessel when incident occurred please draw attention of Minister for Foreign Affairs to this clear proof that B has been acting as a supply ship ever since she left Santos last April.

(2) Point out evident worthlessness of German Ambassador's assurance (reported in your telegram 139) that ship would sail direct Vladivostock

/via.....

716

War Diary.25.6.1941.6
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South AtlanticBABITONGA
WINDHUK
NORDERNEY
Contd.

via Cape and you should press Minister of Foreign Affairs for a definite assurance that neither WINDHUK nor NORDERNEY (N.A. 1846Z/21 to R.A.S.A.D.) will in any circumstances be allowed to sail.
(C. in C. S.A., 0909N/25 to Ambassador Rio de Janeiro.)

BIRMINGHAM

Your 0031N/23. Dock can be made available 14/7 for six days if required. Dockyard assistance would be limited.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1051B/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Raider

Indications 1737 24/6 suggest German surface unit within 150 miles of the line joining Equator 020°W. and 015° S. 010° W. QUEEN OF BERMUDA may move into I. 35 and ALCANTARA into I. 34 C and D as desired.
(C. in C. S.A., 1101N/25 to S.A.S. Squad.)

DESIRADE
(Intercepted
17/6)

To proceed to Capetown with PRETORIA CASTLE as soon as possible.
(C. in C. S.A., 1201N/25 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

S.S. DUNAV

Master requests aid to prevent possible desertion of part of crew. (N.S.O.(I) Capetown, 1249C/25.)

GAZCON

Your 2146N/22 and your 1401N/22.
2. On this particular occasion coal should be supplied to GAZCON.
3. Request you will endeavour to intercept her as soon as possible after she leaves Lobito.
4. If PRETORIA CASTLE will be of assistance the departure of EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA from Simonstown can be delayed provided she can be sailed with escort to overtake S.L.80.
(D.O.D.(F), 1930B/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

S.S. GOLDMOUTH
QUEEN VICTORIA
overdue.

GOLDMOUTH due Durban 20th from Basra QUEEN VICTORIA due Capetown 20th from Suez both not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1931B/25.)

/? WUPPERTAL

War Diary.

25.6.1941. ⁷¹⁷
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

? WUPPERTAL

Oiler BROOMDALE reports at 1715/4 in 010° 30' N. 055° 40' W. she sighted ship resembling WUPPERTAL who tried to close until 2000 when Oiler BROOMDALE evaded her.
(R.A.S.A.D., 2027Z/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Lagos

My 1725/20/6. DRAGON reported 23/6 one mine exploded by SKUDD since 23/6, sweeping has been carried out over whole area. Port has now been declared open. Sweeping by SKUDD continuing. (C. in C. S.A., 2041N/25 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

Guard for prisoners

M.E. urgently requests permission for percentage of guard to prisoners to be reduced to $\frac{1}{3}$ for voyage in Indian Ocean.
(C. in C. Med., 0941C/25 to Admty.)
Reply. Admty 1941B/19 which reduced proportion of guard to seven per cent should meet this requirements. (D.O.D.(F) 1812B/25.)

WARSPITE

My 1014/24 state of armament.
(C. in C. Med., 1022C/24.)

JANUS

Sail JANUS when ready Aden pending Admty. instructions for destination.
(C. in C. Med., 1037C/25 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.)

Policy
Tobruk.

1st S.L. 1520B/25 to C. in C. Med. See Mediterranean Volume.

Movements

S/Ms. leave Alexandria as follows.
(Capt. (S)1, 1525C/25 to CACHALOT, TETRARCH.)

Libyan
Convoy
attacked

25/6 on information convoy 4 troopships and 5 destroyers leaving Naples night 24/25 for Tripoli 2 Marylands and 2 Hurricanes patrolled closing routes East and West of Sicily. A.M. 2 large M/V's stationary Messina Straits, 1 battleship or cruiser 1 destroyer southbound and 3 destroyers northbound north of Messina Straits, 1530 hours

/convoy.....

718

War Diary.25.6.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Libyan
Convoy
attacked.
Contd.

convoy 4 large M/V's 20,000 tons and 7 destroyers
35 miles south Cape ? Spartivento southbound 2
battleships entering Messina Straits from South.
Messina harbour 3 cruisers 8 medium M/V's.
Blenheims Marylands and Swordfish being
despatched to attack convoy.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/25.)

P.C. and S. of 6 enemy destroyers 4 merchant
vessels 37° 30' N. 15° 35' E. 160 10.

(Duty F. A/C 1835/25.)

7 destroyers 4 merchant vessels bearing 044°
my position 70 miles from 36° N. 15° E. 135
15. (A/C, 1835/25.)

Cancel my 0934B/24. Convoy passed return to
Malta as in my 1632/16.

(S.O.(S) Malta, 1842B/25 to UTMOST).

5 destroyers one ahead, two starboard side, two
Port side. In two columns.

(Malta 1855/25.)

Enemy C. and S. are 160° 13 knots. (? at 1905).

(Malta, 1906/25.)

Enemy has made a large increase of speed - 18.

(Malta, 1920/25.)

4 large merchant ships in square formation 2
destroyers 2 miles ahead 2 on either beam and
one astern position 037° 30' N. 015° 35' E. course
160° speed 10 knots at 1835B/25.

(Comdr. (S)1, 1921B/25 to UPRIGHT, UNIQUE,
REGENT.)

Two merchant ships crippled at 2030/25 in 36°
46' N. 15° 42' E. may endeavour to return to Syracuse
Augusta or Messina. URGE and UPHOLDER intercept
as opportunity offers.

(S.O. S/M's. Malta, 2344B/25 to S/M's. Malta
Force.)Air
Operations.

5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. 6 fighter
sorties protecting Tobruk shipping.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 2009/25.)

ELISABETH
H. FISSER
(German)

Arrival 24/6.

(Valencia 2015/25.)

UNION

Orders to leave patrol to arrive Malta 0700/27.

(S.O. S/M's. Malta, 2057B/25 to UNION.)

/Situation.....

718A

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE. 1311C/25 June

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 25.6.41.

Recd. 1756.

NAVAL CODE 'L' by W/T.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet, Repeated Capt S.1. R.A.Alexandria.
V.A. one B.S.201, F.O.C. North Atlantic 981.
S.B.N.O. Suez 655. S.O.Force H. N.O.I.C.Port Said.
Group 204. S.O.Force I. N.O.I.C.Haifa, Air Officer,
C. in C. Middle East, N.O.I.C.Malta 704. Inshore
Squadron, N.O.I.C. Cyprus.

IMPORTANT.

Movement Summary number 207 Part A. 1st B.S. H.M.S. AJAX. H.M.S. ABDIEL. H.M.S. LATONA and six (word omitted) Leave Alexandria a.m. 27th will be exercising outside 200 Fathom line between Alexandria and Port Said. H.M.S. KANDAHAR. H.M.S. GRIFFIN arrive Haifa a.m. 27th. H.M.A.S. PERTH. H.M.S. CARLISLE leave Alexandria 1530 25th due Haifa 0800 26th.H.M.N.Z.S. LEANDER. H.M.S.COVENTRY then returning to Alexandria. H.M.S. HASTY. H.M.S. JAGUAR due Alexandria p.m. 25th. H.M.S.NALID. H.M.S. JERVIS. H.M.S. HAVOCK. H.M.S. HASTY. H.M.S. HOTSPUR. H.M.S. DECOY. H.M.S. NIZAM. H.M.S.KINGSTON. Operate from Haifa.

Part B. H.M.A.S.WATERHEN. H.M.A.S.VENDETTA. Arrive Alexandria 1730 25th,H.M.A.S. PARNAMATTA 1830 25th,and H.M.S. DERBY and KLO 0600 26th. H.M.A.S. STUART. H.M.A.S. VOYAGER. Leave Alexandria 0600 26th, and H.M.A.S. WATERHEN 0600 27th on Mersa Tobruk supply service. H.M.S. CRICKET at Mersa Matruh.

1311C/25.

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

- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt Pim, Admiralty House.
- Ops. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- O.D.8.
- M. (2)
- O.I.C.
- Mails.
- Movts.
- D.S.D.9.
- I.P. (3)
- D.A/S.W.
- W.D.
- E.P.S.
- D.P.S.
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- N.L.O. Australia House.

ves.

SECRET.

MESSAGE

IN

1737C/25 June.

418(B)

From Capt. S. 1st Sub. Flotilla.

Date 25.6.41.

Recd. 0907

NAVAL CODE L.2 (Secret) by T/P

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet, repeated N.O.i/c Malta,
N.O.i/c Alexandria, Senior Officer, Force I, N.O.i/c Cyprus,
N.O.i/c Port Said, A.O.C. Med. Group 201.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine movement summary No. 28. Movement (A)

Submarine,	Depart,	Routed through,	Arriving.
H.M.S. RORQUAL	Alexandria 2000/25th	033° 20' 026° 35' at 0200/27th 035° 08' 016° 22' at noon 1st	Malta dawn 2nd.
H.M.S. PERSEUS		034° 48' 023° 42' noon 25th (6 corrupt groups)	26th.
H.M.S. REGENT	(?Jaffa) Noon 24th	Direct	Tripoli (Libya) a.m. 26th.
H.M.S. TRIUMPH	Vicinity of Alexandria 2000? 26th	033° 20' 022° 41' at 2200/29th	(?Jaffa) 1st July.
Greek Submarine NEREUS	Alexandria 1800?/26th	032° 20' 030° 00' 1800/27th	
H.M.S. CACHALOT as in summary number 27.		035° 50' 030° 00' p.m. ?/29th	

Safety route established for H.M.S. RORQUAL between
Alexandria and Malta - no repetition no submarine is to be attacked
on this route. She will not repetition not be able to burn aircraft
recognition flares.

Sanctuary (B) ports overseas sanctuary H.M.S. PERSEUS from
noon 26th 036° 00' 023° 00' 000° 60 50 H.M.S. URGE H.M.S. UNBEATEN
H.M.S. UPHOLDER 036° 20' 245° 00' 000° 100 80 H.M.S. TRUANT H.M.S. UNIQUE
H.M.S. REGENT (?033°) 00' 013° 10' 000° 120 90 H.M.S. UNION 035° 45'
01° 53' 335° 45 45 H.M.S. UTMOST H.M.S. PARTHIAN H.M.S. SEVERN
as laid down in summary 27.

1737C/25

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops.(4).
O.D.8.
O.D.(5).
O.I.C.(2).
D.S.D.9.
I.P.(3).
W.S.
D.A/S.W.

E.P.S.
Movts.
H.(2).
F.O.(S) by courier.
D.S.D.(2).
Mails.
D.N.I.(4).

719

War Diary.25.6.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.Situation
Report No.67

Syria. R/C reports all three French destroyers in Beirut damage uncertain all have lighters alongside. Two Sworáfish 815 Squadron dive bombed ? night 23/24 results uncertain. Air Raid on Haifa night 23/24 no damage to ships. C.S.15 is maintaining one cruiser and three or four destroyers off Coast each night. LEANDER HASTY and JAGUAR bombarded military targets A.M./24.

2. Western Desert. PARAMATTA has returned to Alexandria with Commander Thomas 5 officers, and 156 ratings survivors of AUCKLAND. PASS OF BALMAHA slightly damaged is unloading at Tobruk. (C. in C. Med., 2301/25.)

Palestine and Syria.REFAH

Torpedoed (N.A. Angora 1133/25). See U-Boat Campaign.

Alleged
firing on
ambulances

Adty. 1352B/24. GRIFFIN engaged shore targets on 14/6. If she is at Alexandria request R.A.D. Mediterranean may interrogate C.O. and report to you. (C.S.15, 1626/25 to ?). Report of targets engaged by GRIFFIN. Red Cross lorry seen but not fired at. (R.A.(D) Med., 1117C/25 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

Military
Situation.

(N.L.O. Palestine, 1811/25 to C.S.15).

? S/M.

Following received at 1902. One unknown bearing $014^{\circ} 16'$ miles course 180 position $153^{\circ} 34' N. 35^{\circ} E. 34.$
(F.O.C. 15 C.S. 2025/25 to PARTHIAN.)

Vichy
French
S/M sunk.
(SUFFLEUR)

Have sunk Vichy French S/M REQUIN class in $033^{\circ} 49' N. 035^{\circ} 26' E.$ at 1248C/25, Hospital ship similar to SPHINX sailed from Beirut course 360° at 1900C/24. At 0500C/24 PARTHIAN found herself in middle of bombardment (? area) used by LEANDER and destroyer(s) without warning. Asdic communication unsuccessful. PARTHIAN's frequency is 10.45 Kcs.
(PARTHIAN 2101/25 to C.S.15.)

SECRET

MESSAGE
1117C/25th June.

IN 419A

From: R.A.(D) Mediterranean.

Date: 26.6.41.

Recd: 1934

Naval Cypher (A2) by W/T

ADDRESSED: C. in C. Mediterranean, Repeated C S 15.

AIDAC

C S 15's 1626/25. H.M.S. GRIFFIN reports his instructions were to stop all movements on road and following targets were engaged:-

(a) One motor car - Saloon type presumed military as it was proceeding south at high speed towards Sidon.

(b) 3 large lorries military type actually stopped and closed to about 1200 yards and there was no sign of any Red Cross markings.

(c) One armoured car.

2. The only other moving object observed was one small lorry which stopped on sight of H.M.S. GRIFFIN. On closer observation it was observed to have 2 small Red Cross markings on side but in other respects was similar to an army lorry. This lorry was not engaged.

3. H.M.S. HERO did not join H.M.S. GRIFFIN for inshore operations until evening after which time no repetition no targets were engaged.

4. I am satisfied as far as H.M.S. GRIFFIN and H.M.S. HERO are concerned this allegation can be definitely refuted.

1117C/25

Advance Copy P.O. N.A. 1st S.L.
A.C.N.S.(F), Ops., O.D., O.I.C.,
D.P.D.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
Naval Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
O.D.(5)
Ops.(4)
D. of P.(3)

D.N.I.(4)
M. Branch (10)
(M 2479/41)
I.P.(3)
W.D.

R.

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

KING EDWARD,
supposed
wreckage.

My 0556/13. Wreckage now identified as belonging to HIRAVATI. F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy reports it is quite likely fittings from this ship were put into PARVATI which was sunk by mine 30/4. (C. in C. E.I. 0440Z/25 to Adty.).

Shipping
Speed up.

Need for improvement in the speeding up of turn round of shipping using Indian ports. (F.O.C.R.I.N. -0945Z/25 to Adty.).

China.

HAKUSHU
MARU
incident.

Suggesting matter be dealt with through diplomatic channels and following points made in reply to protest. (C. in C. China 0321Z/25 to Ambassador Tokyo) See Lion Copy.

PIETRO-ORSEOLA
(Italian).

At Moji 17/6. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0409Z/25 to Admty.).

COMPIEGNE.

Arrival 25/6. (Saigon 0430Z/25).

BERNADIN DE
ST. PIERRE.
(French).

Arrival 25/6. (Manila 0622Z/25).

Miri.

C. in C. China 0743Z/25. See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.

MALAYA.

Re. working up. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1001Q/25 to Adty.)

Brazilian
destroyers.

Adty. 1112B/25. See Operations Volume.

Martinique
patrol.

C. in C's 2222Q/21. Information received from -Director U.S. Naval War plans 24/6, that instructions for provision of patrol and for observation of French ships at Martinique have not altered in any way and that vessels are sighted daily by air and by shore observer. (N.A. Washington 1124/25 to Adty.).

/10.....

420A

MESSAGE.

IN

1730/25 June

RECEIVED:—

From C. in C. Middle East

DATE 25.6.41.

TIME 0.10

SECRET.

Cipher

Addressed The War Office.

IMPORTANT

1730/25 ~~SECRET~~ Cipher 25/6.

Now that Governor Jibuti has been informed that we are unwilling to entertain any negotiations with him it is considered that the question of evacuation of Italian Civilians would best be taken through Diplomatic Channels with Italian Government. A telegram will shortly be addressed to you giving recommendations of committee studying this question. Principal recommendation being that efficient working of scheme necessitates use of Port and Railway at Jibuti. In view of threats of Governor and orders from Vichy to carry out extensive destructions of both Port and Railway suggest that preliminary démarche to Italian Government be made at once informing them of these threats and stressing that our whole desire is to effect evacuation as efficiently as possible and that we have no designs on Jibuti for Military use.

1730/25

Received by hand from War Office at 1600/27/6.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 V.C.H. 3.
 A.C.H. 3 (H)
 A.C.H. 3 (F)
 Secretary
 Mr. 100.
 to 1st S.L.

A. of P. (3)
 O.I.C.
 D.S.D. 9.
 I.P. (5)
 W.D.

(3)
 (A)
 (S)

SECRET

MESSAGE

0321Z/25.June.

420 (B)

Date. 25.6.41.

From C. in C. China.

Recd. 1927.

F.E.K. CYPHER (by W/T).

Addressed British Ambassador Tokyo Tel. 806 June 25th, Repeated Admiralty, Governor Hong Kong, (Please pass to Commodore Hong Kong 112), British Embassy Shanghai, (Please pass to N.L.C.Shanghai).

788. Commodore Hong Kong 0247Z/24. I concur in Commodore's views. Suggest matter be now dealt with through diplomatic channels and following points made in reply to protest.

(One.) Although British warships may have been technically at fault in stopping Japanese ship in Chinese territorial waters the governing factor in our actions must be recent activities by Japanese against Hong Kong junks in immediate vicinity of our territory. We have every right to take every step necessary to protect our shipping against interference.

(Two.) In regard to this particular incident, the following facts should be stressed,

- (a) The Japanese vessel when sighted was flying an indistinguishable flag and junk had appearance of having been pirated.
- (b) The Japanese transport flag was not hoisted until H.M. Ship had compelled the vessel to stop.
- (c) No log could be found for boarding officer to sign.
- (d) The interference with Japanese vessel was minimum necessary to establish her identity.

I do not consider any apology for this incident is necessary except perhaps for technical breach of international law.

0321Z/25.

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).
A.C.N.S.(T)(2).
Sec.
Nav. Sec.
N.A. to 1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S).
D. of P.(3).
Ops.(4).
O.D.(5).
S.A.I.(4).
O.I.C.(2).
S.E.D.(1).
M.(6).
S.A.D.(1).
D.F.D.(1).
D.A.W.D.(3).
S.P.S.
Admiral Bellairs.
N.L.
S.P.(3).
WD

✕ Boarding by H.M.S. SCOUT.

7290

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E IN 0743Z/25/June.

From C. in C. China.

Date 25.6.41.

Recd. 1816.

NAVAL CYPHER D BY W/T.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated Governor Straits Settlements.

791. Your 1709 19. The additions to Miri oil denial scheme given in paras. one and two of Secretary for Colonies telegram of 3rd February to British agent for North Borneo and Sarawak are now included.

- (ii) Switch for blowing up Sarawak loading line is under direct control of C.C. Troops.
- (iii) One Company and crews for two six inch guns now stationed ~~at~~ *Lutung*.
- (iv) If probable Luo area will fall into the hands of enemy intention is to blow up Sarawak loading line and do as much other damage as possible irrespective of whether general denial scheme has been completed or not.
- (v) Arrangements also under consideration to enable refinery to be blown up under conditions in paragraph. (iv) Thus ensuring further vital damage in event of sudden attack.
- (vi) No reason for doubting that prompt action would be taken should necessity arise. Effectiveness necessarily depends on time available but even if very short the blowing up of sea loading line together with Refinery if this can be arranged should ensure adequate denial.
- (vii) Dutch Schemes for Borneo are more drastic in that they involve permanent destruction of oil wells but as these are nearing the end of their lives this is acceptable. Same considerations do not apply at Seria.

0743Z/25.

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

1st Lord.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.C.D. (F)
D.D.C.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.D.

D.D.I.C.
D. of L.D.
D.N.A.D.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Capt.
Hd. of M.
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson
D. of P. (2)

721

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

10 Lockheeds. A.T. 1054B/22. Flight departure from Natal (Brazil) delayed until 27/6. (Admty. 1522B/25).

SOUTHERN PRINCE. Arrangements for sailing to Clyde. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1550B/25).

TALISMAN.
THUNDERBOLT. To be sailed for Gibraltar as convenient. They will join the Mediterranean Fleet as directed by C. in C. Med. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1618B/25 to C.in C. A.W.I. etc.).

THUNDERBOLT. My 1408P/23. Amend position B to 041° 50' N. 062° 10' W. to keep clear of H.X. 135. (R.A.3.B.S. 1704P/25 to THUNDERBOLT).

722

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships attacked.

- H.X. 155
S.S. BROCKLEY
HILL
torpedoed. BROCKLEY HILL torpedoed crew number 34 all saved. Did not appear to sink but on fire. 0905 or 1905 Z/24 in 056° 15' N. 037° 21'. Details of attack. (H.M.C.S. OTTAWA 0701Z/25)
- REFAH
(torpedoed
23/6). (Turkish) carrying submarine crew to Egypt for onward passage to U.K. was torpedoed in position 40 miles south Mersin at 2230/23. Aircraft and motor vessels searching for ship's boats of which one only has Turkish (corrupt group). R.A.F. Cyprus co-operating. Presume attack was by submarine. (N.A. Angora 1133/25 to Adty.).
- INVERLEE
(incorrectly
reported
torpedoed 24/6) SKEENA and ST. LAURENT should return through 056° 13' N. 037° 21' W. where INVERLEE was torpedoed and through 055° 10' N. 038° 30' W. where O.B. 336 was attacked remaining these areas till prudent limit of endurance. (C. in C.W.A. 1233B/25 to REPULSE). *See p. 714*
- Unknown
ship. At 1040 G.M.T/25 2 shore W/T Stns. read SSSS on 500 kc/s per sec. Nothing further heard. No bearing obtained. Any ship which can give further useful information is to report it. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1249Z/25).
- MALANGE
sunk 5/6.
GANDA
(survivors)
(torpedoed
19/6) Submarine sighted off Furna Ilha Brava Cape Verde Island 13/6. Portuguese Merchant Vessel MALANGE was (? sunk) by unknown submarine 40 24 N. 64 31 W. on 5/6 1800. My 1909/22 missing boat from GANDA safe total casualties four killed. (N.A. Lisbon 1834/25).
- PENDRECHT. PANDORA reports she has 12 survivors from PENDRECHT sunk by U-boat in 46° 00' N. 38° 00' W. If weather moderates she E.T.A. R/V at 0600Z + 5/28 (C. in C. A.W.I. 2359Q/25 to B.A.R.M.).
- Submarines Reported.
- 1530 G.M.T/
23. Detached ship (4 corrupt groups ?ALINDTAKA) reports sighted submarine in 053° N. 041° W. at ? 1530 G.M.T./23 course 144. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0115Z/24 to Adty. etc.).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C.(7) 1454B/25)

War Diary.

25.6.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By
GLADIOLUS.

About 0400 Sighted Submarine on the surface near HX 133. D.C. attack made assisted by NASTURTIUM. Submarine surfaced and was sunk by gunfire at close range (? in) 056° 36' N. 037° 08' W. Rejoining convoy with NASTURTIUM. (GLADIOLUS 0700Z/25 to C. in C.W.A., OTTAWA 0827Z/25).

U.556 definitely sunk 27/6 - See p. 740

Vichy
French
S/M sunk.

By PARTHIAN See Mediterranean.

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Various areas in the Sound and Baltic are reported to have been or about to be mined by Germany, Finland and Sweden. It is reported that German aircraft have mined the approaches to Murmansk.

The Swedish Navy this forenoon treacherously seized the 3 Polish submarines interned at Grippsholm.

British Air Operations.

Shipyards at Bremen, Dutsche Werk~~e~~ Shipyard area at Kiel, and Rotterdam docks and oil plants were attacked last night by Bomber Command; and Boulogne by Swordfish of Coastal Command.

725

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Attacks
on East
Coast
Convoys;

Very low level bombing attacks are now taking place on East Coast Convoys between dusk and daylight. Convoy F.S. was bombed early this morning off Yarmouth. No report of damage has been received. M.L. 152 was bombed near Aldeburgh float a little later. Convoy E.C. 38 was attacked late tonight near 57 Buoy M/S Trawler TRANIO was ~~sunk~~ ^{damaged}. Convoy W.N. 45 was attacked this afternoon off the East coast of Scotland. No damage is reported.

Mining.

Minelaying
off East
Coast.

Mines were detonated today off the Tyne and in the Thames Estuary. Minelaying by aircraft is suspected off Aldeburgh.

North Atlantic.

MARSDALE intercepted the French Ketch L'EMERAUDE late tonight and is sending her to St. Johns N.F.

726

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Lagos.

Another mine was exploded today. The port remains open, but shipping is not allowed to move until after Sweeping tomorrow.

Requisitioned enemy ships.

Permission is being given for certain enemy ships requisitioned by South American Governments, to make voyages in our interest between American or British Ports.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

A few aircraft dropped bombs on Malta last night. No casualties or damage resulted.

Libya and Western Desert.

4 Marylands attacked Tripoli harbour p.m. today.

Palestine and Syria.

Albacores attacked destroyers in Beirut Harbour last night. It is reported that no hits were secured.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

C. in C. E.I. is disturbed at the weakening of our control of Basra and the Shatt-el-Arab resulting from the armistice terms.

U-Boat Campaign.Atlantic
(north)

S.S. JOSEPH DUHAMEL reported being attacked from 1837 to 1930 G.M.T. 63° 7' N. 21° 28' - 45' W.

Convoy H.X.
133 again
attacked.
4 Ships
torpedoed.

Convoy H.X. 133 was twice attacked again late tonight in approx. 60° N. 30° 45' W. S.S. TIBIA was torpedoed but proceeded with the convoy, S.S. MAASDAM was sunk, KONGSGAARD was torpedoed and proceeded some miles astern of the convoy, and S.S. MALAYA II blew up. A Sunderland aircraft escort was present. KONGSGAARD apparently caught up the convoy later. Survivors of MAASDAM included several Americans.

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Harrying
of U-Boats
off Orkneys.

Admty. 1454B/25. I consider it most necessary that S/M's near Orkneys and Shetlands should be harried. (2) Suggest A/S air patrols be arranged to cover an area 59° to 60° N. and 005° 20' W. to 005° W., with sufficient intensity to ensure that no U-boat could surface for charging within this area over a period of 48 hours. (3) It will be necessary, in addition, to ask for A/S air protection for cruisers and above in the exercise areas. (4) Unfortunately no H.F. destroyers are available for sweeping, but two could be sent out at short notice if contact is obtained within a reasonable distance. (C. in C. H.F. 1232B/26 to A.C.O.S.) Your 1232B/26. Para. 2. This has been arranged. (A.C.O.S. 1810/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

N.P. Trawlers
Operational
Control.

A.L. M.07482/41 20/6/41. From 0001/27 I will take over operations of trawlers N.P. from F.O.C.N.P. For the present operational orders will continue to be issued by S.O. Trawlers N.P, Kirkwall under my direction. (A.C.O.S. 1241B/26).

East Coast
Convoys.
Disposition
of Escorts
against A/C
attack.

To endeavour to counter the very low level bombing attacks now taking place on East Coast Convoys between dusk and daylight it is considered essential to develop the maximum possible barrage fire from escorts and Merchant vessels alike. (Tactical arrangements.) (C. in C. Nore 1610B/26 to C. in C. Rosyth). Your 1610B/26. Concur. (C. in C. Rosyth 1835/26 to C. in C. Nore).

M.L.'s with
C.E. and
C.W. Convoys.

M.L.'s escorting C.E. and C.W. Convoys will in future be stationed at visibility distance from Convoy during daylight while on passage between Owers and Dungeness for Air Sea Rescue. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1757B/26.)

Defence of U.K.

Portland and
Weymouth
A/A Defence.

Engagement of seen targets during the hours of darkness. (Air Ministry 1040/26).

Clyde A/S
Protection.

Your 1024B/12 and 1740B/14. Captain M/L Clyde has received instructions to ship 6 M.L.s at once. This will leave 2 M.L.s for A/S defence of the Clyde after tomorrow. Request immediate reinforcement. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1606B/26 to C. in C. W.A.).

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Fleet
Tender "B".

Intend sailing Fleet Tender "B" disguised as a man of war from Methil in convoy F.S.526 at 1200/26 for Newcastle-on-Tyne. (N.O.I.C. Methil 0945/26).

VICTORIOUS.

C. in C. H.F. 1119B/25. Propose following programme -(VICTORIOUS 1121B/26).

GREENWICH.

As speed of GREENWICH on passage in fine weather is 7 knots and no independent escort is available, intend sailing GREENWICH from Methil p.m./30 for Clyde in E.N. 39. (C. in C. Rosyth 1307/26).

VANESSA.

Arrangements for towing to London 30/6. (C. in C. Nore 2154B/26 to F.O. Yarmouth).

Operations.

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

Following is a paraphrase of my 1211B/31/5. Begins. Ships patrolling Denmark Strait should normally keep eastward of a line 360° from North Cape. Ends. (C. in C. H.F. 0928B/26 to Home Fleet)

Straits of
Dover.
M.T.B. Patrol.

Weather permitting one unit of 70 M.T.B.'s is to patrol tonight from vicinity of "W" Buoy in general direction 240°. (2) Object is:- (A) To attack enemy shipping and patrols located. (B) To confirm presence of buoys. (3) C.O. of M.L. 106 should be embarked for this patrol. (4) Surface vessels met East of 1° 45' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1000B/26 to BEEHIVE).

Operation Q.E.

One unit M.G.B. and A/S trawler operation Q.E. initial position 5 miles 090° from No. 5 Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1645B/26 to EGLINTON);

M.T.B.
Operation.

Three M.T.B.'s sail at 2230 to operate off Berck Sur Mer and return at about 0445. (V.A. Dover 1737B/26).

730

War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

"Stat" "Best One"
Patrols ~~STAB~~ and ~~BERT ONE~~ on Norwegian Coast about 1100/26. P.R.U. Trondheim, and coast between that place and Stadlandet, being flown today as soon as conditions suitable. Patrol ~~STAB~~ ^{"Stat"} ordered to be flown at last light 26th. (C. in C. Rosyth 0952/26).

Fighter Protection information.

Since the new method of asking for Fighter protection has been in use no indication has been received by me of the nature or extent of protection provided in each case. Request I may be informed of your arrangements on every occasion. (V.A. Dover 1039B/26 to 11 Group).

Bombing Restrictions.

Cancel submerged bombing restrictions in area 52, in area 54 North of 047° N., in area 73 north of 048° N., and in area 55 until 1200 tomorrow. (F.O.S. 1606B/26 to S/M's Area A.).
OPS 696. 26/6. Ships are not to be attacked South of Brest East of 0500 W. and North of 4630 N without previous reference to either C. in C. or S.A.S.O. H.Q.C.C. (H.Q.C.C. 1947/26).
The present large submerged bombing restriction areas are a serious handicap to offensive operations against U-boats by 19 Group.
2. It is requested this area may be kept to a minimum particularly when the U-boat approach routes to Brest, Lorient, and St. Nazaire are concerned. (C. in C. Plymouth 2146/26 to Adty.).

Enemy Air Activity.Orkneys.

At 0117 onwards unidentified aircraft were over Orkneys and engaged by ground defences. No hostile aircraft passed over the Flow, no reports of bombs dropped. (A.C.O.S. 0259/26).

Convoy F.S. Even.

Convoy "Arena" is being shadowed by one enemy aeroplane bearing 280° 4 miles in 52° 31' N. 2° 5' E. (WALLACE 0431/26).
Enemy Aircraft bombing Convoy in 52° 31' N. 2° 5' E. (WALLACE 0459/26).
Fighters are being sent. (Nore W/T 0515/26).

M.L. 152.

Am being bombed position Aldeburgh Float. (M.L. 152 0516B/26).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity-Contd.Convoy
W.N. Odd.Fighters have been despatched to Convoy ^{"Rusty"} ~~RUSTY~~.
(Rosyth W/T 1800/26).Convoy "Night"
MIght. (E.C.38)
TRANIO
(M/S Trawler)
damaged.Aircraft bombing convoy. Position 53° 1' N.
1° 47' E.
(QUANTOCK 2306/26).
TRANIO disabled by bomb. TANGO standing by.
Position 57 Buoy. (QUANTOCK 2320B/26).Mining.Thames
Estuary.One Mine detonated by S.A. gear at 2018/25 as
follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1032/26).Burnham.My 0945/25. One mine demolished at 0955/26. The
second reported proved to be parachute cap.
(R.N.O. Burnham 1100/26).Tyne.1 red ground magnetic mine detonated at 1010/26
in 061° Tyne North Pier Light 14½ cables. (F.O.I.C
Tyne 1211/26).Passage of
CUMBERLAND.Add to my 1230B/25. S.A. Sweep is also to be
similarly carried out as far as practicable.
(C. in C. Nore 1532B/26).Off
Aldeburgh.A/C seen to rise from surface 190° 7 cables from
Aldeburgh Buoy. Minelaying suspected. Other
planes in vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1542B/26).East
Coast
Sweeps.

Details. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1645B/26 to EGLINTON).

Enemy
Minelaying
in Baltic etc.Details.
All above graded A two. (N.A. Stockholm 1815/26).

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ.

TIRPITZ at Kiel 25/6 cleverly camouflaged at southern Mole of Canal entrance of Holtenau. Graded A.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1007/26).

German use of Swedish Territorial Waters.

(1) Ministry of Defence informed me today that new attitude has not caused Sweden to alter her situation regarding passage of German mails through her territorial waters. Asking for an interpretation of meaning of this I was referred to following relevant passage extracted from Swedish treatise of International Law begins. "Merchant vessels chartered as troop transports, coal or ammunition transports and so on, but still sailing under merchant flags, shall be treated as merchant ships" Ends.

(2) Conclusion. In view of mining in Baltic there seems little doubt that German transports to Finland will enjoy protection of Swedish territorial waters. (N.A. Stockholm 1809/26).

Enemy Minelaying in Baltic.

N.A. Stockholm 1815/26. (See Mining).

Seizure of Polish S/MS.

Swedish Navy treacherously seized the three interned Polish submarines at Grippsholm this forenoon 26 and (? detained) Polish personnel. Vessels being towed to Stockholm. Strong representations being made. (N.A. Stockholm 1819/26).

Casualties and Defects.

BRIGHTON.

Comply with C. in C.H.F. 2509B/25. (C. in C. W.A. 0050B/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). My 1952B/25. BRIGHTON with AURORA believed to be in Reydarford. Proceed there unless other information is received. (C. in C. H.F. 0317B/26 to ECHO). (BRIGHTON mines 25/6 - see p. 714 -)
Consider BRIGHTON will be seaworthy and able to steam 10 knots by 1200Z tomorrow. Intend to sail with her at that time and proceed by Skopen Fiord to U.K. Request one tug (? may) stand by and air and Destroyer A/S escort during passage. (AURORA 0935/26 to N.O.I.C. Iceland). Pass following position on passage to Reydar Fiord. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1104B /26 to MARAUDER, THAMES).

/AURORA.....

732A.

SECRET

MESSAGE

JW

2150/26 June

From British Military Attache, Stockholm.

Date 27.6.41.

Recd. 0915.

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office Repeated British Military Attache, Helsinki.

23225.

107 cipher 26/6.

Following for D.M.I. repeated Military Attache Helsinki. Visits to General Staff and to Mr. I, produced following information.

1. Transit granted to German Division will commence at once and will take 10 days. Troops may only remain on Swedish soil for 48 hours and permission return has not been granted. Waggon will be sealed. The division to move is numbered 163 from Lillehammer area and they are being fitted out with special fort storming equipment, and are to be used in co-operation with Finns to retake Hangö.

2. Swedish General Staff regret necessity to grant transit and hope Britain will regard it as contingent policy latter helping Finland as demonstrated in Russo-Finnish war, on which Finns based their request. Finns have asked for arms and equipment from Sweden and Sweden intends supply again, but this time only in small quantities.

3. There have been no demands by Germans for use of aerodromes or ports, and none are anticipated. Demand for a belt across which planes may fly has not been pressed, and Swedish general Staff believe Germans fly high over lonely tracts at night. Germans have asked that any planes force landing may be released, but Swedes have replied they will act in accordance with International Law.

4. Source tells me that raids on Leningrad are being carried out from East Russia and planes land in South Finland to refuel when necessary. Source stated German planes have been carrying out air reconnaissances from North Norway of Mandalaksha and Salla. Mines have been laid by air off Murmansk.

5. Source stated German agitators have worked successfully in Estonia, and country is ready carry out sabotage and impede Russian war effort.

6. My telegram 104 of June 23rd paragraph 5. Finns in Aaland total one regiment and not one division. No guns yet in position.

2150/26

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

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

D.N.I.(4).
O.I.C.(2).
D.S.D.9.
D.N.A.D.
M.(3).
D.of P.(3).
I.P.(3).
D.P.D.
W.D.

Recd. from War Office
1600/29 June.

War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.BRIGHTON-
Contd.

AURORA 0955/26. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange A/S air escort if practicable.
 (ii) ECHO is to provide A/S escort to lat. of Cape Wrath. (iii) AURORA report time of departure and route to above addressees and remain as A/A escort to lat. of Cape Wrath. (C. in C. H.F. 2225B/26).

Shipping and Convoys.H.X. 155.

10 hours late 47 ships. VIGRID straggling. SOLOY, BROCKLEY HILL torpedoed. My position. (WOLFE 0600Z/26 to C. in C.W.A).

Reporting
ships
detached
from O.B.
Convoys.

In order to establish daily D.R. positions as accurately as possible of ships for African and South American ports detached from O.B. Convoys in extreme West longitude, escorts are to report time and position of dispersal at the earliest moment that wireless silence can be broken without endangering ships in vicinity. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1115B/26 to C. in C.W.A, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.C.N.F).

H.X. 151.

H.X. 151. Route altered. Met as arranged. All ships present. Fog from 18/6. (Admty.1541B/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 660).

War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Ship mined. F.O.C.N.A. 1008A/26. See Mediterranean.
- SULLBERG.
(German) Left Valencia 23rd for Marseilles. (F.O.C.N.A. 1108A/26 to O.23.)
- LE TRAIT.
(French) My 1027/16. Arrived Lisbon from Setubol 25/6. (N.A. Lisbon 1245/26 to D.N.I.)
Arrival 24/6. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1910/26 to D. of S.T.)
- ERNANI.
(Italian) Departure Las Palmas 2215/25 for unknown destination. Description. (F.O.C.N.A. S.1329A/26.)
- CORINTHIAN. A.T. 1854B/25 para. 2. CORINTHIAN is to patrol M.2. (D.D.D.F. 1532B/26.)
- PRU at
Gibraltar. A photographic R/C unit is now stationed at Gibraltar. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1742/26.)
- FANDANGO.
MORRIS DANCE.
SARABANDE.
CORDELIA.
NORSE. Expected to arrive Fayal (Azores) about 3/7. Request arrangements to provide approximately 700 tons of coal for these ships. Senior Officer has been informed that not more than 3 ships may enter port on one day. Permission is being asked through Ambassador. (D.O.D.F. 1749B/26 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
Not more than 3 H.M. Ships are allowed to enter Fayal in one day. Comply. (D.O.D.F.1802B/26 to Ships.)
- Suspicious
Vessel. N.A. Lisbon reports:- Unknown vessel sighted about 1400 in 44 50 N. 10 10 W. course W. speed 13 knots, appears similar to British Naval Auxiliary. No marking or flag visible, T.O.O. 2130/25. (F.O.C.N.A. 1824A/26 to Admty. etc.)
- AURIS. My position 034° N. 019° 20' W. Tanker AURIS not met. Returning to Gibraltar owing to shortage of fuel. (ERIDGE 2200A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- French convoy. Convoy of 4 French merchant vessels left Casablanca at 18/24 escorted by destroyers, 2 are BELLE ISLE and OUED FEZ. Believed to be proceeding to Dakar and that cargo includes American aircraft and trucks. Graded B.3. (Wagon, Tangier, 2243/26 to Admty.)

War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.GOLDMOUTH.
ALDERAMIN.

Overdue shipping. My 1931/25 GOLDMOUTH arrived Durban. Dutch ship ALDERAMIN due Durban 21st Madras not arrived. (S.O.(I) Cape Town 0942B/26.)

DRAGON.

If your presence is no longer required at Lagos proceed to Pointe Noire to arrive a.m./1/7, leaving 5/7 for Cape. (C. in C.S.A. 1339N/26 to DRAGON.)

Requisitioned
enemy ships.

Permission is being given for certain enemy ships requisitioned by the South American Gov. to make voyages in our interest between American or British Ports. Re flags and reporting. (II) Following Danish vessels now in Chilian Port will sail shortly wearing Chilian Flag for U.S. North Atlantic port: HELGA, LAILA, LOTTA, SELMA, FRIDA. (C. in C.S.A.1405N/26 to S.A.S. Sqn.)

LIEUTENANT
W. ST.
LOUBERT BIE.

My 1015/7. Ship's log in my possession covering period 28/1 to date of interception. Ship -remained at Marseilles between 28/1 and 11/4. Request instructions as to disposal. (S.O.I. Capetown 1453/26.)

CRITON.

Have you any further information to add to your 2121N/22 concerning the loss of S.S. CRITON. (D.O.D.F. 1719B/26 to C. in C.S.A.)

CAMERONIA.

My 1849/26. Request you will suggest position in which CILICIA escorting CAMERONIA should leave to return to Freetown observing she will have no A/S escort after leaving. (C. in C.S.A.1851N/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA.

Your
~~My~~ 1930B/25. Para 4. Now considered unsuitable for inclusion in S.L. Convoy. Can you provide ocean escort to lat. 50° N. (C. in C.S.A. 105, 1947B/26 to Admty.)

GASCON.

Your 1930/25 para.4. QUEEN OF BERMUDA will carry out this duty, DUNEDIN proceeding June 27th to relieve her in J.35. (C. in C.S.A. 2113N/26 to Admty.) See p. 716

LONDON.

Return to Freetown. (C. in C.S.A.2053N/26 to LONDON.)

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

0630/26th June.

LN.

From War Office.

Date 27.6.41.

735A

CYPHER.

Addressed G.O.C. West Africa, Repeated Fanion Brazzaville.

No. 74295. Cipher (M.O.4) 25/6.

My 73282 cipher (M.O.4) 30/6.

Staff talks between British, Free French and Belgian Congo now approved. Belgian Government agree talks take place in West Africa. You will therefore co-ordinate all arrangements with Belgian and Free French authorities. Welcome your views whether talks should take place independently or by means of staff delegation at periodical meetings between Governor-General of Congo, Free French High Commissioner and Governor Nigeria, which may take place following Colonial Office telegram 210 cipher 16/6 to Wagon.

Scope of talks will be to draw up co-ordinated plan for defence of British and Free French West African Colonies and Belgian Congo. No (repeat no) political commitments will be undertaken and talks will not (repeat not) include questions concerning defence of Portuguese West Africa. Questions of training and supply of equipment will be referred by representatives to Departments concerned in London.

0630/26.

✓ copy not received War Registry.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H).

A.C.N.S. (F).

Sec.

Nav. Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S. (S).

D.N.I. (4).

C.D. (5).

Ops. (4).

M. (2).

D. of P. (3).

O.I.C.

D.S.D. 9.

I.P. (3).

W.D.

Received from War Office at 1255/27.

(Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.)

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Convoy.

P. C. and S. of 2 enemy Merchant vessels and 1 destroyer (338??). 33° 42' N. 13° 19' E. 210 - 18. (Nore W/T 0308/26.) Convoy attacked 2140B/25 036° (?34') 016° 00' force unknown probably two merchant ships escort seven destroyers. (S.O.(S) Malta, 0331B/26 to UNIQUE, UPRIGHT, REGENT.) Two merchant ships one destroyer 034° 23' 013° 20' 205° 16 knots 0508B/26. (S.O.S/Ms. Malta, 0801B/26 to UPRIGHT, UNIQUE, REGENT.)

Ship mined.

Unconfirmed report ship (corrupt group) sunk by mine 5 miles south of Genoa or Savona. (F.O.C.N.A. 1008A/26 to O.23.)

Situation report.

Repetition of his 3349/21. (C. in C. Med.1020C/26) see 21/6.

Orders to S/M's.

At 2100B/26 proceed as follows REGENT, URGE resume original patrol. UPHOLDER, UNBEATEN proceed to Malta by North East Channel to arrive about 0630B/27. UPRIGHT, UNIQUE proceed through 35° 36' 14° 08' 35° 30' 14° 14' respectively to arrive about 0630B/28. UNION arrives Malta 0700B/27 from Westward. (S.O.S/M's Malta, 1120B/26 to S/M's Malta Force, REGENT.)

Constanza.

A.2 intelligence report. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1225/26) See Lion Copy.

Red Crosses on Hospital Ships.

Insufficiently visible. To be enlarged to maximum possible size. (D. of S.T. 1254B/26.)

OSIRIS. RORQUAL.

OSIRIS and RORQUAL are proceeding to Malta carrying petrol and cannot use identification flares. T.B.R. required 5 miles either side of route from now until 0600B/2/7 as follows. (V.A. Malta, 1325B/26.)

Proposed operations.

C. in C. Med. 1422C/26. See Mediterranean Volume.

/Air

136A

SECRET

MESSAGE 1225/26 June

IN

From N.S.O.(I) Istanbul

DATE 27.6.41.

REC'D 0938

Inter Departmental Cypher V (14) by Cable

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

A Two report from Source left Constantza June 22nd.

- (a) Reference to Part Two (a) My 1915/18 50 Pontoons already assembled lying West of Basin Q Material for further 150 in Port Railway Yards Q speed 12 to 15 knots Q in any case about 150. Details by bag.
- (b) Large numbers of contact and Magnetic Mines laid by DACIA Q REGELE CAROLIA and MARASESTIE.
- (c) Five (? German) (? Destroyers) observed in Port.
- (d) Ships subjected to vigorous German Naval Control.
- (e) Four hour Russian air raid night of June 22nd/June 23rd observed from 10 miles - only two out of about 35 searchlights left operating - red glow, over town visible at 50 miles.

1225/26

Advance copy sent to D.N.I.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D.N.I. (4)
 Ops (4)
 O.D. (5)
 D. of P. (3)
 O.I.C.
 D.S.D. (2)
 M (8) for A Ministry and War Office.
 D.N.A.D.
 D.A/S.W.
 D.T.M.
 H.P.S.
 W.D.

N.I.D. Comment.

- (a) These Pontoons were reported in S.O.(I) Istanbul 1915/18 to be for use in pairs to support what appeared to be a tank carrying platform with ramp - six only were then reported to be complete.
- (b) It has already been reported that the Rumanian Merchant Vessels DACIA and REGELE CAROLIA had been armed and fitted as mine layers.

M.E.B

War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Air
Operations.

Night 25/26 June, about 20 Aircraft approached, only 5 crossed coast dropping bombs. No casualties or damage. P.M./25 Convoy 4 Troopships 6 D.R.'s located and shadowed East Sicilian Coast. A.M./26 Aircraft searched from Sicily to Tripoli for Convoy, not seen. 4 Marylands attacked Convoy 4 M.V.'s 20,000 tons, 6 D.R.'s off Sicily at dusk (25/6) 1 direct hit at least 1,500 lb. M.Bomb causing fire with much smoke amidships. 1 Maryland missing. Later 7 Swordfish made Torpedo attack 2 M.V.'s hit with third probable hit. Further results unobserved owing to darkness. One Swordfish missing. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1801/26.)

Suez Canal.

My 1221/21. For 36 feet read 34 feet. (C. in C. Med. 1907/26.)
See page 647, 21/6/41.

Tobruk.

Appreciation of situation by C's in C. in reply to Chiefs of Staff Nos. 134 and 136. (C. in C. Middle East 2119/26), See Lion Copy.

MAURO CROCE
(Italian)
SULLBERG
(German)

Arrived 23/6.

Arrived 24/6. (Barcelona 2115/25 to D. of S.T.)

Palestine and Syria.15th C.S.
bombardment.

Your 2101 - well done. LEANDER and 3 destroyers will be bombarding off Ras Damour from 0500 to 0545/26. Keep clear. (C.S.15 0177C/26 to PARTHIAN.)

Air attack
on Beirut.

2 Albacore 829 Sqn. carried out dive bombing attacks on Beirut harbour at 2130/25. One stick seen to fall between East Mole and large jetty. Destroyer alongside quay in between but no hit can be confirmed. One Swordfish carried out sweep to North of harbour with torpedoes. Hospital ship in Bay 5 miles to North of harbour but no suitable target seen. Aircraft returned with torpedoes. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0944C/26 to R.A. 15 C.S.)

S/M's.

Informing him of movements affecting him. (Capt. (S) I. 1033C/26 to ? C.S.15)

/Air

437A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

~~SECRET~~

22/26/41

IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 27.6.41.

Recd 0235.

Cipher

Addressed War Office, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

23046.

O/76675 Cipher : 6/6.

From Commanders in Chief in reply to Chiefs of Staff Nos. 134 and 136.

In continuation of O/75578 of 22/6 and O/1514 of 18/6 paragraph 4.

J.P.S. paper on Tobruk examined, and main points and recommendations are:

1. Tobruk has great influence on enemy action in Western Desert, as it must be reduced or strongly contained before enemy can launch major offensive against Delta.
2. At present enemy land forces in Libya and available air forces insufficient for either large scale attack against Tobruk or against Delta, therefore our occupation of Tobruk likely to impose delay on enemy plans which is calculated at about two months.
3. This delay of great value to us, enabling Syrian situation to be cleared up, re-organisation of our forces and arrival of re-inforcements land and air.
4. Tobruk if captured would assist enemy supply problem as experience shows difficulty of rendering a port permanent unusable.
5. On other hand there is little likelihood on present indications of our being able to relieve garrison by land for some time to come.
6. Enemy have not yet launched really strong air and ground attack, and probable he could produce necessary forces for this in about two months time.
7. Present maintenance position suggests that unless supply ships can be sent in periodically supplies might become exhausted in about two months.
8. Other points taken into consideration were, difficulty of providing fighter protection to Tobruk, danger of political repercussions if garrison consisting principally of Australians, were lost and very large air commitment involved in protecting supply ships on passage. This varies with conditions and speed of ships, for example to provide protection fighter escort at minimum strength for six knot ships under best conditions or routing would require full operational effort 8 fighter squadrons. Risk is high of ships in Tobruk being lost by air attack by day.

9/.....

9. Evacuation a difficult operation at any time. Warships must be used and 4 nights would be required to remove present garrison of 35,000. This time factor will make it difficult to disguise intention from enemy.
10. Policy as agreed to by Commanders in Chief as follows.
- A. To hold Tobruk until supply difficulties or enemy intentions render evacuation desirable.
- B. Until clear that attack being launched on Tobruk is developing on such scale that fortress has no reasonable chance of holding out steps will not be taken to evacuate.
- C. Garrison to be reduced consistent with defence requirements both to ease supply situation and to allow if possible evacuation to be carried out on two successive nights. Plans prepared to allow demolitions and evacuation to be put into effect at shortest possible notice.
11. Further appreciation on general situation follows within next few days.
12. Pass to Admiralty and Air Ministry.

2119/26

Received from The War Office at 1352/27 June.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F).
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D.O.D. (F).
 D.D.O.D. (F).
 D.N.I. (4).
 D. of P. (2).
 Duty Captain
 E.P.S.
 Head of M. (8).
 I.P. (2).
 W.D.
 N.I.D.10 (Paymaster Cdr.
 Wilson).

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Palestine and Syria. - Contd.

Air raid
on Haifa.

25/6/41. No damage. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1159/26)

Alleged
shelling of
ambulances
in Syria by
British
warships.

Your 1352B/24. Ships engaged close in shore on 14/6 were JERVIS and GRIFFIN. In both cases I am quite satisfied that no vehicle with visible Red Cross Marking was engaged.
2. JERVIS engaged: (A) An armoured car which replied. (B) Gun Batteries. (C) Various wooded areas in which troops and/or Motor transports were thought to be concealed.
3. GRIFFIN had instructions to stop all movements on roads and engaged targets. (R.A.(D) Med. 1117C/25) (C. in C. Med. 1328C/26 to Admty.)

Movements.

Have detached KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY with WARSPITE. GRIFFIN pending reply to R.A.(D) Med's 1101/25. Destroyer not required to join C.S.15 has been ordered to rejoin me 0700/27. (V.A.1 B.S. 1551C/26 to C. In C. Med.)

LATONA.

Not able to join you tonight. (R.A.D.F. 1630/26 to V.A.1. B.S.)
Intend to sail at 2200 today for short trial. If no defect develops to remain at sea for night and join F.O.C. 1st B.S. at 0630/27. (R.A.(D) Med. 1802/26 to C. in C. Med.)

Beirut.

A/C attacking destroyers in Beirut harbour tonight Thursday. This is done on most nights. (F.O.C. 15 C.S. 1920/26 to PARTHIAN.)

Air attack
on Beirut.

829 Sqn. Albacores. 2 sorties against destroyers Beirut harbour night 25/26. 120 250 pounds dropped. No hits observed bombs fell between East Mole and large jetty. 1 Swordfish carried out sweep to North of harbour with torpedoes no suitable target found. (H.Q. R.A.F. P.T.J. 2135/26.)

/Situation

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Palestine and Syria - Contd.Situation
Report No.68.

Syria. PARTHIAN sunk French Submarine ^{SOUFFLEUR} (REQUIN Class) in position 33°49'N. 35°26'E. at 1248/25.
2. LEANDER and three destroyers bombarded at dawn 26th in Damur area. Only slight activity on land until main army advance is restarted.
-3. Tripoli convoy see V.A. Malta 1331/26.
Battle Fleet is at sea exercising between Port Said and Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 2344C/26.)

East Indies.RANCHI.
COLOMBO.Orders for COLOMBO to relieve RANCHI on patrol.
(C. in C.E.I. 1158Z/26.)CORNWALL.
*(Left Seychelles.
P. H. list)*Sailed 0630Z/26 in accordance with your ^{N.T. m. w. D.} 0748/25.
(CORNWALL, 0631Z/26 to C. in C.E.I.)Shipping
for Basra.

(1) ARTHUR CAVANAGH at Karachi sails for Basra about 26/6.
(2) MILFORD COUNTESS leaves Karachi 25/6 due Bombay 28/6 to dock and repair. Sails for Basra on completion.
(3) SNAPDRAGON leaves Bombay 26 June for Basra.
(C. in C.E.I. 1210Z/26.)

Escort,
W.African
Troops.

A.M. 2031/17. War Office state troops will be ready to embark at Mombasa in returning W.S. 8 B ships at end of July. Request confirmation that escort can be provided. (D.O.D.F. 1857B/26 to C. in C.E.I.)

Sweep in
Gulf of Suez.

After reaching Strait of Jubal carry out sweeps with "A" sweep of following area to at least depth of 45 feet to ensure there are no uncharted pinnacle rocks. (C. in C.E.I. 2026Z/26 to BATHURST.)

Basra and
Shatt-el-
Arab.

(1) S.N.O. Persian Gulf informs me (a) Iraqi gunboats and troops are returning to their peace time stations at Basra.
(2) These movements are stated to be in accordance with armistice terms. If this is a fact, I hope no further weakening of our control of Basra and Shatt-el-Arab is going to be allowed.
(C. in C.E.I. 2028Z/26 to Admty.)

War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.SURCOUF.

Amty. 0008/26. See Operations Volume.

AURORA.
KURIKKA.
(Finnish)

At La Guayra. Government guards on board, Venezuelan Gunboat GENERAL SALOM standing by. Inference. Will not be permitted sail without clearance and will be escorted through territorial waters. Government Inspired Press states event Finland becoming belligerent, ships will be allowed 24 hours to sail failing which will be interned. (S.O.(1) Jamaica. 0956R/26 to Admty., C. in C.A.W.I. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

A/SV.
~~S.S.~~ DOROTHY
DUKE, ODDVAR.
ODDVAR II
(Finnish)

Incident (F.O.I.C. Trinidad 1818Q/26.)

MERCIER
(Torpedoed
9/6.)

Reference Rugby's Broadcast 0037/18 regarding Finnish KEMI having picked up survivors Belgian MERCIER. So far as is known there may be four passengers and 22 crew of MERCIER still on board. Finnish HANMARLAND has landed 45 MERCIER survivors at Norfolk (Virginia) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1836Z/26)

Vessels sight-
ed by ANTANGA.

Your 1033B/25. ^{NT h w D} Further to my 2051Z/21 it is now reported that vessels were two large French trawlers and two Portuguese vessels. They acted suspiciously and did not fish. Intend sailing CHESTERFIELD to investigate. (C.C.N.F.1852Z/26 to Adty.)

Australia.SKJELBRED.
(Norwegian)

Due Brisbane 16/6 from Antofagasta. Not arrived. (Admty. 1619B/26 to N.C.S.O. Brisbane.)

ANATINA.

Have you any news of Norwegian ANATINA from Balboa due 17/6. (D.T.D. 1621B/26 to N.C.S.O. Melbourne.)

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

KINROSS.

ORILLIA has on board all crew of 37 of KINROSS. (OTTAWA 0725Z/26 to C. in C.W.A.)
W.D. Note: ? torpedoed in O.B.336 24/6.

SANGARA.
(sunk 13/5)

Considered probably sunk by torpedo, reported portion of torpedo has been found by divers. (C. in C.S.A. 1041N/26 to Admty.)

MERCIER
(torpedoed
9/6.)

Belgian ship MERCIER sunk by torpedoes at 2218 ship's time/9 in 48° 30' N. 41° 30' W. Survivors landed by Finnish ship HAMMARLAND. Details. (Consul, Norfolk, Va.. 1550Z/26)

YSELHAVEN
(Sunk 6/6)

Netherland ship YSELHAVEN torpedoed 50 1620, ship's time, 6/6 in 49 25 N. 40 54 W. sank. Survivors (details) landed by Finnish ship ~~PALKMARLAND.~~ HAMMARLAND. (Consul, Norfolk Va. 1552Z/26)

S.S. JOSEPH
DUHAMEL.

SSSS. 63° 07' N. 21° 28' - 45 W. JOSEPH DUHAMEL attacked by submarine 1837 - 1930 G.M.T. (Liverpool W/T 1837/26, Iceland W/T 1931/26, 2117/26, 2118/26, 2121/26.)

Unknown
ship.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1249/25. Could this have been ? ship in Northern area. (C. in C.S.A. 1850N/26 to Admty.)

VENETIA'S
Life-Boat.

Ship's (? lifeboat) marked VENETIA Glasgow picked up 23/6 in 062° N. 015° 20' W. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2201/25)

S.S. TIBIA.
(H.X.113)

SSSS. 59° N. 55' N. 30° E. 49' W. TIBIA torpedoed. (Iceland W/T T.O.R. 2305/26.)

S.L.78
RIVER LUGAR.

S.L. 78 attacked by S/M. RIVER LUGAR torpedoed, position 259 24° N. 21° W. 10 - X 20. (SHROPSHIRE 2340N/26)

Submarines Reported.

2128 G.M.T.
/25.

At 2128 G.M.T. German U-boat within 100 miles of 037° N. 017° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0223A/26 to N.A.Stn.)

1515 G.M.T.

S.S. INDIAN PRINCE report begins: Strong suspicion U.Boat sighted in 058° 39' N. 044° 08' W. at 1515 G.M.T. (N.S.H. Ottawa 0254Z/26 to Fairmiss, C.C.N.F.)

/Off

War Diary.26.6.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Off Huelva
23/6.

Portuguese fishermen report sighting submarine cruising 10 miles S.W. Huelva at daylight June 23rd course S.W. (LOCH OSKAIG 1030B/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C
1241.

Am over Enemy S/M in position 59° 50' N. 30° 25' W. T.O.O. 1241. (A/C Duty K. 1402/26, C. in C.W.A. 1805B to OTTAWA.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1458B/26)

2330.

Am over enemy submarine in position 59° 32' N. 29° 55' W. (A/C Duty H. 2330/26)

1920/25 G.M.T. By D/F position of U.Boat was approx. 55° 00' N. 32° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 0105B/26.)

Submarines Attacked.U.Boat to be
attacked.

C. A U.Boat was reported in V.C.E.G. 2740 at 1425/25 and it is thought that it will endeavour to arrive at Lorient at dawn 26/6. One Beaufort armed with 4 D.C's and 2 A.S. bombs to carry out sweep from V.C.C.T. 3000 to Lorient. Aircraft to leave first position at dawn 26/6. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0215/26 to St. Eval.)

By A/C
0825.

48° 0' N. 9° 20' W. 0825/26. No indication of damage. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. T.1200/26.)

By A/C
1415.

Have attacked enemy submarine in 48° 17' N. 8° 45' W. submerged, not hit. (A/C Duty S. 1415/26 1455/26, Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1940/26.)

743

War Diary.

27.6.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M. T. B.
Operation.

3 M. T. B.'s operated off Berck Sur Mer last night.

British Air Operations.

31 Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Kiel last night.

Shipping was attacked off Dunkirk today by aircraft of Coastal Command, with reported success against a 3,000 ton ship.

Enemy Air Operations.

Attacks on
East Coast
Shipping.

Convoy W.N.45 was attacked again in the early hours, off the East coast of Scotland. No damage is reported.

M/S trawler Group 16 was attacked at about 2330 whilst at anchor off Spurn Point. All four ships returned safely to harbour, but LOCH ERIBOL, WELSBACH and LOCH LEVEN were damaged.

A/P Trawler OYSTERMOUTH CASTLE was bombed and damaged this morning off Lowestoft.

F.S. Convoy called for help at 2346 in 52° 21' N 1° 42' E.

War Diary

27.6.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft occurred off the East Coast and in the Thames Estuary last night. Restrictions were imposed in the River, a stretch of which was closed for some hours.

South Atlantic

Takoradi

Another mine was exploded today. The port is closed, but there are many ships outside and it is intended to sweep some of them in as early as possible.

Lagos.

Another mine was exploded today.

Mediterranean

Submarine GLAUCO
sunk by
WISHART

F.O.C.N.A. reports that WISHART sank an Italian submarine today in approx. (35°) 10' N., 12° 35' W. and picked up the crew.

Submarine
Operations.

SALPA Sunk
by TRIUMPH.

UNION reports sinking an escorted south bound laden merchant vessel of 2800 tons at 1507/22 in 36° 9' N., 11° 58' E. TRIUMPH encountered and sank by gunfire and torpedoes a submarine steering north at 0810 today in 32° 5' N., 26° 47' E.

Operation
"Railway"

(Phase I)

21 Hurricanes arrived at Malta from Gibraltar today. See also p. 803, 813.

War Diary

27.6.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya &
Western Desert

5 Swordfish and 4 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli harbour last night. A direct hit was made on a large merchant ship outside the harbour.

America & West Indies

SS FRUMENTON reported at 0010 G.M.T. being followed by a suspicious vessel in 40° 8' N., 53° 44' W.

U-Boat Campaign

Attack on
H.X. 133
second U-Boat
sunk. (U.556)

GLADIOLUS who on 2⁵/₆ sank a U-Boat which attacked Convoy H.X. 133 reports sinking another U-Boat, with NASTURTIUM and CELANDINE in company, in 60° 18' N., 29° 20' W. 41 survivors were picked up.

see pp. 723 - 776

SS BALTARA a straggler from H.X. 133 was torpedoed at 0200/27 in 58° 0' N., 30° 58' W.

Attacks on
S.L. 78.

S.L. 78 was attacked late on 26/6 and SS RIVER LUGAR was sunk in approx. 24° N., 21° W. SS EMPIRE ABILITY was also torpedoed. The convoy was attacked again late tonight in 25° 43' N., 22° 44' W. ~~SS OZZAN NADIER~~ and PLM 22 in this convoy was lost by enemy action and was no doubt sunk by Uboat attack on 26/6 and 27/6.

746

War Diary.

27.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TJALDUR.

A.C.O.S. 1131/27. Danish TJALDUR is to be sailed from Kirkwall with armed guard to Clyde by earliest opportunity. On arrival ship is to handed into custody of Collector of Customs representing Admiralty Marshal.
(D.T.D. 2016B/27)

Movements.

NORFOLK.

On crossing 25° W. NORFOLK is to part company with the convoy and proceed independently passing through 56° 40' N. 14° W. thence to Scapa to refuel. C. in C.H.F. is requested to sail NORFOLK to South Shields for repairs in accordance with a.m.1637B/17/6 and 0432B/19/6. Anticipated time required for repairs, three to four weeks. NORFOLK will disembark prisoners of war at South Shields. (A.C.N.S. H. 0018B/27)

CHALLENGER.
LAVENDER.
STARWORT.

Your 1444B/26. On passage to Bathurst CHALLENGER, LAVENDER and STARWORT should not call at Gibraltar. Ships may call at Ponta Delgada Azores for fuel if necessary.
3. Permission is being sought through Ambassador and fuel is being arranged by Admiralty.
(D.O.D. H. 1215B/27 to C. in C.W.A.)

POZARICA.

A.M.1725B/17. POZARICA is delayed. Anticipated date of sailing 9/7. (D.O.D.H. 1254B/27.)

JUMNA.

Alter course to pass through 059° 20' N. 5° W. to avoid submarine reported in my 1730.
(A.C.O.S. 1745/27 to JUMNA.)

VICTORIOUS.

Intend sailing VICTORIOUS escorted by CHARLESTOWN ST. MARYS, WINCHESTER passing Clyde boom at 0620B/28 thence in accordance with VICTORIOUS 1121B/26. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1828/27)

RAMILLIES.

RAMILLIES, HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, ASSINIBOINE expect to arrive H valfjordur 0400 G.M.T./28.
(RAMILLIES 2001Z/27.)

747

27.6.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Straits of
Dover.
M.T.B.
Patrol.

BEEHIVE reports:- Your 1000B/26. No vessels sighted. Re buoys. 0959/27. Ends. (C. in C. Nore. 1146B/27)

Operation N.L.
4.

Intend to carry out operation N.L.4 tomorrow night. (V.A. Dover 2009B/27.) Intend to operate 2 M.L.'s close N.W. of Boulogne between 0100 and 0300/29. Request arrangements be made that they shall on no account be illuminated by Flares from friendly aircraft. (V.A. Dover 2011B/27 to H.Q.C.C.)

British Air Activity.

Bombing
Restrictions.

Cancel S.B.R. in area X and in area 73 North of 048° N. forthwith until further notice. (F.O.S. 1021B/27 to H.Q.C.C.) F.S.A.5 para 25 and C. in C. Plymouth 2146/26. In future F.O.S. will order S.B.R. as necessary in areas 54, 55 and 56 and any extensions to westwards which may be necessary to cover Patrol areas. All bombing restrictions to cover passage routes are to be ordered by Captains concerned when required. (F.O.S. 1038B/27.)

Patrols.

P.R.U. for Aalberg and Fredrikshafen now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1040/27.) Three Hudson Aircraft leave following Datum Points at 1530/27 and search on tracks 045° as far as 61° N. thence on track 000° to 62° N. thence return direct to Datum. Datum Points H.V.V.U. 0022 - H.V.Q.J. 0000 H.V.Q.J. 0038. (C. in C. Rosyth 1414/27.)

Emden and
Kiel attacked.

On Night 26/27 3 A/C attacked Emden and 31 A/C attacked Kiel. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1550/27.)

Enemy Air Activity.

TRANIO.
(Bombed
26/6.)

Departure tug KROOMAN at 0136 to assist TRANIO. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0145B/27.) TRANIO in E.C.38 damaged by bomb at 2320B/26 near 57 Buoy. Ship sank at 0325B/27 while in tow of TANGO 350° 4 cables from 56 B. Buoy. All crew are safe on board TANGO. (TANGO 0100B/27, F.O.I.C. Gt Yarmouth 0145B/27, 1210B/27, 2132B/27, C. in C. Nore 0947B/27.)

/OYSTERMOUTH

748

War Diary.27.6.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.OYSTERMOUTH
CASTLE -
damaged.

Damaged by near miss. No casualties. Ship being docked at Lowestoft. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0514B/27, 1213B/27.)

Convoy
F.S. Even.Help Convoy ^{"Arana"} ~~ARENA~~ 52° 21' N. 1° 42' E.
(LIDDESDALE 2346/27.)
Fighters have been despatched.
(Nore W/T 2357B/27.)Mining.River
Thames.Navigation in river from Tilbury Docks to Sea Reach No.4 Buoy is to cease immediately. (F.O.I.C. London 0615/27.)
My 0615/27. Navigation may be resumed. Ships are not to enter an Area South of a line joining Shornmead Light and Hulk CORNWALL and on the West by a line from Hulk CORNWALL due South to the Foreshore. (F.O.I.C. London, 1244/27.)East Coast
Sweep.

Available ships of 4th M.S.F. are to carry out an Oropesa search sweep from 54 C Buoy. If mines are found sweep is to be abandoned and force is to return. Six Blenheims of 16 group will escort force from 0500B/29 to 0800B/29. (C. in C. Nore 1132N/27.)

Off North
Foreland.

Mine, believed acoustic, exploded 200 yards port bow of M.T.B. 32 at 2348/26 in 51° 39' N. 2° 2' E. No damage. (C. in C. Nore 1146B/27.)

Thames
Estuary.

R.D.F. plots suggest minelaying about 0150 to 0215/27 in area of Whitaker Channel. A low flying plane was heard over the Alexander Channel area between 0105 and 0215. Details of explosions. My 1802/23 and several previous reports. Some Barrow Deep Light Buoys were clearly visible at over 3½ miles with the naked eye. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1842/27.)

Murmansk.

Following report received Graded A.2. German aircraft have mined approaches to Murmansk. (D.D.I.C. 2014B/27)

Liverpool.

Mine report to 1000/27. One detonated by S.A. Trawler 308° Bar Light Vessel 2.1 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2308B/27.)

749

27.6.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Surface Unit. By D/F at 0641Z/27. Cupar 000/3. Traffic W.W. (D.D.I.C. 0912B/27.)
At 1411Z and 1441Z/27 W.W. reports received on 12040 kc/s. Bearings unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 1711B/27.)

Minelaying off Murmansk. D.D.I.C. 2014B/27. See Mining.

Casualties and Defects.

BRIGHTON. (Collision 25/6.) Tugs THAMES and MARAUDER E.T.A. Reydar Fjord 1700Z/27. Request sailing of BRIGHTON be postponed until their arrival. (C. in C.W.A. 0019B/27.)
C. in C. W.A. 0019B/27. Am still awaiting arrival of tugs. (AURORA 2135Z/27.)

L.26. Aground Rocks West Coast Mull position unknown. No compartments flooded. Crew landed until low tide. (L.26. 2302B/27.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.B. 344 (A.C.N.S.(H) 1235B/27 to C. in C.W.A. (See Lion Copy.)

W.S.9.B. (C. in C.W.A.1620B/27 amended 2215B/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock etc.) See Lion Copy.
(R.A. Minelayers 1937B/27 to Admty. etc.) See Lion Copy.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2134/27 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

S.L.78. Quit convoy now. Maintain patrol approx. 100 miles to Westward of course of convoy.
(Admty. 1955B/27 to C. in C.W.A. ASPHODEL etc.)

H.^x 133 Your 2030B/27 (no trace) not to C. in C. W.A. Am 6 escorts short since ships detailed in C. in C.W.A's 1552B/27 are not repeat not with me. I have no ship available to detach from H.X.133. Weather report 6012, 2600, 0007, 5856, 2003. (S.O. Escort Gr.8 2311B/27.)

MOST SECRET

449A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1235B/27th June

OUT

To C. in C. Western Approaches, 415
 Repeated. F.O.I.C. Liverpool. Date. 27.6.41
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 671
 C.O.A.C.
 R.A. (3) B.S. 384.
 C. in C. America and West Indies. 913.
 N.C.S.O. Clyde.
 N.C.S.O. Liverpool.

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty.

Convoy O.B. 344 will be sailed from the U.K. on July 7th as a special fast convoy.

Ships of a minimum speed of 12 knots only may be included.

The following ships will be included:

NORTHUMBERLAND and RUAHINE with R.A.F. and other Government personnel for Halifax.

AVILA STAR with a R.N. Observer School and other Government personnel for Trinidad.

AVILA STAR should remain in company until reaching long. 60 W when she should proceed independently to Trinidad if fuel permits.

C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to provide A/S escort over the whole passage to Halifax.

1235B/27

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

for D.O.D. (H)
 Approved A.C.N.S. (H)

D.A./S.W.
 D.D.I.C.
 Duty Capt.
 E.P.S.
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 Hd. of M.
 N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

1620B/27th June. 749B
IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date 27.6.41.
Recd. 1832.

NAVAL CYPHER No. 1. BY T/F

Addressed N.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Liverpool, N.O.I.C. Londonderry,
N.O.I.C. Cardiff, R/A Minelayers, Repeated Admiralty, C. in C.
Home Fleet, N.O.I.C. Belfast, F.O.C.N.P., Capt. (D) 11.,
H.M.S. VANQUISHER, Capt. (D) 12, H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C.,
F/O 18th C.S., H.M.S. GALATEA, H.M.S. CAIRO, H.M.S. MORETON
BAY, H.M.S. CHITRAL. R.A.D. Home Fleet.

IMPORTANT

575. Admiralty's 1535B 17. 1827B 23. 1854B 25.

None to all addressees. Convoy W.S. 9 B

(i) F/O 18th C.S. in H.M.S. EDINBURGH with H.M.S. GALATEA
H.M.S. MORETON BAY H.M.S. CHITRAL will sail with convoy from Clyde

(ii) Anti-submarine escort

(a) H.M.S. PIORUN H.M.S. READING from Liverpool.

(b) O.R.P. GARLAND H.M.C.N. ST FRANCIS from Clyde.

(c) H.M.S. VANQUISHER H.M.S. WINCHELSEA H.M.S. MAORI from
Londonderry and three destroyers detailed by R.A.M.L. to join
convoy in position 270 degrees Oversay 6 miles at 0900 B 29.

(iii) A.A. escort. H.M.S. CAIRO will escort Bristol Channel
portion and rejoin convoy after fuelling at Londonderry.

(iv) S.O. A/S escort H.M.S. VANQUISHER.

(v) Orders for A/S and A.A. escorts leaving convoy will
be given subsequently.

(vi) Request you sail ships accordingly.

(vii) All available commanding officers of escorts are to
attend convoy conference.

1620B/27.

Advance copy Ops. O.D. & Trade.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

N.A. 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.A/S.W.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Duty Captain (2)

Head of M.

D.D.I.C.

D.T.D. (2)

E.P.S.

D.T.S.D.

N.I.D. 10 (Pay.Cdr. Wilson)

D.T.D. (M)

D.D.O.D. (M)

D.M.S.

MG

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

2215B/27th June.

749c

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From C. in C., Western Approaches.

Date. 27.6.41.

Recd. 2300.

Naval Cypher "A1" by T/P

Addressed N.O.I.C. Greenock. H.M.S. VANQUISHER. C.S.18. Repeated
Admiralty. C. in C., Home Fleet. R.A. (1) Home Fleet.
N.O.I.C. Liverpool. N.O.I.C. Londonderry. R.A. Minelayers.
Capt. D. Greenock. Capt. D. Liverpool.

W.S. 9B.

581. My 1620B/27. Paragraph two (b) add H.M.S. WOLVERINE
from Clyde. Paragraph two (c) for "3 destroyers detailed
by R.A. Minelayers" read "H.M. Ships CASTLETON, WELLS".

2215B/27

is A/S escort for W.S. 9B.

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 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.A/S.W.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Capt. (2)
Head of M.
D.D.I.C.
D.T.D. (2)
E.P.S.
D.T.S.D.
N.I.D.10. Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
D.T.D. (4)
D.D.O.D. (M)
D.M.S.

MIC.

MOST SECRET

749D

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN 1937B/27/June.

From R.A. Minelayers.

Date 27.6.41.

Recd. 2138.

NAVAL CYPHER A.1. by T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Western Approaches, Repeated
C. in C. Home Fleet, F.C.C.N.P. N.O.i/c Greenock,
N.O.i/c Liverpool, H.M.S. RAMILLIES, H.M.S.
GALATEA, H.M.S. CATHAY, C. in C. Plymouth.
R.A.D. Home Fleet, F.C.C.N.A. S.C. Force H,
H.Q. Fighter Command, A.C.C. 15 Group.

IMMEDIATE.

H.M.S. CASTLETON and H.M.S. WELLS detailed
for WS 9B. Third destroyer H.M.S. BRIGHTON is
damaged and no others are available.

1937B/27.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.C.D. (H) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.C.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
Duty Capt.
D.D.O.D. (M)
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D. A/S W.
D.T.D. (2)
D. of P. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: N.O.i/c Greenock.

2134/27th June.

749E

Date: 28.6.41.

Recd: 0633.

Naval Cypher C by W/T.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty. Repeated F.O.C. D.F. H.F. F.O.C.N.A.
C. in C. South Atlantic. N.O.i/c Liverpool, N.O.i/c
Londonderry F.O.C.N.P. H.M.S. CHITRAL. H.M.S. CATHAY
H.M.S. GALATEA. H.M.S. EDINBURGH. F.O.C. 1st G.S.
H.Q.C.C. H.Q.F.C. C. in C. Plymouth. S.O. Force H.
F.O.C. 3rd B.S. C. in C. America & West Indies. N.C.S.O.
Clyde. Div. S.T.O. Clyde. Capt. (D) Greenock. H.M.S.
MORETON BAY H.M.C.S. ST. FRANCIS. O.R.P. H.M.S. GARLAND. H.M.S.
CORINTHIAN.

A message 1535 B 17th June. Intend sailing Clyde portion
of Convoy W S 9 B and H.M.S. CORINTHIAN H.M.S. CHITRAL H.M.S. MORETON
BAY escorted by F.O.C. 18 C.S. in H.M.S. EDINBURGH H.M.S. GALATEA
H.M.S. CATHAY H.M.C.S. ST. FRANCIS and H.M.S. GARLAND at 2200B
28th June to rendezvous with Liverpool portion at 0900B 29th
June in position 270 degs Oversay 06' thence as in A.M. 1827 B 23rd
June. Codeward EMPIRE TWO. H.M.S. CHITRAL routed as in A.Message
1312B 20th June H.M.S. CORINTHIAN routed as in A.M. 1854 B 28th June
H.M.S. CATHAY and H.M.S. MORETON BAY to Freetown.

2134/27.

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H)
D.T.D.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 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.A./S.W.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.C. (2)
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
C.C.C.S. Canada House.
N.I.D. 10. Pay Cdr. Wilson.

750

27.6.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

RAIDER SITUATION.

My 1649B/18. German ALSTERTOR intercepted and scuttled 220 miles S.W. of Cape Finisterre 23/6. Survivors from RABAU and TRAFALGAR* sunk by No. 16 in approx. 19° S. 04° 30' W. 14/5 and 25° 00' E. 24/5 respectively were transferred to BABITONGA in approx. 20° S. 15° W. on 30/5 and to ALSTERTOR in approx. 15° N. 45° W. on 14/6. BABITONGA returning S.E. intercepted by LONDON in 02° 05' S. 27° 42' W. on 21/6. This may indicate No.16 not returning home. Poor D/F bearings on 23/6 indicated unit either in Indian Ocean or South Atlantic. Probably the latter. Crews of CRAFTSMAN and AGNITA are P.of W. in France. CRAFTSMAN probably attacked by No. 16 about 23/4 about 250 N.W. of Capetown and AGNITA by No.10 about 23/3 in 4° N. 23° W. (Admty. 1338B/27) amended 2115B/30.

*
TRAFALGAR
position, see
p. 809.

(25° 45', 1° 40' E)
German position =
23° 17' S. 1° 35' E.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

German
Surface
ship.

At 0213 bearing 228 2nd Class. (F.O.C.N.A. 0347/27)

SEVERN.

Route on leaving patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 0908A/27 to SEVERN.)

FURIOUS.
SCYTHIA.
CAMERONIA.

2309B/25 and 0049B/27. FURIOUS, SCYTHIA, CAMERONIA, LANCE and LEGION to be sailed for U.K. to R/V with ROYAL SOVEREIGN and homeward A/S escort in approx. 45° N. 25° W. 7/7. HERMIONE to escort these ships to R/V position and return to Gibraltar. (Admty. 1213B/27 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

STORAA.

My 1711/26/4. No further report has been obtainable. (N.A. Madrid, 1225/27.)

Operation
"Vigorous".

Departure CLYDE for operation ^{"Vigorous".} "VIGOROUS". (S.O.I. Gib., 1346A/27 to Admty.)

Training
Aircraft.

Emphasise need of training aircraft for A.A. and C.D. at Gibraltar. F.O.H. placed two Swordfish from ARK ROYAL at my disposal as a temporary expedient. Request for permanent training aircraft and crews. (Govr. Gib., 1921/27 to W.O.)

Gibraltar.

Re evacuation. (W.O. 2100/27 to Govr. Gib.) See Operations Vol.

War Diary.27.6.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.CAP EL HANK.

Your 2041/24. Following is text of B.N.L.O. Baghdad's 1222/22. French Ship CAP EL HANK with troops escorted by PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE will sail from Pointe Noire Bay 23/6 for Libreville and Duala. E.T.A. Duala 25/6. (C. in C.S.A. 0307N/27 to MILFORD.)

CILICIA.

My 1849/26 Amended route. (C. in C.S.A. 1035N/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

S.L.79.

Departures 0800/27. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, CROCUS, CYCLAMEN and COLUMBINE with convoy S.L.79. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1127N/27 to Admty.)

W.S.9.A.

(D.S.T. 1917B/27 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown)
See Lion Copy.

SAMARIA.
HAWKINS.
WELLINGTON.
W.S.9.A.
BIRMINGHAM.

C. in C. E.I. 0812/26 and Admty. 1103/26 and my 2317/24. SAMARIA is to be detached as convenient when off Capetown to proceed to that port and stores to be removed. HAWKINS will also R/V with WELLINGTON and W.S.9.A in position 034° 51' S. 025° 16' E. at 1000B/2 or as arranged by F.O.I.C. Simonstown. BIRMINGHAM then to return to Capetown fuel if necessary and escort SAMARIA to Durban. (C. in C.S.A. 1957N/27 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown etc.)

HIMALAYA.
(Italian)

Following are additional details.
(S.O.I.) Montevideo, 2004Z/27 to S.A.D.)

Lagos.
Takoradi.

My 2041/25 DRAGON reports further explosion occurred 1700/26 near wreck of Dredger at Lagos. Very heavy swell at the time. Port remains open but shipping not allowed to move until after sweeping 27/6. POLAR 5 arrived Takoradi 26th June and commenced sweeping. POLAR 5 exploded blue mine at 0935Z/27. Port of Takoradi remains closed but there are many ships outside and it is intended to sweep ? some of them in as early as possible. (C. in C.S.A. 2105N/27 to Admty.)

German and
Italian ships
at Brazil
ports.

Understand that permission to leave Brazil ports requested by German Ambassador. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro. 2111Z/27 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

751A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

1917B/27th June

To P.S.T.O. Simonstown. Date. 27.6.41
Repeated. C. in C. East Indies.
C. in C. South Atlantic.
S.T.O. Durban and for IMPCON, Durban.
P.S.T.O. Egypt.
C. in C. Mediterranean for C. in C. Middle East.
H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM for Commodore & O.C. Troops.

Naval Cypher (A2)

From Director of Sea Transport.

IMMEDIATE

Present total of troops at present in W.S. 9A for Middle East is 16,500.

2. In order to make troopships available in U.K. as soon as possible for further urgent movements it is intended to use the second flight of MAURETANIA, NIEUW AMSTERDAM and ILE DE FRANCE together with ARONDA to on-carry from Durban to Middle East approximately 14,000 personnel for Middle East ex W.S. 9A.

3. Vessels thereby released at Durban which will return forthwith to U.K. are as follows- BERGENSFJORD, SAMARIA, FRANGONIA, MOOLTAN, ORBITA, CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS.

4. Any personnel disembarked who cannot be on-carried immediately should be accommodated in transit camps pending onward conveyance.

5. For your guidance summary of cargo etc. on board each troopship for Middle East is being signalled separately.

6. Middle East cargo in ships turned round should be discharged at Durban and on-carried as soon as possible.

7. Request you arrange with Campbell Capetown in regard to loading of homeward cargo in ships returning to U.K.

8. Request report of (a) arrangements made (b) anticipated dates of sailing from South Africa of ships returning to U.K. (c) Anticipated arrival dates in U.K.

(d) Particulars of repairs etc. required in U.K.

9. Agreed with War Office.

1917B/27

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

N.A. 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.

Director of Sea Transport.

D.N.A.D.

D.A./S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Duty Captain.

Head of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

D. of S.T.

N.I.D. 10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson)

752

27.6.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- HERMES.
(German) Passing Fort Santa Cruz now.
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 2120Z/27 to Admty.)

- FORTUNSTELLA
(Italian) My 2220Z/19 source A.2 reports captain of
FORTUNSTELLA is coming to Buenos Ayres for
instructions and returning to Quequen night
29/6. Ship still has steam up and is in
all respects ready for sea. (N.C.S.O. Buenos
Aires 2155Z/27 to Admty.)

- HERMES.
→ FRANKFURT.
(German) Have obtained clearance and may sail any time.
(N.S.O.I. Montevideo 2255Z/27 to R.A.S.A. Div.)

- NATAL.
(German) Sailing. (N.C.S.O. Santos 2300Z/27 to R.A.S.A.D.)

- FRANKFURT. Passing Fort Santa Cruz now. (N.C.S.O. Rio de
Janeiro, 2300Z/27 to Admty.)

- HERMES. Sailed from Rio de Janeiro 2120Z/27/6.
(C. in C.S.A. 2325N/27 to S.A. Stat. Sqn. S.O.I.
Montevideo 2342Z/27 to R.A.S.A.D.)

- BUTTERFLY.
PAMPANO.
(Italian) At Pernambuco BUTTERFLY has returned to
moorings, PAMPANO still discharging grain.
At Para both enemy ships are reported to have
drawn fires. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2340Z/27 to
R.A.S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

? REFAH.

Admty. 1634B/26 (N.T. in W.D.)
A. Request confirmation that sinking was not
done by any of our forces.
B. All available information regarding both the
sinking and fate of the crew should be signalled
as soon as possible.
C. Request all possible steps be taken to
determine by whom this ship was sunk.
(1st S.L. 0132B/27 to C. in C. Med.)
Your 0132/27.
A. Confirmed.
B. Only information other than that in your
1634/26 is that one boat with 3 (?) Turkish
Naval Officers, 23 Naval ratings and 2 ships
crews landed Maratash 2030/24.
C. N.C.S.O. Iskanderun reports 1458/26 that
information at present available suggests ship
may have struck mine.
Possible that this might have been French Sub-
marine operating from (?Beirut) (C. in C. Med.
1839/27 to Admty.)

/KANDAHAR

752A

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

2205N/27th Juno.

Date: 29.6.41.

From: C. in C. South Atlantic.

Reed: 1252

Naval Cypher X by W/T

Addressed: Admiralty.

28. My 1745N/18 and your 2436B/23 paragraph four. After further consideration propose to adopt following procedure and request instructions may be promulgated. (A) All ships bound for Freetown or West Coast ports to be instructed to break W/T silence on reaching the Arc of a circle drawn 300 miles from Bathurst, Freetown or Takoradi and make a signal as follows - secret call sign - time of origin - date.

The signal will indicate that ship has reached that position on her route which cuts the approximate circle at the time and on the date given in the signal. (B) All ships bound for Freetown to be given a lettered position on the route on the Arc of a circle 300 miles from that port. Ships from the United Kingdom to cross the Arc North of a bearing 230 degrees from Sierra Leone light and those from other ports south of this line.

It is intended to adopt the (Acr?) system of approach when sufficient air and surface forces are available to justify this routeing ships through a sector which will be varied from time of time and which will be patrolled by forces available.

2205N/27

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (2)
- D.S.D. (2)
- D.S.D. 9
- M. (2)
- D.T.D. (4) for action
- N.I.D. 10 (2)
- D.T.D. (H)
- D.N.I. (4)
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.

753

27.6.1941.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.KANDAHAR.

C. in C. Med. 1237C/26 not received until 0020/27 by which time it was too late for KANDAHAR to make R/V given in R.A. 1st B.S. orders KIMBERLEY was allowed to continue to this R/V. (KANDAHAR 0628C/27.)

WARSAWA.
HYACINTH.

My 0713/27 HYACINTH is to be sailed to R/V with WARSAWA at 0500/27 as ordered by N.O.I.C. Cyprus. (C. in C. Med. 0715/27 to N.O.I.C. Cyprus.)

Aircraft
approaching
Malta.

In future all aircraft coming into Malta above 3000 feet will be treated as hostile. (N.O.I.C. Malta 0920B/27.)

JANUS.

Admty. 2223B/20. Request you will sail JANUS for Simonstown for repairs. (C. in C. Med. 1041C/27 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.)
C. in C. Med's 1041C/27. Request you sail JANUS when ready to Aden for onward passage to Simonstown. JANUS to report intended programme. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 2051C/27 to N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik.) *See also next page.*

Enemy
Convoys.UNION

At 1507/22 in 036° 09' 011° 58' attacked escorted southbound laden M/V of 2800 tons, one hit, ship observed to sink. Convoy route confirmed to be 320° for 30 miles from Lampion thence 010° to East Pantellaria. UPHOLDER reports at 2140/25 in 036° 56' 015° 46'. Convoy passed 10 miles due east. A/A Fire observed at 2130 and 2145. At 2150 searchlight silhouetted, 2 large ships apparently steering eastward. (Cdr. S.(I) 1405B/27 to Capt. S.(I)). At 1902B in 037° 59' 017° 14' 4 large Merchant ships and 6 destroyers course 175° speed 15 knots. (Cmdr. S.I. 1745B/27 to S/M's on patrol, V.A. Malta 2109B/27 to C. in C. Med.)

Tobruk.

(Admty. 1441B/27 to C. in C. Med.) See Med. Vol.
(no trace in Med Vol.)

PARTHIAN.

PERTH and Destroyers operating off Damur tonight 27/6. Keep N. of Lat 033° 52' N. till 0400/28. (C.S. 15 1524/27 to PARTHIAN.)

REGENT.

To leave patrol for Alexandria. Instructions. (Capt. S.I. 1839C/27 to REGENT.)

/Air

War Diary.

27.6.1941. **754**
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air attacks
on Tripoli.

4 Marylands attacked Tripoli Harbour p.m./26/6.
6 500 lbs. bombs. Hits Karamali Mole Seaplane
Station and Spanish Wharf starting 4 fires.
All aircraft returned safely. Night 26/27 June
5 Swordfish and 4 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli
Harbour. 1 direct hit on large M/V outside
harbour, 3 hits Spanish Quay. (H.Q. Malta 1901/27)

U.Boat sunk
by TRIUMPH.
(SALPA.)

One U.Boat sunk by gunfire and 2 torpedoes 0818/27
P.C. and S. of enemy were 032° 05' 026° 47' 003°
10. (TRIUMPH 1931C/27 to Capt. (S) 1.)

JANUS.

C. in C. Med. 1041C/27. Sail JANUS when ready
to Aden for onward passage to Simonstown.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 2051C/27 to N.O.I.C.
Port Tewfik, JANUS.) *See previous page.*

Taranto.

Incomplete photographic R/C a.m./27 showed one
battleship probably LITTORIO class and one
Cruiser in outer harbour. (V.A. Malta 2109B/27
to C. in C. Med.)

Situation
Report No.90.

Syria. NAIAD and three destroyers swept Syrian
coast during night 26/27, destroyers bombarding
at dawn. Field guns replied ineffectually.
Some air opposition. WARSPITE has been passed
through Suez Canal. Battlefleet has returned to
Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 2131/27 to Admty.)

PARTHIAN.

Proceed forthwith through 034° 00' N. 035° 00' E.
to 034° 30' N. 027° 00' E. Proceed on surface
by day at your discretion between 034° 00' E.
and 030° 00' E. (C. in C. Med. 2257/27 to
PARTHIAN) Cancelled, see 1102/28.

Proposed
Operations.

Your 1422C/26. Word "observation" at end of
para one not understood. (Adty. 2337B/27 to
C. in C. Med.)

Malta.
Benghazi.

Night 25/26 and 26/27 6 Wellingtons despatched
Malta for operations against special Italian
Convoy 4 20,000 ton ship. Night 26/27 5
Wellingtons bombed Benghazi bomb fell in town and
North East of Cathedral Mole. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.
No. T.O.O./27 to Air Min.)

War Diary.

27.6.1941.
Friday.

755

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W. African Troops.

Admty. 1857/26. Anticipated that a cruiser will be available to escort W. African troops convoy from Mombasa to vicinity of Durban. (C. in C.E.I. 1146Z/27 to Admty.)

COLOMBO.

Sailed in accordance with C. in C.E.I. 1158Z/26. (to relieve RANCHI) (N.L.O. Durban, 1456Z/27 to Admty.)

W.S.9.A.

(Admty. 1918B/27 to C. in C.E.I.) See Lion Copy.

China.

LINOIS.
(French)

My 0932/22. Destinations Madagascar, Dakar and Marseilles. Cargo. (Capt. on Staff Singapore, 0241Z/27 to Admty.)

MARECHAL JOFFRE.
DUPLEIX.

Departure 27/6. Destination Madagascar, Shanghai, Haiphong, Osaka, Hongkong, respectively. (Saigon 0848Z/27.)

America and West Indies.

FRUMENTON
Raider report.

RRRR 0010 G.M.T. 4008 N. 5344 W. FRUMENTON suspicious vessel following, ends. Bearing D.E. V.C.S. 119 R. 25 S degrees. (Halifax W/T 0015Z/27 & A.M.C.U. 0115/27.)

TALISMAN and THUNDERBOLT.

Admty. 1618B/25. Route to join Med. Fleet. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1022Q/27 to R.A.3.)

St. Johns. N.F. congestion.

Your 2302B/19. Arrival of 4 stragglers from S.C. 35 in addition to 7 damaged ships employed on convoy is causing congestion in harbour. Recommend in future ordering ordinary stragglers to Sydney C.B. for inclusion in next S.C. Convoy leaving St. Johns N.F. to cope with damaged ships only. (C.C.N.F. 1334Z/27 to Admty.) Concur. (D.T.D. 1523B/28.)

Italian Losses.

Of Destroyers, Torpedo Boats, Submarines. (Brit. Nav. Delegation, Washington, 1601R/27 to Admty.) (See Summaries Folder, Italy.)

/Suspicious

MOST SECRET

785A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1918B/27th June CBT

To: C in C East Indies 844
Repeated F.O.I.C. Simonstown 288
C in C South Atlantic 134

Date 27.6.41.

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty

IMMEDIATE.

D of S.T's 1917B/27 to P.S.T.O., Simonstown.

There will be one convoy, the numerically reduced
W.S.9A leaving Durban consisting of:-

EASTERN PRINCE
LIANGIBBY CASTLE
ARONDA
EMPIRE CONDOR
EMPIRE CURLEW
EMPIRE EGRET
EMPIRE WIDGBON
AAGTEKERK

all for Suez.

DURBAN CASTLE
EMPRESS OF JAPAN.

both for India

CAPE TOWN CASTLE

for Malaya.

2. There will be another fast convoy, consisting of MAURETANIA
ILE DE FRANCE and NIEUW AMSTERDAM leaving Durban for Suez as in
A.M. 1834/10/5, para 1 (b).

1918B/27
for D.O.D. (F) (164)

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)
N.A. 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.N.A.D.
D.A./S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P. (2)
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 (Payr Cdr Wilson)
D of S.T.

756
27.6.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

East Indies - Contd.

Suspicious
Ship.

Master NARBO from Lobito to Trinidad when in 001° 05' N. 029° 12' W. on 9/6 sighted 4 masted Barkentine steering aimlessly. Ran parallel for short period then made off due S. Ship under steam, no sails set, no guns visible, no flags. Speed 9 knots. (S.O.I Kingston, 1612R/27 to C. in C.A.W.I. etc.)

Your 1914Z/25. Re dividing line for convoys near Virgin Rocks and Cape Race. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2012B/27 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Belle Isle
re A/S patrol.

It is for consideration to disperse ships for the St. Lawrence from O.B. convoys for passage through the Belle Isle Straits. Request your remarks including the possibility of arranging for an A/S patrol in the vicinity of Belle Isle. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2015B/27 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Barbados
Report.

Man of War class nationality unknown sighted 2240 G.M.T. to Westwards Barbados proceeding Southern direction, 2 funnels, no further details can be obtained. (R.O. Barbados, 2100/27 to Admty.)

757

War Diary.

27.6.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Attack on
H.X. 133.
MALAYA II.

Ships Attacked.

59° 56' N. 30° 35' W. torpedoed 2355 G.M.T./26.
(Liverpool W/T 0005/27.)

MAASDAM.

SSSS. 60 00 N. 30.42 W. torpedoed 2358Z/26.
(Liverpool 0012/27.)

KONGSAARD.

Torpedoed 2359/26. (Liverpool W/T 0020 G.M.T./27)

Your 1031B/27. 4 ships torpedoed today.
MALAYA II. blew up, 6 survivors. MAASDAM sank.
TIBIA with Convoy and maintaining speed. Corrupt
group. KONGSAARD able to proceed and is with
others probably. HAVPRINS and RANDA 16 miles
-astern escorted by RIPLEY and COLLINGWOOD.
All survivors picked up. (OTTAWA 1040Z/27 to
C. in C.W.A., 1429B/27 to Admty. etc.)

D/F bearings at 0907Z/27 and 1041Z/27 probably
indicate that two U.Boats were in touch with
convoy H.X.133. Up to 5 U.Boats are in vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1512B/27 to OTTAWA, MALCOLM, WOLFE.)
Remain with H.X.133 till 15° W. then proceed to
Iceland. (C. in C.W.A. 1552B/27 to FLEETWOOD,
ORILLIA/ COLLINGWOOD, ORILLIA, CHAMBLY, CELANDINE, NASTURTIUM)
Request relief for COLLINGWOOD escorting 2 tankers
about 10 miles astern H.X.133 and COLLINGWOOD
instructed to proceed in execution of previous
orders. (OTTAWA 2030B/27 to MALCOLM)

S.L.78
EMPIRE
ABILITY.
(torpedoed)

Retain corvettes as long as fuel will permit
returning to Bathurst or refuel them if you are
able. (C. in C.S.A. 0155N/27 to SHROPSHIRE)
EMPIRE ABILITY 7603 tons in S.L.78 homeward bound
for Mauritius and Capetown with sugar, rum and
fibre. (D.S.663)
Am standing by EMPIRE ABILITY with view to salvage.
Will report further. (BURDOCK, 0625N/27 to
ASPHODEL)
EMPIRE ABILITY numbers 2 and 3 holds and boiler room
flooded consider salvage impracticable and vessel
should be sunk. Request instructions.
(BURDOCK 0730N/27 to C. in C.S.A.)
FLEUR DE LYS to join S.L.78 daylight/30.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0830A/27 to SHROPSHIRE)
My 0155/27. Likely that corvettes will be able to
remain additional 24 hours from 0600/27 possibly
can remain 48 hours both with fuelling at Bathurst.
Possible that SHROPSHIRE will be able to refuel.
(C. in C.S.A. 1205N/27 to Adty.)

/My 1058B/27

758

War Diary.27.6.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.L. 78
EMPIRE
ABILITY ~~torpedoed~~
contd.

My 1058B/27. These D/F bearings indicate approx. position 25° N. 20° 30' W. There are probably two U-Boats in vicinity of convoy S.L.78. (D.D.I.C. 1255B/27 to SHROPSHIRE)

My 0730 am proceeding to rejoin convoy, EMPIRE ABILITY is sinking. Have enough fuel to stop until at the latest 29th. Request my 6 survivors from RIVER LUGAR and 38 from EMPIRE ABILITY may be transferred to other ship in convoy owing to shortage of food. (BURDOCK 1725N/27 to C. in C.S.A.)

My 1255B/27. Admty. appreciation is that two U/B's are in vicinity of convoy S.L.78 and it should not be assumed that either has been shaken off. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1932B/27 to SHROPSHIRE.)

→ Quit convoy now. Return Freetown. Route to avoid S/M's. (Admty. 2013B/27 to ESPERANCE BAY) A.M.1955B/27. If convoy has not scattered and you can operate your aircraft close convoy at daylight sufficiently to allow your aircraft to assist in keeping possible shadowing U.Boats down.

2. Keep outside visibility distance of convoy and further at your discretion at night.

3. Repeat this procedure daily until local A/S escort is met. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2346B/27 to SHROPSHIRE)

→ Convoy S.L.78 again attacked in 025° 43' N. 022° 44' W. Ship or ships torpedoed. Have left convoy. (ESPERANCE BAY 2359Z/27 to Admty. C. in C.S.A. SHROPSHIRE.)

Unknown ship.

BALTARA. HX133

SSSS 58 04 N. 30 58 W. Name Unread torpedoed. (Valentia Radio via Liverpool 0200/27)

On arrival in harbour report if anything is known of unknown vessel who reported torpedoed in 58° 04' N. 30° 58' W. at 0200Z/27 also if anything is known of INVERLEE who reported being torpedoed in 56° 13' N. 37° 21' W. at 1905Z/24. (C. in C.W.A. 2137B/27 to OTTAWA.)

SACRAMENTO
VALLEY.
(torpedoed
6/6.)

Panama ship STANVAC CALCUTTA arrived Caripito 26/6 with survivors from British SACRAMENTO VALLEY who (?report) vessel torpedoed without warning at 0230/6/6 about 250 miles N.W. Cape Verde Is. and sunk in 20 minutes. Third engineer and 2 firemen killed in explosion and rest (?presumably) took to three boats, 2 of which sailed for Cape Verde Is. The third sailed west and was picked up 19 days later by STANVAC CALCUTTA. Survivors are proceeding Aruba on same vessel. (Caracas 1810/27 to Admty.)

759

27.6.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1048 G.M.T. By D/F at 1048 G.M.T. U.Boat in area 59° to 60° N. 8° to 10° W. (D.D.I.C. 1336B/27)
Admty. 1336/27. 3 Hudson Aircraft with depth charges taking off about 1800/27 to sweep area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1604/27.)

21/6 Una Island.

Report dated 21/6 graded B.O. states 2 submarines frequently seen off Una Island, Bissagos Islands. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1415N/27 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1519B/27.)

1710. 059° 20' N. 004° 04' W. at 1710. (A.C.O.S. 1730B/27 to O. and S.)

23/6. Captain of BOAC (?Aircraft) BERWICK reports that on 23/6 he sighted 4 German submarines in company in 039° 00' N. 016° 55' W. Report considered reliable. (DRAGON 2016Z/27 to C. in C.S.A.)

2023 G.M.T. At 2023 G.M.T. bearing 230°, class 1. (F.O.C.N.A. 2157A/27.)

2045. 49 12 N. 23 25 W. PORT FIARY (? PORT FAIRY) sighted submarine 2045/27. (Lands End Radio T.O.R. 2250/27)

U-Boats attacked.

By A/C. 62° 40' N. 21° 48' W. at 2125/26. (A/C Duty H. 0009/27, 0012/27)

By A/C
0625. WWWW. Have attacked enemy with depth charges - probable hit. (A/C 209 Sqn. 0625/27)

By WISHART.
GLAUCO sunk.

One S/M bearing 053°. Distance 7 miles, course unknown. Position 073 35° N. 13° W. 18. (WISHART 0940/27, 1018/27.)
WISHART has sunk Italian submarine in approx. (?035°) 10' N. 012° 35' W. Crew picked up. Further details later. (F.O.C.N.A. 1332A/27 to Admty.)

/By GLADIOLUS

War Diary.

27.6.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U-Boats attacked.

By GLADIOLUS.

U.556

Have sunk U.Boat in 060° 18' N. 029° 20' W.
with NASTURTIUM and CELANDINE in company.
Have picked up 41 survivors. Am proceeding to
Reykjavik. (GLADIOLUS 1201Z/27 to Admty.) U.556 -
CB. 04030/41/7.

By TRIUMPH.

S/M sunk - see Mediterranean.

By A/C
2000.

S/M submerged. Have attacked. Nil hits.
Enemy's C. and S. 360° 8 knots. Am returning
to base. (A/C Duty Z. 2000/27.)

761

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command last night attacked targets at Bremen and Vegesack. Swordfish of Coastal Command attacked the docks of Calais.

Enemy Air Operations.

Further attacks
on East Coast
shipping.

Attacks at night on East coast shipping are still continuing. C. in C. Nore suggests that Bofors guns might be supplied to the larger ships, and that balloons and Kites should be flown at 1500 ft. as a protection against dive bombing.

Convoy F.S. 526 was attacked shortly before midnight last night, off Southwold. M/S Trawler FORCE and S.S. MONTFERLAND and BARRHILL were sunk. Convoy F.N. 85 was attacked last night off Cromer; [^]and S.S. ~~QUEEN CITY~~ was sunk last night near No. 7 Buoy.

S.S. CUSHENDALL independently routed was sunk at about 0135 in 57° 3' N. 1° 50' W. (off Stonehaven)

Mining.

2 Acoustic Mines about 300 yards apart exploded at 0910 this morning off the Cardigan coast some $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile ahead of MAORI while she was steaming at 25 knots. Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Liverpool.

Our aircraft laid mines off Brest and the Frisian Is. last night.

762

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

RICHELIEU.

It is reported that RICHELIEU will leave Dakar shortly, crew 1400, cruising speed 22 knots.

Mediterranean.

It is believed that mines have recently been laid off Genoa and Savona. SEVERN reports extensive minefields off the west and south of Sardinia. The formation of an Air Coastal Command in the Eastern Mediterranean is proposed.

URGE.

Orders for a certain patrol. See Cdr.(S) 1 1327B/28. URGE today landed a demolition party which wrecked a train in tunnel north of Taormina.

Malta.

10 enemy aircraft raided the island last night. No damage or casualties were caused.

Libya and
Western Desert.

Tripoli was attacked again last night by 6 Wellingtons.

Alexandria.

About 17 aircraft attacked Alexandria before dawn today, dropping bombs and mines. Only slight damage was caused.

Palestine and
Syria.

PERTH, who has relieved ^{* LEANDER} ~~PERTH~~ on the coast, with CARLISLE and 5 destroyers bombarded the Damur area p.m. today. Satisfactory fighter protection was available. (p.716)

* See p.717.

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Finnish S.S. PLUTO was sunk by a submarine today about 100 miles N.N.W. of Butt of Lewis, whilst being brought in to Kirkwall.

Tanker AURIS (sailing independently) was torpedoed at 2133 and sunk in 34° 26' N. 12° 2' W. A/S escort was sent to meet her, but failed to meet as AURIS was 36 hours late.

S.L.78.

At 1015 a Walrus A/C attacked with depth charges a U.boat which was sighted near Convoy S.L.78 about 360 miles S.W. of Canary Is., and possibly damaged it. SHROPSHIRE reports that the convoy dispersed at 1800 today.

764

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

NESTOR
JUPITER
for
Mediterranean.

Your 1644B/26 and 1221B/27 Para. (V) Intend that NESTOR and JUPITER should be two of the H.F. Destroyers detailed and that they should join C. in C. Med. on completion of this duty. (C. in C. H.F. 1102B/28).

Strangford
Lough.

Your 1710B/26. Concur in withdrawal of patrol vessels from Strangford Lough. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1121B/28 to C. in C.W.A).

One Wair
from W.A.
to Rosyth.

A.M. 1745/26/4. The increased scale of air attack on the East Coast makes it imperative that the number of escorts with F.N. and F.S. convoys should not be reduced.
2. At the same time, however, the following commitments must be met.
(a) One Hunt from the Nore Command for C.E. and C.W. convoys during the absence of the CLEVELAND from Portsmouth.
(b) Troop-ship escort from Aberdeen to the Shetlands.
3. Notwithstanding therefore the conditions in para. 2 (c) of A.M. quoted above, C. in C.W.A. is requested to return one Wair to C. in C. Rosyth as soon as SUTLEJ joins the Irish Sea Escort Force. (A.C.N.S. H. 1316B/28).

A/P Trawlers
from Shetlands

A.L.M. 014545/40 of 21/6 and C. in C. Rosyth 1559/28. If A.L. refers to SIMERSON, AGNES NUTTON, DELILA, KUVERA, AGNES WETHERLEY and RISKATO which now form Shetlands Patrol (of which last two are refitting at Dundee and remainder operating in Shetlands). I strongly urge that these A.P. Trawlers be retained at Shetlands. If force now operating is withdrawn Shetlands will have no offshore patrol craft whatsoever. (A.C.O.S. -1922/28).

Anti
U-Boat
Sweeps
by
Escorts.

Offensive sweeps by escort against U/Boats known to be shadowing or against a U/Boat which has made a first sighting report of a convoy are under consideration and examination. In certain circumstances these should be carried out at discretion of S.O. of escort, but it must be borne in mind that there is little chance of either sinking the U/Boat or preventing it shadowing unless:-

(a) The U/Boat is actually sighted from the escort or convoy, or a D/F bearing obtained and asdic contact subsequently obtained.

(b) The visibility is low.

2. The remarks in W.A.C.I. part 325 (B) are applicable to the problem. (C. in C. W.A. 1802B/28)

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1811/28th June.

IN 764A.

From: N.A. Stockholm.

Date: 29.6.41.

Recd: 1230.

Interdepartmental Order V (U) by cable.

Addressed: D.N.I.

Polish submarines.

See my 1819/26+ and H.M. Minister's telegram 398 of June 27th.

1. I have again conferred with Polish Attache, who assures me Poles have had no possibility of keeping any explosives or arms in or near their submarines and that there is no proof whatever that sabotage could have been contemplated. The 10 litres of petrol kept in each boat, which Secretary General stated to Minister, gave ground for suspicion of intended sabotage, was in fact kept for periscope cleaning and for use in blow lamp. Moreover petrol had originally been allowed on board by Swedish Authorities who had never requested its removal.

2. Present position is that submarines are in hands of Swedish, whilst Poles are prevented from entering their vessels to maintain efficiency or carry out essential day and night inspection.

3. On account of unjustified insult to his Navy, Polish Attache has declined to parley with Swedish Naval Authorities.

4. As submarines are definitely deteriorating without their own expert personnel to maintain them suggest Polish Government be asked to take up matter under article 24 para 3 last sentence of Hague Convention: begins: "The necessary men always to be allowed on board the interned warship for her maintenance" ends. Point out that we submit to every supervision and inspection by Swedish Authorities but, in disallowing Polish crew to maintain their submarine they are permitting an advantage to the enemy.

1811/28.

+ Seizure of interned Polish submarines (by Sweden)

Advance copy to D.N.I.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S (H)

A.C.N.S (F)

P.A.S (S)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Ops (4)

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (2)

D.S.D.9.

M(8)

D.N.I (4) for action.

N.L.

E.P.S.

D.A/S.W.

D.P.D.

I.P (3)

D.of P (3)

W.D.

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

CHALLENGER.
LAVENDER.
STARWORT.

Intend to sail CHALLENGER for Bathurst LAVENDER and STARWORT for Freetown in company at 1830B today in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 1444B/26. E.T.A. N.A. Station 0400B/July 3rd. Ships will call at Ponta Delgada for fuel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1148B/28).

TEVIOT BANK.

1. A.L. M/O.D. 2085/41 of 8/6/41. Request you sail TEVIOT BANK as convenient for Port ZA.
2. On arrival at Port Z.A. TEVIOT BANK is to join the Flag of R.A. (M). (A.C.N.S. H. 1210B/28 to C. in C. Nore).

EMPIRE
AUDACITY.
STORK.

Intend following movements for passage of EMPIRE AUDACITY with STORK as close escort from Blyth to Clyde. (C. in C. Rosyth 1307/28 and 1915/28).

GREENWICH.

GREENWICH is to sail from Methil in E.C. 39 1245/30 for passage to Clyde and is to be given a safe position in convoy and considered as an important ship. (C. in C. Rosyth 1315/28).

BROADWATER.
HARMALA.

My 1516B/25. You are to escort HARMALA into Reykjavik on leaving convoy to refuel. (C. in C. W.A. 1445B/28 to BROADWATER).

Operations.

Iceland-
Faroes
Patrol.

Leave patrol at 0600/30 and proceed to Scapa. (C. in C.H.F. 1352B/28 to ARETHUSA).

M.T.B.
Operation.

My 1502B. Add three M.T.B.'s leaving Dover at 2230 today to operate off Berek Sur Mer returning at 0430. Route via number 10 Buoy each way. (V.A. Dover 1718B/28 to WASP).

East Coast
Patrols.

Departures M.G.B.'s 58 and 67 at 2128, M.T.B.'s 18 and 100 at 2202. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2210B/28).

Cable
Operation.

Cable was streamed by MARIE LOUISE MACKAY on 28/6 between positions 056° Mew Island 4.6 miles and 150° Skulmartin L.V. 2.7 miles. Operations continuing. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2230B/28).

/S/M.....

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations-Contd.

S/M Patrol.

Proceed as necessary to patrol in vicinity of 48° N. 11° 30' W. by 1000 tomorrow. Object see F.S.C. 5, para 16 last word. Eastbound. T.B.R. arranged. (F.O.S. 2544B/28 to SEAWOLF).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

^{"Frost"} FROST, ^{"Bert"} BERT and ^{"Stab"} STAB in operation, ^{"Stand"} STAND being flown P.M./28. (C. in C. Rosyth 1109/28). One Blenheim of 256 Squadron is to carry out a R/C over the sea between Lands End and the Brest area with the object of locating and reporting E-boats and R-boats which may proceed towards our Coasts from Brest in an attempt to attack our shipping. This R/C is subject to adequate cloud cover and is to take off as late as possible but A/C must land before dark. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1758/28).

Low-level attacks on Convoys. Height of Balloon Defence.

My 1610B/26. In addition to developing the maximum possible volume of fire it is thought that it would be of great value in preventing low level bombing attacks if balloons and kites were to be flown at 1500 feet by night. The existing orders whereby balloons are flown at 300 feet at night greatly reduce their value in preventing this most dangerous form of attack. -Request consideration may be given to supplying Bofors guns to the larger ships running on the East Coast. (C. in C. Nore 1202B/28). Concur with C. in C. Nore 1202/28. My letter No. 1779/0923 dated 25/4. refers to the general question of flying kites on the east coast. Admty's. 1257B/8 also refers. (C. in C. Rosyth 2259/28).

Bombing Restrictions.

Request T.B.R. (a) 20 miles either side a line joining 049° N. 010° W. and 048° N. 011° 30' W. forthwith until 1200 to-morrow. (b) Within 30 miles 048° N. 011° 30' W. from 1200 to 2359 to-morrow. (F.O.S. 2549B/28 to H.Q.C.C.).

767

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.S.526 BARRHILL hit, sinking. (LIDDESDALE 0001B/28).
BARRHILL Trawler FORCE sunk in 52° 49' N. 1° 48' E.
(British, (MEYNELL 0020B/28).
4972 Tons). MONTFERLAND hit and sunk. (?LIDDESDALE 0025B/28).
sunk. Your 0001B. Yarmouth Tugs are proceeding now.
FORCE (C. in C. Nore 0035B/28 to LIDDESDALE).
(M/S Trawler) My 0020B. 10 survivors from FORCE. MONTFERLAND
sunk. bombed and sunk in 52° 47' N. 1° 50' E. 19 survivors
MONTFERLAND M/L 191 standing by wreck. (MEYNELL 0046B/28).
(Dutch, 1 Aeroplane over Convoy. (LIDDESDALE 0058/28).
6790 Tons) Help convoy ~~ARENA~~ position 52° 43' N. 1° 58' E.
sunk. (LIDDESDALE 0130/28).
Have one survivor from BARRHILL sunk in 300°
number 7 A Buoy 1.5 miles. (VORTIGERN 0136B/28).
BARRHILL sunk in 52° 50' N. 1° 46' E.
(LIDDESDALE 0229B/28).

WALLACE. My 0045. 5 Bombs. No damage seen. (WALLACE
0045/28);

SKUM Admty. 1120/28 and F.O.I.C. Harwich ? 1217/28.
(Bombed 22/6) Tug KENIA will tow S/S SKUM to Gravesend astern
of F.S.527 tomorrow. (C. in C. Nore 1649B/28
to F.O.1;C. Harwich).

Convoy "Mission" My 1845. Convoy ^{"Mission"}MISSION being shadowed by 1
MISSION. enemy aircraft. My position 52° 38' N. 2° 10' E.
(GARTH 1900/28).
1 aircraft shadowing Convoy ^{"Mission"}MISSION who bears
140° from centre of convoy height 4000 feet my
position 52° 38' N. 2° 19' E. (WHADDON 2044/28).
Fighters are being sent. (Nore W/T 2109/28).

LOCH ERIBOLL At about 2330/27 M/S Group 16 were attacked by
WELSBACH enemy aircraft while at anchor in vicinity of
LOCH LEVEN H3 Buoy. LOCH ERIBOLL was hit by one 550 lb.
(M/S Trawlers) bomb which failed to explode and also damaged by
damaged on a near miss two injured one of these seriously.
27/6. WELSBACH was damaged by a near miss three men
minor injuries. LOCH LEVEN damaged by a near
miss no casualties. ALAFOSS undamaged. All
ships returned to harbour safely, LOCH ERIBOLL
being towed by WELSBACH. Bomb referred to in
LOCH ERIBOLL has since been dealt with. (F.O.
Humber 2145B/28).

768

War Diary.28.6.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Cardigan
Bay.

2 Acoustic mines exploded in 52° 18' N. 05° 14' W. at 0910. Explosions were 3/4 of a mile from Bow of MAORI steaming 25 knots. (MAORI 0921B/28).

Nore Command
S.A.
Destroyers.

Admty. 1924B/22. Following Destroyers of Nore Command now fitted S.A. Details. (C. in C. Nore 1146B/28).

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy
Catapult
Ship.

It has been reported that what was described as a German CATAPULT ship with 3 aircraft on board was at Trondhjem 12/6. (O.I.C. 1305/28).

Casualties and Defects.SHERWOOD.

Left Convoy T.C. 11 at 0345B/28 to proceed to Iceland to effect repairs to oil fuel booster pump which has put forward boiler room out of action. (SHERWOOD 0450Z/28). F.O.I.C. Iceland 1245Z/23. SHERWOOD can be re-tubed at Portsmouth dockyard. Work will take about 8 weeks without A's and A's etc. (-D.O.D.H. 1116B/28).

ICARUS.

Remain in company with H.X. 133 thence proceed to Ardrossan for docking and changing of propellers. (R.A.D. 0935B/28 to ICARUS).

L.26.
(Grounded
27/6).

My 2302/27. Refloated. Have left one Officer and 33 Ratings on shore. (L.26. 0951B/28). Your 1546B/28. (? Request you will) sail Submarine -L.26 with escort to Rothesay (? as soon as) convenient for docking to examine damage. (Capt. S.7 1917B/28 to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES).

NAUTILUS
(Collision
22/5).

(1) Wreck of NAUTILUS in 53° 35' 59" N. 00° 25' 28" E. (FRANKLIN 1047/28).

VIMY.

Suspected sabotage. (Capt. D. Plymouth 1055/28).

BRIGHTON
(Collision
25/6).

Sailed from Reydarfiord AURORA, BRIGHTON, ECHO, Fleet tug MARAUDER, and THAMES at 1100Z. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1256/28).

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.G. 66.

Ships for West Indies and S. America ports are not to disperse before reaching $045^{\circ} 00' N.$ and are to omit all lettered positions from their routes N. of $042^{\circ} 50' N.$ (C. in C. W.A. 2255/28 to SCARBOROUGH).

Ships
Under
15 Kts.

Your 2043/27. All ships under 15 knots speed are to sail in convoy. (D.T. D. 2526B/28 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

770

War Diary.28.6.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Vichy
Ships

General instructions re recruiting crews when Vichy French merchant ships are captured. (Hd. of M., 2217B/28 to C. in C's. etc.) See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic.FURIOUS
SCYTHIA
CAMERONIA

Your 1213B/27 and C. in C. S.A. 1849N/26. Proposed route. (F.O.C.N.A., 0950A/28 to Admty.) Approved. (D.O.D.(F) 1219B/29.)

Gibraltar

Your 2128/28/5. Approved to include Naval "Y" unit in initial evacuation. (Hd. of M. 1611B/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Toulon.

S.O.(I) Gibraltar's 1742/26, request you will arrange for immediate R/C of Toulon if possible. (D.D.I.C. 1628B/28 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1628B. Request this be referred to Air Ministry in view of Coastal Command message SD/635, 24/6. Toulon is outside safe endurance of P R U aircraft at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1804A/28 to Admty.)

SEVERN

Cancel previous instructions. Proceed with minimum delay to establish patrol off Northern Approach to Messina Strait. (F.O.C.N.A. 1636A/28, to SEVERN.) Your 1636A/28. One torpedo remaining. Earliest arrival position indicated 0300A/1. Extensive minefields West and South Saràinia also Cavoli Sarpentara. (SEVERN, 2313A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy
Minelaying

Report B.1 indicating recent minelaying off Genoa and Savona. Avoid these Areas. (F.O.C.N.A., 1810A/28 to S/M. O.23.)

French
Convoy

Passed Eastbound in T W at 1610 escorted by armed trawler SENTINELLE, LA-MARSA, FELIX-HENRI, and small coaster all full. (S.O.I. Gib., 2301A/28 to Admty.)

Gibraltar

Your 1734/23. Instructions re W/T organisation. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2337B/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

770A

2217 B/28th June

SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To. C. in C., America and West Indies 244. Date 28.6.41
 C. in C., South Atlantic 168
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 213
 N.O.I.C. Durban
 F.O.I.C., Simonstown 301
 Repeated C. in C., China 235
 C. in C., Mediterranean 308
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 690.

 Naval Cypher (X B)

From Admiralty

The following general instructions are notified for use when Vichy French Merchant Ships are captured:-

Immediately on arrival endeavour to recruit crew for De Gaulle. Terms of service as follows:-

Recruits should sign following declaration:-

"Je declare vouloir continuer la lutte contre l'Allemagne et l'Italie et m'engage a servir loyalement la cause commune de la France Libre de la Grande Bretagne et de leurs Allies.

J'accepte donc de continuer a naviguer sur un navire francais."

As soon as declaration is signed

(1) Arrears wages due on current French articles should be paid to Officers and men who sign at rate of exchange 176.50 Francs to Pound.

(2) N.M.B. Rates should be paid to such Officers and men as sign and if Captain signs he should receive rate of salary equivalent to that of Captain similar British Merchant Ship.

(3) Recruits will be appointed to ex French ship and may be accepted for Free French Naval Forces, in particular if under thirty years old.

(4) It is learned Vichy Government is paying bonus 150 Francs daily to Officers 10 Francs daily to men in their Merchant Ships. Prefer not make such payment. If crew unwilling join Allied Cause without such payment and if Vichy bonus not already paid you could agree pay not more than £7.10/-. Officers 65/- per month for each completed month of service or 35/- Officers 24/- men for each completed week of service on current articles, emphasising bonus only payable in Vichy France worthless outside France and that from 1st January 1941 N.M.B. rates in effect increased by £2 per month to every officer and man.

In recruiting attention should be drawn to advantages of service in Allied Cause;

- (a) N.M.B. Rates.
- (b) French rank seniority accepted equivalent to British. Usual prospects promotion.
- (c) Admission to British Schemes sickness, invalidity, pensions, unemployment insurance.
- (d) Admission to British schemes protection against accidents in course of employment and against loss of life, limb, effects due to War risks.

- (e) Exemption from liability to British income tax.
- (f) French discipline food wine.
- (g) Arrangements made whereby money can be transferred to unoccupied France as and when possible.

Explain that transfer to British Registry is necessary if vessel is to continue in service but that French Flag will also be worn at mainmast by agreement with Free French.

Hold ceremony for change of flag. Senior volunteer will hoist French flag to mainmast head at same time as British flag is hoisted a/t.

As soon as possible forward information of numbers and categories Officers and men who undertake to serve and give similar information regarding those refusing to serve.

2217 B/28
for Hd of H (808)
approved by A.C.H.S.(T)

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.H.S.
A.C.H.S.(F)
A.C.H.S.(T) (2)
Nav.Sec.
N.A.1st S.L.
Ops.(4)
O.D.(5)
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(3)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(11)
N.A.(F) 2nd S.L.
D. of S.T.(2)
M.(35) (French Distribution)
M.34 (H 5760/41) for A.F.O.
Admiral Chalmers
I.P.(3)
W.D.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FRANKFURT
NATAL
(German)

Rio de Janeiro reports FRANKFURT passed Fort Santa Cruz at 2300 G.M.T./27.
Santos reports NATAL crossed bar at 2320 G.M.T./27.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0024Z/28 to R.A.S.A.D., C. in C. S.A., 0127N/28, 0219N/28 to S.A. Stn.)
S.O.I. Freetown 0840N/28 to Admty, 0942N/28 to S.A.S. 0944N/28 to S.A.S.

A/C for
Free French

Re supply of coastal reconnaissance aircraft to Free French Africa.
(Spears Mission, Brazzaville, 0815/28.)

HERMES
(German)

(Ex KARNAK) sailed from Rio de Janeiro 2120Z/27. Additional details not shown in O U 6329.(i)
(S.O.I. Freetown, 0940N/28 to S.A. Stn.)

ALDERAMIN

Overdue shipping, my 0942/26, ALDERAMIN arrived Durban.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0953B/28.)

→ MONBALDO
(Italian)

Sailed 0930 G.M.T./28.
(N.C.S.O. Plata, 1430Z/28 to S.O.I.'s Freetown etc.)

Troop
Transports.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1521B/28 to Admty. (See Lion Copy.) C. in C. S.A., 2137N/28 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown. (See Lion Copy.)

→ MONBALDO
(Italian)
NORDERNEY
(German)

Para reports MONBALDO taken out clearance, raised steam, taking provisions. NORDERNEY raising steam.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1521Z/28 to R.A.S.A.D.)
My 1521/28 Para reports MONBALDO sailed at 0930 G.M.T./28.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1602Z/28, to R.A.S.A.D.)
(C. in C. S.A., 1755N/28 to S.A. Stn.)

BABITONGA

LONDON arrived Freetown a.m./28. Clearly established that BABITONGA after leaving Santos remained in South Atlantic (and after) about 3 weeks embarked prisoners from a raider, later transferred prisoners to another ship. Consider only very general indication of activities and vaguest reference to movements shall be referred to in any communication with Brazilian Authorities When intercepted ship had on board 850 tons of Diesel oil in drums in addition to normal stowage of fuel.
(C. in C. S.A., 1715N/28 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)
(C. in C. S.A. 1935N/28 to Admty. - See Lion Copy.)

MOST SECRET

471A

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1521B/28th June IN

From N.O.I.C. Simonstown.

Date 28.6.41.

Recd 2324.

Naval Cypher (C) by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated D. of S.T., C. in C. South Atlantic, C. in C. East Indies, C. in C. Mediterranean for Middle East S.S.T.O. Liberal for Impecon, H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM, H.M.S. HAWKINS.

IMMEDIATE.

WS9A

906

My 1518/27 not to C. in C. Mediterranean and D. of S.T. 1917/27 not to H.M.S. HAWKINS. In view of decision to turn round 6 transports at Durban it is desired that following ships be substituted for those mentioned in paragraph one of my 1518.

(GMLV) EMPRESS OF JAPAN, (GKGM) CAPETOWN CASTLE, (GPGP) DURBAN CASTLE, (GPLV) LLANGIBBY CASTLE, (GSXV) EASTERN PRINCE and EMPIRE WIDGEON. This will entail entraining some troops from Capetown to Durban and about one thousand personnel will probably have to await onward passage from Durban.

(ii) Admiralty telegram 1122/26 not to N.O.I.C. Durban. Transfer of over carried R.A.F. stores in GJCF (SAMARIA) to GFSB (EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA) cannot in these new circumstances be arranged and stores will be carried back to Freetown in GJCF (SAMARIA) whose return will be expedited as far as possible.

(iii) I have informed Dept. of Defence Union of South Africa of the withdrawal of accommodation for 12000 Union Troops whose embarkation was being arranged.

(iv) As previously explained, in the present heavily congested state of Union ports constant changes in carefully arranged programmes cause serious delay to ordinary shipping movements.

1521B/28.

Advance copy sent (), O.D. and Trade.

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

jf

471 B

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2137N/28th June.
IN.

From. C. in C. South Atlantic. Date. 29.5.41.

Recd. 0509.

NAVAL CYPIER (C) (BY W/R).

Addressed. N.O.I.C. Simonstown. 201.
Repeated. Admiralty, H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM, C. in C.
East Indies. N.L.O. Durban, S.T.O.
Durban, D. of S.T. H.M.S. HAWKINS.

IMPORTANT.

48. N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1521/28 and
H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE'S 1305/27 not to all addressees.
If six days engine overhaul of H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE
is found to be essential on arrival at Capetown GFSB
(EMPERESS OF AUSTRALIA) will not be able to sail until
8 July at the earliest. Every endeavour should be
made to get stores ex GJCF (SAMARIA) to Capetown from
Durban as soon as possible to ensure them going in
GFSB (EMPERESS OF AUSTRALIA) in case of further delay
to GJCF (SAMARIA) while unloading and loading.

2137N/28.

Most Secret Distribution.

1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
C.L. (5)
D. of P. (3)
D. of S.T.

D.T.D.
D.T.D. (M)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
M. (13)
E.P.S.
O.I.C. (2)

EC

MOST SECRET

771 C

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1935^N/28th June IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 29.6.41.

Recd 0057.

Naval Cypher (X) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

AIDAC.

44

My 1715/28 to B.N.A. Rio de Janeiro.

- (1) BABITONGA left Santos 24th April and proceeded to a position 32 South 15 West approximately and was then ordered to go North by W/T.
- (2) Ship was in Area 28 degs South 15 degs West from approximately 8th to 30th May.
- (3) On May 30th she embarked 79 prisoners from raider, whose Captain's name was stated to be 'Rogge'. Presumably raider No.16.
- (4) Raider instructed BABITONGA to proceed North and she proceeded North next day.
- (5) On 24th June prisoners were transferred to vessel named ALSTERTON? in 005 North 35 West approximately.
- (6) BABITONGA was ordered to proceed South to position she was in on May 30th and was met by LONDON on the way to that position.

1935N/28.

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)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.C.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. (2)
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.L.C. Pay. Cdr. Wilson.
D.P.D.

JF

772

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

RICHELIEU

Report graded B.O. states to leave Dakar shortly, crew 1400. Cruising speed 22 knots. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1901N/28 to Admty.)

DRAGON

Your 1923N/15.
Owing to increase of work at Simonstown enquiries are being made as to whether DRAGON can be refitted in U.S.A. (D.O.D.(F) 1920B/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE

Failing further information, search for German ship in sector between 170° and 130° from Rio de Janeiro. (R.A.S.A.D., 2059Z/28 to CARNARVON CASTLE.)

Enemy ships,
Bahia.

Bahia reports no enemy ships have more than 7 days Bunkers and that they are unlikely to leave. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2116Z/28 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BUTTERFLY
XXIV MAGGIO
(Italian)

Pernambuco reports BUTTERFLY has received clearance and will sail tonight. 24 MAGGIO will receive clearance a.m./29. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2207Z/28 to R.A.S.A.D.)

"S" Report.

Your 1850N/26 (N.T. in W.D.)(SSSS from unknown ship.)
No information is available of an attack on this date. (D.D.I.C., 2254B/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

U/B.

Am leaving area to N.W. in order to charge after night hunt with U-Boat. Lost contact U-Boat diving in 034° 04' N. 035° 20' E. (PARTHIAN, 0127C/28 to C.S.15.)

See a/30 p. 773

F.A.A. units
permanently
disembarked

1st S.L. 0239/28 to C. in C. Med.
See Lion Copy.

/Enemy Fleet.....

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 0239/20th June.

772 A

MOST SECRET

OUT.

To: C. in C. Mediterranean 288 B2.

Date 20.6.41.

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME TABLE.

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Personal from First Sea Lord.

A reply to my 0241D/19 had not yet been received but in the meantime I have been shown a telegram from Tedder to the V.C.A.S. (A.O.C. 31 25/6) the gist of which is as follows. Begins.

1. Fleet Air Arm units permanently disembarked consist of three Fighter Squadrons and two Torpedo Bomber Squadrons of Fleet Air Arm size.

C. in C. Mediterranean desires that these Squadrons shall be treated as Coastal Command Units and has agreed to them being more or less under the Operational Control of No. 201 Group where appropriate.

2. C. in C. Mediterranean wishes to use these as follows :-

(a) Fighters operating from the coast to give part of the fighter protection required for the fleet.

(b) Torpedo Bombers for use in conjunction with Fleet operations against naval targets.

To enable squadrons to operate in this way C. in C. Mediterranean wishes to be able to switch them at short notice to any point between Mersa Matruh and Haifa or to Cyprus, and therefore requires the squadrons to be fully mobile and guaranteed a call on air transport when required.

3. Tedder then goes on to explain that the Fleet Air Arm Squadrons are in the main without equipment and that he does not feel able to supply either Hurricanes or Tomahawks or the necessary equipment for them from his resources in the Middle East, and that Admiralty should be asked to arrange for the necessary equipment to be sent out. Ends.

4. C.A.S. on the other hand takes the view that the aircraft and equipment must be supplied from the Middle East and that any equipment necessary to make up for what you are provided with by R.A.F. should be sent round the Cape in a fast ship. C.A.S., however, takes the view that if the Fleet Air Arm Fighter Squadrons are re-equipped with Hurricanes or Tomahawks at the expense of re-equipping some of the R.A.F. squadrons, the Fleet Air Arm fighters, as also all other Squadrons, whether F.A.A. or R.A.F. should belong to the common pool and considered available to reinforce the R.A.F. This would of course rule out any question of a Coastal Command.

/ 5

5. Subject to your concurrence I would propose that there should be a coastal command which would consist of the following:-

- (a) 2 Maryland Squadrons for reconnaissance manned by R.A.F.
- (b) 2 Torpedo Bomber Beaufort Squadrons manned by R.A.F. for use as striking force.
- (c) 2 T.S.R. Squadrons either Albacores or Swordfish manned by F.A.A. for striking and A/S duties.
- (d) 3 long-range Fighter Squadrons of which one would be existing Beaufighter Squadron, and remaining two would be Hurricanes with long-range tanks manned by F.A.A.
- (e) 1 Flying Boat Squadron.

6. The Coastal Command at Home has no short range fighters. It is considered undesirable to attach single-seater fighters to an Eastern Mediterranean Coastal Command, although they would, of course, be required to co-operate in the majority of Naval operations.

7. Do you concur in proposed constitution of Coastal Command as given in para. 5?

8. I understand it is your idea that the coastal Command Squadrons should be operated by 201 Group.

9. Is it your idea that Poyd should be retained for Naval Air Administrative duties?

10. Should agreement on constitution and strength of Coastal Command be reached with Air Ministry consideration would be given to sending out the necessary equipment and transport.

11. The question of air transport asked for in your 11020/8/6 is being taken up separately.

0239/28.

1st Sea Lord.

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

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.→ Enemy
Fleet

1 Battleship 5 Cruisers 8 Destroyers in position
296 36°N. 20°E. 56 course 210° Speed 15 knots.
(Duty A/C., 0528/28.)
A/C report 1 Battleship 5 Cruisers 8 Destroyers
in 036° 26' N. 018° 58' E. at 0728B course 210°
speed 15 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0812B/28 to Med. Fleet.,
V.A. Malta, 0812B/28 to S/M's on patrol.)

→ PARTHIAN

Safety route established (details.)
(Capt. (S)1, 0811C/28 to Med. Fleet.)
Cancel my 0821C/28 (? 0811C). PARTHIAN is
returning Beirut. Safety routes are established
for TRIUMPH from approx. 032° 50' 024° 28' to
Kithera Channel from 1600/28 to 0400/30 and for
TORBAY from end of Alex. searched Channel to
Kaso Straits from 1900/28 to 1900/29.
(Capt. S.1., 1645C/28 to Med. Fleet.)

→ Enemy
Fleet

2 Battleships 2 cruisers 7 destroyers 4 merchant
vessels 1 A/C my position 3555 1905.
(Duty X A/C., 0914Z/28.)
P.C. and S. of 4 merchant vessels 2 cruiser
9 destroyers is 35.13 N., 19.28 E., course 190°
speed 12 knots.
(Duty P. A/C, 0944/28.) (Comdr. S.1., 1315B/28
to REGENT.)
My 0944. 4 Merchant Vessels of 15,000 tons.
(Duty P. A/C., 1000/28.)
My 1315B. Approx. position of convoy 1130B/28
035° 35' 019° 12' 175° 15 knots.
(Cdr. S.1., 1455B/28, to REGENT.)

*See also p. 775.*Greek
Fleet

My 1235/7 and my 1251/21. Question of movement
of Greek Fleet has now become urgent.
(C. in C. Med., 1012C/28 to Admty.)

ILEX
escort

Request you will detach 2 destroyers to
Alexandria one being used as escort for ILEX
to Port Said.
(C. in C. Med., 1032C/28 to C.S.15.)

See p. 775 & 776.→ PARTHIAN

Cancel my 2257C/27. Resume patrol at Beirut.
(C. in C. Med., 1102C/28 to PARTHIAN.)
Your 1102C/28 understood.
(PARTHIAN, 1528C/28.)

/STROMBO.....

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

STROMBO
(Italian)

My 1222/5. STROMBO damage confirmed serious but effecting temporary repairs afloat. Expect ready to sail Ballast 30/6. Owing to hostilities destination probably Aegean. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1246C/28.)

URGE
patrol

Cancel special operation, patrol in vicinity 37° 55'N. 15° 35'E. French naval units including cruisers and 1 battleship may be proceeding to eastward from Messina shortly. These are to be attacked. Destroyers may be fitted with asdic. (Cdr. S.1., 1327B/28 to URGE.)

S/M
Intelligence
UNIQUE URGE attacked
by 80 D/C's.

UNIQUE reports all traffic sighted between 16th and 26/6 passed between Lampedusa and Lampion and consisted of two Northbound convoys of three and four ships, one Southbound convoy of two small ships, escort averaged three destroyers. UNIQUE (? detected) attacking both northbound convoys once by air once by destroyer. First counter attack short but accurate second prolonged but inaccurate, over 80 depth charges in all, no damage, no torpedoes (? fired) UPRIGHT report blank. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1347/28 to Capt. S.1.)

U/B sunk by
TRIUMPH
(SALFA.)

Your 1931C/27. Well done. Cancel previous orders proceed with all despatch towards Cape Matapan. (Capt. S.1., 1351C/28 to TRIUMPH.)

Alexandria
Mines.

Your 1853/7. Type C mine dropped in city A.M. today has been rendered safe. No mine seen to fall in water during this raid but three parachute mines probably type C swept by single L after raid on 8/6 exploded at first pulse. (R.A. Alexandria, 1352E/28, to Admty.)

Alexandria
Raid.

Air Raid 0300 to 0500 about 12 planes. Bombs and mines. One electric cable cut, no other damage or casualties. 2 mines exploded in mid air (? without) being fired at. (R.A. Alexandria, 1356C/28.)

/Enemy Units.....

775

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Enemy
Units.

2 Enemy cruisers 9 destroyers 4 merchant vessels
3438 N. 1818 E. Course 190° Speed 15 knots.
(Duty F. A/C 1510/28) (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1756B/28.
to REGENT.)

Following received. My 1510. Am still in
touch with enemy. No change in situation
since report quoted at beginning of this
message. Am returning to Base.

(Duty F. A/C 1530/28 to Hal Far.)

Following received. My 1510. Enemy previously
reports are 2 8" gun cruisers Italian.

(Duty F. A/C 1545/28 to Hal Far.)

Following received. My 1510. 2 Enemy
Cruisers and 2 destroyers are stationed bearing
010° from 2 Convoys.

(Nore W/T, 1600/28.)

Following has been read - P.C. and S. of 2
Battleships 2 Cruisers 7 Destroyers 4 Merchant
Vessels ? 33.10 N., 18.40 E. 220° 10 knots.

(Duty R. A/C, 1610Z/28.)

My 1510. 6 destroyers are screening 4 merchant
vessels.

(Nore W/T, 1615/28.)

My 1455B. 4 merchant ships 6 destroyers in
034° 28' 018° 14' at 1815B. Cruisers and 3
destroyers have apparently left convoy.

(S.O.(S), 1850B/28 to REGENT.)

TRIUMPH.
PERSEUS,
TORBAY.

Operation B.S. appendix 1 para. 4 to 6.
Establish patrol line at 0400C/30 as follows.
(Capt. S.1., 1521C/28 to S/M's concerned.)

Malta
Raid.
Tripoli
bombed.

Malta. Night 27/28. 10 aircraft over, few
bombs on land, negligible damage, no casualties.
Night 27/28. 6 Wellingtons bombed Spanish Mole
Tripoli dropping 17,500 lbs. G.P. bombs from
8000 feet scoring many hits, all returned.

My 1394/27/6, operation "Railway" 21 Hurricanes
not 22 arrived.

(H.Q. Malta, 1600/28.)

DECOY
ILEX.

My 1435 (N.T. in W.D.). DECOY will have to
tow ILEX and is to proceed down swept channel
to meet her.

(F.O. 15 C.S., 1706/28 to Capt. D.2., Capt. D.14.)

My 1435/28 and my 1706/28. Retain CARLISLE and
both destroyers in addition to DECOY until
arrival off Port Said. ILEX send CARLISLE and
one destroyer back to Haifa and detail other two
to Alexandria. (F.O. 15 C.S., 1731/28 to
Capt. D.2.)

/ILEX.....

776

28.6.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.ILEX
DECOY
Contd.

ILEX expects to sail 1845 and proceed at 10 knots. CARLISLE DECOY and two other destroyers are to meet her at end of swept channel and escort her towards Port Said. DECOY to remain with ILEX until detached by Capt. (D) 2 off Port Said. CARLISLE and other destroyers to leave ILEX so as to arrive back at Haifa at 0615/29 but Capt. (D) 2 may retain CARLISLE and one destroyer at his discretion.
(F.O. 15 C.S., 1735/28 to Capt. D.2., D.14.)

Signalling

Indication to enemy by number of messages concerning "Tiger" and "Rocket". Cable to be used for certain messages. (D.S.D., 1706B/28 to C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H.) See Lion Copy.

Benghazi
Bombed.

Prelim. Ops. Summary No.12 night 27/28. 6 Wellingtons bombed Cathedral Mole Benghazi direct hits on buildings and small fires.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1844/28.)

Submarines

Movements Summary 29. (Capt. S.1., 1857C/28)
See Lion Copy.

French
Convoy

Source graded B.2. states six tankers escorted by French submarines and destroyers sailed from Marseilles for Constanza 25/6.
(D.D.I.C. 1910B/28 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

AUCKLAND
sunk 24/6

My 2254C/24. After forenoon T/B attack AUCKLAND, PARAMATTA, and PASS OF BALMAHA were attacked at 1730/24 about 30 miles N.E. of Tobruk by a force of 30 to 40 J.U.87. Majority concentrated on AUCKLAND who was disabled by one direct hit aft and sank after several more hits. High level bombing attack developed 1½ hours later when PARAMATTA was collecting survivors and was followed by further attack by 30 to 40 J.U.87. PARAMATTA avoided all bombs and shot down three aircraft.
(C. in C. Med., 1922/28, to Admty.)

/ A/C attack.....

MOST SECRET

776A

MOST SECRET

~~1706B/28 June 41~~ OUT

To C. in C. Mediterranean 301
S.O. Force H 195
Repeated V.A. Malta 232
F.O.C. North Atlantic 204
R.A. Alexandria 383

DATE 28.6.41.

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty

From a study of recent W/T traffic it appears that some indication of projected operations in the Central Mediterranean (e.g. TIGER and ROCKET) may have been given to the enemy by the number of messages originated before the operations by either Admiralty, C. in C. Mediterranean or S.O. Force H and addressed to the other two.

2. To break this connection it is the intention to use cable for communication to and from S.O. Force H when he is at Gibraltar for all messages not repetition not bearing an indication of priority higher than "Immediate". F.O.C. North Atlantic is to inform Admiralty if this leads to any delay.

3. Delivery Groups for Spare Force number 16 and Senior Officer Spare Force number 16 are allocated signification "Pass to Senior Officer Force H using L/T if possible". C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to make use of these delivery groups when passing messages for S.O. Force H (at Gibraltar) via Whitehall W/T.

4. The use of Delivery Groups for Force H and S.O. Force H on Malta Broadcast also reveals to the enemy the general movements of Force H. To avoid this Delivery Groups for Spare Force number 15 and Senior Officer Spare Force number 15 are allocated to "Senior Office Force H" and are to be used only when routing messages for S.O. Force H (and any other ships detailed by S.O. Force H in a specific operation) via Malta.

5. The above will come into force at 0001 G.M.T. 1st July.

1706B/28

for D.S.D.

1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S (F)
D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
P.S.D. (2)
N.I.D. 10 (2)
H.W.R. (2)
D.D.O.D. (F)
Duty Captain
I.P.
W.D.

Lion

776B

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1857C/28 June

From Capt. 1st Sub. Flotilla.

Date 29.6.41.
Recd. 0741.

NAVAL CODE (L2) BY W/T

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet Repeated V.A. Malta, N.O.i/c. Cyprus,
N.O.i/c Port Said, S.O. Force I, A.O.C. Mediterranean,
201 Group, R.A. Alexandria.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine movements summary ^{29.} (~~corrupt group~~)

Movements. (A)

Submarine.	Depart from.	Routed through.	Arrive.
H.M.S. REGENT	Gulf of Sirte P.M. 29th	032° 55' 018° 55' 033° 39' 022° 17' at 2300/1	Alexandria A.M. 5th.
H.M.S. TRIUMPH	^{28A}	032° 50' 024° 28' 1600 (group missing) Kithera Channel.	Cape Malca A.M. 30th
H.M.S. TORBAY	Alexandria 1600/28	Maso Straits	Thaloonera P.M. 1st

Inform (~~corrupt group~~) - North P.M. 25th (Sicily)ian Channel
Malta A.M. 30th

H.M.S. THRASHER and H.M.S. OSIRIS arriving Malta 29th or first and
second respectively.

Gibraltar. H.M.S. RORQUAL and Greek Sub. NEREUS as laid
down in Summary 28.

Sanctuary. (B). H.M.S. PARNELIAN North of 033° 48'
within 15 miles Ras Beirut H.M.S. REGENT until P.M. 29th South of
032° 45' and East of 015° 00' Greek Sub. NEREUS. 035° 30' 029° 30' -
000° - 50 - (~~corrupt groups~~) H.M.S. PERSEUS H.M.S. TRIUMPH, H.M.S. TORBAY,
036° 27' (five corrupt groups) 25-36. H.M.S. UPHOLDER H.M.S. UNIQUE
H.M.S. ULRICH H.M.S. UNION H.M.S. URGENT H.M.S. TRITON (~~corrupt groups~~)
037° 30' 015° 00' - (~~corrupt group~~) - H.M.S. USK- 70

1857C/2.8

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

- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Fin Admiralty Hse.
- Ops. (4).
- O.D. (5).
- O.D. 8.
- M. (2).
- O.I.C.
- D.S.D. 9.
- Mails.
- Movts.
- I.P. (3).
- D.A/S.W.
- W.D.
- E.P.S.
- F.O.S. By courier.

* H.M.S. TRITON considered lost
16/12/40

ψ Hms USK lost April 1941

War Diary.28.6.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.A/C attack
on Convoy
25/6.

Your 1821C/28 (N.T. in W.R.) and A.O.C. Mea's I.390 of 26/6. First sub flight Swordfish scored one torpedo hit on each of the leading and rear transports. Second sub flight attacked later through smoke screen and scored one possible hit. Italian prisoner of war shot down 27/6 stated one transport was sunk previous night. From all evidence consider liner transport sunk and second damaged possibly sunk.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2204B/28 to C. in C. Mea.)

Situation
Report 70.

Syria. LEANDER and COVENTRY have been relieved on Syrian coast by PERTH and CARLISLE. PERTH and destroyers carried out sweep off Damour with TSDS no result. Enemy convoy heavily escorted by cruisers and destroyers sighted in ? Central Mediterranean out of reach of our forces. Convoy apparently making for Benghazi or Tripoli. UNION sank 2800-ton laden merchant ship southward bound in 036° 09' N. 011° 58' E. at 1507/22.
(C. in C. Mea., 2346C/28.)

East Indies.W.S.9A.2.

Adty. 1918/27 Para. 2. Intend CORNWALL to escort fast convoy from Durban to vicinity of Aden. Convoy to be called W.S.9A.2.
(C. in C. E.I., 0752Z/28 to Admy.)

ENTERPRISE
HERMES

ENTERPRISE is to leave Colombo 0230Z/30 and proceed to vicinity of Trincomalee to carry out practice programme on 1/7 with HERMES as arranged by S.O. Force T. On completion of practice Force T is to proceed to Colombo to fuel arriving 0230Z/3. Force T is to leave Colombo on completion of fuelling and proceed through 8° Channel to Port Victoria Seychelles arriving 8/7.
(C. in C. E.I., 1358Z/28 to Force T.)

Mine
Watching

Your 1128Z/21. Necessity for early establishment of a thoroughly efficient Mine Watching organisation is fully concurred in. Suggestions.
(D.M.S. 1604B/28 to C. in C. E.I.).

War Diary.28.6.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.COMMANDANT
DORISEArrival 27/6.
(Saigon 0230Z/28.)German
M/V's.

Report from Tientsin indicates German ships now in Japanese ports ordered to load goods lying there destined for Germany via Siberia. Ships will presumably attempt to run blockade. Tokyo has been asked to give earlier information of any sailings.
(C. in C. China, 0409Z/28 to Admty.)
List of Ships. (D.S. 663.)

SEAMEW

Your 0747/10. You may withdraw SEAMEW and retain on China Station if you can use her.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2143B/28 to C. in C. China.)

SI KIANG

Your 1223/9 and 0505/19. Proposals for journey from Durban to Indo-China. (Hd. of M., 2206/28)
See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.SURCOUF

Leave Bermuda A.M./30 and establish patrol as in my 1901Q/22. Leave patrol so as to arrive Bermuda on 20/7.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1012Q/28 to SURCOUF.)
Consider SURCOUF should be docked after return from present patrol on 20/7. Vessel also has a number of defects. Estimate one month should be sufficient including 10 days in dock. Bermuda Yard are unable to undertake work. Propose work be done in U.S.A.
(C. in C. A. & W.I., 2242Q/28 to Admty.)

MONBALDO
(Italian)

Sailed from Para 0930 G.M.T./28. Admiralty informed.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1117R/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

NORDERNEY
(German)

Para reports NORDERNEY raising steam.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1123R/28 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

/Finnish.....

778d

2206B/28 June.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

To C. in C. China 234,
Repeated Governor, Straits Settlements. Date 28.6.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (XR) BY W/T.

From Admiralty.

Your 1223Z 9th June and 0505Z 19th June.

You should inform Decoux that we consider that **SI KIANG** should make the journey from Durban to Indo-China without calling at Madagascar, and that only sufficient troops (presumably about 850) should be embarked to permit of such a direct journey. Journey would also be subject to condition about cargo mails and other passengers mentioned in telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of the Straits Settlements No.805 of 30th May.

If Decoux will agree to arrangement on these lines we shall consider whether there is any other way of repatriating rest of 1,700 troops to Indo China and we shall take up with South Africa question of provision of life saving apparatus for troops embarked in **SI KIANG**.

For your personal information we consider it most undesirable for any opportunity to be given to reinforce the existing garrison of Madagascar.

2206B/28.

for Head of M.(808)

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
N.A.1st.S.L.
D.N.I.(4)
O.D.(5)
Ops.(4)
D.of P.(3)
O.I.C.(2)
D.S.D.9.
D.of S.T.(2)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
D.E.W.D.(3)
I.P.(3)
W.D.
M.34 (M.07986/41)
M.(35)(for French distribution, and D.O.)

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Finnish Seamen.

Two Norwegian tankers at present in Port have Finnish subjects as part of crew. Dutch authorities contend they have no power to intern any but Germans. Request instructions as I consider it unsafe to let these men remain on board.
(S.N.O. Curacao, 1138QR/28 to Ađmty.)

B H X Convoys, suspension.

Suggested that under present circumstances consideration be given to suspension of BHX convoys in view of submarine menace and fog conditions at Junction Point. BHX is now proceeding nearly 1000 miles without A/S escort and saving in distance is slight, whereas ships assembling at Halifax can keep close to the U.S. Coast en route to Assembly. Halifax can accommodate the extra tonnage.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1341Z/28 to Ađmty.)

"R" Report

R R R R sent three times. No bearing or call sign heard due to interference.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1429Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

St. John's N.F. congestion

Your 1334Z/27. Concur. Instructions will be promulgated in Amendment to A.M.0001/1/5.
(D.T.D. 1523B/28, to C.C. Newfoundland.)

Suspicious Ship.

Yankee Clipper reports she sighted on 25/6 at 0625A freighter about 6000 tons apparently Norwegian but not flag 37° 26' N. 43° 7' W. On return Clipper on 26/6 at 2215 sighted same vessel at 038° N. 039° W., tried to contact on radio without (? success.)
(Brit. Ađm. Delegation, Washington, 1600R/28 to Ađmty.)

ST.DOMINGUE

Extract from a Fairmiss telegram:- "Departure 28/6 S. DOMINGUE Guadeloupe F.W.I. 30/6.
(San Juan, 1610/28.)

JOHN W. MACKAY Cable Ship.

Navy Department and Defence Communication Board gravely concerned by requisitioning.
(B.A.D., Washington, 1619R/28 to Ađmty.)
Reply: 1739/29.

War Diary.

28.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies Contd.

C.I.P.
(French)

Has shifted to Galveston Roads and is held by Agents because certain formalities re shipment are not completed.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1648Z/28 to S.O.I. Kingston.)

THUNDERBOLT
TALISMAN

Adty. 1618B/25 and F.O.S. 2319B/25. Intend sailing THUNDERBOLT and TALISMAN escorted by BUXTON for St. Johns N.F. on 30/6 to embark spare crew and spare personnel gear.
Route to Gibraltar.
(F.O. 3 B.S., 1827P/28 to Admty, etc.)

War Diary.28.6.1941.
Saturday.

781

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.L.78
EMPIRE
ABILITY

Your 1725/27. Survivors are to be divided up among other Corvettes of escort if necessary. Ships of convoy are not to be stopped. (C. in C. S.A., 0337N/28 to BURDOCK.) BURDOCK'S 1725/27 and my 0337/28. Request survivors may be taken on board by you if the opportunity occurs. (C. in C. S.A., 1037N/28 to SHROPSHIRE.)

O.B.336
(attacked
24/6.)

Spoke Commodore of Convoy O.B.336 HARPAGON 1400 G.M.T. 25 055° N. 045° W. 17 ships were within 15 mile radius. Commodore reported (? only) 1 ship lost on ? 24/6. (RAMILLIES, 0432Z/28 to C, in C. W.A.)

BALTARA
(torpedoed
27/6.)

Your 2137B/27. (Reporting unknown ship torpedoed 0200/27). Ship was BALTARA sailing independently after H.X.133. INVERLEE reported for BROCKLEY HILL and was not herself torpedoed. British, 3292 tons from Montreal to Hull with General cargo. (D.S.663). (OTTAWA, 0805/28 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 0805/28 is anything known of fate of BALTARA or survivors? (C. in C. W.A., 2219B/28 to OTTAWA.) Reply: No. (OTTAWA, 0653/29.)

PLUTO

Your 1444B/28 (N.T. in W.D.). Have picked up boat with 18 survivors. NORTHERN FOAM resuming sweep for U-Boat. Am returning to Kirkwall. E.T.A. 0800. (NORTHERN DUKE, 1610B/28 to S.O.N.T.)

MAASDAM
(torpedoed
26/6.)

E.T.A. 2359 G.M.T./28 escorting RANDA who has 34 survivors from MAASDAM including American Red Cross nurses and American Strategic Staff. Four injured. RANDA bound Preston detached from H.X.133 wishes to land survivors. (RIPLEY, 1847Z/28 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

AURIS

SSSS 34.26 N. 12.02 W. AURIS torpedoed. (Valentia Radio 2133/28.) British tanker, 8030 tons, independent from Trinidad to Gibraltar. Following has been read AURIS torpedoed 34.27 N. 11.57 W. (Plymouth 2133/28.) Note different position. AURIS torpedoed in 034° 27' N. 011° 57' W. proceed to her assistance. (F.O.C.N.A. 2359A/28 to FARNDALE.)

War Diary.28.6.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

0127 By PARTHIAN. (See Foreign Stations, Mediterranean)

0036 At 0036 G.M.T. German submarine bearings.
240° 3rd Class.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0151A/28 to N.A. Stn.)0254 At 0254 G.M.T. German Submarine bearing
240 class 3 from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0415A/28 to N.A. Stn.)Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1454B/28.)Admty. Message A/F. 34° 27' N: 11° 57' W.
at 2140Z/28.
(D.D.I.C. 2213/28.)H.X.133My 1601B/28 and 1744B/28. D/F at 2308/28
G.M.T. indicates that U-Boat is still in your
vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 2355B/28 to MALCOLM, COLLINGWOOD,
WATCHMAN, ICARUS, RIPLEY & SCIMITAR.)Submarines Attacked.

27/6 U/B sunk by TRIUMPH. (See Mediterranean.)

0515 Have obtained ASV contact in position 006°
Skule Skerry 5 miles probably a submarine.
(A/C G/612, 0515/28.)U/B's
sunk.By GLADIOLUS on 25/6 and 27/6. (U.556)
By WISHART on 27/6, (Italian) CLAUDE.
By AUBRETIA, BROADWAY, BULLDOG on 9/5. (U.110)
By Capt. D.8., FAULKNER on 18/6. (U.138)
By PARTHIAN on 25/6. (Sand) SOUFFLEUR.
By TRIUMPH on 27/6. (Italian) SALPA.
Admty. congratulations (D.A/S.W., 1426B, 1439B,
1441B, 1442B, 1443B, 1456B/28 to ships concerned.)

War Diary

29.6.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

Bomber Command last night attacked targets in the Heligoland area.

Enemy Air Operations

Attacks on
East Coast
Shipping.

F.S.527 was unsuccessfully attacked off Yarmouth in the early hours of today; fighters drove off the enemy.

EMPIRE METEOR in F.N.486 was hit late tonight in 53° 5' N., 1° 30' E. (off Sheringham)

In air attack on Hull, SS SILVERLAUREL and ZEUS were damaged.

Mining

31 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night in the Elbe Estuary and in the Heligoland area. An 8000 ton merchant vessel in convoy off Ameland was bombed and apparently hit.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated last night between Yarmouth and Spurn Head.

War Diary

29.6.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Alteration in the employment of certain A.M.C's is intended.

Mediterranean

Libya &
Western Desert.

WATERHEN was hit by a bomb in 32° 15' N., 25° 20' E., at 2005C/29 whilst on passage to Tobruk and sank whilst in tow in the early hours of 30/6. DEFENDER, approaching WATERHEN sighted a U/B at 2042, and it is believed sank it by gunfire at close range. Early this morning a convoy of 4 large merchantmen escorted by 6 destroyers, which had been sighted yesterday proceeding south was sighted 30 miles off Tripoli. This convoy is believed to be part of the convoy attacked on 25/6, or to be a fresh convoy. 3 Marylands attacked, but no direct hits are claimed. Aircraft were despatched to make further attacks.

Alexandria

Alexandria was attacked again before dawn today. No effective damage was caused. Mines were dropped, but all fell on land.

Italian
Cruiser
Sunk.

URGE at 0915 today attacked in approx 37° 55' N. 15° 35' E. two cruisers escorted by 4 destroyers, returning from convoying south bound liner transports to Tripoli. One Cruiser, thought to be GORIZIA was hit by two torpedoes and the violence of the resulting explosion suggests that a magazine blew up and the ship undoubtedly sank.

War Diary

29.6.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies.

G.H.Q. India assumed operational control of forces in Iraq from midnight 28/29 June.

America & West Indies

Alteration in the employment of certain A.M.C's of the Halifax Escort Force is proposed.

U-Boat Campaign

WAR DIWAN was missed by torpedo early this morning in 59° 15' N., 3° 25' W.

H.X. 133
Attacked again.
Submarine
Sunk. (U.651.)

H.X. 133 was attacked again and SS GRAYBURN was torpedoed at 0241 in 59° 30' N., 18° 07' W. The attacking U-Boat was sunk by MALCOLM and ships of 8th Escort Group.

SL78.
SS RIO AZUL
sunk.

SS RIO AZUL is reported to have been torpedoed today, and is presumed to have sunk. ESPERANCE BAY picked up 9 survivors. This is the seventh ship known to have been torpedoed in SL 78.

War Diary.

29.6.1941.
Sunday.

786

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Iceland
Command.
Constitution.

Intend that Iceland should be constituted as an Independent Naval Command under the Admiralty to take effect from 1200/30. The Officer selected for this Command will be referred to as Admiral Commanding Iceland. (short title A.C.I.C.)

2. The duties of A.C.I.C. will be as follows:-
(a) In command of all naval shore establishments in Iceland (C).
(b) In command of all local naval forces attached to the Iceland (C) Command.
(c) Responsible for co-operation with the G.O.C. and O.C., R.A.F. in the defence of Iceland to the limit of his resources. For this purpose a Combined H.Q. is being formed.

3. A.C.I.C.'s further responsibilities as regards the co-operation of R.A.F. forces based on Iceland must depend on the organisation of the latter. Action has been taken with a view to forming a separate Group in Iceland under A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command.

4. Ships and Vessels, other than local forces operating within the Icelandic Command, will normally continue to operate as at present under their respective C's. in C.

(A.C.N.S.(H.) 0035B/29.)

Clyde A/S
Protection

Your 1606B/26. Refer first para my 1218/26/4. Regret provision for this important commitment is not possible within the Command.

(C. in C. W.A., 1058B/29 to F.O.IC. Greenock.)

SHROPSHIRE

SHROPSHIRE will join Home Fleet on arrival in Home Waters.

When NORFOLK rejoins the Fleet intend SHROPSHIRE to be taken in hand for turbine defects, to change guns, and to fit R.D.F.

(A.C.N.S.(H.) 1327B/29.)

Clyde
M/L Force

Your 2321B/17. Regret no additional craft are available for transfer to Western Approaches Command.

Reinforcements for the Clyde must be considered as a commitment for the existing forces allocated to your Command.

(A.C.N.S.(T.) 1616B/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

787

29.6.1941.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.CHALLENGER
LAVENDER
STARWORT

My 1148B/28. Sailing delayed 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1108B/29.
Cancel my 1148B/28 and 1108B/29. Intend to
sail CHALLENGER, LAVENDER, STARWORT with
S.S. ANSELM in company at 0030/30 routed in
accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1444B/26. Ships
call Ponta Delgada for fuel thence proceed in
company to Freetown. CHALLENGER breaks off
as necessary for Bathurst.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2104/29.) *See also p. 790*

COTSWOLD

Detach COTSWOLD at daylight 30th to proceed to
Rosyth independently at 20 knots.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1331/29 to GARTH.)

Operations.Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

SUFFOLK's 1032Z/26.
After relief by SUFFOLK, MANCHESTER is to
return to Scapa, calling at Hval Fjord for
fuel and mail if necessary.
(C. in C. H.F., 1215B/29.)

British Air Activity.Patrols

"Stab" and Pru R/C Bergen to Stavanger in
operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1130/29.)
P.R.U. R/C's at Kristiansand South and Aalborg
now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1232/29.)

Enemy Air Activity.MONTFERLAND
(Bombed 28/6)

Your 1003B/28.
Wreck S.S. MONTFERLAND in 052° 47' N. 001°
50' 30" E.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0025B/29.)

Convoy
F.S. 27

Enemy bombing odd numbered F.S. Convoy in
52° 46' N. 1° 57' E.
(VERSATILE, 0125/29.)

/CUSHENDALL.....

738

War Diary.29.6.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. Contd.CUSHENDALL
(British,
626 tons)
sunk.S.S. CUSHENDALL bound Lossiemouth to Methil inshore route bombed and sunk 57° 3' N. 1° 56' W. about 0135/28.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1030/29.)
14 survivors landed from Fishing Trawler BRISBANE ex S.S. CUSHENDALL. 2 missing believed killed. Names.
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1121/29.)Hull.50 K.G. Bomb dropped last night in engine room of tug VARO Alexandra Dock, Hull. Removed and dumped in River below Paull. Fuze and base plates being first detached.
(F.O. Humber, 1528/29.)Convoy F.N. 86.
EMPIRE METEOR
(British 7457
tons) damaged.Request tug for S.S. EMPIRE METEOR hit in engine room unable to proceed position 53° 5' N. 1° 30' E.
(LIDDESDALE 2326/29.)
LADY PHILOMENA detailed to stand by EMPIRE METEOR.
(LIDDESDALE, 2335/29.)Convoy "Mission"
MISSIONBeing shadowed by one enemy A/C bearing 040° height 5000 ft. Position 54° 29' N. 0° 26' W.
(WHADDON, 2359/29.)SILVER
LAUREL(British, 6142 tons.) Damaged by near miss during Air Raid on Hull A.M./29.
(D.O.R. 30/6.)Mining.Thames
Estuary.Mines detonated 28/6. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 0928/29 S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1122/29.)LiverpoolMines detonated by S.A. as follows. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0938/29, 1058/29.)Operation
N.L.4.My 2009B/27. Operation had to be abandoned owing to lightness of night and extreme visibility. There will be no further operations until the next dark period.
(V.A. Dover, 1039B/29.)

/Dover.....

789

War Diary.29.6.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contā.Dover
Minefields.

Observation minefields off both entrances to Dover harbour have been laid and joined up ready for service. A.M./28.
(V.A. Dover, 1040/29.)

Passage of
CUMBERLAND

F.O.I.C. Harwich 2353B/28. It is considered that the second mine may have been detonated by WINDSOR using S.A.(C) gear ahead of CUMBERLAND. Mine was 2 miles on port bow of WINDSOR and 2 miles on port quarter of Sheerness S.A. Sweepers preceding CUMBERLAND. Both mines were off the channel. S.A. Gear of WINDSOR was worked for 19 hours without breakdown from lat. 55° N. to Sheerness. HAMBLEDON'S S.A. Gear not used on passage South.
(C. in C. Nore, 1220B/29.)

A/P Trawlers.
Request for
Depth Charges.

The recent increase in minelaying in the East Coast War Channels suggests the possibility that small submarines may be carrying this out. Request authority may be given for A/P trawlers fitted with Type 140 listening gear to be fitted with depth charges.
(C. in C. Nore, 1800B/29.)

Casualties and Defects.TREKIEVE
(British,
5244 tons)

Collision in fog 52° 45' N. 05° 03' W. Making water fast in stokehold. Receiver gone off. (TREKIEVE, T.O.R. 0254/29 and 0343/29.) Sailed rescue tug SEINE to assist TREKIEVE. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0400B/29.) Sailed Rescue Tug AMSTERDAM from Holyhead to assist TREKIEVE. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0500/29.) AMSTERDAM towing TREKIEVE to Holyhead. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1001B/29.)

RUDBY
(British,
4846 tons)

In head on collision with YORKWOOD., damaged well above water in dense fog 4 miles East of Duncansby Head 3 killed 1 seriously injured. YORKWOOD apparently little damaged but have not located her. Request instructions for RUDBY. Am proceeding at slow speed South East with RUDBY following as she is unable to anchor.
(JASON, 1130/29.)

cont: next leaf

/As result.....

790

War Diary.

29.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

RUDBY
(British,
4846 tons)
Contd.

As result of collision during fog between S.S. RUDBY and S.S. YORKWOOD while in convoy E.C.38 at 1040 today one Able Seaman of RUDBY was killed and buried at sea. RUDBY returned to Aberdeen. YORKWOOD proceeded with Convoy to Oban.
(A.C.O.S., 1759B/29.)

BRIGHTON
(Collision
25/6.)

Admiralty 1314/29. One destroyer is to be sailed to R/V with AURORA as additional A/S Escort.
(C. in C. H.F., 1401B/29 to R.A.D.)
Proceed with despatch towards Skaale Fjord to join BRIGHTON escorted by AURORA, ECHO, and provide additional A/S escort to Cape Wrath.
(R.A.D. H.F., 1440B/29 to LIGHTNING.)
Your 1401B/29. (U-Boat near) My P.C.S. at 1730B/29, 061° 59' N. 009° 22' W. 163° 9 knots. Route amended to pass through 069° 20' N. 008° 20' W. because of fog. 9002 34 4027 44.
(AURORA, 1830B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

VIMY

My 1055/28/6. Further loss, of gun locks. Being investigated by C.I.D.
(Capt. D. Plymouth, 1733/29.)

Shipping and Convoys.

ANSELM
W.S.9B.

As a result of (?break down) today ANSELM cannot exceed 11½ knots, has been ordered to leave W.S.9B. Liverpool section for Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0055B/29 to Admty.)
Personnel in ANSELM is urgently required at Freetown. Request you arrange for CATHAY to sail with ANSELM, CHALLENGER, LAVENDER and STARWORT to Freetown providing such extra A/S escort through Western Approaches as necessary.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1736B/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1148B/28 and 1108B/29 not to all addressees. Intend to sail CHALLENGER, LAVENDER and STARWORT with ANSELM in company at 0030/30. Routed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1444B/26. Ships will call at Ponta Delgada for fuel thence proceeding in company to Freetown, CHALLENGER breaking off as necessary for Bathurst, E.T.A. North Atlantic Station 2359B/4. Code word B R A N C H.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2104B/29 to Admty. etc.)

See also p. 787

/H.X.133.....

791

War Diary.29.6.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys Contd.H.X.133

Following has been read. H.X. Convoy being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft. Position 59° 5' N. 16° 54' W.
(H.X. Convoy 0823/29.)

Escort
Groups

Orders for, and composition of Special Groups D. and E. (C. in C. W.A., 1234B/29)
See Lion Copy.

O.B.342

Convoy O.B.342 is cancelled. Ships should be sailed in O.G.67.
(C. in C. W.A., 1714B/29 to N.C.S.O's.)

S.L.78

If Convoy S.L.78 not dispersed ASPHODEL, ASTER and FLEUR DE LYS are to remain with Convoy as long as possible and fuel at Ponta Delgada on return passage, ASPHODEL and ASTER to Freetown, FLEUR DE LYS to Gibraltar. ARMERIA and BURDOCK should, when necessary, return direct to Bathurst for fuel.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1952B/29 to SHROPSHIRE.)

Oilers

My 2238B/12. Corrected list of oilers due from West Indies.
(D.T.D. 2012B/29 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

491A.

SECRET

MESSAGE

1234B/29th June

IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date 29.6.41.
Recd. 1417.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Capts. D. Londonderry, Liverpool, Greenock,
S.O. I. M S F. Repeated Admiralty, F.O.i/c Belfast,
F.O.i/c Liverpool, F.O.i/c Greenock, N.O.i/c Oban,
F.O.i/c Iceland.

624. Orders for Escort Groups:-

Group	Out	Sail	Meet	R/V
Special D	OB 344	7/7	None	
Special E	None	10/7	SC 36	13/7
3	OB 345	11/7	HX 137	17/7
4	OG 68	12/7	None	
7	OB 346	14/7	SL 79 & HQ 67	19/7
4	OB 347	16/7	HX 138	23/7
2	OB 348	17/7	SC 37	23/7
6	OG 69	20/7	SL 80	25/7
1	OB 349	21/7	HX 139	27/7

- Dates of sailing are from Liverpool
- Special Group D will consist of:-
 - HESPERUS, ST. FRANCIS, WALNEY, SENNEN, and TOTLAND as Trans-Atlantic Escort.
 - Destroyers of 8th Group to limit of endurance.
- Special Group E will consist of minesweepers corvettes and trawlers of 8th Group.

1234B/29.
Advance Copy Ops. Trade.

- | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| V.C.N.S. | D.S.D.9. | |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.A/S.W. | |
| A.C.N.S. (T) (2) | W.D. | D.M.S. |
| H.A. 1st S.L. | Movts. | D.M.S. Basement |
| Ops. (4) | A.H.Q.H.F. | |
| O.D. (5) | D.T.D. (4) | |
| O.D. 8. | D.T.D. (M) | |
| O.I.C. (2) | | |
| I.P. (3) | | |

War Diary.

29.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SEVERN.

Your 2355A/28. Return to Gibraltar forthwith. (route). (F.O.C.N.A. 0910A/29 to SEVERN).

TALISMAN.
THUNDERBOLT.

C. in C. A.W.I. 1022Q/27. Request I may be informed of time and position entering North Atlantic Station. Onward route will be signalled direct. (F.O.C.N.A. 1016A/29 to R.A.3).

Azores.

Your 1749B/26. - para. 3. The rule for Azores is that not more than 3 ships may be inside territorial waters at any one time, not necessarily day. Ships are not allowed to remain inside territorial waters longer than 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1027/29 to Admty.). See also 2340B/29.

Cable
Operation.

Your 1050A/14. Remainder of operation, i.e., repair of cable west of Spartel, should be held in abeyance. (D.S.D. 1115B/29 to F.O.C.N.A.).

WISHART.
AVONVALE.

Steer to Trial (?) of Canary Islands. Further signal follows. (F.O.C.N.A. 1212A/29 to WISHART AVONVALE).

FURIOUS.
SCYTHIA.
CAMERONIA.

Your 0950A/28 approved. F.O.C.N.A. pass to FURIOUS and HERMIONE on arrival. (D.O.D.(F). 1219B/29 to F.O.C.N.A.).

French
Convoys.

Gibraltar 0820/29 French minesweeper ENGAGEANTE French ships STRASBOURGEOIS, AUVERGNE both light OUED SEBOU laden passed Westbound 0500. French light cruiser LE MALIN French ship KAKOULIMA laden and Tanker PORT DU BOUC full westbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1555A/29 to Admty. etc.).

ASPHODEL.
ASTER.
FLEUR DE LYS.

Expected to put in to Ponta Delgada for Fuel oil about 3/7; Requirements. Permission is being asked through Ambassador. (D.O.D.(F) 2340B/29 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada) Cancelled (D.O.D.(F) 1042B/1).

War Diary.29.6.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.BUTTERFLY.
XXIV MAGGIO
(Italian).

Pernambuco reports BUTTERFLY left harbour 2359 G.M.T/28.
XXIV MAGGIO has received clearance and is expected to leave Sunday evening. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 0214Z/29 to R.A.S.A.D).
Following received by Opnav from U.S. Naval Observer Recife: BUTTERFLY and 24 MAGGIO have received clearance for Hamburg via Buenos Aires. BUTTERFLY expected leave tonight, other 2200 G.M.T/29. Two large Lati Planes departed Recife/ during last 24hours. 0432/29. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 0445/29 to Admty.).
BUTTERFLY left Pernambuco 2359Z/28. (C. in C.S.A. 0706N/29 to S.A. Stn.).
My 0214/29. BUTTERFLY has returned to Pernambuco. (S.O.I. Montevideo 0722Z/29 to R.A.S.A.D.)
(C. in C.S.A., 1030N/29 to S.A. Stn).
(S.O.I. Freetown 1040N/29 to Admty.).
Pernambuco reports BUTTERFLY and 24th MAGGIO sailed at 2130 G.M.T./29. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2345Z/29 to R.A.S.A.D).

MONBALDO.
(Italian.)

Following received from Opnav. On morning of 28/6 MONBALDO departed from Para Brazil. 2315/28. (Spenavo, 0325/29 to Admty.).

NEWCASTLE.
CARNARVON.
CASTLE.

NEWCASTLE fuel from Oiler ABBEYDALE 1/7 then proceed to Plate. Intend she should visit Montevideo 7th - 9/7. CARNARVON CASTLE now patrol K 32, K 33, and is to fuel Rio de Janeiro 4/7, then resume patrol same area in co-operation with ALCANTARA as in my 1143Z/29. (R.A.S.A.D., 1135Z/29 to S.A.D).

T.C. Convoy.

Desired to arrange a troop convoy to sail Halifax for U.K. 17/7 or as soon as possible thereafter. Request report as to which homeward bound troopships now en route to Trinidad could be ordered on to Halifax for inclusion in such a convoy; troop capacity etc. (D.S.T. 1225B/29 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown) Reply: 1735B/30.

DIDO.

Your 1638B/14. Date of completion 15/7; (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1245/29 to Admty.).

War Diary.

29.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. of 4 enemy destroyers 1 M.T.B. 4 M.Vs.
32.51 N., 14.27 E., 270° 10 knots. (A/C F.,
0404/29 to Hal Far.).

Enemy previously reported are of type indicated
4 12,000. (A/C. F., 0429/29).

Following has been read. My 0450? 4 M.V's, 2
Destroyers are in single line ahead with 4
Destroyers flanking. (Nore W/T 0445/29).

Following received. 6 destroyers, 4 M.V's course
260 speed 10. My position 32° 57' N. 14° 1' E.
(Nore W/T 0450/29)

JERVIS.
DECOY.

Send JERVIS to Alexandria forthwith. DECOY is
to rejoin you on completion of towing operation.
(C. in C. Med., 0911C/29 to C.S. 15).

BERYL.

Will be on patrol in position 255° Cape San
Dimitri 20 miles from 0930B to 1300B/30. (V.A.
Malta, 0936B/29 to S.O. Force H).

Air Raid
on
Alexandria.

Air raid 0245 to 0445. About 13 planes. No
casualties. Some mines on land 10 miles from
Harbour. (R.A. Alexandria 0955C/29).
Operational Summary No. 384 up to 1200 hours
29/6 1941. Night 27/28. About 17 unidentified
aircraft attacked Alexandria dropping bomb and
mines, some exploded slight damage only. (H.Q.
R.A.F., M.E., 1106/29).

Greek
Fleet.

Reply to 2044/14. (Hd. of M., 1127B/29 to C. in C.
Med.) See Lion Copy.

RORQUAL.

Proceed through 035° 20' 014° 14' and 035° 30'
014° 14' to arrive off Grand Harbour 0645B/2.
(S.O. (S) Malta, 1136B/29 to RORQUAL).

Bombardment
of Damur.

Your (Corrupt group). Yes tonight. Special
target 75 m.m. battery which is harassing forward
troops and Brigadier personally. Battery situated
at Manzanille (details). Suggest starshells from
destroyers might be used both as an illuminant
and an incendiary. Request time shooting will
take place. (N.L.O. Palestine, 1235/29 to C.S.15).
NAIAD and 2 destroyers will be bombarding Damur
tonight. Keep well clear between 0001/30 and
0300/30. (C.S.15, 1521/29 to PARTHIAN).

/Grumman.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET, MESSAGE 11272/29th June OUF. 494A

Date 29.6.41

To. C. in C. Mediterranean. 328 B.1

Naval Cypher One Time Table.

From Admiralty.

Your 2044/14 June.

Greek Minister has again visited Admiralty. It appears that our efforts to get them to Freetown will not be accepted by Greek Government or C. in C. Under these conditions we shall have to accept their remaining in Mediterranean.

2. Efforts at this end to get a detailed statement of ammunition available and the state of ships has failed. Greeks ask for asdics and extra A.A. weapons to be fitted. They propose part of the refitting of destroyers should be done by the repair ship at Port Sudan or Aden.

3. Controller can arrange for 2 destroyers at a time to refit at Calcutta. No other Indian or African dockyard is available at present.

^{GIORGIOS}
4. AVEROFF cannot steam without a boiler refit. Greek submarines are stated to be capable of operating provided maintenance can be undertaken at Alexandria. They desire that ships unable to operate should not remain at Alexandria.

5. Request you will investigate the whole question and give us your proposals on the following points:-

- (a) Refit of destroyers, not more than 2 at a time being sent to Calcutta.
- (b) Self refit of some units using their repair ship.
- (c) Operation and maintenance of submarines.
- (d) Where ^{GIORGIOS} AVEROFF should be sent until such time as the required boiler tubes can be sent out and what boiler tubes are required.
- (e) How many destroyers are worth fitting with asdics.
- (f) Whether short range A.A. weapons that now exist have sufficient ammunition or whether they should be replaced by our guns.
- (g) Whether long range A.A. guns should be fitted if necessary at the expense of torpedo tubes.
- (h) The ammunition question.

Contd/.....

794B

-2-

(1) Are any Greek units fit to operate now.

1127B/29.

for Hd. of M. (558)

Approved 1st Lord.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

V.C.M.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S. (S)

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.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Duty Capt.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D. A/S W.

Admiral Bellairs.

D.P.S.

N.A. (F) 2nd S.L.

D. of D.

D. of P. (2)

Hd. of M. (12) M.09457/41 and for F.O. and W.C.O.

Dep. Controller } Bath

Sub W.R.

JR/GJ.

795

29.6.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Grumman
Aircraft.

Supply of, and performance. Need for fighters.
(C. in C. Med., 1303/29 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Greek
Fleet.

My 1012/28. I have agreed with Admiral Sakellariou
for GIORGIOS AVEROFF, HEPHESTOS, one torpedo boat
and one submarine to proceed to Port Tewfik
pending decision concerning their further
movements. (C. in C. Med., 1245C/29 to Admty.).

Attacks
on
Transports.

Enlargements confirm my 2204B/28. On 27/6 Air
Reconnaissance of East Sicilian Port secondary
Messina reveal no damaged liner. (N.O.I.C. Malta
1337B/29 to C. in C. Med.) See also 2043/29.

SALVIA
M.L. 1032.

Leave Alexandria at 1900C/30 and pass 33° N. 34°
E. so as to arrive Famagusta 0700C/2., coming
under orders N.O.I.C. Cyprus when North of 34°.
M.L. 1032 is to sail in company if ready.
(R.A.D., Med., 1345C/29 to SALVIA).

Air Attack
on Enemy
Convoy.
Tripoli
bombed.

I 402. 29/6 part 3. 3 Marylands attacked convoy
of 4 large M/V's 6 destroyers 10 miles East
Tripoli. 6 250 lbs. G.P. bombs from average
height 10,000 ft. No direct hits. Several near
misses. 9 Blenheims despatched to same target
failed to locate. Leader then attacked buildings
resembling factory East of Tripoli which was
completely destroyed. 1 our aircraft blown up
by a bomb. Blenheim 2nd sortie still out.
Wellingtons and Swordfish going later. (H.Q.
R.A.F. Malta, 1725/29).

THRASHER,
first
patrol.

THRASHER passage report blank. Spare personnel
and stores landed for me by RORQUAL. THRASHER
handed over by makers 4/5 followed by first of
class trials and 3 days working up, left U.K.
14/6. Personnel fresh but consider first patrol
should be short since minor trouble still occurs
and period alongside depot ship required. (Cdr.
S.I. 1731B/29 to Capt. S.I).

/DEFENDER.....

495A.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1303/29th June IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean. Date 30.6.41.
Recd. 0655.

NAVAL CYPHER 'X' BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty.

151. Preliminary experience with the Grumman aircraft shows that it has a very satisfactory performance for Fleet and Convoy protection. The aircraft have however been supplied without pneumatic tail wheels or any flight equipment stores or spares. These are urgently required vide my 1305/28 and my 1307/29.

2. It is understood that more non folding wing Grummans similar to this Greek order are being made and these would be very welcome. As it will be some time before a carrier can operate in the Eastern Mediterranean the immediate requirement is for the best performance fighter aircraft rather than for these with folding wings.

3. At the same time there is such an urgent need for numbers that I would deprecate any cancellation or delay in the supply of the folding wing Grummans unless the supply of the non-folding type is quicker.

4. I would be interested to know whether these Martlets destined for use in carriers can be fitted with A.T.O. spools as experience has shown that this is of great importance.

1303/29.

Advance copy sent 1st Lord N.A. 1st S.L.
A.C.N.S. (F) Duty Capt.
D.C.D. (F) D.N.A.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)
N.A. 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. for action
D. of L.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P. (2)
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.

075

War Diary.

29.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

DEFENDER.
Attacked by
A/C.
→ WATERHEN
sunk.

Following received from DEFENDER. Help 32° 20' N 25° 15' E. (NoreWT 20100/29). My 2005 (N.T. in W.D). Have on board all WATERHEN survivors, no casualties. Will endeavour to tow after dark. My estimated position at 0500 166 32° N., 26° E. 20. Request fighter protection (DEFENDER 21030/29 to C. in C. Med.).

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 28/29. Wellingtons bombed Benghazi causing fires Derna Port effects not observed Gazala one red fire. (H.Q.R.A.E., M.E. 2036/29)

Attack on
Convoy
25/6.

Now possible to state definitely that MVs in convoy attacked evening 25/6 were 2 with 2 funnels and 2 with 1 funnel all very large ships. After attack convoy believed proceeded Taranto where 1 ship similar to those attacked has now been identified. Convoy sighted 28/6 comprises 3 very large ships with 2 funnels and 1 with 1 funnel, and of different colours. View of Naval staff here is that 2nd convoy may be another or mixture of first and second and that attack on 26/6 damaged and probably sunk two large ships. (H.Q. Malta, 2043/29).

Situation
Report 71.
→ WATERHEN
hit.
U/B sunk.

Syria. PERTH, CARLISLE, and 5 destroyers bombarded Darnus area P.M./28. Satisfactory fighter protection available.

(ii) Western Desert. WATERHEN hit by bomb in 032° 15' N. 025° 20' E. at 20050/29 while on passage to Tobruk. No casualties, engine room and cabin flat flooded after boiler room bulkhead leak. DEFENDER in company is attempting to tow her to Mersa Matruh during night.

(iii) Submarines. TRIUMPH encountered U-boat (SALPA) steering north at 10 knots in 032° 05' N. 026° 47' E. at 0818/27 and sank it by gunfire and 2 torpedoes.

(iv) Sequel to my 2346/28. Convoy was again sighted by aircraft at 0400/29 (? 60 ? 148 or ? 83) miles east of Tripoli steering west. Convoy attack of 26th, see V.A. Malta 2204/28.

(v) Air raid on Alexandria before dawn 28th and 29th without efficient damage either day. (C. in C. Med., 23150/29 to Admty.).

Jt. S/M SALPA
Sunk.

797

29.6.1941.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.French
Ships.

Master of U.S.A. EXMINSTER reports that on 15/6 in position 200 miles S. of Fort Dauphin, Madagascar, he passed a small French warship escorting two 600-ton merchant ships steering south. All wore French flag. He was unable to identify ships. (C. in C.E.I. 0536Z/29 to Admty.).

COLOMBO.
RANCHI.

My 1158/26. COLOMBO is to leave patrol to arrive Durban p.m./1. RANCHI is to leave Durban a.m./1 and proceed to position X and then patrol on line X Y Z given in my 0632/14 speed 12 knots. (C. in C.E.I. 1136Z/29).

W.S.9A.
W.S.9AX.

My 0806/28 ^{W/S in W/P} Para 2. Intend CAPETOWN CASTLE to proceed to Bombay with DURBAN CASTLE and EMPRESS OF JAPAN. W.S.9AX will be detached from W.S.9A in about 010° N. (C. in C.E.I. 1146Z/29 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown etc.).

Iraq
Forces.

G.H.Q. India assumed operational control of forces in Iraq from midnight 28/29. (C. in C. India, 1430/29 to W.O).

ATREUS.
ALSEY.

C. in C.E.I. 1730Z/21. No commitments are outstanding for ATREUS and ALSEY but it is desired to retain them in the Middle East. Request you will operate vessels in consultation with C. in C. Med. accordingly. (D. of L.D. 1804B/29 to C. in C. E.I).

China.Russia.

Co-operation. Chiefs of Staff F.E. No. 14. (1st S.L. to C. in C. China, 0025B/29) See Lion Copy.

Co-operation
with Dutch.

System of tactical command. (C. in C. China 0327Z/29) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

194

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

00253/29th June.
OUT.

To. C. in C. China. 238,
Repeated. C. in C. Mediterranean. 313.
C. in C. East Indies. 869.

Date: 29.6.41.

Naval Cypher (F).

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE. AIDAC.

Begins. Following from Chiefs of Staff F.E. No. 14.
for Commanders-in-Chief, Far East and China in reply to their
325/3 cipher 23/6 (not to C. in C. Med. and C. in C. East Indies).

1. Our co-operation will not extend to military alliance nor are
there any plans for despatch of military forces or supply of war
material.

Military Mission consisting of representatives three services
and M.E.W. will be sent to Moscow. Their function will be to facilitate
any co-ordination of strategy possible, afford Soviet High Command
benefit of our operational experiences, exchange of intelligence and
generally work for prolonging Soviet resistance. Mission has been
authorised to communicate direct with Chiefs of Staff repeating where
necessary to Commanders-in-Chief affected.

We plan indirectly to assist Soviet by large scale air operations
against German communications and other strategic targets and by any
other means which present themselves for compelling Germans to
retain forces in occupied countries and other theatres of war.

2. The opinion of the U.S. Government is that any defence against
Hitlerism and any rallying of the forces opposing Hitlerism from
whatever source these may spring will hasten the eventual downfall of
the present German leaders and redound to the benefit of American
defence and security.

3. No definite indications yet of Japan's attitude. We think her
inclination will be to abstain from intervention against Soviet at
present stage and to continue policy of Southward expansion in
which case next move will probably be intensified pressure on Indo-
China for bases and facilities. But H.M. Ambassador at Tokyo reports
strong pressure by Germans to secure Japanese assistance against
Russia.

Soviet/.....

4. Soviet forces in the Far East are designed to operate entirely independently. They are believed to be adequately equipped and to possess considerable stores of all kinds, though part reliance on American sources for aviation fuel may be a difficulty. They are reputed to be able to operate on the defensive for at least six months. Offensive operations would involve difficulties of fuel supply and long communications. The Far-Eastern fleet is likewise a separate and self-contained unit.

It is agreed that German attack on the Soviet does not in any way lessen the need to press on with our own preparations for resisting Japan or aiding China. Ends.

0025B/29.
Sec. to 1st S.L.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (6)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 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 (8)
I.P. (2)
N.I.D.10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)
W.D.

M E S S A G E.

0327/2/29th June.

SECRET.

IN.

4948

From : C. in C. China.

Date : 29.6.41.

Recd : 1815.

Anglo-French Cypher by W/T.

Addressed : Admiralty, repeated C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet,
C. in C. Pacific Fleet, British C. in C. East Indies,
N.A. Washington.

306. Washington conference reports A.B.C. - one paragraph
14 25th July. Consequent on discussion with C. in C. Dutch
Naval Forces in East Indies at Singapore, following modified
forms of system for tactical Command of allied units is
proposed which is adaptation of system already in force as
between British and Dutch Units.

(1) The S.O. by rank or Seniority takes command when two
or more allied ships are engaging the enemy except as in
following clause.

(ii) When one or more ships are already engaging the
enemy and are joined by ships of an ally, the Officer
in command of the ships at first engaged will remain
in command until or unless an Officer senior in rank
repetition in rank joins or has joined, seniority
being disregarded for his purpose.

(iii) To (Corrupt group) this, a combined seniority
list of allied fleet must be drafted and circulated
to all units and kept up to date by corrections.

(iv) The Senior Officer on assuming command will
hoist and keep flying a plain blue flag of C. in C.
U.S. Asiatic Fleet, 8.

03272/29

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Nav. Sec.
Ops. (4).
O.D. (5).
D.N.I. (4).
D. of P. (3).
M. (3).
N.L.
Admiral Bailey

O.I.C.
D.S.D.9.
I.P. (3).
W.D.

N.P.

War Diary.

29.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

St. John's Base.

(Head of M, approved 1st Lord, 0123B/29 to C.N.S. Ottawa) See Lion Copy.

THUNDERBOLT. TALISMAN.

My 1827P/28, intend sailing THUNDERBOLT and TALISMAN escorted by BUXTON 1300Z/30 (route). (R.A.3 B.S., 1115P/29 to C.C. Newfoundland, Capt. S.2).

ASTURIAS.

E.T.A. Chesapeake Lightship 1200Z/3. C. in C. A. & W.I. please inform B.A.R.M. (ASTURIAS 1150Z/29).

REVENGE.

Adty. (? 1251B/21. Very desirable that REVENGE should proceed to Bermuda for few days for gunnery practice. If no objection request dates convenient to you. (R.A.3 1157P/29 to Adty., N.O.I.C. Bermuda, REVENGE).

A.M.C's.

Re transfer of 3 to South Atlantic. (D.O.D. (F) 1212B/29) See Lion Copy.

T.C. Convoy.

My 0136/13. May be possible to arrange a T.C. convoy to sail Halifax 17/7 or shortly after. Request confirmation that any available accommodation could be fully utilized. (D.S.T., 1226B/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Sighting U/B's by A/C Ferries.

Your 2146Z/24. A scheme came into force 30/5/41, covering all aircraft ferried across the Atlantic. British Air Mission, Washington, have full details. (D.N.A.D. 1305B/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

H.X. 136. S.C. 36.

My 1732Z/26 and F.O.C. 3 B.S. ? 01 30/28. Intend to provide following escorts for H.X. (? 136) BURNHAM, S.C. 36 CHURCHILL, CHESTERFIELD, AGASSIZ, WETASKIWIN, all escorts to combine under the orders of CHURCHILL when convoy joins. Six merchant ships will join S.C. 36 with Newfoundland escort. (C.C.N.F. 1421Z/29 to C. in C.W.A).

/ARAKAKA.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

0123B/29th June

498A.
OUT

Date. 29.6.44.

To. C.N.S. Ottawa 692
Repeated C. in C. Western Approaches 503
C. in C. America and West Indies 946
C. in C. Home Fleet 456
B.N. Delegation Washington 10
B.A.T.M.
N.A. Washington
R.A. 3 B.S. 396
N.O.I.C. St. Johns Newfoundland
C.C.N.F.
C.O.A.C.

Inter-departmental Cypher 12.

From:- Admiralty.

Following for Minister for Naval Services from
First Lord of the Admiralty.

Your AIDAC 327 of 25th June; St. Johns Base.

I am very grateful for your Department's prompt co-operation
and offer to provide all naval requirements from Canadian
sources.

2. Having given consideration to (a) the problem that
have since appeared particularly over acquisition and tenure
of sites and (b) the requirements of Ministry of War
Transport at St. Johns mentioned below, I have come to the
conclusion that the best course is to proceed on the basis
set out in paragraph 13 of the original Admiralty message 1939B
of 23rd May, which has been accepted by Newfoundland
Government. The effect will be as follows.

3. The Admiralty will be responsible for provision
of additional naval requirements at St. Johns for the Escort
Force based there. Additional shore facilities and services
as necessary will be arranged by Admiralty with Newfoundland
Government on agency basis in accordance with plans and
estimates approved by Admiralty.

4. Terms of occupation of existing properties,
acquisition and tenure of sites, ownership of new buildings
and the like will similarly be arranged between Admiralty
and Newfoundland Government, and title will vest in Admiralty
or Newfoundland according to circumstances of each case.

5. Admiralty will be responsible for capital costs of
new works and services but subject to the foregoing paragraphs
we should very much welcome your Government's assistance
generally and particularly in shape of transferable material
and equipment.

6. The Minister of War Transport and I are also anxious
that the facilities for shelter and repair of merchant ships at
St. Johns should be improved and that a co-ordinated scheme
should be prepared to meet the requirements of naval and
merchant vessels, and advanced as rapidly as possible before
winter. The Ministry contemplate arrangements with the
Newfoundland Government for the provision of additional
facilities for merchant vessels, similar to those in
paragraphs 3 and 4.

7. We are sending to St. Johns forthwith a joint
mission representing our two Departments and comprising
administrative and technical officers.

/s/.....

In consultation with the authorities concerned, including the Commodore Commanding, Newfoundland Force (see paragraph 9 below) the mission will prepare a co-ordinated scheme calculated to meet the total requirements with maximum economy of time and effort, submit it for our approval with estimates of cost and arrange for scheme to be put in hand forthwith. The scheme might comprise (a) short term projects which could be completed and brought into service by the winter and (b) longer term projects.

8. Further details of the mission will be sent in early separate message.

9. As regards the administration and maintenance of the naval base including additional naval facilities to be provided, I feel that in existing circumstances it will be an advantage that the Royal Canadian Navy should undertake these services and cordially accept their offer to do so. To this end a Canadian Officer has already been appointed as Commodore Commanding Newfoundland Force.

10. I am well aware that in a project of this kind devised under urgent stress of war there are many problems to be solved. But I am confident that all concerned will realise the great importance of the scheme in the Battle of the Atlantic and do their utmost to make it a success.

11. Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs is telegraphing a copy of this message to the Governor of Newfoundland.

C1233/29

Head of M. Branch.

Extension 84.

Approved by First Lord.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---|------------------|
| 1st Lord | E.P.S. | Dep. Contr.(2) | } | B
A
T
H |
| 1st S.L. | O.I.C.(2) | D. of D.(4) | | |
| 2nd S.L. | D.S.D.9 | E. in C. | | |
| Controller | D.M.S.R. | D.N.E. | | |
| Vice Controller | Admiral Bailey | D.E.E. | | |
| 4th S.L. | I.P.(3) | C.E. in C. | | |
| 5th S.L. | W.D. | D. of S. | | |
| V.C.N.S. | D.P.S.(2) | D. of V. | | |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | N.A. 2nd S.L.(2) | D.A.S.(3) | | |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | E.A.P. | Under Sec. | | |
| A.C.N.S.(T)(2) | M.D.G. | P. | | |
| Civil Lord | P.D.G. | M.F. | | |
| Controller M.S.R. | Air Branch | S.W.R. | | |
| Secretary | N. Branch | | | |
| Naval Sec. | C.W.Branch (2) | | | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | P.M.Branch | | | |
| P.A.S.(S) | E. Branch | | | |
| P.A.S.(F) | N.A.S. Branch(8) | | | |
| P.A.S.(N.P.) | M.F. Branch | | | |
| P.A.S.(P.R.) | M. (36) for D.O., C.O., W.C.O., | | | |
| D. of F.(3) | Treasury (A.J.D. Winnifrich Esq.) | | | |
| D.N.I.(4) | W.O., A.M. H.C. for Canada, | | | |
| D. of L.D.(2) | H.C. for Newfoundland, Ministry | | | |
| Ops.(4) | of War Transport (Sir Cyril | | | |
| O.D.(5) | Hurcombe, K.C.B., K.B.E.) (6 copies) | | | |
| D.T.D.(4) | M.57 (12) M.(M.09312/41). | | | |
| D.A/S.W. | | | | |
| D.N.A.D. | | | | |
| D.M.S. | | | | |
| D.S.D.(2) | | | | |
| E. in C. | | | | |
| D. of S. | | | | |
| D.M.S. Basement | | | | |
| D.T.D.(M) | | | | |
| D. of N. | | | | |
| D.T.M. | | | | |

MOST SECRET

498 (S)

MESSAGE 1212B/29th June.

MOST SECRET

OUT.

To: R.A. 3. 397. Date 29.6.41.
Repeated C. in C. America & West Indies. 954.
C. in C. South Atlantic. 177.

NAVAL CYPHER (D).

From Admiralty.

NITE.

It is desired to transfer up to 3 A.M.C.'s from Halifax escort force to South Atlantic Command to replace 3 A.M.C.'s which will be withdrawn to Trade.

2. It is requested that you will report :-
- (a) What is Minimum number of A.M.C.s with which you can maintain escort of convoys from Halifax and Bermuda to the Western rendezvous and also operate the ferry service of personnel to and from Iceland (C), assuming the numbers to be carried remain approximately the same. (It is accepted that there would be no A.M.C. escort beyond the western rendezvous except when the ferry service so demands).
 - (b) How many A.M.C.'s could be transferred to the South Atlantic Command now.
 - (c) How many additional A.M.C.s could be transferred from your command at a later date when current refits and repairs are completed.
3. Any A.M.C.s selected for transfer to the S.A. Command should if possible be of high endurance and fitted for tropical service.

1212D/29.

for D.O.D.(F). 164.

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. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	Duty Captain
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	Head of M.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.S.D.
D.O.D. (F)	D.D.I.C.
D.D.O.D. (F)	E.P.S.
D.O.D. (H)	D.T.D. (2)
	N.I.D. 10 (Pay.Cdr.Wilson)

War Diary.

29.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

ARAKAKA.

C.C.N.F. reports special ship ARAKAKA due back at St. John's N.F. A.M./26 not yet arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1536Z/29 to Admty.).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

F.O.C.N.A's 0950A/28. Leave Bermuda on completion practice 30/6 and proceed to R/V with ships mentioned and homeward A/S escort in position (c) 45° N. 25° W. at 0900B/8. Proceed by direct route unless otherwise ordered. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1602Q/29 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN)..

JOHN W. MACKAY cable ship.

Your 1619R/28. No action will be taken to remove JOHN W. MACKAY until after discussion in London with U.S. Authorities. (D.S.D. 1739B/29 to B.A.D. Washington).

Suspicious Ship.

Message 1600R/28 from Britman. As far as is known in Admiralty no British or Allied Merchant Ships were in the area at the time. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1931B/29 to C. in C.A.W.I. etc.).

War Diary.29.6.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships attacked.GRAYBURN
(H.X.133.)
Attacked by
U.651. (See
next page.)

Following has been read. 59.30 N. 18.07 W.
 GRAYBURN torpedoed. (Liverpool T.O.R.0241/29.)
 GRAYBURN torpedoed at 0230B/29. Ship sunk.
 Probable 17 survivors. MALCOLM, SCIMITAR,
 SPEEDWELL, VIOLET, ARABIS, CELANDINE and NORTHERN
 WAVE searching area of wreck for U.Boat. NIGER,
 ICARUS, WATCHMAN, NASTURTIIUM, NORTHERN PRIDE,
 NORTHERN GEM, NORTHERN SPRAY continuing with
 convoy. (S.O.No.8 Escort Group 0435B/29 to
 C. in C.W.A.)
 Ship torpedoed GRAYBURN, my position 059° 52' N.
 018° 36' W. (MALCOLM 0534/29)

BALTARA
(torpedoed
27/6.)

Your 2219B/28. (Anything known) No.
 (OTTAWA 0653/29 to C. in C.W.A.)

MAASDAM. 26/6
KINROSS. 24/6
MALAYA II.
(torpedoed
26/6.)

Following survivors landed Reykjavik. (a) 34 ex.
 MAASDAM including 14 Americans and 1 French.
 (b) Full crew (?of) 37 ex KINROSS (c) 5 ex MALAYA
 II. (N.O.I.C.Iceland 1612/29 to Admty.)

AURIS.
(torpedoed
28/6.)

Tanker AURIS torpedoed and sunk in 034° 27' N.
 011° 57' W. at (?21) 30/28. (?26) Survivors
 picked up by FARNDALE, 4 dead, 29 missing.
 C.B's destroyed. A/S escort was sent but failed
 to meet as AURIS was 36 hours late. (F.O.C.N.A.
 1658A/29 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

0042. A.M. AF. 59° 30' N. 018° 07' W. at 0042Z/29.
 (D.D.I.C. 0107Z/29 to G.B.M.S. Area I)
1008. At 1008 German submarine bearing 248, class two.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1151/29 to N.A.Stn.)
1300. U/B tracking indications suggest possibility of
 U/B in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1314B/29 to
 AURORA.)
1247. At 1247 G.M.T. 1 German submarine 252° class 2.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1407A/29 to N.A. Stn.)
1328. At 1328 G.M.T. German submarine 255 class 3.
 1343. At 1343 G.M.T. German submarine 220 class 3.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1503A/29 to N.A. Stn.)

/Estimated

War Diary.29.6.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. Contd.

Estimated U.B. dispositions. (27 German, 1 or more Italian) (D.D.I.C. 1515B/29)

1408.

At 1408 G.M.T. German submarine 300, class 3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1547A/29 to N.A. Stn.)

1608/27.

C.A.F.O. 834/41 (a) ST. CROIX (b) 1608Z/27 (c) 043° 23' N. 056° 46' W. (d) 10 (e) 1800Z/27. Report delayed until clear of convoy. (ST. CROIX, 2101Z/29 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, BIRMINGHAM.)

Submarines Attacked.U.B. sunk by
MALCOLM.

(U. 651

C3 04050/4/8)

My 0435B/29 (see Ships Attacked) U. Boat sunk. Prisoners on board. MALCOLM rejoining convoy. (S.O. 8th Escort Group 0747/29 to C. in C.W.A. Admty.)

My 0747B/29. U.boat surfaced severely damaged after depth charge attacks by searching force 5 hours after it attacked convoy. Sighted and engaged by MALCOLM at range of 5 miles. Full crew 45 taken prisoner. U.boat sank in 59° 51' N. 18° 37' W. Probable U.651 at sea 4 weeks. Attack developed from ahead, one torpedo being fired inside convoy. (S.O.8th Escort Group, 1251B/29 to C. in C.W.A. Admty.)

By Walrus
0915/28.

S.L.78 dispersed 1700N/28. U.boat sighted close to and dived attacked by Walrus aircraft by depth charges at 0915N/28 026° 03' N. 024° 07' W. Possibly damaged. Two corvettes hunting. If SHROPSHIRE keeps R/V 9/7 fuel permits maximum speed 12 knots on patrol. (SHROPSHIRE 1405Z/29 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

By ARBUTUS. etc:

Position 052° 00' N. 016° 24' W. (B) at 1120/29 Submarine sighted by ARBUTUS. 11 attacks carried out. No definite result, continuing to search area. RHODODENDRON in company. (Weather report) (PIMPERNEL, 1500B/29 to C. in C.W.A.) My 1500B/29th. Disbanding search. No result. 2 corvettes charge sets expended. (weather report) (PIMPERNEL, 2330B/29 to C. in C.W.A.)

802

30.6.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Iceland (C) was today constituted an independent command under the Admiralty.

British Air Operations.

Daylight attacks on Bremen and Kiel.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked the ports of Bremen and Kiel and other targets in North West Germany in daylight today. Two vessels in an escorted convoy, and a large trawler, are claimed as having been hit and sunk off Norderney. Bremen and Hamburg were attacked last night, and minor attacks were made on other naval bases. Four A/C of Coastal Command carried out escort duty over Convoy E.C.39 from 2130/29 to 0130/30.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy O.G.66 was attacked by a F.W. this morning in 50° 31' N. 20° 36' W. No damage was caused.

Mining.

Mining off East Coast.

Mines were detonated off Hartlepool and in the Thames Estuary. Norwegian LEIESTEN was mined this morning off North Foreland. She was a straggler from a convoy, and was not swept through the area.

War Diary.

30.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Yankee Clipper sighted an unknown freighter 25/6 and again 26/6 mid north Atlantic. ~~MARSDALE~~ MALVERNIAN has been ordered to investigate and a Catalina aircraft is to search tomorrow.

South Atlantic.

VILLE DE
TAMATAVE
intercepted.

DUNEDIN intercepted Vichy S.S. VILLE DE TAMATAVE this forenoon in 4° 15' S. 16° 58' W. and is sending her under armed guard, unescorted, to Freetown.

Catalinas are now co-operating in raider hunting from Ceylon, Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius, and Diego Garcia.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Railway".
(Phase II)

35 Hurricanes with 6 Blenheims have arrived at Malta. (see p. 744)

Libya and
Western
Desert.

59 aircraft sorties were undertaken today as protective patrols for H.M. ships. Towards evening 6 major attacks occurred on ships; FLAMINGO and CRICKET escorting two supply ships to Tobruk were both damaged but were able to proceed. FLAMINGO reported 2 aircraft shot down and 1 damaged by 1400. Later report states that FLAMINGO and SOUTHERN ISLES each shot down 2 A/C's. Tripoli harbour was bombed last night in very bad weather and hits were obtained on the moles amongst shipping. During a further bombing attack this morning several hits were obtained on a large ship, probably ESPERIA, which is reported to have suffered severe damage, and a second large ship, probably OCEANIA/NEPTUNIA was hit at least twice.

/Palestine

804

War Diary.

30.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Palestine and
Syria.

Wellingtons last night bombed shipping and docks at Beirut.

China.

Now that the Siberian route is closed to Germany it is anticipated that she will make every effort to ship rubber and other important commodities by the western route and to use French shipping for this purpose. The Admiralty have instructed C. in C. China as to the steps to be taken to avoid intercepted ships being released, as occurred in the case of the COMPIEGNE which the Dutch released for fear of reprisals.

Uboat Campaign.

SL 78

In addition to the ships in SL 78 which were sunk on 26/6 and 27/6 respectively SS *GEORGIOS I. GOULANDRIS was sunk on 29/6 and SAINT ANSELM today.

* GEORGE J. GOULANDRIS. (Lloyds Index)

30.6.1941.
Monday.

805

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Humber Air -
Sea Rescue
Service.

Additional air/sea rescue craft are urgently required to operate from the Humber.
(2) M.L's and M.G.B's are being used temporarily but this cannot be continued without interference with the work of Anti-E-boat and A/A protection of convoys.
(3) Request one Flotilla of eight M.L's be allocated to Humber as soon as possible to improve rescue service. (C. in C. Nore. 1526B/30.)
C. in C. Nore's 1526B/30. No M.L's available.
C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail M.A/S.B's 25 and 26 to the Humber for Air - Sea Rescue Service as soon as possible.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1909B/30.)

A/P Trawlers
from
Shetlands.

Your 1922/28. Arrangements proposed in C. in C. Rosyth's 1559/28/6 are concurred in A.L. M.M/S 0190/41 of 19/4 refers. (A.C.N.S. H. 1830B/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

VANESSA.

Departure VANESSA in tow of tugs DIVERSION and RICHARD LEE BARBER and escorted by WIDGEON for Southend. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0709B/30)

SHROPSHIRE.

Your 1405Z/29. Proceed to Scapa at best speed. C. in C.W.A. is requested to signal route. (D.O.D.F. 1226B/30 to SHROPSHIRE.)

REPULSE.

REPULSE is to remain at the Clyde to give 48 hours' leave, subsequently to proceed to Scapa for practices. It is probable that REPULSE will relieve RENOWN temporarily, towards the end of July, while the latter ship proceeds to U.K. for refit. (V.C.N.S. 1322B/30 to REPULSE.) INGLEFIELD and ACHATES are required to screen REPULSE sailing for Scapa p.m./3. (C. in C.H.F. 2251B/30.)

A.M.C's.

Forecast of A.M.C.'s leaving Clyde corrected to 30/6. (F.O.C.N.P. 1456B/30.)

UK

806A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1157/30th June.

IN.

From N.O.i/c Iceland (C)
NAVAL CYPHER A.(1) BY W/T.

Date 1.7.41.
Recd. 0417

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated C. in C. Home Fleet, A.C.O.S.
C. in C. Western Approaches.

758. C. in C. Home Fleet's 569/H.F. one of 10th May
just received. Following are remarks.

Para 3. (c) and (d) All aircraft are operated by
Air Officer Commanding 30 Wing under general direction of
Air Officer Commanding 15 Group. (e) Coast watch stations are
under Flag Officer in charge not G.O.C. (f) Concur (h) Use of
Vatnsendi W/T Station allowing for rapid communication between
Iceland (C) and United Kingdom.

Para.4. weekly ice patrols are carried out weather
conditions permitting. Information will be signalled to
C. in C. Home Fleet and Home Fleet Ships in Icelandic water
in future. Aircraft can be diverted from convoy escort to
patrol of passages through C. in C. Western Approaches and
A.O.C.15 Group.

Para.5. (A) G.O.C. has no special interest in these
reconnaissance forces until attack on Island becomes imminent.
(B) This is virtually in force and closest co-operation exists
between Navy and R.A.F. (C) (?Fully) agree (D) Now in operation.

Para 6. Consider operational requirements will be met
if commander asked for in my 1001 24/6/41 not to C. in C. Home
Fleet and C. in C. Western Approaches is sent, and if two
Lieutenant-Commanders are appointed to relieve two sub-lieuts.
R.N.V.R. of present staff. When additional staff asked for in
my 1509/17 arrives communication staff will be adequate for
present requirements but a signal boatswain is required in
addition. Propose consider requirements for base administrative
staff, Hvalfiord after arrival of depot ship.

1157/30.

1st Lord.	(Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.)
1st S.L.	
2nd S.L.	M.(2).
5th S.L.	D. of L.D.(2).
V.C.N.S	D.S.D.(2).
A.C.N.S.(H).	D.N.M.S.
Nav. Sec.	N.A. 2nd S.L.(2).
N.A.1st S.L.	C.W.(2) for action.
Ops.(4).	A.C.R.
O.D.(5).	D.P.S.(2).
O.I.C.	N.
D.S.D.9.	I.P.(3).
D.T.D.(4).	W.D.
D.T.D.(M).	C.R.re. letter.
E.P.S.	
D.N.A.D.	
Air.	

War Diary.

30.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

Sailed SUFFOLK to relieve MANCHESTER 1830 Z.
(A.C. Iceland 1840/30)

British Air Activity.

Bombing
Restrictions.

Cancel S.B.R. in area 53 and in area 51 East
of 6° W. forthwith. (H.Q.C.C. 1340/30)

Clyde Area.
R/C of
Lights.

F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1658/29. Urgent requirement
exists for R/C of navigational lights in Clyde
Area.

2. Previous R.A.F. R/C report included phrase
that "Lights particularly in Tail of Bank area
appeared like South Coast town on a Regatta
Night."

3. Experience of recent raids indicates that
certain navigational lights may be identified
and used as aiming mark or line of run up.
(D. of L.D. 2031B/30 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE METEOR
(Bombed
29/6.)

Arrangements for assistance and towing to Humber.
Arrived Humber 1745. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0109B/30,
LEEDS 0542/30 C. in C. Nore 0825B/30, F.O. Humber
1755B/30)

Convoy F.N.
Even.

Convoy ^{"Agent"} AGENT is being shadowed by one Enemy
Aeroplane bearing 070° - 2 miles, in 53° 50' N.
0° 25' E. (LIDDESDALE 0734/30.)

Convoy
O.G.66.

Convoy attacked by one F.W.200 at 8.30 B in
050° 31' N. 020° 36' W. High level attack.
5 bombs dropped, no damage. Aircraft shadowing.
(SCARBOROUGH 0930B/30)

Mining.

LEIESTEN
(Norw. Tanker
6118 tons)

LEIESTEN was mined approx. at B.3 Buoy at 1039/30.
Slight damage. No casualties. Tow to Southend
and thence to Blackwall. (North Foreland Radio
No T.O.O. 4 Signals, N.C.S.O. Thames 1857B/30)

See also next page

B.S.66.

Operation B.S.66 is to take place tomorrow night
by PLOVER escorted by HAMBLEDON. Departure to
be taken from 54 C buoy at 0001/2 returning by
same route on completion. It is important not
to lay South of position ordered. (C. in C. Nore
1048B/30 and 1604/30 D.16 2241B/30)

/ILSE

War Diary.30.6.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.ILSE
(Mined 20/6)

Salvage stern half now safely moored Hartlepool Harbour. Enters West Hartlepool Docks this evenings tide. (Smith, W. Hartlepool 1120/30)

Hartlepool.

L.L. Trawler detonated one red mine in 54° 42' 35" N. 01° 02' W. at 0929/30 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1222/30.)

Harwich.

H.K.3 patrol reports mine explosion at 0910 in 51° 42.4' N. 1° 24.7' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1244B/30)

Thames Estuary.

9 S.A. mines detonated as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1653/30 and 1824/1) Some of the mines dropped near B.2 Buoy on 24th became active at 0730B/29 shortly after the northbound convoy of 47 ships had been swept through this danger area. Nine acoustic mines were swept during the day. The southbound convoy of 36 ships was divided into two parts each part being swept in by separate groups of sweepers. This morning S.S. LEIESTEN broke down and sailed from Southend later than convoy in circumstances which are under investigation and was damaged by mine near B.3 Buoy. Vessel was towed back to London. No casualties. Three acoustic mines swept today. One spontaneous explosion yesterday and one today. (C. in C. Nore 2322B/30) *See previous page.*

Depth Charges in A/P Trawlers.

Your 1800B/29. Admiralty have no evidence to support the possibility suggested. As regards fitting A/P trawlers with depth charges decision in a.m.1306/29/6/40 was based on their slow speed and the shallow waters in which they operate. These factors are unchanged. A rough guide is that depth charges should not be fired at 8 knots in under 150 feet of water (vide O.U.5485 para.13) There is no objection to A/P trawlers with a speed in excess of 8 knots embarking depth charges. (D.A.S.W. 1812B/30 to C. in C. Nore.)

ParachuteBurnham.

Reported in Paglesham Pool, no report yet of mine itself and no report of crater. (R.N.O. Burnham 2030/30)

Liverpool.

Mine report to 1800/30. One detonated by LL trawler in 53° 35' 12" N. 3° 37' 38" W. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2054/30)

War Diary.

30.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

L.26.
(Grounded
27/6.)

Intend sailing S/M L.26 escorted by ARCTIC RANGER for Rothesay at 1500/30 routed by Sound Mull and Islay. S of A 10 knots ETA 0600/1. SM L.26 unable to dive. Request fighter protection. (WESTERN ISLES 0047B/30.)

BRIGHTON.
(Collision
25/6.)

BRIGHTON's position at 1700B/ was 059° 06' N. 6° 43' W. speed 9 knots. She intends to proceed through Port Z.A. and Sleat Sound to Clyde. Her damaged bow broke off and number 17 bulkhead buckled. She is in tow of tug THAMES stern first, with fleet tug MARAUDER standing by. Intend to part company 2100B and proceed with LIGHTNING and ECHO to Scapa. (AURORA 1701B/30.)

Co-operation with Russia.

British
Liaison
Mission.

Naval Section met Deputy Chief Naval Staff today. Account of interview. (Moscow 1730C/30)
See Lion Copy.

Shipping and Convoys.

T.C. 11.

JACOB VAN

Arrived Clyde convoy T.C. 11 escorted by REPULSE, HEEMSKERK, Cpt.(D) 4 in COSSACK with SIKH, Cpt.(D) 3 in INGLEFIELD with ACHATES, ACTIVE, ANTELOPE and INTREPID. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0748B/30 to Admtly. etc.)

Coastal
Convoys.

Forecast of sailings. (C. in C. Rosyth 1200/30)
See Lion Copy.

Excessive
Smoke.

Possible that convoys are being located at night by enemy aircraft due to large volumes of smoke being made by some vessels. Impress upon Masters most important to reduce smoke to the minimum between sunset and sunrise. If necessary times of cleaning fires should be arranged to comply. (C. in C. Nore. 2202B/30 to N.C.S.O's.)

MOST SECRET

808A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1730C/30th June.

IN

FROM: Moscow.

Date: 30.6.41.

Recd: 2226.

I.D.C. One T.T. by Cable. RECIRCULATION by N.I.D.4.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty

IMMEDIATE.

MOSSNAV Tel. One.

1. Naval section met Rear Admiral Kharlamov Deputy Chief of Naval Staff today June 30th. Atmosphere friendly and ice now seems to be broken.

2. Intelligence in D.N.I's 2312B/27 was given. Para. D. only was new to them and further information respecting this would be most welcome.

3. Guidance was given on following subjects.
(a) Precautions to be taken in ships to reduce danger from acoustic and magnetic mines. Arrangements for Powell to give details to their technical expert of magnetic and skid sweep and also of D.G. Request very early information on later formula for estimating D.G. coils. It is possible that (? strategic) measuring parties and equipment for Baltic and Black Sea will be required.

(b) Offensive operations against U.Boats. Russian aircraft at present unable to drop depth charges. Information is requested whether special depth charges required and method of equipping.

(c) Protective measures against torpedo bombers. Information is requested on depth of initial dive of German and Italian torpedoes.

4. Reference H.H. Ambassador's tel. 663.

(a) Item (a) (One). Russians do not admit having any form of magnetic or acoustic sweeps or of D.G. I have not hinted of existence of LL sweeps (? bearing).

(b) Item (a) (two). Russians have only directional hydrophones.

5. At present juncture I consider it inadvisable to press for reciprocal information but following was given me: (a) Graf Zeppelin is being converted into a submarine depot ship.

(b) Russians claim to have sunk a total of four U boats.

(c) Russians asked whether Germans had mine actuated by shadow of (? passing) ship. Is anything known of this?

1739C/30.

Advance Copy D.N.I.

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)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Re information passed to Russian Naval Staff.

D. of P. (2) for action.

D.T.M.

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.M.S.

W.D.

D.A/S.W.

S.D.G.

D.T.S.D.

E.P.S.

I.P. (2)

D.C.

D.N.A.D.

Hd. of M.

D.N.I. (4)

D.D.I.C.

N.I.D. 10. Pay Cdr. Wilson.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1200/30th June.

IN.

From - C. in C. Rosyth.

Date - 30.6.41.
Recd. - 1405.

808 B

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, ships employed on East Coast Convoy duty, Fighter Command, Coastal Command.

NOT W/T.

CONVOY MESSAGE.

581. Forecast of Convoy Sailings.

F.S.533 (S) 0900 Friday 4th
F.S.534 (F) 2300 Saturday 5th
F.S.535 (M) 1330 Monday 7th
F.S.536 (S) 0900 Tuesday 8th
F.S.537 (F) 2300 Wednesday 9th
F.S.538 (M) 1330 Thursday 10th
F.N.488 (F) 0600 Friday 4th
E.C. 42 (S) 0600 Saturday 5th
F.N.489 (M) 0600 Sunday 6th
E.C. 43 (F) 0600 Monday 7th
F.N.490 (S) 0600 Tuesday 8th
E.C. 44 (M) 0600 Thursday 10th
Timetable as in my 1130/26/5.

LUDLOW. GARTH to Humber.
LEEDS, WHADDON.
LIDDESDALE, VALEROUS.
WOLFHOUD, VORTIGERN.
WESTMINSTER QUANTOCK.
SOUTHDOWN, WOLSEY.
WESTMINSTER COTSWOLD.
SOUTHDOWN, SLEEPNER.
VERSATILE VILHIERA.
LUDLOW, WOLSEY from Humber.
LEEDS, WHADDON.
LIDDESDALE, VALEROUS.

1200/30.

Advance copies sent to Ops
Trade.

A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 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. (11)
D.S.D. 9
D. of S.T.
I.P. (3)
D.A./S.W.
O.I.C.
W.D.
I.M.N.G.
Movts.

809

30.6.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Situation.

(C. in C. S.A., 1345N/30 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

My 1338B/27. TRAFALGAR was sunk in 25° 00' S. 01° 00' E.
(D.D.I.C. 2115B/30.)

North Atlantic.

MARSDALE
Search for
suspicious
freighter.

Proceed towards area G.3. Further orders follow.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0058A/30 to MARSDALE.)

My 0058A. Yankee Clipper sighted freighter of about 6000 tons in 037° 26' N. 043° 07' W. at 0625A/25. Clipper again sighted same ship in 038° N. 039° W. at 0615/26. Ship apparently Norwegian but no flag. So far as is known no ship British or allied was in area at the time. Endeavour to intercept on assumption that ship is proceeding Finisterre area.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0156A/30 to MARSDALE.)

A.M. 1211B/30 (N.T. in W.D.) and your 0156A/30. On completion of task ordered in your 0156A/30 MARSDALE should return to L.2. MALVERNIAN in estimated position 47.30 N. 21.30 W. may be used to assist MARSDALE. On completion of task MALVERNIAN should proceed to K.2.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1330B/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1449A/30 (N.T. in W.D.). Yankee Clipper sighted freighter (details as in 0156/30). Proceed at best speed to 43° N. 17° W. and sweep along centre of area F 3 to westwards. Catalina aircraft will search area F 3 during daylight tomorrow. If nothing is sighted by darkness proceed independently to patrol in K 2.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1558A/30 to MALVERNIAN.)

My 0156A/30. Proceed at best speed to 42.00 N. 16.30 W. and sweep along centre of area G 3 to westward. Catalina aircraft will search area G 3 during daylight tomorrow. If nothing is sighted by darkness proceed independently to patrol in area L 2.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1614A/30 to MARSDALE.)

S.L.78
ORWELL
FLEUR DE
LYS.

Convoy S.L.78 has dispersed. Return to Gibraltar passing through 036° N. 012° W. Report E.T.A. when you reach this position.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0202A/30 to FLEUR DE LYS.)

/My 0202A/30.....

MOST SECRET

809A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: C. in C. South Atlantic. 1345N/30th June.

Date: 30.6.41.
Recd: 2036.

Naval Cypher X by W/T.

RECIRCULATION.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

Raider Situation.

IMPORTANT. AIDAC.

58. Your 1338B/27th June.

(A) The positions on 30th May and 14th June given in my 1935N/28th June were obtained from cross examination of prisoners and are confirmed by documents. There is evidence that BIBITONGA expected to meet and transfer personnel and material to USSO HAMBURG and EGERLAND. Message NW,632/33 timed 2328 received 0010/1st June as recorded in Salvage log refers.

(B) Request date of attack on AGNITA may be confirmed reference your 1715/16th April.

(C) Previous messages reported Nos. 10 and 21 returned to Germany 21st May. Is this still believed?

(D) W/T provides evidence 50% reliable agreeing with your 1649B/18th June, assuming that No.21 was in Antarctic in January as well as No.33. Also suggested No. 10 reached Brest end of March and perhaps attacked AURILLAC 15th April, assuming No.10 to be SANTA CRUZ which operated in N. Atlantic throughout 1940.

(E) W/T suggest raider now in South Atlantic left France latter half of February 1941, but no clear indication whether this is No.10 or No.46. Possible Captain Rogge may command this unit and that No.16 reached France late April or early May without him.

(F) Rogge's present raider considered likely to have been in St. Helena area on 24th June and another unit near 20 degs South 10 degs East or north-north-eastward on 25th June.

1345N/30.

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

War Diary.30.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.S.L.78
ORWELL
Gentá.

My 0202A/30. Proceed through position (F) 33.18' N. 19.00 W. (G) 35.20' N. 10.10 W. look out for tanker ORWELL on passage to Gibraltar and escort her in. If not met R/V in 35.00 N. 11.00 W. with JONQUIL, SPIREA, at 0800A/2. (F.O.C.N.A., 1202A/30 to FLEUR DE LYS.) Ađmty. 2340B/29. FLEUR DE LYS returning. Gibraltar, will not fuel at Ponta Delgada ordinarily. (F.O.C.N.A., 1214A/30 to Ađmty., Consul, Ponta Delgada.)

Cables

Your 1115B/29. Cable west of Spartel has been repaired. There is a break in same cable in Straits of Gibraltar the repair of which will be held in abeyance. (F.O.C.N.A. 1715B/30 to Ađmty.)

CHALLENGER
STARWORT &
LAVENDER.

Expected to call Ponta Delgada about 6/7. Oil fuel required. Permission is being asked through Ambassador. (D.O.D.(F) 1721B/30 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Independent
Ships.

Is it clear that, within the limits of your station, you will re-route independent ships bound to or from Gibraltar as may be necessary? (A.C.N.S.(T) 1741B/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FOXHOUND

Your letter No. 516/255 of 14/6. Approved for FOXHOUND to proceed to U.K. when FIRE Drake rejoins 8th D. F. about 7/7. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1941B/30 to S.O. Force H.)

Force H.

H.O.4 (a) 0630/1.
(II) Request Dockyard Berth for FURIOUS and FEARLESS and Ambulance for 16 Cot cases in FURIOUS and one in FEARLESS.
(III) Remaining ship will exercise during afternoon.
(IV) Request 2 Fulmars from North from R/V 5 miles East of Europe Point 0600 and Swordfish from North Front provide A/Sm. patrol from dawn. (S.O. Force H., 2041A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

811

War Diary.30.6.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.BUTTERFLY
XXIV MAGGIO
(Italian)Left Pernambuco together 2130 G.M.T./29.
(C. in C. S.A., 0131N/30 to S.A. Stn.)
(S.O.I. Freetown 0846N/30 to Admty.)DUMANA. R.A.F.
Base ship.Approx. E.T.A. carrying personnel of 228
Squadn.
(Air Min., 1125/30 to R.A.F. Bathurst.)QUEEN OF
BERMUDA
DRAGONYour 1920B/28. DRAGON arrives Pointe Noire
Bay 1/7 and proceeds to Simonstown to arrive
12/7 to be taken in hand 14/7. Suggested
possibility of QUEEN OF BERMUDA refitting
U.S.A. instead of Simonstown be considered
(reasons).
(C. in C. S.A., 1245N/30 to Admty.)Troop
ConvoyReply to D. of S.T. 1225/29. (P.S.T.O.
Simonstown, 1735B/30.)COMMANDANT
DUBOCA.T. 1325B/18/6. Request COMMANDANT DUBOC
call at Pointe Noire and Lagos; probable
Free French authorities may avail themselves
of opportunity to repatriate certain personnel
to U.K.
(D.O.D.(F) 1907B/30 to C. in C.S.A.)ZigzaggingYour 1543/26. N.C.S.O's South Atlantic
Station have been instructed that ships are to zig
zag when north of 10°S.
(C. in C. S.A., 1955N/30 to Admty.)NORDERNEY
(German)Para reports has full head of steam and has
tried engines.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2020Z/30 to R.A.S.A.D.)VILLE DE
TAMATAVE
interceptedVichy VILLE DE TAMATAVE intercepted in 004.15
S. 016.58 W. at about 1130Z/30 by DUNEDIN has
on board 20 passengers 57 crew. Guard and
navigating party placed on board, ship
proceeding unescorted for Freetown. Will be
met and brought in by Destroyers. DUNEDIN
proceeding to patrol in I.35 J.35A as ordered.
(C. in C. S.A., 2053N/30 to Admty.)SHEHERAZADE
Vichy FrenchSailed from Bermuda 25/6 bound for Dakar. If
encountered ship is to be allowed to proceed.
(C. in C. S.A., 2131/30 to S.A. Stn.)

War Diary.30.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.WATERHEN
(Bombed 29/6)WATERHEN capsized in 055° 32' N., 25° E. 22 miles.
Am proceeding Alexandria, E.T.A. 1000C/30. No
Casualties.(DEFENDER, 0130C/30 to PARAMATTA, JACKAL,
FLAMINGO.)DEFENDER's 0150C/30. Join DEFENDER and return
to Alexandria.

(C. in C. Med., 0351/30 to JACKAL.)

DEFENDER's 0150. Have turned back for Alexandria
E.T.A. 1200C/30.

(PARAMATTA, 0357C/30 to C. in C. Med.)

WATERHEN bombed while running in essential
stores and personnel to Tobruk. DEFENDER got
WATERHEN in tow, ship sank in 032° 12' N. 025°
25' E.(C. in C. Med., 1810C/30 to A.C.N.B. 1816C/30
to Admty.)Alexandria
Raid.As R.A. Alexandria 0955C/29.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1044/30.)STROMBO
(Italian)My 1246C/28 Grade A.2 STROMBO will sail 4/7
for Italy.

(N.A. Istanbul, 1047C/30 to C. in C. Med.)

PARTHIANLeave patrol p.m./30 (route). (?) to arrive
Haifa 0700C/1. C.S.15 amend route if necessary.

(C. in C. Med., 1104C/30 to PARTHIAN.)

My 0946C/30 and C. in C. Med.'s 1104C/30.

PERTH will reach seaward end of swept Channel
at 0500/1 approaching south of latitude 0330°
00' N.

(C.S.15, 2014C/30 to PARTHIAN.)

M.T.B's
for HaifaM.T.B's 68, 215 and VULCAN are to be sailed as
convenient to arrive Haifa by 1200/2. They
will be based at Haifa until further notice.
(C. in C. Med., 1146C/30 to N.O.I.C. Famagusta.)THRASHER
P.33.My 1212B/23 to THRASHER. Route.
(V.A. Malta, 1206B/30 to P.33.)MovementsSummary No.208. (C. in C. Med., 1242/30.)
See Lion Copy.

/Enemy M/V.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

1242/30th. June IN.

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 1.7.41.

Recd. 0530

NAVAL CODE L (2) Secret by W/T

Addressed Med. Fleet, Repeated Group 201, Group 204, n.o.i/c (Corrupt Group) N.O. i/c Alexandria, V.A. Malta, (Melbourne W/T Stn) F.D.C.N.A. S.O. Force H. S.E.N.O. Suez Canal Area, Capt.S 1 S.O. Force I. (?Inshore Squadron).N.O. I/c Port Said, N.O.I/C Dragonera Is?.)

IMMEDIATE Movements summary 208, Part.A Greek Warships. ^{GIORGIOS} AVEROFF

~~HEPHI~~STOS ^{? SPHENDOS} and KATSONIS escorted by

SPETSAI and AETOS leaving Alexandria 1200 30th.

due Port Said 1240 1st. H.M.S. SALVIA, ARPHA, M

L 1032, leaving Alexandria 1900 30th. to arrive

Famagusta 0700 2nd. through 033⁰ (?North) 034⁰ East.

NAIAD (?PERTH) (?CARLISLE) and 6 destroyers operating

(corrupt group) from Haifa. Part B. H.M.A.S. STUART

H.M.A.S. VENDETTA H.M.S. DEFENDER leaving Alexandria

0600 1st. Due MERSA Tobruk 2330 1st. on supply service.

FLAMINGO, PARRAMATTA, CRICKET operating Western desert

Coast.

1242/30

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st. S.L.

Captain Pim, Admiralty House W.D.

Ops (4)

O.D. (5)

O.D. 8

M (2)

O.I.C.

Mails

Movts

D.S.D. 9

I.P. (3)

D.A/S.W.

E.PPS.

D.N.I. (4)

D.T.S.D.

D. of L.D. (2)

N.L.O. Australia House

D.T.S.D.

D.H.

War Diary.30.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.Enemy
M/V.

Following received. Addressed No.48 (G.R.)
Sqn. From A/C on Duty F. P.C. & S. of
5000-ton enemy M.V. 225 Spartivento 19.
Course 320° 14 knots.
(Malta W/T, 1412/30.)

Enemy
Destroyers

Following received. Addressed No.48 (G.R.)
Sqn. from A/C on duty F. P.C. and S. of 3
enemy destroyers 225 Spartivento 18 course
100° 18 knots.
(Malta, W/T, 1414/30.)
Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 3
enemy destroyers 225 Spartivento 18 miles
course 102° speed 18 knots.
(Malta W/T, T.O.R. 2016/30.)

Aircraft

Proposed Coastal Command. (C. in C. Med.,
1520C/30 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

F.A.A.Units
Disembarked

Reply to Admty 0239/28. (C. in C. Med.,
1620C/30 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. (8/3A)

Tripoli
bombed
29/6. 30/6.
Operation
"Railway"

P.M./29. 3 Marylands high level attack co-
operating with Blenheims attacked Tripoli
3,000 lbs. G.P.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1900/30.)
No results seen due cloud and smoke screen.
Attacks Tripoli harbour night 29/30 6 Sworfish
abandoned task owing very bad weather. 7
Wellington dropped G.P. and incendiaries.
Hits Spanish Mole Kayamanli Mole amongst
ships. Photos show possible damage medium
M/V. Morning 30/6, 6 Blenheims (?82) Sqn.
low level attack Tripoli. 2 aircraft 6 direct
hits and other near misses on probably ESPERIA
superstructure blew up other severe damage.
1 aircraft at least 2 direct hits on probably
OCEANIA 20,000 tons, or NEPTUNIA 12,000 tons;
also machine gunned seaplanes on water and
disembarked troops. Operation "Railway" 35
Hurricanes 6 Blenheims arrived.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1905/30.)

M.V.'s hit.Beirut
bombed.

Prelim. Op. Summary No.14. Night 29/30. 5
Wellington bombed shipping and docks Beirut.
Northern Mole straddled 2 direct hits.
Western Desert, day 30/6. 59 Sorties
protective patrol H.M. Ships. 6 major attacks
on ship towards evening some ships hit.

/Our.....

MOST SECRET

813A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

15200/30 June

DI

From. C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 30.6.41.

Time. 2109.

ONE T.T. BY C. & W.

RECIRCULATION

Addressed. Admiralty (for 1st Sea Lord).

IMMEDIATE.

Personal. Your 0239 28 June paragraph 8. Idea of working air co-operation through 201 group arose in first instance owing to urgent need for improving inter-service arrangements and only existing organization accustomed to naval requirements was 201 group which it was hoped it might serve as a basis from which a more complete organization could be built up.

2. Experience has confirmed that something on a much larger scale is needed hence my wish for a coastal command. New organization should have at least an air commodore in command in order to give it requisite status and it should control all aircraft whose primary duty is that of naval co-operation whether reconnaissance fighter or striking force. Actual administration and detailed operation of these forces would rest with command but general operation requirements would be detailed by C. in C. Mediterranean.

3. Naval element would be represented by a S.N.O. working in close contact with my staff and who would provide necessary naval advice and experience to assist coastal command and who would act as C.in C's mouthpiece to convey his requirements and intentions.

4. This officer (who, at least to start with would be the F.O.C. Aircraft Carrier) will also deal with administration and control of all F.A.A. units disembarked. Such units coming automatically under coastal command for operation when disembarked. It is quite likely that coastal command units would have to operate within the orbit of other units and thus squadrons must essentially be on a mobile basis but when so operating they would normally still be generally controlled by coastal command who would keep the local command informed of requirements.

5. The above gives in broad outline only how I consider naval sea co-operation should work out here and it is obvious that much will have to be thrashed out by practical experience. The essential immediate necessary things are (A) to establish coastal command (or naval co-operation unit if former title is unsatisfactory). (B) to attach certain definite sea formations to it who will have no other duties. I am in general agreement with your proposals as to composition of units forming coastal command and a reply in detail follows in my 1620/30. I consider fighter units must form part of command and that we shall need more squadrons than you propose for 864 given in that signal.

15200/30

Advance copy sent 1st S.L. only.

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

MOST SECRET

813 B

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

3.6200/30 June.

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean

Date. 1. 7. 41.

Recd..0912.

ONE TIME TABLE BY C.&W.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

163. Your 0239 28. My reply to your 0241 19 is still with A.O.C. Middle East whose comment I wished to have before sending it. It is as follows. Fighters, Hurricanes with extra tanks Martlets and Tomahawks can provide degree of protection when ships are within 100 miles of coast. Outside this limit Beau or other long range fighters will be essential. Continuous protection for one day at an average distance from a base of 190 miles requires at least 8 parties of A/C to give cover during daylight hours. Minimum number at a time to prevent enemy reconnaissance and shadowing is 4. Once Fleet has been reported a larger force is required if attacks are to be broken up. and this force must remain in air. It cannot be called for in an emergency.

Minimum number of aircraft to fulfil fleet requirements of fighters is considered to be 4 squadrons of 16 I E plus 5 I R short range and 4 squadrons of long range aircraft. With these it should be possible to operate with reasonable security within 100 miles of coast and at greater distance with a very reduced fighter protection (?word omitted) can only be provided outside 100 miles limit by an aircraft carrier. Requirements for carrier are (a) not less than 4 fighter squadrons (correct group) each with adequate reserves (b) Fighters to be at least equal in performance to German long range fighters.

Reconnaissance. Without advance bases difficulty of maintaining continual patrol to prevent enemy entering Eastern Mediterranean unobserved is (?considerable) Minimum acceptable reconnaissance is a daily search by 2 A/C to southward of Crete to longitude 21 degs. 00 east. Daily survey of Aegean, daily photography of Suda Bay and Navarian and a daily patrol west Cyprus to serve enemy vessels approaching Syria. These requirements necessitate at least 8 A/C daily, all capable of long distance flights. Number required to maintain this daily reconnaissance depends on type of A/C and reliability but it is suggested 2 squadrons of long range G.R. Marylands one squadron of G.R. Blenheims 1 squadron of Sunderlands and a P.R.U. flight would be sufficient.

(3) Striking. With this number of reconnaissance A/C it will still be possible for enemy to approach coast of Africa unobserved. It is essential that air striking forces should be available to catch him before him before

/he.....

he can carry out an operation or get away. The Swordfish squadrons are admirable for this within their limited scope but a bomber force able to attack enemy at greater range is necessary.

The torpedo spotter reconnaissance A/C are now based Nicosia, Lydda and Mersa Matruh. A squadron of Beauforts is required in addition.

(4) Bombers. Experience has shown that effect of bombing aerodromes only of a temporary nature but effort required to maintain fighters in air in any number for a particular operation is so great that it will be invariably desirable to reduce enemy bombing strength at its source by attack on his aerodromes. It is therefore necessary to link up these proposals with bombing force of Egypt and to make aerodromes in Greece, Crete and Dodecanese dangerous to use for period of an operation. These bombers would be also required at short notice to attack enemy ships.

There are at least 10 enemy aerodromes which would require attention and (therefore), a larger bomber force than exists at present is a very urgent requirement.

(5) Transport Aircraft. The necessity for transport aircraft in addition to the foregoing is paramount. If fighters are to be moved to forward bases to cover fleet movements it can only be done quickly by moving essential ground staff and gear by air.

(6) I have omitted mention of Malta from these remarks. Limitation of space in Malta prevents any appreciable increase in number or type though I would urge allocation of a P.R.U. flight aircraft for use on Italian harbours.

(7) Your paragraph (g)
All F.A.A. squadrons are mentioned.

(8) Your paragraph (h). H.M.S. FORMIDABLE will be capable of operating aircraft and will have to take one of the squadrons mentioned in paragraph (c) or (f).

(9) Tomhawk, Brewster, Martlet, have an operational endurance of 2½ hours which is satisfactory for short range fighters. Hurricanes for use with fleet must have internal tanks to give similar performance.

2. Above (corrupt group) believed to be necessary for future differs from proposals in (V) your 0239 28 in following particulars : (a) and (e). Add one squadron G.R. Blenheims and a P.R.U Flight. (b) and (c). (2 corrupt groups) 3 torpedo spotter reconnaissance and one Beaufort Squadron while your proposal is 2 torpedo spotter reconnaissance and 2 Beaufort. I concur. (d) Admiralty Telegram 0241 19th visualised 4 short range and 2 long range fighter squadron. My opinion is that 4 of each are necessary. Long range fighters are also most desirable for other purposes such as defence of Alexandria. Above answers your paragraph (7).

3. Reference paragraphs 1 to 4 and 6. Experience has shown how necessary practice is to pilots who give protection to ships and it is essential that I should control those fighter squadrons detailed for fleet cooperation. I

/have.....

MOST SECRET

813D

-3-

have asked Tedder to help in equipping torpedo spotter reconnaissance A/C for work ashore and to equip one squadron with Hurricanes to be manned by 806 and (7803) and to provide full equipment for them. I have also asked him to help equip 805 who are taking Martlets. This is limit to which I feel I can call on him at moment and it will give me a nucleus of pilots experienced in fleet cooperation from which to expand when your proposals are implemented. These fighter squadrons will both be continually employed naval cooperation and question of them being available for a pool as suggested in your paragraph 4 does not arise. It will indeed be necessary to call for additional fighters on many occasions.

16200/30.

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

1st Lord
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C.
D.N.A.D.
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
E.P.S.
D. of L.D.
Hd. of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
N.I.D. 10 Paymr. Cdr. Wilson

War Diary.30.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.MediterraneanBeirut
Bombed.
Contd.

Our losses 1 Tomahawk, 1 Hurricane. Enemy losses claimed, not yet confirmed, 8 shot down 3 damaged.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 2041/30.)

Syria,
bombardment
request.

Battery at Abey which is known consist of at least 4, (corrupt group) mm. guns and an unknown number of 75 mm, now definitely located and is proving a severe menace. Army urgently request open shooting (details). Request confirmation that shooting will be carried out and time of commencement. Ends.
(N.L.O. Palestine, 2148C/30, 2315C/30 to C.S.15, V.A.1.)

Situation
Report 72.

Syria. NAIAD and KANDAHAR bombarded Damur area during night 29/30.
Western Desert. FLAMINGO, CRICKET, escorting two supply ships to Merā Tobruk heavily bombed P.M./30 CRICKET boiler room flooded and FLAMINGO also damaged by near miss but both able to proceed. FLAMINGO reported two aircraft shot down and one damaged by 1400.
(C. in C. Med., 2334C/30 to Admty.)

East Indies.Catalina
Search.

My 1428/15. Catalina F V W proceeded from Seychelles to Mauritius via Agalega and Cargados Carajos on 29/6. Nothing sighted.
(C. in C. E.I., 0318Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

"Q" Report
26/6.

(1) British Ship WEST POINT report received part a "Q" Distress Signal 1130Z/26 007° 00' N. 085 30' E. only portion read was Q Q Q Q ?
(Note of interrogation) 12 N. 088° 16' E.
(2) Message made once through only finishing abruptly morse speed up towards end Commercial strength 2/3 Atmospherics bad.
(3) N.C.S.O's are to question Masters who were in vicinity of 088° 16' E. It is assumed the 12 N. refers to unknown degree 12' N.
(C. in C. E.I., 1702Z/30 to N.O.I.C's.)

Troop
Transport

A.M. 1857/26 and C. in C. E.I. 1146/27.
War Office signal from C. in C. M.E. states that 23 Nigerian Brigade will not be ready for embarkation before mid-August.
(D.O.D.(F) 1733B/30 to C. in C's. E.I., S.A.).

Raider Hunting.

Summary of lessons from CORNWALL search and destruction of raider 32. (C. in C. E.I. 07002/30 to E.I. Station) See Lion Copy.

814A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

0700Z/30th June.

IN.

From C. in C. East Indies,
NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY W/T.

Date 1.7.41.
Recd. 1719.

Addressed East Indies Station, 1010, Repeated Capt. on Staff,
Singapore, C. in C. South Atlantic, N.O.i/c
Simonstown, Admiralty.

NITE BASEGRAM.

418. Raider hunting.

(1). Summary of lessons learnt from H.M.S. CORNWALL search for and destruction of raider 33.

(a) An initial enemy S.O.A. (313) knots (starting 1½ hours after distress message) is good figure on which to base search.

(b) It is unlikely hunting ships or aircraft will be able to shadow unobserved as raiders are fitted R.D.F. W/T silence within about (715) miles of raider therefore is of minor importance.

(c) A/C should report by W/T to parent ship before closing to within dangerous range for close investigation. Parent ship should inform C. in C. East Indies by W/T whenever there is foundation for A/C suspecting a ship, briefly stating circumstances.

(d) C. in C. East Indies should be immediately informed by W/T when a ship of whose movements previous warning has not been given is encountered.

(e) A good organisation within ship for checking up movements of an encountered merchant ship from appropriate Merchant Shipping Messages is essential.

(11). Attention is called to my 756 C 2nd December ships who are in possession of more up-to-date information than C. in C. East Indies must inform him by W/T.

(111) Attention is also invited to my 779 C 16th December and 962 C 11th April paragraph 2 to East Indies Station only.

(IV) The arrival of Catalinas on station has greatly increased the chance of catching a raider once his area of operation is known. They can now operate from Ceylon, Male (Maldiva) Diego Garcia Seychelles and Mauritius. A few minutes saved in providing C. in C. East Indies with latest intelligence to give to Catalinas may make several

/days.....

81473

2

days difference in bringing raider into contact with
H.M. Ships.

0700Z/30.

(Advance copy sent 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. (H).
A.C.N.S. (F).
A.C.N.S. (T). (2).
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty House.
Ops. (4).
O.D. (5).
D.N.I. (4).
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
O.I.C. (3).
D. of P. (3).
D.S.D. 9.
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (3).
W.D.
D.S.D. (2).
M. (2).
D.N.A.D.
D.T.S.D.
E.P.S.

GP

815

30.6.1941.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.HAVENSTEIN
URSULA
RICKMERS

My 0709/20. Dairen, HAVENSTEIN in ballast, German crew ashore, ship prepared to sail. URSULA RICKMERS reported may sail. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0337Z/30 to Admty.)

Indo-China

Rubber question, etc. Reply to Decoux. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1324B/30, 1615B/30 to C. in C. China.) See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.M.T.B's.

Asking for loan for service in Mediterranean. (V.C.N.S., to C.N.S. Ottawa 1214B/30.) See Lion Copy.

SURCOUF

Bermuda departure SURCOUF in accordance with my 1901Q/22/6. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1303Q/30 to Admty. etc.)

Suspicious Vessels.

My 1852Z/26. CHESTERFIELD arrived St. John's N.F. 30/6 with nothing to report. Low visibility throughout 2 days patrol. (C.C.N.F., 1542Z/30 to Admty.)

Ore Ships, St. John's N.F.

Concerning policy ore ships from Wabana joining Convoy off Newfoundland. St. Johns N.F., unsuitable in size for Convoy assembly Port and Concepcion Bay entirely unprotected from S/M. attacks. Anchorage open to public view and use as assembly anchorage cannot be kept secret. For consideration whether ships should be sailed singly to Sydney C.B. on load rather than attract attention of enemy to this important but undefended anchorage. (C.C.N.F., 1907Z/30 to Admty.)

REVENGE

Your 1157P/29. Concur. Visit must not clash with MALAYA, who will arrive at Bermuda about 10/7 for seven days' practice. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1932B/30 to R.A. 3.) My 1021Q/30 and Admty. 1932B/30. If 4 days is considered sufficient for REVENGE suggest practice from 7th to 10/7 inclusive. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2232Q/30, to R.A.3.)

/MALAYA.....

810A

SECRET

MESSAGE.

1324B/30th June.

CUF.

To - C. in C. China 245.

Date 30.6.41.

Repeated - H.M.R. Tokyo.

H.M.R. Washington.

Governor, Hong Kong.

Governor, Straits Settlements.

Interdepartmental Cypher VII.

From Admiralty.

Your 0413Z/24.

In view of latest indications of Japanese intentions we consider it inadvisable to deliver ultimatum but agree it is desirable to expedite reply from Doctok. You should therefore send him message on following lines.

2. His Majesty's Government have enquired from U.S. how matter of the rubber for them stands. So far as M. Egal is concerned they are prepared to meet Governor-General's wish that cargo of oil for Indo-China should be made available (probably in the Netherlands East Indies) simultaneously with the release of M. Egal on condition that the Governor-General makes his own arrangements to lift it and first satisfies our requests in regard to rubber. Governor-General will remember that our maintenance of your agreement (as also decision in regard to supplementary requests made by Captain Jouan - see my 1932B/23 May, paragraph 6) also depends on our receiving satisfaction in regard to rubber. Matter is now urgent and His Majesty's Government request very early reply in order that they may decide future course of action.

1324B/30.

for Head of M (86)

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

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

- M. (4) China Distribution (M/05870/41)
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- Admiral Chalmers.
- Admiral Bellairs (2)

815B

SECRET

MESSAGE

1615B/30 June

OUT.

To: C. in C. China 246
repeated C. in C. East Indies 886
C. in C. South Atlantic 196.

Date: 30.5.41.

Naval Cypher XR.

From: Admiralty.

Now that the Siberian route is closed to Germany we may expect her to make every effort to ship rubber and other important commodities by the Western route and to use French shipping for this purpose.

2. Netherlands East Indies are reported in your 0341/6 to be willing to collaborate as regards ships carrying cargo from Indo China towards Europe. It is equally desirable to intercept ships coming from the west to load in Indo China and carrying exports from Europe.

3. Action against this traffic will only be fully effective if intercepted ships are not repetition net released as unfortunately happened in the case of the COMPINGNE. If Netherlands authorities are unwilling to detain ships for fear of reprisals, it is desirable they should be delayed as long as possible by diversion to Batavia for the thorough examination which circumstances mentioned in my 1341/24 (to C. in C. China only) in any case render most essential.

4. You should press Netherlands authorities to take action as indicated above. Parallel representations are being made in London.

1615B/30

for Hd. of M. (86)
Approved A.C.N.S. (F)

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- Naval Sec.
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (3)
- D.F.W.D. (3)
- C.D. (5)
- Ops. (4)
- D.F.D. (4)
- Admiral Chalmers
- N.I.
- M. (35) (China distribution (M/07536/41))
- O.I.C. (2)
- D.S.D. 9
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.

MOST SECRET

815E

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1214B/30th June.
OUT.

To. C.N.S. Ottawa. 707.
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean. 352 Bl.

Date. 30.6.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (D).

From. Admiralty.

There is an urgent need for M.T.Bs. in the Eastern Mediterranean where efficient boats have opportunity of achieving considerable success. Our only M.T.Bs. available for some time for meeting this requirement are operating at the Nore where they are of great value.

It is understood a flotilla of 70 ft. Power Boats are forming at Halifax. If they are proving satisfactory would the Canadian Government consider loaning them with or without crews for service under C. in C. Mediterranean? Details of armament and reserve of torpedoes are requested.

1214B/30.
for Head of M. (929)
(Approved by V.C.N.S.)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
Controller.
Vice Controller.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.T.S.D.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)

D.P.S.
D.T.M.
Hd of M. Br. (2)
(M/PDC 146/41.)
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Captain.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
N.I.D.10. (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

EG

077

MOST SECRET

War Diary.30.6.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies Contd.MALAYA

C. in C. A. & W.I. 1001Q/25 and A.M. 1658B/22. Cancel A.M. 1658B/22. In view of C. in C. A. & W.I. 1001Q/25/6, on sailing from New York MALAYA is to proceed to Bermuda for seven days' working up practices and then proceed to Halifax. MALAYA will probably accompany convoy T.C.12 to U.K., to be ready to sail from Halifax on 21/7. Intended that MALAYA shall change ammunition and recommission at Rosyth.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1950B/30 to C. in C's. etc.)

BARFLEUR
(French)

Will depart from Fort de France for Martinique on evening of 29/6 to escort Merchantmen to Cayenne and maybe Para. BARFLEUR is expected to return to Fort de France about 15/7. OPNAV.
(A.L.U.S.N.A., 2220/30 to Admty.)

B.H.X.
Convoys

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1341Z/28. Concur that while junction position is so far to northwards and in fog area suspension of B H X convoy is advisable.
(ii) Should junction position be (thus?) moved to southwards as in case of H X 135 consider B H X convoys should be reinstated as time saved especially in the case of traffic via West Indies is considerable. N.C.S. staff at Bermuda should therefore be retained and D.E.M.S. training centre kept going.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2222Q/30 to Admty.)

RESOLUTION

Your 0140/25, approved to retain surplus ratings ex LIVERPOOL for RESOLUTION. Request whether sufficient officers and ratings to complete RESOLUTION to full complement will be available in U.S.A. ex other ships refitting. Present intention is for RESOLUTION to return to U.K. after refit.
(D.P.S. 2227B/30 to B.A.R.M.)

War Diary.30.6.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.MERCIER
(torpedoed
? 17/6)

My 1836Z/18 (N.T. in W.D.). KEMI (Finnish) has been ordered back to U.S. by her owners. She reports has 26 survivors aboard and has been ordered to Halifax.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0345/30 to Admty.)

PENDRECHT
(torpedoed
8/6.)

U.S. EXCALIBUR rescued 12 survivors from Dutch PENDRECHT 150 miles east of Azores at 2130/22, ship torpedoed 1109Z/8 in 54°N. 37°W. Submarine believed Italian with picture of Bull on fore-side conning tower. Three torpedoes fired. C.Bs. sunk. All crew left ship in three boats. My 2359Q/25 reported rescue of second boat.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1009Q/30 to Admty.)

AURIS
(torpedoed
28/6.)

Master of Tanker AURIS states that his E.T.A. Gibraltar was 30/6 which was reported to N.O.i/c Trinidad. S.O.(I) Jamaica's 16(706) R/17 gave E.T.A. Sydney above but Admty's 1215B/23 gave E.T.A. Gibraltar 28/6. Request action be taken as in my 1228A/16.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1304A/30 to Admty.)

WAR DIWAN
(R.F.A. Oil.)

Master of LOCH GARRY reported seeing the wake of a torpedo fired from a westerly direction at 0415/29 approx., 59° 15' N. 03° 25' W. He thinks this must have been aimed at Tanker WAR DIWAN but escort Trawler CAPE WARWICK was of opinion that there was no torpedo fired. Consider Master's opinion correct.
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 1435/30, to A.C.O.S.)

KINROSS
(torpedoed
24/6.)

British KINROSS 4956 tons on Charter to Ministry of Shipping torpedoed by U-Boat at 0905/24 approx. in 055° 23' N. 038° 49' W. Ship sank 15 minutes later. Master states all C.B's thrown over board in weight bags except 1 which was burnt. No casualties.
(A.C.I.C., 1853/30 to Admty.)
Was outward bound for Sydney N.S., in O.B.336.
(D.S. 666.)

KONGSGAARD
TIBIA
(H.X.133).

W A C I's Part 100 sec. 18. KONGSGAARD torpedoed (corrupt group) side amidships and TIBIA torpedoed starboard fore-castle are proceeding in company with H.X.133.)
(S.O. Escort Group 8, 1917B/30 to C. in C. W.A.).

War Diary.30.6.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Sailing boat on voyage Porto Santo to Madeira reported passing three S/MS. during night 28/29. Exact hour not know. One submarine circled round boat. No distinguishing marks. Graded C.3. (O.I.C., No. T.O.O./30 to Admty.)

29/6

Search abandoned. Returning to base $51^{\circ} 56' N$. $16^{\circ} 22' W$.
(PIMPERNEL, 0930B/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (29 fixes)
(D.D.I.C. 1432B/30.)

Oil
Streaks

Five new parallel oil streaks at $56^{\circ} N$, $14^{\circ} W$.
085 R. (A/C Duty H., 1900/30 to 15 Group H.Q.)

2008
1951

At 2008Z/30 German U-Boat vicinity of $035^{\circ} N$.
 $016^{\circ} W$. At 1951Z/30 U-Boat approx. 225° Cape
Finisterre 120.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2227A/30 to N.A. Stn. amended
0403A/1.)

My 2151B. Further bearings Gibraltar 320/3
Reykjavik 158/2 indicate U/B approx. 120 miles
S.W. of C. Finisterre.
(D.D.I.C. 2316B/30 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)