

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

1.7.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Orders have been given that all defences are to be brought to the highest state of anti-invasion efficiency by 1/9.

M.T.B.5 was destroyed, apparently by petrol explosion, at Dover today. The explosion damaged M.T.B . 69 and H.S.L. 122.

British Air Operations.

2 Stirlings attacked Borkum Seaplane Base today.

Enemy Air Operations.

Attacks on
East Coast
shipping.

A/P Trawler EVERTON was attacked at 0052 off Spurn Point; no details are known.

Convoy F.N.87 was attacked twice late tonight off Sheringham and S.S. HOMEFIRE was sunk.

Attacks in
Western
Approaches.

Owing to indications of increasing F.W. activity from France, Fighter Catapult ships ARIGUANI and MAPLIN are to be operated with O.B., O.G., H.G., and S.L. convoys on southern routes, until further orders.

Convoy O.G.66 was unsuccessfully attacked in the Western Approaches by 2 or possibly 3 F.W. at 1055B. Parachute mines were reported dropped ahead of the convoy. One of the enemy aircraft was destroyed by the fire of SCARBOROUGH and ships in convoy.

O.B.V. MALVERNIAN was attacked and set on fire in 47° 37' N. 19° 7' W. by an aircraft which is reported to have used the correct identification letters.

During an air raid on Bristol Channel ports in the early hours of this morning S.S. JAMAICA PLANTER and HIGHWOOD were damaged in the docks at Barry. (See also Mining.)

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Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

East Coast.

Part of the Firth of Forth was closed from 1644 to 2306. Mines were detonated off Hartlepool.

Thames Estuary.

M/S Drifter DEVON COUNTY was sunk by mine this morning in the Thames Estuary.

Bristol Channel.

Two mines fell in the docks at Barry in the early hours of today. Owing to suspected minelaying Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff, Barry and Swansea were closed at 0241B. With the exception of Newport these ports were reopened at 1231B. Newport was reopened with restrictions at 1616B.

Hebrides.

Trawler STRATHGAIRN hauled a mine in her trawl at 0900 today 20 miles S.W. of Barra Head. The mine exploded and sank the vessel.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Railway".

F.O. Force H. in RENOWN with ARK ROYAL, FURIOUS, HERMIONE and 7 destroyers returned to Gibraltar at 0730A today from flying Hurricanes to Malta.

Raider Search.

It is thought there may be an enemy surface raider or supply ship in the area 28° N. to 31° N. 31° W. to 34° W. All available destroyers (5) left Gibraltar this afternoon to escort convoy O.G.66 to Gibraltar. HERMIONE left this evening to patrol. Air search was made and Catalina aircraft will patrol tomorrow.

South Atlantic.

D'ENTRE-CASTEAUX
intercepted.

DUNEDIN today intercepted Vichy French S.S. D'ENTRECASTEAUX from Indo-China to Castille in 10° 25' S. 17° 24' E. and is sending her under armed guard to Simonstown.

Sailing of German ships.

It is reported today that on 27/6 the following enemy ships sailed; from Rio de Janeiro FRANKFURT, HERMES; from Santos NATAL; from Pernambuco BUTTERFLY.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

About 35 aircraft bombed Tobruk today whilst supply ships were unloading. Minor damage was caused to jetties and slight damage to S.S. MIRANDA. Unloading was not interfered with.

Alexandria.

There was an air raid from 0300 to 0445 by about 16 aircraft, bombs and mines being dropped over a wide area of land and sea. Civilian damage only was caused.

Palestine
and Syria.

6 Wellingtons last night bombed shipping and docks at Beirut. A possible hit was obtained on a ship alongside a mole.

Yugoslav.

M.T.B's, KAJMAKATAN and DURMITOR are being sent to Haifa to operate off the Syrian coast under C.S.15.

U-Boat Campaign.

O.B. 340.

BULLDOG, escorting O.B.340 attacked a submarine early this morning in 59° 26' N. 10° 5' W. There was no observed result.

O.B. 339.

BITTERSWEET, escorting O.B.339 attacked a submarine contact in the early hours of today 100 miles south of Iceland (c), causing a large oil patch on the surface.

S/M hunts.

Aircraft hunted for U.boats during almost the entire day up to 150 miles west and 120 miles south of Ushant. One submarine was attacked, at 1710 210 miles west of Lorient, but results are not known.

Aircraft also hunted for U.boats all day 160 miles W.N.W. of Cape Wrath.

War Diary.1.7.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.SPRINGBANK
as Fighter
Catapult
Escort for
E.C. and
W.N. Convoys.

Your 0036. No objection.
(A.C.O.S. 1052B/1 to C. in C. W.A).
Your 0036B/1. Concur.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1509/1 to C. in C. W.A).

A/P Trawlers
from
Shetlands.

Your 1830B/30. C. in C. Rosyth's 1559/28/6 will be complied with. These trawlers are the remains of a Flotilla of 12 which were sent to me to act as an anti invasion warning patrol off Shetlands last August. I hope it will be clearly understood that I have now no surface craft for this duty. For the next two months of short nights and summer weather I consider we can rely on warning given by aircraft, but by September I consider it will be essential to re institute a surface warning patrol. The minimum requirement for this patrol is 6 trawlers with good A/A armament which will enable them to maintain 4 trawlers at sea 30 miles from the Coast. (A.C.O.S. 1223/1 to Adty.).

Recognition
Signals.

Your 1512/15 May, 151A/1/6 and 152A/1/6. Request you will promulgate generally what recognition signals are to be used in Icelandic waters where U.S. Ships may be met observing Iceland (c) is East of 026° W. (C. in C. H.F. 1632B/1 to Adty.).

Catapult
Ships with
Convoys.

My 1025B/21. Owing to indications of increasing Focke Wulf activity from France, ARAGUANI and MAPLIN are to be operated with OB/OG/HG/SL Convoys on Southern routes until further orders. (C. in C.W.A. 1650B/1).

Broads
Flotilla.

Broads Flotilla handed over to Army today at 1200. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1900/1).

Special
Information
Centre.

By direction of the Prime Minister a special secret information centre has been established in London, where files of current defence matters will be maintained.
The object of the centre is to enable C's in C. to visit it from time to time and put themselves au fait with the current situation. (1st S.L. 2300B/1).

War Diary.

1.7.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Iceland (c). C. in C.H.F. 569/H.F.1. of 10 May just received.
Communications Following are remarks. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1157/30)
and A/C See Lion Copy.
organisation.

Invasion
Defences.

All defences are to be brought to the highest state of anti-invasion efficiency by 1/9. In the meanwhile vigilance should in no way be relaxed. (V.C.N.S. 1135B/1 to C's. in C, Home).

Milford
Haven.
A/A Gun
Defences.

Brigadier 61 A.A. Brigade informed me today that the 4 Bofors Guns sited against low flying Enemy Aircraft in the Haven only have temporary role and may be removed at any moment. These guns have been marked deterrent to Enemy and their removal would leave Haven undefended against low flying planes. It is strongly represented that A.A. Sub Committee be asked to allocate 8 Bofors Guns permanently for this object. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1234B/1).

Movements.

FURIOUS.

Your 1249/20/6. Are there any urgent defects to be carried out during this period? Is docking required? (A.C.N.S.(H) 1040B/1 to FURIOUS).

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

A.M. 1213B/27/6, A.M. 1036B/1.
As sailing of FURIOUS and transports has been delayed, these units will not R/V with ROYAL SOVEREIGN. C. in C. W.A. is now requested to arrange for ROYAL SOVEREIGN'S inward A/S escort only to the Clyde. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1231B/1).

AELYBRYN.

Anticipate AELYBRYN will be ready for towing home about 8/7. Propose to use TENACITY and escort as far as Stornoway with two of 10th A/S group. To what port should she be sent. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1727Z/1).

MAORI.
CORINTHIAN.

On reaching lat. 052° 00' N. alter course to pass through Q 048° N. 029° W. thence towards R 035° N. 030° W. A further signal will be made. (C. in C. W.A. 1928/1 to MAORI).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

M.T.B.
Operation.

Two M.T.B's leave Dover at 2230 to operate off Berck sur Mer returning to Dover at 0445. Route via number 10 buoy each way. (V.A. Dover 1832B/1).

British Air Activity.

Bremen and
Kiel attacked.
3 M/V's
claimed as
total losses.

In daylight on 30/6 A/C attacked Bremen and Kiel and other targets in N.W. Germany.
-Off Nordeney a 6,000 ton vessel in a convoy of 15 escorted by three Naval Patrol vessels was hit between bridge and mainmast. A 3,000 ton vessel received direct hits and appeared to be down by the stern. A 500 ton trawler S.W. of the island was also hit. All three are claimed as total losses. (H.Q.B.C. 0053/1).

Patrols.

A.C.O.S. 1110/29 and my 1232/26. VICTORIOUS exercising west of Orkneys tomorrow and it is essential that the area south of 59° 45' N. as far west as Cape Wrath should be clear of U-Boats. Request all available air patrols may be concentrated in this area throughout today, tonight, and tomorrow. (C. in C.H.F. 1204B/1 to C. in C. Rosyth).
Your 1204/1. One A/C with A.S.V. will commence patrol of following area at 1800/1 patrol being maintained continuously until last light/2 area between longitude of C. Wrath and longitude of Brimness being bounded on south by coast of Scotland and on north by parallel of 59° 45' N. In addition area will be swept by 3 Swordfish at first light/2. (C. in C. Rosyth 1648/1 to C. in C. H.F). "~~Stand~~"
Patrol ~~STAND~~ now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1650/1).

Air-Sea
Rescue
procedure.

Aircraft employed on Air Reserve duties which have sighted an aircraft or crew in the sea have been instructed to identify themselves to searching surface craft and guide them to the position in the following manner. Details. (D.S.D. 2001B/1. A Message Home 406AZ).

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
E.C. Even.

Fighters have been despatched to assist Convoy
MISSION. (Rosyth 0028/1, 0821/1).

EVERTON.

Am being attacked by Aircraft in position 110°
Spurn Point 10 miles. (EVERTON no T.O.O. Recd.
0052/1).

Unknown
Ship.

De unknown station believed to be MAS at 0054
begins AAAA repeat ends. (Valentia 0134/1).

Convoy
O.G.66.

Convoy attacked 2 or possibly 3 F.W. 200, at
10.55 B, no damage to ships, 2 casualties from
machine gun fire in Carbreck. One aircraft
still shadowing. Possible damage to one aircraft
from convoy fire. (SCARBOROUGH 1100B/1).

MALVERNIAN 0.8V.
(British,
3133 Tons)
bombed.

Have picked up in 047° 07' (? North) 019° 20' W.
one boat load of (? survivors) from MALVERNIAN
bombed in 047° 37' N. 019° 7' W. Survivors
report still afloat and burning and more survivors
in the vicinity. Have instructed SARABANDE to
search in this direction and rejoin convoy by
dark. Reported aircraft used correct identifi-
cation letters. (SCARBOROUGH 1850B/1).

→ Convoy
F.N. 87.
(487)

Enemy bombing ^{"Radio"} ~~RADIO~~ 53° 5' N. 1° 30' E.
(LEEDS 2321/1).

Mining.

Bristol
Channel.

Owing to suspected minelaying no ships are to
enter or leave Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff, Barry,
or Swansea until further orders. (F.O.I.C.
Cardiff 0241B/1).
My 0241B/1. Normal traffic may now be resumed
except that no ships may enter or leave Newport.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1231B/1).
My 0241B/1. Ships may now enter and leave Newport
They may not mine between Transporter Bridge and
Mouth of River. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1616B/1).

Tyne to
Flamborough.

Speeds between 10 and 25 knots are not to be
used between Tyne and Flamborough Head.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0808/1 to GOSSAMER).

→ Convoy
F.N. 87.

Parachute Mines reported dropped ahead of Convoy
at 1120B. (SCARBOROUGH 1100B/1);

/Barry.....

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-Contd.

Barry.

One Mine was dropped at 0215B/1 in Dock Area and exploded causing some damage to buildings. One Mine which did not explode was seen to fall in Number Two Basin. Temporary restriction of movements in No. 2 Dock. Civilians, minor injuries. No naval casualty or damage. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1130B/1).

Hartlepool.

One magnetic mine detonated by single trawler in 54° 41' 10" N. 01° 5' 51" W. at 0930/1. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1140/1).

Burnham.

My 2030/30. Further search has now resulted in a complete mine parachute and cap being located in following position. (R.N.O. Burnham 1235/7).

Firth of Forth.

Following is closed due to probable mine. 175 Q.Z.S. No. 1 to No. 9 Reflector buoys. Anticipated opening 2200. (C. in C. Rosyth 1644/1 and 1751/1). Cancel my 1644/1. (C. in C. Rosyth 2306/1).

Thames Estuary.

2 S.A. mines detonated on 30/6 as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1700/1).

Operation QJ.
(M/S Exercise off Aldeburgh)

My 1136B/5/6. Request you will repeat operation Q.J. on 3/7. (C. in C. Nore 1720B/1).

ROYAL SCOT
(Mined 10/6).

From FRANKLIN.
(1) Wreck of ROYAL SCOT in 53° 30' 32" N. 0° 52' 53" E. Dangerous. (F.O. Humber 1951B/1).

Plymouth.

A mine is suspected in position 234° from Breakwater Light 7.5 cables. (C. in C. Plymouth 2008/1 to COSSACK).

Operation
B.S.66.

Departure HAMBLEDON and PLOVER at 2058. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2136B/1).

1603/1 July.

~~826~~ E
8A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

From Naval Attache Stockholm.

Date 1.7.41.
Received 2235.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (12) BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty.

eter

Telegram 376 July 1st. ~~Baltic shipping~~

ping

(a) Swedish have organised convoys along their territorial waters from Lulea southwards and through Sound to Norwegian frontier. Convoys operate daily ~~and run to a schedule, an escort being provided by surface craft.~~
~~The whole voyage takes seven days.~~

(b) Communication with Finland via Anland Island is maintained under protection of Swedish and Finnish (?auxiliary) craft.

(c) Gotland service is also under escort.

(d) Through traffic through Sound has been suspended owing to German mining but this forenoon Berlin granted permission to some Swedish coal boats to proceed southwards into Baltic at their own risk.

(e) Germans appear to be apprehensive of Russian U boat activity and have stopped Baltic traffic between Sweden and North German coast. ~~Passengers to Germany must now obtain Danish visas owing to suspension of Trolleborg Sassnitz service.~~ Many German merchant vessels are still sheltering in North Swedish ports. A two ~~(repeat A two)~~

(NA. Stockholm 1603/1)

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

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)
Sec.
Naval Sec.
N.A. 1st. S.L.
P.A.S. (8)
D.N.I. (4)
O.D. (5)
Ops. (4)
M. (2)
D. or P. (3)
O.I.C.
D.S.D. 9.
I.P. (3)
W.D.

D.A/S.W.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Basement.
D.T.M.
D.D.T.M.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Eire
Trawler
D. 211.

S/S PHEMIUS reports Eire Trawler D. 211 was observed in 58° 15' N. 6° W. at 1027/28/6 G.M.T. to be behaving in a suspicious manner. She closed on PHEMIUS and steamed on parallel course presumably wishing to establish her identity, she did not show any W/T equipment. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1225B/1).

Baltic.

Various items of intelligence relating to shipping. (N.A. Stockholm 1603/1). See Lion Copy.

LEIPZIG.
EMDEN.
2 S/MS.

Photographs taken at 1315/1 Show LEIPZIG to have left Horten since 25/6/41 and to be now berthed in Oslo as on 20/6/41 at S. side of UTSTIKKER 1 in Bjorviken. EMDEN has left Oslo since 25/6/41 and is now lying in Horten in Berth occupied by LEIPZIG on that date. Also present in Horton one 750 ton and two 500 ton submarines. (P.R.U. Wick 1855/1).

Casualties and Defects.

M.T.B. 5.
M.T.B. 69.
H.S.L. 122

Explosion apparently of petrol occurred in Norwegian M.T.B. 5 in train ferry dock at 0830 today. Vessel is probably a total loss. Casualties M.T.B. 69 and H.S.L. 122 suffered hull damage and casualties. (V.A. Dover 1256B/1).

WOLVERINE.

Am proceeding Londonderry at 17 knots. Starboard condenser leaking. Request final destination if defect cannot be remedied there. (WOLVERINE 1759B/1).

Shipping and Convoys.

P.W. 1.
W.P. 1.

My 1806/26 and Admty. 1602/30. Intend to call next Convoy sailing from Portsmouth on 4/7 "P.W.1" and Convoy sailing from Bristol Channel ports on 5/7 "W.P. 1". (C. in C. Plymouth, 1321/1).

H.X. 132.

Congratulations on again bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your Convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 1922/1 to Vice Adm. F.M. Austin.).

War Diary.1.7.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.REPULSE.
RENOWN.

It is hoped that REPULSE will relieve RENOWN end of July when latter will refit in U.K. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0038B/1 to F.O. Force H.)

Gibraltar
Evacuation.

Your 2337/28. My 1734/23 was made to obtain a ruling from which to calculate number of personnel to be left behind after evacuation has been completed. Considered that, as only limited services could be maintained under siege conditions, only sufficient personnel to man these services should be left. Request confirmation that it is your intention that whole personnel for maintaining normal services should be left behind. (F.O.C.N.A. 0914A/1 to Admty.)

Dispositions,
possible
raider.

All available destroyers to be sailed at best speed to join O.G.66 and escort to Gibraltar. S/M O.21 to leave H.G.66 forthwith and return to Gibraltar. FURIOUS, HERMIONE, CAMERONIA and SCYTHIA to be retained at Gibraltar until A/S escort can be provided. AZALEA and STELLA CARINA to remain with H.G.66 to limit of prudent endurance and then return to Gibraltar. (V.C.N.S. 1036B/1 to F.O. Force H., F.O.C.N.A.) Admty. 1035B/1 not to S.O. Force H. HERMIONE to be sailed as soon as practicable to patrol Eastern extremity of J.3 and K.3. She is to leave this patrol after dark on 5th and return to Gibraltar. Possible quarries are :-
(i) Raider 16, photographs in W.I.R. 30/5.
(ii) Returning enemy M/V, possibly disguised as Dutch.
(iii) A possible German supply ship.
Request you will assist patrol with Catalina aircraft if practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1308B/1 to F.O.C.N.A. S.O. Force H.)
Departure FAULKNER, FEARLESS, FORESTER, LEGION. LANCE routed direct to R/V with O.G.66 in accordance with Admty.1036B/1. LEGION and LANCE will pass through 043° 25' N. 019° 30' W. at 0700B/3 steering 05°. FAULKNER, FEARLESS, FORESTER arrive in 043° 00' 019° 33' at 1700B/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1700B/1 to Admty.)
Departure HERMIONE in accordance with Admty. 1308B/1. Catalina A/C will be on patrol approx. between 40° N. and 41° N. on longitude 16° W. from dawn. (F.O.C.N.A. 2300A/1 to Admty.)

/ASPHODEL

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

ASPHODEL.
ASTER.
FLEUR DE LYS.

Cancel A.T. 2340B/29. (D.O.D.(F) 1042B/1 to Consul, Ponta Delgada.)

MAURO GROCE.
(Italian)

Left Barcelona 29/6 for Genoa. (F.O.C.N.A. 1106A/1 to S/M O.23)

→ O.G.66.

If convoy is attacked by U.Boat ships bound for South Atlantic and West Africa are to be dispersed. Ships bound for West Indies are to remain in company until reaching 42° N. unless it becomes necessary to disperse the whole convoy. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1116B/1 to SCARBOROUGH.) You have been reported by aircraft. U/B's are in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1154B/1 to SCARBOROUGH)

Enemy Unit.

Possible there is an enemy surface raider or supply ship in area 028° N. to 031° N. 031° W. to 034° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1154A/1 to N.A. Stn.)

O.21.

Leave convoy for Gibraltar forthwith (route). Report P.C. and S. when 100 miles clear of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1406A/1 to O.21.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Your 1036B/1 and C. in C.W.As. 1757B/?30. Request date of R/V for ROYAL SOVEREIGN be amended to 13/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 1716A/1 to Admty.)

See p. 5.

Genoa sailings.

Your 2240C/26. Between 20 and 27/6 at least 5 neutral and 1 Italian merchant vessels left Genoa, the former arriving at Gibraltar. (V.A.C.N.A. 1748A/1 to C. in C. Med.)

→ O.G.66 Escort.

FANDANGO, MORRIS DANCE, SARABANDE, CORDELA, NORSE, are to remain with O.G.66 as long as possible breaking off as necessary to coal at Gibraltar not Fayal Azores. (C. in C.W.A. 1813B/1 to SCARBOROUGH.)

My 1749B/26/6. Trawlers have been ordered to proceed to Gibraltar instead of Fayal, if fuel permits. (D.O.D.(F) 1841B/1 to Consul, Ponta Delgada)

LUCY ESSBERGER.
(German)

Was discharging at Cadiz on 25/6. (D.S.665)

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NORDERNEY.
(German)
HIMALAYA.
(Italian)

NORDERNEY at Para has raised steam and tried engines. HIMALAYA at Rio de Janeiro loading slowly and will not be fully loaded before 1/7. (S.O.(1) Montevideo 0032Z/1, S.O.I. Freetown, 0846N/1 to Admty.)

QUEEN
VICTORIA.

Overdue Shipping, my 0931/25, arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0944B/1)

Sailing of
enemy ships.

Following ships have sailed on 27/6 from Rio de Janeiro:- German FRANKFURT and HERMES from Santos German NATAL. From Pernambuco Italian BUTTERFLY. Descriptions. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1009Q/1 to SURCOUF.)

KINGSTON
HILL.

Overdue shipping KINGSTON HILL departure St. Vincent C.V. on 4/6 for Capetown not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1225B/1 to Admty. etc.)

LIKOMBA.
(German)

German seagoing launch LIKOMBA 200 tons gross 96 tons nett at Fernando Po since commencement of war reported ready to leave instantly. Thought to be fuel on board for 800 miles. Received 2 tons gas engine fuel on 26/6. (C. in C.S.A. 1231N/1 to DRAGON, MILFORD.)

Areas P. R.

1, 2. Dividing line. (C. in C.S.A. 1248N/1 to S.A. Stn.)

PETUNIA.
ANSELM.

PETUNIA is to proceed in company with STARWORT and LAVENDER and provide additional escort for ANSELM to Freetown. C. in C. S.A. is requested to sail PETUNIA to U.K. with next convenient convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 1438B/1 to PETUNIA.)

DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE.

Engines defective. Considered if to continue to operate as A.M.C. she should have 10 days refit Harland and Wolff, Belfast, who built engines, after every alternate convoy escort duty. but better plan would be to replace her by another. (C. in C.S.A. 1715N/1 to Admty.)

Vichy Ships.

Instructions re firmness in intercepting and boarding. (C. in C.S.A. 2015N/1 to S.A. Stn.) See Lion Copy.

/D'ENTRECASTEAUX ...

2503
12A

SECRET.

2015N/1st.July.

MESSAGE

IN.

From. C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 2.7.41.

Recd. 0100.

Naval Cypher C by W/T.

Addressed. South Atlantic Station.
Squadron.

IMPORTANT.

With reference to 1600 March 21 important that if any unescorted Vichy French merchant ship is intercepted under conditions in which she will probably be detained, she shall be boarded as early as possible with adequate armed guards and anti scuttling party as if for an enemy ship. In many cases the officers and crews of Vichy vessels are friendly and well disposed and, if this is the case, the measures taken can be adjusted to the circumstances and care taken to avoid giving offence, but in many cases also the attitude is definitely obstructive, if not hostile, though co-operation may be rendered later. Firmness from start is necessary and it must be made clear that no obstruction to boarding can be allowed, no (?explanation) to be sent and the measures taken must be backed up by show of force at once if required and by force if necessary after.

2015N/1.
Advance Copy sent to
Ops. O.D. & C.I.C.

- 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)
- Naval Sec.
- N.A.1st S.L.
- P.A.S.(S)
- D.N.I.(4)
- O.D.(5)
- Ops.(4)
- H.(30)
- D. of P.(3)
- O.I.C.
- D.S.D.9.
- W.D.
- D.T.D.(4)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.E.W.D.(3)
- N.L.
- Admiral Chalmers.

War Diary.1.7.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.D'ENTRE-
CASTEAUX
intercepted.

Vichy French ship D'ENTRECASTEAUX from Indo China to Castille intercepted in 010° 25' S. 017° 24' W. Crew 50, passengers 8, general cargo. W/T transmission attempted was swamped. No attempt at scuttling. Guard and navigating party placed on board. Ship has barely sufficient coal to reach Simonstown. Propose sending her direct there unescorted with instructions call for coal Walvis Bay if essential. Her estimated speed 8 knots. Am remaining in company pending your concurrence. (DUNEDIN, 2108Z/1 to C. in C.S.A.)

BUTTERFLY.
XXIV MAGGIO.
(Italian)

Reported clearing from Pernambuco for Bremen via Buenos Aires. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro. 2146Z/1.)

Mediterranean.Russia.

Liaison Mission. Instructions. (V.C.N.S.0009B/1 to C. in C's Med. etc.) See Mediterranean Volume.)

TORCELLO.
(Italian)

Passed Istanbul 1020 G.M.T./30 for Aegean with 5000 tons benzine. (Istanbul 1814C/1) See also 1425/1. *See also next page.*

STROMBO.
(Italian)

(Damaged by torpedo on 3/6. Reported to be sailing on 4/7 for Italy from Istanbul. (D.S. 665)

PARAMATTA.

The ship handling and shooting of PARAMATTA must have been very good when picking up survivors of AUCKLAND as all attacks were avoided and three aircraft shot down. (1st S.L. 0102B/1 to C. in C. Med.) *Rebby: p.50 A.*

M.T.B's.

For Haifa. Instructions as to use. (C. in C. Med. 1051C/1 to R.A. 15 C.S.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Alexandria
Raid.

Air raid 0300 to 0445, about 16 planes. Bombs and mines over wide area of land and sea. Only civilian damage. (R.A. Alexandria 1055/1)

/"Glen"

War Diary.1.7.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd."Glen"
Ships.

Majority of special service troops which were employed with "Glen" ships are being disbanded on completion of their voluntary engagement and are returning to their own units. Future policy will be to train regular units when available in combined operations. For this purpose one "Glen" ship will be based at Kabret the other will be based North of the Suez Canal where she will be immediately available for any troop carrying operations. (C. in C. Med. 1103C/1 to Admty.)

Orders to
S/Ms.

At 2100B I proceed as follows. UNION, UNIQUE, and UPRIGHT, leave patrol for Malta (arrangements). From 0001B/2 UPHOLDER patrol between 015° 45' and 016° 10' north of 037° 30' and URGE west of 015° 45' and north of 037° 00'. THRASHER as ordered by Capt. (S) I. S/Ms encountered are not to be attacked. (Cdr.S.1. 1120B/1 to S/Ms Malta Force, THRASHER.)

Enemy
Convoy.

P.C. and S. of enemy M/Cs. 4 (?escorting vessels) 38.04 N. 12.58 E. 030° 12 knots. (A/C Duty T. 1250Z/1 to Hal Far.)

TORCELLO.
(Italian)

Loaded tanker (description reported) (?at sea) Istanbul for Aegean 1320C/30. Proceed to patrol Zea Channel from 0400 to dark 2nd returning to previous patrol to comply with my 1521C/28 by dawn 3rd. (Capt.S.1. 1425C/1 to TORBAY) *See previous page.*

RAMB IV.

Your 1938/22. A public declaration about RAMB IV will be made on 2/7 and Italian Gov. informed simultaneously. The declaration, while not betraying our intention to detain further hospital ships, does not commit us to regard detention of RAMB IV as full reparation for damage done by enemy aircraft. (Head of M. 1429B/1 to C. in C. Med.)

C.S.R. Up to 1600 hours 1/7. No enemy activity. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/1)

"Sink at
Sight" Zone.

To be declared in N. Mediterranean if general hostilities break out with Vichy. (Head of M. 1730B/1 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

/Enemy

MOST SECRET

~~802~~

14A

1730B/1st July.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

To. C. in C. Mediterranean. 302.

Date: 1.7.41.

Repeated. V.A. Malta. 251.

F.O.C. North Atlantic. 273.

S.O. Force "H" 210.

Naval Cypher (D).

From Admiralty.

NINE.

For your information it is intended, if general hostilities break out with Vichy involving North Africa, to declare a "sink at sight" zone in the Western Basin of the Mediterranean. This will include all waters east of a line joining the following points:-

- (a) Cape Milonia (35° 06'N. 02° 09'W.)
- (b) A point 20 miles 180° from Cape de Gata in Spain.
- (c) 39° 46'N. 04° 50'E.
- (d) A point 3 miles 090° from Cape de Creus (position 42° 19'N. 03° 19'E. approx).

and thence northwards along the limit of Spanish territorial waters to the Franco-Spanish boundary.

2. Detailed instructions will be issued when the need arises. The present intention is that aircraft, surface ships and submarines should be authorised to attack any vessel in the above area navigating without our permission unless identified as Spanish, when she would be allowed to proceed.

1730B/1.

for Hd. of Military Branch (86)

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

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. of P (2)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.N.I. (4)

D.N.A.D.

D.A/S.V.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Duty Captain.

Hd. of M. (8) (M.08823/41) copy for P.O., A.M.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

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

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War Diary.

1.7.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy
Convoy.

P.C. and S. of 6 enemy M/Vs and 6 enemy destroyers are 36.20 N. 11.42 E. 180° 12 knots. (A/C Duty F. 1740/1 to Hal Far.) Following received. Position of enemy 36.28 N. 11.46 E. (A/C Duty F. 1745/1)

→ PERSEUS.
TRIUMPH.
TORBAY.

Cancel my 1521C/28. Assume patrol as follows. PERSEUS off Cape Malea as in my 1455C/24. TRIUMPH in Gulf of Sirte as ordered in memo. to S.O's 23 routed through Kithera Channel and 032° 50' 020° 00'. TORBAY through Zea Channel to area E. 037° 32' 024° 00' - 000° - 65 - 95. (Capt. S.I. 1755C/1 to S/M's concerned.)

THRASHER.

Leave patrol forthwith and proceed (route) to arrive Alexandria sanctuary 0445C/9. Object of your route is to intercept shipping between Aegean and Italy. PERSEUS is in area East of Kithera Island. (Capt. S.I. 1839C/1 to THRASHER.)

Yugoslav
M.T.B.'s.

C. in C. Med's 1510C/30 (N.T. in W.R.) Propose To sail Yugoslav M.T.B.'s. DURMITOR and KAJMAKALAN at 0700C/2 (route) to arrive at Haifa 1300/C/3. (Capt. S.I. 2025C/1 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

Beirut
bombed.

Prelim. op. summary No.15 night 30/1. 6 Wellingtons bombed shipping and docks Beirut. Hits on main docks and possible hit on ship alongside Northern Mole. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 2053/1)

SAINT DIDIER.
OUED TALLQUEM.
OUED YQUEM

French cargo ships 2800 and 1400 tons respectively, reported proceeding from Salonika to Tripoli (Syria). First sailed 30/6 second due to leave 1/7. Ships (? will not) show full markings but will fly Turkish flag when East of Castel Rosso. These ships are to be sunk. (Capt. S.I. 2149C/1 to Greek S/M NEREUS)

/SAINT

War Diary.1.7.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.SAINT DIDIER.
CHATEAU YQUEM.
THEOPHILE
GAUTIER.

Report indicates Vichy freighters SAINT DIDIER and CHATEAU YQUEM left Salonika at 24 hour intervals commencing 30/6. Ships expected making for Tripoli speed of advance not exceeding 12 knots and would probably hug Turkish coast and fly Turkish colours effectively. Further reports state Vichy ship THEOPHILE GAUTIER 12½ knots was loading at Salonika on 26th. Request maximum air R/C commencing dawn/2 N.W. and S. of Cyprus and on Syrian coast description locating these ships. 815, 826 and 829 squadron aircraft to be ready to send striking force from Cyprus to intercept. (C. in C. Med. 2311C/1 to C.S. 15.)
French THEOPHILE GAUTIER reported at Salonika 26/6 loading German personnel and equipment destined for Syria. (Capt. S.I. 2345C/1 to Greek S/M NEREUS.)

Situation
Report 73.

* Italian TEMBIEN

+ TEMBIEN's two
torpedoes detonating

1. Western Desert. Heavy dive bombing raids today First on Tobruk where supply ships now unloading. FLAMINGO towing CRICKET towards Alexandria, no report of air attack. R.A.F. report shooting down nine enemy aircraft and damaging others in air attacks on FLAMINGO and CRICKET 30/6.
2. My 2315C/29 para.2. DEFENDER sighted U.Boat* 2042/29 at close range when approaching WATERHEN to take her in tow.. DEFENDER opened fire and may have scored hits before submarine crashed dived. Two subsequent loud explosions indicate probability U.Boat destroyed 32° 19' N. 25° 15'E.
3. Greek ~~AVEROFF~~, ~~HEPHNESTOS~~, KATSONIS, SPHENDONI have sailed from Alexandria for Suez.
4. Alexandria. Further aid raid 0300 to 0445/30, minor damage only. (C. in C. Med. 2245C/1 to Admty.)

East Indies.~~Raider~~
~~Hunting.~~

~~Summary of lessons from CORNWALL search and destruction of raider 33. (C. in C.E.I. 07002/30 to E.I. Sta.) See Lion Copy.~~

China.N.E.I. Navy
Exchanges
of Visits.Your 0245/19 approved.
(V.C.N.S. 1710B/1 to C. in C. China.)

War Diary.

1.7.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

FORMIDABLE.

FORMIDABLE has been assigned to Navy Yard Norfolk, Va. (B.A.R.M. 0045/1 to Admty.)

T.C. Convoy.

Your 1904/27. Suggest possible to accommodate the 400 Technicians in proposed convoy referred to in my 1226/29. (D.S.T. 0452B/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

REVENGE.
RAMILLIES.
MALAYA.

Admty. 1932B/30. Having in mind desirability of REVENGE and RAMILLIES exchanging duties at reasonable intervals intend REVENGE to visit Bermuda before MALAYA, thus being available to proceed to Iceland with T.C.12 or at other convenient opportunity. Not known whether Admiralty intend to use MALAYA to escort T.C.12 but it would be a great convenience if MALAYA could call at Halifax on passage to U.K. to embark passengers and important stores. (B.S.3 0837/1)

Fuelling
at Sea.

Your 1915/29/4. DESPATCH reports most favourable area for fuelling at sea now in vicinity (?032°) N. 040° W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1001Q/1)

Sailing of
enemy ships.

See South Atlantic. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1009Q/1 to SURCOUF.)

Finnish
Seamen.

Your 1138/28. Undesirable to take action against Finns. Consult Norwegian Masters and if any particular individuals are considered to be a danger to the ships, Masters should approach local police. (Head of M. 1428B/1 to N.C.S.O. Curacoa.)

BUXTON.

Admty. 1915B/25/6. Expect BUXTON could be made available for refit ~~any~~ any time after middle of July. (R.A.3. 1626P/1 to B.A.R.M.)

NEWCASTLE.

NEWCASTLE can be accepted at Boston Navy Yard. (B.A.R.M. 2105/1 to Admty.)

War Diary.

1.7.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Free French
Call Signs.

New Caledonian Free French Naval Authorities
request secret call signs for local Free French
Merchant Ships engaged in overseas trade.
Request policy. (A.C.N.B. 1839Z/1 to Admty.)

New Zealand.

Personnel in
unescorted
ships.

Would be glad of Admiralty's guidance in respect
of application of restrictions to ships from N.Z.
to U.K. via Panama which proceed unescorted
beyond about 70° W. (N.Z.N.B. 1651M/1 to Admty.)

War Diary.

1.7.1941
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

0024. By D/F at 0024 G.M.T. U.Boat within 40 miles of 56° 45' N., 22° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 0309B/1.)
- 2008/30. Following is correct version of my 2327/30.
1951/30. At 2008Z/30. German U-Boat vicinity 035° N., 016° W., At 1951Z/30 U-boat approx. 225° Cape Finisterre 120. (F.O.C.N.A. 0403A/1 to N.A. Stn.)
- 30/6. Received from OPNAV . S.S. LOSMAR American en route Suez from New York approached by an unidentified S/M which did not attack on 30/6 in 11° 18' W., 19° 55' S., at approx., 4½ GCTALHS.N.A.0925/1, to Admty.) Estimated U/B dispositions. (28 fixes, all German.) (D.D.I.C. 1502B/1.)
- 1515/28. Jacksonville reports U.S. ALASKAN sighted submarine 1515/28 26.35 N., 76.39W. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1643Z/1, to C. in C.A.W.I.)
1912. At 1912 G.M.T. German U-Boat bearing 272° Class 2 from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 2037/1, 2158A/1 to O.21.)
1827. By D/F at 1827/1 G.M.T. position of Italian U/Boat was within 50 miles of 44° 00' N., 11° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 2104B/1., F.O.C.N.A. 2139A/1 to N.A. Stn., 2158A/1 to O.21.)

War Diary.1. 7. 1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's Attacked.

29/6.

Congratulate 8th Escort Group on destruction of a German U-boat, on 29/6.
(1st. S.L. 0101B/1 to S.O. 8 E.G.)

By BULLDOG.

My 0155/1 (N.T. in W.D.) Submarine diving and attacking.
(BULLDOG, 0200A/1, to C. in C. W.A.)
Good attack made at 0315B in 059° 26' N., 010° 05' W but contact never regained. Searched with CARNATION till 0630B. Am rejoining convoy and leaving CARNATION in vicinity till aircraft arrive, then ordered to rejoin me.
(BULLDOG, 0635B/1, to C. in C. W.A.)

By BITTERSWEET.

BITTERSWEET attacked S/M contact at 0230B.
061° 25' N., 019° 17' W. Result large oil patch.
(BROADWATER, 0720B/1, to Admty., etc.)

By NASTURTIUM
19/6.

C.A.F.O. 834/41/. (A) NASTURTIUM (B) 2010/19
(C) 059° 34' N., 014° 23' W., (D) 7 (E) 2200.
(NASTURTIUM 1507/1, to C. in C. W.A.)

By A/C.
1709/30.

Form Blue Strip Report.
Beaufort R/217 at 1709/30/6 on anti U/B patrol on course 263 at 1000 ft. sighted U/Boat on surface in position 47.45 N., 8.48 W., on on CO 090/12 KTS 2 miles away on port beam. As A/C turned S/M began crash dive and only stern and tip of conning tower was above surface when bombs released from 300 ft. from A/C attacking in moderate dive. Bombs seen to burst in close stick 40 yards ahead of swirl Est. 40 ft. from Bow. Pilot repeated attack from same direction 30-40 seconds later releasing 4 depth charges all were seen to burst on Est. position of U/Boat, nearest 60 yards dead ahead of swirl remainder at 30 foot intervals. A/C remained in vicinity for 10 mins. but no visible results observed. U/Boat ocean going type resembling U/37.
(A.C.H.Q., Plymouth, 1603/1, to H.Q.C.C.)

21

2.7.1941.
Weñesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

M.T.B.
Operation

Two M.T.B.'s from Dover operated last night off Berck sur Mer.

British Air Operations.

Wellingtons attacked Brest last night, dropping 64 tons of bombs on the docks, PRINZ EUGEN and the battle cruisers. SCHARNHORST is thought to have been straddled. Reports, stated by the Air Ministry to be reliable are to the effect that the PRINZ EUGEN was hit and severely damaged, 50 men on board being killed. The GNEISENAU is reported to be out of action for several months.

Poor weather reduced activity today; offensive patrols were flown against shipping in the Channel and off the Dutch coast, but no successes are reported.

At 2345 one of 6 Beauforts of Coastal Command secured a hit with torpedo on a 5000 ton ship which had previously been located off Fecamp.

Enemy Air Operations.

A/S Trawler MORRIS DANCE, separated in fog from Convoy O.G.66, was attacked early this morning and suffered some casualties but no damage.

Mining.

Operation
B.S.66.

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

Thames
Estuary

There was considerable enemy air activity, probably minelaying, over the Thames Estuary last night and to a less extent between Dover and Lowestoft generally.

Bristol
Channel

Normal traffic in the River Usk was resumed at 1843B.

War Diary.

2.7.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Takoradi.

A second mine was exploded on 28/6 and the port is still closed. Vessels are still held up inside and outside the harbour, but movements in and out started on 28/6, to relieve congestion, the ships being swept in and out.

Mediterranean.

A.M.C.
torpedoed

At 1410 today URGE hit with one torpedo an A.M.C. escorting a merchant vessel in 37° 48' N. 15° 21' E. The A.M.C. proceeded at 8 knots.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi and Tripoli last night. At Tripoli merchant vessel were damaged.

Convoy
attacked

At 2349 TORBAY reported that she had successfully attacked a convoy in the Zea Channel.

See 11/7-10.199.

Cyprus.

8 aircraft dropped 50 bombs S.E. of Paphos today.

Palestine
and Syria.

It is confirmed that the Vichy destroyers have left Syria.
Strong air R/C was carried out today north and west of Cyprus for 3 French Cruisers which it is believed are attempting to land reinforcements in Syria. The enemy ships were not sighted. Three Vichy French merchant ships are also reported to have left Salonica for Tripoli and this afternoon aircraft reported 3 destroyers and 3 merchant ships 10 miles off the coast, heading south, S.W. of Tyre. R.A.F. aircraft took off to attack them.
C.S.15's force was attacked p.m. today by our own aircraft.
PERTH bombarded a heavy battery east of Damur p.m. today, and effectively silenced it.

U-Boat Campaign.

Late this evening FOLKESTONE, escorting H.G.66 attacked in a thick fog a U-Boat shadowing the convoy on the surface, and possibly damaged the enemy.

War Diary.

2.7.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

REPULSE.

F.O.i/c Greenock, is requested to sail REPULSE for Scapa P.M. 3rd screened by INGLEFIELD and ACHATES.
(C. in C. H.F. 1016B/2.)

TIGRIS.

(a) To leave patrol after dark 5/7, (route) R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE in 250° Trevoze Head 10 miles at 0500B/9. Arrangements.
(Capt. (S)3 1631B/2. to TIGRIS.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Adty., 1231B/1.
(i) Notwithstanding F.O.C.N.A. 1716A/1, you are to r.v., with A/S escort in (c) 045° 00' N., 025° 00' W., at 0900B/8th.
(ii) Onward route and name of escort will follow.
(C. in C. W.A. 1934B/2 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN.)

PRINCE LEOPOLD and PRINCE PHILIPPE.

Request you will sail them. Complete with their Eureka flotillas, so as to arrive Falmouth by 7/7, arranging necessary escort. (D.O.D.(H) 2349B/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

Cancelled 4/7. See p. 57

Operations.

Skopen Fiord patrol.

In view of present situation I consider constant patrol of Skopen Fiord is no longer justified. I intend A/S trawlers attached to Faroes be employed as a striking force using as advanced base Westmanhavn 062° 09' N., 007° 09' W. The other (? escorts) at Faroes will be able to report and probably intercept any merchant vessels passing through Fiord in good visibility.
(A.C.O.S. 1540B/2 to Adty.)

MARSDALE.

(?MALVERNIAN) bombed. Cancel my 1030 B/25.
(F.O.C.N.P. 2140B/2 to MARSDALE.)

Operation D.N.

Carry out operation D N.
(a) Saturday 5th July.
(b) NIGERIA, CURACOA, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, TARTAR, ECLIPSE.
(c) Stadlandet.

/(ii).....

Op: D.N. cont:...

War Diary.2.7.41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. Contd.Operation
D.N.
Contd.

(ii) Operation D N.
 (a) Paragraph 8 A and 9 A.
 Force is to keep North of latitude 062° N.,
 when East of Greenwich meridian.
 (b) Paragraph 13A. For 10 read 6. Delete
 "shifting for 138 kc/s period".
 (c) Paragraph 13 B delete and substitute
 "communication with fighters on convoy."
 (C. in C. H.F. 2332B/2. to C.S.10.)

British Air Operations.Patrols.

My 1648/1. Patrol postponed owing to weather.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 0740/2.)
~~STAND~~ now in operation.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 1514/2.)
 My 1204/1 and Your 1648/1 (neither to NELSON.).
 Request A/S Patrol may be continued until 1800/3
 to cover period NELSON is exercising.
 (C. in C. H.F. 1522B/2. to C. in C. Rosyth.)
 Your 1522/2. A/S patrol will be continued from
 2100/2 until 1100/3.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 1958/2. to C. in C. H.F.)
 My 1958/2. A/S patrol will be continued until
 1800/3 weather permitting.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 2140/2 to C. in C. H.F.)

R/C. of
Bordeaux.

Request R/C of Bordeaux to ascertain if
 S.S. BAUDOUINVILLE is still present.
 (D.D.I.C. 1126B/2.)

Catalina
patrol.

Comparatively large numbers of U-boats are
 passing to and from French west coast ports and
 owing to present lack of suitable long range
 aircraft their passage is comparatively
 unmolested. Request four Catalinas be
 allocated to maintain anti U-boat patrols
 throughout the 24 hours in (Western?) part of
 Plymouth command with every chance of success-
 ful results. This would also free land plane
 squadrons for operations against enemy shipping
 and gardening. In this locality flying boats
 are often able to operate when land planes
 are grounded.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1257/2. to Adty.)

/R/C of North.....

2.7.41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations. Contd.

R/C of
North Sea.

Air Min., have asked for the return of No.114 Sqn., which has been lent to Coastal Command for some time for R/C duties primarily.
2. Understand that adequate R/C of North Sea cannot be carried out without No.114 Sqn., until Nos. 500 and 608 Sqs., have completed rearming.
3. Request confirmation and dates on which it is anticipated Nos. 500 and 608 Sqs., will complete rearming.
(1st. S.L. 2151B/2 to A.O.C. in C.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
F.N.87.
HOMEFIRE
(British,
1262 Tons.)
sunk.

Convoy attacked 2338/1 and 2341/1.
S.S.HOMEFIRE direct hit, sank immediately, 16 survivors, Position variously stated to be 53° 5' 30" N., 1° 28' E; 53° 4' N., 1° 28' E; 53° 5' N., 1° 27' 30" E.
(SHELDRAKE 0100B/2, 0220B/2, 0700B/2, VALOROUS 0014B/2, LEAMINGTON 0130B/2, N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0553B/2, C. in C. Nore 0721B/2.)
Correct position of wreck 53° 5' 27" N., 1° 28' 8" E.
(FRANKLIN 1821/2.)

Attack on
O.G.66.
MALVERNIAN

Bombled sunk 1/7.

One enemy aircraft was destroyed as a result of attack on O G 66 yesterday.
(C. in C. W.A. 1048B/2. to SCARBOROUGH for Cdre.)
My 1850B/1. Have on board 47 survivors including very seriously wounded. Survivors state about 8 officers and 20 ratings still on board, ship was still afloat at 1300, 2 full boats and rafts near ship. No results from yesterdays search in very poor visibility.
Rejoined convoy at 0001.
(SCARBOROUGH 1500B/2. to C. in C. W.A.)
Keep good look out for survivors in lat.47°N., (C. in C. W.A. 1525B/2 to S.O. 18th C.S. CHALLENGER.)
On parting company proceed to 047° 00' N., 029° 00' W., to search for survivors as long as fuel permits on parallel 047° 00' N., between 029° 00' W., and 034° 00' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1534B/2. to READING.)
If fuel permits detach FANDANGO and MORRIS DANCE forthwith to assist MALVERNIAN.
(C. in C. W.A. 1935B/2 to SCARBOROUGH.)

See next page

/In view.....

War Diary.2.7.41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity Contd.R.D.F. for
HUNTS.

In view of present night air attacks on East Coast convoys it is considered that all HUNT Class destroyers of 16th and 21st Flotillas should be fitted with type 285 R D F set as soon as possible. Request an estimate of when sets can be made available.
(C. in C. Nore 1902B/2 to Ady.)

MORRIS
DANCE.

Your 1935 B/2. Trawlers have insufficient fuel. MORRIS DANCE separated from convoy in fog last night and was (group omitted) aircraft this morning, 2 casualties reported. Although close has not yet rejoined.
(SCARBOROUGH 2108B/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

*See previous page.*Mining.Stadlandet.

Request latest information regarding possibility of enemy minelaying off Stadlandet.
(C. in C. H.F. 1021B/2.)
Your 1021B/2. No information is available later than that contained in N.I.D.02107/41 dated 4.6.41.
(D.D.I.C. 1633B/2. to C. in C. H.F.)

B.S.67.

Operation B S 67 is to take place tomorrow night. Departure to be taken from 54C buoy at 0045/4 returning by same route. Escort as for B S 66.
(C. in C. Nore 1146B/2.)

DEVON
COUNTY.

M/S Drifter DEVON COUNTY sunk by mine 0845/1 in approx., 051° 28' 51" N., 00° 59' 14" E.
(C. in C. Nore 1540B/2. Cdre I/C Sheerness 1552/2.)

Operation
Q.J.

My 1720B/1. Operation Q J is to be postponed. Further instructions will be sent.
(C. in C. Nore 1640B/2. to F.O. Harwich, M.S.4.)

/Thames Estuary.....

27

2.7.41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. Contd.

Thames Estuary.

Between 2400/1 and 0210/2 considerable enemy air activity over Thames Estuary R D F Plots showed a probable minelaying aircraft between B 5 and B 6 buoys about 0145. 6 Explosions similar to parachute mine explosions and followed passage of fairly low flying aircraft occurred as follows.
(S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1812/2.)

Newport.

My 1616B/1. Normal traffic in River Usk may now be resumed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1843B/2.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Unit.

By D/F at 2106/1 G.M.T.
Position of unknown enemy unit, probably naval auxiliary, was within 100 miles of 47° 30' N., 12° W. (D.D.I.C. 0015B/2.)
My 0015B/2. Address has been amended to include C. in C. Plymouth.
(D.D.I.C. 0925B/2.)

Baltic.

Various items of intelligence. (N.A. Stockholm 1628/2.) See Lion Copy.

Polish submarines.

My 1819/26 and 1811/28. This afternoon Polish Minister and Naval Attache conferred with Swedish Naval Authorities who have now permitted rehoisting of Polish ensign and have allowed Senior Captain to pay daily visit. Outstanding difference is that Sweden declines to permit Polish crews or maintenance parties to return to their ship.
(N.A. Stockholm 1729/2.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Naval Mission.

Mosnav Telegram 1. Replies to technical inquiries. (1st. S.L. 0037B/2 to N.A. Moscow.)
See Lion Copy.

Casualties & Defects.

OTWAY.

Have lost contact with escort. My position 0400 055° (?05') 30" N., 005° 28' 36" W., am waiting for fog to lift. Starboard engine out of action due to fractured group exhaust.
(OTWAY 0405B/2 to S.7.) (C. in C.W.A. 0901B/2.)

/In company....

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1628/2nd July.

IN.

From N.A. Stockholm.

Date 3.7.41.
Recd 0305.

27A
~~8468~~

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER O.T.T.

BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty.

In suspension of Baltic shipping, intelligence from secret sources is scarce:

Part one - Enemy warships.

(1) Bremen June 17th.

(a) 10000 tons cruiser believed SEIDLITZ.

(b) Progress continues on new 400 metre dry dock between Industrie harbour and Weser river.

(2) Kiel.

TIRPITZ reported under cover of camouflage nets on June 23rd. Certain guns being replaced and other alterations made after recent trials which have (?not been) satisfactory.

This report partly confirmed another unidentified source.

(3) Stettin June 26th.

Aircraft carrier of 15 to 20000 tons in port.

(4) Swinemunde June 28th.

No warships present only two old torpedo boats painted white.

(5) Sandham June 27th.

Large cruiser to eastward. Another report from this area states HIPPER cruiser seen in Baltic about this period.

(6) Drogden June 21st. SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN sailed after a mine had been seen to explode near her. Average grading B.2. repeat B.2.

1628/2.

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

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.

E. P.S.

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.P.D.

D.S.D. (2).

M. (2).

SECRET

MESSAGE

0037B/2 July

OUT.

To: Naval Attache Moscow

Date: 2.7.41

Interdepartmental Cypher One Time Table.

From: Admiralty.

For Naval Mission
Reference Moscow Tel. 1.
Para. 2 noted.

Para (3) (a) S.D.C. is being consulted and information may be sent later.

Para (3) (b) Standard mark VII depth charge necessitates limitations of height and speed when dropping to 150 knots and 150 feet. Standard pistol modified so that depth setting can be made immediately before release from aircraft.

Para. (3) (c) No information available.

Para 5 (c) There are rumours concerning this mine but its use is considered unlikely because it would not work at night and is also liable to be actuated by cloud.

0037B/2

for C.I.S.

Approved fist Sea Lord.

* Former given most secret distribution.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.H.S.
- A.C.H.S. (H)
- A.C.H.S. (F)
- A.C.H.S. (T) (2)
- H.A. 1st S.L.
- D.T.M.
- D.D.T.M.
- D. of P. (2)
- O.D. (5)
- D.H.S.
- D.H.A.D.
- M. (2)
- D.H.I. (4)
- O.I.C. (2)
- N.I.D. 10 (Paym. Cdr. Wilson)
- W.D.
- D.A/S.W.
- S.D.G.
- D.T.S.D.
- E.P.S.
- I.P. (3)
- Dep. Contr. (3) }
- S.W.R. } Bath
- S.D.G. (2) }

*Doesn't concern us,
but I'd like to know
how you dealt
with former.*

War Diary.2.7.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. Contd.OTWAY.
Contd.In company with escort. E.T.A. 1500.
(OTWAY 0905B/2.)BRIGHTON
(Collision
25/6.)Arrived Rothesay bay tugs THAMES and MARAUDER
towing BRIGHTON damaged in collision.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1306B/2.)Shipping & Convoys.S.C.34.In company with HX 132 as far as 11° 15' W.
All ships arrived.
(D.T.D. 1251B/2)
22 British, 12 Allied. Cargoes. (D.S.666.)H.X.132.Route amended, met as arranged. 101 hours fog.
All ships arrived.
(D.T.D. 1252B/2.) 34 ships including 10 Allied
and 1 neutral. (D.S. 666.)H.G.65.Arrived. 14 ships including 4 neutrals and
1 Allied. Cargoes. (D.S. 666.)

War Diary.2.7.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Raider
Situation

My 1338B/27.
FRUMENTON made raider distress signal 27/6 in 40° 08' N. 53° 44' W. No cancellation received but may have been a British or American ship.
on 25th - 26/6 Yankee Clipper sighted suspicious merchant ship in 37° 26' N. 43° 07' W. respectively. Proceeding E.N.E. at 5 knots, possibly supply or Merchant ship.
On 30/6 D/F indications in area 28°-31° N, 31° -34° W. Possibly raider No.16 returning owing to loss of BABITONGA and ALSTERTOR but might be outward bound raider or supply ship.
On 26/6 an incomplete Raider distress message received from unknown ship, latitude not read but longitude was 88° 16' E.
Impossible at present to determine whether a raider is now operating in Indian Ocean.
(D.D.I.C. 1819B/2.)

North Atlantic.CILICIA

Part company on meeting destroyer escort and unless you have other orders return to Freetown by same route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0944A/2 to CILICIA.)

O.21

Proceed forthwith to establish patrol within 30 miles radius 043° N. 011° W. Object is to attack raider (description) which may be making for Bay of Biscay port from vicinity of 030° N. 032° W. T.B.R. arranged for patrol area, C. in C. Plymouth requested to take necessary action.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1036A/2, 1038A/2 to S/M. O.21.)

BAUDOUINVILLE
(Belgian)

Reported was to leave Bordeaux with aviation material on 2/7. Graded B.1. Air R/C has been asked for to check this report.
(D.D.I.C. 1128B/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

KERSTEN
MILES
(German)

Has been supplied with Coal Bunkers ex Italian TROVATORE.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 1145/2.)

French
Convoy

0638 French armed trawler SERGENT GOUARNE, French S.S. CAPITAINE PRIEUR laden, THESEE light Westbound.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1525A/2 to S.O.I. Kingston.)

/PETUNIA.....

War Diary.2.7.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.PETUNIA

A.T. 1721B/30.

In addition, PETUNIA is expected to call about 7/7. Will require about 150 tons oil fuel. (D.O.D.(F) 1724B/2 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

SEVERN

P.C. and S. at 1800A/2. 037° 14' 002° 18' E. 258 11 knots. Adjusted speed for battery discharge P.M./3 to arrive A.M./4. Have merchant ship captain prisoner. (SEVERN, 1803A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ERNANI

Request that I may be informed if Italian ERNANI which left Las Palmas 25/6 is captured or sunk as cargo is of interest to both Spanish and Greek Govt. (N.A. Madrid 1817/2 to Admty.)

JESUS
ANTONIO
Transport
of pyrites
for Germany

Pyrites being sent to Germany by small Spanish steamers to Barcelona where transhipped to axis vessel or sent by train. Submit Spanish ships are unlikely to remain within territorial waters whole voyage. First ship due to leave shortly N.S.O.(I) Gibraltar could instruct Malaga report departure. One vessel concerned believed to be JESUS ANTONIO. (N.A. Madrid, 1915/2 to Admty.)

Submarines

Employment of "River" class and Dutch S/MS. (V.C.N.S. 1922B/2 to Capt. (S) 8.) See Lion Copy.

FURIOUS
SCYTHIA
CAMERONIA

A.M. 1036B/1 and 1231B/1. Most desirable to sail FURIOUS, SCYTHIA and CAMERONIA to take advantage of inward escort provided for ROYAL SOVEREIGN on 8/7. Can you provide necessary A/S escort out of Gibraltar? HERMIONE will be available as distant cover during passage. (V.C.N.S. 2011B/2 to F.O.C.N.A.). Reply: 0702/3.

South Atlantic.Takoradi
mines.

My 2105/27. A second mine was exploded at Takoradi on 28/6 within half a cable of first in same direction. (C. in C. S.A., 0011N/2 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

8488

30A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

1922B/2nd July

TO:- Captain (S) 8

repeated F.O.S. 91

DATE:- 2.7.41.

F.O.C.N. 307

C. in C. Mediterranean 408 B 1

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

FROM:- Admiralty

Submarine - Employment.

Captain (S) 8's letter No. 4536/2.S of 18th June
(not to C. in C. Mediterranean) and Admiralty 2120/1
June.

Owing to unsuitability of RIVER class submarines
for inshore offensive patrols in the Mediterranean
it is approved to withdraw SEVERN and CLYDE from this
duty and employ them on Atlantic patrols and local
patrols as required.

2. The three Dutch submarines to be employed on
offensive patrols in Western Mediterranean.
3. Convoy escort duties to be carried out by the RIVERS
and Dutch submarines in rotation.
4. OLYMPUS to be employed on transport of White Oils
and essential stores to Malta if required by C. in C.
Mediterranean and if found fit for this service.

1922B/2

for D.O.D.(F)

Approved by V.C.N.S. on Docket No. M. C9926/11

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.
D. of L.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.F.(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. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson

Ref: C.C.Med, 1806/6. Page 123.

EG

SECRET.

M E S S A G E 0130/2nd July

IN

2488 308

From: The War Office.

Date 2.7.41

Cipher.

Addressed: G.O.C. West Africa.
IMMEDIATE.
No. 75386 Cipher (M.O.4) 1/7.

Defence of Belgian Congo.

Our 74295 Cipher (M.O.4) 20/6. Air Ministry suggest that Air Commodore Grigson should represent them and request following message be passed to him.

- Begins. For A/Cdr. Grigson from Air Ministry. (1) Staff talks between British, Free French and Belgian Congo have been approved by Chiefs of Staff and will be co-ordinated by G.O.C. West Africa. Signal 74295 cipher (M.O.4) 20/6 from War Office to G.O.C. refers. You are to remain in West Africa and represent Air Ministry returning to London on conclusion of conversations held at Lagos.
- (2) Scope of conversations will be to draw up co-ordinated plan of defence but no repeat no commitments are to be undertaken and as British air forces are unlikely to be involved your role will be in general to hold watching brief. You should bear in mind that only British air forces likely to be stationed in area in question are those we intend to base in West Africa. For your information only our programme envisages two Fighter, two G.R. Landplane, two G.R. Flying boat squadrons and Group Headquarters. These squadrons will be based at Freetown and Bathurst. No dates can be given but we have so far established one Fighter flight, one G.R. Landplane and two Flying boat squadrons. The role of these squadrons is in naval co-operation and fighter defence of British territory. You should not repeat not divulge to Free French or Belgians our programme in this area. All other aircraft in this area will be part of Middle East reinforcement scheme and with exception of earmarking of small number of aircraft for defence of Takoradi none of these aircraft are available for local operations.
- (3) You should discourage framing of ambitious plans for the air defence of the Belgian Congo as these will only lead to requests for aircraft and supplies which we cannot afford to release. Threat to Belgian Congo has now largely disappeared with collapse of I.E.A. Threat to Chad is, however, a real one and Free French will probably raise this question and ask for air assistance. You will be unable to promise assistance but there is no objection to you examining and discussing possible means of defending that portion of the Chad territory through which the Takoradi route passes. Provision of possible air assistance from Middle East must be dependent upon situation obtaining at the time.
- (4) Our main interest in Central Africa is the security of the Takoradi reinforcement route and the alternative route known as Sabena (Duala, Bangui, Libenge, Stanleyville, Juba). You should pay special attention to this aspect of the conversations and consult Thorold or Russell if he is available.
- (5) All requests for training and supplies of equipment and material must be referred to London.
- (6) A.O.C. in C. Middle East is being informed of these instructions.
- Ends.

0130/2.

Received from War Office at 1800/2

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.
P.A.S. (S)
O.D. (5)
Ops. (4)

M. (2)
D. of P. (3)
O.I.C.
D.S.D. 9
I.P. (3)
~~W.D.~~
D.N.I. (4)

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

War Diary.2.7.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.ESCOLANO
Spanish

Suspicious passenger. If ship is encountered and if satisfied he is German remove him and baggage. No special steps to intercept ship need be taken.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0020B/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

Belgian
Congo.

Staff talks. (W.O., 0130/2 to G.O.C. W. Africa)
See Lion Copy.

Convoy
W.S.9B.

List, fuel and water requirements.
(D. of S.T. 0324B/2 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)

ENA

Overdue shipping ENA due Beira 27/6 from Bahrein not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0951B/2.)

MANGKALIHAT
~~MANKA MANGKA~~
~~LIHAT.~~

Overdue shipping. Dutch ~~MANKA~~ MANGKALIHAT due Capetown 27/6 from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0958B/2.)

GALATEA
EDINBURGH
W.S.9B.

GALATEA estimates 20% fuel remaining on arrival Freetown provided she does not exceed speed of convoy. Margin very small for an ocean escort and I consider it advisable EDINBURGH to remain with convoy to 025° N. at least.
(F.O. 18 C.S., 1201B/2, to Admty.)

EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA.

Your 1947/26. A.M.C. escort can be provided but use of A.M.C. for escorting single transports is uneconomical expenditure of effort. Recently escort has been provided for CAMERONIA from Cape to Gibraltar via Freetown and now is required for EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA from Cape to lat. 50 N. These requirements take A.M.C.'s away from patrol area near trade O routes where they may be in position to act against enemy raiders or supply ships.
(C. in C. S.A., 1431N/2 to Admty.)

FORT DE
FRANCE.
ST. DOMINGUE

French ship FORT DE FRANCE is replacing SAINT DOMINGUE in trade between Martinique Cayenne and Para. BARFLEUR also trading to Cayenne. This is known and approved by U.S. Naval Officer Observer stationed at Martinique.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1611Z/2 to N.C.S.O. Para.)
See also American and West Indies.

/Enemy.....

War Diary.2.7.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.Enemy Shipping.

Interception of enemy ships leaving River Plate area is of more importance than of those leaving Brazilian Ports. In particular, desired that German ERLANGEN believed now to be at Mor Del Plata should be intercepted.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1900B/2 to C. in C. S.A.).

Takoradi shipping

Suggest that unless port expected to re-open shortly vessels waiting to discharge should discharge at Lagos or other port. Vessels waiting for cargo should proceed to alternative loading ports.
(D.T.D. 2159B/2, to S.O.I. Freetown.)

DRAGON.
QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Your 1245N/30. Approved for DRAGON to refit at Simonstown as arranged. Enquiry being made whether QUEEN OF BERMUDA can be received in U.S.A. for refit and installation of catapult, aircraft crane etc., about third week in August. QUEEN OF BERMUDA should be kept in service pending decision.
(D.O.D.(F) 2352B/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

*See also p. 36.*A.M.C.'s
for Trade

Decided to return following A.M.C.'s to trade on relief by other vessels, ESPERANCE BAY, MORETON BAY and ARAWA. Redisposition of A.M.C.s is under consideration,
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2353/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.OSIRIS

Your 1319 ?B/26. Expect me 24 hours late. (Defects).
(OSIRIS, 0231B/2 to V.A. Malta.)

HANS SCHMIDT
(German)

Arrived 30/6.
(Valencia 0726/2 to M. of W.T.)

Campaign
against
Russia.

Appreciation. (N.S.O.(I) Istanbul 0953/2.)
See Lion Copy.

Vichy
Freighters

My 2311C/1. Sail PARTHIAN to arrive on patrol within 15 miles radius Tripoli by 0400C/3.
(C. in C. Med., 0958C/2 to C.S.15.)

/S/MS.....

32A

850a

SECRET

MESSAGE

0933/2nd July IN

From N.S.O. (I) Istanbul.

Date 2.7.41.

Time 1640.

Interdepartmental Cypher V by Cable

Recirculation at request of

N.I.D.3.

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

(A) Germany Embassy circles re-action here to first week's Russian Campaign is disappointment at lack of immediate startling successes or internal troubles in Russia.

(B) Campaign still expected to last six or seven weeks.

(C) (?First) objective Leningrad.

(D) When Moscow occupied Q Government will be set up by Germany to sign the Armistice and Stalin's Government fully expected to withdraw to Siberia.

(E) Turkey's attitude will be governed by results of Russian Campaign; if latter rapidly victorious Q Germany will demand "Free" use of Straits and arrangements for passage of troops through Turkish Territory and expect appeal to be granted provided facade of Turkish Sovereignty undisturbed.

0953/2.

Advance copy sent to O.I.C.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
Parl. Sec.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Naval Secretary.
D.N.I. (4)
F.A.S. (S)
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
D. of P. (3)
O.I.C. (2)
D.S.D. 9.
M. (8) for W.O.
D.P.D.
D. of L.D. (2)
E.P.S.
W.D.

Lin

War Diary.2.7.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.S/Ms. not
to attack
small ships
in ballast.*(?under)*

The importance of sinking all enemy ships whether in ballast or loaded is vital. The restrictions in para. 6 S W 1(?M) No.20 are cancelled but C.O.'s are reminded of chance of torpedo running ship in ballast (?and) for this reason small ships in ballast should not normally be attacked.
(Capt. (S) 1, 1017C/2 to 1st S.F.)

Tobruk
raid 1/7.

Tobruk bombed by about 35 aircraft 1/7, minor damage to jetties only.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1038/2.)

URGE
UPHOLDER

URGE leaves patrol p.m./2 and returns to Malta by reverse of outward route to arrive 0630B/4. UPHOLDER has liberty of action in Area M, 036° 40' 015° 10' 000° 80 - 50' from 0430B/3.
(Cdr. S.1., 1117B/2 to URGE, UPHOLDER.)

French
Ship.

2/7 departure VIRGO ^{FIDELIS} French ~~FIDELIS~~. *Ben Cay...!*
(Bilbao, 1128/2.)

ST.DIDIER
CHATEAU YQUEM
THEOPHILE
GAUTIER.

My 2311C/1. If these ships are definitely identified in Turkish territorial waters they are to be sunk. (C. in C. Med., 1314C/2, to 815 Sqdn., N.O.I.C. Cyprus.)

RORQUAL

Proposed operation. (V.A. Malta, 1425B/2 to C. in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Tripoli
bombed.

C.S.R. Malta up to 1600 2/7. No enemy air activity. 5 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli night 1/2. 6 direct hits Spanish Mole and others at base of Karamanli Mole starting fire on edge of town. 1 medium M/V 1 probably 2 direct hits. Believed set on fire but hidden by heavy smoke screen.
(H.Q. Malta, 1600/2.)

Enemy
Convoy

Following received from R.A.F. H.Q. Jerusalem. 3 four-funnel destroyers and 3 merchant ships 10 miles off coast heading south 270° from Tyre.
(Haifa W/T, 1600C/2.)
My 1600/2 12 R.A.F. aircraft taking off to bomb ships.
(Haifa W/T, 1605C/2.)

8518 M
33A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

2141C/2 July.

IN

From Capt. (S) 1.

Date. 3. 7. 41.

Recd. 1253

NAVAL CODE (L 2) BY W/T.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet, repeated V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C.
Alexandria, S.O. Force (I), Group 201, N.O.I.C. Port Said,
N.O.I.C. Cyprus, A.O.C. Mediterranean.

IMPORTANT.

S/M movement summary 29. Movements (a) :-

S/M	Depart from	Routed through	Arrive.
H.M.S. TRIUMPH	Kithera Channel 0300 2nd.	032° 50' 020° 00'	Benghazi P.M. 4th
H.M.S. PERSEUS	Cape Maroon 0200 6th	Kaso Strait thence direct	Alexandria 0700 10th.
H.M.S. THRASHER	Cape Spartavento 2300 first	038° 10' 020° 18' noon 3rd. 034° 44' 024° 02' 0200 6th	Alexandria 0700 9th.
Greek submarine NEREUS	Alexandria	035° 45' 030° 00' A.M. 6th 034° 00' 029° 20'	Alexandria 0700 9th.
Greek submarine PAPANICOLIS	1800 4th	034° 00' 030° 20' 035° 30' 030° 20' or 40' P.M. 7th P 33 Southward Sardinia night 1st 2nd Sicily Anafarta Narrows	Malta A.M. 6th.

H.M.S. OSIRIS and H.M.S. UTMOST from West and H.M.S. UNION
H.M.S. UPRIGHT and H.M.S. UNIQUE from Messina arrive Malta A.M. 3rd.
H.M.S. URGE arrives Malta A.M. fourth from Messina. H.M.S. REGENT as
in summary 29.

Sanctuaries (B) -

Submarine	Sanctuary
H.M.S. PERSEUS	036° 00' 023° 00' - 000° - 63 - 50
H.M.S. TORBAY	037° 32' 024° 00' - 000° - 65 - 95
H.M.S. PARTHLAN	within 15 miles Tripoli (Syria) 64 South of 032° 45' East of 015° 00'
Greek S/M NEREUS	Until A.M. Sixth North of 035° 30' between 029° 30' and 030° 30'
H.M.S. UPHOLDER	036° 40' 015° 10' - 000° - 80 - 50
Greek submarine PAPANICOLIS	from A.M. seventh in (?Euripo Channel) as for Greek submarine NEREUS. Ends.

2141C/2.

Advance Copy Sent D.C., D.O.D. (F) & D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.	
1st S.L.	
V.C.N.S.	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.C.
A.C.N.S. (F)	N.I.D.10.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.I.C.
D.O.D. (H)	Admiral Chalmers.
D.D.O.D. (H)	Admiral Bellairs.
D.O.D. (F)	Head of M.
D.D.O.D. (F)	I.P. (2)
D. of P. (2)	W.D.
D.N.I. (4)	F.O.S. by courier.

War Diary.2.7.1941.
Weñnesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.THEOPHILE
GAUTIER.My 2345C/1. Description. (Capt. (S)1 to
1839C/2 to NEREUS.)Abey
BombarāmentArtillery Commander reports no further activity
from battery at Abey, now presumed off the map.
Ammunition dump was definitely hit and majority
of shot fell in target area. Report on
destroyer result not yet available.
(N.L.O. Palestine, 2113C/2 to C.S.15.)Benghazi
and Beirut
bombed.Night 1/2
4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. 3 Wellingtons
bombed Beirut causing small fire and hit on
shipping alongside Northern Mole.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 2129/2.)Situation
Report No.74(1) Syria. Confirmed that Vichy destroyers
have left Syria. C.S.15 with force B carrying
out sweep to N. of Beirut tonight 2/3. Strong
air R/C to N. and W. of Cyprus, nothing seen.
(2) Western Desert. Heavy bombing attacks
Tobruk did not interfere with unloading of
stores. MIRANDA slightly damaged sailing
tonight in tow of SOUTHERN ISLE. Unloading
ANTIKA continued. CRICKET arrived Alexandria
in tow of ST. ISSEY.
(C. in C. Med., 2148C/2 to Admty.)FORMIDABLEUkarm 672. Will be accepted for repairs at
Navy Yard Norfolk, Va., leaving Alexandria about
end July. Request you will sail her via Cape
as soon as ready.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2150B/2 to C. in C. Med.)TORBAYYour 1755/1 and M.S. No.792 and 797 not received.
Request repetition at intervals as hunt is hot
following successful attack on convoy in Zea
Channel. Have now withdrawn east of Doro
Channel as your 1839/1 suggests I am not to
comply with your 1425/1.
(TORBAY, 2349C/2 to Capt. S.1.)East Indies.MAREEBAOverdue, left Tegal, Java 15/6 for Colombo via
Malacca Strait, not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1138Z/2 to Admty. etc.)Turn round
of ships in
Indian portsCo-operation between Sir George Campbell and
myself remain very one sided and I have noticed
no improvement yet in the arrangements at Colombo.
(C. in C. E.I., 1146Z/2 to Admty.)

War Diary.2.7.1941.
Weānesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.SAGITTAIRE
(French)Passed Sunda Strait 1/7 for Madagascār Dakar
and France, (cargo on board). No navicerts.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0802Z/2 to Aānty.)Japanese
requisitioning
freighters.Japanese Govt. has requisitioned 4 18 knot
freighters within the last fortnight. NANKAI
MARU is also reported as being requisitioned and
is now on passage to Rangoon having cancelled
scheduled trip to U.S.A.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0938Z/2.)America and West Indies.ROYAL
SOVEREIGNF.O.C.N.A. 1716A/1. ROYAL SOVEREIGN left
Bermuda 1600Q/30 and will require to refuel
if R/V is postponed. Unless separate A/S
escort can be provided at R/V on 8/7, propose
ROYAL SOVEREIGN be diverted to Halifax now.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0951Q/2 to Aānty.)BARFLEUR
FORT DE
FRANCEFollowing from Washington. French A.M.C.
BARFLEUR was due to leave Martinique 28/6
escorting French ship FORT DE FRANCE to Cayenne
and thence to Para. BARFLEUR to return to
Martinique about 15/7. A (O).
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1139Q/2 to C. in C. S.A.,
R.A.S.A.D.)
My 1139Q/2. Is this an approved voyage in
accordance with your 2337/17/6.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1142Q/2 to Aānty.)VAN
KINSBERGENYour 1546B/23/6. and 1507B/10/5. VAN KINSBERGEN
can be ready to leave Bermuda for U.K. 14/7.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1241Q/2 to Aānty.)
Programme.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1302Q/2.)Tug
ST. BLAZEYCollided with dockyard wall. Anticipate
repairs 3 weeks.
(Care. 1/c Bermuda, 1603Q/2.)

/Transfer.....

War Diary.

2.7.1941.
Weñnesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies Contd.

Transfer of
A.M.C.'s from
Halifax Escort
Force to S.
Atlantic
Command.

Your 1212B/29. Bare minimum for HX, BHX and S.C. convoys is 12. To allow for refit at least one additional armed merchant cruiser is required. There are now 16 in N.A. Escort Force of which three are refitting and two under repair. None therefore can be spared now. Propose transferring three selected A.M.Cs. as soon as ships now in dockyard hands become available.
(B.S.3., 1626P/2 to Admty.)

U.S. Merchant
Ships.

Request information whether N.C.S.O's are routing U.S. Flag Merchant ships sailing between U.S. and Near East on British service.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1832B/2 to N.A. Washington.)

ODDVAR II.

Propose to intercept Finnish ODDVAR II which it is understood recently sailed from Trinidad without permission? U.S. Govt. are anxious for her to proceed direct Mobile to unload her cargo. Believe she will bunker at Saint Thomas.
(N.A. Washington, 1843/2 to Admty.)

ELBE
(German)

(Sunk on 8/6). Survivors to STADARNHEM.
(A.L.U.S.N.A., 2205/2 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

St. John's
N.F.

Base scheme, arrangements.
(Hd. of M., 2219B/2 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

^{DE}
ILE NOIR-
MOUTIER

1/7 departure Casablanca 16/7.
(New York, 2255Z/2.)

MALAYA

Armuk 475, 2/7.
C. in C. A. & W.I. 1001Q/25. Request immediate reply as to what port MALAYA is to proceed to? Leaving on 8/7. As MALAYA has to obtain Swordfish aircraft leaving Piarco in S.S. TUDOR PRINCE 6/7 Bermuda would appear the most suitable.
(B.A.R.M., 2350/2 to Admty.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA

Cancel Ukarm 640, (1936/28.)
Can QUEEN OF BERMUDA be received in U.S.A. for refit and fitting of catapult and aircraft crane, and if so at what yard? Catapult, crane etc. can be shipped QUEEN OF BERMUDA who should arrive about third week in August. Estimated length of refit 8 to 10 weeks.
(D.O.D.(F) 2350B/2 to B.A.R.M.) See p 22.

MOST SECRET

854 d
36A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2205/2nd July

IN

From A.L.U.S.N.A.

Date 3.7.41.
Recd. 0940.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

Following from O.P.N.A.V. amplifying my AE-ADY 8/2/7/41 :
task group 2.7 reports suspicious appearance ship STADARNHEM
with freshly painted name over black patch and armed with
four inch gun and machine guns with many covered objects.
She claimed to have on board fifteen survivors of the German
ship ELBE which was sunk by aircraft carrier on the sixth of
June in latitude 26 degs. 30' North and 41 degs. West and
rescued first of July in latitude 34 degs. 46' North longitude
30° 20' West. Under guise of extending medical aid boarded
the ship and treated three men definitely ill with scurvey.
The men under canvas tent over forward cargo hatch not
examined. Party was given no opportunity to leave the
vicinity of the cabin and forward hatch but nothing further
suspicious was noted. Master Deneef reports in substance the
following on the 18th June convoy left Freetown and was
attacked. On the night of the 26th, BARON NAPIER was sunk and
on the following night lost Dutch OBERON and Free French
P.L.M. 22 at 1800 on the 28th the remaining 21 ships dispersed
and proceeded to Northerly rendezvous independently.

2205/2.

O.I.C. Comment.

ELBE was sunk on 8.6.41 in position
25 degs 33' North 38 degs 47' West.

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The dates of convoy leaving Freetown
and of dispersing are correct. BARON NAPIER,
OBERON and P.L.M. 22 were in the convoy but no
report has been received of them having been
sunk.

STADARNHEM was intercepted in the
position where she should have been.

It is considered that no suspicion
need be attached to this ship. ALUSNA has
been informed.

1st Lord	D.O.D.(H)	D.T.D.(M)	
1st S.L.	D.D.O.D.(H)	D.A/S.W.	
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D.(F)	D.S.D.9.	
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.D.O.D.(F)	Hd. of M.(2)	
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.D.I.C.	D. of P.(2)	Ad. Chalmers.
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	D.N.I.(4)	D.S.D.(2)	I.P.(3)
Duty Captain	D.T.D.(2)	E.P.S.	W.D.

jf

War Diary.

2.7.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

- 2013/1. My 2203B/1. Estimated position of U/Boat was within 60 miles of 34° 30' N., 27° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 0044B/2, F.O.C.N.A., 0135A/2 to N.A. Stn.)
0256. At 0256 G.M.T. German submarines bearing 257° 3rd class. (F.O.C.N.A., 0503/2, 0526A/2 to N.A. Stn.) Estimated U/B dispositions. (22 German, 4 Italian). (D.D.I.C. 1336B/2.)
1933. D.F. bearing from Middle hill Gibraltar at 1933 G.M.T. of German S/M., was 311/1. (F.O.C.N.A., 2133A/2, to N.A. Stn.)
2250. Am investigating suspicious swirl suspected Submarine 58.47 N., 3.52 W. (A/c Duty P., 2250/2, to 18 (R) H.Q.) Suspected periscope seen through glasses (position as 2250/2.) Bubbles only on reaching, course unknown, no attack, staying at position 240 two - two haze. (A/C Duty P.2. 2340/2, to 18 (R) H.Q.)
2032. At 2032 G.M.T. German submarine bearing 310/1 made a sighting report. (F.O.C.N.A., 2251A/2, to N.A. Stn.)
2250. Observer Corps reports C/T of S/M which quickly submerged in position 024° Scarborough light 4 miles at 2250/2 Grade C 5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2340/2.)

S/M's Attacked.

By AARLA
0850/2,

AARLA attacked S/m at 0850/2, in 52°15' N., 5° 0' W., with 3 d.c.'s, abandoned attack 0930 in order to resume convoy escort. (AARLA, 0935/2, to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

By
NASTURTIUM
GLADIOLUS
27/6.
(U.556)

Have interviewed C.O's GLADIOLUS and NASTURTIUM and studied reports of attacks against German U.Boat 27/6 which resulted in sinking of latter and capture of crew. No doubt NASTURTIUM was mainly responsible for result.

/GLADIOLUS.....

2.7.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. Contd.

Submarines Attacked.

By NASTURTIUM
GLADIOLUS
27/6.
Contd.
(U.556)

GLADIOLUS was unable obtain contact until shortly before end when her 2 attacks finished off U.boat which was already badly damaged. CELANDINE did not make contact but was led in and directed by GLADIOLUS. Consider great credit due to C.O., A/S C.O., and Asdic operators NASTURTIUM.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1205/2, to C. in C. W.A.)

By FOLKESTONE. Have attacked shadowing submarine on surface in thick fog. Am hunting. AZALEA in company with*convoy capable of listening watch only. My position 045° 19' N., 025° 35' W.
(FOLKESTONE, 2231A/2, to C. in C. W.A.)
My 2231A/ 2. S/M believed damaged intend to remain in vicinity. (weather report)
(FOLKESTONE, 2347A/2, to C. in C. W.A.)

* H.G 66

War Diary

3.7.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

60 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Bremen last night causing a large fire in the Deutsche Schiff ship building yards. Minor attacks were made on Cherbourg Docks and Rotterdam oil storage.

Enemy Air Operations

SS GREAT WESTERN was attacked in the early hours of today near Tuskar Rock and was damaged but was able to proceed.

Mining

Thames Estuary.

Mines being laid by aircraft in the early hours of this morning were detected in the Thames Estuary. Boom Drifter RECEPTIVE was destroyed by a mine at 1820 in the East Swale. Auxiliary barge ROSME was sunk by the detonation of an S.A. mine in the Estuary at 1330.

North Atlantic

GROUIN-DU-COU

SCOTTISH today intercepted the Vichy French Trawler GROUIN-DU-Cou and is sending her in to Gibraltar under armed guard.

Mediterranean

RAMB IV

Italian hospital ship RAMB IV, which was intercepted off Aden after the fall of Massawa, is to be detained for at least 6 months on account of flagrant violations of the Geneva Convention by the Governments of Germany and Italy. (p. 49)

UPHOLDER at 1142 today sank a westbound heavily laden merchant vessel of about 5500 tons in an escorted convoy in 37° 54' N. 15° 44' E.

/Libya

3.7.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya and
Western Desert
Heavy air
attacks on
enemy shipping
at Tripoli.

R.A.F. last night bombed Benghazi, Bardia and Derna. Shipping at Tripoli was attacked and R/C this morning showed as result one 6000 ton merchant ship on fire. Six Swordfish laid mines last night following on R/C report of merchant ships lying outside Tripoli harbour, and Blenheims also attacked these ships, both last night and again today, whilst Wellingtons bombed the harbour and shipping inside. As a result of these operations at least two more ships appear to have been set on fire outside the harbour and one inside.

Palestine
& Syria.

C.S. 15 with Force B carried out a sweep north of Beirut last night to intercept French cruisers reported making for Syria with reinforcements. Strong air R/C north and west of Cyprus yesterday failed to sight them.

Forces on the coast now include AJAX, PERTH, NAIAD, PHOEBE and destroyers. PARTHIAN is patrolling off Tripoli.

3 Wellingtons bombed Beirut last night.

Vichy aircraft bombed Haifa last night.

China

Within the last fortnight the Japanese Govt. has requisitioned several fast freighters.

U-Boat Campaign

U.S. Destroyer HUGHES today picked up 14 survivors, including 4 women of VIGRID, torpedoed 24/6 in 55° N., 41° W., (page 129)

3.7.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Oban A/S
Patrol.

Request four Seine Net vessels fitted asdic may be allocated to my command for Oban A/S patrol. This will free 32nd A/S group for escorting Oban portions of convoys to and from R/V for which they are exclusively required in order that corvettes at present detached for these duties may have more adequate time in harbour between escort duties.
(C. in C. W.A., 1726B/3.)

ARAWA.

Your 1436B/2. ARAWA is being turned over to Ministry of War Transport for reconversion to Trade.
(A.C.N.S. T. 2021B/3 to F.O.C.N.P.)

R.D.F. sets
in Hunt
Destroyers.

Your 1902B/Z. Type 285 sets have been allocated to Hunt class destroyers of flotillas mentioned to meet your intended refitting programme. Three to four weeks is the estimated time to fit this set. If you confirm that you intend to make these ships available in advance of these dates, consideration will be given to the allocation of the necessary set.
(D.S.D., 2112B/3 to C. in C. Nore.)

Defence of U.K.

Iceland.

Your O.856 cipher 16/6. Chiefs of Staff approve establishment of combined defence H.Q. Artun in event of invasion. Present Army H.Q. Artun and combined Naval and R.A.F. H.Q. Reykjavik to be retained for use in normal circumstances.
(War Office, 2100/3 to G.O.C. Iceland.)

Movements.

OBERON
KINGFISHER
BREDA.

C. in C. W.A. 1904B/27. Intend to sail OBERON, KINGFISHER and BREDA at 0900B/7 to 057° N. 011° W. E.T.A. 1230B/8 for special A/S trials lasting about 4 days.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange fighter protection and T.B.R. in the vicinity of position of trials.
(Capt. S.7., 0931B/3.)

/EDINBURGH.....

War Diary.3.7.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements Contd.EDINBURGH.

Your 1201B/2.

As all surface warships are located elsewhere this margin can be accepted.

2. EDINBURGH is to leave convoy at noon 4th and proceed as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to join and escort FURIOUS to R/V with ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

3. EDINBURGH is then to proceed to Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. F. 1314B/3 to C.S.18.)

Obsolete Recognition Signals.

A G M 284A of 1247B/2/7. Following ships may be at sea with obsolete recognition signal from 0001/6 to 2359 on dates shown.

(1) In N.W. Approaches. NOTTS COUNTY, ST. APOLLO, ANGLE, ST. LOMAN until 14/7.

(2) On N.P. NORTHERN GIFT until 14/7
NORTHERN FOAM until 20/7.

(3) On passage to S.A. Station. CORDELA and NORSE until 17/7.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1515B/3 to Admty.)

TALISMAN.
THUNDERBOLT

Admiralty 1618B/25.

Intend to sail TALISMAN at 1900Z/4 and THUNDERBOLT at 1900Z/8 both unescorted for Gibraltar. Routes.

(Capt. S.2., 1534Z/3.)

Plymouth

Ships proceeding to Plymouth should arrive at 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2. miles between 0800 and one hour before sunset.

(2) My 1836/21st February 1941 is cancelled. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2221/3.)

Operations.Faroes - Shetland Channel Patrol.

On arrival of MINERVE, request you will sail P.31. for A/S patrol of about 10 days duration in Faeroes-Shetland Channel in an area to be selected by you. Request you will arrange T.B.R. as necessary to cover area selected and outward passage route.

(F.O.S. 1109B/3 to A.C.O.S.)

Faroes, Trawler Striking Force.

Your 1540/2. Intend to operate as follows.

(i) One A/S Trawler patrolling from Myggenaes light to 061° 2' N. 010° 20' W. arriving the former at 1200B and the latter at 2345B daily.

(ii) One A/S Trawler at instant readiness at Vestmanhavn.

From 1200B/4 dispositions will be (i) LORD LLOYD. (ii) STELLA PEGASI.

(N.O.I.C. Faroos, 1600/3.)

War Diary.3.7.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Operations.Patrols

My 2140/2. Aircraft recalled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0130/3.)
My 1958/2. Patrol again in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0515/3.)
My 1958/2. A/C being recalled owing to weather
conditions at bases. Sunderland from Sullom
Voe being sent but will not arrive area until
0900/3.)
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0636/3.)

REPULSE
Air Escort

From 1400B/3 during daylight hours until about
1200B/4.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0214B/3 to H.Q.F.C.)

Bremen
Cherbourg
Rotterdam
Amsterdam
attacked.

On Night 2/3, 60 A/C attacked Bremen. Many
fires started. Two big bombs (4,000 lb.) were
dropped and one of these caused all Flak and
Search-lights to stop for some time. A large
fire was reported in the Deutsche Schiff Shi-
building Yards, also in the centre and south
east part of the town.
At Cherbourg bursts were seen in dock-side
buildings and in the south-west dock area.
Rotterdam, and searchlight concentration south
of Amsterdam were each attacked by 1 aircraft.
At Rotterdam bursts straddled the oil tanks
starting fires and one A/C bombed the oil storage
tanks at junction of Maas and Nieub Wager
Waterweg Rotterdam causing a terrific explosion.
(H.Q.B.C., 1604/3.)

C.E. Convoy
Fighter
Escort.

Can you arrange that last machine to leave
C.E. Convoy at dusk should flash his downward
recognition signal to one of the escort
destroyers as he leaves as a signal that all
friendly fighters have left.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1807B/3.)

Clyde
Air R/C.

My 1658B/29/6. R/C was carried out on Night
1/7. Proved unsuccessful. Further R/C
necessary. Suggest 13/7. Detailed proposals.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1904/3.)

War Diary.3.7.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Operations.MORRIS
DANCE.

Now in company reported attacked yesterday by F.W. No damage, two casualties. (SCARBOROUGH, 0818B/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

GREAT
WESTERN
damaged.

Reported from Rosslare that S.S. GREAT WESTERN attacked on run from Fishguard at 0230/3 8 miles east of Tuskar Rock. Damage to engines, but can still steam and will return to Fishguard on run tonight. Apparently no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1214B/3.)

SCHIELAND
(Bombed 20/6)

Wreck in 53° 17'40" N. 1° 0'39" E. Dangerous. (FRANKLIN, 1731/3.)

MALVERNIAN
(Bombed 1/7)

Detach one corvette forthwith to assist MALVERNIAN. Reported 8 Officers and 20 ratings still on board at 1300B/1. Two boats and raft were in the vicinity. One boat load of survivors was picked up on 1/7 in 047° 07' 019° 20'. (C. in C. W.A., 2352B/3 to WESTCOTT.)

*See p 62*Mining.Thames
Estuary.
RECEPTIVE
and one
Sailing
Barge sunk.

Four Mines being laid by aircraft detected -by Foreness C H L Station as follows. (C. in C. Nore, 1124B/3.) Skipper of H.M.T. HEROINE reports having detonated two S.A. mines in about 51° 32'00" N. 01° 2'36" E. at 1217/3. Four sailing barges were in vicinity, one of which was seen to slowly heel over and sink. One of the other barges was observed to close and apparently picked up survivors. Detonations appeared to be well clear of barges. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1805/3.) Boom Drifter RECEPTIVE sunk by mine in the Eastswale at 1820/3. Approx. 51° 20'50" N. 00° 54'35" E. No details available, but so far 4 survivors reported landed at Faversham. (Care. in Charge, Sheerness, 2205B/3.)

/Burnham.....

War Diary.

3.7.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Burnham

Parachute mine exploded 200 yards inside Holliwell Point at 0150/3. Portion recovered. Sentries report having heard what appears to be a second. Probably in River Crouch entrance. If possible request a mine sweeper may be sent to investigate.
(R.N.O. Burnham, 1302/3.)

New Minefield.

Propose to lay first two lines of 20 Series Minefield as follows. Particulars. Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1821B/3 to C. in C. H.F., R.A.M.)
See Lion Copy.

→ PLOVER.

Request you will sail PLOVER for Immingham as convenient after completion of B.S.67. PLOVER should clean boilers at Immingham and report when ready for further service.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1825/3.)

→ B.S.67.

Departures HAMBLEDON and PLOVER at 2127.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2145B/3.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Intelligence

Request permission to receive and pass more operational intelligence to Russians. Reasons. (Military Mission, Moscow, 0329/3 to War Office.)
See Lion Copy.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.136
S.C.36.

Pass to Commodores HX.136 and SC.36 after overtaking are to be closed up as one group to Eastern R/V T.
(D.T.D. 1939B/3 to CALIFORNIA, PHILANTE.)

H.X.137

When BURWELL joins detach one destroyer to proceed to St. Johns N.F. at best speed. Destroyer detached will be required to escort H.X.137.
(C. in C. W.A., 2354B/3 to RICHMOND.)

MOST SECRET

45A Mg

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1821B/3rd July.
OUT.

To. G. in C. Home Fleet. 523.
R.A.(M)

Date: 3.7.41.

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty.

TEVIOT BANK now being available, propose to lay first two lines of twenty series minefield inside area in which fishing is now prohibited.

2. Line One. From Lat. $59^{\circ} 07' N$. Long. $06^{\circ} 11' W$.
through Lat. $59^{\circ} 08' N$. Long. $06^{\circ} 22' W$.
to Lat. $59^{\circ} 11' N$. Long. $06^{\circ} 28' W$.

Line Two. From Lat. $59^{\circ} 08' N$. Long. $06^{\circ} 31' W$.
through Lat. $59^{\circ} 08\frac{1}{2}' N$. Long. $06^{\circ} 41' W$.
to Lat. $59^{\circ} 11\frac{1}{2}' N$. Long. $06^{\circ} 47' W$.

3. Mines Mark Nineteen at depths of 80, 120 and 160 feet in equal proportions.

4. Prohibition of trawling in area between Sulisker and Butt of Lewis is under consideration and after definition of this area a further series of about ten similar lines will be proposed.

5. It has been established that Mark Nineteen mines are safe if moored at less than 35 feet deep and if adrift. They are however liable to explode if they drift on to a rocky foreshore.

6. Request your remarks.

1821B/3.

D.D.O.D. (M) (359)
Approved A.C.N.S. (H)

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

40(B) R

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

0329/3 July.

IN

From 30 Military Mission Moscow

Date. 3. 7. 41.

Recd. 1240

Cypher

Addressed The War Office.

Russia: Morale: Intelligence

24584 MIL No. 08 cipher 2/7.

Personal and secret for D.M.I. from Macfarlane.

Evidence available here indicate that these people seem (? difficult) and mean to go on fighting. This is surely of maximum value to us. They are however saying that in spite of Germany's main effort being directed against them we are doing practically nothing to help them either by action to relieve pressure or by giving them intelligence of operational value. Can you supply me with any details of increased air effort on our part if any query Russians say there has been practically none. I reply we were already nearly full out. Fully realise difficulty multiple operations to relieve pressure but with full knowledge of risk to our source involved I earnestly ask permission to receive and pass on more intelligence of immediate operational value. I will paraphrase and evaporate and mutilate this so long as I can convey something sufficiently near the truth and it helps Russian staff in its work and gives them the impression we are trying to help. We shall never know where we are with Kremlin but I think services are at present wishful to co-operate with us to fight. The extent to which they do either will largely depend on reciprocal action on our part. Please show to Chiefs of Staff. Am asking visit to Minsk front at a very early date so as to give first hand opinion on sort of fight the Russians were putting up. Would have been unsound to ask (?situation report) earlier. ends.

0329/3.

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

Recd. by hand from War Office at 0945/4.

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)
D.C.
E.P.S.
Hd. of M. (8)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
N.I.D. 10 Paymr. Cdr. Wilson
D.D.I.C.

m.d.

5.7.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BAUDOUIN-
VILLE.
(Belgian)

A.M.1128B/2. Photographic R/C at 1815B/2
shewed vessel still present. (D.D.I.C. 0603B/3
to F.O.C.N.A.)

O.G.66.
LEGION.
LANCE.

Join O.G.66 at best possible speed. Directly
you join convoy send LEGION and LANCE back to
Gibraltar at best possible speed. (F.O.C.N.A.
0640A/3 to Capt. D.8.)
Your 0702A/3. Accepted. LANCE and LEGION
must join before R/V with ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1209B/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FURIOUS.
SCYTHIA.
CAMERONIA.

Your 2011B/2 para.2. This can be done (?provided)
it can be accepted that no screen will be
available for Force H. (F.O.C.N.A. 0702A/3 to
Admty.)

CHALLENGER.

On leaving Ponta Delgada pass through following
positions (g) 036° 00' N. 026° 00' W. (h) 020°
00' 019° 00' thence to Freetown as ordered by
C. in C.S.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1114A/3 to CHALLENGER.)

FURIOUS.
SCYTHIA.
CAMERONIA.

Admty's 2011B/2. Remain present patrol until
0600A/8th to provide distant cover for FURIOUS,
SCYTHIA, CAMERONIA sailing Gibraltar 0001A/5th
routed in accordance with my 0950A/28 June.
Then return Gibraltar reporting E.T.A. and also
if you will be below 20%. (F.O.C.N.A. 1142A/3
to HERMIONE.) *See also next page*

French
Armed Trawler.

Sighted French armed trawler, P.C. and S. 038°
42' N. 009° 38' W. 350° 10 knots. (LOCH ASKAIG
1250B/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HERMIONE.

A.T.1308B/1. Request you will detach HERMIONE
from patrol forthwith to search for survivors
of MALVERNIAN bombed in 47° 37' N. 19° 07' W.
on 1/7.
2. HERMIONE should then resume patrol leaving for
Gibraltar after dark 5/7 or when fuel necessitates.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1311B/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

P.32.

Subject to satisfactory trial intend to sail
P.32 p.m./6th for Malta route (F.O.C.N.A. 1506A/3
to C. in C. Med.) *Delayed. (by 85)*

/Re.

War Diary.3.7.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Re attacks by
enemy aircraft
off Spanish &
Portuguese
coasts.

Your 1652/20. As both EMPIRE WARRIOR and GUNDA were outside territorial waters when attacked, request N.C.S.O. ?(s in) U.K. be instructed to impress on Masters sailing in O.G. convoys the vital necessity of keeping in territorial waters as much as possible after being detached. (2) A.M.1853/12 Feb.? and N.U.S.I. 122 it is for consideration that if sufficient escorts are in company and numbers warrant, at discretion of Senior escort and Commodore, ships for Portuguese and Spanish ports west of Gibraltar be detached with escort to arrive off Cape St. Vincent after dark those for ports North of Cape St. Vincent proceeding independently thence and remainder continuing with escort and being detached as requisite. (F.O.C.N.A.1546A/3 to Admty.)

→ HERMIONE

Comply with Adty.1311B/3: If nothing is sighted by dark 5th resume patrol in accordance with my 1142A/3. Report when you expect to have to leave patrol in order to arrive Gibraltar with not less than 15% of fuel remaining. Enemy aircraft reported to have used correct identification. (F.O.C.N.A. 1616A/3 to HERMIONE.) Oil fuel remaining does not permit compliance with Adty. 1311B/3 or your 1142A/3. Latest time for leaving patrol is 2300A/5 and E.T.A. at Gibraltar 0600/7 10% usable oil fuel remaining. If recalled now can refuel in time to sail with FURIOUS. (HERMIONE 1705A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See previous page.*

S.S.GAYARRE.

Huelva reports Spanish S.S. GAYARRE arrived 27/6 to load 5000 tons Pyrites for Bilbao or Pasajes in German interest. Destination probably port occupied France. Other ships to follow. It appears certain ultimate destination of cargo is Germany. (N.A. Madrid 1825/3 to Admty.)

Recognition
Signals.

Admty. 1247/2. Trawlers of Western Patrol will be using incorrect signals until a.m./11 and A.B.V. on patrol in the Straits until 0900A/5. (F.O.C.N.A. 1845A/3 to N.A. Station.)

→ HERMIONE.

Return to Gibraltar at best speed. (F.O.C.N.A. 2154A/3 to HERMIONE.)

Hurricanes.

Hurricanes which were not flown to Malta in operation "Railway" are to return to U.K. in FURIOUS. (V.C.N.S.1350B/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.3.7.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.GROUIN-DU-
COU.

Have intercepted Vichy French Trawler GROUIN-DU-COU am sending in under armed guard and keeping company until passed St. Vincent. Trawler was on passage from (??Marseilles) to Lisbon position 300 P.C.L. 10. (SCOTTISH 1810A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.ENA.

Overdue shipping cancel my 0951/2. ENA arrived Lourenco Marques. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0906B/3)

BENDORAN.

Overdue Shipping BENDORAN due Capetown 28/6 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1058B/3)
cancelled p67

DUNOTTAR
CASTLE.

Your 1715/1. DUNOTTAR CASTLE can be taken in hand. (D.O.D (F) 1234B/3 to C. in C.S.A.)

LONDON.

Admty. 1532B/20/6 and 1534B/17/6.
2. It has been found necessary to have LONDON nearer U.K. for the time being.
3. Request you will sail her to Gibraltar so as to arrive there by 12/7. (D.O.D.(F) 1319B/3 to C. in C.S.A.)

DESIRADE.

Log book destroyed. From available information routes as follows. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1625/3)
See Lion Copy.

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Your 1023Z/1. Visit approved. Oil supplies for South America have this day been cut by 22% would it be possible to reduce supply to CARNARVON CASTLE approximately (?) 24%.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1751Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)
Reply - p 49

DESIRADE.
(Vichy French)

Was requisitioned by Union Government 3/7 at Capetown without incident. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1931B/3.)

MADRYN.
ERLANGEN.
FORTUNSTELLA.

Argentine Statute listed vessel MADRYN left Buenos Aires at 1700Z/3 carrying cargo for ERLANGEN at Mar del Plata will probably not be discharged Mar del Plata until 8/7.
B.2. secret sources state possible will make second voyage. B. nought sources state will discharge part of cargo to German ship at sea before reaching Mar del Plata.
ERLANGEN receiving coal, stores and cargo from shore. FORTUNSTELLA at Necochea E.T.L. in 2 to 3 days, but can only get out at high water which is 1230 local time/3.
Other French Danish and Italian ships completely idle and no repeat no signs of any movement.
(Buenos Aires 2112Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)

/Japanese ..

From S.O.(I) Capetown

DATE 4.1.41.

REC'D 0445

Naval Code (X) by Cable

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic, C. in C. East Indies,
F.O. 1/0 Simonstown.

752 Log Book and majority of Charts of French Ship DESIRADE destroyed before ship taken over by Prize Crew. From available information routes as follows:-

- (A) From Sunda Strait to 12 30 S 90 00 E, thence along 12 30 parallel to 57 20 E thence to Diego Saurez.
- (D) From Tamatave passed through following positions before interception
- (1) 30 00 S 50 54 E.
 - (2) 33 55 S 42 50 E.
 - (3) thence on a course 240 degrees to 46 Degrees South.
 - (4) 34 20 S 9 20 E.
 - (5) 29 10 S 2 30 E.
 - (6) 23 25 S 4 10 W.
 - (7) 17 30 S 10 25 W.

1625/3

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
N A.1st S.L.
D.N.I.(4)
O.I.C.(2)
D.S.D.9.
Ops (4)
O.D.(5)
W.D.
D.T.(4)
D.T.B.(C)
D.T.D.(M)
D.E.W.D.(3)
A dmiral Chalmers
M (30)

War Diary.

3.7.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Japanese Shipping.

Secret sources Grade C.3 report "O.S.K. local Office today received cable that all Japanese ships north of line are to return to Japan immediately without call at United States port or to pass through Panama Canal. All ships south of line to endeavour to reach destination or take refuge in neutral port". (B.N.A. Buenos Aires, 2135Z/3 to D.N.I.)

CARNARVON CASTLE.

Your 1751/3. (~~see in W.D.~~) Most desirable that CARNARVON CASTLE should embark full amount as she cannot fuel from Squadron Oiler. (R.A.S.A.D. 2227Z/3 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.) *See p 48.*

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal.

A/A defence. Chiefs of Staff No.142 to C. in C. Med. and C. in C's M.E. (1st S.L.020BB/3 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

GUEPARD.
VALMY.
VAUQUELIN.

Fr. Light Cruisers GUEPARD, VALMY, VAUQUELIN reported due Salonika 1/7 to convey reinforcements to Syria. Date of return not known but they will probably use (?Turkish) territorial waters. (Capt.S.1. 0117C/3 to Greek S/M NEREUS, TORBAY.)

Middle East.

General appreciation of situation. (C.in C.M.E. 0300/3) See Lion Copy.

SULLBERG.
C.P.LEMERLE.

Departure SULLBERG, German, for Marseilles. CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE, French, for Marseilles. (Barcelona 0660/3)

RAMB IV.

To be detained for at least 6 months in replacement of one of British hospital ships damaged by enemy's wilful action in flagrant violation of a convention which has received signature and approval of German and Italian Govs. and from which these Govs. by marking their vessels in accordance with its requirements expect to derive full advantage. (1st Lord 0939B/3 to C. in C.Med.)

Syria operations.

My 1748C/2nd. Suggest you should now form two forces.
A. A Bombardment force under F.O. 7th C.S. consisting of AJAX, PERTH and necessary destroyers.
B. An intercepting force consisting of NAIAD, PHOEBE and remaining destroyers.
As soon as situation caused by Vichy attempt to reinforce by sea has cleared up the extra two cruisers and two destroyers will return to Alexandria. (C. in C.Med.1055C/3 to F.O.15 C.S.)
/Attack

MOST SECRET

49A

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

0205B/3 July.

OUT.

To. C. in C. Mediterranean. 422.

Date. 3/7/41

NAVAL CYPHER O.T.T.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT AIDAC. Following from Chiefs of Staff No 142 to C. in C. Mediterranean and C. in C. Middle East. Reference C. in C. Middle East No O/74416 dated 19/6.

We approve the suggested scale of air defence for Suez Canal. You will have to meet this commitment from your general post of A.A. guns but we will take this into account when making the monthly allocation.

2. Please report number of searchlights you can man from existing resources. Propose to despatch up to this number. Owing to grave shipping shortage no extra searchlight personnel can be sent.

3. Noted that balloon protection up to 5,000 feet is called for. Request confirmation that Commanders in Chief consider this height necessary having regard to the narrowness of the dredged channel of the Canal. Suggest that V.L.A. Mark VI balloons capable of flying to 2,000 feet might meet operational requirements. This question of considerable administrative importance since L.F. Type balloons required for operational height of 5,000 feet use ten times as much hydrogen as V.L.A. Mark VI.

0205B/3.

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 Capt.
E.P.S.
Hd of M. (8)
I.P. (2)
N.I.D. 10 Payr. Cdr. Wilson.
V.D.

for Sec to 1st S.L.

MOST SECRET

49B.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. Middle East

Desp. 0300 3/7/41.

Recd. 1550 3/7/41.

Cypher

Addressed The War Office Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

*Appreciation,
M.E. and Med.*

24534 Q/78318 Cypher 2/7.

From C's in C. in reply to C.O.S No. 183 of 25/6.

1. General appreciation situation in Middle East difficult at present pending outcome and progress of Russo German campaign and operations in Syria.
2. Threat through Turkey. Unless Germans commence move through Turkey in near future unlikely major land threat will develop from the north against our position in the Middle East this year taking into account existing communications and weather conditions in Anatolia. Success in Syria will greatly facilitate our ability to meet the threat if it develops. Air action however from bases in Anatolia can be expected against Syria Palestine and Iraq within very short time of Turkey giving Germany facilities. If enemy obtain rapid success against Russia and establish themselves in Caucasus area difficult to see how Turkey could resist pressure for such bases. At the same time our counter influence will be improved if we occupy Syria. If these air attacks take place we can expect an increased internal security commitment and increased defence commitments.
3. Western Desert. Clearing of Eastern Cyrenaica remains our paramount offensive requirement not only for defence of our base area but also to enable us to regain control of sea communications in Eastern Mediterranean. Successful offensive by us must mainly depend on favourable relative tank and air strength. Enemy resources in Libya make it unlikely he can stage large scale offensive against Delta in near future particularly if we retain Tobruk but his strength in A.F.Vs. and potential rate of reinforcement leaves us much leeway to make up before we are in position to launch offensive. In addition to awaiting tank reinforcements essential to allow time to train formations and get used to U.S.A. tank. Enemy air forces in Cyrenaica mainly Italian and admittedly weak at present but is only a matter of few weeks for Germans to switch back from Europe if events there permit. Our air strength steadily increasing and we should soon be in favourable position to support offensive operations particularly if Russian resistance continues and Syrian situation liquidated. We are led to conclusion that shortage of armoured forces may constitute principal brake on early offensive and unless enemy strength develops more slowly than anticipated an offensive into Cyrenaica cannot be undertaken for several months. His strength may however be sapped by increased attacks on L. of C. to and in Libya by naval and air action and depends upon enemy needs elsewhere all efforts being made to increase interference. In planning we will aim at taking offensive whenever favourable opportunity presents itself but at best three months required in order to reorganise train and re-equip one armoured division and one infantry tank brigade.
4. Defensive plan for Western Desert is to hold boxes at Matruh and Bagush and the El Alamein position. Behind this a Delta line is being constructed. Mobile forces to operate

within this framework.

Within this framework. El Alamein has been reconnoitred but defensive works are just starting. Delta defence works nearly complete in some sectors but others will require two to three months more. In short if enemy attack in force within two months land defences and forces available will be on weak side.

5. Principal danger within next two or three months may be intensive air action against Delta with resultant heavy internal security commitment. To meet this threat we should be reasonably well provided with fighters but very weak in A.A. guns.
6. Cyprus. See paragraph 3 of O/75578 of 22/6.
7. Malta. See paragraph 4 of O/75578 of 22/6. Plays vital part in Middle East strategy as base for attacks on enemy L. of C. and staging point for air reinforcements to Middle East. Present comparative lull in Mediterranean offers least unfavourable condition for sending supplies. Ways being examined.
8. Naval. In view of positions of air bases now held by enemy and pending arrival adequate reserves to offset present weakness of fleet naval operations are restricted to that part of Eastern Mediterranean where protection can be provided by shore-based fighters. Interference with enemy sea communications in remainder of Eastern and Central Mediterranean is now being exercised by aircraft and submarines Malta playing most important part as a base. Reinforcements of long range reconnaissance and fighter aircraft and torpedo bombers will enable us to increase the scope of these operations.
9. Operations against Caucasus oil organisations. It seems unlikely that this operation would be carried out so long as Russia is resisting Germany. If Russia collapses the Germans will most probably obtain complete control of the Caucasus oil organisation. They would then provide their own defences perhaps attack our aerodromes in north Iraq and will certainly complete the early occupation of territory in Iraq and Syria from which our bombers can reach Caucasus oil. We should be prepared to bomb Caucasus oil organisation immediately Russian resistance collapses and develop at once our organisation for sabotage in this area.
10. Conference shortly to be held Cairo with representatives from India on plans to deal with German advance via Iran.
11. Please pass to Admiralty and Air Ministry.

0300/3

Received by hand from Air Ministry.
1615/4/7.

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

War Diary.3.7.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Attack on C.S. 15 Understand your force was attacked by drove of own aircraft p.m./2. Request you press for a full enquiry. Do you consider deck identification marks should be introduced. (C. in C. Med. 1059/3 to F.O.C.15 C.S.)

Damaged destroyers.

Your 2223B/20. It is out of the question at present for damaged destroyers to reach Malta. (? JANUS) has been sent to Simonstown so that she will be as near as possible to replacement services. NUBIAN will not be ready to leave (?Suez) before 25/7. Intend she should proceed to Bombay. Request destinations for ILEX now at (?Port Said) expected to be ready for ocean passage about 19/7. Further signal will be made about ISIS.(C. in C. Med. 1101C/3 to Adty.)

PEONY.

HYACINTH

To sail for Famagusta to assist in refloating of HIBISCUS returning to Haifa on completion. (C. in C. Med. 1107?/3 to N.O.I.C. Haifa, N.O.I.C. Haifa 2140/3 to PEONY.) See p. 57.

KAJMAKALAN. DURMITOR.

The C.O's of Yugoslav M.T.B.'s KAJMAKALAN and DURMITOR expressed their desire to work with us. I have therefore sent these M.T.B.'s to operate under orders of C.S. 15. The boats are manned by their own officers and men and have British liaison officers. (C. in C. Med. 1115C/3 to Admty.)

Air attack on CRICKET 30/6.

Good work of South African small ships FLAMINGO and SOUTHERN ISLES each shot down 2 A/C's. (C. in C. Med. 1151C/3) See Lion Copy.

Two 15 knot ships required.

Campaign in M.E. has shown that Army seaborne supplies can only satisfactorily run in fast ships which can take full advantage of dark hours and fighter protection available. Supply to Tobruk is now being carried out by 4 V. destroyers and 6 T.L.C. as experience has shown that running of slow merchant vessels is too expensive in escort ships and fighters without producing satisfactory answer. Can 2 or more ships gross tonnage 1500 to 1000 with speed 15 knots or more be available. Requirement is likely to persist even when Tobruk is relieved as supplies to Beirut or elsewhere will be required by sea. Ships should be commissioned as H.M. Ships. (C. in C. Med. 1155C/3 to Admty.)

/Merchant

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

FROM:- C. in C. Mediterranean

1151C/3rd July
DATE:- 4.7.41.

RECD:- 0926

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME PAD BY CABLE

ADDRESSED:- Admiralty (for 1st S.L.)

AIDAC

Your 0102 B 1st. Yes, this was a fine piece of work by H.M.A.S. PARNAMATTA but such performances are almost daily occurrences amongst little ships of the inshore squadron working on Tobruk run. For instance on 30th June whilst escorting two store ships to Tobruk H.M.S. FLAMINGO and SOUTHERN ISLES sustained several heavy air attacks each shooting down 2 enemy aircraft. Convoy arrived ? (Tobruk) (?safely) and H.M.S. FLAMINGO towed damaged H.M.S. CRICKET to safety during the night.

I have already had occasion to bring to the notice of the Union Government fine work of three South African (?N/S vessels) extending over many serious months and I am forwarding by air mail recommendations for awards which I trust will be speedily and generously dealt with.

1151C/3

Advance copy sent Secretary to 1st S.L.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
Naval Sec.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
O.D.(5)
D.P.S.(2)
O.S.(4)
C.W.(2)
N
M.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
D.P.D.
Mr. Gleadow
I.P.(3)
W.D.
D.T.S.D.

EC

War Diary.3.7.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Merchant Ship in tow. 0906B/3. One Merchant Ship towing another unescorted position 036° 00' 011° 48' Course 10°. Expected to pass west of Pantellaria at dusk. (S.O.(S) Malta 1333B/3 to P.33.)

Glen ships. (1st S.L. 1539B/3) See Mediterranean Volume.

CANADA. High Commissioner, Syria, notifies that CANADA will be alongside Naval Base dock Beirut from 0700 to 1200 local time/4. and will leave Beirut for France at 0800 local time/5.
2. Request you inform R.A.F. (D.O.D.(F) 1556B/3 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Convoy. P.C. and S. of 3 enemy destroyers and 5 enemy M/Vs are 37° 30' N. 12° 0' E. 360° (? speed). (A/C 1612Z/3)

COLBERT.
Supplies for Syria. Report graded B.2. states that Cruiser COLBERT and 2 destroyers left Toulon 29/6 for 15 days. Also report B.3. that French ship DJBEL - NIRA due to leave for Syria 2/7 with guns, ammunition and about 50 officers and men. (D.D.I.C. 1705B/3 to C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A. C.O.I.S. Alexandria.)

R.A.F. Operations. Night 2/3 July. 3 Wellingtons bombed Beirut. 2 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. 1 Wellington bombed Bardia. 2 Wellingtons bombed Elebeda and Derna. (H.Q.M.E. 1928/3)

STROMBO. Report A.2. Italian Tanker STROMBO will leave Istanbul 4/7 for Italy for repairs. (Capt.(S) 1. 1939C/3 to TORBAY, PERSEUS.)

PARTHIAN. Remain within 15 miles of Tripoli (Syria). If necessary to retire you should try and do so to northwards. It is possible Vichy French freighter will arrive at Tripoli (Syria) dawn/4. (C.S.15 1942/3 to PARTHIAN.)

Air Operations. 3/7 11 Sqdn. Blenheims 4 500 lb. bombs S.A.P. on Vichy ship in Chekka Bay. Bombs overshot 100 yards. 20 Sorties fleet protection. R/C Latakia Syrian coast to Beirut for shipping. (H.Q. P.& T.J. 2000/3)

/Air

War Diary.3.7.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Air Attacks
on Tripoli.

R/C's p.m./2 Tripoli Harbour photos show two medium M/V's damaged by Wellington attack previous night, four troopships attacked by Blenheims. My 1.405/30/6 refers not in harbour. A.M./3. R/C Tripoli 6 M.V's outside harbour. One 6000 ton M/V ablaze from last night's attack. A.M. Patrol Cape Bon and West Sicily six medium M/B's four destroyers northbound off East Tunisian Coast. Six miles astern same convoy one small M/V towing another same course. A.M. Patrol Pantelleria Tripoli area small French M/V. Four Blenheims bombed four ships outside Tripoli Harbour. Two 5000 ton ships set on fire confirmed by photographs. Third ship still ablaze. Night July 2/3. As result R/C report medium M/V's lying outside Tripoli harbour, six Swordfish laid mines. Two others dropped two 500 lbs. G.P. bombs amongst M/V's from low height. Ships still outside today were attacked by Blenheims. Meanwhile 7 Wellingtons 148 Sqn. dropped two 1000 lbs. G.P. 1680 lbs. incendiaries on harbour facilities and shipping. Many fires. One ship in harbour set on fire. Photos today show all shipping away from quays and in stream. (H.Q. Malta, 2145/3)

Situation
report 75.

Syria. F.O.C. 7th C.S. in F.O.C. 13th C.S. with PHOEBE and two destroyers have reinforced F.O.C. 15th C.S. for operation off coast. PERTH bombarded heavy battery East of Damur p.m./2 and effectively silenced it. Western Desert. Destroyers running supplies to Mersa Tobruk have now been augmented by A. lighters. Capt. (D)10 reported submarine off Mersa Matruh at 2130/3. Result subsequent hunt not yet known. (C. in C. Med. 2241C/3)

East Indies.W.S.8.B.
W.S.8.X.

Disposal instructions for personnel ships. (D. of S.T., 0126B/3 to P.S.T.O. Egypt) See Lion Copy.

Shatt-el-
Arab.

My 2028/26/6. Iraqi Gunboats have now returned to Basra. (C. in C.E.I. 0504Z/3.)

MAURITIUS.

My 1144/29. Proceed now at 15 knots to position 002° N. 060°E and then to Port Victoria adjust speed to arrive a.m./7 in daylight. Object give cover to shipping. (C. in C.E.I. 0804Z/3 to MAURITIUS.)

/Turn

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 0126B/3rd July. 52A
MOST SECRET MESSAGE OUT.

Date 3.7.41.

To: P.S.T.O. Egypt.
Repeated C. in C. East Indies.
P.S.T.O. Simonstown.
C. in C. South Atlantic.
D.S.T.O. Mombasa.
S.T.O. Durban.
S.T.O. Capetown.
D.S.T.O. Suez.

Naval Cypher A two.

From Director of Sea Transport.

IMPORTANT. Your 1311/26/6 to D.S.T.O. Suez and D. of S.T. only.

Following are disposal instructions for personnel ships of W.S.8.B. and W.S.8.K.

2. GEORGIC, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, ALMANZORA, and ORDUNA are all to return to U.K. as quickly as possible.

3. All ships will load partially in Mombasa. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND will complete in Durban remainder in Capetown. P.S.T.O. Simonstown should concert with Campbell Capetown as to details of programme.

4. Request early report of anticipated date of readiness to sail from Suez of these vessels.

5. In view of the very considerable delays which have occurred recently due to ships returning to U.K. having on board more than the maximum numbers permissible on unescorted sailings it is very undesirable that these maxima should be exceeded. Request very early report of your proposals.

6. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and ALMANZORA require drydocking. P.S.T.O. Simonstown is requested to report whether this can be carried out on return voyage without delaying the vessels unduly.

7. P.S.T.O. Egypt is requested to report as soon as possible as required by my 0338/31/5 paragraph 2.(c). not to all addressees.

0126B/3.

Director of Sea Transport.

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

War Diary.

3.7.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Turn round
of ships in
India.

Your 0945/25. Ministry of War Transport are considering urgently with India Office, measures to be taken. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1701B/3 to F.O.C.R.I.N)

China.

CHENONCEAU.

C.2. French sailors who deserted from CHENONCEAU report 3 bombs are kept ready to sabotage vessel. (C. O. S. Singapore 0837Z/3.)

America and West Indies.

Convoy
Assembly.

Your 1907Z/30. Expected that normally not more than 3 ships from Wabana will require to be included in any one convoy. To avoid delay considered that risk of ships waiting for convoy at Wabana should be accepted for time being unless you are able to berth them in St. Johns. Alternatively ships should be instructed to meet escort outside St. Johns without entering harbour. (D.T.D. 0642B/3 to C.C.N.F.)

~~XXIV~~ BUTTERFLY.
MAGGIO.
LORRAINE.

(i) Italian BUTTERFLY and MAGGIO left Pernambuco together 2130Z/29/6.
(ii) French LORRAINE was due to leave Casablanca 30/6 for Baytown. If intercepted she is to be allowed to proceed. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1039Q/3 to SURCOUF.)

(i) as above (C. in C.A.W.I. 1019Q/3 to DESPATCH, PRINCE DAVID.)

ELBE.
STAD
ARNHEM.

Your 2205/2. ELBE sunk 8.6.41 in 25° 33' N. 38° 47' W. Dates of convoy leaving Freetown and dispersing correct. BARON NAPIER, OBERON, P.L.M.22 were in convoy, but no report has been received of them having been sunk. STAD ARNHEM was intercepted in expected position. Consider no suspicion need be attached to this ship. (D.D.I.C. 1138B/3 to A.L.U.S.N.A.)

N.V.S.Base
Trinidad.

None of the officers mentioned in your 1929B/6/6, and 1600/18/6 have yet arrived and with only two assistants staff is entirely inadequate for dealing with vastly increased traffic. (F.O. Trinidad 1247Q/3 to Admty.)

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Your 0951/2. Whether or not FURIOUS and convoy rendezvous, escort will be provided for ROYAL SOVEREIGN as previously arranged. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1312B/3 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET

53A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2005/3. July.

IN

From C. in C. Far East.

Date. 4.7.41.

Recd. 0115.

CYPHER.

Addressed The War Office, Repeated G.O.C. N.Z. Military Forces, Army H.Q. Melbourne, C. in C. East Indies, C. in C. China.

24702. 417/3 cipher 3/7.

1. A.D.B. progress report. N.E.I. Malaya. Dutch bombs now stored in Singapore and Cocos Island. Erection of accommodation for Dutch Flying Boat crews at Cocos in progress. British bombs shipment to N.E.I. arranged for 9/7. Group commander N.E.I. fighter aircraft witnessed operations room procedure during fighter exercise at Singapore. Officer i/c Rhio observer system visited Singapore. C. in C. Far East visited Sinkawang II and flying boat base Natoena. C. in C. M.E.I. Army and Navy visited Singapore vide C. in C. China to Admiralty No. 749 19/6*. Proposals discussed that British aircraft fly over Rhio to exercise Dutch observer system and to permit direct communication with Singapore when arranging training exercises.

2. Australia-N.E.I. Army. Ambon and Koepang. Reconnaissance party Bde. and Bn. commands left Darwin 20/5. Motor transport and Military Stores will be sent as soon as shipping available. Maintenance party will accompany vehicles and stores travelling as civilians. Arrangements proceeding for mounting two 6" Mark VII guns at Koepang. 15,000,000 rounds S.A.A. Red Label being supplied to N.E.I. 3,000,000 S.A.A. each month to Malaya until further review. Three N.E.I. officers attending course Australian A.F.V. School.

3. Australia-N.E.I. Air. Ambin and Koepang. Works and Signals Recce. completed works in progress. Some accommodation and aerodrome extensions completed. Australian bombs supplied. Development aerodrome Namlea Boero has been requested development forward landing grounds Manado Efman Halmahera also requested.

4. Representatives U.S.A. Malaya N.E.I. Australia completed communications and meteorological conference in Batavia 19/6.

5. New Zealand. Pacific Islands. Two Bns. New Zealand Troops one Coy. Local volunteers established Fiji and four Land Based Recce. Aircraft provided. Tonga. Aerodrome completed. Local natives being trained by New Zealand instructors. Panning. 100 New Zealand Troops stationed including crew for one 6" gun. Preparations to mount gun in progress. Ocean Island. 45 Australian Troops stationed with two 18 pounder guns.

6. U.S.A. U.S. Military observer and N.E.I. Liaison officer to Singapore and staff officers G.H.Q. F.D. visited Manila vide C. in C. F.E. to Troopers 281/3 16/6. Liaison officers U.S.A. and N.E.I. and assistant chief of staff to C. in C. China working as combined planning staff vide A.D.B. para. 35.

/7.

7. Copies of this telegram for U.S.A. and N.E.I. authorities passed to Liaison officers.

2005/3.

* 0245Z/19.

Received from War Office 0431/8. July.

Advance copy Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F), D. of P.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 4th S.L.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F).
 Secretary.
 Naval Secretary.
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 P.A.S.(S).
 D.W.I.(4).
 D.O.D.(F).
 D.D.O.D.(F).
 Duty Capt.
 Head of M.(2).
 D. of P.(2).
 D.D.I.C.
 W.D.
 Ad. Bellairs.
 I.P.(2).

eeb

~~231~~
~~23~~

War Diary.3.7.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.T.C. 12
escort.

R.A.3's 0837/1. Depending on intelligence of enemy dispositions intend MALAYA shall escort T.C.12.

2. If necessary to increase escort REVENGE will be used in addition and the exchange suggested by R.A.3 may then be carried out.

3. Exchange of battleships between Halifax and Iceland (c) entails very considerable A/S escort commitments and it is not intended that they shall take place at frequent intervals.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1352B/3 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

STAD ARNHEM.

As A.L.U.S.N.A. 2205/2 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1722Z/3)

C.I.P.
(French)

My 2320Z/23 shifted to Bay Town 3/7 to load.
(Galveston 1833Z/3)

EVERALDA.

In view of altered situation request instructions regarding Latvian Lithuanian and Estonian ships. EVERALDA now at Trinidad loading bauxite for New Orleans under charter to Alcoa shipping company. F.O. Trinidad requested to detain ship pending instructions. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1932Q/3 to Admty.)

A.M.C.

A.T.1212B/29. One A.M.C. from Halifax Escort Force is required to be at Freetown by 26/7 to replace ARAWA.

2. Suggest CIRCASSIA or DERBYSHIRE. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2020B/3 to R.A.3.)

SURCOUF.

Asking if she can be taken in hand and that Yard for refit might be nominated. (Adty.2135B/3 to B.A.R.M.)

MOST SECRET

MOST MESSAGE

1658Z/3rd July

IN

FROM:- C.N.S. Ottawa

DATE:- 4.7.41.

RECD:- 0714

NAVAL CYPHER X BY CABLE

ADDRESSED:- Admiralty repeated C. in C. Mediterranean

IMPORTANT

Your 1214B/30.

Five Scott Paine 70 ft. M T B's available without armament end July with armament approximately end of August.

Further three with armament mid September. Remaining four next spring. Armament in production consists of Scott Paine 18 inch torpedo tubes for first four 21 inch for remainder all non recoil.

Two twin 0.5 inch colts in deandre power turrets. Two double depth charge chutes and chlorosulphonic smoke apparatus. Twenty 18 inch mark VIII Torpedoes but no 21 inch mark IV torpedoes at present available for M T B's. Both 21 inch and 18 inch torpedoes on order from Admiralty. As trained crews are not available would prefer boats be manned by R.N.

1658Z/3

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)
DT S D
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D. S.
D.T.M.
Hd. of M. Branch (2) (M/PDO 146/41)
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Captain
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
N.I.D.10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson)

War Diary.

3.7.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SACRAMENTO
VALLEY.
(torpedoed
6/6.)

Following 7 survivors picked up by Panamanian
STANVAC* off coast of French Guiana 24/6 and
brought to Aruba. (N.C.S.O. Aruba 1501/3.)
STANVAC CALCUTTA

Submarines Reported.

Am being shadowed in 52° 0' N. 23° 44' W.
(SHROPSHIRE 1242/3)

Estimated U.B. dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1415B/3)

1750 G.M.T.

By D/F bearings 305° 2nd Class. (F.O.C.N.A.
1909A/3 to N.A. Stn.)
By D/F within 40 miles of 47° N. 25° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 2044B/3)

2120B.

Hunting Submarine in position 000 degs. TP DD
25 x 16 sighted on the surface. (Capt.(D)10
2120B/3)

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Bremen last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Attacks
on East
Coast.

S.S. BALFRON was bombed and set on fire at 0030 off Ravenscar.

M/S Trawler AKRANES was bombed and gunned and sunk at about 0015 today off Flamborough Head.

Convoy C.E.40 was bombed at 2343 in 50° 55' N. 1° 5' E. No damage is reported.

Mining.

Operation
B.S.67

PLOVER with HAMBLEDON laid mines last night in the East Coast Barrier. This completes for the present a series of minelaying operations to reinforce the Barrier.

M.V. GOLDFINCH was damaged by mine at 0330B today off St. Bees and was towed to Whitehaven.

S.S. LUNAN was sunk today in 51° 26'45" N. 3° 10'21" W. The wreck obstructed the River Ely which was closed.

Belgian trawler O.265 hauled a mine in her trawl this morning off Berry Head, but the vessel was not damaged when the mine exploded.

South Atlantic.

Takoradi.

The port was opened today to traffic from all ports.

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Heavy
bombers.

The lines on which the Defence Committee consider our heavy bomber effort in the Mediterranean should be conducted were indicated today.

S/M
Operations.

SEVERN reports that on 28/6 she sank S.S. POLINNIA bound for Cagliari in 40° 5' N. 12° 8' E. and a southbound 8000 ton ship similar to LEME in the Gulf of Orozoi, Sardinia. The violence of the explosion of the latter indicated that the ship was carrying ammunition.

UTMOST on 24/6 landed a party which blew up the railway line on the west Calabrian coast.

At 1350/25/6 UTMOST sank a 6000 ton westbound merchant vessel in 38° 7' N. 14° 37' E.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

9 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night and report a probable hit on a ship alongside. 6 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli.

Tobruk was heavily dive bombed p.m. today. No naval damage was caused and 3 or probably 4 of the enemy were shot down.

SAINT
DIDIER
sunk.

Vichy French SAINT DIDIER, believed to be making for Tripoli (Syria), was attacked by our aircraft during the day off Cape Khelidonia without success. At 1810/4 she was torpedoed and sunk by Naval aircraft in Adalia Roads. The ship was disguised as Turkish. One torpedo missed the target and struck the wharf, sinking 2 fishing boats and possibly causing casualties to the local inhabitants.

HYACINTH

HYACINTH grounded 4 miles south of Famagusta 1/7. She was unsuccessfully attacked p.m. today by torpedo and bombing aircraft. Three or four aircraft also attacked shipping in Famagusta.

Cyprus.

There were 5 enemy air raids on Cyprus today, three of them on Famagusta harbour where no damage was caused, however.

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean Contd.

Palestine
& Syria.

2 Wellingtons bombed Beirut docks last night.

Two Yugo-Slav M.T.B's are now operating from Haifa.

Information has been received by the Air Ministry from various sources, that the Vichy French Air Force in Syria continues to be reinforced from France and North Africa.

America and West Indies.

MALAYA, the first of H.M. Ships to have action damage repairs in U.S. Yards is now ready for sea.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. AUDITOR dispersed from O.B.337 was torpedoed early this morning in 25° 47' N. 28° 25' W. (doubtful position)

4.7.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Drifters for
Iceland (c).

15 additional drifters are required request some may be sent at once. (N.O.I.C. Iceland (C) 1023/4).

Destroyers
for Medn.

NESTOR, JUPITER and it is understood HEYTHROP are all due to proceed to Mediterranean, NESTOR, JUPITER sailing from Clyde about 12/7. Consider these ships should be fitted with Oerlikons before sailing if possible. (R.A.D. (H.F) 1230B/4 to Adty.)

S/M
transports
to Medn.

My 1902/7/4. Propose to equip a second PORPOISE class submarine for additional transport of liquid cargo. (F.O.S. 1544B/4 to Adty.)

Holyhead
A/P.

My 1754B/23/6. If withdrawal of patrol is approved will propose certain reallocations for other duties within the command shortly. (C. in C. W.A. 1714B/4 to Adty.)

→ FURIOUS.

On return to U.K. FURIOUS will be employed as an operational carrier under the orders of C. in C. H.F. The following squadrons will be embarked. Arrangements are being made for the necessary stores to be supplied on arrival. (V.C.N.S. 1921B/4 to C. in C. H.F).

Defence of U.K.

Iceland
Staff.

Admiralty 0035B/29. Consider staff should be as follows. (A.C.I.C. 0917/4).

Movements.

→ FURIOUS,
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN,
escort.

VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA, PIORUN and WOLVERINE are to be sailed as convenient to meet FURIOUS (escorted by LEGION and LANCE) and ROYAL SOVEREIGN from Bermuda in 045° 00' N. 025° 00' W. at 1100Z/8 (C. in C. W.A. 1236B/4 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

PRINCE
LEOPOLD
PRINCE
PHILLIPE.

Cancel my 2349B/2. ^{Sub. 13.} (D.O.D. (H) 1312B/4 to C. in C. W.A).
Adty. 1312B/4. ^{H.T. & W.D.} Cancel my 1526B/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1627B/4 to F.O.I.C. Belfast and Greenock).

TUNA
TIGRIS.

(a) Arrangements for sailing TUNA at 1100B/7 to patrol in Bay of Biscay South, and TIGRIS to Clyde. Escort for both LA CAPRICIEUSE. (Capt. (S) 3 1605B/4).

War Diary.4.7.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation
D.N.

My 2332B/2. Request bomber co-operation. Anticipate Naval force will be in entrance to leads off Stadlandet at 0100/6. Bomber attack on aerodromes near Stavanger and Trondhjem when enemy bombers are taking off to attack would add to security of Naval force and increase diversionary effect of the operation. (C. in C. H.F. 1147B/4 to Adty.).

Your 2332B/2. Intend

(i) To pass Hoxa Boom at 0700B/5 proceeding West of Shetlands and through

(a) 062° 15' N. 000° 15' E. to

(b) 062° 15' N. 004° 40' E arriving 0100B/6.

(ii) Destroyers then to be detached. First divn., BEDOUIN and PUNJABI to sweep towards Silde Gabet and 2nd divn., TARTAR and ECLIPSE towards Vanelv Gabet.

(iii) NIGERIA and CURACOA to remain near position

(b) until 0230B/6 by which time destroyers are to rejoin. Force will then withdraw.

(iv) Weather permitting NIGERIA's aircraft will be flown off to attack shipping in the (?Fiords) to north and south of Stadlandet during sweep.

(v) Withdrawal to be made along parallel of 062° 15' N. passing meridian of 004° E. at about 0315B/6 and 002° E. at about 0530B/6. S. of A. 25 knots. (C.S.10 1327B/4 to C. in C.H.F).

F.O.C. 10 C.S.'s 1327B/4. Request long range fighters may be held in readiness during outward passage and that long range fighter escort may be provided during withdrawal from position B. (C. in C. H.F. 1703B/4 to C. in C. Rosyth).

C.S.10's 1327B/4. Request A/S Air Escort from 0900/5 to 1600/5 to prevent force being sighted. (C. in C. H.F. 1709B/4 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Your 1147B/4. Regret neither Bomber nor Coastal Command are able to assist in the manner you suggest. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2257B/4 to C. in C. H.F). C. in C. H.F.'s 1703/4/7 and 1709/4/7. Three Sorties of three, two and two Blenheims respectively -will escort force on return journey commencing 0230/6. A/S air escort will be provided 5/7 by Whitley A/C. (C. in C. Rosyth 2356/4 to C.S.10).

U-boat
routes
P.31.

Routes taken by U-boats. Suggest P.31 should patrol at point off Fuglo. Coastal Command is aware of above intelligence. (F.O.S. 1519B/4 to A.C.O.S) See Lion Copy.

/S/M.....

SECRET
From:- F.O.S.

MESSAGE

1519B/1 July
Date 4/7/41
Recd. 1530.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed A.C.O.S. repeated C. in C. Home Fleet, H.Q.C.C.,
S.9.P 31.

514. My 1109B/3 not to H.Q.C.C. After consultation with Admiralty to-day I find that available intelligence indicates
- A. Commerce Raiding U Boats probably cross the North Sea from East to West along a funnel roughly enclosed by following positions.
61 degs North 2 degs East
63 Degs 27 mins North 6 degs West
62 Degs 32 mins North 6 degs West.
It is probable that some Westbound U Boats make Fuglo (62 Degs 21 mins North 5 degs 16 mins West) before negotiating the ~~Faroes~~ Iceland(C) passage.
 - B. The passage South of the Faeroes is occasionally used by Commerce Raiding U Boats but only when Eastbound.
 - C. The recent reports in vicinity of Sule Skerry have been of 250 ton U boats.
On diving Patrol
 - D. In these circumstances I suggest that in the first instance P31 should patrol at visibility distance from Fuglo in the sector between North and East from it. P 31 subsequent movements to be made on air reconnaissance reports
 - E. Coastal Command is aware of the above intelligence
 - F. Request you will operate P 31 as you desire during this patrol.

1519B/4

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

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

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations-Contd.

S/M patrol west of Shetlands.

F.O.S. 1109/3. I consider a submarine on patrol to the westward of the Shetlands would prove a serious embarrassment. The identity of any submarine reported in this area would frequently be in doubt and it would be necessary to place undesirable restrictions on aircraft and A/S craft. Suggest a submarine on patrol to the N.E. of Muckle Flugga would have equal chances of success and would not restrict A/S activities in the same way. (C. in C. H.F. 1539B/4 to A.C.O.S.) My 1539B/4. I concur with F.O.S. 1519B/4 para (D) (C. in C. H.F. 2209B/4 to A.C.O.S.).

U.S. Identification Signals.

Adty. 1818B/22/6. U.S. Identification signals 11/7 - 20/7. (D.S.D. 1829B/4).

British Air Operations.

Searches and Patrols.

Following Air Searches will be flown today.
1. Search by three Hudson A/C between 0400 and 1000 of area C.F.L.J. 0000: C.F.K.G. 0000: G.F.L.J. 0000: G.F.K.G. 0000.
2. By Whitley A/C with A.S.V. for 24 hours from first light of area T.V.E.G. 0030: H.V.E.G. 3030: T.V.T.E. 0000: H.V.T.E. 3000. (C. in C. Rosyth 0150-/4).
Following patrols are being flown to reach Norwegian Coast at noon/4. ~~PROB, SALS, SALS.~~
(C. in C. Rosyth 1028/4).
P.R.U. R/C of Bergen Stavanger and Kristiansand South now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1425/4).

Operation "Nomad".

Up to four A/C to carry out operation tonight 4/5 July in area Borkum to Walcheren. Ships at sea only to be attacked. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1200/4 to Bircham Newton (R) H.Q.C.C).

Operation "WANDER". ^{"wander"} ~~WANDER~~ wander.

(C) Carry out operation ~~WANDER~~ tonight with two A/C of 59 Squadron. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1206/4).

Operation "Roam".

Carry out operation ^{"Roam"} ~~ROAM~~ tonight with 3 A/C of 22 Squadron. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1212/4 to Thorney I.)

Bombing Restrictions.

S.7's 0951B/3. Request T.B.R. may be instituted in a circle with a ten mile limit radius round 057° N. 011° W. from daylight 8/7 until further notice. (C. in C. W.A. 1240B/4 to H.Q.F.C).

/Attack.....

War Diary,

4.7.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.-Contd.

Attack
on Bremen.

23 Wellingtons and 11 Hampdens dropped their bombs on Bremen town and only 3 Hampdens identified the shipbuilding yards and attacked them. A fire and explosions were seen here. (H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 1414/4).

804 Sqn.

In the event of second degree readiness for invasion being ordered propose that disembarked portion of 804 squadron should be placed under orders of R.A.F. Northern Ireland. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1729B/4 to C. in C. W.A).

Strike.

3 Beauforts have taken off to attack ships reported in A/C B235 1233/4. (C. in C. Rosyth 1808/4).

Enemy Air Operations.

AKRANES
sunk.

(M/S Trawler) Bombed and sunk in Bridlington Bay at 0015/4 approx. No casualties. (F.O. Humber 0109B/4).
My 0109B/4. AKRANES was attacked at 0004/4 in position 221° Flamborough Head L/H 1.6. miles. 2 bombs missed probably did no damage. Aircraft then opened fire with cannon and appeared to have holed the ship below the water line. Attempt was made to beach her she finally sank at about 0030 in position approx. 229° Flamboro Head Light house 1.5 miles no casualties. (F.O. Humber 1528/4).

BALFRON.
(British,
362 Tons)
sunk.

Bombed and set on fire 038° 3 1/2 miles Ravenscar at 0030. 8 survivors. 3 injured. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0450/4).
My 0450/4. S.S. BALFRON reported sunk approx. in position named. Survivors now reported as being seven in number with four missing considered dead by survivors. Names. Ship was sailing independently. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0655/4).

MALVERNIAN.
(Bombed 1/7)

Your 2352B/3. 052° 45' N. 017° 50' W. course 189 S. of A. 13 1/2. (PERIWINKLE 0500B/4 to C. in C. W.A.). See p. 44.

C.E.40.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ^{"Bacon"} BOOON. My position 50° 55' N. 1° 5' E. C. 047° S. 7. (BERKELEY 2343/4) Fighters are being sent to assist. (Dover P.W.G. 2353/4 to BERKELEY, COTTESMORE).

War Diary.

4.7.1941. 63
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation
B.S. 67.

Operation B.S. 67 completed. (PLOVER 0735B/4).

B.S.
Operations.

The efficiency and accuracy with which the recent B.S. operations have been carried out reflect great credit on all concerned in PLOVER. (C. in C. More 1003B/4 to PLOVER).

Operation
S.N. 67A.

Propose to sail for operations S.N. 67 A. with 3 minelayers at 0530/8 and lay between (positions) a.m./9. 2 of 17th Divn. Destroyers are available request one additional destroyer. (R.A.M. 1109/4 to Adty., C. in C. H.F).

LUNAN.

(British, 363 tons) Sunk in 51° 26' 48" N. 3° 10' 24" W. Traffic in the River Ely suspended. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1210/4).

Danger
Area.

Enemy minelaying suspected near 52° 31' N. 4° 47.30' W. and 52° 22' N. 4° 50' W. Shipping to give clear berth of 1 mile. (C. in C. W.A. 1235B/4 to F.O. and N.O.I.C., W.A).

River
Crouch.

S.A. 'L.L.' Drifter detonated 2 green mines at 1012/4 one cable and two cables outside boom, River Crouch. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1527B/4).

→ ROSME.

At 1330/3 in approx. 51° 32. 9' N. 1° 4.2' E. Auxiliary Barge ROSME was mined and sunk. Crew picked up. ROSME was under sail at the time. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1548B/4).

Air Attack
on O.G. 66
1/7.

SCARBOROUGH's 1100B/1. On arrival of SCARBOROUGH and O.G. 66 request you will investigate and report, as to probability of parachute mines having been dropped. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1718B/4 to F.O.C.N.A).

Spurn
Point.

The following nine mines exploded today by Sweepers. Details. (F.O. Eumber 1820B/4).

GOLDFINCH
(Motor Ship,
454 Tons).
damaged.

At 0330/4, 250° St. Bees Head 10 miles, mined and damaged. Details. (R.N.O. Whitehaven 2305/4).

→ ROSME
sunk.

(Sailing Barge) Mined and sunk in Barrow Deep at 1330/3. Crew landed at Harwich. (D.S. 669).

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

FURIOUS.

Admty. 1040B/1. Following damage caused by fire needs making good. (FURIOUS 1457A/4).

Shipping and Convoys.

JELlicoe
ROSE.

Have waited 40 minutes at B.1 buoy for JELlicoe ROSE who was 1 miles astern at B.5. Remainder F.S. convoy 50 have arrived. Intend to anchor north of A.M. Q.Z.S. 212 as visibility is deteriorating. (COTSWOLD 0110B/4 to C. in C. Nore.).

S.C. 54.

Congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. all the ships of S.C. 54. (C. in C. W.A. 0127B/4 to Cdre. A.J. Baxter R.N.R.).

H.X. 154.

When escorts have met H.X. 154 and S.C. 55 detach 2 Destroyers of 4th Group to reinforce escort of H.X. 154. (C. in C. W.A. 1252B/4 to BOADICEA).

F.N. and
E.C. Convoys.

Forecast of sailings to 22/7. (C. in C. Rosyth ~~2105/4~~ See Lion Copy.
1203/4)

S.L. 77.

Congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. all the ships of S.L. 77; (C. in C. W.A. 2127/4 to R.A. W.B. Mackenzie.).

S.S. OREGON.

S.S. OREGON in O.B. 540 developed engine defect and had dropped 40 miles astern of convoy by 2500/5. HAVELock reported insufficient endurance for convoy to wait. OREGON is therefore proceeding to Iceland escorted by NOTTS COUNTY at 5 knots. (BULLDOG 2212Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

64A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1203/4th July.

IN.

Date 4.7.41.
Recd. 1622

From - C. in C. Rosyth.

CORRECTION.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty C. in C. Nore. Ships employed on East Coast Convoy duty, Fighter Command, Coastal Command, 11, 12 and 13 groups.

NOT W/T. CONVOY MESSAGE.

655.

My 1135/26/5. Delete reference to Northbound sailings. Forecast of Northbound sailings until July 22nd is as follows.

Monday 7th	F.N. 490	(F)
Tuesday 8th	E.C. 43	(S)
Thursday 10th	E.C. 44	(M)
Friday 11th	F.N. 491	(F)
Saturday 13th	F.N. 492	(S)
Sunday 13th	E.C. 45	(S)
Monday 14th	F.N. 493	(F)
Tuesday 15th	E.C. 46	(S)
Thursday 17th	F.N. 494	(M)
Friday 18th	E.C. 47	(F)
Saturday 19th	F.N. 495	(S)
Sunday 20th	E.C. 48	(M)
Monday 21st	F.N. 496	(F)
Tuesday 22nd	E.C. 49	(S)

Timetable as in my 1130/26/5. Fighter Command Pass to 11, 12 and 13 groups.

1203/4'

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

Advance copy sent Ops
Trade.

Lim

War Diary.4.7.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Intercepted
French
Ships.

Action to be taken to prevent recapture by French (Adty. 0130B/4) See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic.Convoy.

Sighted 3 large merchant ships and trawler escorting dimly lit showing no colour P.C. and S. 038° 38' N. 009° 42' W. 170° 8 knots. (LOCH OSKAIG 0200B/4 to F.O.C.N.A.).

EDINBURGH.Your 2254A/3. Submarine situation does not permit of EDINBURGH being used for this service and she should comply with my 1314B/3. (V.C.N.S. 1041/4 to F.O.C.N.A.). *See p. 42*
Informing her of enemy ships which may be encountered. (F.O.C.N.A. 1602A/4 to EDINBURGH). See Lion Copy.HERMIONE.E.T.A. 1700A unless further delayed by fog. (HERMIONE 1050A/4). *See also p. 66*DEPTFORD.
CLYDE.

Orders to R/V CLYDE and escort her to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1133/4 to DEPTFORD.)

S.S.
PEEBLES.

Your 1838B/3. Master anticipates being able to maintain 8 knots. Am I to hold her to join convoy or sail independently. Ready for sea tonight. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1150/4 to Adty.).

GROUIN
DU COU.

Have parted company with GROUIN DU COU and arrive at Gibraltar about 2000A/5. (SCOTTISH 1205A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.).

FURIOUS
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Re. Adty. 1041/4. Intend to sail FURIOUS, SCYTHIA, CAMERONIA, escorted by HERMIONE, LANCE, LEGION, FURY, *(?WISHART) 2200A/4, to R/V with ROYAL SOVEREIGN in (position) (time) S. of A. 14 knots. You are to comply with 1314B/3 from Adty. further signal will be made regarding your return route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1222A/4 to C.S.18).

** Sailed - See p. 65-*

/F.O.C.N.A.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

0130B/4th July

TO:- S.O., Force H 229 B3
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 341
 C. in C. America and West Indies 67
 C. in C. Home Fleet 532 DATE:- 4.7.41.
 S.O.W.P.
 C. in C. Western Approaches 710
 C. in C. South Atlantic 308
 C. in C. East Indies 945
 C. in C. China 273
 C. in C. Mediterranean 459 B5
 R.A.S.A.D. 203
 Australian Commonwealth Naval Board 413
 New Zealand Naval Board 302

NAVAL CYPHER (D)(20)

FROM:- Admiralty

The French Admiralty's orders to merchant ships which are in danger of capture are set out in Admiralty Telegram 1420/22/4. Intercepted ships have recently been recaptured by the French, sometimes with British armed guards on board.

In view of these developments, the following action is to be taken to prevent recapture:-

(a) - Intercepted ships are to be routed into port with due regard to the possibility of recapture, particular vigilance being exercised if the merchant ship has reported the interception by wireless. When there is a risk of interception, escort should be provided so far as circumstances permit. Report of interception and route of prize should be signalled unless there are very special reasons for preserving W/T silence.

(b) In the event of an essential part of the machinery having been damaged or dismantled, and no spare being discovered on board, the French ship should be sunk if, in all the circumstances, it is considered that there is no reasonable chance of bringing the ship into a British or allied port.

(c) When a British warship is escorting a captured ship into port and a decisively superior French force intervenes, the merchant ship should be sunk to prevent its recapture.

(d) Similarly if, when a captured ship is being sent in, under armed guard, recapture appears imminent, the ship should be scuttled, a Distress Message in accordance with normal Merchant Ship procedure being sent out when intercepted.

(e) So far as they are applicable the instructions in (a), (c) and (d) should also be followed in regard to captured ships that have already been taken over by British reputation British crews.

3. Authority to sink a captured ship is in all cases dependant on the crew, passengers and ship's papers having been first removed or their safety assured. For this purpose, the ship's boats are not regarded as a place of

safety/.

safety unless the safety of the passengers and crew is assured, in the existing sea and weather conditions, by the proximity of land, or the presence of another vessel which is in a position to take them on board.

0130B/4

for Hd. of M. (86)
Approved by 1st Lord

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.N.I. (4)
D.D.I.C.
D.N.A.D.
D.S.D. 9.
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
W.D.
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.E.W.D.
Duty Captain
Hd. of M. for F.O. W.C.O. M.W.T. M.E.W.
D. of P. (2)
D.T.S.D.
I.P. (2)
Admiral Chalmers
N.I.D. 10. Pay Cdr. Wilson

EG

M E S S A G ESECRET.

1602A/4th July. IN.

From: - F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date: - 4/7/41

Recd: - 2120

NAVAL CYPHER (C) by W/T.

Addressed: - H.M.S. EDINBURGH.

IMPORTANT.

Following may be encountered making French Bay of Biscay port: - (?category) raider "C" vide photograph in W I R 45 and supplement W I R 64. Description: typical cargo liner 8/9000 tons, raked bow, cruiser stern, two heavy masts and big funnel, large bridge structure with wide gap between it and funnel, and unbroken line from forecastle head to bridge.

(2) Enemy merchant vessel disguised as Dutch merchant vessel.

(3) A possible German supply ship.

Two. On June 25th in position 037 degrees 26' North 043 degrees 07' West and again following morning in position 038 degrees 00' North 039 degrees 00' West a suspicious merchant vessel of about six thousand tons was sighted. It appeared to be Norwegian, but so far no British or Allied ship was in this area at the time.

1602A/4

Advance Copy sent to Ops, O.D, O.I.C, D.of P. Passed to F.O.(S)

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)

D.T.D. (C)

O.I.C. (3)

D.of P. (3)

D.S.D. 9.

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (3)

W.D.

D.P.D.

D.S.D. (2)

M. (2)

E.P.S.

lin

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

66

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

FURIOUS
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.
-Contd.

F.O.C.N.A. 1222/A/4 and C. in C. W.A. 1236B/4.
To avoid estimated U-boat dispositions R/V is to be amended to 46° N. 28° W. at 1500Z/8.
2. FURIOUS and transports are to pass through 44° N. 28° 30' W. to the new R/V.
3. C. in C. W.A. to arrange for A/S escort to meet in new R/V and to signal inward route. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2337B/4 to F.O.C.N.A, C. in C. W.A., FURIOUS, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, C.S.18).

HERMIONE.
FURIOUS.

Intend sailing HERMIONE with FURIOUS. HERMIONE E.T.A. Gibraltar 1700/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 1254A/4 to Adty.).

S/M Operations F.O.C.N.A. 1336A/4. See Mediterranean.

O.21.

Orders to leave on (?) patrol at 2000A/6 for Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1408A/4 to O.21).

Vichy
French
Convoy.

At 1900 3/7 off Cape Carvoeiro, warship and 5 M/Vs. course S.W. 6 knots.
From 0840 to 0930 4/7 heavy firing south S.W. Sagres. (N.A. Lisbon 1509/4 to Adty.).

DAO.
VULCAN.

On night 2/7 2 Unknown S/M's followed fishing boat from Island of Porto Santo to Lighthouse of San Lourenco Madeira. Leave 7/7 to exercise off Sezimbra returning 10/7. (N.A. Lisbon 1608/4 to Admty.).

GOS III.

Departure 1600A/4 for Freetown. Route E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1632B/4 to Admty.).

Enemy
Unit.

By D/F on 7760 kc/s at 1410/4 G.M.T. unknown enemy unit, probable surface unit bore from Lands End 216°. Consider unit probably between 42° 00' N. and 45° 00' N. (D.D.I.C. 1716B/4 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, O.21, H.Q.C.C. SEALION, TIGRIS, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F).

/MALVERNIAN.....

4.7.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

MALVERNIAN.

Request position in which LEGION picked up survivors from MALVERNIAN may be signalled and whether news of survivors unaccounted for can be given. (C. in C. W.A. 1955B/4 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1955B/4 LEGION reports survivors were transferred directly from SCARBOROUGH. MALVERNIAN bombed in 047° 37' N. 019° 07' W. 2 boats were standing by ship which was still afloat when third boat was detached. She was picked up by SCARBOROUGH in 047° 50' 018° 50' (F.O.C.N.A. 2239A/4 to C. in C.W.A.).

NYASSA.

(Portuguese) has been intercepted and diverted to Gibraltar for control. (F.O.C.N.A. 2016/4 to N.A. Lisbon).

South Atlantic.

DESIRADE
(French).

Arrived Capetown 3/7. (Capetown, 0845B/4).

WILLMOTO

Overdue shipping. WILLMOTO departure New York 25/5 for Capetown not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0858B/4).

BENDORAN
PANDIAS.

Overdue shipping cancel my 1058/3. BENDORAN arrived Capetown. PANDIAS due Capetown 30/6 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0917 /4).

Raiders.

Your 1310B/7. (W.D. Note. 1308B/1 to F.O.C.N.A. evidently intended). Request list of raiders' names with corresponding numbers and letters sometimes used in Adty. messages CANBERRA'S 1740/5/3 states Captain joined No. 16 about 13/2. Your 1748/21/5 suggests ZAMZAM attacked by No. 46. W.I.R. No. 45 emphasises difficulty of visual recognition. Value of periodical precautions would be increased if reliability were graded. (C. in C. S.A. 1031N/4 to Adty.).

Enemy
M/V's.

Admty. 1900/2. Make what arrangements you consider necessary. Regret cannot give any further assistance with ships. (C. in C. S.A. 1405N/4, to R.A.S.A.D).

/CARNARVON.....

War Diary.

4.7.1941. 68
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

→ CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Unless Rio de Janeiro indicates that any Axis ships are likely to sail from your Area, or there are signs of other enemy activity, CARNARVON CASTLE on leaving Rio de Janeiro 5/7 is to proceed with despatch to L.31 and watch for enemy ships leaving Quequen and Mardelplata. (R.A.S.A.D. 1425-Z/4 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

Raider
methods.

Information obtained from an intercepted German raider. (C. in C. S.A. 1545N/4) See Lion Copy.

MANGKALIHAT.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 0958/2 July. MANGKALIHAT arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1601B/4).

KINGSTON
HILL.

U.S.S. ALABAMAN arriving Cape Town a.m./5 reports having 32 survivors of KINGSTON HILL. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1645B/4).

STAD
ARNHEM.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1722/3. STAD ARNHEM Master W.G. Deneef sailed in S.L. 78 from Freetown 19/6. Convoy was attacked on night 26/6 as stated. (C. in C. S.A. 1829N/4 to Admty.).

SINFRA.

Vichy ship SINFRA is expected to sail from Lome westbound between 5th and 10th July unescorted. (C. in C. S.A. 2035N/4 to MILFORD, GARDENIA, MARGUERITE, ANCHUSA).

ESCOLANO.

As Adty 0020B/2. (C. in C. S.A. 2111N/4 to S.A. Stn.).

→ CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Unless Rio de Janeiro indicates that any Axis ships are likely (? in) (corrupt group) area, or there are signs of other enemy activity, CARNARVON CASTLE on leaving Rio de Janeiro 5/7 is to proceed with despatch to L. 31 and watch for enemy ships leaving Quequen and Mardelplata. N.A. Rio de Janeiro pass to CARNARVON CASTLE. (R.A.S.A.D. 2210Z/4 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE 1545N/4 July IN.

From: C. in C. South Atlantic Date: 5.7.41.

Recd: 0055

Naval Code J by W/T.

Addressed: S.A.S. Squadron.

Following information as to method of attack and evasion was obtained from a German armed merchant raider intercepted and destroyed in May 1941.

1. After an attack raider steamed away from position of attack for 24 hours at best speed then sent up her aircraft.
2. While searching for victims raider cruises at very slow speed frequently stopping for several hours
3. On locating a vessel raider follows throughout night attacking at first light.
4. If victim had made raider report raider would only remain in the vicinity of attack for from one to three hours. If no report made long enough to embark stores.

1545N/4

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

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

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Haifa and
Cyprus.
Aux. Yacht
torpedoed.

Night 2/3 July. Vichy aircraft bombed Haifa. Damage unknown. 1 Vichy Glenn Martin shot down by A.A. fire. Cyprus. 2/7. 8 unidentified aircraft dropped about 50 bombs south east of Paphos. Telephone wires cut. 3/7. 1 Swordfish F.A.A. torpedoed auxiliary yacht in harbour at Castel Orizzo. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1043/4).

CANADA.

French Hospital ship CANADA will be alongside naval base dock Beirut from 0700/4 to 1200/4 and will leave Beirut for France at 0800/5. If encountered she is not to be interfered with. -(C. in C. Med. 1138C/4 to Med. Fleet, 2200C/4 to S/M's on patrol).

Syria.

French intentions concerning reinforcements. (C. in C, Med. 1208C/4 to C.S.15) See Lion Copy.

Haifa Raid,
Vichy A/C
Destroyed.

Ref. CAFO 587/40. Para. 4. Air raid on Haifa 2/7. Probably 5 planes. 2255 to 2355. Four H.E. bombs reported, slight damage to civilian property. H.M. Ships opened fire during attack. One Vichy Glen Martin shot down into sea. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1221/4 to C. in C. Med.).

ROVER.

Details of programme. (C. in C. Med. 1226C/4 to C. in C. E.I) (Amended, see 1241C/5).

S.S. POLINDIA
sunk;

SEVERN reports unsuccessful attack on escorted merchant vessel off Palermo 20/6, and southbound Italian S/M ARGONAUTA class off Naples 22/6. She sank S.S. POLINDIA 1592 tons bound to Cagliari laden with wood in 040° N. 05' 012° 08' E. and southbound 8000 ton ship similar to LEME in Gulf of Orosei Sardinia on (? 28th) June. Violence of explosion possibly indicates ship carrying ammunition. A/S and (? air) activity again very slight throughout patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 1336A/4 to C. in C. Med.).

/S/M.....

69A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET ~~SECRET~~ 208c/4 July

From. C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 5.7.41.
Time. 0900.

R.A.F. CYPHER W/T

SYRIA - French Intentions.

Addressed. C.S.15. Repeated. B.S. One., C.S. Seven.,
A.O. C. in C. Middle East., A.O.C. R.A.F. Palestine &
Transjordan., H.Q. 201 Group., N.O.I.C. Malta.,
C. in C. Middle East.

Most Secret. We have many reports from varied and sometimes conflicting sources regarding French intentions concerning reinforcements in Syria.

2. Known facts are (a) the 3 Valmy's have gone to Salonika (b) there are numerous transport aircraft at Eleusis (c) THEOPHILE GAUTIER, ST. DIDIER and OUED QUEM are available.

3. Probabilities are (a) ST. DIDIER and OUED QUEM trying to sneak along Turkish coast to Tripoli or Takia (b) The Valmy's will try to return shortly either independently carrying stores or with a convoy (c) further reinforcement will also take place by air.

5. Possibilities exist that more substantial reinforcements may be being attempted by convoy from west Mediterranean via an Aegean port. Possibly escorted by cruiser but unlikely to be in great strength.

5. (iii) (a) Is being dealt with by 201 group with air reconnaissance and striking force which should be fully adequate.

(iii) (b) Is being dealt with also by 201 group by Aegean and other reconnaissance west of Cyprus but cannot be considered fully watertight against the destroyers at high speed. Effort is being made to establish reconnaissance south of Cyprus.

6. As regards paragraph (4) we must rely on such reconnaissance as Malta can produce or information from other sources. The importance of action against the Tripoli Africa is such as to render unjustifiable any extensive diversion of Malta resources (?to) guard against a possible Vichy convoy.

7. You must therefore concert with Palestine and Transjordan for early notice of arrival on Syrian coast and energetic joint action should this arrival occur without warning despite our precautions.

1208c/4

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

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.N.I. (4) | E.P.S. |
| 1st S.L. | D.N.A.D. | D.T.D. |
| 4th S.L. | D. A/S W. | N.I.D.10 (Pay. Cdr. |
| 5th S.L. | D. of L.D. | Wilson) |
| W.C.N.S. | I.P (2) | Admiral Bellairs. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | W.D. | Admiral Chalmers. |
| A.C.N.S. (T) | Duty Capt. | |
| H.A. 1st S.L. | Head of M. | |
| D. of P. (2) | D.T.S.D. | |
| D.O.D. (F) | D.D.I.C. | |
| D.D.O.D. (F) | | |

EN

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

S/M
Operations.
Cruiser
sunk.
A.M.C.
torpedoed.

UNIQUE reports sighting hospital ship VIRGILIO off Cape Spartevento 1/7, she was zigzagging drastically. UPRIGHT and UNION report blank. -UTMOST reports at 0245/24/6 made landing on Western Calabrian coast lat. 059° 10', charge laid in Q tunnel. Heavy freight train passing hourly. Charge failed to detonate under train, so line was blown up using Bickford's fuse. At 1350/25/6 in 038° 24' 015° 28' sighted expected convoy of four escorted liners southbound, they passed out of range to westward. 1200/26/6 fired two torpedoes at 6,000 ton westbound M.V. in 038° 07' 014° 37' one hit but ship did not sink -Third torpedo fired ship sank. At 0001/28 in 038° 05' 014° 07' effected landing to blow up train but shouting of sentry ashore stopped party. 1410/28/6 three 6 inch cruisers escorted by 5 destroyers sighted steering 150° in 038° 15' 013° 35', enemy passed out of range. URGE reports at 0157/28/6 train observed to be blown up in tunnel three miles north of Taormina. At 0914/29/6 in 037° 55' 015° 35' two 8 inch cruisers escorted by four destroyers northbound 24 knots attacked at five thousand yards with salvo one mark four and three mark eight. Two hit at exactly correct interval, very heavy explosion after first hit considered magazine blown up. Immediate counter attack of 64 depth charges no damage. Cruisers considered to be GORIZIA and BOLZANO, two mark eight hit leading cruiser considered sunk. At 1410/2 in 037° 48' 015° 21' fired ? from torpedoes at 9,000 ton northbound A.M.C. escorting 4,000 ton freighter in ballast. A.M.C. zigzagging under constant helm. One hit forward and A.M.C. observed stop zigzagging and continue North at eight knots. (S.O. S/M's Malta 1350B/4 to S.1, V.A. Malta 1326B/4 to Adty.) GORIZIA claimed still afloat in Rome broadcasts. URGE's cruiser may have been BOLZANO. (D.S. 672, 8/7).

C. in C.
M.E.

Gen. Auchinleck takes over Command M.E. from Gen. Wavell at 0300 hours G.M.T. Saturday 5/7. (C. in C. M.E. 1352/4 to WarOffice).

Enemy
M.V.

Position of enemy merchant vessel is 213 Antalya. (FORMIDABLES A/C 1435/4).

Heavy
bombers.

Policy recommended by Chiefs of Staff. (1st S.L. 1505B/4) See Mediterranean Volume.

/SAINT.....

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

SAINT
DIDIER.

S. DIDIER was attacked by British Aircraft off Cape Khelidonia, 1030/4. (Capt. (S) 1 1551C/4 to NEREUS, PARTHIAN).

M/V
Movements
Turkey.

Tug RACHINE Istanbul to Mersin via Smyrna
CECADENA Iskanderun to Haifa via Famagusta
WARSZAWA. ANTAR Mersin to Haifa *GEORGIA Mersin
to Port Said MARGARITA Port Said to Mersin.
(Captain (S) 1 1551C/4 to NEREUS). *GHKORGHIA.

Air
Activity.

Malta C.S.R. to 1600/4/7. Hurricanes intercepted and drove off 25 Macchi 200's. Enemy did not cross coast 3/7. Northbound convoy 6 M/V and 4 DRS sighted off Tunisian Coast see my 1,411/3/7. Shadowed to Sicily.

Night 3/4. 7 Swordfish 830 Sqdn F.A.A. abandoned attack on convoy above due to enemy night fighters intercepting Maryland no combat. 6 Wellingtons 148 Sqn dropped 1000 lb. G.P. bombs and 1000 lbs incendiaries Tripoli fire and explosion near North Mole. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1600/4).

ISIS.

Salvage progress. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1723/4 to C. in C. Med.).

Benghazi.

Night July 3/4. 9 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. Numerous fires. Explosions Cathedral Mole and probable direct hit on ship alongside. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1854/4).

Air attacks
on Tripoli.

Op. Summary up to 2000 hours.
1 Blenheims 2 X 500 lbs S.A.P. bombs on small tanker Tripoli Harbour missed by 100 yards.
3 Blenheim 5 X 500 lbs. S.A.P. bombs R.K. small 2 funnelled ship Tripoli Harbour missed by 23 yards. (H.Q.R.A.F. P.T.J. 2330/4 to H.Q. R.A.F.M.E).

East Indies.

CARTHAGE.

To leave Mombasa p.m./5 and proceed to Durban to arrive p.m./10. (C. in C. E.I. 0802Z/4 to CARTHAGE).

W.S.9.B.

List sailed on 28/6, numbers, contents, etc. (D.O.D.(F) 1249B/4 to C. in C.'s E.^{1.}, S.A).

PRESIDENT
DOUMER.

My 1307/3/7 and my 1420/20/6. On completion of disembarkation Berbera to be sailed to Aden and Port Sudan to embark personnel for Suez. (P.S.T.O. 1307/4 to S.T.O. Berbera).

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French
Units.

Saigon departures 22/6 for exercise off Camranh with AMIRAL-CHARNER, LAMOTTE-PICQUET, PEGASE. LAMOTTE-PICQUET only returned 26/6. (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0544Z/4 to Adty. S.O.(I) Colombo, Wellington, Hong Kong, D.N.I. Melbourne).

Lighters,
Malaya.

Your 0401/1/6. Proposals approved in principle but suggest that all approaching vessels should also be prohibited either from entering territorial waters or alternatively from anchoring within territorial waters during hours between sunset and sunrise. Considered that most appropriate moment to start these measures is when Japanese move indicated in Admty. 2515/21/6 takes place. Concert with Governor, put measures into effect immediately upon Japanese move. (V.C.N.S. 2557B/4 to C. in C. China).

America and West Indies.

Convoy
Assembly.

Admty. 0642B/5. Intend general arrangements made in my 1401Z/50 to set precedent for normal practice regarding Wabana convoy. Previous message concur: propose (1) Commodore of S.C. or H.X. convoy is responsible for effecting junction with Wabana convoy. (2) That Wabana convoy be given short (corrupt group) of W.S.C. or W.H.X. (C.C.N.F. 1056Z/4 to Admty.).

/?title

Japanese
Vessels.
Fuel,

Japanese Vessels asking for fuel (names). Rumoured all Japanese vessels ordered Home. Shall we supply? (S.O.I. Callao, 1515R/4 to C. in C. A.W.I). Passed to you. Request decision. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2202Q/4 to Admty.).

STRATHALLAN.

Your 1202Q/28/6. Confirm why S. of A. drops to 15 knots after 40° W. (D.T.D. 1518B/4 to N.C.S.O. Trinidad). Your 1518B/4 speed given as 15 knots by master allowing for heavy zigzag and weather. (N.C.S.O. Port of Spain 1555Q/4 to Adty.).

Troop
Convoy.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1607/30/6 and P.S.T.O. Simonstown's 1735/30 proposed sailing date from Halifax is now. (). (D. of S.T. 1520B/4).

/CHESHIRE.....

War Diary.

4.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

CESHIRE.

CESHIRE grounded in Narrows at Bermuda. Has refloated and returned to Harbour. PRINCE DAVID detailed as ocean escort to B.H.X. 137. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1402Q/4). My 1402Q/4. No damage to CESHIRE who is proceeding now to overtake B.H.X. 137. PRINCE DAVID proceeding in accordance with my 1041Q/3. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1831Q/4).

Local defence.

Adty's. 2015B/27, 1631B/30 and 1349B/3, 4 A/S yachts will be based on Gaspe from 7/7. 2 Corvettes under orders of C.C.N.F. Force will carry out Y.Y patrol commencing 10/7 later force will be strengthened as necessary when ships become available. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1408Z/4).

C.I.P. (French).

My 1648Z/28. Shifted to Baytown 3/7 to load. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1447Z/4). My 2320/23. French ship C.I.P. left Houston 1430Z/4 for Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands, E.T.A. 11/4 and Martinique. (Galveston, 1834Z/4 to D.N.I).

PRINCE DAVID DESPATCH.

844. Cancel my 1502Q/4. Arrangements in my 1041Q/3 hold good. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1842Q/4 to S.O. W.I. Force).

DERBYSHIRE.

Adty; 2020B/3. Intend sailing DERBYSHIRE for Freetown via Mona passage and Trinidad on 10/7. (R.A.3. B. S. 1543P/4 to Admty. etc).

RAMON DE LARRINAGA.

British, capsized and sunk last February, has been salvaged and will be docked at Philadelphia shortly for extensive repairs. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2122Z/4 to Admty. etc.).

MALAYA.

First of H.M. Ships to have action damage repaired in U.S. Yards, is now ready for sea. Warmest thanks. (Private Office 2250B/4 to B.A.RmM. for Col. Knox).

Australia.

QUEEN MARY.

Re. return to U.K. from Australia of 200 dissentient members of crew. (D. of S.T. 0412B/4 to A.C.N.B).

War Diary.

4.7.1941;
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

AUDITOR. Torpedoed 25.47 N. 28.25 W. doubtful position
(AUDITOR T.O.R. 0535N/4) British, 5,444 tons.

KINGSTON
HILL. Survivors (S. (C.I.) Capetown 1645B/4) (See South
(torpedoed Atlantic).
7/6).

Submarines Reported.

1935 G.M.T. A/C reported at 1935 G.M.T. at 45° 47' N. 45° 02'
W. doubtful sight contact periscope. (A.L.U.S.N.A.
0544/4).

1725 Periscope sighted by A/C 46 20 N. 42 17 W.
G.M.T./5. course South. Made and lost sound contact with
submarine at 0100 G.M.T./4 28 21 N. 49 56 W.
(A.L.U.S.N.A. No T.O.O).

Estimated U/Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C.
1448B/4).

Off
Madeira. Grade B.2. At about 0200/5 two unidentified
submarines closed and escorted fishing boat from
off Porto Santo Island to Point Sao Lourenco and
then disappeared. (H.M.C. Funchal 1531/4,
F.O.C.N.A. 1904/4 to MARSDALE).

1950. Am over enemy S/M in 47° 35' N. 166° 32' W. (?)
Was sighted on the surface and observed to submerge
(Port Z 1950/4).

Submarines Attacked.

By NASTURTIUM
and GLADIOLUS. Decisive part played by NASTURTIUM in the
destruction of the German U-boat on 27/6.
(D.A/S W. 1556B/4 to NASTURTIUM).

By A/C. S/M on surface in 46° 50' N. 7° 26' W. Have
attacked with D.C.s estimated hits nil.
(Duty W. 1507/4).
My 1507. P.C. and S. of S/M 46° 50' N. 7° 26' W.
090° 15. (A/C 1520/4).

75

War Diary.

5.7.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy coastal batteries at Cap Gris Nez fired 14 rounds in the early hours of today at Convoy C.E.40 whilst passing Dover. No damage resulted.

Operation
D.N.

C.S.10 in NIGERIA with CURACOA and 4 destroyers left Scapa at 0750 today.

Photographs taken at 1400/5 show LEIPZIG still at Oslo, where EMDEN has arrived from Horten since 1/7.

Chiefs of Staff have approved the establishment of a Combined Defence H.Q. for Iceland at Artun in the event of invasion.

The 9th M.L. Flotilla will not be ready to leave Plymouth for Gibraltar before 7th July; and, trials having shown that one Destroyer cannot safely tow more than 2 M.L.'s at sea, C. in C. Plymouth proposes that VIDETTE should be added to the escorting Destroyers.

PRINCE OF WALES is to proceed to Scapa as soon as possible after her repairs at Rosyth are completed.

British Air Activity.

About 132 tons of bombs were dropped on the enemy warships at Brest last night and 64 tons on Lorient.

Attacks were made last night on Shipping in Bergen and Kristiansand, it is believed with some success.

One M/V of 3000 tons and another of 2000 tons are reported hit, and the former probably sunk, by aircraft on routine patrol off Stadlandet at 1642/5 and 1715/5 respectively, and a small escorted ship was hit off Alsboen Light.

War Diary.

5.7.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity Contd.

At 1150 6 aircraft of Coastal Command were despatched to attack an enemy convoy of 3 merchant ships escorted by 4 E-boats, off Dunkirk. The aircraft attacked at 1315 and obtained 2 direct hits on a 4000 ton ship and estimate hits or near misses on a ship of 6000 tons. The escorting E-boats suffered some very near misses and were effectively machine-gunned.

The establishment of a Catalina anti U-boat Patrol based upon Plymouth is under consideration.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 1550 one Enemy A/C passed over Scapa Flow and probably saw into the Fleet Anchorage. Our fighters went up but failed to intercept.

A fishing vessel was unsuccessfully attacked at 0015/5 off Rattray Head.

SNAEFELL (Paddle minesweeper) was bombed and sunk about 2355 today off the Tyne.

Convoy C.E.40 was attacked by A/C early this morning without damage 3 miles East of Dungeness, and convoys "Scurry" and "Attache" at 2350 and 2355 respectively.

At 0230 today the British FOWEY ROSE, 470 tons, was bombed and sunk off St. David's Head.

Mining.

One Mine was detonated in the Tyne today, one off Milford Haven, and three off Spurn Point; and, owing to suspected Mines, the movement of vessels in the upper part of the River Usk at Newport is prohibited.

77

5.7.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

FURIOUS, returning to U.K. in company with 2 transports and escorted by HERMIONE and 4 destroyers, was unsuccessfully bombed at 1954 today 100 miles west of Cape St. Vincent by 3 F.W. aircraft.

South Atlantic.

At 1450 G.M.T. today an unknown ship reported being attacked by a raider in 1° 18' S. 30° 0' W.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Bombs were dropped on Malta last night by about 7 enemy aircraft operating singly. No naval damage was caused.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi and Derna last night.

HYACINTH was successfully refloated by PEONY, SALVIA today and proceeded to Haifa.

Alexandria

S.S. BENCRUACHAN was sunk at 1730 today, presumably by a mine, whilst entering Alexandria harbour.

Palestine
& Syria.

5 Wellingtons bombed Beirut last night.

America and West Indies.

S.S. PORT FAIRY reported a suspicious vessel at 1925 in 25° 6' N. 65° 27' W.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. ANSELM carrying Army and R.A.F. personnel for the Middle East was torpedoed at 0640 today about 310 miles north of the Azores. (p. 94)

TIGRIS reports having destroyed an Italian S/M of SQUALO class at 1001B today outward bound in 45° 3' N. 4° 1' W.

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.SVERRE
NERGAARD.Intercepted 61° 49' N. 12° 44' W. ~~was~~ ^{and} released.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 2330B/4, 0335B/5, S.O.N.T.
0117B/5, 1022B/5. NORTHERN PRINCESS 0925B/5.)N.E. Force.Consider units of N.E.F. should be organised in nine escort groups. Group numbers fourteen to twenty two with three spare are available for allocation by you. (C. in C.W.A. 1046B/5 to C.C.N.F.)
My 0928/3. For 2nd Escort Group read 1st Escort Group. (C. in C.W.A. 1627B/5.)W.A. Escort Forces.

It is intended to organise Western Approaches Escort Forces into 25 Escort Groups. Escort groups one to ten with three spare based on U.K. Fourteen to twenty two with three spare forming N.E.F. Request delivery groups and call signs may be allocated. (C. in C.W.A. 1053B/5.)

In event of German Aggression against France.

Your 1407/10/1, 1332/27/5, 1239/2/7, 1301/23/6. Request a consolidated version of the latest policy may be generally promulgated. (C. in C.H.F. 1532B/5 to Admty.)

Recognition Signals.Reference 284A/2 and 414AZ/4.
The following will be at sea with incorrect recognition signals from 0001 G.M.T./6 until date shewn:-
HOLLY, GOSHII, KOS XII from Gibraltar due Freetown a.m.13th.
Trawlers of Western Patrol until a.m./11. NORTHERN GIFT 7th (not 14th), NORTHERN FOAM 9th (not 20th) NORTHERN PRINCESS 10th, NORTHERN SUN 11th, NORTHERN SKY 12th, NORTHERN CHIEF 13th, NORTHERN DUKE 13th, OPHELIA -, all of Northern Patrol.
TROUBADOUR, PAYNTER, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN from Belfast arriving Milford Haven 7th July.
CAPE ARGONA and COVENTRY CITY from Belfast arriving Methil 7/7. (D.S.D. 1912B/5.)S/M Safe Area.My 1956/5. Request following may be promulgated by secret A.Z. message.
Surface (?vessels are) not attack S/M's in an area enclosed by latitude 062° 04' N. and 064° N. and longitude 003° W. and 006° 59' W. from noon 7th until further notice. (A.C.O.S. 2011B/5 to R.A.D. H.F.)

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Iceland.

My 0011B/10. Chiefs of Staff have
 (i) Approved recommendation by the Commanders for combined defence headquarters at Artun in the event of invasion.
 (ii) Taken note that present Army Headquarters at Artun and combined Naval and R.A.F. Headquarters at Reykhavik, will be retained for use in normal circumstances. (D. of L.D. 1051B/5 to A.C.I.C.)

Movements.

FURIOUS.
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

My 1236B/4. Amend R/V as follows.
 (C. in C.W.A. 0837B/5 to VANQUISHER.)
 Sailed WOLVERINE, VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA, PIORUN, in accordance with your 1236B/4/7. (F.O.I.C. Londonderry 1335B/5 to C. in C.W.A.)
 Detach one F. class destroyer forthwith to proceed to Ponta Delgada, Azores at best speed, fuel and R/V with FURIOUS as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (A.C.N.S. F. 1426B/5 to Capt. D.8.)
 Cancel my 0837B/5 and my 1236B/4.
 (11) VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA and WOLVERINE are to R/V with ROYAL SOVEREIGN in 049° 30' N. 027° W. at 1800Z/8th.
 (111) PIORUN is to R/V with FURIOUS in 46° 30' N. 25° 30' W. at 1800Z/8th. (C. in C.W.A. 1847B/5)

AUSONIA.
MALOJA.

Until arrival of next convoy from U.K. about 11/7 there are about 80 R.A.F. personnel only for onward passage to Halifax. Please confirm that sailing of AUSONIA and MALOJA may be delayed to await personnel from this convoy and then sail independently and unescorted for Halifax. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1109/5 to B.S.3.)

SOKUL.

Intend to sail SOKUL to pass Needles at 2145B/7 for patrol in Bay of Biscay South zone. Route. Diving by day. (Capt. S.5.1144B/5.)

9th M.L.
Flotilla.
 (Op: H.E. 2.)

As towing trials with 9th M.L. Flotilla have shown that the Destroyer cannot safely tow more than 2 M.L.'s propose VIDETTE be used for towing in addition to FIREDRAKE, VIMY, and BEVERLEY.
 (2) Owing to minor defects in towing gear, M.L.'s will not be ready to sail before 7/7 at earliest. Inclusion of VIDETTE will not delay departure. (C. in C. Plymouth 1321/5.) *p. 114*

/PRINCE

War Diary.

5.7.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

PRINCE OF WALES.

PRINCE OF WALES is to proceed to Scapa as soon as practicable after repairs have been completed. (C. in C.H.F. 2253/5.)

Operations.

Convoy C.E.
40 shelled.

Enemy coastal batteries at Cap Griz Nez fired 6 rounds between 0036 and 0042 and 8 rounds between 0200 and 0204 when convoy was off Dover. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover, 0241B/5.)

Stadlandet.

C. in C.H.F. 2332B/2. Weather Forecast Stadlandet Area for period 0900B/5 to 2100B/5. (Duty Met. Officer 0800B/5 to C.S. 10.)

Denmark Straits Patrol.

SUFFOLK is to leave patrol to arrive Hvalfiord a.m. 10th. (C. in C.H.F. 1029B/5.)

East Coast M.T.B. Patrols.

Weather permitting following patrols are to be carried out tonight by M.T.B's of unit 2.
(1) 60 foot M.T.B's from vicinity of Thornton ridge buoy to north eastward.
(2) 70 foot M.T.B's from vicinity of W. buoy to south westward. Surface vessels met east of 1° 45' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1108B/5 to BEEHIVE.)

M.T.B. Patrol.

Four M.T.B's leave Dover at 2230 to operate off Berck sur Mer and Etaples returning to Dover at 0445. Route via D. buoy each way. (V.A. Dover 1311B/5.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrol "Stand" and Strikes on shipping in Bergen and Kristiansand now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 0005/5.)
~~Patrol BERT~~ now in operation. Patrols ~~STAB~~ and ~~TROST~~ will be flown p.m. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1016/5)
P.R.U. of Bergen and Oslo now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1124/5.)

Operation D.N.

My 2356/4. Amend first paragraph to read :-
Three Sorties of three Blenheims followed by one Sortie of three Hudsons commencing 0230/6. (C. in C. Rosyth 1120/5)

/Strike

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - Contd.Strike
against
shipping.

3 Aircraft with torpedoes will make Landfall at 060° N. 005° E. thence coastwise to Yteroern Lighthouse arriving latter at 0200/6, thence returning direct to base. (C. in C. Rosyth 1254/5.)

My 1254/5 is cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 2046/5 to C.S.10.)

A/S sweep.

1. Three Whitley Aircraft will carry out parallel track A/S Sweep on a line 311° from Butt of Lewis to depth of 250 miles, reaching Western extremity at 2000/5.

2. Sunderland leaves Sullom Voe 1545 to carry out A/S Patrol of following area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1506/5.)

Bremen.
Nordenney,
Lorient,
Brest
attacked.

Attacks during day 4/7. Details. (H.Q.B.C. 1405/5.)

Operation
"Bottle".

A.P.555/7. Repeat Operation "Bottle" at first opportunity. Effort six aircraft with Cucumbers and other available aircraft with bombs as diversion on shipping. (H.Q.C.C. 1455/5 to 18 Group.)

M/V's
attacked off
Stadlandet.

R/C aircraft report hit with 2 bombs and probably sank one M/V 3000 tons in 62° 03' N. 04° 57' E. course 060° at 1637/5. One M/V 2000 tons hit in 62° 12' N. 05° 17' E. course 320° speed 10 knots at 1715/5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1942/5, 2046/5, 2316/5 to C.S.10.)

Patrols
V.O.E. A.
V.O.E. B.
V.O.E. C.
V.O.E. D.

My 2330/11/6. Add as follows. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth 2350/5) See Summaries Folder.

Catalina
Patrol.

Your 1257/2. The allocation of Catalina flying boats is now under consideration and your proposal will be considered at the same time. (1st S.L. 2249B/5 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
C.E.40.Attacked by A/C 3 miles East of Dungeness.
(V.A. Dover 0241B/5.)Fishing
Vessel
attacked.

At 0015/5 one Heinkel attacked fishing vessel 3 miles N.N.E. Rattray Head no damage trawler proceeded. At 0031/5 Heinkel reported flying low over Fraserburgh Bay. At 0057/5 Heinkel reported off Rattray Head flying South. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0835/5.)

FOWEY ROSE.
(British, 470
Tons) sunk.

At 0230/5 in 51° 51' N. 5° 28' W. bombed and sank. 8 missing and presumed lost. Names. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1524B/5.)

Scapa.

At 1550 E/A passed over Flow probably saw fleet anchorage. Fighters up but failed to intercept. (A.C.O.S. 1640B/5)

NIGERIA.

Am being shadowed by Aircraft. My P.C. and S. are (23?) OOB 62° 15' (N?) 02° 38' E. 2700 25 knots. (C.S. 10 2314B/5)

Convoy "Scurry."
SCURRY.^{"Scurry"}
Help ~~SCURRY~~. 1 aeroplane. Position 5850 course 323 speed 12. (PRINCE ALBERT 2350/5.)Convoy "Attache."
ATTACHE.^{"Attache"}
Help - ~~ATTACHE~~ - 53° 10' N. 1° 13' E. (JASON, 2355/5.)DASHWOOD
(bombed 25/6)
TRANIO
(bombed 26/6)Position of wrecks.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2359B/5.)Mining.STRATHGAIRN.
sunk on 1/7.
(Trawler)

Skipper and five survivors landed Stornoway 2330/4 by Dutch Trawler CALISI LUTHER, five of crew missing. Skipper stated in estimated position 20 miles S.W. from Barra Head at 0900/1 in thick weather, hauled in mine in trawl which exploded 20 yards from ship. Ship sank in 10 minutes. Survivors on raft for 72 hours. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0010B/5.)

GOLDFINCH.
(damaged
4/7.)

(Motor Vessel, 454 tons) Mined in position 2730 St. Bees 10 miles at 0330B/4. Vessel towed into Whitehaven by S.S. BROOM extensive internal damage. Vessel leaking badly. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0225/5.)

/Operation

83

5.7.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-Contd.

Operation
Q.J.

My 1640B/2. Request you will carry out operation Q.J. tomorrow. (C. in C. Nore 0938B/5).

Tyne.

One Red ground magnetic mine detonated at 0912/5 in position 050° N. Pier Light Tyne, 12 cables. (P.M.S.O. N. Shields. 0947/5).

S.N. 67A.

R.A. (M) 1109/14. Concur provided escort can be made available. (A.C.N.S(H) 1021B/5).
R.A.M.'s 1109/4. Concur. R.A.D. is requested to provide an additional destroyer. (C. in C. H.F. 1851B/5).

New
Minefield.

A.M. 1821B/3. Concur. (R.A.M. 1125B/5).
Your 1821B/3. Concur. (C. in C. H.F. 1200B/5 to Adty.).

Off
Berry
Head.

Belgian Trawler O.265 reports that at 1000/4 when trawling 8=1/2 miles S.E. Berry Head an explosion occurred in the trawl. Vessel was lifted and covered with sand and water and a column of water 80 feet high thrown up. No damage to vessel or crew. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1245/5).

River
Usk.

Owing to suspected presence of mines movement of vessels in the river Usk Newport above a line joining Fifoot Point and End of East Pier at South Dock entrance is prohibited. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1552B/5).

Milford
Haven.

At 1506B/5 /7, one Red Mine exploded by Sweeper as follows.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1743/5).

Spurn
Point.

The following three mines exploded today. One by Sweeper and two self detonated. Details. (F.O. Humber 1810B/5).

War Diary.

5.7.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Oslo.

One light cruiser remains in Oslo but second vessel had apparently left Horten. Estimated photographs Oslo, Horten, Moss Frederikstad. (Pitreavie 1715/5). Photographs taken at 1400/5 show EMDEN has arrived from Horten since 1/7 and is berthed near LEIPZIG which is still present. Turnover of merchant shipping continues. 10 M/V's over 200' including 5 over 400' having arrived since 1/7 and 7 M/V's over 200' having cleared. Fornebu A/D activity of transport A/C normal. (P.R.U. Wick 2100/5).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian
Northern
Shipping.

Russian wishes and intentions. (Military Mission, Moscow 2000/5 to WarOffice) See Operations Volume.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.G. 66.

If WESTCOTT and ST. ALBANS have sufficient fuel to stay with Convoy until 08° 00' W. then WESTCOTT is to detach ST. ALBANS to join AZALEA. If not WESTCOTT detail one corvette. AZALEA remain with Convoy then fuel at Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 0809B/5 to WESTCOTT, etc.).

W.S.10.

Following vessels are intended. (D.S.^T. 0211B/5).

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.FURIOUS
SCYTHIA
CAMERONIA

Departure 2210/4 FURIOUS, LANCE, LEGION escorting SCYTHIA, CAMERONIA in accordance with my 1022A/3. Local escort WISHART until prudent limit of endurance, 0115/5 HERMIONE, FURY escorting until arrival position (C).
(F.O.C.N.A. 0130A/5 to Admty.)
Admty. 2337B/4. My P.C. and S. at 0130Z/5, 035° 58' 006° 16' 270° 14 knots. E.T.A. R/V 2300Z/8. Request confirmation position of R/V and Convoy.
(FURIOUS, 0231A/5 to Admty.)
Intend HERMIONE shall return Gibraltar when EDINBURGH joins FURIOUS and convoy.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1142A/5 to Admty.)
Your 1222A/4. After EDINBURGH has joined FURIOUS, HERMIONE to proceed to patrol ordered in A.T. 1308/1, remain there 48 hours then proceed Gibraltar.
(Admty. 1525B/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Comply with Admty 1525B/5. Aircraft will carry out cross over patrol approx. between 39° N. and 40° N. on meridian 16° W. on 6/7 as follows. No air escort available for FURIOUS and convoy on 6th.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2108A/5 to HERMIONE.)

O.21

My 1036A/2. Leaves patrol 2000A/6.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0908A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

SULLBERG
(German)

Left Barcelona 2nd for Marseilles.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0938A/5 to S/M O.23.)

Pyrites for
Germany.
GAYARRE
(Spanish)

Following received from N.A. Madrid, addressed V.A.C.N.A:- "Huelva reports Spanish GAYARRE arrived 27/6 to load 5,000 tons Pyrites for Bilbao or Pasajes in German interest. Consul believes destination probably port in occupied France. Appears certain ultimate destination of cargo is Germany 1825/3" (ends). Although this ship will probably come under heading of a coasting vessel do you wish any action taken?
(C.C.S.O. Gib., 1505/5 to Admty.)
N.A. Madrid's 1825/3. Desirable that GAYARRE should be intercepted and sent to Gibraltar.
(Admty. 1936B/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

P.32.

My 1506A/3. Delayed about 48 hours.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1508A/5 to C. in C. Med.)

/Ponta.....

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Ponta
Delgada.

One destroyer will be calling 6/7 for fuel.
Request supply may be expedited.
(D.O.D.(F) 1533B/5 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Suspicious
trawlers,
Ushant.

Reported by our forces that two fishing trawlers
flying Spanish flag one fitted W.T. sighted off
Ushant. Believed to have been seen previously.
Can you identify?
(D.N.I., 1601B/5 to N.A. Madrid.)

French
Convoys

1430/4 unidentified French Armed Trawler, French
Ships GABRIEL GUIST'HAU, PARAME, SAINTE MAXIME,
course 160° 7 knots 180° St. Vincent 5 miles.
1242/5, French minesweeper ENGAGEANTE French
ships BENTY, KAKOULIMA, both laden east bound.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1803A/5 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

GROUIN-DU-COU
(French
Trawler).

Sent in under armed guard by Western Patrol
Trawler on passage Casablanca to La Pallice via
Lisbon to Fish. Crew of 16 friendly disposed.
Vessel detained pending instructions.
(C.C.S.O. Gib., 1810/5 to Admty.)

NYASSA

Your 2016/4 Portuguese naval authorities would
much appreciate release as soon as possible.
Due to leave Lisbon with battalion of troops
10/7.
(N.A. Lisbon, 2241/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

REPULSE
& Force H.

S.O. Force H. 2256A/5 see Operations Volume.

Enemy A/C

By D/F at 2050B/5. Enemy aircraft in 36° N. to
37° N. 10° W. to 11° W. possibly making sighting
report.
(D.D.I.C. 2256B/5 to F.O.C.N.A., FURIOUS, LANCE,
LEGION, HERMIONE, FURY.)

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.BABITONGA

My 1935N/28/6. Believed that BABITONGA met raider also on 4/5 approx., position of ship from Chief Engineer's Log on 3/5 was 27° 31' S. 17 47' W. but no position is given for following day nor until 28/5.
(C. in C. S.A., 0003N/5, to Admty.)

Force Z

From 0001Z/9 EAGLE, ALCANTARA, and DUNEDIN, will form Force Z. Instructions re signals. EAGLE is acting S.O. Force Z.
(C. in C. S.A., 0331N/5 to Admty. etc.)

SULLBERG

(F.O.C.N.A., 0938/5) See Mediterranean.

HERMES
(German)

Passenger in URUGUAY reports information received at Rio de Janeiro indirectly from Officer in German HERMES (A) HERMES made part of outward voyage in British Convoy (B) Although arrived Rio de Janeiro 10/4 all of motorcar cargo not unloaded by 18/6, yet ship was loading many barrel fuel oil.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1113R/5, to Admty. etc.)

CRITON

Your 1719B/26.

1. Following extract from British Admiralty Delegate Washington's meter signal 2030/R/27 (begins) Dakar June 26th Boa reports from Conakry, State CRITON recently captured by us was sighted by French planes or by a small French ship and after refusing to stop was sunk. Crew is at Conakry (ends.)
2. Following extract of intelligence received by telegram from Scarcies by Colonial Secretariat Freetown (begins) 24 of crew of CRITON believed rescued from sea by French taken to Conakry ends. ESPERANCE BAY reports CRITON was not able to maintain speed of convoy at 1230/20/6 Commodore ordered her to return to Freetown. ESPERANCE BAY gave her position 009° 41' North 015° 17' West at 1300/20. Sunk ship was not definitely identified as CRITON by BRILLIANT or aircraft but what could be seen confirmed probability.
(C. in C. S.A., 1549N/5 to Adty.)

Fuel for
Japanese
Ships.

My 1313R/4 ULOWAY MARU now asking for 200 tons Amir, 80 tons Talara. American Embassy requests we do not supply at Amir. Ships agents state Japanese vessels ordered straight home.
(S.O.I. Callao, 1635R/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.CANTON

On relief by ESPERANCE BAY proceed to patrol in H. (?33) D and H 34 C. (?Enemy M/Vs.) left or leaving S. American Ports may pass this area.
(C. in C. S.A., 2041N/5 to CANTON.)

Takoradi

Your 2159/2/7 to S.O.(I) Freetown decyphered 5/7. Movements of ships in and out Takoradi started on 28/6 to relieve congestion and those outside for Freetown were sailed. Ships were swept in and out and from the movements took place daily. Position on 2/7 7 ships entered 8 left 6 outside. On 3/7 one ship was outside. On 4/7 port was opened to traffic from all ports.
(C. in C. S.A., 2121N/5 to Adty.)

VILLE DE
TAMATAVE.
(intercepted
by DUNEDIN
30/6.)

My 2053/30. VILLE DE TAMATAVE arrived Freetown noon 5/7. Ship bound from Reunion and Madagascan ports to Dakar, Casablanca and Marseilles (cargo). Attitude of all on board friendly but pro Petain. No attempt made to scuttle. Captain refused to navigate but kept engineers at work.
(C. in C. S.A., 2131N/5 to Adty.)

S/Ms.
Bissau

S.O.(I) Freetown 1740/2/7. Hudson aircraft carried out reconnaissance over Bissau on 24/6, nothing seen. I doubt accuracy of original report.
(C. in C. S.A., 2157N/5 to Adty.)

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report 76.

Syria. 2 cruisers bombarding in preparation for offensive. French M/V SAINT DIDIER intercepted by A/C in Turkish Territorial waters off Cape Khelidonia at 0945 steering eastwards. Full reports of subsequent attack not yet available but ship believed sunk. Yugo-Slav M.T.Bs. DURMITOR and KAJMAKALAN now operating from Haifa.
(C. in C. Med., 0113C/5 to Admty.)

Enemy
Units.

2 Destroyers 1 merchant vessel 35° 02' 11° 52'.
(Malta W/T, 0520/5.)
My 0525 (Enemy Course and Speed are) 150° 10 knots.
(A/C, C, 2 Sqdn. 0624/5 to Halfar.)

/SULLBERG....

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.SULLBERG
(German)Left Barcelona 2/7 for Marseilles.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0938A/5 to S/M 0.23.)DJEBEL
DIRA
(French)

Reported due to leave Toulon 2/7 for Syria loaded with troops and material. (Description) (Capt. S.1., 1121C/5 and 1709C/5 to S/Ms. on Patrol.)

SAINT DIDIER
Cyprus RaidsOperational Summary No.390 up to 1200/5/7/1941. Cyprus, 4/7, Vichy Ship SAINT DIDIER located off Cape Khelidonia and twice attacked without success by Swordfish. 4 Albacores finally torpedoed and sank ship in Adalia Harbour. 5 enemy raids on Cyprus during the day of which 3 on Famagusta Harbour. Two on Nicosia Aerodrome. Wharf and Customs House hit Famagusta but no damage to shipping and no casualties. No damage and casualties Nicosia. 11 Hurricane Sorties unable to intercept. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1127/5.) *See also next page.*STROMBO
(Italian)My 1047C/30, STROMBO awaiting sailing orders hourly.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1206C/5.)ST. DIDIER
Turkish
Reaction.French ST. DIDIER was located at 0845/4 6 miles west of Cape Khelidonia. T/B attacks during the day were unsuccessful until attack by 4 Albacore at about 1800 which scored 2 hits on ship in Adalia Harbour where she sank. Incident will evidently give rise to protest by Turks, but only hope of stopping French ships from coast hopping through Turkish waters to Syria is to deal with them whether they enter such waters or not. The recent illegal Turkish act in allowing the 2 Italian naval tankers URANO and TARVISIO to pass through Dardanelles might serve as a counterbalance to this episode.
(C. in C. Med., 1215C/5 to Admty.)
*See also next page.*UPHOLDERLeave patrol p.m./6 by reverse of outward route to arrive off Marsamxett 0630B/8.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1225B/5 to UPHOLDER.)ROVERMy 1226C/4. ROVER is now to sail on 7/7. Advance all dates 2 days.
(C. in C. Med., 1241C/5 to N.O.I.C. Port Said etc.)

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.HYACINTH
refloated

My 1900/4 and my 1053/5 (N.T. in W.R.)
 HYACINTH refloated by PEONY and SALVIA at
 1030. Only damage beside A/S gear seems to
 be setting up by 1½ inches of 2 frames under
 No. 2 boiler. Making no water in spite of 3
 very near misses by large bombs. Intend
 sailing her as soon as stores re-embarked
 direct for point 30 miles W. of Haifa (?
 Searched Channel).
 (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1315C/5 to C. in C. Med.)
 N.O.I.C. Cyprus 1315/5. N.O.I.C. Haifa is to
 arrange escort for HYACINTH to Haifa and report
 on her seaworthiness. Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY is
 to return to Port Said.
 (C. in C. Med., 2255C/5, to N.O.I.C. Haifa,
 etc.)

Malta
Air Raid

C.S.R. Malta to 1600 hours 5/7. Night 4/5,
 4 alarms about 7 enemy aircraft operated
 singly at 1600 feet. Bombs Hamrun Air Park,
 casualties. No service casualties or damage
 in other areas.
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1716/5.)

PARTHIAN

Will not be available for refit on date
 arranged.
 (D.O.D.(F) 1728B/5 to B.A.R.M.)

ST.DIDIER

My 1215/5. Appears SAINT DIDIER was lying in
 roads (? East) Adalia Harbour, had her name
 and French marking badly painted out and was
 flying Turkish colours. One torpedo missed
 target and struck wharf sinking 2 fishing boats,
 may therefore have been casualties to local
 inhabitants.
 (C. in C. Med., 1931C/5 to Admty.)

*See previous page.*Benghazi
Beirut.

Night 4/5, 4 Wellingtons bombed Michele, Derna
 and Benghazi. 5 Wellingtons bombed Beirut
 causing large explosions and fires at Mourge
 D'Algue.
 (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 2225/5.)

/OUED YQUEM.....

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.OUED YQUEM

Is en route for Syria loaded troops and stores.
(Description).
(Capt. S.1., 2245B/5, to Greek S/MS.)

Situation
Report 77.

Syria. F.A.A. aircraft on recco attacked armed Trawler in Castelorizzo Harbour on 3/7. Torpedo missed but hit and sank a yacht and fishing vessels.

HYACINTH grounded 4 miles South of Famagusta on 1/7 and refloated by PEONY 5/7 now proceeding Haifa. She was attacked p.m./4 by torpedo and bombing aircraft without success.

Shipping in Famagusta also attacked by three or four aircraft.

Western Desert. My 2241/3, U-boat not considered sunk. Heavy dive bombing attack on Tobruk p.m./4 without naval damage. 3 aircraft certain and 1 probable shot down. Both MIRANDA and ANTIKIA have unloaded and sailed.

Alexandria. BENCRUACHAN sunk outside harbour entrance whilst entering at 1730/5 235° 6 cables from outer breakwater light, presumed mine.

(C. in C. Med., 2259C/5 to Admty.)

East Indies.MAREEBA

MAREEBA is considerably overdue at Colombo from Java via Malacca Straits. She was spoken by DURBAN in 008° 30' N. 089° 02' E. at 2310Z/25/6. Her course was then 240° Request enquiry at minor ports.

(C. in C. E.I., 0450Z/5 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

B.P.9.
KANIMBLA

Convoy B.P.9. 7 personnel ships, will leave Bombay for Basra on 10/7. KANIMBLA is to escort B.P.9 to 060° E. and then return to Bombay for quarterly overhaul of machinery.
(C. in C. E.I., 0814Z/5 to Care. R.I.N. etc.)

China.French
Visit
Singapore

Might be advantageous if Jouan or other representative of Decoux were in Singapore at time Japanese take action. Request you will try and arrange such a visit.

(V.C.N.S. 0010B/5 to C. in C. China.)

/TINLEY.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

0656/5 July.

From C.in C. East Indies.

Date 11.7.41.

9/A

Recd. 0447

INTER SERVICE X (BY CABLE).

Addressed Admiralty Repeated F.C.C.R.I.N. Arminia
Middle East.

NOTWT.

446. Most Secret. (1) Following received from Mr. A.C. Embrechts in interview with S.O.(I) Colombo. Embrechts is Belgian and has spent six years in Teheran in International Standard Electrical Corporation and employed since June 1940 in Belgian Legation. He appears reliable, of considerable ability and loyal to allies. I have no reason to doubt his word as almost all he said has appeared in Intelligence reports from time to time.

2. Begins. (A) German hold on communication system in Iran is complete and when trouble begins it will be impossible for us to obtain any information whatsoever from that country. (B) About 2000(2000) Germans of Military age now in the country and highly organised for fifth column activities and sabotage (C) German propaganda supreme. (D) Food shortage in country is acute and starvation in the villages is rife. This will lead to great difficulties should we ever decide to take over an area such as the oil fields where there are no reserve stocks and distribution is difficult. He suggest stocks be built up now in properties of Anglo Iranian Oil Company. (E) Serious disorders shortly are inevitable.

3. He was most emphatic in attributing this serious state of affairs to lack of energy and leadership of senior British Officials which in turn affects the efficiency of Junior Officials. He also stressed his opinion that there existed a lack of co-ordination between the different British Authorities in this area generally who he feels fail to realise the seriousness of the danger confronting them. Most foreigners especially from German occupied territories he says are sitting on the fence waiting in vain for a British lead.

4. How much truth there is in these opinions I am unable to judge but it is interesting to have the view of a foreigner who has been for some six years in close touch with the Official and Commercial communities and is obviously a staunch supporter of the Allied cause.

0656Z/5.

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F), D.D.I.C,
Hd. of M.

Part 6 and final not yet received.

Referred to in C.in C. East Indies 1940/8.

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 Capt.

H. P. S.

Hd. of H. (3) and for War Office.

I. P. (2).

D.D.I.C.

W. D.

N.I.D.J.C. Pay Cdr. Wilson.

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.TINLEY
Japanese
Ship.

British S.S. TINLEY reports having been stopped between Hong Kong and Macao outside British Territorial waters on 28/6 and 3/7 by same Japanese Warship. Details.
/a (Care. Hong Kong, 0309Z/5 to C. in C. China.)

KULMERLAND
HAVENSTEIN
URSULA
RICKMERS

Yokohama arrival 29/6 an unidentified German Ship similar to KULMERLAND. Kobe present 1/7 a new German Unit, (details) unable to identify. Some activity among German ships, Chinese crews have arrived. Dairen, HAVENSTEIN has been manned by Chinese crew, URSULA RICKMERS will also take Chinese crew, believe both ships will sail to Japan under Japanese flag in near future with cargo consigned to Germany. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0313Z/5.)

America and West Indies.T.S.R.'s. for
C.A.M. Ships

Your 1735/18/6. T.S.R. aircraft will be employed for convoy protection and as hunting groups for rounding up raiders and supply ships. 12 carriers have been asked for capable of carrying T.S.R.'s or fighters. Intention is that 6 should carry fighters remaining 6 T.S.R.'s. The T.S.R. aircraft are required for 3 of the ships now being converted in America and 3 of the remaining 6 asked for. (Head of Air Branch, 0027B/5 to Brit. Naval Delegation, Washington.)

St. John's
N.F.

Strength of force, staff, stores, etc. (Hd. of M. 0225B/5 to N.O.I.C. St. John's.)
See Lion Copy.

HERMES

(German) (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1113R/5 re Admty. etc.)
See South Atlantic.

Sworáfish
for MALAYA

Admty. 1901B/3. Arrangements made for TUDOR PRINCE due to leave Trinidad 6/7 to bring Sworáfish A/C to Bermuda, for MALAYA. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1153Q/5 to Admty.)
Approved. (D.N.A.D. 1944B/7.)

/Latvian Ships....

Joseph Stahow

America & West Indies

5741

Saturday

0225E/5th July.

OUT.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

Date: 5.7.41.

92A

To: N.O.I.C. St. Johns.

Repeated. C.N.S. Ottawa. 790.

C.C.N.F.

C. in C. Western Approaches. 757.

C. in C. America & West Indies. 84.

C. in C. Home Fleet. 556.

R.A. 3 B.S. 431.

C.O.A.C.

B.N. Delegation Washington 34.

B.A.T.H.

Naval Order (A one)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Reference Admiralty messages 1939B of 23rd May, 1940B of 23rd May, 1401B of 3rd June, 0123B of 29th June, and 2219B of 2nd July, not all repeated to all addressees of present message.

2. From latest dispositions Admiralty estimate that total Naval force working from St. Johns will be 34 destroyers of which about 11 would be away refitting, 16 at sea and 7 in harbour at any one time.

3. There will also be, for the present, one Depot Ship, one Store ship, one Oiler.

4. Admiralty intend that facilities at St. Johns should be planned to provide for this Force and to allow for withdrawal of Depot ship and Store Ship, which is not however a matter of great urgency under present Fleet dispositions.

5. Requirements of above Force are estimated to be substantially equivalent to those outlined in 1940B of 23rd May, subject to following notes:-

Staff.

6. Base staff and accommodation required for it will depend upon administrative arrangements for Base for which R.C.N. is now to be responsible. Necessary shore accommodation would no doubt be provided in existing buildings as far as practicable. Admiralty, however, invite attention to the organisation for pay accounts and supply services given in Message 1901B of 26th June, which they understand are acceptable.

7. Armament Stores.

Admiralty now estimate following buildings will be required to house (a) reserve ammunition and (b) depth charges:-

(a).....

- (a) Ammunition (5 inch U.S.A. and below)
3 buildings of approx. dimensions 35 ft. x 20 ft. x 10 ft. spaced 75 yards apart if traversed, and 150 yards if not traversed.
- (b) Depth Charges.
2 buildings of similar size but spaced 160 yards apart if traversed, and 320 yards apart if not traversed. A margin has been allowed to cover possibility of increased reserves later. Suggest also that one laboratory room be provided for broken seal examination and minor repair work and such administrative buildings as may be necessary.

8. Medical Stores.

A reserve will be required for issue to H.M. Ships, estimated storage space 3,000 square feet, to include provision of a refrigerator for storing sera and vaccines.

02253/5.

Head of Military Branch.
Approved A. C. N. S. (H)

1st Lord.	D. M. S.	C. E. in C.)	
1st S. L.	D. M. S. Basement.	D. of S.)	
2nd S. L.	D. S. D. (2)	D. of V.)	
Controller	E. in C.	D. A. S. (3)	
Vice Controller	D. of S.	Under Sec.)	Bath
4th S. L.	D. of N.	P.)	
5th S. L.	D. T. M.	M. F.)	
V. C. N. S.	E. P. S.	S. W. R.)	
A. C. N. S. (H)	O. I. C. (2)		
A. C. N. S. (F)	D. S. P. 9.		
A. C. N. S. (T) (2)	D. M. S. R.		
Civil Lord.	M. (36) for D. O. C. O. W. C. O. Air Ministry,		
Controller M. S. R.	Min. of War Transport, E. C. for		
Sec.	Canada (12 for M. 37) (M. 09406/41)		
Nav. Sec.	Admiral Bailey.		
N. A. 1st S. I.	D. P. S.		
P. A. S. (S)	N. A. 2nd S. L. (2)		
P. A. S. (F)	E. A. P.		
P. A. S. (N)	M. D. G.		
P. A. S. (P. R)	I. P. (3)		
D. of P. (2)	W. D.		
D. N. I. (1)	P. D. G.		
D. of L. D. (2)	Air Branch		
Ops. (1)	N.		
O. D. (5)	C. W. (2)		
D. T. D. (A)	P. M.		
D. T. D. (M)	E. Branch		
D. T. D. (C)	N. A. S. (10)		
D. A. S. V.	M. F.		
D. N. A. D.	Dep. Controller (3))		
	D. of D. (4))		
	E. in C.)	Bath.	
	D. N. E.)		
	D. E. E. (3))		

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

Latvian Ships. Your 1932Q/3. Latvian S.S. EVERALDA should be permitted to sail unless you have reason to suspect Master intends to abandon American coastal trade and make for an Axis-controlled port. Pending further developments other Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian ships should be similarly treated. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1251B/5 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

DERBYSHIRE.

My 1543P/4. Intention was to use DERBYSHIRE for transport of personnel to Trinidad. In view of Capt. Egerton and other officers for your base being delayed at Halifax in Dutch? AMAEK? by engine repairs, propose if you concur sail DERBYSHIRE direct for Freetown with these officers. (R.A.3 1446Z/5 to C. in C.S.A.)
? AMSTELKERK intended.

VAN KINSBERGEN. Your 1241Q/2. Boiler cleaning should be done in U.K., destination of VAN KINSBERGEN will be Holyhead. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1523B/5 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

BARFLEUR.
FORT DE
FRANCE.

My 1142Q/2 and N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1611Z/2. Request early confirmation that voyage is approved and that future approved voyages will be notified before ships sail. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1542Q/5 to Admty.)

Suspicious
Portuguese
Trawlers.

AUSONIA reports suspicious behaviour of Portuguese motor trawlers off Great Banks in approx. 046° 34' N. 050° 15' W. SANTA PRINCEZA, 1189 tons, appeared heavily overmanned and exceptionally deeply laden on 24/6. Suggest possibility of supply ship. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1547/5 to Admty.)

C.I.P.
(French)

My 1447Z/7/4. Sailed Houston 4/7 for Saint Thomas, W.I., with 4,625 of bunker C. and for Martinique with 1,450 tons each B. and C. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1621Z/5 to Admty.)

Daily position
signal.

Commencing 7/7 a daily signal indicating the position at 2000Z of ships within 300 miles of the Atlantic Coast of Canada and Newfoundland will be broadcast on 105 k/cs per second by V.A.S. LOUISBERG at 1800Z. (C.O.A.C. 1941Z/5.)

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5.7.1941.
SaturdayWar Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.TIBIA.
KONGSGAARD.

Congratulations to Masters and crews on their fine achievement in bringing their ships safely to port after being torpedoed. (A.C.N.S.(T) Approved 1st Lord 0011B/5 to F.O.I.C's Greenock, Belfast.)

KINGSTON HILL.
(torpedoed
7/6.)

My 1645/4. KINGSTON HILL torpedoed 7/6 in 8.30 N. 3.0 W. (approx.) by U-39. Two torpedoes struck destroying W/T gear. Survivors rescued on 20/6 also two of ships life boats salvaged. 13 of crew drowned by awamping and one other died in boat. (S.O.1 Capetown, 1312B/5 to Admty. etc.)

[Revised time & position - p. 380]

ANSELM.
(torpedoed
5/7.)

ANSELM torpedoed by S/M in estimated position 044° 20' N. 028° 20' W. at 0440/5. CHALLENGER has 970 and STARWORT 240 survivors. Propose transferring whole contingent CATHAY on making contact with daylight 6th. This would have been done 2000/5 but not met owing low visibility. After transferring survivors propose acting on C. in C.W.As.1157/5 and 1511B/5. (CATHAY, 2300Z/5 to Admty.) W.D. Note:- ANSELM, British 5954 tons, was in W.S.9 B. and had R.A.F. personnel for Takoradi and other Service personnel for Middle East.

Submarines Reported.

0115.

Am over enemy submarine in 46.52 N., 10.37. W. (A/C 75 Sqdn.E. 0115/5 to 19 Group.) Enemy submarine has dived. Have lost touch, last seen in position (as 0115) 050° 13 knots. (A.C.75, 0145/5 to 19 Group.)

Search.

My 0415/5 (N.T. in W.D.) Lysander A/C will co-operate in search at first light. (C. in C. Plymouth 0441/5 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.) Weather permitting one Catalina A/C will co-operate in search about Mid-day 5/7. (C. in C.W.A. 0546B/5 to PERIWINKLE.) In 047° 37' N. 019° 07' W. (b) searching vicinity till further orders (weather). (PERIWINKLE, 0700B/5 to C. in C.W.A.) Have searched area 048° 00' N. 047° 14' N. 018° 50' W. 019° 20' W. in good visibility now searching to Northwards 30 miles front 48.06 N.19. 18 W.W'ther (PERIWINKLE, 2300B/5 to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.5.7.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported - Contd.

1120. One S/M bearing 320° distance 3 miles, 62.07 N. 15.15 W. steering 310°. (NORTHERN FOAM, 1120/5 1134/5 to Scapa W/T.)
 Proceed with all despatch to hunt U/B reported by NORTHERN FOAM. (S.O.N.T. 1135B/5 to NORTHERN PRINCESS, NORTHERN SKY.)
 My 1120B/5 chased S/M on surface unable to overtake. S/M at 1155 at high speed steering 310° in 062° 20' N. 015° 37' W. (NORTHERN FOAM, 1334B/5 to S.O.T.N.P.)
 Following made to NORTHERN FOAM, NORTHERN SKY, NORTHERN PRINCESS. My 1135B/5. If all contact lost return to patrol. (S.O.N.T. Kirkwall 1631B/5 to A.C.O.S.)
 No contact since 1155, returning to patrol. (NORTHERN FOAM, 1950B/5 to S.O.N.T.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1537B/5.)

S. Atlantic. Your 1338N/4, yes. Our appreciation was based on most probable course of U.Boat which sank AUDITOR and movements of one other U.Boat. (Admty. 1609B/5 to C. in C.S.A.)

21/6. Master of U.S. Ship LONE STAR reported to N.C.S.O. Trinidad sighting 21/6, 1530 ship's time, in 23° 20' S. 42° 45' W. large rusty S/M, one gun forward of conning tower, no visible markings. No attack or communication made. S/M proceeded slowly, course 70° A.1. Can you identify? (S.O.I Jamaica, 1621R/5 to S.O.I. Montevideo) W.D. Note:- Was Brazilian, see 1514/7.
 p. 130

2147. At 2147. G.M.T. German Submarines bearing 300° 2nd Class and 290° 3rd Class. (F.O.C.N.A. 2247A/5 to N.A. Stn.)

War Diary.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

There were indications that two E. boats were operating off Dungeness between 0100/6 and 0400/6. This is the first time this year that E. boats have been in the Dover area.

M.T.B's operated last night between Etaples and Berck sur Mer.

Two
Destroyers
sunk by
Russians.

The Russians report having sunk two German destroyers or torpedo boats in the Gulf of Riga today.

British Air Operations.

A strong force of Blenheims detailed to attack shipping in the Heligoland Bight today encountered and attacked an intelligence screen of trawlers and light craft positioned across the Bight, destroying 5 and damaging 2 of the enemy reporting ships.

Later in the day 2-3000 ton Flakships off the Dutch coast were attacked; one is claimed as destroyed and another damaged.

11 aircraft attacked Rotterdam docks last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

East Coast.

Convoy E.C.42 was attacked at 0130 today in clear bright moonlight in 53° 6' N. 1° 26' E. and shot down the attacking aircraft, S.S. TETELA claiming this success. S.S. NORTH DEVON was damaged.

A/P Trawler JENNIFER was bombed and damaged at 0230 off the Lincolnshire coast by 4 aircraft and was beached at Trusthorpe. F.S.533 was attacked shortly after midnight 5/6 July near Sheringham Buoy; Swedish S.S. BIRGITTA was damaged. It is reported that H.M.T. TARTAN hit and probably brought down an A/C which attacked her at 0230 at Humber L.V.

Convoy F.N.489 was bombed at 2044 25 miles N.E. of Cromer. No damage is reported.

Irish Sea.

~~TETELA~~ Steam Trawler 4.B was attacked near St. Govans Lightship at 2306.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

East Coast.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Humber, off Yarmouth, in the Thames Estuary and between Strumbles Head and Milford Haven. HOLDERNESS was damaged by a mine at midnight 5/6 July off Flamborough Head. Mines were detonated today in the Humber. 6 aircraft laid mines last night off St. Nazaire and 4 off Brest.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Bombs were dropped on Malta last night by a few aircraft. No damage or casualties occurred.

R.A.F. Attack
on shipping
at Palermo.

6 aircraft attacked shipping in Palermo harbour this afternoon. It is reported that the following damage was caused:-
One 10,000 ton ship 2 hits, apparently breaking her back. One 10,000 ton ship 3 hits, resulting in fire, explosions and dense volumes of smoke. One 8000 ton, one 5000 ton, one 2000 ton ship hit and one 3000 ton ship hit with incendiaries. Later P.R.U. R/C showed one 10,000 ton ship and 2 smaller vessels to have sunk.

S/M
Operation.

Four "U" class submarines are to carry out special operations which are reported by Comdr.(S) 1 today.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Tug C.307 shot down her second aircraft in an air raid on Tobruk at 0945 today.

Suez Canal.

About 6 enemy aircraft raided the Canal area between 0040 and 0400 today. Bombs and mines were dropped on shore, but no mines fell in the Canal. No damage or casualties were caused. PASS OF BALMAHA was slightly damaged by a near miss.

French M.V.
attacked.

A Beaufighter today attacked and damaged with cannon gun a 2000 ton French merchant ship 10 miles East of Rhodes.

/Palestine

War Diary.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Palestine
and Syria.

Effective Naval support was given today to the Army in its advance on Damur, though cloud and mist rendered observation of fire difficult.

China.

Ships to
proceed via
Panama.

In order to reduce the volume of shipping in the South Atlantic arrangements have been made for a number of ships in the Far Eastern trade to proceed in future via Panama instead of the Cape.

America and West Indies.

Bermuda has ceased to be a convoy assembly port.

War Diary.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

JUPITER.
NESTOR.
HEYTHROP.

Your 1250B/4. Arrangements are being made to equip JUPITER and NESTOR with two Oerlikons each when at Clyde. HEYTHROP will also be fitted before departure. NESTOR to have positions prepared while at Clyde. (D.T.S.D. 0912B/6 to R.A.D. H.F).

4th D.F.

Your 1558/5. Ships will operate as one force when lent to other commands, as far as practicable -The operation of the four ships of 4th D.F. since 30/5 has been as follows. Details.
(2) From these records it appears that in the last 38 days COSSACK and SIKH have spent 23 days on Convoy work, MAORI 20 days and ZULU 7 days, this is somewhat less than the average of W.A. escort Groups. All ships which have been serviceable have operated together.
(3) As COSSACK and SIKH are boiler cleaning and ZULU is refitting, MAORI is the only packet at sea, and this is the only occasion on which a part of the 4th D.F. has been at sea without D.4 being in command. (C. in C. W. A. 1428B/6 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

108th M.L.
Flotilla.

On completion boats of 108th M.L. Flotilla are to assemble on Clyde where they may be used for A/S patrols until an opportunity occurs for shipment abroad but no delay in their release can be accepted. (D. of L.D. 1804B/6).

Intercepted
French
Ships.

Intercepted French ships are to be routed into port or to join convoy with due regard to possibility of recapture especially if they have broken W/T silence.
(ii) Ship is to be sunk if engine sabotaged or is to be scuttled and usual distress signal made if recapture imminent when under armed guard.
(iii) Authority to sink is dependent on passenger, crew and ship's papers having been removed or their safety assured in accordance with International Law. (F.O.C.N.P. 2230B/6 to Western Patrol).

War Diary.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

CATHAY.
CHALLENGER.
STARWORT.
PETUNIA.

Your 2300Z/5. Concur in your continuing to Freetown with all troops. If water situation makes this impossible arrange by W/T with Capt. D (8) in FAULKNER, who arrives Ponta Delgada 1030B/6 for fuel, to escort you to join FURIOUS in 41° N. 22° 15' W. at 1000Z/7 and return with her to U.K. Report your intentions. (A.C.N.S. F. 0810B/6 to CATHAY).

My 0930Z/6. When LAVENDER rejoins me CHALLENGER, STARWORT, PETUNIA proceed Ponta Delgada to fuel arriving a.m. 8th. PETUNIA then proceeds as in C. in C. W.A. 1157/5. CHALLENGER with STARWORT to proceed independently routed by F.O.C.N.A. STARWORT'S asdic broken down and CHALLENGER maximum speed 12½ knots. Water situation satisfactory. MORETON BAY not required. (CATHAY 0935Z/6).

A.M. 0810B/6. MORETON BAY can be sent to join you if this would assist continuing to Freetown. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0956B/6 to CATHAY).

SHERWOOD.

SHERWOOD arrived. Intend sailing her independently for Clyde as soon as possible. Large numbers of steam leaks and failure of one evaporator produces loss of feed water of 20 tons per day. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1057B/6).

4th M.L.
Flotilla.

Admiralty's 1529/21. No destroyer escort to Iceland can be provided for the present. (A.C.O.S. 1145B/6).

Operation
D.N.

C.S. 10 in NIGERIA with BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, TARTAR, ECLIPSE, CURACOA. (A.C.O.S. 1330/6).

INTREPID.
ANTELOPE.
HEATHER.
MIMOSA.

When OTTAWA and escort from Iceland join, INTREPID and ANTELOPE are to return to Scapa. HEATHER is to return direct to Holyhead. MIMOSA is to proceed Halifax with convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 2312B/6).

Operations.

SEALION.

Patrol in Bay of Biscay South zone South of Lat. 046° N. (F.O.S. 1031B/6 to SEALION).

Biscay
S/M Patrol.

Following signals from F.O.S. which established numbered positions in Bay of Biscay are cancelled 2014/22/3. 1236/27/3. 1736/29/3. (F.O.S. 1228B/6).

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6.7.1941.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Fighter Protection.

"Intend to sail" signals for Convoys between Flammouth and Dartmouth will, as a trial, be taken as automatic requests for Fighter Protection - Such signals to be in following form. (C. in C. Plymouth 1108/6); See Lion Copy.

Patrol.

Three aircraft with torpedoes now carrying out ~~STAND~~ patrol. (C. in C. Rosyth 1446/6). My 1446/6. Nothing sighted. (C. in C. Rosyth 1919/6).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.S.
533.
BIRGITTA
(Swedish,
1363 Tons),
damaged.

Shortly after midnight 5/6 in 53° 5' N. 1° 19' E. 3 miles South of Sheringham Buoy BIRGITTA was damaged. Has been towed to Yarmouth by BASSET and Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER. Casualties not yet reported. (HOLDERNESS 0037/6). (C. in C. Nore 0141B/6 to BASSET) (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0320B/6). (C. in C. Nore 1214B/6).

Convoy
E.C. 42.
NORTH DEVON
(British,
3658 Tons)
damaged.

Damaged by near misses shortly after midnight 5/6 near 57A. Buoy. Arrived in Humber in tow of Tugs KROOMAN and DIVERSION at 1500/6. 10 survivors landed Lowestoft by M.L. 193, and 3 at Humber by MEYNELL. 5 dead. One Aircraft brought down 0130. S.S. TETELA claims this success. (EGLINTON 0145B/6, 1244B/6) (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0240B/6). (MEYNELL 0254B/6, 0317B/6, 0920/6) (C. in C. Nore 1214B/6, 1239/6). (F.O. Humber 1515B/6, 2207B/6).

SNAEFELL
(Paddle
Minesweeper)
sunk.

Bombed and sunk by enemy aircraft at about 2355/5 near 20 A buoy. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0535/6).

(Position, see page 116)

JENNIFER
damaged.

(A/P Trawler). Attacked by enemy aircraft at 0230 today. Aircraft dropped four bombs at least, one of which hit her. Ship was beached at Trustthorpe. Chief Engineer missing, remainder of crew safe. (F.O. Humber 0859B/6).

Convoy
'Casing'.

Enemy bombing 'Casing' 52° 57' N. 2° E. (VERSATILE 2044/6). My 2044. No attack developed 2 enemy aircraft turned back by A/A fire. (VERSATILE 2140B/6).

Steam Trawler
4 B.

Attacked by Enemy Aircraft S.E. St. Govans Lightship. (Nore W/T 2306/6).

101A.

SECRET.

POSTAGRAM.

1108/6th July.
IN.

From Commander-in-Chief,
Plymouth.

Date. 8.7.41.

Recd. 1130.

Addressed F.O.I.C. Falmouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth,
repeated Admiralty, C. in C. Western Approaches, C. in C.
Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Cardiff,
N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, N.C.S.O. Falmouth, N.C.S.O. Plymouth.

324.P. In order to reduce
signalling, "Intend to sail" signals for convoys between
Falmouth and Dartmouth will, as a trial, be taken as an
automatic request for fighter protection.

2. The "Intend" signal is to be made in
the following form:-

(1) Intend to sail (letter and number of convoy),
at (time), (total number of) ships,
(number of K.B's, speed, escorts (Alpha),
(Beta), (Gamma), E.T.A. R/V or splitting
point, code word.

(ii) Category.

(iii) (Number of) ships for (name of port) E.T.A.
(time). Names or numbers (from C.A.F.O's
2073/40 and 241/41).

(iv) (Number of) ships from (name of port), join
at R/V at (time).

(v) Special route if different from Standard
route.

(vi) If any of the escorts are fitted with
V. H/F and can keep 10 group guard
frequency.

3. The standard routes for convoys will
shortly be issued. When this has been done, it will be
unnecessary to give the route in the "Intend" signal.

4. It will be assumed that "Help"
signals will be made on 385 kc/s by destroyers and on
2300 kc/s by trawlers, unless otherwise stated.

5. It can be assumed that Fighter Escort
will be provided for categories I, II and III, unless
otherwise stated.

1108/6.

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

D.S.D. 9.
D.S.D. (2).
M. (2).
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (C).
D.T.D. (M).

D.N.A.D.
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (3).
W.D.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N. 67A. Intend to sail SCOTT for operation S.N. 67A at 0600/7. (R.A.M. 1117B/6).

S.A. Destroyers for East Coast. Your 1924B/22/6. Shortest notice for WAIRS 24 hours, for HUNTS 48 hours. Trials are being carried out to ascertain whether the latter time can be improved on. (C. in C. Rosyth 1234/6 to Adty.)

LUNAN. (Mined 4/7). Position of Wreck. Salvage impossible. Request dispersal of wreck be authorised. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1634B/6).

Spurn Point. The following four mines exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber 2012B/6).

Enemy Intelligence.

Warship movements. Rumours of recent arrival of German Warships at Copenhagen from Kiel still persist even from good sources. Confirmation and details are lacking. (N.A. Stockholm 1125/6).

E-Boats off Dungeness. There are indications that two E-boats were operating off Dungeness between 0100 and 0400 today. This is the first time this year that E-boats have been in Dover area. Request that convoy escorts and other vessels making the passage may be warned. (V.A. Dover 1314B/6).

Casualties and Defects.

AMBUSCADE. Has developed leaks in main condensers. This will delay sailing and cancel all previous programmes. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2021/6).

Shipping and Convoys.

Firing at unseen A/C. Opening of blind fire by merchant ships on sound alone of aircraft overhead to be discouraged. Such fire may even attract enemy aircraft to a convoy not previously located. (C. in C. Rosyth 1230/6 to Admty.).

/Lights.....

6.7.1941. 103
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Lights.

Pilots of fighter aircraft escorting convoys after dark report R.A.F. personnel are able to locate convoy from light displayed. N.C.S.Os. to bring this to notice of masters. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2235/6, to N.C.S.O's, Rosyth Cmd.).

Portuguese
and
Spanish
Ports.

Ref. N.C.S.I. 122 para. 2 (a), in future if numbers warrant and sufficient escorts are in company, S.O. of Escort in consultation with Commodore of Convoy has discretion to detach an escort with those ships bound for Portuguese or Spanish ports West of Gibraltar so as to arrive off Cape St. Vincent after dark. Importance of keeping inside territorial waters after being detached is to be specially emphasized. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2335B/6 to N.C.S.O's).

War Diary.6.7.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Ponta
Delgada.

My 1533B/5, destroyer will arrive 1030B/6 and will also require dry provisions. (D.O.D.(F) 0007B/6).

CARLIER.

Seized by French, is proceeding Dakar to Bordeaux. If intercepted outside territorial waters and unescorted she is to be sent in. (F.O.C.N.A. 0042B/6 to N.A. Stn.).
Your 0042B/6. Request date CARLIER left Dakar, etc. (D.D.I.C. 1755B/6 to F.O.C.N.A.).
Your 1755B/6. Following from N.C.S.O. Lisbon addressed S.O.(I) Gib. Belgian CARLIER seized by French is proceeding from Dakar to Bordeaux with cargo of groundnuts. Exact date when she sailed not known. A.I. 1815/5 (Ends).
(F.O.C.N.A., 2046A/6 to Admty.).

SCYTHIA
pigeon
incident.

Following received from FURIOUS. Pigeon released from SCYTHIA by unknown passenger at 1200. Broadcast to all concerned if route is to be changed. 2212. (Ends). (F.O.C.N.A., 0549A/6 to Admty.).
Your 0549A/6. A.T. 1516B/5 altering the route was after the departure of pigeon. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1552B/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French
Convoy.

Passings 5/7. French westward LEOPOLD-L-D, eastward KAKOULIMA, BENTY, both full. My 0925/5 add French eastward SURVILLE, MONTAIGNE, GRAND-QUEVILLY, all full. (V.A.C.N.A., 0919A/6 to Admty. for M.E.W.).

O.21.
IMPERIALIST.

Proceed through position (F) 038° 30' 011° 00' then in accordance with my 1408A/4. IMPERIALIST patrolling vicinity 038° 30' N. 009° 45' W. for U-boats, very unreliable report, fuel on 7th. (F.O.C.N.A. 1106A/6 to O. 21.).

TALISMAN.
THUNDERBOLT.

Route on N.A. Station. (F.O.C.N.A., 1206A/6).

Mines,
Genoa.

2 Spanish ships have been sunk presumably by mines in vicinity of Genoa between 15/6 and 27/6. (S.O.I. Gib. 1314A/6 to C. in C. Med.).

War Diary.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Freetown.

Following are only details to be given to Masters of vessels entering Freetown. (Freetown 1020N/6 to Adty.).

GAZCON.
(Vichy).

QUEEN OF BERMUDA is patrolling off Lobito in order to intercept Vichy French GAZCON expected to sail any time after 3/7. (C. in C. S.A., 1105N/6 to DRAGON).

Raider
Intelligence.

Your 1051N/4. Reply. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1247B/6 to C. in C. S.A.) See Lion Copy.

VILLE DE
TAMATAVE.

My 2131/5. Request early information action to be taken regarding ship and cargo. (C. in C. S.A. 1314N/6 to Admty.).

DERBYSHIRE.

Your 1543/4 not received. Your 1446/5. Concur, this will be of great assistance. (C. in C. S.A. 1905N/6 to R.A.3).
R.A.3 1626/2 and 1543P/4. Proposal approved, and sailing date of DERBYSHIRE noted. Second ship should be sailed not later than 6/8. WORCESTERSHIRE E.T.A. Halifax approx. 9/8. Third ship should be sailed when ALAUNIA is ready for service but not later than 20/8. (D.O.D. (H) 2300B/6 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.3).

LIKOMBA.

My 1231/1. MILFORD is to leave Lagos at 0800/7 and proceed to patrol in vicinity of Fernando Po to intercept LIKOMBA should vessel leave. On passage to patrol area investigate about 05° 15' N. 04° 32' E. NEW BROOKLYN reported sighting periscope at 2125/?25. (C. in C. S.A. 2345N/6, to MILFORD).

Mediterranean.

Enemy
M/V.

Following has been read, addressed A/C of N.635 Sqn. from A/C on duty R. P.C. and S. of 1 M.V. 36° 30' N. 28° 18' E, course 070°. speed 10 knots. (Malta W/T, 0830/6 to Med. Fleet).
One enemy merchant ship should pass Castelorizo eastbound 1500C/6. (Capt. S.1. 0931C/6 to Greek S/M NEREUS).

/Cyprus.....

105A

SECRET

MESSAGE 1247B/ 6th July.

OUT

To: C. in C. South Atlantic. 369.

Date 6. 7. 41.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) R.

From: Admiralty.

Your 1031N/4. /

(i) All information available in Admiralty is contained in W.I.R. 30/5 Raider Supplement. Following is extract.

Raider A. CRION-NARVIK Number possibly 41. Area of operations Pacific 6 to 12/40. Probably returned home.

Raider B. MANYO-MARU Number unknown, but might be 21 or 41. Pacific 9 to 12/40. Probably returned home.

Raider C. ATLANTIS-TAMESIS etc. Number 16. Indian Ocean 6-12/40, South Atlantic 1/41, Indian Ocean 2/41, South Atlantic 3/41 to 6/41.

Raider D. Also NARVIK, Believed to be PARANAGUA. Probably 21. North Atlantic south of 40 degs N. 6/11/40. Returned to Brest before Xmas 1940, present whereabouts unknown.

Raider E. VIR ex Santa Cruz Number 10. South Atlantic 1940. Cape Verdes, Pernambuco 1941. Returned Germany April 1941.

Raider F. PINGUIN. Number 33. Sunk by H.M.S. CORNWALL 8.5.41.

Raider G. No.46. New raider. No other details known.

(ii) CANBERRA's 1750/5/3 stated Captain of Prize Crew joined KETTY BROVIG repeat KETTY BROVIG from No. 16 repeat No. 16 on 13th February. See also H.M.S. CANBERRA's 1805/7/3.

My 1745B/28/5 and 1649B/18/6 corrected my 1748/21/5. Until there is evidence that Rögge has transferred his command Admiralty is satisfied No.16 responsible for attacks in South Atlantic March, April and May.

(iii) Grading is difficult, information is either a fact obtained by first hand report generally after survivors have been rescued or a supposition which has been shewn in weekly reports as a probability or possibility. In future known facts will be so stated.

1247B/6

? No 41. W.D. 30/9/41 P.733 A

D.D.I.C.
(Green Line 8)
Approved A.C.N.S. (F)

/ Given Most Secret Marking.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.D. 9.
O.I.C (2)
O.D. (5)
Ops. (4)
D of P. (3)

D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D.(C)
I.P. (3)
W.D.

War Diary.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Cyprus,
Bombed.

Op. Summ. No. 391. Cyprus 5/7. Famagusta Harbour and Nicosia aerodrome each bombed by single Vichy Glenn Martin. No damage or casualties.

Benghazi
bombed.

Continuation My A. 882, 5/7, night 4/5 additional 5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Derna El Adem and Bir en Ngar. (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1034/6).

PASS OF
BALMAHA.

Sustained slight damage from near miss. Estimate repair complete 10/7. (D.S.T.O. Alexandria, 1053/6 to D. of S.T.).

S/M's.

Proposed operations. (Cdr. S.1, 1130B/6 to Capt. S.1). See Mediterranean Volume.

Air raid
on Suez
Canal.

About 6 enemy A/C raided Canal area in 2 waves between 0040 and 0400/6. No mines in canal. Traffic proceeding normal. Number of small bombs dropped near east bank between k.m.s. 140 and 141. Five large bombs or mines exploded ashore between k.m.s. 134 and 150.4. One UX.B. at k.m. 151.4 and 1 UX.B. or UX.M. at k.m. 99 clear of channel. Activity over Northern part Gulf Suez was slight. Not considered minelaying took place. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1113C/6, 1801C/6).

TRIUMPH.

To remain on patrol until 12th and arrive Alexandria 17th. (Capt. S.1, 1215C/6 to TRIUMPH).

KIPLING.

N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik 1205/4 KIPLING should be sailed for Alexandria immediately trials are completed on 10/7. (C. in C. Med., 1259C/6 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).

Malta Air
Raid.

Malta C.S.R. to 1600 hours. 6/7. Night 5/6, 4 alarms 10 enemy aircraft. Only 3 crossed coast, no damage or casualties. Most bombs fell into sea.

Raid on
Palermo
Shipping.

6 aircraft 10 Squadron led by W/Cdr. Hunt carried brilliant attack on shipping Palermo Harbour 1400/6 local time. Approach made by sea. Return over Sicily. Complete surprise. Hits scored on M.Vs. as follows: 10,000 tonner, 2 hits apparently breaking her back. 10,000 tonner, 3 hits resulting in fire explosions and dense volumes of smoke. 8,000 tonner, none hit. 8,000 tonner, 2 hits. 5,000 tonner 1 hit. 3,000 tonner hit with incendiaries. 2,000 tonner, 1 hit. All ships bunched together in 2 rows making it almost impossible to miss. All Rear Gunners with twin guns and pilots with frontguns fired into CBS., DRS., and harbour establishments. Large explosion seen near dry dock. Total confusion in harbour and outside. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta, 1600/6, 2310/6).

War Diary.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

HYACINTH.

Has arrived Haifa, quite seaworthy but will require new dome and oscillator. Can steam 16 knots. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1735C/6 to C. in C. Med.).
If HYACINTH is seaworthy, sail her for Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 1808C/6 to N.O.I.C. Haifa).

Beirut.

My 1003/6. (N.T. in W.R). R/C this afternoon reports no (? Warship) present at Beirut. (F.O. 15 C.S., 1741C/6 to C. in C. Med.).

Ships for
Army
Supplies.

Your 1155C/3. Will PRINCE BADOIN, VICTORIA, MANXMAN offered in Admty. 1140B/1 and ANTWERP and MALINES in Admiralty 1722B/10 meet your requirements? (A.C.N.S. (F) 1832B/6 to C. in C. Med.).

Tripoli.

Analysis from photos of wrecks and derelicts at Tripoli. (V.A. Malta, 1915B/6 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

Syria,
Bombardments
by C. S.7.

Request ships may be in support off Coast at 1330/7. Bombarding arrangements. (N.L.O. Palestine, 1954C/6 to C.S.15).
Intend to be in position ready to fire at 1430/7 and wish to leave by 1730. Does this suit Military -Request target and reply as early as possible since necessary arrangements cannot be put forward at last minute. (C.S. 7, 2301/6 to N.L.O. Palestine).

East Indies.

FULTALA.

Have you any news of FULTALA due Calcutta 27/6? (D.T.D. 1801B/6 to S.O.(I) Bombay).

China.

MARIE
MOLLER
stopped
by
Japanese
S/M.

On passage from Shanghai, stopped and boarded on 2/7 by Japanese submarine No./3 in 24° 22' N. 118° 38' E. Danger of serious incidents if submarines are used for this purpose. (Cdre., Hong Kong 0653Z/6 to C. in C. China).

Shipping
via Panama.

To reduce volume of shipping in South Atlantic, M. of W.T. have arranged for ships in Far Eastern Trade to proceed via Panama instead of the Cape. About 6 to 8 ships per month each way will be involved. (D.T. D. 1859B/6 to C. in C. China).

10/15/41 July
IN.

From : V.A. Malta,

Date : 7.7.41.

Recd : 0022.

107A

Interservice Special X by W/T.

Addressed : C. in C. Mediterranean, repeated Admiralty,
A.O.C. Mediterranean, A.O.C. in C. Middle East.

165. Following is Analysis from photographs only of
Wrecks and derelicts at Tripoli.

Positions are largely approximate. Bearings and
distances in Cables are from Light at end of North Breakwater.
Reliability of assessment a certain, B probable, C not yet asessed
assessed.

Disting- uishing Letter.	Position.	Size.	First Noticed in Trou- ble.	Remarks.	Relia- bility.
A.	247	6.6. ^e Medium.	10th May.	Mainly submerged.	A.
B.	263	6.3. Small.		On her side.	A.
C.	216.	7.7. Large.	20th April.	Aground.	B.
D.	257.	2.6. Large.	4th July.	Aground suspicion of List.	C.
E.	059.	12. Large.	26th March.	Hospital Ship believed TEVERE main dock awash.	A.
F.	072.	12.5. Medium.	2nd June.	ANDREA GRITTI Class aground and burnt out.	AA
G.	068.	13.8. Unknown.	3rd July.	Masts and funnel only showing.	A.
H.	060.	12.6. Small.	3rd July.	Set alight by swordfish 2nd July still burning 6 July.	A.
I.	026.	2.3. Small.	5th July.	Unusual anchorage, appears low in water with lighters alongside.	C.
J.	109.	6.2. Small.	4th July.	Appears aground with large oil wake.	C.

/ K.

107B

K. 110. 3.3.Small. 21st April. F. underwater. A.

1915B/6th

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops.(4).
O.D.(5).
D. of P.(3).
M.(3).
D.N.I.(4).
O.I.C.(2).
D.S.D.9.
D.N.A.D.
D.A./S.W.
D.T.D.(4).
D.T.D.(M).
D.T.D.(C).
Hydrog.
D.T.S.D.
E.P.S.
Salv.
I.P.(3).
W.D.
File.X.

N.P.

War Diary.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Bermuda.

Now withdrawn as assembly port and vessels proceed Sydney or Halifax for convoy. To avoid congestion at Halifax, Hampton Roads should now be used as bunkering port for vessels requiring substantial quantities. (D.T.D. 0017B/6 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.).

Suspicious Ship.

Following received from U.S. N. Authorities. U.S. Coast Guard at 1925/5 picked up QQQQ from steamer PORT FAIRY which gave position as 25° 06' N. 65° 27' W. 0542/6. (Ends.) (D.D.I.C. 0916B/6 to C. in C. A.W.I). Your 0916B/6. Description tallies with colouring of WAR BRAHMIN who should have been near this position, due Bermuda 8/7. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0929Q/6).

VAN KINSBERGEN.

My 1241Q/2, and 1523B/5. Intend VAN KINSBERGEN leave Bermuda for U.K. 14/7. Is ship required to assist in any escort duty? (C. in C. A.W.I., -0941Q/6 to Admty.).

AUSONIA. MALOJA.

Your 1109/5. Concur retention of AUSONIA who has larger troop carrying capacity. Would prefer MALOJA to be sailed as soon as practicable with Air Force personnel now available. (R.A.3, 1106P/6 to A.C. Iceland (C)). A.C. Iceland (C)'s 1109/5. Desirable that MALOJA should be sailed to join next O.B. Convoy with balance now awaiting onward passage. A.M.C.s carrying personnel from Iceland (C) to Halifax should invariably be sailed to join O.B. Convoys. (A.C.N.S.(H) and (T) 1200B/6 to B.S. 3, A.C. Iceland (c)).

STRATHNAVER T.C.12.

Your 1403/2 and 1543/4. Proposed that only STRATHNAVER be added to the four ships proposed in my 1320/4 para 2. Total accommodation thereby provided in T.C. 12 is 11,500 approx. (D.S.T. 1450B/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I).

"Q" Report.

St. Lucia Radio 2250/6, see 7/7.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ANSELM.
(torpedoed
5/7)
My 0930Z/6. ANSELM sank in 30 minutes. Total survivors now on board, 1019. Missing (details). (CATHAY, 2130Z/6 to Admty.). *Amended 2232H/17.*

Submarines Reported.

2311/5 G.M.T. German submarine bearings 330/3 at 2311 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 0043B/6 to N.A.S).

0211 G.M.T. Italian Submarine bearing 280/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 0347A/6 to N.A. Stn.).

0210. D/F fix of Italian U/Boat at 0210Z/6 within 60 miles of 037° N. 013° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1041A/6 to N.A. Stn.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. German. Minimum of 20 actually operating in Atlantic. Others may be outward bound not yet fixed. Italian. Five at sea of which some or all may be between Madeira and Cape Vincent. (D.D.I.C. 1434B/6).

1514 G.M.T. D/F bearings Italian Submarine 285/2. (F.O.C.N.A. 1631A/6 to N.A. Stn.).

1608Z. German Submarine bearing 320/3 from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1726AR/6 to N.A. Stn.).

A.M./30. Report B.2 fisherman who returned to Rio de Janeiro today sighted large submarine surfacing close to his Dory in approx. 19° 09' S. 39° 05' W. shortly before dawn/30. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1744/6). (SO.I. Montevideo 2317Z./6 to RASAD)

1714 G.M.T. Italian Submarine bearing 283/2. (F.O.C.N.A. 1837A/6 to N.A. Stn.).

/1736.....

War Diary.

6.7.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1736.

A/C's 1736/6 (N.T. in W.R). Proceed and hunt if you have sufficient fuel remaining. (F.O.C.N.A. 1905A/6 to FEARLESS FORESTER). Your 1905A/6 FEARLESS and FORESTER will reach position at 0400/7 with enough oil fuel to hunt until 2100/7. (FEARLESS, 2040A/6 to F.O.C.N.A). Your 2220B/ (Asking for repetition of message). Gibraltar W/T Station from aircraft W 84 15. Position of enemy is 037° 56' N. 012° 10' W. T.O.O. 1736 (Ends). (F.O.C.N.A. 2247A/6 to Admty.) It is probable hourly reports of your movements are being made by Italian S/M. (F.O.C.N.A. 1912A/6 to F.O. 18 C.S).

1715.

At 1715Z Italian U-boat within 60 miles of 037° N. 013° W. (F.O.C.N.A., 2053A/6 to N.A. Stn.)

Intercept 05.15 N. 04.32 E. NEW BROOKLYN periscope sighted 2246/6 G.M.T. ends. (Freetown 2225Z/6, Valentia Radio, 2255/6).

2010.

Bearings of U/B at 2010 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2252B/6 to F.O.C.N.A).

~~30/6.~~

~~Report B.2. received that fishermen who returned to Rio de Janeiro today sighted large submarine surfacing close to him DORY in approx. 19° 09' S. 39° 05' W. shortly before dawn on 30/6. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2317Z/6 to R.A.S.A.D).~~

Submarines Attacked.

By BOADICEA.

U-boat sighted dived being attacked by escort thick fog. P.C. and S. 60.55 N., 19.25 W., 105 6½. (BEAGLE 0012B/6 to C. in C. W.A). My 2346B/5. (N.T. in W.R). Submarine dived 2 cables ahead of convoy. BOADICEA made 1 attack. Wash still visible when charge dropped. Visibility -at time 4 cables. Contact never regained. During emergency turn some of escort lost touch and BOADICEA and ST. LOMAN rejoined to give protection after unsuccessful search in inner conditions. Escort now complete. (S.O. Escort Group 4 0650B/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.7.7.1941.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Operations.

101 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked last night the estimated position of the enemy naval units at Brest.

Successful operations against shipping 8 ships and 1 E-boat sunk or damaged.

Successful operations were carried out by Bomber Command today against shipping off the Dutch coast particularly against an escorted convoy of 8 enemy supply ships off the Hague, in which as many as 6 ships were left sinking or on fire.

Coastal Command aircraft also operated against shipping on the French and Dutch coast and the Frisian Islands both last night and today, and amongst other successes an E-boat was sunk off Gravelines and direct hits were obtained on -ships off Calais and the Frisian Is.

Enemy Air Operations.East Coast

A/P Trawler LOUIS BOTHA was disabled by air attack at 0215 today off the Humber and was towed to Grimsby.

Convoy F.N.489 reported being bombed at 0044 in 53° 6' N. 1° 16' E. No damage has been reported.

Convoy F.S.534 was attacked in the early hours off the Humber. No ship was damaged and WHADDON, escorting, claims to have hit the enemy aircraft with 2 pr.

Irish Sea and West.

Convoy O.B.M.344 was attacked at 0045B near the South Bishop and tanker FERNCOURT was damaged.

Trawler FORT DEE reported being attacked at 0130 when 8 miles S.E. of St. Govan's Light, by a single A/C burning navigation lights. The ship was superficially damaged and claims to have hit the aircraft which attacked her.

Convoy "Wheel" was attacked at 0241 off Carmarthen Bay. No further report has been received.

112

7.7.1941.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

East
Coast

Orders have been issued that speeds higher than 14 knots when in company with convoys on the East Coast to be avoided unless in action with the enemy or other urgent circumstances render it necessary.

M.L.108 was slightly damaged by a mine today in the coastal channel of the Humber.

Thames
Estuary

There was intense minelaying activity over a wide area of the Thames Estuary between 0040 and 0155 today. Several mines were dropped and the enemy aircraft, which included 4 engine F.W. type were heavily engaged by patrol vessels; some A/C were hit and one was brought down.

A/P aircraft LORD ST. VINCENT was sunk by a mine at 1445 today near the N.E. Gunfleet Buoy.

Normal traffic in the Medway in the Sheerness area, where restrictions were imposed on 23/6 was resumed this evening.

West.

A mine was detonated in the Usk early this morning; the river was reopened at 1001B.

Two acoustic mines were detonated in unusual circumstances off Plymouth breakwater this morning.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

About 20 enemy aircraft bombed Malta singly last night. No Naval damage is reported.

Tanker
sunk.

S/M. O.23, who is returning from patrol in the Gulf of Genoa reports that she has sunk a large enemy tanker fully loaded.

113

War Diary.

7.7.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean Contd.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

Benghazi was bombed last night. 5 Swordfish laid mines in the approaches to Tripoli harbour. Tripoli was also bombed.

Alexandria

About 10 to 20 enemy aircraft raided Alexandria from 2300/6 to 0030/7. Bombs and mines were dropped both inside and outside the harbour. No Naval damage was caused,

Palestine
and Syria.

F.O. 7th C.S. in AJAX with PERTH, CARLISLE and destroyers is on the coast of Syria co-operating with the army advance against Damur.

An enemy force of 3 French destroyers and a merchant ship steering east off Cape Khelidonia were attacked this morning by our aircraft and retired to the westward.

Cyprus.

There was an air raid on Nicosia at 0700 G.M.T. today by several JU.88's.

The port of Famagusta was closed at 1729 today on account of two unexploded bombs in the harbour entrance.

U-boat Campaign.

S.S. CITY OF AUCKLAND, dispersed from O.G.66 reported being shelled 0240 G.M.T. in 33° 14' N. 31° 21' W.

7.7.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Shipping
for Ayrshire
Ports.

Attention is drawn to A.M.1806/8/6. Vessels not exempted from search who are bound for Ayrshire ports should be routed to Brodick Bay, not the Clyde. (D.T.D., 1313B/7).

ALYNBANK.

Admiralty's 1619B/8/6. ALYNBANK is to remain under the orders of C.in C. H.F. for the present. (D.O.D. (H), 1535B/7).

Co-operation with Russia.

Operational
Information.

Personal D.M.I. to MacFarlane. My telegram 76017 cipher (D.M.I.) 4/7. P.M. has ordered following to be sent for your personal guidance only. We cannot afford to pass on information of immediate operational value as a regular practice. Occasions may however arise when we will do so. (War Office, 0530/7 to No. 30 Military Mission Moscow).

Technical
Information.

Information given and requested. Details. (Chief of Naval Mission, Moscow. No. T.O.O./7, Recd. 1120/8, to Admty) See Lion Copy.

Movements.

RIPLEY.

In view of INTREPID's 1629B/6 am returning to Iceland to refuel. (RIPLEY, 0002Z/7).

9th M.L.F.
to Gibraltar
VIDETTE.

Operation H.E. 2. Add VIDETTE. Para 3 for 3/7 read 8/7. (C. in C. Plymouth 1001/7).

See p.79.

WOLSEY.

My 1829/6. Speed south of Tyne until joining F.N.490 is not to exceed 14 knots except in emergency. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1727/7 to WOLSEY).

Operations.

CORINTHIAN
CAVINA
HILARY.

CORINTHIAN is to shift patrol to L2 forthwith. F.O.C.N.P. is requested to sail CAVINA and HILARY when ready to patrol areas K.1. L.1. (A.C.N.S.(F), 1334B/7).

/Patrol off.....

MOST SECRET

R

114A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

No T.O.O. 7th July.

FROM: Chief of General Naval
Mission Moscow.

Date: 8.7.41.
Recd: 1120.

One Time Interdepartmental Cypher by W/T.

Information for Russia.

Admiralty.

I gave Admiral Kharlamov on July 5th, the information in the Chief of the Staffs' telegram 724 dated July 4th. Powell has subsequently given Russians sufficient technical information for them to construct an A/A sweep but details of this and other sweeps as promised are very desirable as early as possible. Our promise of frank disclosure of Asdics has given great pleasure. After lengthy discussion I think they do now realize the lapse that is necessary for installation and training.

2. Details of Bofors and Oerlikon guns requested but I have seen Bofors guns in position at aerodrome here. Supply of air borne magnetic mines welcomed and suggested use concurred in. A request for a supply of depth charges suitable for use from aircraft was also put forward in spite of information already given them.

3. Kharlamov said he would let me know decisions of higher authorities on the following points but has left for London before doing so. Please inform me if you wish me to ask for decisions here

- (a) Whether officers to be trained in Asdics would be sent.
- (b) Number of air borne magnetic mines desired.
- (c) Number of depth charges for use by aircraft desired.

Russians would also like (d) diagram of German magnetic mine and if possible magnetic mine unit.

(e) Submarine ISWAS with 40 knots disc and 90 degs. angling tables.

No T.O.C.

Note: for M. Branch.

This telegram although addressed only to Admiralty, bore the instruction "To be passed to War Office". No action has been taken in War Registry.

Advance Copy Sent M. & D.N.I.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd. S.L.
3rd. S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Captain.
E.P.S.
Head of M. (8) for action.
I.P. (2)
D.I./S.W.
D.M.S.
D.T.S.D.
D.T.M.
D.D.T.M.

War Diary.

7.7.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Patrol off
Etaples.

Three M.T.B.'s leave Dover 2220 to operate off Etaples, returning to Dover at 0530. Route via D buoy each way. (V.A. Dover, 1606B/7).

Needles
S/M patrol.

SOKOL. Needles Patrol 2145/7.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1617B/7).

Interception
of OSRIC.

Reverse direction of patrols. Steer south westward by day, crossing datum line at 0300 B and 1500 B daily. Swedish ship OSRIC may be making for enemy or neutral port. If intercepted she is to be sent or escorted to Kirkwall.
(S.O.N.T., Kirkwall, 1920B/7 to N.P. Trawlers).

British Air Activity.

Operation "Stem".

Carry out operation ^{"Stem"}STEM tomorrow morning with one A/C 59 Squadron. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1203/7 to Detling).

Operation "Nomad".

Up to four A/C of 53 Squadron to carry out operation ~~NOMAD~~ tonight 7/8 July in the area Borkum to Walcheren. Ships at sea only to be attacked. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1209/7 to Bircham Newton).

Brest,
Emden,
Rotterdam,
Amsterdam
bombed.
5 Reporting
Craft and
1 Flak ship
sunk.
2 Reporting
Craft and
1 Flak ship
damaged.

During day 6/7 nine A/C attacked 15 to 20 Reporting Vessels about 20 miles N.W. of Heligoland. 5 Ships were destroyed and 2 damaged. Six Blenheims attacked three Flakships of 3,000 tons each 18 miles South West of the Hook of Holland. One ship is claimed as destroyed and another damaged.
On Night 6/7 Brest, Emden, Rotterdam and Amsterdam were also bombed. (-H.Q.B.C., 1447/7).

Patrols.

^{"Frost", "Bert", "Stab"}
FROST, BERT, STAB in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1507/7).

My 1232B/26. As heavy ships are constantly exercising west of the Orkneys request an A/S patrol may be kept permanently in operation as follows until situation changes. From Cape Wrath

to Dunnet Head.....

7.7.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.
Contd.

to Dunnet Head and as far North as 59° 45' N. commencing at first light tomorrow. Request this patrol may be restricted when heavy ships and cruisers are in the area to act as A/S escort within 15 miles of ships.
(C. in C. H.F., 1738B/7 to C. in C. Rosyth).
Patrol ~~STAND~~ now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2308/7).
Beauforts* to carry out roving patrol in areas 1 and 4 on night 8/9. *3.
1 A/C to be armed with torpedoes. 2 A/C to be armed max. load 250 lb. Gp.
(A.CH.Q. Plymouth, 1630/7 to St. Eval).

Escort.

Expect A/A Escort of 1 Hudson Whitley or Wellington from 1200B/8 weather permitting.
(C. in C. W.A., 2104B/7 to OBERON).

Enemy Air Activity.

SNAEFELL
(Bombed 5/7).

SNAEFELL's Oropesa Float showing above water 1½ miles 145° from 20 Q Buoy at 2150. SNAEFELL reported sunk in 054° 51' N 001° 07' W.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0040/7).

Convoy "Gasing"
GASING.

Following has been read One A/C shadowing Convoy ~~GASING~~ 0616 270° 8:
(VIMIERA 0044/7).
One enemy aircraft bombing ~~GASING~~ ^{"Gasing"} 66° 5' N., 1° 18' E. (VERSATILE 0051/7).
Fighter aircraft are being sent to assist F.N. Convoy ~~GASING~~. (Nore, W/T No T.O.O., Recd. 0110/7).

Convoy
O.B.M. 344.

^{"Susie"}
Help ~~SUSIE~~. 51° 52' N., 5° 30' W.
(SUTLEJ, 0045B/7).

Convoy "Sapper"
SAPPER.

Fighter aircraft are being sent.
(Plymouth, W/T No T.O.O. Recd. 0056/7).

^{"Maidat"}
MAIDAT.

Received 2306 G.M.T. ^{"Maidat"} ~~Maidat~~ Steam Trawler 4 B attacked by Enemy Aircraft SE St. Govans Lightship.
(Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0132/7).

Convoy "Steward"
STEWARD.

Fighters have been sent to assist ^{"Steward"} ~~STEWARD~~.
(Plymouth 0244/7).

/MALLARD.....

7.7.1941.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

MALLARD.
WHADDON.
(Attack on
F.S. 534.)

MALLARD reports bombs dropped 0149 no hits. Aircraft hit by 4 inch shells from MALLARD confirmed by WHADDON. Not observed to crash. (LEEDS 0511/7).

My 0511/7. MALLARD's hit not confirmed by WHADDON. WHADDON claims hit with 2 pounder and possibly with 4 inch shell. (LEEDS, 1211/7).

Convoy O.B.M.
344.
FERNCOURT
(Norwegian
Tanker 9918
tons)
damaged.

At 0115/7 in 51° 50' N 5° 28' 30" W. FERNCOURT damaged by 3 hits. One killed, 3 injured. Arrived Milford Haven 0958B/7 in tow of Tug SCHELDE escorted by ROSEMARY. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0530B/7, 0956B/7, 0958B/7, 1724B/7).

Ramsgate
bombed.

Following from Police Control Centre Ramsgate. At 0129/7 five bombs were dropped. All failed to explode. Aircraft circled and made off in a northerly direction. At 0145 Margate Police reported burst of machine gun firing and an aircraft crashed into sea approximately 2 miles to seaward at 0145/7. No damage to Naval personnel or property. (-N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0915/7).

Yarmouth
bombed.

Enemy action Gt. Yarmouth 7/7/41. Superficial damage to No. M.L. Base. Minor damage R.N. Barracks. (C.E. Yarmouth 0933B/7).

LOUIS
BOTHA
damaged.

(A/P Trawler) Bombed by enemy aircraft 2 miles south of Humber L/V at 0215 today. Engines disabled immediately by two near misses. Aircraft attacked again result two further near misses. All engine room, auxiliary's and W/T set disrupted and various other damage done. Vessel was making a little water and was towed into Grimsby by A/P trawler LOCH MOIDART. No casualties. (F.O. Humber, 1009B/7).

FORT DEE.

(Trawler) Reports at 0130/7 when 8 miles S.E. of St. Govan's Light being attacked by single aircraft burning navigational lights. Several bombs missed but one bomb hit ship and did not explode. This has been removed. Trawler engaged aircraft and claim hits. Gunner wounded. Superficial damage by bomb and shrapnel. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1530B/7).

War Diary.

7.7.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N. 67 A.
SCOTT
NIGERIA.

Departure your 1117B/6/7. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0559B/7).
R.A.M.L. 1137/6. NIGERIA is to R/V with R.A.M.L. off Cape Wrath and provide A/A escort during operation S.N. 67 A. (C. in C. H.F., 1003B/7).

M.L. 108.

Send M.L. 108 who is ⁱⁿ tow of M.L. 106 into Humber and make necessary signal. Understand former was damaged by mine. (VERSATILE 0601B/7 to VIMIERA).

River Usk.

My 1552B/5 is cancelled. Normal traffic in River Usk may now be resumed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1001B/7).
At 0700B/7 two Mines detonated by Sweeper in River Usk. Details.
(Capt. M/S, Bristol Channel 1100B/7).

HOLDERNESS.

HOLDERNESS mined off Flamborough in about 25 fathoms was proceeding at 26 knots. High speeds when in company with convoys are to be avoided unless in action with the enemy or other urgent circumstances render it necessary.
(C. in C. Nore, 1236B/7).

Thames
Estuary.

There was intense minelaying activity over a wide area of the Thames Estuary between 0040 and 0155 on night 6/7. Ten mines reported in Southern End of Barrow Deep area and four West of Southend Pier. Planes engaged were recognised as Heinkel 111, and also four engined Focke Wulfe Type, and height appears generally to be about 2000 feet. Planes were heavily engaged by patrol ships and one Heinkel 111 near B.l. buoy was hit, burst into flames, and crashed. Planes were also seen to be hit by patrol ships in Barrow Deep area.
(S.O. T.L.D.F., 1410/7).

Speed of
East Coast
Escort Ships.

In view of the menace of acoustic mines, ships employed on escort duty on the east coast, south of the Forth are normally to proceed at a speed not greater than 14 knots.
In emergency, when in action with the enemy, and depending on the circumstances at the time, it is realised that this speed must be exceeded on occasions, but in such cases speed must be increased gradually, and a speed of 16 knots in particular is to be avoided.
For Ships routed independently and for particular operations, the necessary speed will be indicated.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1739/7).

/Plymouth.....

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Plymouth.

Two acoustic mines detonated at 0915 and 0950 today 192° 1.45 miles and 240° 6.8 cables respectively from Breakwater Light. Circumstances unusual. Written report follows. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1748/7).

LORD ST.
VINCENT.
sunk.

(A/P Drifter) Sunk by mine close to N.E. Gunfleet buoy at 1445/7. 14 Survivors brought into Harwich. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2057B/7).

Medway.

Cancel my 0719B/23/6.
Normal traffic in River Medway may now be resumed. (Cdre. Sheerness, 2128B/7).

S.N. 70 A.

Propose taking over operation S.N. 70 A at 1400/15 with AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, and PORT QUEBEC and lay a.m./17 as follows, returning to Port Z.A. a.m./19.
Only two of 17th Division Destroyers available. Request a third destroyer. (R.A.M.L., 2247/7).

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy off
Ameland.

Convoy of 14 ships bearing 180° distance 1 mile Course 270°. My position 53.29 N., 5.30 E. (A/C Duty Z., 0135/7 to Bircham Newton).

Enemy M/F
Frequencies.

There is evidence that the following M/F frequencies are used for direct intercommunication between German units at sea. (D.N.I., 1314B/7).

Heligoland
Bight.

An intelligence screen of Trawlers and Light Craft has now been positioned, probably running from Terschelling to Blaavands Point. 15 to 20 reporting vessels were seen on 6/7 about 20 miles N.W. of Heligoland. (H.Q.B.C., 1447/7).

NURNBERG
EMDEN.

My 1743/4. Both vessels still at Oslo June 30th from where they carry out daily exercises. Graded C.2. (-N.A. Stockholm, 1539/7).

7.7.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

East Coast.

Forecast of Convoy Sailings. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1200/7) See Lion Copy.

M/Vs and
Enemy A/C

C. in C. Rosyth 1230/6. Concur that opening fire on sound of A/C overhead is waste of ammunition. If time fuzed shell become available for M.V.s it might be of value for them to fire at sound of a low flying A/C approaching from the flank at dusk and dawn before A/C are actually seen. (C. in C. Nore 1452B/7).

D.S.7

Must be delayed 24 hours to enable important R.A.F. unit to embark, due Greenock a.m./8. (D.O.D.(H) 1704B/7 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C., Greenock).

Minesweeper
Escorts.

Provided no undue delay is incurred Minesweepers should provide escort to W.N. Convoys when proceeding to Aberdeen. (C. in C. W.A., 1948B/7 to N.O.I.C.Stornoway).

Route Signals.

To be transmitted in standardised manner. (D.T.D. 1954/7 to C.s in C).

A
1206

SECRET.

MESSAGE

IN.

1200/7th July.

From: C. in C. Rosyth.

Date: 7.7.41.

Recd: 1320.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed: Admiralty. C. in C. Nore, S.E.E.C.C.D., H.Q.F.C.,
H.Q.C.C.

CONVOY MESSAGE.

FORECAST OF CONVOY SAILINGS.

F S539	(S)	0900	Friday 11th	VERSATILE, JASON, VIMIERA.
F S540	(F)	2300	Saturday 12th	LEEDS, GARTH.
F S541	(M)	1330	Monday 14th	LIDDESDALE, SLEIPNER.
F S542	(S)	0900	Tuesday 15th	LUDLOW, WHADDON.
F S543	(F)	2300	Wednesday 16th	VORTIGERN, VALEROUS.
F S544	(M)	1330	Thursday 17th	SCUTHDOWN, WOLSEY.
F N491	(F)	0600	Friday 11th	WOLFHOUND, VORTIGERN.
F N492	(S)	0600	Saturday 12th	WESTMINSTER, QUANTOCK.
E C 45	(S)	0600	Sunday 13th	SCUTHDOWN, WOLSEY.
F N493	(F)	0600	Monday 14th	JASON, VIMIERA.
E C 46	(S)	0600	Tuesday 15th	LEEDS, GARTH.
F N494	(M)	0600	Thursday 17th	LIDDESDALE, SLEIPNER.

Time table as in my 1130/26/5.

1200/7.

Advance copies to Ops and Trade.

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

War Diary.7.7.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

GROUIN-DU-COU Crew friendly disposed but no volunteers for
French Trawler de Gaulle. Vessel's condition, hull good,
engines require overhaul.
(C.C.S.O. Gib., 1120/7 to Admty.)

CHALLENGER Cancel my 1114/3. On leaving Ponta Delgada
STARWORT pass through (a) 37.00 N. 26.00 W. (b) 20.00
N. 19.00 W. thence as ordered by C. in C. S.A.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1124A/7 to CHALLENGER, STARWORT.)
See also next page.

S/Ms. on My 1006A/12/6 and 1036A/19/6, intend to repeat
Convoy Duty. this trial with H G and O G 67 and subsequent
convoys. Submarines will transfer orders to
escort of O G convoys. at sea.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1136A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

PETUNIA C. in C. W.A. 1537B/5 and CATHAY 0935Z/6.
H.G. 67 You will be required to leave Ponta Delgada
in company with PEEBLES about 13/7 to R/V
with H.G.67. Postpone entering Ponta
Delgada to fuel as late as possible and
meanwhile carry out A/S patrol between 036°
and 038° N. 025° and 028° W.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1202A/7 to PETUNIA.)
Your 1202A/7. Can maintain patrol until
p.m./9 at 10 knots. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada
2100A/10.
(PETUNIA, 1603Z/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French
Ships.

Arrival 6/7 French PRESIDENT LAVIT, ^{DE} JEUNE
DENISE, COURNONNE, JEANNE
(Bilbao, 1224/7, to D. of S.T.)

Intelligence,
Toulon,
Genoa.

Following French Vessels doing Gunnery
Practices 25 miles south of Toulon P.M./1.
One large cruiser and three destroyers B one.
Genoa A. 28/6 3 vessels about 4000 tons loaded
with war material deck cargo, lorries and troops
with one half loaded tanker sailed in company.
Other items.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1626A/7.)

O.23
Enemy Tanker
sunk.

Returning owing to serious leak external fuel
tank. Passing Iviza night 8/9. Sank big
enemy tanker fully loaded.
(Netherlands Sub. O.23, 2130A/7, to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.7.7.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Vice Consul Lobito reports 1350/5 large steamer standing horizon distance off Lobito since dawn. (?Evidently) QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Most important ship should not be sighted from shore unless having to close to intercept.
(C. in C. S.A., 1031N/7 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)

CITY OF DURBAN

Left Freetown 6/7 to patrol in 1 34 A.
(C. in C. S.A., 1131N/7 to Admty. and S.A.Stn.)

RAMO

Overdue shipping. Norwegian RAMO due Durban 2/7 from Bombay not arrived. *CANCELLED 8/7 P 139*
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1205B/7.)

~~CHENONCEAUX~~
SAGITTAIRE

Vichy French bound for Madagascar from Saigon may proceed on to Dakar or Casablanca, if so expected to pass vicinity of Cape about 6/7. Has on board 2 Seamen sentenced to prison term for de Gaulle activity and Colonel Andre returned to France probably for pro British sympathies.
(C. in C. S.A., 1505N/7 to S.A. Sqdn.)
SAGITTAIRE not CHENONCEAUX, see 2323/27/7

BALZAC

Have you any news of BALZAC due 25/6 from Capetown?
(D.T.D. 1738B/7 to Consul, Pernambuco.)
Reply: No. (0845/8.)

Raider Report,
5/7.

5/7, 1450/G.M.T. heard raider signal from unknown ship giving 01.18 S. 30.00 W. Signal of distress weak apparently on emergency set. Think ship Greek, no further signals heard.
(Via Freetown W/T. 2020Z/7 to S.A. Stn., Admty.)

TOTTENHAM

(Shelled by raider about 320 miles W. of Ascension Island on 17/6.)
17 members of crew reported arrived Trinidad.
(See America and West Indies.)

ERLANGEN
(German)

C.3 reports vessel will leave tomorrow for Brazilian port keeping within territorial waters. Stated by members of crew ashore that expect to join other German ships in Brazil and sail together escorted by German raider or cruiser. Italian FORTUNSTELLA position unchanged.
(N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, 2132Z/7 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CHALLENGER

F.O.C.N.A. 1124/7. Route. to Bathurst. Detach STARWORT off Bathurst to proceed to Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 2247N/7 to CHALLENGER.)

See previous page -

War Diary.7.7.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Vichy Ships
in Turkey.

Your 1215/5. CHATEAU YQUEM, or other Vichy ships, may be attacked if necessary in Turkish harbours, but only if failure to attack in harbour will mean failure to catch the ship at all.
(V.C.N.S. 0042B/7 to C. in C. Med.)

Syria
Bombardment

Your 1954C/6 to C.S.15 and my 2301C/6. Ships will be in position at 1330.
(C.S.7, 0155/7 to B.N.L.O. Palestine).

Situation
Report 78.

Syria. F.O.7th C.S. in AJAX with PERTH, CARLISLE, and destroyers (? bombardment) in (? close) support army advance which began today, Sunday (as received).
Alexandria. Air raid commencing 2315.
(C. in C. Med., 0843C/7 to Admty.)

Enemy Units.
A/C attack.

3 Vichy destroyers and 1 M.V. reported from 0645/7 off Cape Khelidonia and later attacked by aircraft. List of signals from Aircraft Units: 0645/7, 0700Z/7, 0755/7, 0800/7, 0805/7, 0945/7, 1130/7, 1547/7, 1720/7, 1905/7, 2132/7, 2251/7, 1330/7. Also from N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1920C/7, Capt. S.1., 2031C/7.
Aircraft "K" 0645. Send PARTHIAN to operate off Beirut at your discretion.
(C. in C. Med., 0915C/7 to F.O. 15 C.S.)
Your 1542/6 (N.T. in W.R.). Request you sail PARTHIAN for Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1745C/7 to C.S.15.)
XXX1. One merchant vessel bearing 270° 2 miles distance - course 170° position 34° 19' N. 32° 24' E. 1000 tons - Turkish flag - no name (? int) sink it.
(Flying Boat L.2160, 1800/7.)

SEVERN
CLYDE
OLYMPUS

Admty. 1922B/2. I regret very much decision to withdraw SEVERN and CLYDE whose speed makes them most suitable for employment on these long distance patrols. Experience here does not show their size should handicap them unduly in Tyrrhenean Sea. In fact they have both had successful patrols and inflicted damage with little opposition.
Ref. para. (iv) I would welcome OLYMPUS for purpose.
(C. in C. Med., 1806C/6 to Admty.)

/Syria.....

War Diary.7.7.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Syria
Targets

Your 2301. Military do not know any definite targets in today's naval gun area as yet. (N.L.O. Palestine, 0805C/7 to C.S.7.)
 No calls for fire today 7th. 12 Vichy Bombers sighted but chased off by fighters without releasing bombs. Fighters claim one JU 88, probably not Vichy. (C.S.7, 2041C/7 to C. in C. Med.)
 Military requirements not yet known. Conference at 0700/8. Likely requirements will be Abey which appears reinforced. Suggest P.M. appearance in hope situation clarifies. Tanks reported using coast roads. (N.L.O. Palestine, 2105C/7 to C.S.15.)
 Two Beaufighters to stand by from 0600 to shadow if enemy sighted approaching Tripoli from Westward. Request H.Q. P. and T.J. Command arrange communication and inform Lyda Beaufighter contents of C.S.15, 1725/7 (N.T. in W.R.) (201 Group, 2253/7 to Lyda, DUNDEE, etc.)
 Agreed that 3 hours fighter protection is insufficient for bombarding force. Fighters will be standing by tomorrow from dawn in case return of F.O.C. 15 C.S. is delayed. They will be sent if called by 15 C.S. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 2325C/7, to F.O. 15 C.S.)

French M.V.
attacked.

Op. Summary No.392 up to 1200/7/7/1941.
 Cyprus 6/7, 1 Beaufighter attacked and damaged with Cannon gun 1 French M.V. of 2000 tons 10 miles East Rhodes.

Suez Canal
Raid.

Night 5/6, about 6 unidentified aircraft dropped bombs and mines in Suez Canal area. No damage or casualties.

3 M.Vs.
bombed.

Western Desert. 5/6, 1 Wellington bombed 3 ships in Menelaio Bay, Bomba, no hits. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1054/7.)

BENCRUACHAN
mined.

⁵
 6/7 BENCRUACHAN sunk by mine 297 Mex High Light 9.8 cable. Hoped to salvage some cargo. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1151C/7 to Admty.) W.D.Note. Former signal said sunk at 1730/5.

C.S.15
Screen

Capt. (D) 7. Shall require 4 destroyers from screen of C.S.7 to R/V me end of swept channel at 1900/7. (C.S.15 to 1210C/7 to C.S.7, Capt. D.7.)

/German.....

War Diary.7.7.1941. 125
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

German Departures 5/7 LISBOA, Marseilles, 6/7 ELIZABETH
Ships. HENDRIK ~~S.~~ FISSER, Savona.
(Valencia, 1400/7 to D. of S.T.)

SALVIA Your 0744/6. Send SALVIA to fuel at Haifa.
as convenient and return to Famagusta.
(C. in C. Med., 1541C/7 to N.O.I.C. Famagusta.)

Famagusta Famagusta port closed on account of two U.X.Bs.
U.X.Bs. in harbour entrance. Hope to be open at day-
light.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1729/7 to SALVIA.)
Is there information about French delaying 250
lb. bomb? Is it correct to assume danger
negligible non existent after 5 hours?
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 2115/7 to C.O.I.S.
Alexandria.)

Alexandria Air Raid at 2300 to 0030/7. About 10 machines
Raid. G mines and bombs. Shallow diving attacks
put bombs or mines near floating dock and both
inside and outside of harbours. Few casualties
and light scattered damage.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1732C/7 to Admty. etc.)

Malta Raid C.S.R. Malta to 1600 hours 7/7. Night 6/7.
20 Enemy aircraft over singly lasting 5 hours.
Some bombs on land. Civilian casualties.
Tripoli Night 6/7. One Fulmar patrolled Catania during
Mined and enemy raids on Malta and shot down one large
bombed aircraft in flames. 6 Swordfish laid 5
Cucumbers approaches Tripoli harbour. Sixth
dropped 1200 lbs. G.P bombs on 5000 ton M/V
alongside North Mole. No hits observed.
7 Wellingtons bombed engine sheds Tripoli.
(H.Q. R.A.F Malta, 2008/7.)

Beirut and Prelim. Ops. Summary No.21.
Benghazi Night 6/7. Light attacks were made by
bombed Wellingtons on Beirut en route to Aleppo, object
to keep air defence measures in action. 3
Wellingtons bombed Benghazi causing fires
followed by explosions.

Nicosia Cyprus. Raid by several Ju.88s. on Nicosia
Raid. 0700 G.M.T./7.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 2102/7.)

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET

125A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2205/7th July

IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 8.7.41.

Recd. 0910.

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office Repeated C. in C. India C. in C. Mediterranean
C. in C. East Indies.

IMMEDIATE

25520. 0/79668 cipher 7/7.

For C.O.S. from C. in C. India and C.S. in C. Middle East.
Reference paragraph 10 of 0/78318 of 2/7 (not to C. in C. India and
C. in C. East Indies).+

Subject to confirmation by C. in C. Mediterranean and C. in C. East
Indies direct to C.O.S.

1. Should Germans reach Caucasus in next two months and decide to
attack either Syria or Iraq. With our lack of armoured forces we can
do no more than attempt to defend Egypt, Palestine, the Basra Area, and
the Iranian Oilfield.

2. We regard it as of the greatest importance however, to retain
for as long as possible use of aerodromes in Northern Syria and
Northern Iraq and to deny them to the enemy. Loss of these aerodromes
would preclude effective bombing of Caucasian oilfields and would
seriously limit our air action against enemy communications in Turkey,
Southern Caucasus and Northern Iran. Use of these aerodromes by the enemy
would directly affect our ability to hold Cyprus, would still further
restrict the freedom of action of the fleet in the Eastern Mediterranean,
and would allow the enemy to intensify his air efforts against Egypt and
Palestine, and to attack Basra, its sea communications and the A.I.O.C.
oilfields.

3. We can only secure these aerodromes if we can forestall the
enemy in Southern Anatolia. If Turkish collaboration is not forthcoming
our chances of achieving this will be small. We are however examining
the problem of a move into Southern Anatolia and preparing a plan for
co-ordinated action between India and Mideast.

4. If it is impossible to occupy positions in Southern Anatolia it
will be impossible to hold a line on the frontiers of Iraq and Syria
against a heavy attack and therefore it will be necessary to fight
delaying actions on increasingly divergent lines in Iraq and Syria.
With this object in view positions to which we can withdraw will be
reconnoitered and prepared in areas Baghdad and Tripoli-Homs, and final
lines completed for defence of the Basra Bridgehead and in Northern
Palestine. As regards the former for the reasons given in paragraph 2
our position in the Basra area will be insecure unless adequate air
defences are made available.

5/.....

5. In all cases sabotage of his communications would be the most effective method of delaying enemys advance. Political relations with Turkey have delayed and are still delaying preparations, and in the event of an advance this autumn it is doubtful whether effective sabotage can be arranged in time available.

6. We would point out that violation of Iranian neutrality by air attack on the Caucasus might cause reactions which would necessitate the despatch of forces to the A.I.O.C. Oilfields with consequent serious weakening of forces in Northern Iraq. One means of minimising this risk would be to secure expulsion now of German non diplomatic nationals in Iran and we endorse suggestion made in Cairo telegram No. 2064 of 30/6 to Foreign Office that we should concert with the Russians in pressure on Iran to this effect. Indications are that Germans in Iran anticipate this which suggests pressure might be successful.

7. Desirability of this is increased by possibility that Germans may attempt diversion in Northern Iran and Afghanistan with object of tying up forces in India.

8. Please pass to Admiralty and Air Ministry. Ends.

2205/7.

Received from War Office 1204/9.

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

+ 0300/3.

War Diary.7.7.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Situation
Report
No. 79.

Syria. Army objective South of Damur reported reached 6/7. Advanced Forces now in outskirts of Damur. Naval support effective but observation of Bombarment handicapped by Cloud and Mist. Vichy French Air attacks on Force B driven off by Fighter Patrols. 3 French Destroyers and 1 Merchant Ship sighted by A/C off Cape Khelidonia, Turkey at 0645/7 steering E. After attacks by our aircraft enemy retired to West and A/C lost touch. NAIAD, PHOEBE, and destroyers will be sweeping to north of Beirut during the night. Western Desert. Tug C.307 shot down her second aircraft in raid on Tobruk 0945/6. Canal Area. 6 aircraft dropped bombs or mines in canal area early on 6/7. No damage or casualties and canal open. (C. in C. Med., 2243C/7, to Admty.)

East Indies.DURBAN
CASTLE.

A.M. 1753/4. Consider it unlikely DURBAN CASTLE will arrive Durban before 10/8. (C. in C. E.I., 0644Z/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

COLOMBO

Intend COLOMBO to escort YOMA leaving Mombasa on 13/7 to Mogadishu and on 010° N. whence COLOMBO is to return to Mombasa and YOMA proceed to Berbera independently. (Care. R.I.N.(?), 0746Z/7 to COLOMBO.)

Madagascar

Policy. (A.C.N.S.(F), 2355B/7 to C. in C. E.I.). See Operations Volume.

China.TAI-POO-SECK
(French)

Arrived 29/6.
(Hong Kong, 0221Z/7.)

Ship stopped
by Japanese
S/M.

Care. Hong Kong 0653Z/6. Concur this is a most dangerous practice. Could Minister of Marine be reminded we are at war with two other powers both of which are using submarines for indiscriminate warfare?. (C. in C. China, 0249Z/7 to Ambassador, Tokyo.)

U.S.
Asiatic
Fleet

Re sinking of merchant ships, and proposed combat zone. (C. in C. China, 0449Z/7 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

War Diary.7.7.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.BARFLEUR
FORT DE
FRANCE

Your 1542Q/5. Voyage is approved. Policy with regard to future voyages is outlined in Arfar 3816 to Washington and in M.E.W. No.4 to C. in C. A.W.I.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0055B/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Cancel para. 1. of my 0055/7. Movements of BARFLEUR and FORT DE FRANCE, reported in your 1139/2, were not approved sailings within the meaning of para. 2 of my 2337/17/6. Matter is, however, being taken up with U.S., and unless contrary instructions are received these vessels are not to be interfered with during these voyages whilst in company. If on the return journey FORT DE FRANCE is met with unescorted, she should be taken into Trinidad for examination.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1621B/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

CITY OF
AUCKLAND

Gunned by S/M in 33.14 N., 31.21. W.
(See U-Boat Campaign).

"Q" Report

Intercept 0110 G.M.T./7. QQQ 25.55 N. 66.17 W.
BRITISH SPLENDOR. Suspicious vessel in sight
0056/7. (St. Lucia Radio, 2250/6, to Freetown,
Bermuda, Jamaica.) N.I.D. Comment - Perhaps
CITY OF GUILDFORD.

WINNIPEG
ARICA

Ships detained WINNIPEG, ARICA, French total 2.
(C.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1145Q/7 to Admiralty for
M.E.W.)

U.S. Merchant
Ships.

Employment on British Service, routes, etc.
(N.A. Washington, 1550/7 to Admy.) See Lion
Copy.

Use of
Belle Isle

Your 1845B/6, see my 1408Z/4. Consider Belle
Isle satisfactory for ships from O B convoys but
that it should be used sparingly.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1623Z/7 to Admty.)

RAMILLIES

(N.T.C.W.D.)
Your 1108Z/2, ^(N.T.C.W.D.) Decision must rest with Admiralty but
it is unlikely that proposal will be approved as
your present role is of great strategic importance.
(R.A. 3 B.S. 1647P/7, to RAMILLIES.)

/ELLINICO.....

SECRET.

M E S S A G E.

1550/7th July.

IN.

127A

From : N.A. Washington.

Date : 7.7.41.

Recd : 1045.

I.D.C. (12) by Cable.

Addressed : Admiralty, Repeated C. in C. America & West Indies,
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

Your 1832B June 2nd not to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa or C. in C.
America & West Indies.

U.S. Merchant Ships sailing between U.S. and Near East
on British Service are not repeat not routed by British Naval
Service Control Officers.

The Navy Department have issued orders that the Maritime
Commission is to inform the U.S. Navy Authorities (Port Director
New York) of sailings of Naval Transports and Merchant Ships.

The Chief of Naval Operations will issue general
instructions to Naval Coastal Frontier Commander setting ?speed
objective and general routes to be followed.

The Naval Coastal Frontier Commander or his representative
(The Port Director at the Port of Departure) arranges details,
prepares routeing instructions and gives general instructions to
the Masters of Ships.

The Commander of North Atlantic Coastal Frontier will
prepare general routes for Vessels proceeding from that frontier
to Capetown or beyond with the idea of avoiding Areas of Axis
Power action.

In North Atlantic routes for present should be kept west
of line latitude 0 degs North, long., 65 degs West, thence west
of long., 65 degs west.

Routeing instructions for this route should include
instructions to call on U.S. Naval Observer at Capetown for
instructions beyond Capetown and return route.

Copy of Memorandum follows by bag.

1550/7

+ ? July.

Advance Copy Ops., O.D., Trade.

Request information whether N.C.S.O.'s are
routeing U.S. Flag Merchant Ships sailing
between U.S. and Near East on British Service.

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

Ops. (4).

O.D. (5).

D.T.D. (4).

D.T.D. (C).

D.T.D. (M).

D. of S.T.

D. of S.2.A.

I.P. (3).

W.D.

.P.

War Diary.7.7.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.ELLINICO

Have you any news of Greek ELLINICO from Mersey due 26/6?
(D.T.D. 1739B/7 to N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F.)

TOTTENHAM

N.C.S.O. Trinidad reports British MAHRONDA arrived 2/7 with 17 survivors ? from TOTTENHAM sunk 17/6. Picked up approx. 005.21 S. 028.45 W. 24/6.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1827R/7, to Admty.)

HESPERUS,
ST. FRANCIS,
WALNEY,
TOTLAND,
SENNEN.

To provide ocean escort to O B 344. Destroyers are to remain with convoy till prudent limit of endurance before proceeding to join Newfoundland Escort Force. Cutters are to proceed with convoy to Halifax.
(C. in C. W.A., 1941B/7 to Ships concerned.)

MALAYA
Sworāfish

Cancel my 1901/3. Your 1153/5 approved.
(D.N.A.D. 1944B/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ILE
DEQUESSANT
(French)

Departure 6/7 Casablanca, 30/7.
(Baltimore, 2210Z/7 to D. of S.T.)

POZARICA

Italian Ship No.222 (FEDE) renamed POZARICA Mexican Flag, sailed Tampico 5/7 for Houston.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2328R/7.)

SUSAN
MAERSK

Admty. 1900B/5/6. SUSAN MAERSK not arrived Curacao. Admty. 1827B/8/6 ST. LINDSAY not arrived Trinidad.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2348R/7.)

Australia.MANUNDA

Have you any news of MANUNDA sailed Colombo.6/6.
(D.T.D. 1700B/7 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.

7.7.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CITY OF
AUCKLAND

Following has been read S S S S gunned in
33.14 N. 31.21. W.
(CITY OF AUCKLAND, 0243/7)
British, 8336 tons, from Liverpool to Capetown,
dispersed from Convoy O.G.66. (D.S. 671.)
Navy Dept. advise no U.S. warship in vicinity.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0540Z/7 to Admty.)

Unknown Ship
2315/6.

Mombasa radio intercepted an incomplete S
Distress Signal at 2315Z/6. Following letters
read PEJGOGI CORIGW TONOPO (2) Assure position
was in Atlantic.
(C. in C. E.I., 0326Z/7 to Admty.)

Unknown Ship

S S S S received at 0120 G.M.T., no position
given.
(Scapa W/T, 0330B/7, 0355B/7, to Admty.)

VIGRID
(torpedoed
24/6.)

U.S. Destroyer HUGHES picked up on 3/7 14 sur-
vivors including 4 women of VIGRID, 4765 tons,
torpedoed 24/6 in 055° N. 041° W. 3 other
boats believed to be in vicinity. 2 American
destroyers searching.
(A.C.I.(C), 2145/7, to Admty.)
VIGRID, Norwegian, 4765 tons, from New Orleans
for Belfast and Manchester, was a straggler from
H.X.133. (D.S. 673.)

Submarines Reported.

2010/6

D/F bearings at 2010/6 G.M.T. indicate German
U-Boat within 60 miles of 34° 30' N. 14° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0115B/7.)

1155.

One S/M bearing 160°. Distance 5 miles.
34.50 N., 09.48 W.
(ERIDGE, 1155/7, to F.O.C.N.A.)
My position 034° 25' N. 010° 05' W. ERIDGE in
company. Not in contact. Catalina arrived
1800. S/M surfaced for 5 minutes at 1600 in
034° 36' N. 009° 55' W. bearing 240° from
FARNDALE 8 miles.
(FARNDALE, 1801A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Estimated.....

War Diary.

7.7.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. - Contd.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1344B/7.)

21/6

S.O.(I) Jamaica 1621R/5, S/M of 21/6 identified as Brazilian.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1514Z/7, to S.O.I. Jamaica, etc.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C

Daily Summary Ops. On return from patrol A/C sighted and bombed U-Boat 37° 30 N. 12° W. No hits. U-Boat stayed on surface. A/C shadowed until dark then contact lost.
(200 Group, 1030/7, to A.M.)

War Diary.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Three M.T.B.s from Dover operated off Etaples last night.

A statement of the U.S. Naval Forces now in Iceland is given by A.C.I.C. today.

The 9th M.L. Flotilla left Plymouth for Gibraltar this morning, escorted by 4 destroyers.

Enemy Air Operations.

H.M.T. HEROINE was attacked and damaged at 0200 today in the Thames Estuary, and was towed to Sheerness.

Superficial damage was caused at Great Yarmouth M.L. base last night.

Trawler BRAES O'MAR was unsuccessfully attacked at 0500 15 miles West of Blaskets.

Mining.

Operation S.W.
67 A.

R.A.M. with 3 minelayers and 3 destroyers left Port Z.A. at 0532 B today to lay mines south of the Faeroes. NIGERIA left Scapa at 0851 to provide A.A. escort.

East Coast.

Mines were detonated off the Tyne, Humber, Harwich and in the Thames Estuary.

South Atlantic.

It was erroneously reported that from 0723 to 0750/6 a Glenn Martin aircraft machine and cannon gunned ships in harbour at Freetown. The French A/C did not open fire, but some ships were hit by falling shell splinters from our own A.A. fire.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night. Four enemy air attacks were made on Mersa Matruh last night.

Palestine
and Syria.

There was a heavy air raid on Haifa between 0130 and 0330 today. Mines were dropped inside the harbour and the port was closed until 1848. Certain dangerous areas have been defined. A small fire was started in the refinery. No Naval damage was caused.

Wellingtons bombed Beirut last night, obtaining a direct hit on the fuel tanks. The resulting fire was visible 80 miles. Tripoli was also bombed.

China.

There are many indications that Japan is making all preparations for a crisis, e.g. requisitioning a number of fast freighters, closing businesses in U.S.A., Japanese fleet standing by.

8.7.1941.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Minesweeper
Escorts to
E.C. Convoys.

C. in C.W.A. 1948/7. Request you will sail these Minesweepers whenever possible as additional escorts to E.C. Convoys from Aberdeen to Stornoway on completion of their boiler cleaning periods. Undue delay cannot be accepted. (C. in C. Rosyth 1153/8 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

Vessel as
S/M Escort.

Your 1928/7 Para.3. Regret no vessel available in W.A. Command unless it is considered that GLEN STRATHALLAN is suitable. (C. in C.W.A. 1226B/8 to Adty.)

S/M Safety
Area.

Surface vessels are not to attack submarines in an area enclosed by latitudes 62° 04' N. and 64° N. and longitude 003° W. and 006° 59' W. until further orders. (D.O.D.H. 1523B/8.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.U.S. Forces
in Iceland.

2 Battleships 2 Cruisers and 10 Destroyers of U.S. Navy are at Hvalfjord. 3 (5 groups missing) A/S patrol to seaward line GRROTTA AKRANES. U.S. Admiral flying flag in Transport at Reykjavik. (A.C.I.C. 1031Z/8 to SUFFOLK.)

Identifi^on
Signals.

Admiralty 1818B/22 June. U.S. Signals continue as follows. (D.S.D.1837B/8)

Co-operation with Russia.Military
Mission.
Proposed M.O.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from MacFarlane. Suggest combined strength Embassy and Mission is now so large that if opportunity offers we should be sent a medical officer. We may want badly in the event of having to move from Moscow. (No.30 Mil.Mission, Moscow 2220/8 to War Office.)

Defence of U.K.Fuel at
Horna Fiord.

My 1053/26. Fuel and oil now available at Horna Fiord U.R. (A.C.I.C. 1021/8 to C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.D.8. FURIOUS.

Am in position (p) 043° N. 025° 30' W. at 0400A/8 having swept from 30 miles ahead to 40 miles astern your reported position at 1200. Intend waiting (?outside territorial waters.) (Capt.D.8. 0456B/8 to C.S. 18.)

ARAWA.

My 1456/30/6. ARAWA will not now sail for Freetown. No further forecast can be given at present. (F.O.C.N.P. 0916B/7)

/Cancel

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

DEVONSHIRE.

Cancel my 1029B/5. C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE is to sail from Scapa a.m./9 and proceed to Hvalfjord. DEVONSHIRE is to leave Iceland as necessary to arrive Scapa on about 15/7. (C. in C.H.F. 1146B/8.)

4th M/L.
Flotilla.

Adty. 1529/21/6. Intend to sail 4th M.L.Flottilla escorted by ECLIPSE 0700/11 for Reykjavik anchoring for the night of 11-12 in Skaalefiord. E.T.A. Reykjavik p.m./13. (A.C.O.S. 1806B/8.)

REPULSE.

Cancel my 1737. Return to harbour. (C. in C. H.F. 1948B/8 to REPULSE.)

Operations.

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

SUFFOLK is to leave patrol now and return to Scapa after fuelling at Hvalfjord. (C. in C. H.F. 1146B/8.)

TUNA A/S
Patrol.

TUNA has been ordered to proceed on the surface passing Bishop Rock at 0001/9 and thence by direct route to carry A/S patrol in the vicinity of 048° N. 025° W. and to act on special intelligence. (F.O.S. 1803B/8.) Your 1803. Direct route satisfactory. (C. in C. Plymouth 2035/8 to F.O.S.) (A) From Bishop Rock proceed by direct route with despatch at your discretion establish patrol in position 274° D.D. 785 miles. (B) Object title para.K of part 4 section 47 S.I.S. (C) T.B.R. arranged. (F.O.S.1811B/8 to TUNA)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrols ^{"Trest"} TREST, ^{"Stal"} STAB and ^{"Bert"} BERT due to take off about 1230. (C. in C. Rosyth 1103/8.) My 1103/8. Patrols ^{"Trest"} TREST, ^{"Stal"} STAB and ^{"Bert"} BERT postponed owing to low cloud and poor visibility. (C. in C. Rosyth 1238/8.) My 1906/8. Patrol ^{"Bert"} BERT has been reinforced by a second A/C. (C. in C. Rosyth 1956/8.)

A/S patrol
Orkneys and
Shetlands.

Your 1738/7. It has been arranged to maintain aircraft in the area continuously until further orders. This will entail the allocation of an average of 7 aircraft daily to this task. The only aircraft available in 18 Group for these duties are long range R/C machines or Blenheim fighters and their use on this patrol entails a reduction in operations off the Norwegian Coast, A/S patrols for ocean convoys, or fighter protection of East Coast Convoys, Para.2. It is very desirable therefore that aircraft operating from Hatston which are now no longer under 18 Groups operational control should be used for these patrols. (C. in C. Rosyth 1300/8.)

/A.C.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - Contd.

A/C for FURIOUS.

Your 1841B/7. Sqdns. will embark in FURIOUS not earlier than 17/7. As many pilots as possible of 800, 812, 817 and 880 Sqdns. should gain experience in ARGUS before embarking. (D.N.A.D. 1328B/8 to V.A.N.A.S.)

Area South of Brest.

OPS. 756 8/7. Ref. OPS./696 dated 26/6. Shipping may be attacked in the area at night and aircraft may be routed through the area but they should not be so routed unless it is necessary for operational reasons to do so. (H.Q.C.C. 1800/8 to 19 and 16 Groups.)

200 Group Gibraltar.

Your CC/S 7010/17/4/Plans dated 8.6.41. Your proposal that No. 200 Group Gibraltar should be placed under your operational control is approved. Signal date on which you propose this should take effect. (Air Ministry 1830/8 to Coastal Command.)

Enemy Air Activity.

HEROINE.
(M/S Trawler)
damaged.

HEROINE attacked by single aircraft in 51° 26' 18" N. 01° 27' 30" E. at 0200/8/7. Ship sustained considerable damage which necessitates docking, and may be out of action for some time. No casualties. Aircraft was engaged by 3 Trawlers, hits were not observed but aircraft did not repeat attack. Ship was towed back to base by H.M.T. EMILION and Tug ST. CLEARS. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1148/8)

Mining.

06: S.N. 67 A.

Departure R.A.(M) in AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, WELLS, and HEYTHROP. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 0532B/8.)

NIGERIA -/NA
escort for S.N. 67A)

Scapa departure 0851 C.S.10 in NIGERIA. (A.C.O.S. 0925/8.)

Thames Estuary.

Two S.A. mines detonated by Sweeper at 1523/7. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0915/8.)
3 S.A. mines detonated today by S.A. Sweepers. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1727/8.)

Medway.

My 2128B/7/7 should read normal traffic in River Medway in Sheerness Area may now be resumed Instructions for traffic to keep to west of No.2 and No.3 mooring buoys is now cancelled. (Cdre. Sheerness 0959B/8.)

War Diary.8.7.1941.
TuesdayHOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.St. Albans
Head.
Explosions.

Ten flashes and heavy explosions were seen and heard by C.G. Station at St. Albans Head between 0453/8 and 0540/8. Approx. position 110°. St. Albans 7 miles. These cannot be explained and no aircraft were heard or reported in vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1041B/8.)

Tyne.

One red ground magnetic mine detonated 1013/8 in 063° Tyne N. Pier Light 25 cables. (P.M.S.O. Tyne, 1045/8.)

Folkestone
Minefield.

Observation Minefield off Folkestone Harbour has now been laid and will shortly be joined up ready for Service. (V.A. Dover, 1247B/8.)

Harwich.

At 1005 one green mine detonated in 51° 49.7' N. 1° 24.6' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1507B/8)

PYTCHLEY.
(Mined 23/6.)

You are to proceed to Wallsend Slipway at 0830/9. (C.O.I.C. Tyne 1605/8 to PYTCHLEY.)

HOLDERNESS.
(Mined 5/7.)

HOLDERNESS should be taken in hand for annual refit concurrently with damage repairs, time not exceeding 21 days unless damage repairs necessitate it. (C. in C. Nore. 1746B/8.)

Spurn Point.

The following mine detonated today at 0920. Also at 1523 a mine or delayed action bomb exploded in 282° Spurn Point 5.6 miles. No sweepers operating but DRUMMER BOY anchored near, not weighing, and no machinery working. (F.O. Humber, 1928B/8.)

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy Shipping
in Straits of
Dover on 7/7.

Chatham form white CH/W27/7/7. It is considered inconceivable that shipping of the size or number indicated in the Chatham form white passed through Dover Strait or came out of Calais yesterday. The shipping situation in the Straits was well known to me from three reliable sources and evidence shows that one vessel of 3-5000 tons and up to 20 small craft such as trawlers, barges and R. boats passed going East. The shipping strike was undertaken on this information. After the strike and as a result of information from bombers taking part. Jim Crows made a R/C from Dunkirk to Boulogne and sighted only groups of small craft. P.R.U. also reported Calais empty of ships. It is considered advisable that reports of this importance concerning shipping in the Dover Strait should be filtered by me before being broadcast. (V.A. Dover 1146B/8.)

8.7.1941. 137
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Shipping in Straits of Dover on 7/7. contd. 471 CH/Ops.1 8/7. Your 1146B/8/7. I am speaking to you about it as soon as possible. The pilots report was not form whited until crews had been requested by this H.Q. The pilots and observers who are considered reliable were quite convinced on the subject and one of the observers who has had Merchant Navy experience drew out on a piece of paper the formation giving estimated cables distance etc. for the benefit of the Station Commander who also queried the report. The crews are still convinced they were not mistaken. I would point out that this was not broadcast as a force but only form whited in order to give the Aircraft's report of the attack in accordance with normal procedure. (A.O.C. 16 Group 1700/8 to V.A. Dover.)

Enemy Force off Scillies. A.B.C. 2 I.P.R. 1 Yacht, 4 Destroyers, 8 Motor Launches 49° 48' N. 6° W. (A.C.F.C. Duty N. 1340/8 to 19 Group H.Q.)
Enemy course and speed are 075 15. (A/C U.3 of 19 Group 1542/8 to 19 Group H.Q.)

Warship on 2/7. Trained Observer reports sighting on July 2nd in Kattegat off North Jutland German warship with five or six guns visible from two foremost turrets. Vessel was heading northwards and was followed by three or four thousand ton auxiliary in station astern. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm 1601/8.)

Casualties and Defects.

HAZARD. Reports A/S Dome damaged by grounding in crack. Divers are investigating. (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1835B/8.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.9.C. Request you include NESTOR, JUPITER, at Greenock and LIGHTNING at Scapa in your orders for W.S.9. (C). (R.A.(D) H.F. 1122B/8 to C. in C.W.A.)

Independent Ships. My 1907/26/5. In future merchant ships routed independently for overseas are to be provided with return routes to Oban and Loch Ewe in addition to a route to Clyde. Ships should return to Clyde if they require repairs which they are unable to effect themselves. (D.T.D. 1929B/8 to N.C.S.O's.)

War Diary.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders.

My 1819B/2. FRUMENTON arrived safely.
Two ships overdue in W. Indies from U.K., possibly U Boat casualties.
QQQQ from unknown ship in $01^{\circ} 18' S.$, $30^{\circ} 00' W.$, on 5/7. Yugo-Slav ANTEMATKOVIC, estimated to have been in this position. Single line bearings on 7/7 confirm presence of enemy unit either N. or S. of Ascension. No position can be given. Incomplete QQQQ on 26/6 in $88^{\circ} 16' E.$ may have been from MAREEBA overdue at Colombo from Java. She was sighted in $8^{\circ} 30' N.$, $89^{\circ} E.$, on 25/6. Now known CRAFTSMAN attacked 9/4 (Fact) not 23/4. Position presumably further north. (D.D.I.C., 1739B/8)

North Atlantic.

Q.23 orders.

Your 2130A/7 proceed through (P) $37^{\circ} 30' 00^{\circ} 00'$ (Q) $036^{\circ} 15' 002^{\circ} 15' W.$ Spanish submarines are exercising between Aguilas and Cartagena. German LISBOA and ELIZABETH FISSE^{NEA} left Valencia 5th and 6th respectively for Marseilles and Savona. (F.O.C.N.A., 0236A/8 to O.23)

H.G. 67

Departures.
FOXHOUND, DEPTFORD, O.24 AVON VALE, SPIREA, JONQUIL ERIN M.L. 129 with H.G.67. M.L. 129 part company at 2100A/8, FOXHOUND at 1200A/9, AVON VALE at 2100A/12. ERIN (?and) cable ship MIRROR part company when instructed by Commodore. JONQUIL, SPIREA and O.24 will part company as (?instructed by) C. in C. W.A. (S.O.(I) Gib., 0628A/8 to Admty, C. in C. W.A., F.O.S.)

LAVENDER.

Ponta Delgada departure 1430 G.M.T. LAVENDER routed in accordance with my 1122A/7. (F.O.C.N.A., 1048A/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

PINZON.

Desired to utilise for conveyance of cased petrol on West African Coast. Request you sail her to Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1358B/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HERMIONE

Admty 1525B/5 and 1308B/1. Move patrol line 60 miles to S.W. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1402B/8 to HERMIONE).
Admty 1525B/5, 2047B/6 and 1402B/8. When should HERMIONE leave patrol to proceed to Gibraltar? (F.O.C.N.A., 1650B/8 to Admty).

/Returning to

War Diary.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

HERMIONE
Contd.

Returning to Gibraltar in accordance with A.M. 1525B/5. E.T.A. 1400A/9. (HERMIONE, 1700A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1650B/8. Assume patrolling from p.m./7 to p.m./9 returning to Gibraltar to arrive p.m./10 She should comply with this if practicable. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2241B/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French
Ships.

Departure 7/7 French PRESIDENT^{DE} LAVIT, COURDONNE,
8/7 French ~~JEANNE~~ DENISE.
(Bilbao 1549/8 to M. of W.T.)

PETUNIA.

Approved to enter Ponta Delgada to complete with fuel on 10/7. Sail after 23 hours in harbour and continue patrol. Further orders follow for you and PEBBLES. (F.O.C.N.A., 1736A/8 to PETUNIA).

LEYLAND

Intend to sail with Convoy H.G.68 for refitting and leave in U.K. Request name of refitting Port. (F.O.C.N.A., 1754A/8 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

RAMO.

Overdue shipping, cancel my 1205/7, RAMO arrived Beira. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0725Z/8).

BALZAC

Your 1738B/7 no news.
(N.C.S.O., Pernambuco, 0845/8 to Admty).

Air raid on
Freetown.

Foreign A/C over Freetown 6/7 (a) Glenn Martin (b) apparently returned Conakry (c) 60 to 3,000 feet (d) 0723 to 0750 hours. Ships in harbour hit by M.G. and cannon shells.
(Commander Sierra Leone Area, 1545/8 to W.D.)

VILLE DE
TAMATAVE.

Your 1314N/6. Following from M.E.W. Ship and cargo less 207 tons tobacco will be seized. (D.E.W.D., 1736B/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

NEWCASTLE.

Wearing flag R.A.S.A.D. arrived Montevideo 1800 G.M.T./8 and intend to leave 1800 G.M.T./10. (R.A.S.A.D., 1810Z/8 to Admty, C. in C. S.A.)

/CITY OF AGRA.....

War Diary.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

CITY OF AGRA.

Have you any news of CITY OF AGRA from Trinidad due 3/7?
(D.T.D. 1908B/8 to N.C.S.O. Capetown).

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, PRETORIA CASTLE.

F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1721B/7. Should be sailed for U.K. via Trinidad as soon as practicable.
(D.O.D. (F) 2019B/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

NORDERNEY German.

Para reports maintaining steam. C.3 source states she is leaving tonight.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2052Z/8 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Enemy Unit.

Simonstown indications suggest surface unit within 60 miles of line joining 025° 018° 30' W and 030° S., 020° W., on 7/7. Reliability 50%.
(C. in C. S.A., 2055N/8 to S.A. Sqdn.)

L L Sweepers.

Request two further LL Sweepers fitted with S.A. gear if possible may be allocated to Freetown for West African area making six total.
(C. in C. S.A., 2135N/8 to Admty). Reply 2011/10.

HIMALAYA Italian.

Rio de Janeiro reports has loaded nothing in past week and sailing date appears quite indefinite.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2217Z/8 to S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

A/C Attack.

Am being attacked by enemy aircraft 10 S.E. Famagusta. (I.I.P. (not known) 0645/8 to Alexandria W/T).

DERNA (German). ITALIAN

Left 7/7 for Genoa. (Barcelona, 0700/8).

Haifa Air Raid.

Following is repetition of my 0429/8 addressed C. in C. Med., Air raid Haifa between 0145 and 0345 Mines dropped inside harbour. Port closed. (ends). (C.S. 7 0730/8 to C. in C. Med.,) My 0710/8. Port Haifa is now open. Following dangerous areas exist. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1848/8.)

/Enemy M.V.....

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy M.V.

P.C. and S. of enemy M.V. 36.52 N., 30.46 E.
(Nore W/T 0915/8).

Enemy Fleet.

P.C. and S. of enemy battle fleet are 26.03 N.,
-23.05. 260° 10 knots.
(A/C No. 1 Sqdn., 0925/8 to Group H.Q. M.E.)
Your 0925 repeat position and type.
(Group H.Q. M.E., 1024/8 to A/C of Cyprus Sqdn.)

Roumanian
Shipping.

From American sources in Roumania.
(a) Germans reorganizing port facilities Braila
and Galatz. (b) All Bulgarian and Roumanian ship-
ping left in Black Sea is sheltering at Bourgas
and (?Varna)
Above (A.I.) (N.A. Ankara, 1054/8).

Beirut bombed
Nicosia
bombed.

Operational Summary 393 up to 1200 hours 8.7.1941.
Night July 7/8, 3 Wellingtons bombed Beirut.
Direct hit on fuel tanks. Cyprus, 7/7 Nicosia
Aerodrome twice bombed by formations of 6 and 7
JU. 88's respectively. Details of A/Cs destroyed
and damaged. 2 petrol dumps destroyed. Civilian
casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1108/8).

Alexandria
bombed and
mined.

Part 2 Egypt. Night 6/7, about 20 unidentified A/C
dropped mines and bombs in Alexandria Harbour
Area. Few civilian casualties only.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1111/8).

Enemy M.V.

P.C. and S. of one M.V. 36.07 N., 29.51 E., 300,
4 attacked. (A/C P.3 Sqn. 1140/8 to Grp. H.Q.)

Submarines.

Movement Summary 31. (Capt. S.I. 1151C/8) See
Lion Copy.

UPHOLDER
M.V. sunk.

Reports at 0634/1 in 37.53 15.06 fired three
torpedoes at CITTA DI GENOVA class A.M.C. west-
bound escorting 3 M.V.s. Torpdoes probably ran
under. 0640/3 in 37.55 15.43 sighted westbound
French tanker escorted by similar A.M.C., target
passed out of range. At 1142/3 in 37.54 15.44
fired 3 torpedoes at westbound heavily laden M.V.
of about 5500 tons in convoy of three escorted
by destroyer and A.M.C. Second two hits with
mark 8 observed to sink at 1330. Immediate counter
attack. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1223B/8).

/ILEX.....

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE.

1151C/8 July.

14/A

IN.

Date, 8.7.41.

From, Capt. (S) 1st S.F.

Recd. 1640.

Naval Code (L) by T/P.

Addressed, Mediterranean Fleet, Repeated N.O.i/c Malta, N.O.i/c, Alexandria, N.O.i/c, Port Said, S.O. Force I. A.O.C. Mediterranean Group 201 N.O.i/c, Cyprus.

IMPORTANT.

Movement Summary 31. Movement (A).

Submarine,	Depart from.	Route through	Arriving.
H.M.S. CACHALOT	Alexandria p.m. 9th.	034°00' 023° 23' Noon 12th, 035° 06' 016°08' Noon 15th.	Malta dawn 16th.
H.M.S. TAKU	Alexandria pm. 8th	034°36' 027°59', 032°57' 025°24'.at 2100	Apollonia Noon 12th Benghazi p.m. 13th.
→ H.M.S. UNBEATEN.	Malta p.m. 8th.	Direct route.	Kerkonah area p.m. 9th.

H.M.S. THASIER
Greek Submarine
NEREUS,
H.M.S. PERSEUS.

as indicated summary 30.

SANCTUARY (B).

Submarine.

H.M.S. TORBAY.

Greek Submarine PAPANICOLIS.

Sanctuary.

036° 00' 023° 00' - 000° 60 - 50.

North of 035° 30' between 029° 30'
and 030° 30'.

Until p.m. 11th. 034° 15' 012° 20' -
335° - 60 - 50.
From a.m. 12th. 032° 45' 012° 00' -
000° - 25 55.

H.M.S. TRIUMPH

as indicated summary 30.

1151C/8.

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

A.O.N.S. (F).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pin.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
O.D. 8,
O.I.C. (2).
M. (2).
Mails.
Movts.
D.A./S.W.
W.D.
F.O. (S) by courier.
E.P.S.

War Diary.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ILEX.

C. in C. Med., 1101C/7 and A.T. 2223B/20 ILEX now at Port Said is expected to be ready for ocean passage about 19/7. Can she be taken in hand for permanent repairs at Bombay or other Port in India?. (D.O.D.(F) 1236B/8 to F.O.C.R.I.N. amended 1820B/8).

Syria.

Your 1025. (N.T. in W.D.) Regret turn support impracticable today. (C.S. 15 1406/8 to N.L.O. Palestine).
Request fighter protection for ships off Damur from 0530/9 and withdrawing to Haifa about 0600. Total requirements ? 3 hours.
(C.S. 15 1820/8 to A.O.C. R.A.F. P.& T.J.)
Your 2040/8. (N.T. in W.R.) Regret there are no other targets. (M.I.J.I., 2246C/8 to C.S.15).

Mines.

REGENT obtained suspected mine contacts to northward when patrolling on line 250° from 3 ^{Palms} PALMS between 5 and 15 miles from shore.
(Capt. S.I. 1435C/8, to TRIUMPH, TAKU).

Malta Raid.

C.S.R. to 1600 hours. 7/8. Night 7/8 1 enemy aircraft over bombs (?) Hal Far no damage or casualties.

Tripoli bombed and mined.

5 Swordfish 830 Sqn. laid cucumbers approaches Tripoli Harbour, 2 Swordfish dropped 2500 lbs bombs from 1200 and 700 feet near miss. Medium M/DC outside harbour and stick along Spanish mole hitting searchlight and putting it out. 6 Wellingtons 148 Sqn. bombed Tripoli engine sheds and railway sidings. (-H.Q. Malta, 163D/8).

Sale of Spanish ships.

ISORA -

Valencia reports Naviera Levantiskup has bought SAN ISIDOR, SAN JUAN II, CARMEN, VICENTE, ADEJE, ISORA and TRUJILLO* Company and manager are on statutory list (?but-) reported (B 2) as cloak for German organisation Sofindus. (N.A. Madrid, 1635/8 to Admty) Mostly 200/300 ton ships, believed intended for use in transporting ore from Spanish Mediterranean ports to Marseilles and Savona for German interests. (D.S. 674, 10/7). * not identified

Genoa Mines.

Your 1048/5 not to Admty. Spanish S.S. FELIPE CRESPI sunk about 24/6 27/6 outside Genoa (?believed) by mine. Four survivors. Sources three different shipping companies including owners. S.S. CARANZA crew reported refused to sail in consequence. (N.A. Madrid, 1643/8 to S.O.(I) Gib).

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

Enemy Destroyers.

Have Vichy Destroyers been sighted in Beirut or elsewhere on Coast?
(C. in C. Med., 1737C/8 to N.O.I.C. Haifa).

STROMBO (Italian)

Expected to sail Aegean during night 8 - 9/7
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1825/8).

SEEFALKE

German motor tug SEEFALKE arrived Istanbul from Aegean midday/7, expected to sail for Varna a.m. /9. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1848/8).

Haifa Air Raid.

C.A.F.O. 587/40. Air raid on Haifa lasted 0130 to 0330/8 4 or 5 mines dropped in harbour one of which has since been exploded by LL sweep action. Port closed pending completion of anti mining operations. One unexploded C type mine dropped by parachute. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1848/8 to C. in C. Med). *Port open. See C in Med. 2301/9. Para 160.*

Benghazi and Beirut bombed.

Prelim. Op. Summary. 22. Night 7/8. 4 Wellingtons Benghazi 4 Aleppo and Beirut. Fires base Central Mole Benghazi. Direct hit fuel tanks fire visible 80 miles Beirut.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1901/8).

Enemy M.V.

P.C. and S. of 1 enemy merchant ship at 1140/8 036° 07' 029° 51' 300° 4.
(Capt. S.I. 1925C/8 to Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS).

Vichy ships in Turkey.

Your 2354B/7. (a) Reliable reports of 3 Vichy French ships including ST. DIDIER expected to pass southern coast of Turkey in attempt to reinforce Syria. Telegram received from C. in C. Med., highly probable these ships will use Turkish territorial waters and fly Turkish flag.
(b) Danger in view of above to legitimate Turkish shipping these waters causing concern to C. in C. Med., who desires early information of all such sailings in order warn British Forces. (c) Request local Turkish authorities inform British Consuls in south Turkish port in advance.
(N.A. Angora, 2039/8 to Admty).

/GORIZIA.....

War Diary.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

GORIZIA
BOLZANO.

Foreign broadcasts from Rome deny sinking or damage to cruiser GORIZIA. Possible that the cruiser torpedoed and sunk by URGE on 29/6 was the BOLZANO. (D.S., 672 8/7).

ATLAS
(German).

Arrival 6/7. (Valencia 2400/8).

East Indies.

Mine -
Watching.

In Shatt-el-Arab. Reply to Admty. 1604/28. Requirements. (C. in C. E.I., 0754Z/8 to Admty). See Lion Copy.

ATREUS.

My 0756/5. for consideration whether to use ATREUS for freight in Indian Ocean, ATREUS then being at about one month's notice for mining service. Pending decision ATREUS is remaining at Aden. (C. in C. E.I., 1000Z/8 to Admty) Reply 2343B/9.

COLOMBO.

My 0746/7. Date of leaving Mombasa will now be 16/7. (C. in C. E.I., 1108Z/8 to COLOMBO).

Iraq and
Iran.

C. in C. E.I., 1940Z/8. See Operations Volume.

China.

VELEBIT.

Yugoslav VELEBIT due Moulmein 30/6 from Colombo not arrived. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0135Z/8 to Admty).

Indo-China.

Messages from De Coux dated 2/7 and 3/7 re oil, rubber etc. (C. in C China 1153Z/8 and 1155Z/8) See Lion Copy.

F.E.W. 38. Thai - Indo China Peace Treaty ratified on 5/7. Japanese Policy. (C.O.I.S. Far East, Singapore, 1110Z/8) See Lion Copy.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

0754Z/8 July

From: C. in C. East Indies.

Date 9.7.41.

Recl. 0508

NAVAL CYPHER (A2) BY W/T

Addressed: Admiralty. Repeated: S.N.C. Persian Gulf, 644, F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy, 702.

487. A.M. 1604/28th - (1) Consider guns and S/Ls are indispensable to efficient defence against mines by aircraft. Suez Canal experience I understand bears this out.

(11) Guns and S/Ls are not only a deterrent but may prevent aircraft returning with another mine.

(111) Without S/Ls, guns and fighter aircraft (when available) are of little use. Further, a well directed light has a dazzling effect on pilots at critical moment of release.

(1V) Illumination of aircraft may increase chance of observing accurate position in which mines are dropped.

(V) Gun protection also required for defence of unarmed barges and minesweepers.

(VI) Understand A L T O 72 73/41 of March 15th paragraph 52 second sentence bears out above contention. Letter however not received by me and presumably lost. Request further copy. A.M. 1958/8th June not to (F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy) refers.

0754Z/8

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D.
& D. of L.D.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Centr.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- Civil Lord
- Sec.
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D.N.I. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- Ops (4)
- M (2)
- D. of P. (3)
- O.I.C.
- D.S.D.9.
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D.M.S. for action

- D.M.S. Basement
- D.T.M. for copy of letter
- D.D.T.M.
- D.S.D. (2)
- D. of L.D. (2)
- D.A/A.W.
- D.C.O.
- D.D.T.S.D. (C.O.)
- D.A/S.W.

1128/21

Handwritten mark

SECRET

MESSAGE

1153Z/8th July.

IN

From C. in C. China.

Date. 9.7.41
Recd. 1040

Inter Departmental Cypher (12) by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated H.M. Ambassador Tokyo,
Consul General Saigon, Governor Straits
Settlements Governor Hong Kong, H.M. Ambassador
Washington.

IMPORTANT.

✱

345. Your 215. Decoux says Egal will be released
as soon as British authorities wish, if we will inform
him date it is proposed to despatch first cargo of oil.
He says Standard Oil Company have agreed to load Swedish
TOOTH GOTHIA at Palembang for Indo China. Vessel is now
at Sourabaya. Please see my 1155Z July 8th in regard
Decoux's assurance on rubber question. If no objection
is seen on this account, request Oil Company may be
authorized to ship accordingly.

PANGOTHIA
See p. 161

1153Z/3

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.M.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. of P. (3)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- D.S.D. 9
- O.I.C. (3)
- D.T.D. (4)
- M. (40) for action.
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- Admiral Chalmers
- Admiral Bellairs. (2)

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

✱ 1324/30.

MOST SECRET

144c

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E .

1155Z/8th July

III.

From C. in C. China.

Date 8.7.41.

Recd. 2347.

Inter Departmental Cypher by Cable.

Addressed (7 groups missing) Consul General Saigon, H.M. Ambassador Washington, H.M. Ambassador Tokyo, C. in C. Far East.

IMPORTANT.

Following is gist of long message received from De Coux dated July 2nd. and July 3rd. He hopes that the communication to me of secret annexes to his agreements with Japan and Thailand will have demonstrated his good faith and friendly intentions. He wants H.M. Government clearly to understand realities of the situation facing him, and that his policy remains that of reducing as far as possible his contractual obligations to Japan and maintaining maximum trade with ourselves, always provided we do not aggravate the situation by impossible requests.

2. As regards rubber he has acted on my suggestion that he should ask to be authorized to settle local contract for 10000 tons of rubber for U.S.A. He also renews the undertaking that balance of rubber destined for France shall not go to Japan and points out that there is now little possibility of any export to Germany.

3. He points out that the export of hides is controlled by the agreements with Japan of which he has already informed us, and the prohibition of export of oil is designed to enable a substitute for fuel oil to be used locally so as not to hinder the British blockade. These prohibitions do not concern more than ten per cent of Indo China exports, little of which normally go to British possessions.

4. He says that he will always be ready to consider developing Trade if we would make concrete proposals for specific types of merchandise.

5. A separate message is being sent regarding oil and M Egal.

1155Z/8.

Advance Copy Sent D.C., D.O.D.(F) & D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.H.S.
A.C.H.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
Sec.
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D.N.I. (4)
D.C.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.B. (F)
Head of M. (30)
D. of P. (2)
D.D.I.C.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Admiral Chalmers.
D.T.D. (2)
D.E.W.D.

1110Z/8 July
IN

SECRET

MESSAGE

From C.O.I.S. Far East Singapore

Date 9.7.41
Recd. 0312

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER 12 BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty for D.N.I., Air H.Q. New Delhi, pass to F.O.C. R.I.N. D.N.I. Ottawa, C. in C. East Indies, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, (?New Zealand Naval Board) C. in C. China, Air Officer Commanding Far East, B.N.A. Washington, H.M.A. Chungking, Army H.Q. India, G.H.Q. Far East, G.O.C. Malaya, G.O.C. Burma, G.O.C. Hong Kong. B.A. Tokyo 135.

F E W 38. Indo China efforts being made to enable Britain or America to purchase large quantity of Wolfram smuggled from China to French Indo China and thus prevent it reaching Japan. Japanese exerting pressure to stop rice export to Hong Kong.

Thailand. Thai Indo China peace treaty ratified on July 5th.

Japan no definite indication yet as to Japan's next move. Fence sitting will probably continue until Russo-German war situation clarifies. Many indications Japan making all preparations for crisis e.g. requisitioning number of fast freighters, closing businesses in U.S.A., Japanese fleet standing by. Press and radio attacking French Indo China may be preliminary to occupation of Southern French Indo China. This considered probable irrespective decision whether to attack U.S.S.R. or to continue Southward expansion.

1110Z/8

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

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L
- V.C.N.S
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L
- P.A.S. (S)
- Cps. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- O.I.C. (3)
- M(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.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MALAYA.

My 1235/18. Following programme of MALAYA approved subject to your concurrence. (B.A.R.M. 1012/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Concur (C. in C. A.W.I. 1002Q/9).

ELLINICO.

Your 1739B/7 Greek ELLINICO reported by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1856/17/6 as due Wabana 26/6. No news. (N.C.S.O., St. John's N.F., 1123Z/8 to Admty).

U.S. and
Iceland.

Survey party being sent Iceland by U.S. Navy delayed; following information meantime urgently required.
(B.A.D., Washington, 1145R/8).

O. B. Convoys.

My 1903Z/24 and Admty 1835B/21 1153B/26, 1646B/29 and 1649B/29 dealing with O. B. convoys 340, 341, 343 and 344 respectively. Considerable difficulty is still being experienced in estimating position of O. B. convoys. Suggestion. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1515Z/8 to Admty).

S/M Report.

S.O.(I) Jamaica 1543R/8. (See U-Boat Campaign).

DIDO.

Request DIDO be directed to arrive at Ambrose Channel Entrance Buoy at 2100Z/25 Vessel is expected on (date). (B.A.R.M., 2340/8 to Admty).

War Diary.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/Ms Reported.

- 0850. Italian submarine bearing 2530 2nd class at 0850 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A., 1023/8 to N.A. Stn.)
- 2330/5 }
1449/6 } If nothing found by 2000B/8 return to Shoeburyness. (C. in C. W.A., 1037B/8 to PERIWINKLE).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1359B/8).

- 1318 At 1318Z Italian U-Boat 2550 class 3. Different U-Boat to that reported in my 1023. (F.O.C.N.A., 1441/8 to N.A. Stn.)
- 1915. Am over enemy submarine in 48.42 N., 7.03 W. (A/C 1915/8 to 19 Group H.Q.)
Enemy C. and S. are 090° S. Enemy submarine previously reported has dived. (A/C 1920/8 to Plymouth, 19 Group H.Q.)
- 1915 For information own aircraft report 049° 32' N 001° 09' W at 1915, U boat dived heading for Brest. (F.O.S., 2021B/8 to TIGRIS, SOKOL, SEALION).
- 1918 German Submarine bearing 2770 1st at 1918 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A., 2035A/8 to N.A. Stn).
- 2000 Following intercept from Eire (begins) - Submarine of unknown nationality in territorial waters convenient to Howe Strand between Old Head of Kinsale and Court Macsherry at 2000/8. (ends) Presumably this is B.S.T. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2228B/8 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

- 30/6. S.O.(I) Montevideo reports fisherman sighted large submarine in approx. 019.09 S., 039.05 W., 30/6. B.2. R.A.S.A.D. S.O.(I) Freetown informed. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1543R/8 to Admty).

War Diary.

8.7.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By M.L.

Depth charge attack carried out at 1155, 053°
30' N., 005° 02' W.
(M.L. 258, 1220/8 to Admty?)

By A/C

Am over enemy S/M in 46.32 N., 9.08 W.
(A/C Duty U, 1439/8 to 19 R Group)
Enemy S/M previously reported has dived, attacked,
result nil.
(A/C Duty U, 1446/8).
Enemy submarine sighted again 46.43 N., 8.50 W.,
enemy submarine has dived.
(A/C U, 1545/8, to 19 Group H.Q.) (F.O.S. 1921B/8
to SEALION).

By A/C

T T T Am investigating suspicious wake or swirl
in position. 48.10 N., 8.54 W. Have attacked
enemy with depth charges and estimate nil hits.
(A/C L.l. of No. 19 Sqnd. 1500/8 to 19 Group H.Q.)

War Diary.

9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Aircraft report sighting at 1500 today 15 ships six of which appeared to be E-boats steering 50° between Guernsey and Cherbourg.

U.S. Destroyers and aircraft are maintaining A/S patrols off Iceland (C).

Aircraft photographs show the existence of a -new enemy naval base in Aas Fiord near Trondheim.

It is intended to start a two day cycle of the various Coastal Convoys between Portsmouth and Milford Haven on 17/7.

Enemy Air Operations.

The Air Ministry consider that the German long range bomber effort last night represents an intensive effort for the forces located on the Western Front which comprise about 300 long range bombers.

At 0130/9 3 H.E. bombs were dropped in the harbour area at Aberdeen, causing some damage.

Convoy E.C. 43 was bombed about 0104 in 53° 5' N., 1° 30' E.

There was an air raid on Yarmouth again last night. Naval damage was slight and ineffective.

A few bombs dropped in the Portsmouth area last night caused very slight damage.

One enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Portland Dockyard at 0334 today. Very slight damage was caused..

A few bombs were dropped on Plymouth between 0033 and 0340 today. No serious Naval damage was caused.

War Diary.

9.7.1941.¹⁴⁹
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

The barge BLUE MERMAID, mined and destroyed off Clacton this evening.

~~It is reported that 3 southbound German transports were sunk today on a Swedish minefield off Oland.~~

Mediterranean.

3 Hurricanes last night made a successful attack on float planes at Syracuse.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

7 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night and one, Derna. 14 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli, obtaining hits on a 12,000 ton ship, on two 10,000 ton liners and on a 7,000 ton ship.

Vichy
Auxiliary
warships at
Iskanderun.

A Vichy French armed Trawler and an auxiliary tanker of 5,000 to 6,000 tons arrived at Iskanderun this afternoon. The Turkish authorities state that the ships are now under their protection and that they will be disarmed and interned, and they ask that no offensive action shall be taken against them by the British.

Libya and
Western Desert.

DECOY was slightly damaged by air attack this morning, whilst returning from Tobruk to Alexandria.

7 Blenheims attacked shipping in Tripoli harbour this evening. Four Blenheims are missing, one of which, shot down in flames over the harbour by A.A. crashed on a torpedo boat, setting it on fire.

Palestine
and Syria.

M.T.B.68 entered Beirut harbour last night and depth-charged two merchant ships alongside the mole.

The port of Haifa is now open.

War Diary.

9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

An aircraft attacked a submarine with bombs at 1030 today in reported position 48° 47' N. 8° 23' W and estimated that 4 hits were secured. It seems probable that the submarine was TUNA who reported that she was heavily bombed by an aircraft at 1030B/9 and was proceeding on patrol.

War Diary.

9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Holyhead
A.P.

Your 1714B/4. Approved. When proposing re-allocations request you will consider whether any boats can be released to other Commands for anti-invasion duties if you have not urgent tasks for them within your Command. (A.C.N.S.H. 1836B/9 to C. in C. W.A.).

SEVERN
and CLYDE.

C. in C. Med. 1806C/6. My opinion that SEVERN and CLYDE should not be used in Mediterranean for routine patrols is unaltered. The risk to these S/Ms. is greater than to other types and unless additional risks are justifiable for a particularly important operation these S/Ms. should not, I consider, be employed in Mediterranean. Their high speed may at any time be a good asset in the Atlantic. (F.O.S. 1914B/9 to Adty.).

Intercepted
French
Ships.

Para. 2 of your 2230B/6 does not accurately convey the sense of para. (b) of Admty. Q130B/4. Request you will amend your 2230B/6 accordingly. (V.C.N.S. 2054B/9 to F.O.C.N.P).

Co-operation with Russia.

British
Naval
Mission.

Interviewed Admiral Kuznetsov this morning. Details. (No. 30 Military Mission, Moscow 2140/9 to War Office). See Lion Copy. (152 A)

Movements.

PRINCE
OF WALES.

C. in C. H.F. 2253/5 and A.S. Rosyth's 1815/8. Propose following amended programme.
2. Above considered to be minimum time required to ensure that ship can provide some small measure of self protection on passage North. If this is not required ship could sail on 19/7. (PRINCE OF WALES 1009/9).

AURORA.
MANCHESTER.
ARETHUSA.

On completion of practices P.M. today take MANCHESTER and ARETHUSA under your orders and proceed Clyde. (C. in C. H.F. 1326B/9 to AURORA).

9.7.1941. ¹⁵²
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S
Patrols.

3 U.S. Destroyers are maintaining an A/S Patrol to (? South) of line Grotta Akranes. (A.C.I.C. 1253/9 to DEVONSHIRE). PRESTON NORTH END and CELIA are proceeding to carry out an A/S patrol on a line 310° from Noup Head for 60 miles. (A.C.O.S. 1940/9).

→ TUNA.

Cancel my 1811B/8. Proceed on the surface at your discretion through 049° 25' N., 011° W. 046° N., 011° W. 046° N. 007° W. to patrol in Bay of Biscay South zone in accordance with F.S.C. Details of patrol zone follow. T.B.R. arranged up to last position. (F.O.S., 1319B/9 to TUNA).

Two German
Destroyers
Sunk.

Russians claim to have sunk two JAGUAR-class Destroyers in Gulf of Riga on 6/7. Admiral Kuznetzov confirms this, but not the actual class. (No. 30 Military Mission, Moscow 2140/9 to War Office). See Lion Copy.

British Air Activity.

→ Air
Attack
on TUNA.

Am over enemy submarine in 48° 47' N 8° 23' W. Have attacked with bombs level and estimate 4 hits. (A/C Duty Y 1030/9 to 19. R Group H.Q.) U-boat steering 260° attacked by A/C in 48° 47' N. 08° 23' W. at 1030/9 and possibly damaged. After taking off crew of Sunderland, sink it, and proceed to search for U-boat assuming she surfaces at dark and makes for Brest or Lorient. To keep clear of SOKOL do not proceed E. of 7° W. when S. of 49° N. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1921/9 to BROCKLESBY).

2.19210/9

Your 1621B/9. I was heavily bombed by one A/C at 1030B/9. My position 049° 16' N 008° 58' W. course 263° proceeding in accordance with your 1811B/8. (TUNA, 2210B/9).

Harrying
U-Boats
in Orkneys
and
Shetlands.

Your 1300/8 and my 1738/7. If permanent patrol not practicable request one A/S search daily in the area named in my 1738/7. Time of search to be varied. 2. Close A/S escort will normally be provided by Fleet resources. A special signal will be made if this cannot be done. (C. in C. H.F. 1416B/9 to C. in C. Rosyth). Your 1416/9/7. Patrol will be carried out by Whitley Aircraft from 1830/9 to 0200/10. (C. in C. Rosyth 1730/9 to C. in C. H.F.) My 1730/9. Understand patrol will be flown from 0200 until 1400 daily by A/C from Twatt. 18 Group will maintain patrol for remainder of 24 hours if practicable. (C. in C. Rosyth 2036/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Patrols.....

MOST SECRET

152A

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

2140/9 July.

IN

From No. 30 Military Mission Moscow.

Date. 10/7/41

Recd 0110.

CYPHER.

Addressed. The War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

25889

Navy 036 cipher 9/7.

To The Admiralty from Head of Naval Mission Moscow.

I had an interview with Admiral Kuznetsov Head of Russian Navy this morning. He was at pains to impress on me how he wished for close co-operation between us as Naval Officers and free from any political influences. He was most grateful for all technical information and advice we had already given but said he was not so satisfied at the way his staff were putting this into practice. He then introduced me to Rear Admiral Dolinin who is to take the place of Admiral Kharlamov in meetings with our mission. I congratulated Kuznetsov on action Gulf of Riga on July 6th reported in press today. Russians claim to have sunk 2 Jaguar class destroyers. He confirmed this but not the actual class. He also stated that they had had losses since the beginning of the war due to suddenness of outbreak but these were not serious. Message ends.

2140/9.

Recd by hand from War Office.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

3rd S.L.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

Duty Capt.

HQ of M. (10)

D.M.I. (4)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D of P. (2)

D.T.S.D.

E.P.S.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

JA.

153

9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity-Contd.

Patrols.

U.S. Air Patrol working from Hvalfiord is operating in the area 25 miles from Skagi. (A.C.I.C. 1253/9 to DEVONSHIRE). Your letter of 23/6. The proposed air Patrols are very satisfactory. (KING GEORGE V. C.O.S. 2330B/9 to A.C.N.S.H).

Ostend
Helder
Rotterdam
attacked.

On day 8/7 the Docks at Ostend and Helder and the Oil Storage at Rotterdam were attacked. (H.Q.B.C. 1640/9).

North Sea
R/C
Situation.
No. 114
Squadron.

AP/66 9/7 2151B/2. A.O.C. in C. concurs in proposal to return No. 114 Squadron to Bomber Command. Consider present situation permits adequate R/C of North Sea with Squadrons on the East Coast including available aircraft of Nos. 500 and 608 Squadrons. If situation demands it East Coast Squadrons could be reinforced from Hudson Squadrons in the West. (H.Q.C.C. 1955/9 to Adty.).

818
Sqdn.

On completion of foreign service leave 818 Squadron equipped with 9 Swordfish is to undergo a course in Army co-operation duties. (5th S.L. 2005B/9 to V.A.N.A.S).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
E.C. 43.

Enemy A/C bombing Convoy 'Might'. My position 53° 5' N. 1° 30' E. (WHADDON 0104/9) (WIDGEON 0112/9).

Plymouth
bombed.

Several enemy aircraft in area between 0053 and 0340/9. Slight damage North Yard and R.W. Yard. Details. (C. in C. Plymouth 0427/9, S.C.E. D'port 1630/9).

Portland
bombed.

Attack by one enemy aircraft on Portland Dockyard at 0334/9. 5 bombs. Superficial damage to 2 small surface craft, also Dockyard crane and railway line damaged by debris. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0750B/9, O.C.W. Portland 1700/9).

/Yarmouth.....

9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

154

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Yarmouth Bomed.

Enemy air attack night 8/9.
Slight damage to main railway lines - station closed. Utilities slightly affected.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1010B/9 1005B/9).

Aberdeen bombed.

3 H.E. bombs dropped 0130/9 on quays in harbour area Aberdeen. No naval damage or casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1016/9).
Damage to harbour installations. Details.
No warning sounded in area until after attack.
No A.A. fire opened on plane.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1240/9).

AKRANES (Bomed 4/7).

Wreck of AKRANES lies in 54° 05' 45" N. 00° 07' 25" W. (F.O. Humber, 1055B/9).

Portsmouth Area bombed.

Slight damage sustained owing to enemy action on the night of 8/9 at Horsea Island.
(S.C.E. Portsmouth 1600B/9).

JENNIFER (Bomed 6/7).

My 0859B/6. JENNIFER in tow of YORKSHIREMAN arrived Humber 2215. (F.O. Humber, 2239B/9).

Mining.

Plymouth on 7/7.

At 0645/7 Red mine detonated by Sweeper in 50° 17' 58" N., 4° 10' 50" W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1704/9).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats off Channel Islands.

Aircraft of 10 group reports sighting at 1500/9 15 ships between Guernsey and Cherbourg. six of which appeared to be E. Boats. Course 050°. (C. in C. Plymouth 1541/9).

Main Units. Suspicious Drifter.

Latest reported positions. (D.D.I.C. 1819B/9).
A steam drifter number 361 wearing Netherlands colours reported by aircraft at 1745Z/8 in 62° 21' N. 20° 25' W. course 330° speed 8 knots should be treated with suspicion.
(D.D.I.C., 1823B/9).

New Naval Base at Trondheim.

Photographs at 1530/9 confirm reported existence of S/M and Light Craft Base at Aas Fiord. Details seen. (P.R.U., Wick, 2330/9). See Lion Copy.

2330/9 July.

M E S S A G E

I N

From: PRU Wick

Date: 10.7.41.

Recd. 0130

P/L by T/P

Addressed: 18 Group, repeated H.Q.C.C., Admiralty,
Bomber Command A13(H.D.), PRU Benson, R.A.F.
Medmenham, 42 Squadron.

Ref. WK/G106.

FORM WHITE IMMEDIATE

N/220.

Photographs taken at 1530 hours on 9/7/41.

New Naval Base near Trondheim.

Photographs through gaps in cloud at head of Aas Fjord confirm reported existence of Base for submarines and light surface craft. Six S/Ms seven M. Class mine-sweepers one T/B two Naval depot ships and nine supply ships are seen and there is every indication that further reconnaissance will show other Naval units particularly off Langstein where cloud covered the entire bay. Shipping seen disposed as follows. At head of Aas Fjord in mouth of Hopleelv alongside North bank 400 ft. depot ships probably GRILLE with three 500 ton S/Ms alongside. Also one M. Class M/S and four M/Vs over 200 feet. alongside which lie two further 500 ton S/ms and one 250 tons S/M. A further M. Class M/S approaches this position. In Lo Fjord south of the above there is another Naval depot ship possibly the SAAR three M. Class M/S one T/B 200 ft. and four M/Vs over 200 ft. At Hooy there is another M/V with probable S/M alongside. Entering Aas Fjord are one M/V 330 ft. and two M. Class M/S one of which is heading for Langstein.

Trondheim

Twelve E/R boats and three old minor Naval units present on 8/6/41 are no longer in port. Only Naval units now present are one SLEIPNER T/P Catapult ship, WESTFALEN, and A/C security vessel HANS ROLSHOVEN. Whale oil carrier C.A. LARSEN moved from Roads and now alongside ore jetty at Ilsviken. Shipping in Roadstead completely changed since 8/6/41 now comprises 8 M/Vs over 200 ft. At quays shipping slightly decreased since same date and largely changed. Slight decrease in number of seaplanes at Ilsviken. Considerable increase of A/C at Lademoen A/D where now present 16 A/C of which one Ju. 52 one possible glider and the remainder probably fighters. Constructional activity continues.

2330/9

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1st Lord | C.D.(5) | D.P.D. |
| 1st S.L. | D.N.I.(4) | D.S.D.(2) |
| 4th S.L. | D.T.D.(4) | M.(2) |
| 5th S.L. | D.T.D.(M) | D.N.A.D. |
| V.C.N.S. | D.T.D.(C) | E.P.S. |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | O.I.C.(4) | A.H.Q.H.F. |
| A.C.N.S.(T)(2) | D. of P.(3) | D.D.O.D.(M) |
| Nav. Sec. | Cdr. Hoobrook | |
| N.A. to 1st S.L. | D.A./S.W. | |
| Capt. Pim, Adm. Hse. | I.P.(3) | |
| Ops.(4) | W.D. | |

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1133B/9th July.

IN.

From: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date: 9.7.41

Recd: 1155.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed: F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Belfast, N.C.S.O. Milford Haven. Repeated Admiralty, C. in C. Plymouth F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, N.O.I.C. Holyhead, H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C. Air Ministry, 15 Group, 19 Group, N.C.S.O. Mersey, N.C.S.O. Cardiff, N.C.S.O. Holyhead.

876 To expedite Coastal traffic of ships over 1,000 tons, it is requested that F.O.I.C. Milford Haven will sail northbound Convoys as required on days when there is no O.B.M. or O.G.M. departure. These will be known as M H (Milford Holyhead) convoys.

2. On reaching position "G" (off Holyhead), the convoy will disperse and the ships proceed independently to their destinations.

3. To facilitate air protection in the dangerous area, and in view of the small surface escort available they should leave Milford Haven as early in the morning as possible.

4. After dispersal, the escorts will proceed to Holyhead to await the next BB (Southbound) convoy, or return to Milford Haven direct.

5. Escorts will be provided by the trawlers HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, LEEDS UNITED, YORK CITY, and DERBY COUNTY, supplemented by the yacht section of the Irish Sea Escort Force.

6. F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested, as a temporary measure, to replace these trawlers in the Irish Sea Escort Force by others in Belfast under notice to proceed abroad. Arrangements will be made later to provide permanent reliefs.

7. As a further help to Coastal traffic, ships of less than 7 1/2 knots may, at the discretion of N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, be included in O.B.M. and O.G.M. convoys to position "G" when they will proceed independently, sailing times being regulated accordingly to make the rendezvous with the Liverpool portion.

1133B/9.

Advance copy Ops., O.D., & Trade.

V.C.N.S. (T) (2) O.I.C. (3) M. (2) W.D.
A.C.N.S. (H) D.T.D. (4) D of S.T. I.M.N.G.
N.A. 1st S.L. D.T.D. (M) D.N.I.
Ops. (4) D.T.D. (C) D of S 2.
O.D. (5) D.A./S.W. I.P. (3)

154e

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1743B/9th July.

058

To R.A. 3. 450. Date. 9.7.41
C. in C. Home Fleet. 607.
C. in C. Western Approaches. 905.
MALAYA.

Repeated. C. G. H. F.
F. O. I. C. Iceland. (C) 479
C. C. A. C. Halifax.
N. S. H. C. Ottawa. 857.
F. O. I. C. Liverpool.
F. O. I. C. Greenock.
F. O. I. C. Belfast.
C. in C. America and West Indies. 172.
C. in C. Plymouth. 721.
R.A. (D) Home Fleet. 658.

Naval Cypher (A1)

From Admiralty.

1. Convoy T.C. 12 Composed of ORION, DUCHESS OF YORK, EMPRESS OF CANADA, STRATHMORE AND STRATHNAVER carrying 11500 personnel from Canada will leave Halifax on July 21st.
2. Speed of slowest ship 18 knots.
3. Ocean escort from Halifax to the U.K. will be provided by H.M.S. MALAYA strengthened if necessary by "R" class battleships.
4. A/S escort will be provided throughout by 6 destroyers.
5. A/A escort will be provided by an A/A cruiser from vicinity of Iceland (C).
6. R.A. 3 is requested to sail and route convoy to pass through position "A" in approx. 53 degs 00' N. 49 degs 00' W, stating estimated time of arrival at this position. Admiralty will adjust position "A" if necessary and will issue onward route to the Clyde.
7. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to:
 - (1) Arrange for destroyer escort from Halifax to rendezvous "X" in vicinity of Iceland (C).
 - (2) Provide destroyers to escort from rendezvous "X" to Clyde after fuelling at Iceland (C).
 - (3) To provide A/A cruiser to escort from rendezvous "Y".
 - (4) To arrange rendezvous X and Y.

1743B/9

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

MOST SECRET

War Diary.9.7.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.M.T.B. 5.
(Accidental
explosion
30/6).

My 1256B/1. M.T.B. 5 is considered to be a total loss. (V.A. Dover 1701B/9).

EDINBURGH.

Is 9½ months out of dock, (?resulting in) estimated loss 3 knots and 12% increase fuel consumption at maximum speed. Propose ship is docked for 24 hours on arrival or as soon as dock is available. (F.O.C., 18th C.S. 1832A/9).

VALOROUS.At 0730 today VALOROUS struck submerged object in 052° 46' N., 001° 56' 10" E. No apparent damage but request Diver may examine post and rudder on arrival at Sheerness. (VALOROUS 1231B/9 to C. in C. Nore).
(C. in C. Nore 2253B/9 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).Shipping and Convoys.Route and
Vesca
Signals.

Requirements of VESCA system are outlined in A.M. 1956/17/3. Instructions regarding VESCA Signal are embodied in A.M. 1406B/13/6 and 2024B/6/7, and instructions regarding Route Signal in 1954/7/7. Impress upon all N.C.S.O.s absolute importance of strict compliance with instructions contained therein. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1100B/9 to Cs. in C.)

M.H. Convoys.

To expedite coastal traffic. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven to sail northbound convoys on days when no O.B.M. or O.G.M. departure. These will be known as M.H. (Milford Holyhead) convoys. Instructions. (C. in C. W.A., 1133B/9). See Lion Copy.

Kites and
Balloons.In accordance with agreement reached regarding flying of kites and balloons at night by merchant ships in convoy on the east coast it is proposed to issue the following instructions.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1741B/9 to Air Min.)Convoy T.C.
12.Composition, date of leaving Halifax, etc.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1743B/9 to R.A. 3 etc). See Lion Copy.
Escort. (See America and West Indies).

/Coastal

War Diary.

9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

Coastal
Convoys.

2-day cycle to start on 17/7. (C. in C. Plymouth 1812/9 to Admty etc). See Lion Copy.

H.X. 133.

Met as arranged. Fog for first five days. Attacked by U/Boats from 40° W. to 18° W. Ships sunk:- SOLOY, BROCKLEY HILL, MALAYA II, MAASDAM and GRAYBURN. Damaged and arrived KONGSGAARD and TIBIA. Straggler VIGRID sunk. Anti U/B operations particularly successful. (D.T.D., 1827B/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Cam Ships.

Normally stationed in rear of convoys, but are not to be detailed as Rescue Ships. From overseas assembly ports Cam ships and those fitted with Bofors gun are to be indicated in Part II para. 9 of convoy sailing telegram by letter C. or B. respectively after name of ship. (D.T.D. 1916B/9 to N.C.S.O.s).

D.S.8

ULSTER MONARCH, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, are required to sail in convoy D.S. 8 (Date) from Clyde. ULSTER MONARCH and ROYAL SCOTSMAN will be required for exercises on return. (D.C.O., 2249B/9 to V.A.C.T.C.)

F.N. and
F.S. convoys.

Additional escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2359/9 to C. in C. Nore, etc). See Lion Copy.

1812/9th July

SECRET

POSTAGRAM.

IN

FROM Commander in Chief
Plymouth

DATE 11.7.41
RECD. 1220

ADDRESSED Admiralty A.O's. C., 10 and 19 Groups, R.A.F.
C. in C. Portsmouth F.O.i/c Falmouth F.O.i/c
Milford Haven F.O.i/c Cardiff F.O.i/c Portland
N.O.i/c Dartmouth N.C.S.O. Portsmouth N.C.S.O.
Portland N.C.S.O. Dartmouth N.C.S.O. Plymouth
N.C.S.O. Falmouth N.C.S.O. Milford Haven,
N.C.S.O. Cardiff, N.C.S.O. Swansea N.C.S.O. Barry
N.C.S.O. Newport, N.C.S.O. Avonmouth S.T.O.i/c.
Devonport.

334P. My 1843/19th June (not to S.T.O.i/c.,
Devonport). As there is general agreement with my
proposal to introduce a two day cycle for Coastal Convoys,
it is intended to start this programme on 17th July.

2. P.W.5 will sail from Dartmouth as in the old
programme on 17th July, P.W.6 sailing on 19th, P.W.7 on
21st and so on every two days.

3. Similarly W.P.6 will sail from Bristol Channel
ports as in old programme on 18th July, W.P.7 on 20th
July, W.P.8 on 22nd July, and so on every two days.

4. It is hoped that Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth
will be able to conform as regards sailings between
Portsmouth and Dartmouth. In order to provide the
additional escorts required it is suggested that the A/S
trawler group stationed at Portland should be used. It
is understood that these are now employed patrolling
in Lyme Bay. I have already withdrawn similar patrols
in other parts of the Plymouth Command and consider that
these might likewise be withdrawn.

1812/9

+ Proposal of two day Convoy
cycle.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1st Lord | D.T.D.(C) |
| 1st S.L. | D. of S.T. |
| V.C.N.S. | I.P.(3) |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | D.A/S.W. |
| A.C.N.S.(T)(2) | O.I.C.(2) |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | W.D. |
| Ops.(4) | I.M.N.G. |
| O.D.(5) | M.(2) |
| O.D.8. | D. of P.(3) |
| D.N.I.(4) | D. of L.D.(2) |
| D. of S.2A. | |
| D.T.D.(4) | |
| BAA. D.T.D.(M) | |

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2359/9th July.

IN.

From F.O.I.C.Harwich.

Date. 10.7.41.

Recd. 0033.

P/L by T/P.

Addressed C. in C. Nore, 1st Division Corvettes LA MELPOMENE repeated C. in C. Rosyth Admiralty F.O.I.C.Humber, N.C.S.O. Southern

F.N.	E.C.	F.S.	
+ 91.	--	539.	KITTIWAKE, AGATE, TURQUOISE
+ 92	--	540.	MALLARD, SAPPHIRE, BASSET &
-	45.	541.	WIDGEON, KINGSTON OLIVINE.
+ 93.	--	541.	GUILLEMOT, LADY PHILOMENA.
-	46.	542.	LA MELPOMENE, TANGO.
-	46.	543.	SHELDRAKE, SWORD DANCE.
+ 94.	--	544.	PUFFIN, LORD PLENDER.

WIDGEON and KINGSTON OLIVINE leave E.C. 45 off the Outer Flowing, enter the Humber, and sail on 15/7 so as to join F.S. 541 off the Outer Flowing at 2100/15/7.

SHELDRAKE and SWORD DANCE leave E.C. 46 off the Outer Flowing enter the Humber and sail on 17/7 so as to join F.S. 543 between Flamborough Head and 62 D Buoy at 2100/17/7

1st Division corvettes and LA MELPOMENE acknowledge.

2359/9.

Advance copy Ops. Trade

- A.C.N.S.(T) (2).
- N.A.1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim. Admiralty Hse.
- Ops (4).
- O.D. (5).
- O.D.B.
- M. (2).
- O.I.C. (2).
- Mails.
- Movts.
- I.P. (3).
- D.A./S.W.
- ~~W.S.~~
- D.T.D. (4).
- D.T.D. (C).
- D.T.D. (M).

War Diary.9.7.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.French
Convoys.

For M.E.W., passed 8th. French Ships Westward PENERF in ballast ILE ROUSSE, BOREAL both full. Eastward AISNE, BRESTOIS, OUED SEBOU II, SAINTE ODETTE, all full. (F.O.C.N.A., 0919A/9 to Admty).

FURY.

May call at Ponta Delgada about 11/7 and if so will require about 300 tons oil fuel. (D.O.D. (F) 1325B/9 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

CHALLENGER
STARWORT.

Ponta Delgada departure 1945 G.M.T./8 routed in accordance with my 1124A/7. (F.O.C.N.A., 1056A/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

Force H.
NELSON.

S.O. Force H's. 2256A/5, concur. Suggest NELSON should remain with S.O. Force H after convoy W.S. 9 C. If suitable relief can be found I would like her to give leave in August. (C. in C. H.F., 1524B/9 to Admty).

KERSTEN MILES
(German).

Reliably informed she intends filling up with gas oil fuel. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1615/9).

A/C attack
on Convoy
1/7.

Your 1718B/4 which is being passed to C. in C. S.A. Objects sighted falling 2 miles on port bows of convoy at 1005/1. These considered by Commodore in PALACIO and master of LEADGATE to have been jettisoned bombs which did not explode. Only report of parachute mines came from master of SAGAING whose ship was on starboard side of convoy, report considered probably unreliable. SAGAING proceeding to Capetown without calling at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1924B/9 to Admty).

South Atlantic.NORDERNEY
German.

At Para, maintaining steam C.3 report states leaving night of 8/7. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1132N/9 to Admty).

ORION.
(cruiser)

C. in C. Med., 1532/22/6 which is being passed to Simonstown, ORION requires to dock before she is fit to undertake ocean passage. Estimated time in dock 2 weeks. Propose she sails p.m./11 arriving Simonstown a.m./13. (N.L.O., Durban, 1410Z/9 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/Aircraft.....

158
9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Aircraft
and Merchant
ships.

System of recognition. (C. in C. S.A., 2049N/9 to Admty Amended 0756N/10) See Lion Copy.

BABITONGA
(German).

Intelligence, from 24/4 to 14/6, and deduction as to further raider movements. (C. in C. S.A., to C. in C. E. I., 2241N/9) See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.

Middle East
Campaigns.

Situation. Personal to Gen. Collins from Shearer. (C. in C. M.E., 0240/9 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Haifa
bombed.

Night 7/8. Haifa heavily bombed by JU. 88s or Vichy aircraft. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1104/9) See also 1919/9.

Alexandria.

Op. Summary No. 394 Part 2. Night 7/8. 1 unidentified aircraft dropped bombs near Amiriya Alexandria. No damage.

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 7/8. 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi starting 2 large fires and explosions on railway sidings at base of Cathedral Mole. Further fires started near base of Central Mole. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1106/9).

Syria.

Situation Report. General tendency of Vichy forces is to retire and reinforce Damour sector. (N.L.O. Palestine, 1203C/9 to C.S. 15). Situation considerably improved. Damour Area cleared up. No known target for ships. Consider support tomorrow would be moral only. (N.L.O. Palestine, 2055C/9 to C.S. 15). My 1706/9 (N.T. in W.D.) fighter protection not available bombardment. Army consider bombardment risky owing to involved situation forward area. Patrols nearing Beyrout. Return to harbour on completion of night sweep. (C.S. 15 2124/9 to C.S.7).

OSIRIS
RORQUAL.

OSIRIS leaves Malta 2000B/9 (route) arrive Anti Kithera a.m./15 Kaso p.m./16 and Alexandria a.m./19. Request any information of West Coast of Greece and condition of Southern Aegean may be signalled direct to OSIRIS. My 1215B/7 RORQUAL leaves Malta 2000B/10 (route) along Cyrenaican Coast to 0230 20' thence to Alexandria as directed by you. Anticipate she will arrive Apollonia p.m./13 and Alexandria a.m./17. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1330B/9 to Capt. S.I. 1335 B/9 to TAKU, TRIUMPH, CACHALOT).

/Enemy Units.....

158A

SECRET

MESSAGE

2049N/9th July

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 10.7.41

Recd. 1026

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY W.T.

Addressed. Admiralty.

Aircraft & Merchant Ships - Recognition

247. In the absence of any system of recognition between aircraft and merchant ships, aircraft operating from EAGLE and HERMES ? in the South Atlantic have found that only practicable method of establishing identity of merchant ships is to instruct them either by signal or message dropped on deck to steer towards the carrier. If ship does not obey she is dealt with in accordance with Admiralty Message 1310/2/3/40 paragraph 3 and this action was employed by EAGLE recently in operation against enemy supply ships. Example three of your 1345/20/ will make it necessary for carriers to close all merchant ships sighted by their aircraft in order to establish their identity. This is frequently impracticable. The reason for example is appreciated. It is therefore suggested that a system of recognition between aircraft and merchant ships is an important requirement on the South Atlantic Station and that proposed in S.A. No. 305/088 of 9th March 1941 is suggested for use in areas such as South Atlantic in which enemy aircraft are often met.

not/ 2049N/9 (amended)

Advance Copy - Ops. O.D. Trade.

/ Presumo 1345/20 intended.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 5th S.L. | D.N.I. (4) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.S.D. (2) for action |
| A.C.N.S. (T) (2) | D.N.A.D. |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.T.D. (C) |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D.T.D. (M) |
| N.A. to 1st S.L. | D.T.D. (4) |
| Jps. (4) | |
| O.D. (5) | |
| O.I.C. (3) | |
| I.P. (3) | |
| D.S.D. 9 | |
| D.A/S.W. | |
| W.D. | |

1583

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

2241N/9th July.

DATE: 10.7.41

From: C. in C. South Atlantic.

RECD: 1119.

NAVAL CYPHER "X" BY W/T.

Addressed: C. in C. East Indies.

0606Z/4.

1) BABITONGA left Santos on 24th April and proceeded to a position thirtytwo degrees South fifteen degrees West approx. and was ordered then to go North by W/T.

2) Ship was in area twentyeight degrees South fifteen degrees West from approximately eighth to thirtieth May.

3) On May thirtieth she embarked seventynine prisoners from raider whose captain's name was stated to be Rogge. Presumably raider number 16.

4) Raider instructed BABITONGA to proceed North and she proceeded North next day.

5) On 14th June prisoners were transferred to vessel named ALSTERTOR in five degrees North thirtyfive degrees West approximately.

6) BABITONGA was then ordered to proceed South to position she was in on May thirtieth and was met by LONDON on the way to that position.

7) BABITONGA could have been in this position at beginning or middle of July and likely that she was to meet same raider there and possibly another from the North. No indication that either of these raiders has moved towards India Ocean but possible may intend to do so in same way that before after sinkings of supply ships in Indian Ocean raiders have moved to South Atlantic.

2241N/9.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
K.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
Nav. Sec
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pin,
Admiralty House.

Advance copy: Ops., O.D. & C.I.
P.O. N.A. 1 S.L.,
A.C.N.S.(F), & D of P.

Ops (4)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I (4)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D.(C)
D.T.D.(M)
O.I.C. (4)

D of P (5)
Cdr. Holbrook
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.S.D. (2)
M (2).

lion

158C

0240/9th July.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

From. C. in C. Middle East.

Date: 10.7.41.
Recd: 1135.

CIPHER.

Addressed. The War Office, Repeated. C. in C. India, British Military
Attache, Ankara. Prodrone. Jeddah.

26210. i/80287 cipher. 9/7. First of four parts.

Personal to Gen. Collins from Shearer.

East Africa. General Gazzerchs surrender of about 3000 sq. miles of territory in Galla Sidamo province together with all remaining Italian Troops war material etc., S. of R.Nile reduces Italian hold in E.Africa from 658000 sq. miles at beginning of the war to the few square miles of territory surrounding Gondar. Of nearly quarter million Italian Troops originally charged with duty of protecting positions in E.Africa only handful of some 3,000 whites and few thousand native levies remain. From great array of Generals only Nasi, Martini and one or two others are left in Gondar. Of the considerable Italian Air Force that claimed control of E African skies a few planes remain lurking under ground in caves near Gondar. The huge Italian losses in tanks, guns and equipment of all kinds will take time to sort out but these considerations are crashing blows to Italian war potential.

Second Part.

In the Assab area 600 white Italians under Colonel Raugel wandering in vast sunbaked Danakalian desert are in no condition to offer resistance. Their surrender is expected at any moment. As regards Gondar conflict now mainly between weather, active on Nasi's side, and dwindling supplies, working for us. Situation no longer operational one can be likened to police surrounding bandits in house. Patriot forces completely encircle Italian garrison which will prevent disintegration of its own accord in time.

Syria. Vichy resistance stimulated by clever propoganda indicating reinforcements by sea by plane and also by land through Turkey. This trickery has already worked on several occasions. It remains to be seen how much longer Vichy Troops can be gulled. Passage of river Dacour by Australian Infantry, supported by Royal Navy and R.A.F. is important step towards occupation Beirut.

Third Part.

Although Vichy resistance continues in central sector Merjayoun and Mazar, capture of Palmyra. Deir ez Zor and Tel Kotcher by columns operating from Iraq opens way to vital Vichy positions Hens, Tripoli and Aleppo. Growing evidence of shortages of food and supplies and agitations by inhabitants of Beirut to surrender by offering resistance Vichy troops undoubtedly hoped to re-habilitate self esteem of French nation as fighting power but much of fiercest resistance comes from African mercenaries fighting for fighting's sake.

In considering/.....

In considering seeming slowness of allied advance stress difficulties of terrain which compares with worst parts of Abyssinia. Steep hills overlooking road approaches, forests, deep rivers, indifferent communications.

Part 4 my I 80287 follows.

0240/9.

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

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

Parl. Sec.

Nav. Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (3)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P (3)

M (2)

Press Division.

E.F.S.

Ad. Chalmers.

I.P. (3)

W.D.

Received from War Office at 12.5/12th July.

9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

→ Enemy Units.

2 destroyers 3 M.Vs. bearing 180° distant 3 miles approx. course 120°. My position 37.30 N., 23.50 E., (A/C Duty R, 14009). My R.l. P.C. and S. of enemy battlefleet are 37.28 N., 23.52 E. 122° 10 knots. (A/C Duty R., 1415/9) (Capt. S.l., 1607C/9 to TORBAY).

TRIUMPH
TAKU.

Leave patrol 21st to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 0451/17 (route) TAKU will be off Apollonia noon/12 proceed thence 032° 30' 020° 00'. (Capt. S.L.1429C/9 to TRIUMPH).

→ TORBAY.

You will be required to leave patrol 15th to arrive Alexandria 19th. (Capt. S.l. 1543C/9 to TORBAY).

Malta Air
Raid.

Night 8/9/7 air attack on Luqa and Kalafrana, bombs over wide area, no casualties or damage. Part 2. 8/7. Photo R/Cs Naples and Taranto unsuccessful due weather. Part 3. 9/7.

Syracuse
Raid.

4 Hurricanes attacked 6 Float planes probably Cant Z.506's on water Syracuse. 3 Floatplanes burnt out 5 others severely damaged. Casualties among crews on slipway. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/9).

→ STROMBO
(Italian).

Sailed 1640/8 destination Trieste. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1704/9 to C. in C. Med). STROMBO sailed from Istanbul 1845C/8 at estimated speed of 7 knots after temporary repair. Proceed to Zea Channel to intercept. Return to Area A to arrive by daylight/12. (Capt. S.l. 2011C/9 to TORBAY). *Sunk: see 2357/11.*

ANTIKLIA
damaged.

ANTIKLIA sustained damage by near misses. Estimate repairs 21 days. (D.S.T.O. Alexandria 1804/9 to D. of S.T.)

Operations
Against
-Libya
Transports.

Chiefs of Staff No 145. Appreciate enterprise and gallantry with which submarines and aircraft have operated against enemy line of communication to Africa resulting in -heavy toll of ships during last two months. Hope Naval and Air Forces engaged are aware of supreme importance of these operations in defence of Egypt; confident they will spare no effort to make their attacks even more effective. (1st S.L. 1818B/9 to C. in C. Med).

/Enemy Units.. ..

War Diary.9.7.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Enemy Units.XX2 MY 1, enemy course 170° and speed 7.
(F/B L, 2160, 1840/9 to Group H.Q. M.E.)Haifa Raid.C.A.F.O. 587/40. Air raid 0126 - 0359/8 by 15 to 20 aircraft 3 identified as Heinkel 111. About 30 to 35 H.E. and incendiary bombs over a wide area, 4/5 mines in harbour (e) (l) no damage (ll) no casualties (f) no Naval A/A batteries ashore (k) H.M. Ships in harbour in action during attack. 2 enemy aircraft possibly hit. Port closed for approx. 12 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1919/9 to C. in C. Med).Beirut.

Following from H.Q. P & T.J. Photographic reconnaissance of Beirut at 1630 today shows sloops and S/MS have left harbour also believed one merchant ship has left. One merchant ship is 006°. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1943/9 to C.S. 7).

Benghazi Bombed.

Prelim. Op. Summary No.23. Night 8/9. 7 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi causing large fire base Cathedral Mole, fires and explosions central Mole. One Wellington bombed Derna results not observed. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 2026/9).

M.V.257 R.N. (sighting of unidentified merchant ships.) Your XI - has no Navicert. C. in C. wished check of course made good but return to base now if visibility unfavourable. Don't sink her.
(Group H.Q. 2115/9 to F/B L. 2160).Vichy Ships from Syria in Turkey.Following from N.A. Angora. Vichy French ?Armed Trawler and Auxiliary Tanker of between 5,000 and 6,000 tons arrived Iskanderun at 1400 and 1600 respectively 9/7. Turkish authorities have informed Embassy that both ships will be disarmed and will be interned. Ships are now under Turkish protection and it is urgently requested no offensive action will be taken by British. More Vichy French ships from Syria port expected Iskanderun. T.O.O. 1554/9.
(C. in C. Med., 2215/9 to C.S. 15. C.S. 7 N.O.I.C. Haifa).Situation Report No. 81Army report Damur captured and heavy pall of smoke over Beirut. M.T.B.68 entered Beirut harbour night 8/9 and depth charged two merchant ships alongside Mole. Haifa. Port now open. Western Desert. DECOY slightly damaged by near miss a.m./9 while returning from Tobruk to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 2301C/9 to admty).

161

9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

"Q" Report
(cancelled).

Q distress message was made by NIZAM 2150Z/8 in 012° 40' N 047° 05' E. Disregard. Ship concerned was BOTLEA.
(C. in C. E.I., 0002Z/9 to E. I. Sqdn. 0534 G.M.T. /9 to G.B.M.S.)

→ Overdue ships.

S.O.(I) Colombo 1138/2. My 0450/5 and S.O.(I) Singapore 0135/8. It is not at present considered that apparent disappearance of MAREEBA and VELEBIT is due to enemy action. There has been bad weather in Bay of Bengal.
(C. in C. E.I., 0636Z/9 to Admty).

CITY OF DUNKIRK, URBINO.

Have you any news of CITY OF DUNKIRK from Lourenco Marques due 1/7 and URBINO from Durban due 2/7.
(D.T.D. 1918B/9 to N.C.S.O. Bombay).

→ VELEBIT.

Have you any news of Yugoslav VELEBIT from Colombo due Moulmein 30/6?
(D.T.D. 1952B/9 to N.C.S.O. Rangoon).

U.S. Ships and W/T.

Consider all American Ships should endeavour to keep W/T Silence (or at least on 500 500 k/cs) in all areas where they are likely to be attacked Request U.S. policy in these matters may be promulgated. (C. in C. E.I., 1956Z/9 to Admty).

ATREUS.

Your 1000Z/8. ATREUS must remain loaded and ready to lay controlled minefields with minimum delay in the event of the strategic situation requiring a new defended base in the East.
(D. of L.D. 2343B/9 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Oil for Indo-China.

My 1153/8. General Manager Standard Co. arrived Singapore by Clipper yesterday concurs in loading PANGOTHIA for Indo-China. I have agreed to load up to maximum of 9000 tons. (C. in C. China, 0907Z/9 to Admty) See 2134/10

161A

0406Z/13 July.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From: C. in C. East Indies

Date: 11.7.41.

Recd. 0925

NAVAL CIPHER (X) by W/T

Addressed: Admiralty.

586. Please see Ambassador Baghdad No. 747 (747) to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (T.O.C. 2004/9) and Political Resident Persian Gulf^m unnumbered (T.O.C. 1651/11) concerning Umqasr and Koweit.

0406Z/13

* See below.

1st Lord	Ops. (4)	I.P. (3)	} Bath
1st S.L.	O.D. (5)	W.D.	
3rd S.L.	D.T.S.D.	File X.	
Vice Contr.	D.N.I. (4)	T/P for Dep. Contr. (3)	
Civil Lord	O.I.C. (3)	C.E. in C.	
V.C.N.S.	D. of S.T.		
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (4)		
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.T.D. (M)		
Nav. Sec.	D.T.D. (C)		
P.A.S. (S)	M. (4)	(for action re 2nd reference quoted of which there is no trace in War Reg. or Foreign Office)	
N.A. to 1st S.L.			
D. of P. (3)			

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

2004/9 July.

FROM IRAQ

Date: 11.7.41.

Sir K. Cornwallis, No. 747.10th July, 1941.

Recd. 0510

From: Baghdad

Addressed: Foreign Office, repeated C. in C. East Indies, No. 31, Government of India No. 260, Political Resident Bushire No. 11, Political Agent at Koweit No. 11.

General Officer Commanding informs me that he has received instructions to start work on emergency port at Umqasr in case Shatt-el-Arab is blocked. I assume His Majesty's Government and the competent British Naval Authorities have been fully consulted in the matter in view of political, strategical and financial issues involved. Unfortunately, all previous correspondence on the subject in the Embassy has been destroyed but presumably proposals for construction of any harbour at Umqasr will have to be communicated in advance to Iraqi Government and Koweit authorities will have to be kept informed as Koweit territorial waters may be affected. As you know Iraqi Government have always desired modification of Iraq-Koweit frontier to eliminate that danger. They may not of course relish the idea of the construction of another port which may suffer from the same disabilities as Basra as regards its approach but they can hardly raise objection if port is constructed by us. On the financial side I presume that we shall bear full costs of construction and that in seeking concurrence of Iraqi Government we shall come to some arrangement with them for handing over of port on agreed terms on conclusion of hostilities.

2. In view of the political aspect of the question I shall be grateful for your instructions.

2004/9

War Diary.

9.7.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

POLYANTHUS.

Detached from O.B. 339 with 2 Merchant ships has requested her destination. Pending other instructions she has been ordered to continue to 054⁰ W., thence to St. John's N.F. as she and other escorts ex O.B. 339 are required for H.X. 138 and S.C. 37 and will not be available if they continue to Halifax. (C.C.N.F. 0036Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

SOUTHERN PRINCE.

My 0126/3 owing to a defect SOUTHERN PRINCE will now not leave Norfolk until 15/7.
(B.A.R.M., 0412/9 to Admty).

→ MALAYA.

ARMUK 521 (1012/8). Concur.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1002Q/9 to MALAYA).

LEOPOLDVILLE.

Your 1152Q/7. LEOPOLDVILLE urgently required in U.K. Request you will arrange for Halifax personnel to be disembarked at Bermuda and for ship to be sailed direct to U.K.
(D.T.D., 1345B/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

T.C.12.

6 Destroyers of Newfoundland escort force will be required to escort convoy T.C. 12.
(C. in C. W.A., 1713B/9 to F.O..N.F. Force)
See also Shipping and Convoys.

W.H.X. and W.S.C. Convoys

Intended sailing telegrams and VESCA signals for Ships in W.H.X. and W.S.C. convoys are not required. Instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1808Z/9 to N.C.S.O. St. John's).

Canadian M.T.B.s.

Your 1658Z/3 request you will approach Canadian Gov with view to loaning four 70 feet M.T.B.'s fitted with 18 ins. Torpedoes.
If Canadian Govt. accept proposal, intended to ship the Boats to Eastern Mediterranean.
(D.T.S.D. 1837B/9 to C.N.S. Ottawa).

→ MALAYA.

Sailed from New York 1530Z/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2318Z/9 to Admty).

ANNA BULGARIS.

Have you any news of Greek ANNA BULGARIS from Milford Haven due Father Point 1/7?
(D.T.D., 2354B/9 to N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

War Diary.9.7.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.OBERON

Dutch, 1996 tons, message received states has been lost. Survivors landed Freetown, but 6 dead, 1 injured. Bound from Duala for Hull and had been in S.L.78. As this convoy was attacked by U/B, OBERON is presumed torpedoed. (D.S.673, 9/7.)

EMPIRE
ABILITY

38 survivors landed Freetown, but 4 of crew missing. Now known she was torpedoed in 23.50 N. 21.10 W., when in Convoy S.L.78. (D.S.673, 9/7.)

Submarines Reported.

1919Z/8

My 2316/8 to C. in C. S.A. only.
By D/F at 1919Z/8 U-Boat in position within 30 miles of 36° 10' N. 25° 20' W.
Reliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 0041B/9 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. etc.) (F.O.C.N.A. 0324A/9 to N.A. Stn.)

2000/8

Falmouth is to sail 3 M.Ls. as soon as possible to attack U-boat reported N.W. part of Courtmacsherry Bay to W. of Old Head of Kinsale at 2000/8. Blenheim A/C will escort from 1st light /9.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0017/9 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth, amended 0029/9.)

1105

P.C. and S. of enemy submarine are 48.47 N., 8.23 W. 265-6. (Weather report).
(A/C Duty Y., 1105/9 to 19 Group H.Q.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (26 German, 8 Italian).
(D.D.I.C. 1430B/9.)

1720

By A/C in 060° 36' N. 003° 20' W. at 1720/9.
(A.C.O.S., 1909/9.)
A Sunderland A/C reported U-Boat at 1720/9 dived in 060° 36' N. 003° 20' W. A continuous air search in the area is being carried out until further orders, commencing 2000.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1922/9 to S. and A. Orkneys.)
2 destroyers proceeding from Scapa to search U-Boats in 060° 36' N. 003° 20' W. Aircraft are co-operating.
(A.C.O.S., 2001/9, to P.31.)

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9.7.1941.
Weñnesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By TIGRIS
5/7

Destroyed Italian Submarine SQUALO Class at
1001B/5 position 045° 03' N. 004° 01' W.
outward bound. E.T.A. Gate 0730B/10
LA CAPRICIEUSE in company.
(TIGRIS, 1511B/9 to F.O.S.)
(F.O.S., 1824B/9 to Ađmty.)

may have been Bianchi (H.S.L. 129/58)

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10.7.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

It is intended to commence end to end escort of S.L, H.G, O.G and O.B south convoys, as soon as the necessary forces can be made available from the Western Approaches Command. The sloops and cutters will be withdrawn from the Newfoundland Escort Force for this purpose.

British Air Operations.

Attack on
Shipping at
Le Havre &
Cherbourg.

Bomber Command aircraft today attacked shipping at Le Havre and Cherbourg and claim to have destroyed 6 ships aggregating 34,000 tons.

Enemy Air Operations.

The Falmouth to Milford Haven convoy called for help at 0025 today. S.S. SVINT and STANLAKE in convoy were damaged during the early hours of this morning off Bude; the former sank later.

Mining.

Motor boat CELANO ~~██████~~, loaned to ^{TEDWORTH} R.A.F. was blown up this morning in the Clyde.

(See p.171.)

/M.M.S.3.....

War Diary.

10.7.1941. 166
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - Contd.

M.M.S.3 was mined and damaged this morning off Liverpool.

A motor launch was destroyed by a mine in the River Crouch this afternoon.

Mines were detonated today off Hartlepool and Milford Haven.

South Atlantic.

HERMES
Scuttled

The German S.S. HERMES scuttled herself today in 4° 3' N. 34° 40' W. when intercepted by CANTON. She was flying the Dutch flag.

Mediterranean.

6 Wellingtons from Malta attacked Naples railway station last night.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

Benghazi was heavily bombed last night.

Suez Canal
Zone.

About 15 enemy aircraft last night dropped mines and bombs in the Suez Canal Zone at Suez and Shallufa. A further enemy formation bombed Abu Sueir destroying 22 aircraft and causing much damage. The Canal is closed. S.S. ANTIKLIA (Greek) was damaged.

Russian
Operations

A message was sent to the Russians today, proposing certain operations to be carried out.

/Vichy

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War Diary.

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Vichy
auxiliary
warships at
Iskanderun.

Further small Vichy French auxiliary warships have arrived at Iskanderun. It is stated that if they prefer not to be interned they will be ordered to sail within 24 hours of arrival.

Palestine
and Syria.

It is reported that all shipping has evacuated Beirut harbour, ships being scattered in harbours to the northward. One ship, probably a tanker is left in Beirut on fire.

A Blenheim on R/C between Cyprus and Syria attacked unsuccessfully a French S/M in 33.53 N. 34.23 E. A second S/M was sighted but not attacked.

A Blenheim attacked an unidentified ship of 2000 tons off the Syrian Coast, scoring a near miss.

America and West Indies.

Japan

Ottawa reports from San Francisco that Japanese ships have been instructed not to proceed through Panama Canal to U.S. East Coast; and from Washington that all Japanese ships are to be clear West Pacific by 22/7.

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

HIGHLANDER.

VIMY has sailed for Gibraltar. Request arrangements may be made for HIGHLANDER to return to my command as soon as possible in accordance with my 1457B/19/5. (C. in C.W.A. 0930B/10 to C. in C.S.A.)

Interception
of French
Ships.

My 2230B/6. Cancel para. (ii) and substitute (ii) ship is to be sunk if engine sabotaged to extent which precludes any reasonable chance of bringing her into a British or Allied Port or is to be scuttled and usual distress signal made if recapture imminent when under armed guard. (F.O.C.N.P. 1810B/10 to Western Patrol.)

ST. CERGUE.

(Panamanian) Flying Panamanian flag but with Swiss colours painted on hull and deck left Rotterdam 2/7 for New York via Kiel Canal, Kattegat Sound up West coast of Norway then by German route into Atlantic. No action is to be taken by P.31 except to remain unseen if this ship is sighted. (A.C.O.S. 2219B/1 to P.31.)

3 Swedish
Ships.

A.M.1635/22/4 para. 2 B. The three Swedish ships named in N.P. D.S. 139 should be cleared with least possible delay and allowed to proceed to Gothenburg. (D.E.W.D. 2245B/10 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

N.F. Escort
Force.

In order to provide through escort from U.K. to Sierra Leone and vice versa it has become necessary to withdraw the Sloops and Cutters from Newfoundland Escort Force. Request therefore that you will sail these ships as convenient with eastbound convoys. (C. in C.W.A. 2315B/10 to C.C.N.F.)

Defence of U.K.

Yarmouth A/A
Defence.

Requesting N.L.O. be provided. Alternatively that local Naval Authorities will accept orders direct from local A.A.D.C. or his representative regarding control of A.A. fire. (Air Ministry 1650/10 to Adty.)

Movements.

TUNA.

Cancel my 1803B/8. (F.O.S. No. T.O.O. Recd. 0047/10.)
Your 2210B/9. If undamaged proceed in accordance with F.O.(S) 1319B/9. T.B.R. arranged 30 miles either side of route. Essential that you adhere to route ordered. (F.O.S. 0259B/10 to TUNA.)

See also next 2 pages

/My 0041B/10

War Diary.10.7.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.TUNA - Contd.

My 0041B/10. TUNA has been ordered to proceed on the surface through following positions to patrol in Bay of Biscay South Zone South of 46° N. (F.O.S. 0321B/10 to C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 1724B/9. Amend para. F. to read TUNA 49° 8' N. 11° W. proceeding probably on the surface through 46° N. 11° W. for Bay of Biscay South Zone. (F.O.S. 0519B/10 to Adty.) *See also next page.*

ARAWA.

ARAWA is to leave Clyde p.m. 12th and proceed by standard route to arrive Liverpool at 1300B/13. When east of 004° W. speed is not to exceed nine knots. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection. (F.O.C.N.P. 1112B/10 to ARAWA.)

PRINCE OF WALES.

PRINCE OF WALES's 1009B/9. Owing to other commitments PRINCE OF WALES should sail for Scapa on 19/7 if possible. (C. in C.H.F. 1410B/10.)

→ LIGHTNING.
KRAKOWIAK.
KUJAWIAK.

LIGHTNING with KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK will be required to provide escort for NELSON to Greenock leaving 0900/11.

2. On arrival LIGHTNING enter Greenock thence act as ordered by C. in C.W.A. for convoy W.S.9 C. KUJAWIAK attached return to Scapa.

3. When released KRAKOWIAK proceed Plymouth via Q.Z.F. 15 to join the command of C. in C. Plymouth. (R.A.D. H.F. 1745B/10.)

MANXMAN.

You will be required to embark following army personnel and baggage at Clyde a.m./12 and following ex-PASTEUR at first port of call. (D.O.D. H. 2155B/10 to MANXMAN.)

→ NELSON.

NELSON screened by three destroyers is to proceed to Clyde passing Hoxa Boom at 0900/11. (ii) C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C.W.A. are requested to arrange A/S air escort during daylight hours. (C. in C.H.F. 2251B/9.)

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

9th M/L
Flotilla.
A/S Sweep.

Subject to limitations of fuel and weather and the concurrence of F.O.C.N.A. you are to make the best arrangements to carry out an A/S sweep with destroyers and 9th M.L. Flotilla on passage to Gibraltar passing as near as practicable through position $36\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. 13° W.
2. Any further information will be passed to you direct by Admiralty. (D.O.D. F. 1304B/10 to FIREDRAKE.)

→ Biscay S/M
Patrol.

A. My 1319B/9. TUNA after passing following position is to patrol in Bay of Biscay south zone south of dividing line joining $44^{\circ} 19' N.$ $04^{\circ} 20' W.$ and $46^{\circ} 16' N.$ $01^{\circ} 07' W.$
B. SOKOL proceed submerged by day to patrol in Bay of Biscay south zone to the north of this dividing line and south of latitude $46^{\circ} N.$
C. Submarines should not approach within 10 miles of dividing line unless in pursuit of the enemy. (F.O.S. 1307B/10.)

East Coast
Patrols.

Departure M.G.B's 63, 59, 65. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2203B/10.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

~~Search~~ in Operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 0013/10.)
My 2036/9. A/C not taking off owing to weather, also A/C in S/M search west of Shetlands being withdrawn. (C. in C. Rosyth 1328/10.)

→ Own Air Attack
on TUNA.

TUNA reports being heavily bombed by aircraft at 1030B/9. TUNA position at 2210B/9 $49^{\circ} 16' N.$ $008^{\circ} 58' W.$ course .263 degs. proceeding to patrol through $46^{\circ} N.$ $11^{\circ} W.$ for Bay of Biscay South Zone. No damage reported. (F.O.S. 0257B/10 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 1921/9. It appears probable that S/M attacked by A/C was friendly. Having recovered crew of ~~SUNDERLAND~~ return direct to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 0303/10 to BROCKLESBY.)
My 2210B/9. Add was then after word position. Your 1319B/9 acted on at 1400B/9. Weather report 6472 0863. (TUNA 2145B/10 to F.O.S.)

804 Sqn.

Your 1729/4 approved subject to concurrence of V.A.N.A.S. (C. in C.W.A. 1119B/10 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

/ROYAL

War Diary.

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - Contd.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Air co-operation will be provided 11/7 as follows. (C. in C.W.A. 1820B/10 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Sapper".
SAPPER.

Help ^{"Sapper"}SAPPER Trevoze Head. (Unknown via Plymouth W/T 0025/10.)

Convoy "Wheel".
WHEEL.

Being shadowed by one A/C course 270 distance 5 miles position 51° 3' N. 4° 40' W. (CLEVELAND 0145/10)
2 A/C bearing 012° distant 2 miles from convoy ^{"Wheel"}WHEEL in 51° 11' N. 4° 28' W. (CLEVELAND 0252/10) My 0252. No bombs. A/C driven off. (CLEVELAND 0304/10.)

TARTAN (A/P Trawler) hits.
A/C on 6/7.

Following received begins from F.O. Humber. At 0230/6 TARTAN whilst at Humber L/V was attacked by enemy bomber of unidentified type with machine gun fire from height of 100 ft. TARTAN obtained direct hit with 6 pdr. gun causing a large volume of sparks and smoke. Other hits obtained by M.G. fire. This is confirmed by examination vessel BELTON. At 0446 JASON witnessed Twin tailed A/C crash in Flames 6 miles East 6 A. Buoy 80 miles from Humber L/V. No.12 Group cannot account for this and it is possible that two events are connected. 2255B/9. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 0715B/10.)

Convoy "Broom".
BROOM.

1 aircraft shadowed Convoy ^{"Broom"}BROOM 56° N. 14° 32' W. No attack was made on convoy. (DOUGLAS 0725B/10, 0730B/10, 0802B/10.)

Convoy E.C.
43.

Is being shadowed by 1 enemy A/C in 55° 26' N. 1° 24' W. (WHADDON 1736B/10.)

Scapa.

JU. 88 identified by defences crossed Flow at 25000 feet from S.W. to N.E. at 1941 today. Cloud 5 tenths. (A.C.O.S. 2008/10.)

Mining.

CELANO
(Motor Boat)
sunk.

Following received from TEDWORTH begins. Motor boat CELANO loaned to TEDWORTH by Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association was blown up by enemy ground mine about one cable 100° from No.1 Channel Buoy whilst proceeding to wreck at about 0845/10 to assist Moor Ship. Following 3 Naval ratings and 3 civilians crew were in boat and are presumed killed, no trace being found after search. Names. 0940/10. Ends. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1015/10.)

/Thames

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War Diary.10.7.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.Thames
Estuary.

2 Magnetic Mines detonated by M.M.S. at 1443/8 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1043/10)

BLUE MERMAID.
(Barge) sunk.Following from Brightlingsea:-
Barges MAYFLOWER and BANKSIDE report that at 2040/9 barge BLUE MERMAID was blown up and lost with all hands about 1½ miles east of Whitaker Beacon. C.G. Clacton reported loud explosion with column of smoke 185° 8 miles from Clacton Pier at 2039. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1136B/10.)Poole.
Explosions.

Further to my 1041B/8. Poole and neighbouring Coastguards report numerous very heavy explosions to the Eastward and Southeast between 1030 and 1130 today that cannot be accounted for. These explosions are similar to others reported to us earlier today between 0130 and 0300. Request any information to explain same. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1214B/10.)

S.N.70 A.

R.A.(M) 2247/7. Concur in position proposed. Exceedingly unlikely that escort will be available on date proposed. (A.C.N.S. H. 1549B/10.)

M.M.S.3
damaged.

M.M.S.3 mined and damaged 0938/10 in position 148°. Bar L.V.2.7 miles. S.A. gear had failed and ship was proceeding back to base with M.K.3 sweep streamed and pulsing. Speed 7 knots 240 revolutions. Ship now docked. 2 casualties, not serious. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1603B/10.)

Hartlepool.

One red mine detonated by single L. drifter in 54° 41'16" N. 01° 10' 15" W. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1735/10.)

Milford Haven.

At 0657B/10. One Red Mine detonated by Sweeper. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1755B/10.)

S.N.67 A.

Arrival R.A.(M) in AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, WELLS. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1724B/10.)

River Crouch.

Heavy explosion presumed acoustic mine at 1655 in River Crouch (position) Destroyed privately owned Motor Launch. Two civilian passengers killed. (N.R.O. Burnham 1900/10.)

10.7.1941¹⁷³
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Main Units.

Positions. ADMIRAL SCHEER at 1610/10 proceeding S.W. at slow speed and unescorted in Kiel Bay. (N.A. Stockholm 0010B/10) Stockholm 1051/10. (P.R.U. Benson 2040/10)

Casualties and Defects.

RUBIS.

My 1039B/8. The sailing of RUBIS is postponed by defects until about 30/7. (F.O.S.1102B/10.)

JOHN EVELYN
damaged.

JOHN EVELYN in collision with M.V. BEN HENSHAW at Inverness. Damage apparently not extensive. (Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford 1354/10.)

Shipping and Convoys.

D.S.8.

D.S.8 will embark at Greenock on 21/7. Total numbers to embark approx. 2273. Ships to be used will probably be ROYAL SOVEREIGN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ULSTER MONARCH. (D.S.T. 0538B/10 to P.S.T.O. West of Scotland.)

W.S.9.C.
MANXMAN.

AURORA will not now sail in convoy W.S.9 (C). AURORA's place will be taken by MANXMAN. Requested you will sail MANXMAN for Clyde as soon as possible. (V.C.N.S. 1227B/10 to C. in C.H.F.)

End-to-End
Escort.

To start as soon as forces available. Instructions (A.C.N.S.(T) 1550B/10 to C. in C.W.A. C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.N.A.) See Lion Copy.

H.G. 66.

Has arrived complete, 16 ships, including 2 allied, 2 neutral. Commadore Rear-Adm. Dawson. Cargoes. (D.S.674 10/7.)

Milford -
Holyhead
Convoys.

C. ~~in C.~~ in C.W.A. 1133B/9. Request permanent allotment of ~~TOPIC~~ as codeword for M.H.(Milford - Holyhead) Convoys. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1610/10 to Admty.)

/Distress.

172A

SECRET

MESSAGE 1550B/10th July OUT

TO. C. in C. Western Approaches. 947. Date. 10.7.41.
C. in C. South Atlantic. 471.
F.O.C. North Atlantic. 497.
Repeated. H. Q. C. C.

Naval Cypher (XR) and P/L BY T/P CORRECTION

FROM Admiralty.
IMPORTANT.

End to End Enroute to Sierra Leone.

It is intended to start end to end escort of S.L. H.G. O.G. and C.B. South convoys as soon as the necessary forces can be made available. Coastguard cutters and sloops will escort O.B. South and S.L. convoys between U.K. and about 19° North. These ships will refuel and turn round at Bathurst. Corvettes from Freetown will provide escort for the remainder of the voyage from 19° North to Freetown. H.G. and O.G. convoys will be escorted throughout the voyage by Corvettes working from Londonderry and Gibraltar.

The necessary forces will be drawn from the Western Approaches Command as arranged by C. in C. Western Approaches who is requested to provide the escort in accordance with the above policy for O.B. 346 and O.G. 63.

Further signal will be made when arrangements have been completed.

1550B/10
for D.T.D. (172)
Approved by A.C.N.S. (T)

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
Nav. Sec.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
O.D.3.
D.N.I. (4)
D. of S. 2A.

D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
D.T.D. (M)
D. of S.T.
I.P. (3)
D.A/S.W.
O.I.C. (2)
W.D.
I.M.N.G.

War Diary.

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Distress
Messages.

In future, should it be necessary for a merchant ship actually in convoy to transmit a distress message, she is to use Convoy W/T Call Sign (See Mersigs. Art. 84 (e) or Consigs. Art 9 (b)) and not her name. (D.T.D. 1829B/10 Admty. "A" Message.)

W.S. 10.
C.T.1.

My 1221B/27/6. W.S. 10 will leave U.K. (date)
C.T.1 has been postponed (date). (A.C.N.S.(H)
1919B/10 to C. in C's etc.)

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10.7.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Convoy. Gibraltar 1800 French IMERETHIE II, STRASBOURGEOIS ST. DENIS, ST.ADOLPHE (signal letters F.P.K.M. and F.P.K.J. believed applicable) escort light cruiser EPERVIER. (S.O.I. Gib. 0057B/10.)

EDINBURGH. C.S. 18's 1832A/9. Approved to dock EDINBURGH provided F.O.C.N.A. and S.O. Force H. concur. (D.O.D.(F) 1014B/10 to F.O.C.N.A. C.S.18.) EDINBURGH docked p.m./11 probably undocking 15/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 1932B/10 to Admty.)

German Iron Ore Traffic. Germans are shipping iron ore from Bilbao to Bayonne in small French ships which take 400 to 500 tons making round trip in 48 hours. Ships at present engaged in this are VIRGO FIDELIS, PRESIDENT, LAVIT, COURDANNES and JEUNE DENISE. Sources Consul from shipping agents. (A.I.) (N.A. Madrid 1025/10 to D.N.I.)

Destroyers. Your 1933/8. (Hush N.T. in W.D.) FORTUNE 2 remainder of 8th D.F. less FIREDRAKE one total 8. (S.O. Force H. 1114B/10 to Admty.)

KERSTEN MILES. My 1615/9. Informed on reliable authority that (German) opening through plate has been cut on each side of ship and hose connections said to have been placed on board. (Consul, Las Palmas 1200/10)

L'EMERAUDE. For Gen. de Gaulle from Poirel. Arrived here (French) 8/7 6 fishermen part of crew of L'EMERAUDE, left Douarenez on 3/4/41 was boarded by British auxiliary MARSDALE off Azores on 25/6/41. Men say remainder of crew, five men including skipper, were ordered with their ship to Bermudas. All anxious about reprisals against their families as German authorities warned them to be back before 4/8. Also about loss of their share of catch. Will take steps to have families and occupation authorities informed through French N.A. Madrid if your H.Q. agree. Also suggest you should contact Admiralty London for compensation of loss of catch, nets and ship, if ship detained. (Govr. Gib., 1344/10 to W.O.)

/Imports

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10.7.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Imports for
Tangier.

For consideration that iron ore ships proceeding to Melilla or other Mediterranean ports to be employed to take British cargoes to Tangier. (F.O.C.N.A. 1358B/10 to Admty.) Reply:2119/12.

AFRICAN REEFER.
(Danish)

Possibility of sailing for a U.S. port under U.S. flag in near future. She has not confidential books in her signal publications. Are any steps to be taken should this situation arise ? (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1619/10 to Admty.)

Minesweepers.

Your 2135N/8. Fully concur. Requirement cannot however be met until September. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2011B/10 to C. in C.S.A.)

A/S Sweep.

Admty. 1304B/10 (A/S Sweep with Destroyers and 9 M.L. Flotilla on passage to Gibraltar to be carried out) Concur. (F.O.C.N.A.2354B/10 to FIREDRAKE.)

South Atlantic.

Force Z.

St. Helena departure 0600/10. EAGLE, DUNEDIN, ALCANTARA on operations. (General St. Helena, 1002/10 to Admty. etc.)

Reported A/C
attack on
Freetown.

Commander Sierra Leone Area's 1545/8 addressed to W.O. reports Glen Martin attacked ships in harbour with M.G. and cannon shells a.m./6. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1151B/10 to C. in C.S.A. Reply:•1345N/11.

"R" Report
DALEBY.

Following has been read. RRRR 4.24 N. 2.58 W. DALEBY, suspicious. (Simonstown 1236/10 to Admty.) DALEBY has reported sighting a suspicious ship at 1236 G.M.T./10. Position received corruptly in Admiralty. Signal latest information of her movements. (D.D.I.C. 0006B/11 to C. in C.S.A.) Your 0006/11. Position as received by Takoradi was 04.24 N. 02.58 W. DALEBY last reported Takoradi but probably sailed thence 8th or 9/7. Ascension intercept at 1309Z begins: Cancel my QQQQ at 1237. (C. in C.S.A. 2301N/10 to Admty.)

/Troop

War Diary.

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic - Contd.

Troop
Movements.

Your 2339N/7 and 1431N/2. Reply. (4th S.L. 1552B/10 to C. in C.S.A.) See Lion Copy.

Spanish
Ships.

Spanish tug SALAMANA towing 2 lighters left Bissau Portuguese Guinea by South Channel for Monrovia Asuncion 1400/9. Ultimate destination Fernando Po, if met should be boarded. (C. in C.S.A. 1915N/10 to CLEMATIS, MILFORD, WOODRUFF, MIGNONETTE.)

CANTON.

You may move into I.33 as desired. (C. in C.S.A. 1935N/10 to CANTON.)

CITY OF DURBAN.
CAPE SABLE.

Request you will sail to U.K. as soon as convenient. Destination Clyde. (V.C.N.S. 2234B/10 to C. in C.S.A.)

HERMES.
(German)
intercepted,
scuttled.

In 004° 03' N. 034° 40' W. after two hours chase, identified HERMES shortly after sunset and after usual signals opened fire with 6-inch and Lewis guns on boats. Ship unfortunately very fully prepared, number of presumed scuttling charges heard to go off as fire was opened, and super-structure burst into flames. Have picked up three boatloads of survivors - (details) including 4 passengers. Unable to board on account of ferocity of fire and danger of explosion. Ship is still burning fiercely and will sink shortly. Am standing by until she does so. (CANTON, 2256Z/10 to C. in C.S.A.) Position about 300 miles N.W. of St. Paul's Rocks. (D.O.R.11/7.) See also page 196

ERLANGEN.
(German)

N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires reports transshipment of cargo from Argentine ship MADRYN to ERLANGEN in Mar del Plata is somewhat delayed and expected to be finished 12/7. Ungraded report that ERLANGEN will load still more cargo from shore next week. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2312Z/10.)

Mediterranean.

Naples raided.

9 Wellingtons 148 Sqn. attacked Naples Railway Station night 9/10. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. Malta, 0740/10 1601/10.)

S/M attacked.

One S/M unknown, P.C. and S. 33.55 N. 33° 42' E. 280 Q.T. 0905. (Med A/C., G. 0905/10, 1136/10 to H.Q. Group M.E.)
My 0905 S/M submerged without identifying itself attacked with 2 bombs no hits. (Med A/C, G. 1058/10 to H.Q. Group M.E.)

/Enemy

SECRET. M E S S A G E

1552B/10th July. OUT.

Date. 10.7.41.

To. C.in C. South Atlantic 867.
Repeated C.in C. Mediterranean, 636.
C.in C. East Indies. 53.
F.O.I/C Simonstown 468
N.L.O. Durban.

177A

Naval Cypher (XR)

From. Admiralty.

NITE. Your 2339N/7 (not to C.in C. Mediterranean)
and your 1431N/2 not to other addressees.

2. The uneconomical use of A.M.Cs in escorting single transports full of troops back to U.K. is fully appreciated.
3. It was for this reason that the number allowed in unescorted ships was increased and Commanders-in-Chief asked to co-ordinate their requirements for escorted moves in A.T.1958/14 May.
4. Attention was drawn to this procedure in A.T's 1937B/19 June and 2254B/21 June, the latter also suggesting the use of Durban transit camp. War Office state capacity of camp is at least ten thousand.
5. The numbers of personnel requiring homeward passage are not known in Admiralty and the anticipated dates of availability of returning transports depend on priority of unloading etc., known only to local S.T.Os. It is therefore considered that the organisation of returning escorted convoys can best be arranged by Commanders-in-Chief.
6. In the case of large troop movements such as the Nigerian Brigade Admiralty on behalf of D. of S.T. and War Office endeavour to keep Commanders-in-Chief informed of future commitments.
7. The DURBAN CASTLE due Durban about 10th August appeared a suitable ship around which to build an escorted convoy because C.in C. East Indies intended to take passage in her. She will be much delayed if she waits for Nigerian Brigade move.

1552B/10.
for D.O.D.(F)
Approved 4th S.L.

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.
Cps. (4)
C.D.(5)
O.D.3.
O.I.C.(3)
I.P.(3)

D.S.D.9.
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
D.T.D.(4)
E.P.S:

179 B.

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

K I N.

0230/10. July.

From: C. in C. Middle East

Date: 13.7.41.
Recd: 0400.

Cipher.

Addressed: The War Office

27147. I/80287 cipher 10/7.

Last of four parts.

Reference should be made to speed of advance and dash shown by Indian troops operating from Iraq and by the British force from Palestine so recently returned from spectacular operations which liquidated situation in Iraq. The threat by these forces against Homs and Aleppo has evidently proved most disturbing factor to Vichy High Commissioner and C. in C. With their troops fully and heavily committed protecting Beirut it would be difficult to reinforce either Homs or Aleppo to strength likely to hold up advance of our troops.

Western Desert. Accumulating evidence from prisoners of War captured documents etc. indicate that Axis forces suffered even more serious blow during operations last month than we at first estimated. Not only were casualties among personnel heavy, but losses of tanks and particularly mechanical transport have seriously impaired offensive power of German forces in Cyrenaica.

0230/10.

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

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

Nav. Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (3)

D. of P. (3)

M. (2)

E.P.S.

D.N.I. (4)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

D.P.D.

Admiral Chalmers.

Addressed: The War Office 0230/10.

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

27147. I/80287 cipher 10/7.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

Nav. Sec.

War Diary.

10.7.1941.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Units. One merchant vessel 8 T. (? trawlers) 10 290
36.36 N., 28.54 E. (Med A/C R. 0949/10 to Med.
A/C C.8 J.)
My 0949 O.E.C.S. 290 10 tonnage 2,000.
(Med A/C R. 1010/10 to Med. A/C (C.8.J))

M.V.

P.C. and S. of enemy M.V. (? 24° or 240°)
7 Oapesto. (Med. A/C C. 1015/10 to Call sign
O.I.H.)
My 1015 M.V. 3000 B.R.O.S.N. course 334°
10 knots. (Med A/C C. 1045/10 to Call Sign
O.I.H.)

Suez Canal
Raid.

Operational Summary No.395 up to 1200 hours
10/7/41. Night 9/10. About 15 enemy A/C
dropped bombs and mines in Suez Canal Zone at
Suez and Shallufa 0100C to 0410C/10. Canal
closed for suspected U.X. mine. Second formation
enemy A/C bombed Abu Sueir starting fire.
Damage believed considerable. (S.B.N.O. Suez
Canal, 0719C/10 H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1104/10.)
My 0719C/10. About 25 aircraft attacked Abu
Sueir aerodrome with H.E. and Shallufa area
canal with mines and anti personnel bombs.
4 U.X. mines in canal at km.139.5, 114.5, 145.5,
146.5. Rest of canal opened to traffic. No
Naval damage or casualties. Up to 22 aircraft
destroyed on ground and some R.A.F. casualties.
(S.B.N.O. Suez 1315C/10 to Admty. etc.)

Alexandria
minesweeping.

L.L. and S/A sweepers will leave entrance to
channel C. at 1900 and will sweep channel C.B.
and A. at 8 knots. They must not be overtaken.
(R.A. Alexandria, 1105C/10 to VALIANT, LEANDER
etc.)

Spanish ship
reported
mined.

Spanish S.S. JESUS ANTONIO reported sunk by mine
outside Genoa, 17 lost, 3 saved. (B.2) (N.A.
Madrid 1207/10 to Admty.)

TRIUMPH.

Return to Malta now. (V.A. Malta, 1258B/10 to
TRIUMPH.)

Vichy Ships,
Syria.

C. in C. Med's 2215/9. These and similar French
vessels escaping from Syria to Turkish ports are
not to be attacked within Turkish territorial
waters. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1302B/10 to C. in C. Med.
C.S. 15, C.S.7 N.O.I.C. Haifa.)

/HERO

War Diary.

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

179

Mediterranean. - Contd.

HERO.

As soon as you can spare HERO from your screen, send her into harbour with all despatch to disembark remaining torpedoes from after mounting and load military stores for Tobruk sailing 0700/11. (R.A.D. Med. 1357/10 to VALIANT.)

MANXMAN.
VICTORIA
etc. for
Army
Supplies.

Your 1832/6. Ships will be excellent troop carriers and most acceptable, but a requirement for fast cargo carriers of 1500 - 2000 tons still remains. (C. in C. Med. 1428C/10 to Admty.)

No Malta
Raid.

C.S.R. Malta up to 1600 hrs. 10/7. Enemy air activity. Day 9/7 and night 9/10, nil. Offensive. Day 9/7. 7 Blenheims attacked shipping Tripoli Harbour evening 9/7. 4 missing. 2 alighted sea near Tripoli due enemy fighters. 1 shot down in flames over harbour by A.A. crashed on Torpedo boat setting it on fire. Results, 2 hits 500 lb bombs on 10,000 ton M/V. 1 hit 500 lb. bomb on second 10,000 ton M/V. Both ships alongside Mole. 1 hit 500 lb. bomb warehouse in Mole. 1 hit 250 lb. bomb 12,000 ton M/V against another Mole also other hits on Mole. Ship still on fire when photographed 40 minutes later. 2 hits on 7000 ton M/V in stream, photographs show life boats and debris in the air. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1601/10.)

Russian S/Ms.

Suggested employment (1st S.L. to N.A. Moscow, 1607B/10) See Mediterranean Volume.

Submarines.

Movement Summary No.318. (Capt S.I. 1815C/10) See Lion Copy.

Benghazi
bombed.

Prelim. Op. Summary No.24. Night 9/10. 14 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. Night 9/10. Western Desert. 20 aircraft carried out night bombing on Benghazi and back areas. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1853/10.)

SEVERN.
CLYDE.

Your 1806C/6. Decision in para. 1 was taken on recommendations in Capt. (S) 8's No.4536/2S, a copy of which he has been directed to send you. 2. Their employment with H.G. and O.G. Convoys where their speed may be a great advantage should enable two Dutch submarines to be available for duties in Western Basin. 3. It is noticed that Dutch S/Ms have also achieved success on their patrols. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1904B/10 to C. in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET

179A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1815C/10th July IN

From Capt (S) 1. Date 10.7.41.

Recd: 2229

Naval Code 'L' by T/P

Addressed: Mediterranean Fleet., repeated V.A. Malta,
R.A. Alexandria A.O.C. Mediterranean N.O.I.C. Port
Said., Group 201 S.C. Force I. N.C.I.C. Cyprus.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine movement Summaries number 318.

Movements (A) read in four columns - Submarine, Departs ,
Routed through, Arrives.

H.M.S. RORQUAL Malta 2000 tenth 033 degs 03' 021 degs 42' p.m.

13th 032 degs 48 degs 025 degs 20' Alexandria 0700 17th

H.M.S. OSIRIS Malta 2000 ninth 039 degs 24' 019 degs 48' noon
twelfth Antikikhera Channel Noon 15th Kaso Strait Alexandria
0700 19th.

H.M.S. TRIUMPH Gulf Sirte p.m. tenth direct Malta dawn 13th

H.M.S. TETRARCH (corrupt group) R.E.T. only 1800 12th Scarpanto
Strait east of Stampalia and Tinos. Doro Channel A.M. 17th.

H.M.S. PARTHIAN arrives Alexandria 0700 11th from east.

H.M.S. CACHALOT and H.M.S. TAKU as in summary number 31. Safety
route is in force for H.M.S. CACHALOT.
Sanctuaries (B)

H.M.S. TAKU from p.m. 13th South of 032 degs 45' East of 015 degs
00'

Greek submarine PAPANICOLIS H.M.S. UNBEATEN as in Summary
number 31.

H.M.S. TORBAY as in Summary number 31 except 10th and 11th will
be spent in Zea Channel area ends.

1815C/10

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.N.I. (4)

D.S.D.

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.C.

Hd of M

D.D.I.C.

F.O.(S) by courier.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNBEATEN.
URSULA.

My S.H.M. 1324/7 postpone movement to area X. Ref. B.S. Appendix 1 para. 4, establish patrol line as follows:- (3) 035° 40' 011° 55' - 090° - 12 - 000 - 24 position (A) 035° 40' 011° 55'. UNBEATEN, position (B) 10 miles P.33, position (C) URSULA. Latter two leave Malta p.m./11. Submarines are not to be attacked after 2000B/12 until further orders. Information received that southbound convoy of 6 medium sized merchant -ships escorted by 6 destroyers will be in latitude of Lampion 2100/12. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1957B/10 to UNBEATEN.)

PARTHIAN.

You are not to pass position 293° Great Pass Beacon 7 miles until 1130C. Minesweeping operations will be in progress and mine sweepers will commence sweep back to Alexandria from approx. above position at about 1130. You are to follow the Minesweepers back to harbour. (Capt. S.I. 1959C/10 to PARTHIAN.)

NIZAM.
HAVOCK.
HOTSPUR.

NIZAM take HAVOCK and HOTSPUR under his orders and be off end of Swept Channel by 0700/11 in time to R/V with C.S. 7. as ordered by him. Raise steam and proceed accordingly. N.O.I.C. requested to open gate at 0625/11. (C.S.15 2017C/10 to NIZAM, HAVOCK. HOTSPUR.)

Syria.

Situation report. Spirit (?of) resistance on all fronts does not indicate any thought of armistice. (N.L.O. Palestine 2143C/10 to C.S. 15.)

Vichy Ships
in Turkey.

Following from N.A. Ankara. My 0844/9. Following additional Vichy French Ships have arrived Iskanderun: 1 old boat, 1 armed tug, 4 armed trawlers. Turkish Authorities state (?French) support disarmament and internment. Should any refuse such ship will be ordered to sail 24 hours after arrival. N.C.S.O. Iskanderun watching developments carefully and also at Mersin. 1003/10. (Ends.) (C. in C. Med. 2246C/10 to C.S. 15.)

/Situation

War Diary.

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation
Report 82.

Syria. Reported all shipping has evacuated Beirut Harbour ships being scattered in harbours to northward. One ship probably tanker left in Beirut on fire. W/T link being established between Beirut and Haifa.

2. Naval Bombardment was not required by Army today 10th. AJAX, PERTH and destroyers operated night of 9/10 without incident.

3. Canal closed. Abu Sueir aerodrome attacked see S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1315/10. (C. in C. Med. 2340C/10 to Admty.)

East Indies.

CANBERRA.

Cancel my 1024/3. Proceed now to Colombo to fuel arriving port of arrival 0230Z/12. (C. in C.E.I. 0436Z/10 to CANBERRA.)

FULTALA

Your 1101/6. Ship arrived Calcutta 28/6, sailed 7/7, due Rangoon 10/7. (Sp. Bombay, 0453Z/10 5 Admiralty).

W.S.8.B.

D. of S.T.'s 0126B/3/7. Following anticipated sailing dates ex Suez of returning vessels of W.S.8 B. and particulars of personnel embarking. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1017/10 to C. in C.E.I.)

China.

ELSA ESS-
BERGER.
(German)

Yokohama arrival 9/7. 171. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0449Z/10.)

French ships.

10/7 arrival GOUVERNEUR GENERAL PASQUIER departure*LE CONTE DE LISLE Manila. (Saigon, T.O.O.0717Z/10 to D. of S.T.)
**LECONTE*

Oil for
Indo-China.

Your 0907/9. You should if possible cancel agreement to permit loading pending receipt of further instructions from Admiralty. (Head of M. 2134B/10 to C. in C. China.)

America and West Indies.

Japanese
Shipping.

Following from CSA.San Francisco.Jap.ships instructed not proceed through Panama Canal to U.S. East Coast by Japanese Government. A Washington report marked 'Very Secret' states that all Japanese ships are to be clear East Pacific 22/7. (ends) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0017Z/10 to Capt. O.S. Singapore amended 1724Z/12)

/Auxiliary

War Diary.

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America and West Indies - Contd.

Auxiliary
Aircraft
Carriers.

Following from British Admiralty supply representative: Your 0027B/5. U.S. Authorities state that in meantime they are unable to supply more than 6 ships for conversion to auxiliary aircraft carriers. (dates) Quite uncertain when they will be able to let us have another 6. (B.A.D. Washington 1145R/10 to Admty.)

H.X.138 and
S.C.37.

Following is intended escort programme. (C.C.N.F. 1321Z/10 to C. in C.W.A.)

ANNA BULGARIS.
FYLERDALE.
? FYLINGDALE

Your 2354B/9. no news of ANNA BULGARIS or FYLERDALE. (N.C.S.O. Montreal, 1341Z/10 to Admty.) *see also p.201.*

→ T.C. 12.
Route.

My 1743B/9. If T.C. 12 is routed S. of Newfoundland it will be necessary for destroyer escort to fuel at St. Johns, N.F. en route. Suggest Convoy be sailed without destroyers through Cabot Straits and Belle Isle Strait, destroyer escort from St. Johns, N.F. joining at Belle Isle. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1430B/10 to R.A.3 B.S.)

ORION.
(cruiser)

Can ORION be accepted for permanent action damage repairs? (D. of D. 1543B/10 to B.A.R.M.)

C. in C.

My 1154Q/4. I have returned to Bermuda. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1744Q/10 to Admty.)

→ T.C. 12
Escort.

WALNEY, TOTLAND, NORTHERN FOAM now escorting O.B.344 should arrive Halifax about 17/7. They are available to escort H.X. Convoy which should enable you to provide 6 destroyers for T.C.12. (C. in C.W.A. 2304B/10 to C.C.N.F.)

VAN KINS-
BERGEN.

Your 0941Q/6. VAN KINSBERGEN should sail independently. (D.O.D.(F) 2325B/10 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

Australia.

U.S.11A.

AUSTRALIA escorting U.S.11 A. left Fremantle 0830Z/9 for Trincomalee. (A.C.N.B.0226Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

10.7.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

183

Submarines Reported.

On completion H.A. firing proceed to join
KRAKOWIAK, ECHO searching for U-Boat in 060°
36' N. 003° 20' W.

When met relieve KRAKOWIAK.

(R.A.D.H.F., 1125B/10 to WINCHESTER.)

Unless further information is received and if
not in contact discontinue search to arrive
Scapa 0800B/11.

(R.A.D.H.F., 2240B/10 to ECHO, WINCHESTER.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (22 German,
5 Italian.)

(D.D.I.C. 1429B/10.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C

1058/10. See Mediterranean.

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War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

ARBUTUS was damaged in collision with S.S. BLACKHEATH at 1215 today in 55° 58' N. 10° 38' W. and is proceeding to Liverpool.

O.S.
Convoys.

Southbound O.B. convoys will in future be known as O.S. convoys.

H.G. O.G.
Convoys.

Anti U-boat operations will be carried out by the S/M's escorting H.G. and O.G. convoys.

British Air Operations.

It is reported that a Hudson of Coastal Command attacked a 1200 ton minesweeper off Ushant today, and left it in a sinking condition. Three Stirlings of Bomber Command, with fighter escort attacked the large shipyard at Le Trait this morning.

Enemy Air Operations.

The Air Ministry report that in general the number of aircraft employed in attacking shipping has increased in May and June compared with the number employed in February and March. The tonnage sunk by the German Air Force has, however, decreased progressively since February; in May and June it is estimated that the losses were less than half those for February and March.

/Convoy.....

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11.7.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Convoy E.C. 43 called for help at 1715 in Pentland Firth. No details are known.

East Coast.

Convoy E.C. 42 was bombed at 0035 today off Scurdyness. No damage was caused. MELROSE ABBEY was unsuccessfully attacked at 0205 off Aberdeen.

Convoy F.S. 537 was bombed at 0317 off Outer Dowsing L.V. No damage is reported. Very slight Naval damage was caused during a sharp attack on Hull last night.

M.V. RIVER TRENT was damaged in 53° 0' N. 1° 15' E. and is being towed to Yarmouth. Damage was caused last night to the M/S base at Yarmouth. H.S.L. 116 was damaged.

Mining.

Blyth was closed at 0257B on account of suspected minelaying by aircraft.

Mines were detonated off the Humber, Harwich and in the Thames Estuary.

Restrictions on navigation between Tilbury Dock and No. 4 buoy were withdrawn at 1538.

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11.7.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Submarines.

As raider activity appears to have decreased, F.O.C.N.A. suggests a S/M should accompany convoys only occasionally, thus releasing S/M's to continue offensive against Italian shipping.

LEOPOLD L.D.

LONDON intercepted the Vichy French LEOPOLD L.D. this afternoon in 34.20 N., 09.17 W., and was instructed to bring her to Gibraltar.

South Atlantic.

Air Raid,
Freetown.

C. in C. S.A. reports no evidence that merchant ships were machine gunned during a raid by Glen Martin A/C on Freetown on 6/7. Some damage was caused by fire from ships or shore.

MOOLTAN
"Q" Report

MOOLTAN made a "Q" distress signal at 1345 G.M.T. today in 35.42 S., 20.20 E., but cancelled it at 1438. N.O.I.C. Simonstown considers cancellation genuine.

Mediterranean.

Cruisers.

C. in C. Med. asks if LEANDER is to leave Mediterranean after NEPTUNE arrives. He would like to retain her until after Operation "Substance".

Submarines.

C. in C. Med. favours more submarine attacks on Italian coastal traffic, especially from Savona, Albenga and Imperia and small Sardinian ports. Misurata, reported to be developed into an important stores dump, also merits attention.

/Enemy.....

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11.7.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.-Contd.

Enemy
S/M and
tanker
sunk.

TORBAY reports having sunk a westbound U-boat off Mykoni and a tanker in Zea Channel. (c.f. Situation Report 2/7). p 22

TRIUMPH
damaged.

It is reported that TRIUMPH was damaged by fire from shore batteries whilst attacking shipping in Rastayones anchorage on the night of 5/6 July. (See 13/7). (Also p. 197)

Naples
bombed.

8 Wellingtons attacked the Central Railway Station and marshalling yards at Naples last night.

Malta
bombed.

Malta was bombed last night. Damage was confined to Luqa aerodrome.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

DEFENDER and VENDETTA were bombed in 31° 45' N. 25° 31' E. this morning whilst returning from Tobruk. DEFENDER was badly damaged and was taken in tow by VENDETTA but sank at 1115 off Sidi Barrani.

5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

A U/Boat was attacked by A/C in 33.36 N., 31.03 E., results not observed.

Syria,
French S/M's.

2 French S/M's were attacked today by Aircraft S. and S.W. of Crete.

French
Ships in
Turkey.

More small French war vessels have arrived at Alexandretta and will be interned. Larger units are returning to France.

At 1650, A/C reported 2 cruisers, 1 destroyer and 3 merchant vessels in 38.23 N., 15.28 E. steering westward.

Armistice.

Forces in Syria were instructed this evening to stand fast from midnight tonight, a meeting having been arranged for 1100 tomorrow.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

French Somaliland is to be treated as enemy territory for economic warfare purposes.

America and West Indies.

There are indications that fishing craft off the Newfoundland Banks, wearing French, Portuguese and possibly other colours are acting in a suspicious manner. The Admiralty have asked C. in C. A.W.I. to operate against them at the earliest opportunity.

Mexican
Ships.

Transfers of enemy vessels to Mexican flag are not recognised, but discussions are proceeding with U.S.A. for a general settlement with all American States, and meanwhile enemy vessels sailing under Mexican flag are not to be interfered with.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

U.S.S.
WESTPOINT.

Bringing back U.S. Consular personnel from German and Italian held territories. Re voyages. Not to be molested etc. (American Embassy, London 1215/11 to Adty.) See Lion Copy.

Western
Patrol.

Proposed arrangements for operating. (C. in C.W.A. 1226B/11 to Adty.) (M. 07482/41) See Lion Copy.

Movements.

MANXMAN.

A.T's 1227B/10 and 1946B/8. Arrangements have been made to supply 6 Oerlikons for MANXMAN, vide A.M. 1339B/10.
2. Departure of MANXMAN may be delayed if necessary to complete mounting of Oerlikons but she should be sailed in time to R/V with Convoy W.S.9C in position D. at latest. MANXMAN may be sailed without escort, and speed should consequently be as high as endurance and weather conditions allow until convoy is met.
3. Report intended arrangements in due course. (V.C.N.S. 1230B/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Intended following movements of C.S.I. in DEVONSHIRE.
(i) Leave Reykjavik 0850/12 for Akureyri, visiting Isafiord on passage.
(ii) Arriving Akureyri 0900/13. Leave 1900/13.
(iii) E.T.A. Scapa 0930/15.
(iv) All times B. (C.S.I. 2107B/11).

Operations.

SEAL.

Account of capture reconstructed from statements of escaped Prisoners in Moscow. (Head of Naval Mission, Moscow. Recd. 0115/11 at Adty). (Signal returned to War Registry as requested.)

M.G.B.
Operation.

Nothing to report. (C. in C. Nore 1640B/11).

189A
~~188A~~

M E S S A G E

III

1215/11/July.

From American Embassy London.

Date 11.7.41.

P/L by T/P

Time 1250.

Addressed Admiralty

Following received from Welles Acting Secretary of State Washington quote the U.S.S. WESTPOINT, a transport of the United States Navy, formerly the S.S. AMERICA, is scheduled to leave New York at Midnight on July 15th to proceed direct to Lisbon, Portugal, for the purpose of returning from the United States 11 Official Consular Personnel of the German and Italian Governments and to bring back Official Consular Personnel of this Government from German and Italian-held Territories. The ship is expected to arrive at Lisbon on or about July 22nd and to depart there from on or about July 25th, arriving at New York on or about August 1st.

The ship will proceed to Lisbon on the following course: 90 degs true along latitude 40 degs 10' North to position 40 degs 10' N 30 degs zero minutes West about July 20th. Thence course 95 degs true direct to Lisbon.

The ship will return from Lisbon on the following course: 275 degs true to position 40 degs 10' North 30 degs zero minutes West about July 27, thence course 270 degs true along latitude 40 degs 10' N to New York.

The description of the ship is as follows: length 723 feet beam 93 feet height from waterline to top of Navigating Bridge 75 feet superstructure two streamlined stacks, two masts midship, House continuous between Masts length 548 feet, two Kingposts athwartships forward, two Kingposts athwartships aft, cruiser stern, flush forecastle and poop, two guns athwartships forward of pilot house structure, one gun on centerline aft of docking bridge, one gun aft on fantail on upper deck, speed 21 knots, colour black-gray all over. The ship will proceed fully illuminated at night and will fly large United States colour at Gaff illuminated by searchlight at night.

The Government of the United States expects this vessel of the United States Navy, which is under the command of a United States Naval Officer and manned by personnel of the United States Navy, to proceed on its journey and to return without interruption or molestation by the air. Naval or Military Forces of any belligerent.

You will please accordingly notify immediately the Government to which you are accredited and inform the department by rush P telegram of the date and hour when such notification was given. Also notify Netherlands, Belgium, Norwegian and Polish Governments.

1215/11.

1st Lord		
1st S.L.	Ops. (4)	Ad. Bailey
4th S.L.	O.D. (5)	D.A./S.W.
5th S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	I.P. (3)
V.C.N.S.	O.I.C. (2)	Press Div.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.S.D. 9.	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	M. (30) for action	D.S.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.E.W.D. (3)	D.N.A.D.
Parl Sec.	D.T.D. (4)	
Nav. Sec.	D.T.D. (M)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.D. (C)	

From:- C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date. 12. 7. 41.

Recd. 0510

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Home Fleet,
C. in C. South Atlantic, F.O.C. North Atlantic,
F.O.C.O.S., F.O.i/c Greenock, F.O.i/c Iceland,
B.S. 3 S.O.W.P.

NITE

Admiralty Letter M.07482/41 of 20 June, not to C. in C. South Atlantic, F.O.C. North Atlantic, S.O.W.P. or B S 3 following arrangements are proposed after visiting Greenock and discussion with F.O.I.C. Greenock and S.O.W.P.

(a) Ocean boarding vessels of Western Patrol to be administered by a Captain R.M. designated Senior Officer, Western Patrol under F.O.i/c Greenock, S.O.W.P. to communicate direct with Admiralty, Flag Officers of refitting ports, and Naval depots on routine matters, repeated to F.O.i/c Greenock. On other matters, S.O.W.P. to deal through F.O.i/c Greenock.

(b) S.O.W.P. to operate Western Patrol, outside North Atlantic Station, under C. in C. Western Approaches operational signals and correspondence normally to be addressed to and from S.O.W.P. repeated C. in C. Western Approaches and others concerned. S.O.W.P. to be responsible for ordering patrol areas and programmes, outside North Atlantic Station, referring to Admiralty and C. in C. Western Approaches as necessary.

(c) F.O.C. North Atlantic to operate Western Patrol within North Atlantic Station, except that S.O.W.P. will order withdrawal of ocean boarding vessels from patrol, wherever they are, keeping F.O.C. North Atlantic informed when this will be necessary, if in North Atlantic Station.

(d) Trawlers based on Gibraltar to be operated and administered by F.O.C. North Atlantic.

(e) Northern Patrol Trawlers to be operated by F.O.C.O.S. and administered by S.O.N.P. Trawlers, under F.O.C.O.S. General disposition of Trawler lines will be under broad control of C. in C. Home Fleet.

(f) Armed Merchant Cruisers when working from North American Ports to be operated and administered by B.S. 3.

(g) Armed Merchant Cruisers when in United Kingdom to be administered by S.O.W.P. under F.O.i/c Greenock, irrespective of which port they are at.

(h) No further issues of I.N.P., N.P.M. or N.P.C.O's will be made by S.O.W.P., but these orders to remain in force until cancelled or altered by C's in C. New orders for Western Patrol will be issued shortly by C. in C. Western Approaches.

2. It is proposed that S.O.W.P. and his operational and communications staff shall continue to occupy former Headquarters of R.A.N.P. at Largs, for the present, there being

no adequate accommodation elsewhere in Greenock area.

3. It is considered essential that the full existing operational, communications and administrative staffs of the former R.A.N.P. should remain under S.O.W.P. while these arrangements are tried out. Should any reductions be considered practicable after working experience, this will be reported.

4. If these proposals are approved, it is requested that they may be brought into force forthwith, and promulgated in C.A.F.O.

1226B/11.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 2nd S.L.
 3rd S.L.
 4th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 Civil Lord
 Sec.
 Nav. Sec.
 N.A.1st S.L.
 Ops. (4)
 O.D. (5)
 O.I.C. (2)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D. of P. (3)
 D.E.W.D. (3)
 M. (2) for action
 C.W. (2)
 D.S.D. (2)
 D.T.D. (4)
 D.P.S. (2)
 N.
 N.A.2.S.L. (2)
 E.P.S.
 D.A./S.W.
 D. of L.D. (2)
 D.T.S.D.
 I.P. (3)
 W.D.

f.m.d.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

R/C of
Kiel.

In view of movement of ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER request R/C of
Kiel whenever possible until further notice.
(D.D.I.C. 1152B/11 to H.Q.C.C).

Attack on
Le Havre
and
Cherbourg.

An operation was carried out 10/7 with the
object of destroying enemy ships at anchor or
alongside in the ports of Cherbourg and Le Havre.
Fighter Escort was provided. Whilst Fighter
Command were carrying out an offensive action in
the Pas de Calais area simultaneous attack was
launched on Cherbourg and Le Havre by a formation
of 12 bombers on each. Surprise was achieved at
both ports. 6 ships aggregating 34,000 tons are
claimed as total losses.

The following are the details:-

Le Havre

- One 7,000 ton liner: two direct hits
- One 6,000 M.V: one direct hit
- One 3,000 M.V: one or more direct hits
and enveloped in black smoke.
- One 2,000 ton Tanker: Two direct hits
amidships.
- One 3,000 ton M.V.
- One 1,500 ton M.V: probably hits and
close misses.

Cherbourg

- One 10,000 ton Tanker two or more direct
hits causing explosions and black smoke.
- One 6,000 ton M.V. direct hits resulting
in explosions and debris being thrown
into the air.

Another Tanker was also attacked, results unobserved
-and bombs were also seen to explode in Warehouses
on the dock side. Fighter escort destroyed
two M.E. 109's for the loss of two of our Fighters
-The docks at Ostend, Dunkirk and Boulogne were
attacked.

The Docks at Calais and Ostend each attacked
by 1 aircraft. (H.Q.B.C. 1300/11).

804
Squadron.

C. in C. 1119B/10. Concur. (V.A.N.A.S. 1820B/11).

118
Squadron.

Adty. 2005B/9/7. It is not expected that 818
Squadron will be available until August.
(V.A.N.A.S. 1825B/11).

/Practice.....

War Diary.11.7.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Operations-Contd.Practice bombs.

In order to assist the training of aircraft in attacking submarines it has been suggested that the dropping of practice bombs should be permitted, provided that the submarine is completely submerged - at the time of release. I agree. (F.O.S. 2319B/11 to Adty.).

Enemy Air Operations.Convoy E.C. 45.

Fighters are being sent to assist. (Rosyth W/T 0010/11).
Enemy aircraft are bombing convoy. Scurdyness - 11 - 019 AF. 7. (Convoy Guard 0035/11).
Help ~~night~~ 1 Pentland Firth. (JAN VAN BRAKEL. 1715/11).

Convoy F.S. odd.

Enemy A/C bombing 165 Outer Dowsing L.V. 25. (WESTMINSTER 0317/11).
My 0317. 3 bombs no hits. (WESTMINSTER 0348/11).

Yarmouth.

Air attack night 10/11 July.
Damage Miranda Base Buildings. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1035B/11).

MELROSE ABBEY.

Attacked 0205/11/7 one bomb. No damage. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1341/11).

Hull.

During sharp attack on Hull night 10/11 July new naval offices and garage suffered damage. No other naval damage and no damage to docks or shipyards. Casualties. (F.O. Humber 2155/11).

H.S.L. 116 (At Yarmouth).

H.S.L. 116 previously reported out of action, has since suffered damage by bomb blast during night 10/11 July. (C. in C. Nore 2220B/11).

RIVER TRENT. M.V.

With engine damaged, by enemy bombing attack in 53° 00' N. 01° 15' E. is being towed by A/T SOLON to Yarmouth Roads. E.T.A. 0100/12. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2304B/11).

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Blyth.

Port closed owing to suspected aircraft minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0257B/11).

Thames Estuary.

S.A. Mines detonated as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1513/11).

Tilbury Dock to No. 4 Buoy.

Re. my 1244/27. Navigation may be resumed in this area. (F.O.I.C. London 1538/11).

Harwich.

2 Magnetic Mines detonated by L.L. Trawlers in approx. 51° 45.5' N. 1° 15.5' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1657B/11).

Humber.

The Following 2 Mines were detonated today. (F.O. Humber 1910B/11).

Enemy Intelligence.

M.V.

P.P. 1 M/V course 080° speed 10 knots position 47° 10' N. 7° 10' W. (A/C P. 0300/11 to 19 Group H.Q.).

Baltic shipping.

(a) In addition to three German transports reported sunk off Oland in yesterday's press further German vessel has been sunk to southward of Ystad. Details of all sinkings expected shortly.
(b) Lulea ore traffic now restricted to vessels not exceeding 22 foot draft since Flintrennen passage must be used in conjunction with Great Belt en route for Kiel Canal.
(c) German vessels from North Sea ports bound for German Baltic ports are still awaiting orders at West Swedish ports. There is still no traffic across southern Baltic and Trelleborg Sassnitz ferry remains suspended. Graded A.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1551/11).

EMDEN.

Prü 1310/11 shows EMDEN arrived in Flensburg since 22/6. (PRU Benson 1555/11).

TIRPITZ.

Following received from Opnav. State Department just received information from Copenhagen that TIRPITZ passed Danish islands about two days ago. Informant states assumes probable intent attack Iceland. Reliability of report not known. (Spenavo 2330/11 to Adty.).

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

ARBUTUS.

In collision 1215/11 with S.S. BLACKHEATH in 055° 58' N. 010° 38' W. Former holed almost to waterline can steam at moderate speed PIMPERNEL standing by and proceeding Londonderry. BLACKHEATH bound for Oban not seriously damaged. (VERITY 1258B/11, ARBUTUS 1500B/11, 2045B/11). Proceed to Liverpool if possible. (C. in C. W.A. 2226B/11 to ARBUTUS).

PRINCE OF WALES.

C. in C. H.F. 1410B/10 and my 1009B/9. Propose a.m./18 unbasin, complete with oil, p.m./19 D.G. Range. Pom pom gun trials. Sail for base on completion. (PRINCE OF WALES 1546/11).

VALOROUS.

Your 2253B/9. Area swept to at least depth of 10 fathoms - no obstruction found. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1720B/11 to C. in C. Nore).

FURIOUS.

It is of the first importance that FURIOUS should be ready for sea by 19/7. Arrangements. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1811B/11 to FURIOUS).

Shipping and Convoys.

Anti U/B Trial, H.G., O.G.

My 1836B/21. Anti U-boat operations will be carried out by the submarines escorting H.G. and O.G. convoys. Exact procedure will be confirmed from submarines on meeting. Escorts concerned are to be informed. (C. in C. W.A. 1018B/11 to Capts. D.11, D.12 etc.)

W.S.9C.

Cancel my 1528B/9. Proceed to Swansea to arrive not later than 2200B/11 to act as escort for DURHAM and DEUCALION, and R/V with JACOB VAN HEEMSKERK and PORT CHALMERS off Scarweather L.V. at 0315B/12. R/V with Liverpool portion W.S.9 (C) at 1900B/12 in 053° 44' N. 004° 49' W. Leave convoy off Oversay and return to Belfast. (C. in C. W.A. 1207B/11 to STORK). All merchant ships of Convoy W.S.9C carry 3 Marconi Operators and so can maintain continuous W/T Watch. (D.O.D.(F) 2110B/11 to NELSON).

/O.G.68.....

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War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

O.G. 68.

Ships bound for West African ports or for the West Indies, Panama Canal and Gulf of Mexico are not to be sailed in O.G. 68. (D.T.D. 1351B/11 to N.C.S.O's).

Balloons
and Kites.

My 1600/11/7. Request restrictions to be promulgated with regard to M.V.s flying balloons while entering or leaving Firth of Forth, may be the same as those detailed in my 1725/22/3. (C. in C. Rosyth 1841/11 to Adty.)

O.S.
Convoys.

My 1550B/10. Southbound O.B. Convoys will in future be known as O.S. convoys. (D.T.D. 2332B/11 to C. in C's W.A., S.A., F.O.C.NA)

195

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Cargoes of
Pyrites.

Re export of iron pyrites from Huelva and A.M. 383 addressed to V.A.C.N.A., request if vessels passing Straits bound to Spanish Mediterranean ports with similar cargoes should be detained unless covered by a Navy certificate. (C.C.S.O. Gib., 1730/11 to Admiralty for Arfar) Reply 1801/12.

Submarines,
Employment.

Present composition and commitments of 8th S/M Flotilla will not allow for permanent patrol in Western Mediterranean. As raider activity appears to have decreased suggested a S/M should accompany convoys only occasionally thereby releasing S/Ms to continue offensive against Italian shipping. Ref. 2218B/22 from Admiralty and 1806C/6 from C. in C. Med. (F.O.C.N.A., 1742B/11 to Admty).

LEOPOLD L.D.
(French)
intercepted.

Shadowing Vichy French LEOPOLD L.D. Bound Philadelphia. Position 034° 20' N 009° 17' W. Request instructions. (LONDON, 1956Z/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1810/5.

GROUIN-
DU-COU.
French
Trawler.

When available is required in U.K. Please sail in convoy if crew can be arranged. (D.S.V.P. 2202B/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

VILLE DE
TAMATAVE,
exchanges.

Vichy French M.V. is now at Freetown with 57 crew and 20 passengers including seven women. Not known yet how many crew will join Free French. Request if any more British or Allied merchant crews or passengers in French West African territory awaiting repatriation that might be obtained in exchange. (C. in C. S.A., 0437N/11, to Waggon Lagos.)

Yugoslav
DUNAV.

Your 1327/28. Union Authority requests how much longer ship must be detained. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 1053/11 to Admty for D. of S.T.)

MILFORD.

Leave today and proceed to Takoradi. Ascertain probable date of return of B.D.O. then proceed Freetown bringing B.D.O. if he is ready. (C. in C. S.A., 1241N/11 to MILFORD).

/HERMES.....

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HERMES
(German)
intercepted
10/7.

My 2256/Z/10. When sighted in 3° 54' N 34° 23' W ship was steering 360°. Ship sank at 2345Z/10 still flying Dutch Flag. Captain Bernhard Northling age 55. Passengers. (4 names). (CANTON, 1310Z/11 to C. in C. S.A.)

Reported
A/C attack
Freetown
6/7.

Your 1151B/10. Army are cancelling their signal to W.O. No evidence that merchant ships were hit by M.G. fire or cannon from A/C. Some damage was definitely from Bofors and all is considered to have been from ships or shore fire. (C. in C. S.A., 1345N/11 to Admty).

"Q" Report
MOOLTAN.

Q Q Q Q . 35.42 S. 20.20 E., MOOLTAN suspicious T.O.R. 1345 G.M.T./11. (Slangkop W/T, 1411Z/11 to Whitehall W/T).
Cancel my 1345 G.M.T./11 MOOLTAN.
(Slangkop W/T, 1438G.M.T./11 to Freetown W/T).
Cancellation considered genuine.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1447Z/11 to H.M. Ships).

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

A.M. 2352/2.
Can be accepted for refit in U.S.A. Yard will be signalled later.
(D.O.D. (F) 1741B/11 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

D.7.

Tripoli (Syria) roadstead (?empty). Am joining you about 0300. (Capt. D.7. 0140/11 to C.S.7).

KIMBERLEY.

No merchant ships at Baniyas Knoll or 15 miles N. of The WOULD. Am returning. to Haifa.
(KIMBERLEY, 0310C/11 to F.O.7 C.S.)

DEFENDER
sunk.
VENDETTA
attacked.

DEFENDER hit, engine room flooded. Am taking off personnel. Am taking her in tow. My position now is 31° 45' N., 25° 0' E. (VENDETTA, 0520/11 to C. in C. Med).
Am being attacked by enemy aircraft 3145 N., 25. 51 E. (VENDETTA, 0527/11, 0614/11).
Engine room and after boiler room flooded. Back probably broken but have every hope in saving ship. (DEFENDER, 0555/11 to C. in C. Med). Have DEFENDER in tow. Request maximum fighter protection
My P.C. and S. are 31.45 N., 25.51 E., 115° 6 kts. (VENDETTA, 0646/11 to C. in C. Med).
No sign of fighters yet.
(VENDETTA, 0713/11).

/DEFENDER.....

11.7.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

DEFENDER
sunk.
VENDETTA
attacked.
Contd.

DEFENDER heavily listed. Skeleton crew on board My position etc. 31.45 N., 25.51 E. 140° 6 kts. (VENDETTA, 0715/11).
VENDETTA and DEFENDER were attacked by aircraft at 0520/11 in 31° 45' N 25° 31' E. whilst returning from Tobruk. DEFENDER had engine room and boiler room flooded and was taken in tow by VENDETTA but sank at 1115 off Sidi Barrani. There were no serious casualties.
(C. in C. Med., 1443/11 to Admty).

TRIUMPH.

Whilst attacking shipping in Rastayones anchorage night of 5th TRIUMPH was damaged by fire from shore battery. (Capt. S.I. 0911C/11 to TAKU).

Vichy S/M
attacked.
M.V.
attacked.

Operational Summary No. 396 up to 1200 hrs. 11/7 /41.
2. Cyprus. 10/7. 1 Blenheim on sea R/C between Cyprus and Syria attacked 1 French submarine 33° 53' N., 34° 23' E. No hits, submarine crashed dived. 2nd submarine flying French colours sighted 32° 43' N., 34° 13' E., but not attacked. Blenheim also attacked unidentified ship 2,000 tons off Syrian Coast. 1 bomb burst 10 yards from stern. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1046/11).

Petrol for
Turkey.

Your 1636B/24. C. in C. Med., has directed that ships should not be sailed until further orders, but that scuttling charges should be fitted. A.N.A., Istanbul informed.
(N.A. Angora, 1217/11 to Admty).

LEANDER
NEPTUNE.

Request I may be informed if it is intended LEANDER should leave Mediterranean after NEPTUNE arrives. I should like in any case to retain her until "SUBMERINE" is (?over).
(C. in C. Med., 1229C/11 to Admty).

Vichy Ships
Alexandretta.

Reported from Istanbul that more small French War Vessels have arrived at Alexandretta and will be interned. Larger French warships and submarines are returning to France.
(C.O.I.S., Alexandria, 1643C/11 to C.S. 15, C.S.7).

Mining of
Suez Canal.

My 1315/10. Further sweep inside shows only two U.X.Ms in canal i.e. at km. 136.2 and 146.6 Four or five aircraft flying at about four thousand feet were believed to have been engaged in mine-laying.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area., 1317C/11).

/Enemy.....

11.7.1941.¹⁹⁸
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy S/M

NR 2-P My 1620 290 (090?) 15, one submerged S/M 33.56 N., 31.03 E. (A/C "W" 1645/11, to Group H.Q. M.E.)
 Attack enemy S/M in 34° 17' N., 31° 00' E. at 1620. (Group H.Q. M.E., 1647C/11 to A/C "N" Cyprus).
 Attack enemy S/M which was in 34.02 N., 30.46 E. at 1620. (C.8 J. 1715/11 to Duty N, Duty D, 6 C.F.)
 My 1645 - position 33.52 N., 31.03 E. (A/C "W" 1745/11 to Group H.Q. M.E.)
 Position of submerged S/M is 33.56 N., 31.03 E., 1620. (Group H.Q., 1835/11 to F/B L.2166).

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of enemy 2 Cruisers 1 destroyer 3 M.V. are 38.23 N., 15.28 E., 260° 10 knots. at 1650. (A/C "X" 1710B/11, to Hal Far).

Malta Raids.

CSR Malta to 1600 hours 11/7.
 Night 10/11, 8 enemy aircraft few bombs on land, no damage or casualties. Day 11/7, 40 to 50 Macchi 200s over Island. 6 did low-flying attack Luqa, no casualties.

Naples Raid.

Part 3. Offensive. 8 Wellingtons attacked Naples Hits on Railway station and buildings. Large explosion airframe factory. Hits also on Warehouses and fuel tanks. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 0910/11 1800/11)

Enemy convoy.

4 destroyers 5 merchant ships 1 tanker 038° 55' 012° 40' course 200° speed 9 knots at 1530B/11 (Disposition) (Cdr. S.1. 1804B/11 to UNBEATEN).

Submarines Employment.

Intelligence shows much harm can be done by attacks on Italian coastal traffic. In particular, Savona Albenga and Imperia and small Sardinian ports seem readily accessible to such attacks. Request you consider possibility of attacks by submarines against coastal traffic. Misurata is now reported to be developed into an important stores dump and also merits attention. (C. in C. Med., 1857C/11 to V.A. Malta).

Aleppo and Benghazi bombed.

Night 10/11. 5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. Day 11/7. Western Desert. Submarine sighted 33° 36' N., 31° 03' E. Attacked, results unobserved. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1919/11).

/Syria.....

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Syria,
Armistice.

For information. Our forces in Syria have been instructed to stand fast as from midnight tonight. A meeting has been arranged for 1100/12. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 2145C/11 to C.S.15). (?We are) in negotiation with Gen. Dentz regarding Armistice. He has been informed that unless his envoys present themselves by 0600 G.M.T./12 on Beirut Haifa road, offensive action will be returned. You are to continue to act as though hostilities were continuing until further instructions except that you should not initiate offensive action against Syrian coast unless requested by Army. (C. in C. Med., 2201/11 to C.S. 15).

Vichy
S/MS

French submarines CAIMAN and (? MARSOUIN) were expected to pass Cape Sidero Kaso Strait 12/13 and Straits of Messina 14/15. 2 French U-boats were reported leaving Toulon 9/7 for Beirut. 1 French ship type unknown but apparently capable of 20 knots should pass Kithera 1300/13 and Cape Sidero 0700/14 for Beirut. (Capt. S.1. 2249C/11 to TORBAY, OSIRIS etc).

TORBAY.

Returning via ^{Kaso} ~~KASO~~ E.T.A., 0500/15. Torpedoes and ammunition expended. Area report. Sank westbound U-boat off Mykonos.

STRONBO

sub. 2/7.

Your 2011/9. Tanker sunk by torpedo in (?Zea Channel). (TORBAY, 2357C/11 to Capt. S.1.)

See Sit. Rep: 2/7 p.12

Prev. Ref. I.O. letter
dated 27.4.40,
No. P.Z.2411/40.
16th July 1941.

Copies to F.O. & W.O.

SECRET.
9986.

Allotted to External Dept.

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

From Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to
Secy. of State for India.

Dated Bahrain, 15.00 hours, 11.7.41.

Recd. 23.45 hours, 11th July, 1941.

X X X

T/281. Addressed to Secy. of State for India
repeated to Govt. of India (?C. in C. East Indies)
Baghdad and Koweit. Reference Ambassador Baghdad
telegram of July 10th No. 747 to Secy. of State for
Foreign Affairs. Umqasr.

2. No reference whatever has been made to this
Residency regarding present (? proposal). Koweit
is of course vitally affected and Sheikh will have
to be informed of proposals. Whatever position of
actual port may be it is almost certain that approach
will pass through Koweit waters at some point or
another.

ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION BY M.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Contr.
Civil Lord.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
A.C.N.S. (T) (2).
Nav. Sec.
P.A.S. (S).
N.A. to 1st S.L.
D. of P. (3).
Ops. (4).
O.D. (5).
D.T.S.D.
D.N.I. (4).
O.I.C. (3).
D. of S.T.
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (C).
M. (4).
I.P. (3).
W.D.
War Registry.

T/P for Dep. Contr. (3). } Bath.
C.B. in C. }

Recd. 10³⁰/20/7.

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RANCHI.
CARTHAGE.

RANCHI is to leave patrol to arrive Durban p.m./13
-CARTHAGE is to leave Durban a.m./13 and proceed
to position X and then patrol on Line XYZ given
in my 0632/14. (C. in C. E.I., 0520Z/11 to
RANCHI, CARTHAGE).

EXETER.

To leave Mombasa a.m./13 and proceed Durban to
arrive 18/7. (C. in C. E.I. 0524Z/11 to EXETER).

ILEX.

A.M. 1236/8. Can be taken at Calcutta.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0735Z/11).

→ MAREEBA.

Your 0450/5. R.O's confirm vessel has not
put into any port on this coast. (N.O.I.C.
Madras, 0923Z/11 to C. in C. E.I.).

French
Somali land.

To be treated as enemy territory for economic
warfare purposes. (?Ships) and dhows destined
thither can be seized and dealt with in British
prize courts. (C. in C. E.I. 0950Z/11 to E.I. Stn.)

China.

Oil for
Indo-
China.

My 0907Z/9. Standard Oil Co. have learnt today
from Palembang that PAN GOTHIA is loading for
Shanghai. I am convinced we shall make no further
progress with Decoux until we send at least one
cargo of oil, and I hope other arrangements can
be made. (C. in C. China, 0351Z/11 to Adty.)

→ MAREEBA.

Your 1747/6. Nothing heard since sighting by
DURBAN 25/6. (S.O(I) Singapore 0407Z/11 to Admty.)

Japanese
Fleet.

Soviet N.A. has informed me unspecified units
of Japanese fleet had been sighted in Bungo
Straits 7/7. All travel to Hokkaido forbidden
to foreigners until further notice. (N.A. Tokyo
1703/11 to Admty.)

MARECHAL
JOFFRE.
(French).

Departure Apia. (Shanghai, 2358Z/11 to M. of W.T).

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

REVENGE.

Left Bermuda in accordance with my 1041Q/9. E.T.A. point of arrival 0830P/13. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0833Q/11 to Admty etc).

FORT DE FRANCE.

My 0052Q/14 and my 1301Q/13. Every endeavour is to be made to intercept FORT-DE-FRANCE on return voyage from Para. You are at liberty to proceed beyond limit of station if desired but previous experience indicates that effective patrol off Para is difficult to maintain. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1012Q/11 to PRINCE DAVID).

MALAYA.

B.A.R.M.'s 1012/8. In view of commitments at Halifax including embarkation of special stores, helpful if MALAYA could arrive in time for D.G. calibration p.m/18. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1436P/11 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

AURANIA.

To escort H.X.138 and S.C.37, subsequently proceeding Iceland from Eastern R.V. with personnel and provisions. A/S escorts as in C.C.N.F.'s 1846Z/10. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1446P/11 to Admty etc).

T.C.12.

Your 1430B/10. Undesirable for T.C.12 to proceed via Belle Isle Straits unless that route is cleared of contemporary slow convoy. Even if that route is used consider some measure of A/S escort essential in early stage of passage. Suggestiona. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1447P/11 to Admty).

FYLERDALE.
? FYLINGDALE

Your 1341/10. (re no news of ANNA BULGARIS or FYLERDALE). FYLERDALE sailed Quebec 9/7 for Sydney. Cargo grain. *see also p.182.* (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1506Z/11 to NC.S.O.Montreal).

Enemy Shipping.

Your 1114/8/6. Transfer of enemy vessels to Mexican flag not yet been recognised. Discussions proceeding with U.S. Govt. for a general settlement with all American States concerning enemy shipping in American ports. Result probably that in return for enemy ships being put to uses of direct or indirect benefit to the war effort, we shall agree to waive our belligerent rights. In view of these negotiations enemy vessels sailing under Mexican flag should not for the present be interfered with. (Hd. of M. 1550B/11 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/TOTTENHAM.....

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

TOTTENHAM
(sunk by
raider 17/6).

Your 1723B/10. Survivors report TOTTENHAM attacked by raider 1930/17 in 007° 39' S. 019° 12' W. Master ordered abandon ship after one round returned then heavy explosion No. 1 hold. "R" Signal made 5 times. Raider returned about 2230, 12 hits close range then 20 minutes later 6 salvos. TOTTENHAM caught fire sank 2333. Raider proceeded W. Life Boats second and third Officer 9 men picked up. 6 more men waited under sea anchor until 1730/18 set sail true W. Wind and Sea E.S.E. Force followed by MAHRONDA Rescue and sunk boat at 0745/24 position 005° 34' S. 028° 56' W. arrived Trinidad 2/7. Survivors embarked ORION for U.K. 4/7. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1632Q/11 to Admty).

Suspicious
Fishing Craft
Newfoundland.

Wireless traffic and other indications point to possibility of Fishing Craft off Newfoundland Banks wearing French, Portuguese and possibly other colours acting in a suspicious manner. Request earliest opportunity be taken to operate in these waters with a view to removing this possible menace to our trade.
(1st S.L., 1706B/11 to C. in C. A.W.I., C.N.S., Ottawa).

T.C.12.
H.X. and O.B.
Escorts.

Your 2304B/10 and Admty. 1743B/9.
My 1321 Z 10 para. B. Destroyers allocated T.C. 12 are HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE, RIPLEY and ST. FRANCIS. BROADWATER is now required for H.X. 138 in lieu RAMSEY defective. (C.C.N.F., 1719Z/11 to A.C.W.A.)
My 1719Z/11.
(1) Intend the two H. and two River Class Destroyers escort convoy from Halifax to R/V X. The two Town Class Destroyers to join off St. John's N.F. or in Belle Isle Strait depending on route chosen.
(11) Request therefore that you will provide two destroyers of Local Escort Force to augment escort from Halifax until Town Class from St. John's N.F. join. (C.C.N.F., 1814Z/11 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).
My 1719Z/11. Destroyers previously allocated to H.X. 139 now required for T.C. 12. Intend substituting WALNEY, SENNEN, and TOTLAND who will be ordered to leave O.B. 344 in 062° 30' W. and proceed to St. Johns N.F. (C.C.N.F., 1721Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Norwegian.....

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.- Contd.

Norwegian
Tanker.

F.O.C.N.A., 1544A/7. Action is being considered with Norwegian Trade Mission in London. Meanwhile request following arrangements for Norwegian tankers and any other ships sailed independently for Freetown or Gibraltar. (D.T.D. 1818B/11 to C. in C. A.W.I., for N.C.S.O.'s)

Military
Convoys.

My 2028/18/1 is passed to you under T.O.O. 2338/11 for information and necessary action as may be applicable when sailing T.C. Convoys. Adjusted as necessary to conform with normal responsibilities of C.O.A.C. Halifax and R.A. 3 B.S. (D.T.D. 1819B/11 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc).

NICHOLAS
PATERAS
Greek.

Your 1648/18. Has not arrived this side. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1853Z/11 to Admty).

Suspicious
Ship 28/6.

US. Naval Intelligence New York reports S.S. PRESIDENT HAYES 1700 G.M.T./28/6 in 29.30 N. 67.30 W. approached by armed merchant ship which circled her and proceeded northward at about 20 knots. Description. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2200/11).

War Diary.

11.7.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

→ GEORGE J.
GOULANDRIS
(Sunk 29/6).

BATNA has 28 survivors from GEORGE J GOULANDRIS.
(VERITY, 1301B/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

→ P.L.M.22
GEORGE I.
GOULANDRIS
ST. ANSELM.
(S.L.78).

KALYPSO VERGOTI GGBK (corrupt signal letters-)
STAD ARNHEM, ORANJE, MICHAEL JEBSEN, not present.
Following sunk by torpedo PLM 22 27/6 GEORGE J.
GOULANDRIS 29/6, SAINT ANSELM 30/6.
(VERITY, 1304B/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

0605.

Sunderland reports Submarine dived in 037° 40' N.
002° 24' E. at 0605/11 course 090°.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0950B/11, 0959B/11 to N.A. Stn.)

1747

By D.F. at 1747/11 German U-boat was bearing 300
and 3 from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1939B/11 to
N.A. Stn).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1449B/11).

Submarines Attacked.

By PICOTEE
4/7.

C.A.F.O. No. 834/41 (a) PICOTEE (b) 1250B/4
(c) 061° 40' N 025° 10' W. (d) 14 (e) 1720B/4.
(PICOTEE, 1146B/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary12.7.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

C. in C. H.F. considers it very desirable that a watch should be kept on W/T traffic connected with the U.S.A. Warships now in Iceland in order to ensure that the necessary security is maintained.

NIGER, SALAMANDER and HALCYON of the 6th M/S Flotilla are required for special service and have been ordered to Stornoway to embark Oropesa gear before embarking LL Gear at Aberdeen.

VENOMOUS reported early this morning that she had broken down south of Iceland (C) with engine trouble and that SABRE was towing her to Reykjavik.

British Air Activity

38 Blenheims of Bomber Command operated today against shipping off the Frisian Is. and Dutch coast. A 150 ton vessel is claimed as sunk off Walcheren, in thick fog.

Enemy Air Activity

At 0215 today the Coastguard Station at Lossiemouth was considerably damaged by 2 H.E. Bombs, but there were no casualties.

MOST SECRETWar Diary12.7.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTMining

The M/S Trawlers BRACON DENE and AIGLON were both slightly damaged at 1120 today by the explosion of two mines off the Humber. They returned to Grimsby without casualties.

3 S.A. Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary.

Shipping & ConvoysEnd to End
Escorts.

All H.G., O.G., S.L., and southbound O.B. convoys (to be called O.S. convoys) are to be escorted throughout their voyages. Re-allocation of ships in Western Approaches Command is shown in C. in C. W.A. 1019B/12.

North AtlanticLEOPOLD L.D.

LONDON intercepted Vichy French SS LEOPOLD L.D. last night in approx. 34° N., 9° W. and is bringing her to Gibraltar. LONDON signalled later that the ship was released.

La Linea
Bombed.

An aircraft, believed to be Italian, dropped two or three bombs on La Linea at 0300 A today, causing casualties.

/Iron.....

War Diary

12.7.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic-Contd.

Iron Ore
Traffic,
Bilbao.

Consul, Bilbao, reports the arrival of 8 small Dutch ships, loading with iron ore, and probably sailing for France tonight.

South Atlantic

F/B
Squadron.

It is proposed to reinforce flying boat strength in West Africa by moving 204 Squadron. (6 Sunderlands) from Iceland to Bathurst, replacing them in Iceland by Catalinas.

The Argentine Govt. have concluded negotiations to purchase the 16 Italian merchant ships taking refuge in her ports.

Mediterranean

Malta
Raid.

Malta was raided last night without military damage, although 8 civilians were killed.

Air Raid on
Port Said and
Suez Canal.

Port Said and Ismailia were attacked by about 30 aircraft in the early hours of today. One Naval mark boat was sunk. SS PATRAI was hit and is resting on the bottom. Dutch SS ALPHARD was damaged by fire. Damage on shore is believed not to be serious. It is possible that mines were dropped near the eastern breakwater. Mines are suspected in the Suez Canal and traffic on the Canal stopped except within Lake Timsah and Bitter Lake.

/Cyprus....

MOST SECRETWar Diary12.7.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean-Contd.Cyprus

Senior Air Force Officer, Cyprus, reports that owing to the recent air raid and postponement of KIRKLAND, petrol remaining allowed of flying operations being maintained for one week only at present rate of consumption.

Palestine
& Syria.

The French having asked for an Armistice and having apparently accepted the British terms for discussion, our forces in Syria were instructed to stand fast from 2400/11. Hostilities ceased at 0001/12. The armistice terms will be discussed at 1115 at Acre.

Redistributions intended if a Syrian Armistice is signed are given in a signal from C. in C. Med. today.

At 1048C today, acting on instructions from the Admiralty, C. in C. Med. issued orders once more that until further orders, all French shipping westward of Mersin is to be captured or sunk whether in Turkish territorial waters or not. Meanwhile, since the Admiralty on 10/7 gave orders that French warships escaping from Syria to Turkish ports were not to be attacked in Turkish territorial waters C. in C. Med. fears that some ships may have escaped. Our light forces carried out a sweep, last night from Balnas to Tripoli, but no French vessels were intercepted.

War Diary12.7.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTAmerica & West IndiesEscort
Groups

During the past month, U-Boats have been inactive west of the Newfoundland R/V. It is therefore intended to discontinue escort between St. John's and Halifax for the present. A revised organisation for destroyers and corvettes is outlined in Admiralty 1612B/12.

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

NIGER
SALAMANDER
HALCYON

NIGER, SALAMANDER and HALCYON are required for special service. Ships are to embark Oropesa Minesweeping stores and spares at Stornoway subsequently proceeding with despatch to Aberdeen to embark L.L. minesweeping gear. (V.C.N.S. 0207B/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
Return to Stornoway.
(C. in C. W.A., 1005B/12 to NIGER, HALCYON.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Military
Co-operation

No.30 Military Mission, Moscow 2109/12 to War Office. See Lion Copy.

Co-operation with U.S.A.

W/T traffic
of U.S.A.
Warships in
Iceland.

Considered very desirable that, for the present, a watch should be kept on W/T traffic connected with U.S.A. Warships in Iceland, to ensure that the necessary standard of security is maintained. Request arrangements for this to be done ashore. Watch could however be kept on occasions by H.M. Ships in harbour on Iceland, request accordingly that details of external and internal U.S.A. W/T organisation may be ascertained.
(C. in C. H.F., 1002B/12 and 1003B/12 to Admty.)

Movements.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN
FURIOUS
PIORUN
* { LANCE
LEGION

Arrived - CAMERONIAN and SCYTHIA escorted by ROYAL SOVEREIGN, FURIOUS, PIORUN, LANCE and LEGION. FURIOUS with 31 officers and 157 ratings prisoners of war.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0854/12.)

→ See also p.211

HUSSAR

Sail HUSSAR to Southampton when ready.
(C. in C. W.A. 1435B/12 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

WORCESTER

When WORCESTER is ready for service C. in C. Nore is requested to sail her to Rosyth for about 2 days to range S.A. gear. She could be used as an S.A. sweeper on passage.
(D.O.D. H. 1737B/12.)

VERSATILE

Part company with convoy tomorrow in time to arrive B.4. buoy at 1500 whence you will be swept in. Speed from Sunken Buoy not to exceed 12 knots.
(C. in C. Nore, 1813B/12 to VERSATILE.)

MOST SECRET

210A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
No. T.O.O. /12 July.

From Miles (Moscow)

Date 12.7.41.
Recd. 1310.

ONE TIME TABLE I.D.C. BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty.

July 12th N.O. 48 my 1730 C-30 para 3 A.
I have pointed out to Naval Authorities necessity for a field measuring party before submarines can be wiped and desirability of such a party checking results of ships after being temporarily degaussed.

I endeavoured to get them to agree to 3 parties being sent one each to work Black Sea Baltic Sea and Northern Sea area. At a meeting yesterday they agreed to 2 specialists in this work being allowed to visit their ports and they requested they may be sent with "POT" and necessary gear as soon as possible preferably by air. I think that they may agree to further parties coming later.

I am often asked for latest dispositions of German major Naval Units but have had no information since June 30th. Request I may be kept up to date on this.

Russians suspect that some U-Boats are based in Northern Norway and are working both Westward and Eastward from there and would like confirmation of this and location of base if known. I discussed information and points raised in your 1607B-10 Russians confirmed that no reinforcements had yet entered Black Sea and said they would maintain submarine Patrol off Eastern end of Bosphorus.

Request guidance on whether I may admit existence of C N C pistol and if so what details and to which classes ships now supplied. If existence is admitted I feel sure I shall be asked for specifications of design.

I was handed a type written document giving details of BISMARCK. I will signal information of interest after translation.

No. T.O.O.
Advance Copy D.N.I.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
3rd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
I.P. (2)
W.D.

Duty Capt.
Hd. of M. (10) (M. 010332/41)
D.D.I.C.
N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson.
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D. of P. (2).
D.T.M.
D. 1/S W.
S.D.G.
F.C.S. by courier

S.D.G. Bath
Hd. of S.W.R. Bath

See also p. 712A

MOST SECRETMOST SECRET.M E S S A G E .2109/12 July.
IN.From No. 30 Military Mission, Date 13.7.41.
Moscow.

Recd. 0225.

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE.26554. MIL.054 cipher. 12/7.
To Chiefs of Staff from Macfarlane.

At ceremony today had a long talk with Stalin and Marshal Shaposhnikov. Stalin emphasized the fact that (? we) were now Allies, that we must have complete co-operation and no secrets from each other.

I am now reasonably certain that the Russian G.H.Q. is H.Q. Staff in Ministry in Moscow and that C. in C., is Stalin assisted by Shaposhnikov. A tough, clever, and cunning pair. Both were quietly but completely confident of ultimate victory but stressed hard times ahead.

Discussed anti-tank measures at some length and Stalin asked me to come and see him again on same subject about which he knows quite a lot. He said that he was forming number of new A/T regiments and that new 57 m.m. A/T gun which is now beginning to come through has penetration of 100 m.m. armour at 500 metres at 90 degrees. Latest Russian heavy tanks have from 75 to 90 m.m. of armour. Russian fighter aircraft have had successful results attacking enemy A.F.V's with 20 m.m. guns. Their (?A.P.) shell penetrates German tank top armour.

I was promised visit to front and also an inspection of latest Russian tanks but got no firm date. Stalin said Germans were particularly good at stalking Russian tanks at night.

I hope ...

- 2 -

I hope we shall now get much closer co-operation from Russian General Staff but that remains to be seen. There are many ways in which we can help directly on army side but if interest Golikov in petrol warfare it may have great possibilities out here. Miles and Collier also had useful talks will be telegraphing separately.

2109/12.

Advance Copy Sent D.C.

Received by hand from War Office

1340/13..

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 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. Pay. Cdr. Wilson.
 N.I. D.O.D. (H)
 D.D.O.D. (H)

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S Patrol
off Noup Head

My 1940/9. Patrol has been withdrawn.
(A.C.O.S. 1650B/12.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Air Patrol Voe C will be flown from 0400/12 to 2200/12 by Sunderland A/C.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0230/12.)
My 0230/12 Patrol Voe C returned to base owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1644/12.)

A/C for
FURIOUS

My 1921/4 and 1811B/11. After disembarking aircraft and stores FURIOUS is to embark 800, 812 and 817 Squadrons, personnel and stores. Aircraft to fly on board when ship leaves Clyde. V.A.N.A.S. is requested to move squadrons accordingly.
(A.C.N.S. .H. 1733B/12.)
Admty's 1733B/12. Request date you propose flying on Squadron. I am arranging movement of Squadron on assumption it will be 19/7 and that you can receive main body of personnel any day during next week embarking them from Greenock. Arrangements made for Squadron to do deck landing training in ARGUS 14th to 16th July inclusive.
(V.A.N.A.S. 2157B/12 to FURIOUS.)

U.S.A.
Aircraft
for Iceland.
Communications

Following has been sent to Chief of Air Corps, War Department Washington. Following has been arranged with Air Ministry for communication between Reykjavik, the air ~~BOMBER~~ arriving on carrier, and a British ~~aircraft~~ which will be provided to escort the ~~BOMBER~~ from the carrier to base. Details.
(Air Ministry, 1825/12 to Admty.)

NELSON

Air co-operation will be provided tomorrow as follows. (C. in C. W.A., 2312B/12 to NELSON.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MALVERNIAN
(Bombed 1/7)

Arrived LEGION with 17 survivors, and LANCE with (corrupt group) survivors, from MALVERNIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0845/12.) See p. 210

/Lossiemouth.....

War Diary.12.7.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.Lossiemouth
Bombed.

Coastguard Lossiemouth reports at 0215 Lossiemouth was bombed. 2 H.E. Bombs fell within 50 yards of C.G. Station. All telephonic communication destroyed. Very considerable damage done to structure. All staff and families safe.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0918/12.)

Mining.Thames
Estuary.

Three S.A. Mines detonated today as follows. Details.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1040/12.)

S.N.70.A.

Your 2247B/7. Escort will not be available.
(C. in C. H.F. 1644B/12 to R.A.M.)

BRACON DENE
AIGLON
(M/S Trawlers)
damaged.

At approx. 1120 today LL Trawlers BRACON DENE and AIGLON exploded a magnetic mine under BRACON DENE's short tail in position 315° 62 D Buoy 6.9. miles. This mine countermined another mine 40 yards ahead of AIGLON. BRACON DENE sustained mine hull damage, both ships internal damage to castings and wireless gear. No casualties. Both ships now safe in Grimsby.
(F.O. Humber, 1915B/12.)

Enemy Intelligence.NÜRNBERG

NÜRNBERG lying alongside free harbour Copenhagen, P.M./10. Graded C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1119/12.)

BISMARCK

Details of design of ship. (Head of Naval Mission Moscow, 1619C/12 to Aänty.) See Lion Copy.

Casualties and Defects.VENOMOUS

Both extraction pumps broke down. Proceeding in tow of SABRE to Reykjavik. My position 062° 06' N. 022° 04' W.
(VENOMOUS, 0225B/12.)

/CAMPION.....

1619c/12 July

MESSAGE

SECRET

IN

From Head of Naval Mission Moscow.

Date 14/7/41

Rec: 1846

Interdepartmental Cypher I.T.T. by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty,

Dated July 12th number Naval (?665) my telegram 1005C/12* paragraph 6. Details of BISMARCK. Standard displacement 45,000 tons. Horse power 165,000. Speed 28½ to 30 knots. Weight of 15 inch shell 1764 pounds. Weight of 15 inch charge (?465) to 474 pounds. Muzzle velocity 2721 feet per second. Maximum elevation 30°. Maximum range at this elevation 36,000 yards.

Armour. Main belt 12½ inches. Upper deck 2 inches. Deck over machinery compartments 3.1 inches deck over magazine 4.3 inches. Front turret 15 inch. Roof of turret 8 inches. Barbette 15 inches. Anti torpedo bulkhead 1½ inches. No outside bulges.

Machinery. Three engine rooms and three propellers. 12 boilers in six boiler rooms. Steam pressure in boilers 300 pounds per square inch. Fuel carried 6000 tons.

Range 16000 miles at 12½ knots.

Admiral Dolinin assured me that these details were accurate but would not disclose source of his information. Ends.

1619C/12

* Most Secret distribution. No time of origin from Miles, Moscow.

See p. 210 A

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 3rd S.L.
 Vice Controller
 V.C.H.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 M.A. 1st S.L.
 O.D. (5)
 Ops. (4)
 D.N.I. (4)
 I.P. (3)
 W.D.
 Head of M. (10)
 O.I.C. (3)
 D. of P. (3)
 D.A/S.W.

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

CAMPION

Request permission to return to building port. Main and auxiliary engine defects. (CAMPION, 0929/12.) Your 0929B/12, Approved. (D.O.D. H. 1845B/12 to CAMPION.) CAMPION arrived. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 2040/12.)

TOORAK

TOORAK has fouled mooring 54 A buoy. (SOUTHDOWN 1110B/12 to SHELDRAKE, F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1400B/12, 1536B/12. C. in C. Nore, 1441B/12, 2153B/12.)

ARBUTUS
(Corvette)
damaged.

ARBUTUS reports. Collided with S.S. BLACKHEATH at 1215/11. Port side forecastle stove in, hole almost to waterline. Temporary repairs effected and considered satisfactory. Degaussing not working. Proceeding at 10 knots in accordance with VERITY's 1258B/11 but can make Liverpool if desired. Ends. Request instructions. (C. in C. W.A. 1126B/12.)

→ DURHAM
~~JACOB VAN HEEMSKERK~~
~~HEEMSKERK~~

Left DURHAM escorted by STORK off Bardsey Island with defect cylinder port engine needing major repairs. It (~~is~~) probably means cutting cylinder, reducing vessel to 14.5 knots, estimated time repairs 8 hours speed during repair 9 knots. (HEEMSKERK, 1600B/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

JUPITER

My 1058/11. JUPITER has developed serious defect in A/S lifting gear which prevents her sailing A.M. and will necessitate dry docking. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1933B/12.) Intend sailing JUPITER to Liverpool for docking at 2330 today. E.T.A. 0800/13. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2258B/12.) Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2336B/12.)

Shipping and Convoys.

→ W.S.9.(C)

PORT CHALMERS and JACOB VAN HEEMSKERK sailed from Barry Roads to R/V with DEUCALION, DURHAM, and STORK off Scarweather L.V. at 0315B/12. (N.O.I.C. Newport (Mon.), 0046B/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Sailed.....

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

W.S.9.(C)
Contd.

Sailed Swansea Section W.S.9.(c) guard ship K.B. (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 0250B/12 to Admty.) HEEMSKERK's 0055/12^{N.T.W.} STORK is to escort PORT CHALMERS, DEUCALION, and DURHAM in accordance with previous orders. HEEMSKERK should rejoin STORK as soon as repairs have been effected.
(C. in C. W.A., 0333B/12 to HEEMSKERK, STORK).
W.S.9.C. Irish Sea portion one hour late.
Commodore expects to arrive at R/V A at 0615B/13.
(WANDERER, 2326B/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

End to End
Escorts.

Intended to escort all H.G., O.G., S.L. and Southbound O.B. Convoys (to be known in future as O.S. Convoys) throughout their voyages. Re-allocation of ships. (C. in C. W.A., 1019B/12 to all F.O.I.C's, N.O.I.C's etc.)
See Lion Copy.

Balloons

Cancel my X.116. In view of increase in shipping losses at night on East Coast due to air attacks, following temporary rule has been agreed with Admiralty:
"Merchant vessels sailing in convoy between Duncansby Head and Thames may fly lethal balloons up to 1000 ft. during hours of darkness. If cloud base is 1000 ft. or below, balloons are to be close-hauled to 300 feet."
This rule to take effect from 1200 hours 12.7.1941.
(Air Ministry, 1225/12 to R.A.F. Commands.)
Balloons to be non-lethal. See 1810/21.

H.X.134

Met as arranged. All ships present and now arrived. Much fog fresh gale on 27/6.
(D.T.D. 1357B/12 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all ships of H.X.134.
(C. in C. W.A., 1812B/12 to Cdre. G.N. Jones, R.N.R.)

H.G.68

Your 2312/10 (requesting sailing dates).
H.G.68 18/7.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1632B/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

D.S.8.

ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ULSTER MONARCH are allocated for Convoy D.S.8 leaving Clyde 21/7.
(D.O.D.(H) 1836/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Ship's.....

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1019B/12th July.

IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches.
P/L BY T/P.

Date 12.7.41. 214A
Recd. 1611.

Addressed All F.Os i/c, N.Os i/c NC.S.Os, Capt. S.(D) in
Western Approaches Command, Repeated Admiralty,
C. in C. South Atlantic, F.O.C. North Atlantic,
A.C.I.C., C. in C. Plymouth

NITE.

967. It is intended to escort all H.G. OG SL and
Southbound O.B.convoys (to be known in future as O S convoys)
throughout their voyages.

2. Following re-allocation of ships in Western Approaches
Command will be made.

(A) Escorts for O S and S L convoys.

6 sloops from Liverpool sloop division
9 sloops from Newfoundland escort force.
10 cutters.

These will be organised in 6 groups of 4 ships each
leaving one ship spare. Ships will be based at Londonderry.
Escorts will run between Londonderry and Bathurst with about
10 days in harbour at Bathurst and in United Kingdom.

(B) Escorts for O G and H G convoys.

20 Corvettes from Liverpool escort groups
1 Corvette from each of the Greenock and Londonderry Escort
Groups.

These corvettes will be organised in 5 groups of 5 each.
Escorts will be based at Liverpool and will run between
Liverpool and Gibraltar with about 5 days in Gibraltar and
10 days in U.K. after each duty.

3. Captain D. Liverpool is to forward proposals for
organising Liverpool corvettes in 4 groups.

4. Captains D Londonderry and Greenock are to forward joint
proposals for formation of an additional group of 5
corvettes.

5. Until the scheme becomes fully operative,
destroyers and available corvettes of Liverpool groups will
continue to carry out their escort duties as before.

1019B/12.

Advance copy Ops, O.D. & Trade.

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.
Ops. (4).
O.D. (5).
O.D.3.
O.I.C. (3).
I.P. (3).
D.S.D.9.
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (C).
M. (2).

Lion

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Ship's Time.

Owing to existing necessity for darkening ship, with consequent lessening of upper deck facilities, ships carrying troops, especially when passing through the tropics, are to adjust "Ship's Time" so that troops are able to make maximum use of daylight without alteration of their routine. Commodores of convoys in which troops are carried should be instructed to fix "Ship's Time" in consultation with senior military or R.A.F. officer on board and to signal this periodically to ships in convoy. (D.T.D. 2117B/12 to N.C.S.O's.)

O.S. & O.N.
Convoys.

In view of introduction of O.S. Convoys, propose in future that O.B. Convoys should be renamed "O.N.". O.B.351 becomes O.N.1. The routing of O.G., O.S. and O.N. Convoys being thus self evident. (C. in C. W.A., 2210B/12 to Admty.) Your 2332/11 request 393 A Z of 1945/23/6 may be amended to read: 1 to 5 ships escorting Convoy O.S. Number. 6 to 15 ships escorting Convoy O.B. Number. 16-20 ships escorting Convoy O.N. Number. (C. in C. W.A., 2315B/12 to Admty.)

War Diary.12.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.TALISMAN

My P.C. and S. are 035° 23' N. 024° 53' W.
097° 6 knots. Weather.
(TALISMAN, 0001B/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LEOPOLD L.D.

(Intercepted
by LONDON 11/7)

Your 1956Z. Bring ship to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0056B/12 to LONDON.)
My 0056B. (a) If ship is sabotaged and there is
no possibility of bringing her to Gibraltar, she
is to be sunk. (b) If French forces attempt
to recapture (i) if French force is over-
whelmingly superior no action is to be taken
except that merchant ship is to be scuttled to
avoid recapture. (ii) If French force is not
overwhelmingly superior, you should resist
them. (c) In any case either under (a) above
or if recapture seems likely, ship is to be
scuttled, due regard being had to safety of
passengers, crew and ship's papers in accordance
with International Law, in which case a distress
message in accordance with normal merchant ship
procedure is to be sent out.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0122B/12 to LONDON.)
E.T.A. with LEOPOLD in company 0030B/13. Part
two of your 0122B/12 not received.
(LONDON, 1007B/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0056B/12 addressed LONDON. Attention is
drawn to Admiralty 1630B/27/6.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1614B/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Cancel my 1007B/12. LEOPOLD released. My
E.T.A. Gibraltar 1945B/12.
(LONDON, 1230B/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Cable in
Straits of
Gibraltar.

Your 1952B/10/7. Very approx. 35 miles. A
more accurate distance can be given on return
of MIRROR.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1134B/12 to Admty.)

Ore Traffic
Bilbao.

* ? SPES SALUTIS.

Arrival 8 Dutch ships, ranging from 200 to 300
tons, JAEDJOER, *SPES, REGEJA, WATERWEG, BANKA,
*BALTIC, *THIANTHA, HENK. Loading with iron ore
probably sailing for France this evening 12/7.
(Consul, Bilbao, 1149/12 to D.N.I.)
My 1025 (?July 10th). 8 Dutch vessels mostly
on maiden voyage and under German flag all from
Amsterdam manned by Spanish crews. Majority
are (? it seems) to be put into iron ore traffic to
(? Bayonne) and one probably two to Rotterdam.
Source shipping agents. A one.
(N.A. Madrid, 1645/12 to D.N.I.)

* not identified.

/PETUNIA.....

War Diary.12.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.PETUNIA

Ponta Delgada 1850 G.M.T./11 departure PETUNIA in accordance with my 1228B/10 (N.T. in W.R.) (F.O.C.N.A. 1150B/12.)

KERSTEN MILES
CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN.

KERSTEN MILES my 1110/10, now moored at Buoy inner harbour. My 1815/29/5, barge filled last night from CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN about 250 tons, now moored at inner harbour. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1220/12, to Admty.)

COURDONNES
JEUNE DENISE
VIRGO FIDELIS.
(French)Left 10/7.
(Bilbao, 1659/12 to D. of S.T.)French
Convoys,
Gibraltar.

1 eastbound, 2 westbound. Details in D.O.R., 14/7.

Huelva,
pyrites
export.

Your 1730/11. Such ships should not be detained unless specific instructions have been issued. Investigations are being made regarding this alleged trade. (D.E.W.D. 1801B/12 to C.C.S.O. Gib.)

Imports for
Tangier.

Your 1358/10. This has already been agreed in principle and details are now being worked out. (D.T.D. 2119B/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

GROUIN-DU-COU

Admty. 2202B/11. Should be dealt with in accordance with instructions issued for CAP CANTIN in Admty. 2055/14/5. (Head of M. 2137B/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

La Linea
bombed.

Aircraft believed Italian dropped two or three bombs on La Linea about 0300A/12. One bomb failed to explode Spanish casualties. (F.O.C.N.A. 2300B/12.)

South Atlantic.Italian
Ships,
Argentina

Argentina concluded negotiations to buy all 16 Italian ships taking refuge in her ports. List. (D.S. 676, 12/7.)

CANTON.....

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CANTON

Leave patrol so as to arrive Freetown a.m./18.
(C. in C. S.A., 1213N/12 to CANTON.)

CILICIA

To leave Freetown 1700/12 and proceed to patrol
in H 33 D, I 33 B.
(C. in C. S.A., 1235N/12, to CILICIA.)

HIGHLANDER

Your 0930/10/7. C.O. of HIGHLANDER is sick in
OXFORDSHIRE. Malaria, probably fit 18/7. Ship
will (wait ?) for him unless you direct other-
wise.
(C. in C. S.A., 1627N/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
Concur. (C. in C. W.A., 1215B/13.)

Flying Boats,
Bathurst,
Gibraltar.

Concur in your proposal to reinforce Flying
Boat strength in West Africa by moving 204
Sqdn. from Iceland to Bathurst. Six Sunderlands
are required at Gibraltar for special duty for
seven days from 17/7. This commitment will it
is hoped be met by Sunderlands of 204 Sqdn.
On completion of duty at Gibraltar, Sunderlands
are to proceed to Bathurst. Requested that
you will replace Sunderlands withdrawn from
Iceland by Catalinas at earliest possible
opportunity.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1745B/12 to A.O.C. in C. Coastal
Command.)

TEBRO
(Italian)

Santos reports has arranged to berth alongside
14/7 to continue loading. Rumoured that she
will leave about 16/7.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2012Z/12 to S.A.D.)

MOOLTAN
"Q" Report.

Are you satisfied with cancellation of QQQQ
message made by MOOLTAN at 1345 G.M.T./11.
(A.C.N.S. 2034B/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report 83.

Syria (? coast). Situation as in my 2201/11.
F.O.C. 7 C.S. in AJAX with PHOEBE and 5
destroyers swept coast and examined roadstead
to north of Beirut in endeavour to capture French
merchant ship reported in my 2349/10. No
success reported.

/4 French.....

MOST SECRET

218A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN 0153/12/July.

From Spears Mission Brazzaville. Date 12.7.41.

Recd. 0300.

CYPHER.

Addressed War Office. (Following for Spears Mission personal for Archdale repeated Gairo personal for General Spears.) Repeated C. in C. Middle East Cairo.

IMPORTANT.

26341. D/1950 cipher 11/7.

Intelligence summary regarding threat to Chad follows next bag leaving here probably 18th. Conclusion is while no definite indication of immediate repeat immediate threat there are strong signs of preparation for using aircraft and motorised units timed for any time after the end of October. This is estimated date of French (?relief).

In these circumstances decision release SCHEPHERAZADE was serious shock to French as Vichy's lack oils has hitherto been considered great safeguard against attack on these regions. Moreover American decision supply French West Africa comes as political shock. Reliance on American control officers is thought to indicate America out of touch realities situation since considered such control cannot be effective. Moreover idea that Washington still prepared deal with men like Weygand and Doisson is bitter pill and fear is latent that Washington dragging London at its skirts may do deal with them resulting in betrayal Free French by H.M. Gool and post war charge of being Weygand France and not De Gaulle France.

I believe most Free French here would not consider Weygand France worth fighting for.

0153/12.

Recd. from War Office 1420/14.

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 Capt.
E.P.S.
Hd. of M. (3)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson

War Diary.12.7.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.MediterraneanSituation
Report 83.
Contd.

4 French armed trawlers, one old destroyer, and one armed tug have arrived Iskanderun in addition to those reported in my 2301/9. N.A. Ankara reports they are also being interned and disarmed. Two French S/MS. have been attacked by aircraft south and southwest of Crete. No certain sinking. Western Desert. DEFENDER sunk as in my 1444/11 VENDETTA to refit, returned to Alexandria with survivors. Canal still closed to traffic. (C. in C. Med., 0002C/12 to Admty.)

Merchant
Ships, Syria.

My 1302/10/7. Desirability of capturing any French or ex-allied merchant ship leaving Syria before Armistice is agreed. Equally desirable to prevent escaping vessels from reaching Axis controlled waters. All such vessels found in territorial waters to Westward of Mersin may be either captured or sunk. 2. Care should be taken not to endanger Turkish property, and authority to sink French vessels in Turkish waters will terminate with signing of Armistice. Even after Armistice, territorial waters and air space may be entered for purpose of intercepting French merchant ships. (V.C.N.S. 0012B/12 to C. in C. Med.)

Armistice
Negotiations

Hostilities cease 0100/12. Vichy representative arriving front line 0900. Armistice terms to be discussed at (? Acre) at 1115. (B.N.L.O. Palestine, 0043/12, to C.S.15.) My 2201/11. Envoys will present themselves as requested. Hostilities to cease from 0001/12. (C. in C. Med., 0338/12 to C.S.15.) My 0338/12. Directions given in my 2201/11 are to be adhered to. (C. in C. Med., 0917C/12 to C.S.15.)

Vichy S/MS,
TORBAY.

Your 2249/11 expect to arrive Kaso dusk/12. Will endeavour to fix one with 12 rounds of ammunition and ramming. Request information as to recognition signals of French. (TORBAY, 0131C/12 to Capt. S.1.) Your 2357C/11 and your 0131C/12 understood. Well done. Return from Kaso through 33.41 27.16 thence direct. TETRARCH leaves Alexandria p.m./12 direct for Scarpanto Strait. Asia pass recognition signal unknown. You are not to ram but should attack with guns if favourable opportunity occurs. (Capt. S.1., 0941C/12 to TORBAY.)

/URSULA.....

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

URSULA

Returning to Malta with defects.
(Cdr. S.1., 0225B/12 to S/Ms. Malta Force.)

Air Raid
Port Said,
PATRAI sunk,
ALPHARB *
damaged,
*ALPHARB?

Port Said attacked by aircraft between 0300C and 0430C/12. Method repeated dives to level of 1000 feet or less. Approx. 30 bombs. Three or four possible U.X.M's 400 feet 290° from North end Eastern breakwater. Naval damage, one mark boat sunk, no casualties. S.S.PATRAI hit aft by one bomb, one near miss stern, now resting on bottom. Dutch ALPHARB set on fire but fire under control. Shore damage not believed serious.

(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0537C/12 to Admty., H.Q. R.A.F M.E. 1048/12.)

Mining raid on Canal between 0100C and 0420C/12
Mines suspected in Canal at k.m. 5.9 k.m. 85.3 k.m 96.9 k.m. 136.8 k.m. 151.8 and k.m. 153.4. One of two at k.m. 151.8 exploded spontaneously at 1100C. Large number of bombs, of which two fell in Ismaïia. Traffic closed except within Lake Timsah and Bitter Lake.

For attack on Port Said vide N.O.I.C. Port Said 0537/12 to certain addressees only.

(N.T. in W.D.)

(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1213C/12.)

Enemy
Units

Six destroyers six merchant ships 037° 10' 012° 00' 180° eight knots.

(S.O.(S) Malta, 0650B/12 to S/Ms. Malta Force.)

UNBEATEN
P.33

Cancel patrol line ordered. UNBEATEN patrol in 035° 40' 011° 55', P.33 in 035° 50' 012° 08' until in contact with the enemy. Neither submarine is to cross 035° 45'. Final enemy report will be passed next Rugby operational routine. If speed allows UNBEATEN should also shadow and attack convoy during the night and then operate in area X.

(S.O.(S) Malta, 0915B/12 to S/Ms. Malta Force.)

See also p.222

Syria
Re-dispositions

Should Syrian Armistice be signed intend following re-dispositions.

(C. in C. Med., 1028C/12 to Med. Fleet.)

See Lion Copy.

Vichy
Shipping

My 1227C/11. Para (b). Until further orders all French shipping to Westwards of Mersin should be captured or sunk whether in Turkish territorial waters or no.

(C. in C. Med., 1048C/12, to C.S.15, C.S.7. etc.)

MOST SECRET

220A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN 1028C/12/July.

From C. in C. Mediterranean. Date 12.7.41.

Recd. 1653.

NAVAL CYPHER A.2. by W/T.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet, Repeated N.O.i/c Haifa,
R.A. Alexandria, N.O.i/c Cyprus, 201 Group,
H.Q. Palestine and Transjordan, R.N. G.H.Q.

IMPORTANT.

Should Syrian armistice be signed the following re-dispositions are intended. Date of D 1 will be signalled.

1. D 1. (a) C.S. 15 leave Haifa for Alexandria with 15th Cruiser Squadron H.M.A.S. PERTH, and four destroyers as required by R.A.D. Mediterranean

(b) ~~2~~ F.C.C. 7th C.S. ^{remains} ~~Group missing~~ Haifa with H.M.S. AJAX and four destroyers.

(c) H.M.S. CARLISLE, HARROW, MOY, SALVIA, LYDLARD, M.L. 1032 to proceed to Beirut as instructed by Captain Morse, N.O.i/c Beirut designate. Beirut's base staff to proceed in these ships.

2. D.2. (a) Convoy L E 25 to sail for Beirut from Alexandria and Port Said as ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean escorted by H.M.S. COVENTRY and 2 destroyers detailed by R.A.D. Mediterranean.

(b) On arrival of convoy at Beirut H.M.S. COVENTRY to relieve H.M.S. CARLISLE who is to return to Alexandria. Escorting destroyers to Haifa to relieve 2 destroyers to return to Alexandria as required by R.A.D. Mediterranean.

3. 815 826 829 Squadrons F.A.A. to remain at Cyprus for present.

N.O.i/c Haifa pass to Capt. Morse.

1028C/12,

*para (b) elucidated by
0615/15.*

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.H.S. (F)	Duty Capt.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	Hd. of M.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.S.D.
D. of P. (2)	D.D.I.C.
D.O.D. (H)	E.P.S.
D.D.O.D. (H)	D.T.D. (2)
D.O.D. (F)	N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson
D.D.O.D. (F)	

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Ships.

Arrival 12/7 GOUVERNEUR GENERAL LAFERRIERE, French for repairs. TIRPITZ, German, probably leaving 14/7, Marseilles. (Cartagena, 1135/12).

Petrol Supply Cyprus.

(?C. in C. Med) 0925/12 and 2016/11 (?and) my 2354/11 as result of recent air raid and postponement of KIRKLAND, Senior Air Force Officer states that with petrol remaining flying operations can only be maintained one week at present rate of consumption. C. in C.'s 09 (?25)/12, petrol cannot be made available. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 1255C/12 to C. in C. Med).

Submarines.

Congratulations on magnificent work being done by your Submarines and Depot Ships and Bases. (F.O.(S) 1258B/12 to Capt. S.1. S.8, S.O.(S) Malta).

Malta Raid.

C.S.R. Malta to 1600 hours 12/7. Enemy air activity. 4 houses demolished civilian casualties, no military damage or casualties. (H.Q. Malta, 1620/12).

RORQUAL.

Leaves Malta p.m./12 as in my 1330B/9 to arrive Apollonia p.m./15 and Alexandria p.m./19. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1655B/12 to Capt. (S) 1).

CACHALOT:

Capt. S.1's 1205C/9. Orders. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1721B/12 to CACHALOT).

TRIUMPH reports.

27/6 U-boat sunk as reported in TRIUMPH's 1937C/27 (N.T. in W.R.) 1500 tons Merchant ship and A/S trawler gunned and TRIUMPH damaged night of 5th as reported in TRIUMPH's 2201C/9/7 (N.T. in W.R.) (S.O.(S) Malta, 1740B/12 to Capt. S.1.)

Interception of Vichy Ships.

Your 0012/12. This was in the process of being done until receipt of Admty 1302/10 instructions in which are opposite to those now received in your 0012/12. Orders have been given in accordance with latter message but I fear in the meanwhile some of the vessels may have escaped us. (C. in C. Med., 1820/12 to Admty).

/P. 33.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

II

+ No T.O.O./12th July.

221A

Date: 17.7.41.

From Governor Cyprus. (Sir W. Battershill).

Recd: 13.7.41

CIPHER

Addressed: Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 308. Secret.

General report for week ended 12th July.

On the morning of 7th July, Nicosia aerodrome twice attacked by Italian bombers. There were five civilian and three service casualties, of which one civilian and two service were fatal. One R.A.F. aircraft destroyed and three damaged on the ground and small petrol dump fired. On the afternoon of 7th July, single aircraft dropped two bombs in the sea at Famagusta causing no damage or casualties. Early on 8th July, one of H.M. Ships was attacked from low altitude by French aircraft ten miles out of Famagusta but attack caused no damage or casualties. On the morning of the 9th July, seven Italian aircraft bombed Nicosia aerodrome firing petrol dump but causing no casualties. On the afternoon of 9th July, S.S. ^{WARAZIA}, carrying Greek refugees including some escaped Cypriot soldiers from Mersin to Haifa, was attacked by two Italian torpedo aircraft off Cape Greco. No casualties or damage resulted. 10th July, Italian aircraft bombed Nicosia aerodrome causing no casualties but damaging four vehicles and destroying number of tents and cutting telephone communication. On the morning of July 12th, seven aircraft attacked Famagusta. Railway was slightly damaged. Some thirty bombs dropped, some of which fell in the old town causing slight damage to civilian property. No casualties.

2. Prior to today's raid, reactions to which not yet known, population has been reasonably calm in view of the limitation of attacks to legitimate military objectives, but civilian labour for Nicosia aerodrome becomes very hard to obtain.

There has been strike of certain categories of railway employees which necessitated the declaration of the railway an essential service under the Defence Regulations, and subsequent prosecution of certain individuals. Men returned to work yesterday. Separate report on this will follow in due course.

No. T.O.O./12

Received from Colonial Office via H. Branch

* Delayed in transit.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Controller
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
Civil Lord
Parl Sec.
Naval Secretary
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops, (4)
O.D.(5)
O.I.C.(2)

D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(3)
D.N.A.D.
D. of L.D.(2)
Press Division
H.(2)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(H)
D.T.D.(C)
D. of S.T.
E.P.S.
I.P.(3)
W.D.

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

P.33
Operation.

At 2100B/12 proceed to R/V 3 miles 180° from Hammamet Light. Recognition confirm as previously arranged, pass word will be "~~XXXXXXXX~~". Boat will be at R/V 1700B/14 with one person only on board. Make careful asdic sweep in case position compromised. Whether successful or not leave R/V at 2200B/14 to intercept convoy given in my 2000B/12 in 036° 27' 011° 54' at about 1300B/15. Convoy is expected at Kerkenah 0500 and Pantellaria 1400. After attack or on surfacing 15/7 return direct to Malta with passengers or to R/V repeating identical operation p.m./16. (Cdr. S.I. 1959B/12 to P.33). *See p.220*

Enemy Convoy.

14 knot convoy of 6 merchant ships 6 destroyers expected to leave Tripoli (Libya) 1600/14 for Kerkenah and Pantellaria. Convoy may depart from position A or D off Tripoli. Suggest UNBEATEN Patrol in the vicinity of N.E. corner of area. (Cdr. S.I. 2000B/12 to S/Ms Malta Force). *See p.220*

S/Ms.

Your 2250C/16/6. Submarine refit programme has already been despatched. Every effort will be made to keep up the number of submarines available on Mediterranean Station by provision of new construction submarines. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2023B/12 to C. in C. Med).

Situation
Report 84.

Syria. Negotiations for armistice are continuing. Active naval operations are suspended. No French vessels intercepted by sweep Baniyas to Tripoli (Syria) night 11/12.
2. Western Desert. Minor air raid and some shelling by enemy batteries continues at Tobruk.
3. Canal area. N.O.I.C. Port Said 0537/12. Fire in ALPHARD extinguished. (C. in C. Med., 2328C/12).

East Indies.

S.S. VELEBIT.

Your 1952/9. No news. Non arrival reported S.O.(I) Colombo and S.O.(I) Singapore My 0856/7. (N.C.S.O. Rangoon, 0340Z/12 to Admty).

CITY OF
DUNKIRK.
URBINO.

Your 1918/9. Ships arrived here 1st. and 2nd respectively. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0346Z/12 to Admty).

/MAURITIUS.....

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

MAURITIUS.

C. in C. China 0141/12 (N.T. in WR.) On relief by DURBAN, MAURITIUS is to proceed to Colombo adjusting speed to arrive 1130Z/17.
(C. in C. E.I., 0542Z/12 to MAURITIUS).

W.S.9 B.

Your 1323/11 and D. of S.T. 2204/11. EXETER Can be made available to escort Group B (B) ships from Durban about 21/7.
-(C. in C. E.I., 1440Z/12 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown).

China.

DANAE
WARSPITE.

Penang departure 11/7 DANAE on escort duty. Singapore, 12/7 arrival and departure WARSPITE. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 1141Z/12 to Admty etc).

America and West Indies.

T.C.12.

Your 1447P/11. My 1814Z/11 refers. Consider this best arrangement with present resources of N.E.F. (C.C.N.F., 0336Z/12 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

FRAMHRINGEN
bomb
fragment.

Part of safety clip from a bomb dropped by EAGLE aircraft on German supply ship FRAMHRINGEN has been found in one of the ship's oil tanks. Suggests bomb did not explode. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0513/12 to EAGLE).

IMPERIAL
TRANSPORT
(tanker).

Your 2318/8 arrived 10th delay 48 hours due to congestion loading Fusan.
(N.C.S.O. Trinidad 1054Q/12 to Admty).

Routeing by
U.S. Naval
Authorities.

My 1550/7. U.S. Naval Authorities started routeing merchant vessels for near East 4/7. Navy Dept., have given instructions for British C.S.A.S., at Ports concerned to be given details of routes. (N.A. Washington 1215R/12).

RAMILLIES,
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Your 1647P/7. Subject to your remarks, intended that ROYAL SOVEREIGN should relieve RAMILLIES in Iceland early in August. RAMILLIES will then proceed to U.K., and be taken in hand for any urgent defects. Suggested that RAMILLIES and REVENGE should not exchange stations as proposed in your 0837/1/7.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1215B/12 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

/U. S. Ships.....

War Diary.

12.7.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

U.S. Ships
for Near
East.

Admiralty is informed that U.S. Naval Coastal Frontier Command are routing U.S. Flag Ships carrying supplies to British in Near East and furnishing N.C.S.O's with appropriate information N.C.S.O.'s are to transmit the information thus received by means of routine Vesca and Route Signals. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1347B/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Convoy
Escorts.

St. John's and Halifax, organisation of Groups. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1612B/12 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. W.A.) See Lion Copy.

RIO NOVO.

Your 1919/28. RIO NOVO due Georgetown 30/6 from your port not yet arrived, have you any information. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1458R/12 to R.O. St. Thomas).

SATURN, *
SVEADROTT.
BRAZIL.

* ? SATURNUS.
Saf-287.

Your 0001/1/5 sect. 1 para 14. C.S.A. New York advises that eastbound Swedish Ships have been ordered by Stockholm acting on advice of British authority there to follow route 59.10 N. 23.40 W., 62.00 N., 13.00 W. Skopenfjord this route being substantially different from signal quoted above. Ships affected are SATURN, SVEADROTT, BRAZIL. All three sailed N.Y. 9/7. Ships are proceeding by this route and not following C.S.A.'s instructions. Request that attention of British authority in Stockholm be drawn to Admiralty signal quoted. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1641Z/12 to Admty).

SACRAMENTO
VALLEY.
(torepdoed
6/6).

VESTVANGEN reports salvaging life boat ex SACRAMENTO VALLEY on 30/6 in 009° 50' N., 059° 17' W. Boat not manned but evidence had been manned previously. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1701Q/12).

CLARKIA.

ARMUK 573 12/7. Your UKARM 721 and C. in C. W.A. 1518B/25, has CLARKIA also sailed and if not when may she be expected. Both ships are expected by U.S. authorities at Charleston on 17/7. (B.A.R.M., 2232/12 to Admty).

Australia.

U. S. 12.

A.C.N.B.'s 1319/18/6 and 0256/22/6. Ships available for U.S. 12 are QUEEN MARY, QUEEN ELIZABETH, and AQUITANIA. Total capacity about 16000. Suggestions. (D. of S.T., 1822B/12 to A.C.N.B., C. in C. China, C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET

224A

1612B/12 July.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To N.S.M.C. Ottawa. 917.
 C. in C. Western Approaches. 25.
 Repeated C.C.N.F.
 C.O.A.S. Halifax.
 C. in C. America and West Indies. 222
 F.O.I.C. Iceland (C) 513.

Date 12. 7. 41.

Naval Cypher (A.1)

From Admiralty.

332

IMPORTANT

Since C. in C. Western Approaches made his 1620B/19th June the U-Boats have been inactive west of the N.F. rendezvous and it has also become necessary to divert the sloops and cutters for duty with the U.K. - Sierra Leone convoys; it is therefore intended to discontinue escort between St. John's and Halifax for the present.

2. It is considered that all available destroyers and corvettes at St. John's and Halifax should be organised in a sufficient number of composite groups to operate the present cycle of IX/SC/OD convoys between the Iceland R/V and a R/V to eastward of St. John's, allowing each group to boiler clean alternately in St. John's and Iceland after every third leg. The number of groups required must vary according to the cycle and routing of convoys. Allowing for a ten days' escort between the two R/V, it is calculated that a minimum of eleven groups will be required for mercantile convoys, to which must be added one group for additional commitments such as TC convoys.

3. Should it become necessary to revert to escort between St. John's and Halifax, it is considered that all corvettes should provide through escort between Halifax and the Iceland R/V, all destroyers working between St. John's and Iceland. This must inevitably result in corvettes being organised into separate groups from destroyers, as a larger number of groups will be required for the through escort from Halifax, than for escort from St. John's.

4. (a) In view of the existing U-boat situation, it is considered questionable whether the practice of providing local A/S escort for some two and a half days out from Halifax is worth while.
- (b) Therefore, in order to balance withdrawal of sloops and cutters from the West Atlantic and to provide the maximum escort for the most dangerous part of the passage, between the two R/V, it is suggested that all available R.C.N. corvettes and destroyers, including those now employed as local escorts from Halifax, should be included in the N.F. escort Force for escort duties between Newfoundland and Iceland.

1612B/12.

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.

Sec. to A.C.N.S. (T) (283).

Approved 1st S.L.

D. of L.D. Head of M.

D.N.A.D. D.T.S.D.

D.A/S.W. D.D.I.C.

D.H.S. E.P.S.

I.P. (2). D.T.D. (2).

W.D. N.I.D. 10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson).

Duty Capt.

War Diary.12.7.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.L.78
(attacked
30/6.)

Further to my 1304B/11 BLACKHEATH reports hearing series of S's at 0948Z/29 in 028° 36' N. 024° 18' W. This may have been from GEORGE I. GOULANDRIS. At 1015Z/30 she saw white rockets in 030° 25' N. 024° W. this may have been from one other ship of S.L.78. (VERITY 0708B/12 to C. in C.W.A.)

Unknown
ship.

Following has been read. Attacked by U-Boat at 0850 in 59.17 N. 8.45 W. (5 RBE (Corrupt merchant ship call sign) 0917/12.)

Submarines Reported.

Admty. Message A.F. position 59° 17' N. 8° 45' W. at 0850/12 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C.0953Z/12.)
Pass through 59° 17' N. 08° 45' W. where U-Boat was sighted by a merchant ship. A/C co-operating. (C. in C.W.A. 1217B/12 to NIGER.)

1212.

Indications that an Italian U-Boat is operating within 60 miles of 036° 30' N. 009° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1212B/12 to Capt. D.8 FIREDRAKE.)

Estimated U/B Dispositions. (D.D.I.C.1429B/12.)

1816.

Bearings of Italian U.Boat 89 V. at 1816 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2055B/12.)

2025.

Bearings of Italian U.Boat 28 F. at 2025 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2300B/12.)

2041.

Bearings of Italian U.Boat 64 L. at 2041 G.M.T.

2048.

Bearings of Italian U.Boat 25 C. at 2048 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2326B/12.)

Submarines Attacked.By A/C.

M.M. attacked head of rising oil 58.56 N. 7.35 W. (Duty G.83 Sqdn. 0620/12 to R.A.F. Aldergrove.)
Check position (?) 58° 46' N. 7° 57' W. (Duty G.83 Sqdn. 0725/12 to R.A.F. Aldergrove.)

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War Diary.

13.7.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Battle
cruisers
at Brest

There were indications today the SCHARNHORST may be leaving Brest shortly. All available M.T.Bs. at Portsmouth, Nore and Dover were ordered to concentrate at Dover, armed with torpedoes and submarines have been ordered into position ready to attack. Air attack with torpedoes on the enemy battle cruisers in Brest was ordered to be made as soon as possible after the anti-torpedo defence should have been removed.

Enemy coastal batteries west of Calais fired 6 rounds at C.E.41 off South Foreland at 0405 today. No damage is reported.

SEALION reports the sinking on 7/7 to 9/7 of two tunny boats and a steam trawler, about 100 miles west of the Gironde.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today on account of unfavourable weather.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. SCORTON, in Convoy F.N.92 was damaged at 0320B north of Cromer and was towed to Immingham.

Mining.

S.S. COLLINGDOC is reported mined this morning off Southend pier, and was beached.

13.7.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Force 19
Transport.

Task Force 19 completed landing and plans depart 13/7. Route to Nantucket.
(A.L.U.S.N.A. 1938/13.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Naval
information

Number Naval 060 dated July 13th begins. In conversation with Stalin yesterday he emphasized that their navy was small it was modern and men were brave and would fight. He invited me to visit fleet and I hope to do so shortly. Savzniquisov told me he thought that BISMARCK was nearer 49,000 than 45,000 tons. He also said LUTZOW as designed was 19,000 tons standard displacement. I asked if he really meant standard Washington displacement and he said yes. Completion of this ship will be much delayed now owing to non delivery of material from Germany which included six of her guns and fire control gear. Message Ends.
(Head of Naval Mission, Moscow, 1154C/13.)

Operations.

Convoy
C.E.41
shelled

Enemy coastal batteries west of Calais fired six rounds at C.E.41 off South Foreland at 0405 today. No damage or casualties reported.
(V.A. Dover, 0955B/13.)

Brown
Ridge
Patrol

Weather permitting carry out the following patrol tonight. One unit of M.G.Bs. in vicinity Brown Ridge. Short sweep to Northward at daylight may be carried out at senior Officers discretion.
(C. in C. Nore, 1042B/13 and 1521B/13 to BEEHIVE.)
Departures M.G.B.s, 58, 63, 67.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2203B/13.)

SCHARNHORST
M.T.Bs. to
Dover.
SOKOL, TUNA
off La
Rochele.

There are indications that SCHARNHORST may be leaving Brest shortly. All available M.T.Bs. are to concentrate at Dover forthwith armed with torpedoes.
(V.C.N.S. 1400B/13.)
My 1513/13 sailed (M.T.Bs. 35, 38, 219.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1622B/13.)
Arrivals M.T.Bs. 35, 38 and 219.
(V.A. Dover, 2107B/13.)

/Arrivals.....

13.7.1941.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

→ SCHARNHORST
M.T.Bs. to
Dover.
SOKOL, TUNA
off La
Rochelle.
Contd.

Arrivals M.T.Bs. 14, 18, 30, 31.
(V.A. Dover, 2126B/13.)
Admiralty 1443/13. If SCHARNHORST comes out she may proceed coastwise to La Pallice or Bordeaux. Proceed to patrol within 10 miles of the following positions:-
SOKOL 46° 32' N. 02° 38' W. proceeding west of Roche Bonne.
TUNA 46° 06' N. 02° 04' W. proceeding by most direct route.
B. Object attack enemy main units. Take every precaution to avoid disclosing your position.
C. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged in area 55 South of 47° N. and East of 04° W. (F.O.S. 1813B/13.)

SEALION.
2 Tunny
Boats and
1 Trawler
sunk.

SEALION reports at 0030B/7 sank by gunfire Tunny Boat 100 miles West of Gironde. Embarked and interrogated crew. At 0400B/8 sank by gunfire Tunny Boat 160° Roche Bonne 20 miles. Transferred both crews to another boat. At 1609B/9 sank by gunfire Steam Trawler in 47° N. 4° 30' W. Crew taken on board, interrogated and later transferred to another Steam Trawler. (F.O.S. 1549B/13.)

British Air Activity.

Operations
NOMAD, PRAG
QG-QH.

1. Carry out operation ^{"Nomad"} NOMAD tonight with up to 8 A/C 53 Squadron.
2. Carry out operation ^{"Prac"} PRAG tonight with 1 A/C 500 Squadron.
3. One A/C of 500 Squadron is to stand by for QG-QH tonight.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1205/13 to Bircham Newton.)

Operations
WANDER ^{"Wander"}
STEM. ^{"Stem"}

Carry out operation ^{"Wander"} WANDER tonight with 2 A/C 59 Squadron.
Carry out operation ^{"Stem"} STEM tomorrow morning.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1212/13 to Detling.)

→ SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU.

Request you will attack enemy Battle Cruisers in Brest with torpedoes as early as possible after anti-torpedo defence is removed.
(V.C.N.S. 1401B/13 to C. in C. Coastal Command.)

/Bomber.....

War Diary.13.7.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Bomber
Command
Operations.

Day 12 July. 38 Blenheims were employed against shipping off the Frisians and part of Dutch Coast. In a heavy sea fog one aircraft obtained direct hit on a 150 ton vessel off Walcheren, claimed as a total loss. Minor attacks were made on Bremen Area and Wilhelmshaven Leer.
(H.Q.B.C. 1555/13.)

Air R/C of
Clyde Area.

Your A239/7/7 of 1540/7 and my Postagram 1904/3/7. Air-craft will take off from Prestwick or Ayr aerodrome on the first suitable night commencing 13/7. Programme.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1850/11.)

Bombing
Restrictions

Institute S.B.R. in area 55 South of 47° N. and East of 04° W. forthwith till further notice.
(H.Q.C.C. 2038/13.)

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
"Sapper"
shadowed.

1 Airplane bearing 270, height 1000 feet, convoy "Sapper". My position 50° 49' N. 4° 54' W.
(CLEVELAND, 0013/13.)
My 0013. A/C disappeared to West. ?
(CLEVELAND, 0021/13.)

Convoy F.N.92
SCORTON
(British,
4813 tons)
damaged.

At 0320B/13 SCORTON was hit by 2 bombs when 2 miles West of 57C. Buoy. Engines damaged, and one slight casualty. Towed to Humber by Tug SABINE. Arrived 1745/13 and safely berthed in Immingham Wet Dock at 2222/13.
(C. in C. Nore, 0519B/13, 0725B/13.)
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0604B/13.)
F.O. Humber, 0822B/13, 1812B/13.)
(Salvage Officer, Immingham, 2222/13.)

Mining.Thames
Estuary.
Mines and
Explosions.

3 S.A. Mines detonated on 12/7 as follows. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1534/13.)
During night 12/13 following explosions which cannot be accounted for by minesweepers occurred:-
0050/13 explosion resembling mine in area Maplin Sands. 0705, 0707, and 0712/13 explosions in vicinity of B.1 buoy. One was probably green mine detonated by WINDSOR and others spontaneous. 1608/13 explosion resembling mine in area Maplin Sands. 1600/13 explosion resembling mine near West Girder. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 2000/13.)

/Your.....

War Diary.13.7.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.Thames
Estuary.
Mines and
Explosions
Contd.

Your 1530B/13. At 0708 one explosion was sighted in position 030° North Oaze buoy 4 cables approx. 1.5 miles distant from ship. Another explosion was heard immediately before this but not sighted. Explosions were also heard at 0723, 0725, 0749 (two) and 0757 (two) but these were not observed as fog had reduced visibility.

During this period ship was proceeding at slow speed between East Spile and B.1 buoys. (WINDSOR, 2103B/13 to C. in C. Nore.)

S.N.70.A.

Cancel my 2247/7.
(R.A.M. 1732/13 to Adty.)

S.N.15.

I understand that escort for S.N.70A is unlikely to be available till towards the end of the month. If two HUNTS could be spared to augment screen and anti-craft defence, and adequate fighter protection can be made available, suggest that S.N.15 be laid with material now embarked as soon as ADVENTURE is ready towards the end of the week.

(R.A.M. 1838/13 to Adty.)

S.N.21A.

Intend to carry out operation S.N.21.A as follows with TEVIOTBANK escorted by CASTLETON and SCOTT on 15 and 16/7. Details.
(R.A.M. 1851B/13.)

COLLINGDOC
damaged.

(British 1780 tons.) Reported mined at 0606/13 4 cables S.S.W. of Southend Pier. Has been beached on North Shore to East of the Pier. 2 injured and 2 missing. (D.S.677.)

Enemy Intelligence.Brest.
SCHARNHORST.

At 0800/13 both Battlecruisers and Hipper Cruiser at usual positions with SCHARNHORST emitting white smoke. All of the outer boom excepting portion protecting SCHARNHORST's stern has been removed and is now moored in centre of Raë Abri and floating camouflage previously just outside boom now at Cruisers bows. SCHWABENLAND still present in Raë de Brest. 1 M/V 350 feet is new arrival in Raë since 10/7, otherwise little change in shipping in Port or Raë.
(PRU. St. Eval, 1130/13.)

War Diary.

13.7.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.
SCHARNHORST.
Contd.

Supplementary interpretation sortie W.857. SCHARNHORST's camouflage appears unchanged. Some form of protection visible possibly net boom lying close to vessel.
(PRU. St. Eval, 1340/13.)
Your 1601B. It appears from STE/WPR2/13/7 that SCHARNHORST still has some A/T protection round her.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1601/13.)

Technical.

Enemy
Rangefinding.
Confusion by
A/C or Heavy
Smoke.

A.M. 2018/6. Operational requirements have precluded carrying out this trial as yet, but when it is practicable to do so intend to incorporate the trial referred to in para. 3. Request therefore that any technical suggestions concerning the type of aerial to be used may be forwarded.
(C. in C. H.F., 0006B/13.)

R-Boats.
Proposed
Endurance
Test.

Request arrangements may be made through F.O.I.C. Liverpool for us to drop three R-Boats near Holyhead and send them under their own power to Milford Haven in advance of ship. The boats are armed and fitted with Army No.18 W/T. The distance of 130 miles at full load should provide useful data on endurance and excellent training for personnel.
(PRINCE PHILLIPPE, 1305B/13 to D.C.O.)

Casualties and Defects.

TOORAK
(Fouled
buoy 12/7)

Departure Salvage vessel FORDE to assist TOORAK.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0249B/13.)
TOORAK in tow tugs STALWART and ST. MELLONS is due at Southend P.M. today where she will anchor for the night.
Ship has foul propeller and unable to steam. Request two tugs may be sent to Southend to tow vessel to London A.M. tomorrow.
(C. in C. Nore, 1103B/13 to F.O.I.C. London.)

FRANKLIN
(Survey Ship)
damaged.

Convoy E.C.44 with Commodore and 14 ships in company weighed at 0650 in the vicinity of 29 Buoy. FRANKLIN damaged in 2 collisions, entering Aberdeen. Hull watertight.
(FRANKLIN, 0824B/13.)
FRANKLIN arrived ex E.C.44 with considerable upper deck damage from two collisions.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0956/13.)

War Diary.

13.7.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.- Contd.

Finnish
wreckage
off
Shetlands.

Faeroes fishing vessel VESTMANNA reports sighting wreckage in about 60° 40' N. 5° W. at 0330/12. Ship is at Syðero Island now but they suggest some of the wreckage bore Finnish markings and there were several hundred 40 gallons petrol drums floating in vicinity.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 2342B/13.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.9C.

STORK is to escort DURHAM until convoy W.S.9C has been overtaken. Route should be obtained from DURHAM. J.V. HEEMSKERK repeat this signal to NELSON by V/S.
(C. in C. W.A. 0330B/13 to STORK.)

W.S.10.

Revised embarkation arrangements.
(D. of S.T. 1730B/13.)

S.C.35.

Met as arranged, all ships present and now arrived.
(D.T.D. 1737B/13.)

234

War Diary.13.7.1941
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ORWELL.
(Norwegian)

Bound Trinidad from Gibraltar request confirmation ship is friendly. (TALISMAN 0835/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TALISMAN.

FERNDALE and AVONVALE hunting U-Boat in vicinity 35° 20' N. 16° 35' W. until a.m./14. T.B.R. arranged 10 miles either side your track from 015° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1136B/13 to TALISMAN.)

Operation
H.E.2.(9th M.L.F. to Gib)

(?My) 1202B/13. My P.C. and S. are 039° 55' N. 013° 37' W. 130° 9 knots at 1600B/13. VIDETTE M.L's 172, 126, 169, 175 in company. E.T.A. at Gibraltar 1430B/15. VIMY, BEVERLEY and M.L's 173, 174, 170, 176 were despatched in 046° 00' N. 017° 30' W. at 0945B/11 to proceed ahead as BEVERLEY's fuel situation and failure of VIMY's evaporator allowed of minimum delay. (FIREDRAKE 1620B/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1212B/13 VIMY and BEVERLEY detached at 0915B/11 in estimated 046° 35' N. 018° 10' W. FIREDRAKE returned for VIDETTE. VIMY and BEVERLEY's sweep in accordance with Admty. 1304B/10 cancelled through weather and defects. My 1930B/13 BEVERLEY proceeding independently to Gibraltar with M.L. Nos. 170 and 176. Have ordered M.L. Nos. 173 and 174 to R/V with me off Cape St. Vincent 1600/14. (VIMY 2136B/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Sunderlands
at Gib.

O/866 13/7 your 1745 13/7. Owing to shortness of time impossible to fit long range tanks in six Sunderlands before proceeding Gibraltar on 15/7 and 16/7. On completion special duty at Gibraltar aircraft will return to U.K. to fit tanks before proceeding Bathurst. 4 Catalina already in Iceland. (H.Q.C.C.1647/13 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.CANTON.

Leave patrol so as to arrive Freetown a.m./18. (C. in C.S.A. 0624/13 to CANTON.)

MOOLTAN.
"Q" mge.

Reference Adty. 2034/12 coded cancellation received 1554/11. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0702Z/13) Your 0702/13. Coded cancellation should have been passed to C. in C.S.A. and Admty. on -receipt in addition to retransmission on Station Waves. (C. in C.S.A. 0926N/13 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

/STRATHAIRD

War Diary.13.7.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- STRATHAIRD. Sailing with prisoners of war and Service personnel. Details. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1026B/13.)
- DURBAN CASTLE. Your 1753/4. Escort can be provided for DURBAN CASTLE if necessary probably QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (C. in C.S.A. 1115N/13 to Admty.)
- Fuelling of A.M.C.'s. Recent 22% cut in oil supplies to South America compromises fuelling situation for A.M.C.'s of S.A.Div. who can seldom fuel from Squadron Tanker at sea. Full requirements of CARNARVON CASTLE could not be met during recent visit to Rio de Janeiro. Similar situation exists at Montevideo. A.N.A. Buenos Aires's 2103/11 also refers. (R.A.S.A.D. 1349Z/13 to Admty.)
- MOOLTAN. Small Fuel capacity of transport MOOLTAN limits speed to 12 knots if routed to Trinidad from Capetown. Request instructions whether ship is to be routed to U.K. via Trinidad at this reduced speed or via Freetown. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1457B/13 to Admty.)
- ORION. (Cruiser.) Pending a reply to A.T. 1543B/10 ORION may be sailed without escort as far as Bathurst. ORION should avoid all shipping on passage. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1658B/13 to C. in C.S.A.) *See also next page -*
- BIRMINGHAM. Admty. 1323/21/6 and my 0031/23/6. BIRMINGHAM will be ready to leave Simonstown 23/7. There are about 70 ratings for this ship at Freetown. Intend BIRMINGHAM shall proceed Freetown to embark there and then join S.A.D. as required by R.A.S.A.D. This should be about 8/8 in Rio de Janeiro, or (?11th) August off Plate. (C. in C.S.A. 1723N/13 to Admty.)
- W.S. 10. Re bunkering of two coal burning transports. (D. of S.T. 1731B/13 to C. in C.S.A.)
- ERLANGEN.
(German) Ordered to be ready to sail 14/7 B.2. (S.O. (I) Montevideo. 1954Z/13.)
- VILLE D'ORAN
(Vichy French) Reported left Tamatave 8/7 for Dakar unescorted. May pass Cape 13/7 latitude of St. Helena 18/7 and that of Freetown 23/7. These dates very approximate. (C. in C.S.A. 2131N/13 to S.A. Sqdn.)

War Diary.

13.7.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.HERO
VOYAGER
S/M attacked.

Enemy S/M sighted in position 32.03 N., 25.54 E. at 0600, 324° unsuccessfully attacked. Am proceeding with VOYAGER who is reduced to 17 knots through engine defect. (HERO, 0610C/13 to C. in C. Med.)
My P.C. and S. are at 0700 JH (Corrupt Group) 49 06 123° 17 knots. Request Fighter protection (HERO, 0703C/13 to D.10.)

Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. of enemy 6 destroyers 6 merchant vessels 34.06 N. 12.30 E. (?170°) 7 visibility 3 miles position based on a fix obtained within half an hour of 0500. (Med. A/C "X" 0730/13 to Hal Far.)
My 0730. P.C. and S. 33.33N., 12.53 E. 150° 8 knots. (Med. A/C "X" 0830/13 to Hal Far.)

Air
Operations.

Up to 1200 hours 13/7.
1. Syria. No operations.
2. Cyprus. 10/7. 1 Beaufighter on sea recco. -sank an unidentified sailing barge by cannon fire 12/7. Unidentified enemy aircraft bombed Nicosia slightly damaging houses. No casualties.
4. Western Desert. Night 11/12 July. 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour starting fires and explosions at bases of Central and Cathedral Moles. 2 Wellingtons bombed Derna starting large fires and violent explosions. Hurricanes and Tomahawks provided covering patrols over lighters and H.M. ships North West of Sidi Barrani. Enemy aircraft made 3 attempts to bomb ships but were driven off. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1038/13.)

TIRPITZ.
G.G. LA
FERRIERE

Departure 12/7 ^{for} Marseilles Gunsa with valuable cargo.
The latter Oran. (Min. of War Transport 1115/13.)

ORION. (Cruiser)

Ref. N.L.O. Durban's 1410Z/9/7. What necessitates ORION's docking? observing she was considered seaworthy for passage to U.K. (? and to) Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 1117C/13 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.) *See previous page*

Re sinking
of REFAH
(Turkish)

Request you will confirm that neither surface craft nor A/C were in vicinity of position 40 miles south of Mersin in which REFAH was sunk 2230/23/6. N.O.I.C. Cyprus is to report briefly the movements of M.T.B's on night 23rd/24th June giving approx. position through which pass. Exact position M.T.B. 68 meeting Turkish steamship, KAPLAN is to be reported. N.O.I.C. Cyprus 1831/24/6 refers. (C. in C. Med. 1143C/13 to N.O.I.C. Cyprus.)

/S.S.....

13.7.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

S.S.PEGASUS.
LESBIAN.
BRODWELL.

It is possible Vichy ships at Alexandretta include British PEGASUS, LESBIAN, BRODWELL seized by Vichy authorities. These ships are British and therefore should be returned to us. Request very early report of precisely what ships from Syria are now in Turkish waters. (C. in C. Med. 1233C/13 to N.A. Angora.)
 (i) Vichy French Naval Delegation at Armistice conference stated (? no merchant ships) were in Syrian Ports on termination of hostilities, that PEGASUS (? is) sunk alongside North Mole at Beyrout and LESBIAN and BRODWELL were damaged in Beyrout by bombing and subsequently sunk in deep water to avoid blocking harbour will confirm as soon as possible. J. Quet suggests Naval ships at Alexandretta mentioned in press report of 12/7 may be tanker (? ABOUR) escort ship ELAN, tug MARSEILLES, Minesweepers AVOCETTE, JEBEL SANIN, MASSALIA, and JEAN MIC. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 2253/13 to C. in C. Med.)

IX? MARSEILLAIS iii

**Not identified in C.B. 1615
 in former flight 24/10/41*

Greek Fleet.

My 1554/20/5 and Admty. 2027/21/5. Greek Minister of Marine requests necessary funds for pay and maintenance of Greek Fleet from local British Naval sources. (C. in C. Med. 1245C/13 to Admty.)

Dispositions.

C. in C's 1028/12 para 1. (a) Request KIMBERLEY, GRIFFIN, HAVOCK, HOTSPUR return Alexandria. Para 2 (a) Intend KANDAHAR, JAGUAR to escort. Intend to sail JERVIS independently to Haifa to arrive day 4. Para 2 (?b) Request JACKAL, NIZAM, HASTY return Alexandria on relief by KANDAHAR, JAGUAR and JERVIS. (R.A.D.(Med) 1359/13 to F.O.C. 15 C.S. F.O.C. 7 C.S.)
 My 1028C/12. D one Day is 14/7. (C. in C. Med. 1701C/13 to Med. Fleet.)

Enemy Shipping.

Departures 10/7 COURDANNES, JEUNE DENISE, VIRGO ^{FIDELIA}
 (Bilbao 1659/12.)

Russian Exchanges.

Russian Naval Authorities have asked for agreement in principle for reciprocal exchange two or three officers to be attached to fleet. In their case this would be Black Sea fleet. (H.Q. Naval Mission, Moscow, 1722C/13.)

/Air

SECRET

MESSAGE

1954Z/13th July IN

237A

From: C. in C. East Indies

Date 14.7.41
Recd 1449

Naval Cypher (A2) by W/T

Addressed: Admiralty, repeated Capt. on the Staff,
Singapore.

600. My 1526 13 appreciation (i) position of ships in the vicinity 088° (? East) at 1130 Z June 26 H.M.S. DURBAN 007° 30' north 091° 20' H.M.S. GLASGOW 006° 087° MARBERA 007° 25' (? 088°) VELLEBIT 10° N, 087° fillpoint 009° 085° 30' PIERRE LOTI 1½° north 089° 30'.

(ii) Evidence for distress signal being result of raider attack (a) An alleged Q message was incompletely received in WESTPOINT for which no cancellation was heard (? by anyone). Note. H.M.S. DURBAN heard an unreadable signal at 1430 Z June 26th from an unknown vessel on 500 Kc/s strength. (b) MARBERA and VELLEBIT are overdue. (iii) Evidence for disregarding Q distress signal (a) W/T operator WESTPOINT had only 6 months experience (b) distress message not received by any other ship or shore station.

(iv) Evidence against Q distress signal being caused by raider (a) overdue vessels are old and may have foundered (b) no further overdues or distress messages from this area have been reported (c) no intelligence has been received from other sources concerning likelihood of a raider in this area. (v) Conclusions. It seems very unlikely that both MARBERA and VELLEBIT could have foundered in spite of their age and rough weather, and there is no alternative now to their disappearance being due to enemy action - it must therefore be assumed that raider was in the vicinity of 008° north 088° east on June 26.

1954Z/13.

Refers to Admiralty's 1221/13 whether raider was responsible for ship making QQQQ

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

1st Lord	D.T.D. (M)
1st S.L.	D.T.D. (C)
4th S.L.	O.I.C. (4)
V.C.N.S.	D. of P (3)
A.C.N.S. (P)	Cdr. Holbrook
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.A/S.W.
Nav. Soc.	I.P. (3)
N.A. 1st S.L.	W.D.
Capt. Pim, Admlty Hsq.	D.P.D.
Ops (4)	D.S.D. (2)
C.D. (5)	M (2)
D.N.I. (4)	
D.T.D. (4)	

SECRET

MESSAGE

0520Z/15th. July IN.

From C. in C. East Indies.

Date 15.7.41.

Recd. 1008

NAVAL CYPHER A (2) By Cable.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated C.O.L.S. Singapore.

IMPORTANT

601 My 1954 13 paragraph one latitude of YTEZ (VELMBIT)
 should read 010° North repeated 010° North

0520Z/14 Advance Copy Ops. O.D.
 Trade.

/ Raider appreciation

1st. Lord.

1st. S.L.

4th. S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

Nav. Sec.

N.A. 1st. S.L.

Capt. Pim, Admiralty House.

Ops (4)

O.D. (5)

D.H.I. (4)

D.T.D. (B)

D.T.D. (C)

D.H.

D.T.D. (M)

O.I.C. (4)

D. of P. (3)

Cdr. Holbrook

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (3)

W.D.

D.P.D.

D.S.D. (2)

M (2)

War Diary.

13.7.1941
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Attack
on Enemy
Convoy.

On 13/7 4 Blenheims attacked a Convoy outside Tripoli. Photographs confirm following results:- 1 ship, believed tanker 7000 tons, set on fire and claimed completely destroyed. 1 3 masted schooner blown up and sank. 1 M.V. 1500 tons, hit and left well alight. (A.S.O. Summary 235, 14/7.)

Situation
Report 85.

Syria. Armistice initialled signature intended date 1100/14. Reported no French mines exist off Beirut and no obstructions in harbour except S.S. PEGASUS sunk clear of entrance. Port services reported in proper working order. Advance Naval Party intending to enter Beirut 0900/15.

2. Western Desert. Increased shelling at Tobruk.
4. Submarines. TORBAY has sunk westbound U-Boat off Myroni and tanker STROMBO in Zea Channel, also large sailing vessel with troops and stores proceeding from Crete to Nauplia, TRIUMPH attacked 1500 ton merchant ship and A/S trawler with gunfire in Ras Tayones anchorage night 5th/6th both certainly damaged probably sunk. TRIUMPH slightly damaged by shore battery has returned to Malta. UPHOLDER sank 5500 ton laden westbound ship proceeding Messina 3/7. Request names of TRIUMPH and UPHOLDER be not published. (C. in C. Med. 2131C/13 to Admty.)

Suez Canal.

Situation 2000C/13, 2 mines of 10/7 and 4 of 12/7 considered to remain. Canal closed to traffic from Deversoir to Khassab 80 and from Khassab 14 to Port Said. Movements HOBART and KIPLING from Suez to Bitter Lake postponed owing to breakdown of L.L. Sweeper. Minesweeping today has produced negative results. Intend to sweep vessels between Suez and Bitter Lake tomorrow. Port Said is open to shipping subject to mine sweeping operations. U.X.M's suspected close to seaward end eastern breakwater and less certainly between Khassab 2.7 and 3.2. Greek PATRAI sunk and stern of Dutch ALPHARD resting on bottom both in Cherif basin. Neither obstructing navigation. No results obtained from minesweeping today. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 2227C/13 to C. in C. Med.)

ILE DE RE.
LEOPOLD.

Vichy Ships ILE DE RE expected to sail from Marseilles about 28/6 for New York and LEOPOLD sailed from Marseilles 1/7 for Algiers, Casablanca then New York, should not be interfered with. (C. in C.S.A. 2301N/13 to S.A. Station.)

13.7.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Raider.

Although evidence is not definite, it should be assumed there was a raider operating near 008° N., 088° E. on 26/6. S.S. VELEBIT and MAREEBA who were in Area about this date are overdue. (C. in C. E.I., 1942Z/13 to E.I. Stn.)

Appreciation. (C. in C. E.I., 1954Z/13 to Admty, amended 0520Z/14) See Lion Copy.

China.

Japanese
Cargoes.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0017 and 1932Z/10. Callao sends ungraded report from Antofagasta last month N.Y.K. cancelled contracts 13,000 tons copper bars for Japan. Manzanillo reports instructions issued to Japanese ships to load there all available mercury, metals, etc. Reporting officer suggests Mexican Govt. export ban imminent. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1516R/13 to Capt. O.S., Singapore).

America & West Indies.

Sinking
of TOTTENHAM.

Your 1632Q/11. Request description of raider. (D.D.I.C., 1150B/13 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

FORT DE
FRANCE.
(French).

My 1111Q/11, not to Admty. Movements of FORT DE FRANCE are still uncertain. If intercepted (? on return) voyage to Martinique, Guadaloupe, and unescorted, she should be boarded and if found to have visited port(s) outside French Guiana she should be taken to Trinidad. If found to have visited only French Guiana she is to be allowed to proceed. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1301Q/13 to PRINCE DAVID).

Your 1150B/13 Raider no details here. (F.O.I.C. Trinidad 1505Q/13 to Admty).

Port of Spain.

Your 2318/8. Delay to Admiralty transport oiler and other ship are now inevitable owing to lack of loading facilities. Acute shortage of N.C.S.O. staff. (N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, Trinidad, 1216Q/13 to Admty).

Routeing

Your 1215B/12. Concur. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1225P/13 to Admty).

/FORT DE FRANCE.....

13.7.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

FORT DE FRANCE.

My 1621B/7. Last sentence commencing 'If on the return journey' is to apply only if FORT DE FRANCE is found by Boarding Officer to have been to ports outside French Guiana. If found to have visited only French Guiana she is to be allowed to proceed. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1359B/13 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Suspicious Fishing craft off Newfoundland Banks.

Take all possible action to implement Admiralty's 1706B/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1329Z/13 to C.O.A.C., Halifax.) Admiralty's 1706/B/11. reorganization of escort in accordance with Admty's 1612B/12. Release SKEENA and ST. LAURENT from immediate escort duties. Intend these ships to search area indicated during 15, 16 and 17th July sending French ships into Sydney and bringing enemy nationals found on board, Portuguese or other neutrals to St. Johns, Newfoundland. Further search will be conducted as ships become available. (F.O. Newfoundland Force, 1838Z/13 to C. in C. A.W.I., C.N.S. Canada.)

CIRCASSIA.

Subject to the concurrence of R.A. 3rd B.S. CIRCASSIA should be retained in Iceland (c) until after arrival of Convoy D.S.8 on (date) (D.O.D. (H) 1550B/13 to R.A. 3 B.S., A.C.I.C.) Concur, (R.A. 3 B.S., 2043P/14).

WEST POINT.

U.S. transport WEST POINT repatriating enemy Consuls and manned by naval crew, leaves New York 2359/15 for Lisbon. E.T.A. 22/7. Route. WEST POINT returns from Lisbon with American officials about 25/7 on same course arriving New York about 1/8. Description. Ship has safe conduct and is not to be intercepted. (Hd. of M.1936B/13 to C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H., S.O. Western Patrol.).

German Ship.

Pan-American Airways report Ship is ready for sea tonight: arrived from Para German freighter 8,000 tons at Belem (Para) heavily laden (?main) steam: reported to be sailing tonight 13th. (Capt. I/C Trinidad, 2300Q/13 to Admty).

War Diary.

13.7.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BARON
NAPIER.

British, 3659 tons, reported to have been torpedoed and sunk in attack on Convoy S.L. 78 on 26/6, arrived at Barrow-in-Furness today, 13/7. (D.S. 678).

INVERLEE,
BROCKLEY
HILL.

H.X. 133. Your 1537Z/10 and my 1827B/9. INVERLEE arrived safely. Signal she made was intended to report torpedoing of BROCKLEY HILL. (D.T.D., 1741B/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Submarines Reported.

2048/12.

By D/F possible Italian U-Boat at 2048 G.M.T./12 within 60 miles of 36° 30' N., 16° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 0049B/13 to N.A. Stn).

0335.

Submarine sighted on surface 035° 20' 016° 35'. (AVON VALE, 0335/13 to Gib., W/T) (F.O.C.N.A., 0733B/13 to N.A. Stn). (C. in C. W.A., 0739B/13 to Admty).

2245B/12.

Contact U.Boats suspected approx. 040° 20' N., 015° 24' W. at 2245B/12. (VIMY, 1930/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1328B/13.)

Submarines Attacked.

By
LEICESTER
CITY.

Am Attacking possible submarine contact position 230° 45 miles from Myggenaes. (LEICESTER CITY, 1950B/13 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

There were no further indications this evening of the early departure of SCHARNHORST from Brest. Submarines were ordered to resume their stations on patrol.

Northbound O.B. convoys will be renamed O.N., commencing with O.N.1.

British Air Operations.

Weather conditions adversely affected operations last night and no heavy attacks were made on any targets.

Aircraft successfully attacked shipping off the French and Dutch coasts today. Ships of 6000 tons and 3000 tons respectively and a 1500 ton escort vessel are reported hit in a convoy off Ijmuiden and are claimed as total losses. A 2000 ton ship at Le Havre and a 6000 ton ship at Cherbourg were hit.

The Air Ministry state that it is reported that in the raids on Emden on 7/8 and 8/9 April the BURGENDLAND (7320 tons) and BUKAREST (4400 tons) were sunk, and that in the raids on Bremerhaven on 7/8 and 9/10 April six ships loaded with war supplies were sunk.

Enemy Air Operations.

Oiler WAR PINDARI was damaged by air attack at Skaale Fiord (Faroes) at 1120 today. A mail steamer is reported to have been damaged off Rtore Dimon. The wreck of the CAROLINA THORDEEN at Kvalvig was attacked unsuccessfully.

An enemy aircraft which dropped 3 bombs in the sea off Aberdeen this afternoon is reported to have been destroyed by fire of ships and A.A. guns. Two bombs were also dropped at M.M/S 34 and H.M.T. RIVER ESK which was escorting her; but neither vessel suffered any damage.

/Yarmouth.....

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations - Contd.

Yarmouth was bombed in the early hours of today. No Naval damage was caused.

Convoy B.B.47 reports being attacked at 1615 in the Bristol Channel. Supporting fighters shot down the attacker, a Do.17. The convoy was undamaged.

9th M/S Flotilla reported being attacked at 1551 in 49° 56' N. 5° 11' W. No damage is reported.

Mining.

Mines were detonated today off the Humber, in the Thames Estuary and off Falmouth.

Mediterranean.

Malta

There were two air raids on Malta last night. Most of the bombs fell in the sea, and no damage or casualties resulted.

CAVOUR - class
battleship.

Photographs of Taranto show that the Italian battleship of CAVOUR class which was sunk by F.A.A. on 11/11/40 has been raised since 7/7 and is now in floating dock.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

18 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night. 2 Wellingtons bombed Bardia. Tobruk harbour was attacked last night.

Air Raids
on Suez.
Canal mined

There were air raids on the Suez Canal early today, in which it is reported that several mines were dropped in the entrance of the Canal. Hired transport GEORGIC was hit and beached, badly on fire at Suez, and was burnt out, and PRESIDENT BUCHANAN suffered minor damage.

/GEORGIC.....

244

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air Raids
on Suez,
Canal mined.
Contd.

GEORGIC collided with GLENEARN, causing slight damage and starting a fire, GLENEARN grounded but the fire was got under control and it is expected the ship will be refloated shortly. No Naval casualties are reported.

The port of Suez is closed on account of possible mines and the Canal is closed from Suez to Khassab excluding the Bitter Lakes.

Syria.

The Armistice was signed today. C.S.15 left Haifa for Alexandria with NAIAD, PHOEBE and 4 destroyers. C.S.7 is remaining at Haifa with AJAX and 4 destroyers. CARLISLE and mine-sweepers are standing by to enter Beirut.

America and West Indies.

AURANIA, escorting Convoy S.C.37 reported this evening that she had rammed an iceberg in 51° 47' N. 55° 52' W. Her bow is damaged and she is returning to Halifax when the weather clears. The convoy is now stopped in thick fog near icebergs.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. RUPERT DE LARRINAGA in Convoy O.G.67 was torpedoed at 2153 in 36° 18' N. 21° 11' W.

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

ECLIPSE.

My 0958B/10 para 4 N.O.I.C. Iceland. On completion of present duty return Scapa with all convenient despatch. (R.A.(D) H.F., 0952B/14 to ECLIPSE).

My 1525Z/14. Fuelling impracticable. Am proceeding towards Reykjavik. (ECLIPSE, 2355Z/14.)

WORCESTER
EURYALUS.

Admty 1737/B/12. Subject to satisfactory test of S.A. Gear intend to sail WORCESTER as one escort for EURYALUS to Rosyth and to attend on EURYALUS during trials from Rosyth as desired by you. Request you arrange S.A. ranging of WORCESTER and return to this command as soon as possible after departure of EURYALUS. (C. in C. Nore 1246B/14 to C. in C. Rosyth).

JUPITER.

To Sail for Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1947B/14 to C. in C. W.A.) W.D. Note. Cancelled 0756B/15.

Operations.

TRIDENT.

Admiralty 1443/13. Establish patrol within 10 miles of position 047° 15' N. 006° W. Object to attack enemy main units and U-Boats. S.B.R. arranged in areas 54 E. 007° W. (F.O.(S) 1014B/14 to TRIDENT).

M.T.B.s

Following is a repetition of my 1438B/13. (C. in C. Nore, 1340B/14.)

TUNA.
SOKOL.
TRIDENT.

There are no further indications of early departure of SCHARNHORST. Cancel my 1813/13.

B. TUNA and SOKOL proceed submerged by day to resume patrols ordered in F.O.S. 1307B/10, SOKOL proceeding west of Roche Bonne.

C. TRIDENT proceed submerged by day through 46° N., 06° W., to 45° N., 07° W. Proceed thence to patrol in accordance with F.S.C. 3 in area bounded by 44° N., and 45° N., and 7° W. and 9° W.

D. S.B.R. will be cancelled in area 55 from 0800B/15 and in area 54 from 2100B/15. (F.O.S. 2143B/14 to TUNA, TRIDENT, SOKOL, 2201B/14 to TRIDENT).

Biscay
Sink at
sight zone.

Sink at sight zone in Biscay area is extended forthwith to meridian 12° W. to the North of 44° 15'. (F.O.S., 2202B/14 to S/Ms area A.)

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

NELSON.

Air co-operation will be provided 14/7 as follows. (C. in C. W.A., 0252B/14 to NELSON).

Lee on Solent.

Aerodrome may be obstructed from dusk 19/7 to dusk 20/7. No signal will be displayed. (N.A.S., Lee on Solent, 1036B/14, 1634B/14 to V.A.N.A.S.)

Sunderlands for Gibraltar.

AP/78 14/7. Detachment of 204 Squadron up to six aircraft to fly to Gibraltar to operate under orders O.C. 200 Group for period approx. 17 - 23 July. Aircraft to leave as soon as ready. Essential that four arrive Gibraltar p.m./15. On completion of attachment aircraft return to P.D. for refit after which to fly to Bathurst on posting to West African Station. (H.Q.C.C. 1320/14).

Bomber Command Operations.

Day 13/7. No operations, unfavourable weather. Night 13/14 July. Very bad weather conditions were experienced and no detailed account can be given of results. Bremen. No results observed. Shipbuilding Yards at Vegesack. Thunderstorms and 10/10 cloud completely ruined this operation. Minor attacks on Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Bremen, Bremerhaven, Emden etc. 1 aircraft bombed a 5,000 - ton ship at a position 53° 15' N 04° 35' E. and bursts were observed 20 yards from the vessel. (H.Q.B.C. 1514/14).

Patrols.

^{"Trest"}
~~TREST~~ and ^{"Stal"}
~~STAB~~ will be flown later today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1534/14). A/S Patrols of exercise area being carried out by 18 Group from 1800/14 until 0830/15. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1656/14). My 1656/14 Aircraft being withdrawn owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1906/14).

Enemy Air Operations.

-Yarmouth bombed.

Yarmouth bombed 0321. No naval damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1040B/14).

Convoy "Skipper."
SKIPPER.

Being attacked by enemy aircraft my position is 49° 56' N., 5° 11' W. (MANGROVE, 1545/14, S.O., 9th M/S.F. 1551/14).

/WAR.....

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations. - Contd.

→ WAR
PINDARI.

Your 1453/14. At 1120 1 Ju.88 attacked WAR PINDARI with 4 H.E. bombs near missing. Aircraft engaged by WAR PINDARI and by 3 guns Skaale Fiord A/A Battery, latter claim possible hits. Damage to WAR PINDARI (Details). (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1715B/14 to A.C.O.S.)

Faeroes.

Attack by two or three enemy aircraft between 1110 and 1145/14. In Skaalefjord by Ju.88 several small bombs dropped at Admiralty Tanker all near misses and village Solmundarfjordur machine gunned plane engaged by 2 pdr. A.A. guns almost certainly hit and 1 engine damaged. At Hvalvik on Strome when 4 bombs believed aimed at beached Finnish cargo boat fell on land. Off Rtoore Dimon when several bombs dropped at Farmese mail steamer when near miss caused minor damage. No casualties. (O.C. Troops Faeroe Is. 1956/14).

→ WAR PINDARI
(bombed 14/7)

My 1715/14. Temporary repairs effected. Ship can now discharge cargo with one pump only and can steam half speed unless hidden damage in other steam pipes becomes apparent. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 0945/15.)

Aberdeen.

At 1550 a Junkers 88 dropped 3 bombs in sea $\frac{1}{2}$ mile E. by N. from North Pier, Aberdeen, near examination vessel. No damage. Plane was fired at by several ships and shore A.A. Guns crashed in flames 2 miles West of Johnshaven. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1731/14).

Mining.

Thames
Estuary

4 S.A. mines detonated on 13/7 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0919/14). S.A. Mines detonated Details. (WINDSOR, 1945/14 Capt. M/S Sheerness, 2007/14).

MINICOY
(sunk 14/5).

Re Admty 1112B/12. MINICOY was mined and blown to pieces in about 42 feet of water in approx. position 10.4 cables 091° from St. Anns Head Lighthouse. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1154B/14).

/Falmouth.....

14.7.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Falmouth.

M.M.S. 18 detonated acoustic mine at 0950/14. in 50° 06' 55" N. 05° 02' 35" W. Details. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1725/14).

Operation S.N. 21A.

My 1908/14 for 2300/15 read 0900/16. (R.A.(M), 2001B/14).

Humber.

Mine detonated 14/7. Details. (F.O. Humber, 2304B/14).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Visual R/C at 1350B/14 shows both battlecruisers and PRINZ EUGEN still present in same positions. (D.D.I.C. 1548B/14 to A.I.G. 62, 21 F.O.(S) 1936B/14 to S/Ms area A).

German Main Units.

Positions. (D.D.I.C. 1625B/14 to N.A. Stockholm, D.D.I.C., 1626B/14 to A.I.G., 17, S.O. Force H).

Miscellaneous.

Swedish tankers.

Swedish tankers carrying Navy oil were in following positions at 0001/14.

(a) SVEADROTT with BRASIL in 43° 24' N 48° 41' W, speed 12 knots.

*SATURNUS

(b)*DARNURNUS. 48° 35' N 39° 54' W, speed 14 knots. All routed via Skopen Fjord. (Stockholm 1259/14 to Admty).

Casualties and Defects.

BERWICK.

Port Adjusting block wiped. Proceeding on starboard engine with port engine doing 70 revolutions. Propose to continue to Rosyth making good about 10 knots. My position is 058° 32' N., 02° 47' W.

(BERWICK 0200B/14).

Send two destroyers to escort BERWICK to Rosyth. (Position and speed as 0200B/14) with one engine in action only.

(C. in C. H.F. 0434B/14 to R.A.D. H.F.)

TAMWORTH damaged.

VIENNA was in collision with S.S. TAMWORTH in Southend Anchorage p.m./13. Superficial damage to TAMWORTH. VIENNA proceeded up to London. TAMWORTH is waiting Lloyds Surveyor at Southend. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0902B/14).

War Diary.14.7.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.- Contd.DANEMAN.

Defect, earliest sailing time 1700B/15. KING SOL waiting for completion of DANEMAN repairs. (KING SOL, 2040B/14 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Shipping and Convoys.H .X.135.

Has arrived complete with Vice-Adm. L.L.P. Willan. 37 British, 12 Allied, 3 Neutral. Cargoes. (D.S. 678).

S.C. 35.

Has arrived safely under Rear-Adm. E.K. Boddam-Whetham. 24 British, 10 Allied. (Cargoes) (D.S. 678).

O.B. 344.

Ships for West Indies should be detached on reaching longitude 54° W. (D.T.D. 1120B/14 to C. in C. W.A., HESPERUS for Commodore).

Start of
O.N. Convoys.

Admty 1729B/13. This will commence with O.B. 351 which will be renamed. O.N.1. (C. in C. W.A., 1128B/14 to F.O.'s I.C. etc).

Flare Trials
O.B. 348.

Intend to carry out Flare Trials in Convoy O.B. 348 at about 0100/19. between Oversay and Sea of Hebrides. (C. in C. W.A., 1302B/14 to Adty etc). Instructions for use of rockets and flares. (C. in C. W.A., 1940B/14) See Lion Copy.

Kites and
Balloons.
Oerlikons.

Your 1202/28/6 Air Ministry has now agreed to modifying present regulations for kites and balloons on the lines you suggest. No Bofor guns can be spared for coasters. First supplies of Oerlikons for D.E.M.S. are expected this month and priority in provision will be given to large coasters. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1436B/14 to C. in C. Nore).

HEKTORIA.

Due to sail Liverpool about 20/7 with Service personnel for Halifax, should be sailed in an appropriate O.N. Convoy and allocated the safest position in the Convoy. (D.T.D., 1951B/14 to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

1940B/14 July

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches

Date 15/7/41

Recd. 0053

P/L by T/P.

Addressed F.O.I.C.'s Greenock, Liverpool, Milford Haven,
N.O.I.C. Oban, repeated Admiralty, F.O.'s D
Liverpool, D. Londonderry.

IMPORTANT to F.O.I.C.'s only.

30. My 1302B/14. Following instructions are to be explained and given in writing to Masters of all merchant ships joining O B 348. N.O.I.C. Oban is to arrange that ships joining from Oban receive and understand the orders but they will not receive illuminants. The need for secrecy about trials is to be impressed on Masters.

Trial of illuminants.

Two trials with rockets and flares will be carried out by O B 348 between 0100/19 and 0300B/19.

The object is for the merchant ships to illuminate the area inside the convoy after a S/M attack.

2. Between 0001B/19 and 0500B/19 all submarines sighted by merchant ships are to be taken as friendly and no offensive action is to be taken against them.

3. All merchant ships are to burn navigation lights at half brilliancy from 0001/19 until 0300B/19.

4. No, repeat no kites or balloons are to be flown between 0001B/19 and 0300B/19.

5. Merchant ships are not to alter course between 0001B/19 and 0300B/19 except to obey the rule of the road or in case of emergency.

6. If during the trials one of the submarines is sighted a W/T report on 500 k/cs. should be made in the normal way using the words "object in sight".

7. Details of test one.

At about 0100B/19 one British S/m will carry out a dummy repeat dummy attack on the convoy: when the torpedoes would have been fired the S.O. of escort will fire one white illuminating rocket. Each merchant ship is then to burn 5 flares one after the other and at the same time fire a succession of 6 snowflake rockets. Test one will end 15 minutes after the firing of the first rocket.

8. Details of test two.

At about 0200B/19 two British H/S submarines will carry out dummy attacks on the convoy. When one white illuminating rocket is fired by S.C. escort each merchant ship is to fire the remaining snowflake rockets in succession. Test two will end 15 minutes after the first rocket is fired.

9. Instructions for using snow flake rockets.
Load the snow flake rocket into the P A C projector and fire it in the same way as a P A C rocket.
10. Instruction for burning flares Pattern 26 E.
The flares burn with a very bright light and become very hot. They should be secured above or abaft the bridge so as to reduce the blinding effect and precautions must be taken against fire. The flares are lit by connecting an electric battery of 3 to 6 volts to the leads. A torch battery will do. Arrangements should be made so that flares can be lit in quick succession.

1940B/14.

Advance copy sent Ops.,
O.D.

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

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

French S/Ms.

Instructions (received from censorship) to French S/Ms accompanying French Convoys re attacks on British or de Gaulle warships attempting capture. (D.D.I.C., 1916B/14) See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.

Following bearings obtained at 0625/14 G.M.T. call sign 42W. Same unit transmitted same message at 0612/14 G.M.T. Bearings suggest unit in Bay of Biscay. (D.D.I.C. 1057B/14 to F.O.C.N.A.).

LEOPOLD L.D.

If LONDON reports any cargo, passengers or mails in LEOPOLD L.D. request any details available by signal to Admiralty. (D.E.W.D. 1119B/14 to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply: 1348/16.

THUNDERBOLT.

Orders. (F.O.C.N.A., 1208B/14).
Your 1008B/11 and 1208B/14. My P.C. and S at 2000B/14 035° 11' N. 029° 31' W. 109° 8 knots. Port vibration dampers carrier fractured. Engine is running with weights dismantled. A complete new unit will probably be required. (THUNDERBOLT, 2102Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy A/C over Rock.

At 0259A/14 one unidentified A/C approached Rock at 8000 feet and was engaged. Report from Spain indicated A/C dropped three bombs which fell in the sea close to Campamento. (F.O.C.N.A., 1224A/14 to Admty).

French Ships.

Arrived 13/7. PRESIDENT^{DE} LAVIT, COURDANNES, and JEUNE DENISE. VIRGO FIDELIS sank with cargo Iron Ore off Monte Igneldo (San Sebastian) 0030 G.M.T./11. (Bilbao, 1749/14).

CORRIENTES,
CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN
(German).

My 1815/29/5, My 1220/12. Barge containing oil fuel placed alongside German CORRIENTES Saturday night emptied and placed alongside tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN filled and now alongside CORRIENTES. CORRIENTES is in a favourable position for supplying submarines, local rumours she is doing so at night on starboard side, not visible from shore. Submit action be taken to move CORRIENTES into inner harbour. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1810/14 to Admty).

Export of Pyrites.

Your 1730/11 and my 1801/12. Madrid instructed to arrange for departures of ships carrying pyrites with suspected enemy destination from Spanish ports to be reported to F.O.C.N.A., by immediate telegrams.

/Ships.....

MOST SECRET

250A

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

OUT.

1916B/14.July.

Date: 14.7.41.

To: C. in C. Home Fleet, 696.
C. in C. Mediterranean, 734.
C. IN C. East Indies, 118.
C. IN C. South Atlantic, 573.
Repeated C. in C. China, 355.
C. in C. America and West Indies, 251.
F.C.C.N.A. 594.
S.C. Force H. 299.

Naval Cypher (D).

From Admiralty.

Following received from censorship:-

Instructions have been issued to submarines at Diego Suarez which are based on two French Admiralty telegrams dated March 3rd. Main points are:-

1. Submarine to be prepared to submerge 300 to 600 metres from convoy.
2. On sighting ship or aircraft, submarine to submerge and continue course at 4 knots.
3. If ship is British or de Gaulle warship convoy should stop and procrastinate to permit submarine to take station.
4. Offensive action to be taken against any de Gaulle ship and against British ships attempting capture. Submarines to fire on reaching favourable position. Captain of convoy must convey impression that he is defenceless vessel obeying compulsion reluctantly and after exhausting all means of discussion.
5. Submarine to keep out of sight and proceed behind arrested vessel to side away from convoy. Convoy should engage enemy attention by such pretexts as aid approach of boat. I am sending above by Air Mail.
Cheslowry. (Chief Censor Freetown.)

1916B/14.

N.I.D. 4. (102)
for D.D.I.C.

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

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14.7.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Exports of
Pyrites.
Contd.

Ships so reported if intercepted should be detained and cargo reported to M.E.W. (D.E.W.D. 2019B/14 to C.C.S.O. Gib).

French
Convoy.

Admty 1953/23/2 and N.A. Lisbon letter No. 40 of 19/2 to D.N.I. GABON, MONTESQUIEU, *SPAR *AMBROISE escorted by French destroyer L'ADROIT passing eastbound in Territorial waters. In view of 'Substance' S.O. Force H requests no action should be taken. (F.O.C.N.A., 2046B/14 to Admty) Approved. (1st S.L., 0029B/15). * SAINT AMBROISE SEP 270

South Atlantic.

MOOLTAN.

Your 1457B/13. MOOLTAN is to be routed to U.K. via Trinidad. (D.T.D. 0015B/14 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

STRATHAIRD
Service
personnel.

Your 1026B/13. Number of personnel carried in an unescorted ship is subject to overriding consideration that no more than 100 may be from any one service, irrespective of purpose for which they are embarked. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1257B/14 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

A.M. 1741B/11 and B.A.R.M. 2248/12. QUEEN OF BERMUDA will be taken in hand for refit at Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. (D.O.D. (F) 1601B/14 to C. in C. S.A.)

HANNINGTON
COURT.
suspected
sabotage.

HANNINGTON COURT abandoned on fire fore and aft on 14/7 in 33° 35' S, 16° 40' E. Crew picked up by BURDWAN arriving Cape Town 14/7 Admiralty Tug St. DOGMAEL has been sent to stand by HANNINGTON COURT. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1003Z/14 to Admty etc). F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1003Z/14 (N.T. in W.D.) Master of B/S HANNINGTON COURT interviewed on arrival Cape Town at 1130/14 of B/S BURDWAN expressed view that fire in engine room was due to sabotage. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1743B/14 to Admty.)

PAMPANO
Italian.

Pernambuco reports has completed discharging and returned to Mole. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1848Z/14 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

/Oil Supply.....

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Oil Supply.

Your 2035/12 (supplying of Naval Oilers by Anglo American Pet. Coy.) Approved.
(4th S.L. 1900B/14 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro).

Dakar Convoy.

From refugee seamen both from Dakar. SKOTFOSS HADRIAN, GERDA TOFT, RUTENFJELL and 3 French ships left Dakar for North in Convoy 12/7 in evening. Above ships were interned at Dakar since July 1940. (Command, Bathurst, 2201N/14 to C. in C. S.A.) Amended 1047N/16).
** see p 289*

Mediterranean.

Suez Raid,
GEORGIC and
GLENEARN
damaged.

About 22 planes raided Suez and Canal Area except Port Said between 0001C and 0421C/14. Shipping at Suez dive bombed. GEORGIC set on fire by direct hit and beached. Magazine blew up about 1000C, ship feared total loss. GEORGIC collided with GLENEARN causing slight damage and starting fire. Latter grounded, expect to refloat. Main object of attack believed GEORGIC and ANSON, latter undamaged, but several near misses. No naval casualties. Port of Suez closed for possible mines in Newport Rock Channel and canal closed from Suez to Khassab excluding Bitter Lakes. Hoped to resume traffic throughout Canal and in Suez tomorrow.
(N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik, 0513C/14 S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1241C/14 to Admty etc). *See also NRIC/14, next page.*

PARTHIAN
defects.

Admty 1819/11/6. PARTHIAN has developed serious defects. Work of refit is beyond capacity of depot ship staff. Proposed she should proceed U.K. and thence to U.S.A. to refit (Capt. S.L. 1430C/14 to C. in C. Med. etc).

ST. DIDIER.

Ambassador Ankara's No. 75 and your 1931/5. Can you confirm that ST. DIDIER was flying Turkish colours. (a) When first attacked in territorial waters (b) in Adalia Harbour. (Head of M. 1502B/14 to C. in C. Med.)

P.33
Operation.

My 1959B/12. Special operation postponed till Wednesday and/or Thursday with identical arrangements except possibly 2 in boat. Proceed now to intercept convoy returning direct to Malta on completion of special operation.
(Cdr. S.L., 1551B/14 to P.33).

Convoy L.E.
25.

My 1028/12 para 2. (a) Sailing of Convoy LE 25 delayed till p.m./16. N.O.I.C. Haifa pass to N.O.I.C. Beirut designate.
(C. in C. Med., 1610C/14 to Med. Fleet).

/Malta Raids.....

War Diary.

14.7.1941.

Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta Raids.

C.S.R. Malta to 1600 hours 14/7. Night 13/14, 2 raids, bombs mostly in sea few on land no casualties or damage. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1615/14)

Enemy Hospital Ships.

A.M. 2038B/22. Request confirmation that Italian Hospital Ships SAN GIUSEPPE and GRADISCA are no longer recognized vide A.F.O.'s 2452/40 and 2651/40. (C. in C. Med,1700C/14 to Admty).

Movements.

Summary No. 209. (C. in C. Med., 1714/14) See Lion Copy.

U.S.A. Ships. Movements.

Your 1015C/24/6. Control of messages from U.S. relating to movements of their shipping is entirely in hands of American Govt., but representations made in the matter. Steps being taken to control such messages at all British Censorship stations. (Head of M. 1720B/14 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).
Your 1015C/24/6. Control of messages from United States relating to movements of their shipping is entirely in the hands of the American Govt., but representations have already been made in the matter. American firms and press are already co-operating. Steps are being taken to control such messages at all British Censorship stations. (Hd. of M. 1726P/14 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area).

NORBURG German.

Arrived with full cargo of Lignite for Aegean. Delayed owing to engine trouble will probably sail 15/7. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1807/14 to C. in C. -Med).

EOCENE.

Your 1636B/24. C. in C. Med., has now approved sailing of EOCENE, emphasising that ship must be scuttled if in danger of capture. Full use is to be made of Turkish waters, ruses and darkness. (N.A. Angora, 1906/14 to Admty).

Suez Canal.

Situation 1900C/14. Three U.X. mines or bombs remaining Km. 159 to 161 from raid today 14/7. Three others exploded after interval of few hours. Previous mines in my 2900 13/7. M/S results negative.
GLENEARN refloated at high water and berthed alongside. Minor damage to PRESIDENT BUCHANAN also from near miss. GEORGIC burnt out. Two marchant ships arrived Ismailia from Port Said. Programme prepared for resuming traffic subject to minesweeping throughout Canal tomorrow. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1921C/14 to C. in C. Med).

See previous page

/Risk to.....

253A

1714/14th July

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From (? C. in C. Mediterranean)

Date 14/7/41

Recd. 2347

Naval Code (O 2) by W/T.

Addressed Submarines on Patrol Mediterranean Fleet, repeated N.O.I.C. Port Said, N.O.I.C. Famagusta Cyprus, N.O.I.C. Haifa, Group 201, Group 204, N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O.C. North Atlantic, S.O. Force H., S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, S.O. Force I Force I, N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Capt.(S)I, H.Q.R.A.F. Maracaibo.

IMPORTANT. Movement summary number 209.

Part A.

H.M. Ships NAIAD, PHOEBE, GRIFFIN, KIMBERLEY, HAVOCK, and HOTSPUR, leave Haifa 1800 14th, due Alexandria 1000 15th. H.M. Ships AJAX, JACKAL, NIZAM, HASTY, KINGSTON, operate from Haifa. H.M. Ships CARLISLE, HARROW, MOY, LYDIARD, from Haifa, and SALVIA, and Motor Launch No. 1032 from Famagusta proceeding Beirut p.m. 15th. H.M. Ships COVENTRY, KANDAMAR, JAGUAR, leave Alexandria probably p.m. 16th, repetition 16th, for Beirut. ARPHA, and ST. MONANCE leave Alexandria 1800 14th, and HYACINTH and FELLOWSHIP noon 15th, all for Famagusta. ARPHA returning on arrival.

Part B.

H.M.S. HERO, H.M.A.S. VENDETTA, left Alexandria 0700 14th on Mersa Tobruk supply service.

1714/14

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
O.D.S.
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D. 9.
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
H. (2)
Mails
Movts.
E.P.S.
F.O.S. by courier.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Risk to
Troopships,
Suez.

In view of air raid on Suez involving serious damage to GEORGIC do you consider policy of stopping Troop Ships shortly due at Suez envisaged in Admty 1707/14/6 should be put into effect? Request instructions to implement such policy as you consider desirable. (1st S.L. 2012B/14 to C. in C. Med). *Reply: 2127/15. Page 275.*

CAVOUR.

Photographs of Taranto show outer harbour two LITTORIO's and One CAVOUR inner harbour. Three cruisers (believed 6") and a few T.B.'s and CAVOUR previously submerged in outer harbour now in floating dock opposite entrance to main graving dock. (V.A. Malta, 2153B/14 to C. in C. Med).

Comment by N.I.D.

CAVOUR was sunk in outer harbour at Taranto during F.A.A. attack on 11/11/40. In recent reconnaissances of Taranto, CAVOUR has deliberately not been included and it can therefore be assumed that the raising has taken place since 7/7 when last photographic reconnaissance was made. CAVOUR has been lying on her side with the upper deck completely submerged.

Syria
Armistice
BRODWAL
LESBIAN
PEGASUS.

Convention signed at 2000/14. Movement of troops into Beirut commences at 1200/15. G.O.C. in C. enters am/16. I intend entering with advanced naval staff p.m./15. French naval representative confirms BRODWAL and LESBIAN are sunk outside, 100 fathom line outside Beirut. Both had been severely damaged by bombing inside the harbour PEGASUS submerged alongside North Mole. Air Commodore states no fighter protection will be available Beirut for some weeks. (Capt. Morse. 2205/14 to C. in C. Med).

BRODWAL, LESBIAN, and PEGASUS all British, had presumably been seized by Vichy authorities. (D.S., 678).

Situation
Report No.
86.

C.S. 15 left Haifa for Alexandria with NAIAD, PHOEBE and 4 destroyers. C.S. 7 remaining Haifa with AJAX and 4 destroyers. CARLISLE and minesweepers standing by to enter Beirut. (C. in C. Med., 2346C/14).

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

VELEBIT ,
MAREEBA.
overdue.

My 1942/13 first ship was in Ballast second ship carried full cargo of 4,000 tons sugar. (C. in C. E.I., 0630Z/14 to E.I. Stn).

China.

Indo-China.

My 0543/13. Interview with M. Lemoult, representing Decoux. (C. in C. China, 0427Z/14 to Admty); See Lion Copy.

SI-KIANG
(French).

Arrived 12/7. (Sourabaya 0501Z/14 to D. of S.T.) My 2206/28. Application now recieved for bunkers to be supplied to SI Kiang at Sourabaya or Balik Papan. Ship has thus apparently left Madagascar without our knowledge. Inform Netherlands Authorities that British companies have been instructed and American companies requested to refuse bunkers for the present. Ask Dutch to co-operate by delaying ship pending conclusion of satisfactory arrangements concerning repatriation of Indo-Chinese troops ex LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERT BIE. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1031B/14 to C. in C. China).

ODENWALD
(German).

Yokohama departure 11/7. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0507Z/14). 7 German ships at Yokohama. List. (D.S. 678) See Lion Copy.

D'ARTAGNAN,
LE CONTE
DE LISLE.
(French).

Arrived 12/7. (Manilla, 0640Z/14).

GOVERNEUR
GENERAL
PASQUIER.

Departure 14/7 for Singapore. (Saigon, 0909Z/14 to D. of S.T.)

Indo-China.

Policy re oil and cotton. (Head of M., 1247B/14 to C. in C. China) See Lion Copy.

255A

Indo-China.

0427Z/14 July.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From: C. in C. China

Date: 15.7.41.

Recd. 0745

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (12) by Cable

Addressed: Admiralty, repeated Consul General Saigon,
Governor Straits Settlement, Governor Hong
Kong, H.M. Ambassador Washington.

878. My 0543 July 13th. Today I saw M. Lemoult who has been in Singapore last few days and appears to have been asked by Decoux to find out the significance of our suggestion of a further visit by Jouan. His information was largely on lines of that previously given by Pingaud who was also present at this interview. Decoux renews through Lemoult the usual assurances of desire to co-operate, but specially stresses that need for some encouragement in his policy of limiting Japanese encroachment is now urgent particularly some supply of oil and flour in order to prevent development of Anti British feeling among population of Indo China. I did not form the opinion that any immediate Japanese step was expected but French feel their position is being steadily weakened by shortage of oil and from being forced gradually into hands of Japanese. I suggested that in absence of any satisfactory reply from Vichy to Decoux's proposal that rubber negotiations with U.S.A. should be transferred to Saigon he should take matter into his own hands. Lemoult agreed that this was possible solution and promised to suggest it to Decoux. Decoux is prepared to offer at least part of balance of 18,000 tons of rubber allocated to France to us or U.S.A. but this rubber will not be available till Autumn. Lemoult thinks quantity shipped to Japan so far this year does not exceed 20,000 tons. Lemoult leaves for Saigon tomorrow Tuesday and will see Decoux at once.

0427Z/14.

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

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)
Sec.
Nav. Sec.
N.A. to 1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
D.N.I.(4)
O.D.(5)
Ops.(4)
M.(2)

D. of P.(3)
O.I.C.(2)
I.P.(3)
W.D.
D.T.D.(2)
D.E.W.D.(3)

II.

MERCHANT SHIPPING.

Enemy Attacks on Trade.

(a) The British SCORTON, 4813 tons, the Commodore's ship of convoy F.N.92, bound from London to the Tyne, was attacked by aircraft at 0320/13 14 miles N. by W. of Cromer and hit by two bombs. She has, however, arrived at Immingham in tow.

(b) The British BARON NAPIER, 3659 tons, which was reported to have been torpedoed and sunk in an attack by submarines on convoy S.L.78 on 26 June, is now known to have arrived at Barrow-in-Furness yesterday.

The fire in the Dutch ALPHARD, 5463 tons, has now been extinguished, and the Greek PAIRIA, 1977 tons, is reported to be submerged. These two ships were attacked at Port Said by dive-bombing aircraft on 12th July. (See D.S.N.E.No. 677 para.XI).

IX. British Shipping.

It is reported that the British tanker PECASUS, 3597 tons, has been sunk alongside the North Mole at Beirut and that the British ships LESBIAN, 2570 tons, and BRODWAL, 3385 tons, were damaged by bombing and later sunk in deep water to avoid blocking the port. These three ships had presumably been seized by the Vichiens.

X. Convoys.

Convoy H.X.135, with Vice-Admiral L.L.P.Willan has arrived complete. It consisted of 37 British, 12 Allied and three neutral ships. There were 18 tankers, eleven general cargoes, ten cargoes of grain, three of nitrates, two each of lumber, sulphur and sugar and one each of steel and scrap, steel and general, sugar and general, and linseed.

Convoy S.C.55 has arrived safely under Rear-Admiral E.K. Boddam-Whetham. It consisted of 24 British and ten Allied ships. There was one tanker and among the cargoes were eleven of grain, three of general, three of sugar, two each of sugar and rum, wood pulp, steel, lumber and iron ore and one each of woodpulp and steel, scrap and steel, lumber and steel, nitrates, sulphur and phosphates.

XI.

ENEMY SHIPPING.

Mediterranean.

The German SULLBERG 1663 tons arrived Valencia 10 July and German FIRDIETZ 2970 tons left Cartagena 12 July for Marseilles.

Japan.

N.A. Tokyo reports there are now seven German ships at Yokohama

(a) Large vessel about 12,000 tons closely resembling new GLEN type. Note. GLENGARRY, 7100 tons was being built by Burmeister & Wain, Copenhagen, and was seized by Germans.

(b) 6,000 ton vessel as reported in D.S.N.E. of 3 July, para XI, and may possibly be OSCRNO, 6300 tons, which left Talcahuano on 2 April.

(c) SPREEWALD 5083 tons.

(d) & (e) Two small tankers, funnel aft, about 3,000 tons. Note these may be the BOGOTA and QUITO, both of 1200 tons, which have their funnel aft but are not tankers. These two ships left Coquimbo on 17 May and have not since been reported.

(f) ODENWALD 5098 tons.

(g) HAVELLAND 6334 tons.

Daily Summary, 14.7.1941.
678.

SECRET

At the discretion of Commanding Officers concerned, Officers may be made acquainted with the contents of this document, but great care is to be exercised that it is not left lying about.

DAILY SUMMARY OF NAVAL EVENTS NO. 678

Issued by N.I.D. Naval Staff

1500 Monday
14 July, 1941.

PART I

HOME WATERS.

I. Main Units.

Photographic reconnaissance of Brest at 0800/13th July showed that the outer boom protecting SCHARNHORST except that covering the stern had been removed, but what appears to be a lighter form of net was still in place. GNEISENAU and PRINZ EUGEN were still in dock.

Correction.

For "The Cruiser HAMBURG" in D.S.N.E. No. 677 Part I para: I read "The Cruiser NURNBERG".

II. Enemy Submarine Activity

The General situation of U/Bs at 1100/14 was quiet in all areas but there were two or three U/Bs S.E. or S. of Iceland (C) whose movements could not be reliably estimated.

III. British Operations (Air).

Bomber Command. In the raids on Germany during the night of 12/13 July 22 Hampdens and 16 Wellingtons dropped 58 tons of bombs and 2500 incendiaries on the railway goods station at Bremen. One large bomb was dropped between this and the Deutsche Schiff building yard: Seven Hampdens attacked the main station at Wilhelmshaven and a second large bomb was dropped on Wildeshansen.

On 13 July Spitfires took photographs over Merseburg, Halle and Divion.

Fighter Command. At 1040/13 a Spitfire attacked and hit R-boats off Berck-sur-Mer. At 2055 a Spitfire attacked a small motorboat coming out of Boulogne. The boat was last seen down by the stern.

Coastal Command. On 13 July photographs were taken over the Ruhr and twice over Brest.

Shipping Protection. On 13 July Coastal Command made 16 sorties in escorting four convoys, and during the 24-hours ending 1800/13 Fighter Command made 222 sorties in flying 105 patrols for the protection of shipping.

IV. Enemy Air Losses.

Up to 0600/14 it had been reported that one Ju. 88 and one He. 111 had been destroyed during the night of 13/14 July.

V.

FOREIGN STATIONS

British Air Activity

Libya. On the night of 11/12 July Wellingtons again attacked Benghazi harbour where they caused fires and explosions at the bases of the Central and Cathedral Moles. Other Wellingtons attacked Derna where particularly extensive fires and violent explosions were caused.

On the 15th July Blenheims attacked a convoy off Tripoli where one tanker of about 7,000 tons was set on fire and is claimed as completely destroyed. One three-masted schooner blew up and the third merchant ship of about 300 tons was left well on fire.

Eastern Mediterranean. It is now reported that on 10th July a Beaufighter on reconnaissance from Cyprus sank an unidentified sailing barge by cannon fire.

VI. Enemy Air Activity.

On night 11/12 July enemy aircraft made three attempts to bomb shipping off Sidi Barrani, but were successfully driven off by fighters.

VII. Enemy Air Casualties.

On 12 July one Ju. 88 on reconnaissance over Egypt, was shot down by fighters.

Singapore and then proceeded to Rangoon to load a cargo for India, or failing that, loaded direct for India. We should also be prepared to ask Australian Government to permit French ship to proceed to Australia to load foodstuffs on condition that she lifted a suitable cargo of Indi-Chinese products on her outward journey (see in this connexion your 0929/11 May and Admiralty Message 1932/23 May paragraph 6).

We are not prepared to facilitate shipment of Opium pending a satisfactory solution of the rubber question.

1247B/14
for Head of M. (86)

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

- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- Admiral Chalmers
- Admiral Bellairs (2)
- M. 34 (35)
- China Distribution
(P.A. Clutterbuck Esq.)
and for Dominions Office.

Y.J.

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.X. 138.
H.X. 139.

My 1321Z/10. Escorts. (C.C.N.F. 0041B/14 to C. in C. W.A.) W.D. Note. T.O.O. subsequently corrected to 1846/10.

FORT DE FRANCE.
(French).

My 1301Q/13 FORT DE FRANCE arrived Para 12/7. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0052Q/14 to PRINCE DAVID). My 0052Q/14 and my 1301Q/13. Every endeavour is to be made to intercept FORT-DE-FRANCE on return voyage from Para. You are at liberty to proceed beyond limit of station if desired but previous experience indicates that effective patrol off Para is difficult to maintain. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1012Q/14 to PRINCE DAVID).

Newfoundland Escort Force.

Organisation in accordance with Admty 1612B/12. (Capt. (D) N.F.0157Z/14). See Lion Copy. See Tiger Copy.
Capt. (D) N.F.'s 0157Z/14. In order to obtain maximum value from N.E.F.F. destroyers marked for T.C. convoys, which comprise 1/5 of my entire destroyer force, most desirable that earliest possible notice be given of predicted sailing date of these convoys.
(C.C.N.F., 1819Z/14 to Admty).
Capt. (D) N.F.'s 0157Z/14. H.X. 138 and S.C.37 are escorted by groups 16 and 17. Request group 17 may be returned with next O.B. convoy, SPIKENARD now escorting H.X. 137 being retained to join group 16 for return passage.
(C.C.N.F., 1821Z/14 to A.C.I.C. Iceland amended 1345Z/15).

ST. LAURENT H.X. 138.

My 1852Z/13 and my 1846Z/10 ST. LAURENT has been substituted for NIAGARA defective as escort for H.X. 138. (C.C.N.F., 0309Z/14 to Admty. etc).

WOLFE.

Intend to sail WOLFE for Bermuda about 17/7 after arrival NORTHUMBERLAND with personnel etc. (R.A. 3 0926P/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DOMINION MONARCH.

Your 1255M/14. Escort from Panama to Halifax is not considered necessary. Ship will be routed to take advantage of cover of U.S. coast. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1022Q/14 to N.Z.N.B.)

See also p. 257

MALAYA.

Your 1436P/11. This will be arranged. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1122Q/14 to R.A.3 B.S.)

/Leave Bermuda....

MOST SECRET

a 56A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0157Z/14th July

IN

From Capt. (D) N.F.

Date 15.7.41.

Recd. 1209.

NAVAL CYPHER A.1. BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty C. in C. Western Approaches N.S.H.Q. Ottawa F.O.C.
N.F. C.O.A.C. Halifax C. in C. America and West Indies N.O.I/C
Iceland (C) Capt. (D) Liverpool Capt. (D) Greenock Capt. (D)
Londonderry.

Organization of Newfoundland Escort Force in accordance Admiralty
1612B/12 is as follows:

Group 14 (fast) H.M.S. HIGHLANDER H.M.S. HAVELOCK H.M.S. HESPERUS
H.M.S. HARVESTER H.M.S. RIPLEY H.M.C.N. SAINT FRANCIS
15 H.M.S. READING H.M.C.S. SAGUENAY H.M.S. DLANTHUS H.M.S. HONEYSUCKLE
SNOWBERRY
16 H.M.S. BROADWATER H.M.C.N. NIAGARA RIMOUSKI SPIKENARD
17 H.M.S. RICHMOND H.M.S. BURNHAM H.M.S. POLYANTHUS COBALT
18 H.M.S. CHURCHILL H.M.S. CHESTERFIELD H.M.S. CAMELLIA H.M.S. ARROWHEAD
19 H.M.S. BURNHAM H.M.S. MAYFLOWER AGASSIZ VETASKIWIN
20 H.M.C.S. OTTAWA H.M.S. GLADIOLUS H.M.S. MIMOSA H.M.S. NASTURTIUM
21 H.M.C.S. RESTIGOUCHE H.M.S. COLLINGWOOD ALBERTI ORILLIA
22 H.M.S. RAMSEY H.M.S. CANDYTUFT BITTERSWEET FENNEL
23 H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE H.M.S. PRIMROSE H.M.S. HEPATICA TRILLIUM
24 H.M.C.S. SKEEN H.M.S. CELANDINE WINDFLOWER CHAMBERLY
25 H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT EYEBRIGHT

The smaller group(s) will be augmented as convenient by the 10
Town Class and three Corvettes which have been allocated to N.E.F. but
which have not yet joined.

0157Z/14

Advanced copy sent O.D. O.I.C.

1st Lord	
1st S.L.	D.N.I. (4)
4th S.L.	D.S.D.
V.C.N.S.	D. of L.D.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.S. (F)	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	W.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	Duty Capt.
D. of P. (2)	Head of M.
D.O.D. (H)	D.T.S.D.
D.D.O.D. (H)	D.D.I.C.
D.O.D. (F)	E.P.S.
D.D.O.D. (F)	

War Diary.

14.7.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MALAYA
Contd.

Leave Bermuda 1230Z + 4 on 16/7 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax so as to arrive 1100Z + 4 on 18/7. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1132Q/14 to MALAYA).

LEITH
H.X. 138.

In view of Admty 1612B/12 LEITH with H.X. 138 has been instructed (?to ask for) other orders to proceed to U.K. with convoy. (C.C.N.F. 1329Z/14 to Admty etc).

RIO NOVO.

My 1458R/12. Ottawa reports ship arrived New York 2/7. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1513R/14 to Admty etc).

Convoys
Newfoundland.

Cancel my 1713/25. To check progress of Westbound convoys in vicinity of Newfoundland, following procedure is to be adopted. (C. in C. W.A., 1718B/14 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc).

Convoy
Escorts.

Your 1612B/12 para 4 A. Considered undesirable to withdraw all local A/S escort from Halifax. Intended to release all Corvettes from Halifax, local Force, replacing them with 2 R.C.N., Short Leg Towns from Newfoundland Escort Force. Latter type have insufficient endurance for efficient escort from Newfoundland to Iceland. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1937Z/14 to Admty).

CIRCASSIA.

Your 1550B/13. Concur in retention of CIRCASSIA. (F.O. 3 B.S., 2043P/14 to Admty).

AURANIA.
S.C. 37.

Rammed Iceberg in thick fog, 51° 47' N., 55° 52' W. Bow damaged on returning Halifax when weather clears. Convoy S.C. 37 now stopped in above position in thick fog in vicinity of Icebergs. (AURANIA, 2207Z/14 to R.A. 3).
AURANIA 2207Z/14. In view of ice damage to AURANIA necessitating return, request you arrange for S.O. of A/S escort to take over duties of ocean escort to H.X. 138 and S.C. (?37) as I cannot get relief for AURANIA there in time to be of value. (R.A. 3 B.S. 2348P/14 to C.C.N.F.)

Australia.

U.S.11B.

Proposals for. (A.C.N.B., 0831Z/14 to D. of S.T.)
See Operations Volume.

DOMINION
MONARCH.

Your 1615B/13. Concur as many personnel as possible take passage in DOMINION MONARCH. Total number requiring passage. (N.Z.N.B., 1255M/14 to D. of S.T.) See America and West Indies. 1022/14. p. 256

War Diary.14.7.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.H.X.133

Master of SCOTTISH TRADER, which was in H.X.133, has reported Cape Race Radio broadcast in P.L. a message stating that a convoy was being attacked by submarines and gave latitude, longitude, date and time. Requested you will investigate. Not understood how Cape Race Radio knew that it was a convoy being attacked or why standard working was not used for re-broadcasting.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1655B/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) *Reply: 22/2/24*

RIVER LUGAR
(torpedoed
26/6).

N.C.S.O. Freetown's 2020N/12 and N.C.S.I. 69.
(A) RIVER LUGAR (B) 26/6 2250Z plus 1 23.40 N., 21.10 W. approx. (C) (D) (E) (F) Disposal unknown. Ship sank in one minute (G) Able Seaman. 41 drowned including one passenger and one stowaway. Six survivors.
(C. in C. S.A., 2130N/14 to Admty.)

RUPERT DE
LARINAGA

Torpedoed. 36 R 18 N 21 R 11 West.
(Lands End Radio, 2153/14.)
British, 5358 tons, from Tyne to Las Palmas with coal. Position about 190 miles S.E. of Azores. (D.S. 679). Ex O.G.67 (D.O.R.15/7.)

Submarines Reported.

2200/13

For information. Received at 1131 G.M.T. from LOCHBOISDALE:- We have a submarine report handed in by ship without wireless, please report it, submarine report S.S. NOUPHEAD of Kirkwall from Mallaig to Petersport sighted submarine $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant periscope depth 8 miles E. by S. from Ushnish Light at 2200/13 S/M last seen proceeding southerly direction which would cross course of large 2 funnel vessel approaching from S.W. direction.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1338/14 to Navycharge, Greenock.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1433B/14.)
(F.O.S., 1631B/14.)

Submarines Attacked.

BY LEICESTER
CITY 13/7.

Lost at 2041B after third attack. Have swept area unsuccessfully. When joined by LORD LLOYD propose dual sweep to patrol limits.
(LEICESTER CITY 0025B/14 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
Sweep completed contact not regained. LORD LLOYD returning to accompany.
(LEICESTER CITY, 0800B/14.)

259

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Casualties
in fog.

There were some marine casualties in fog today, including S.S. IRIS sunk in collision with BLUE RANGER in Convoy W.N.53 off the Clyde and Special Service Vessel PRINCE PHILIPPE sunk in collision with S.S. EMPIRE WAVE in 55° 5' N. 5° 24' W.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command last night carried out attacks which are reported to have been successful, on Bremen and Rotterdam Docks.

Bad weather very considerably curtailed flying today and no routine patrols were flown.

Enemy Air Operations.

West.

S.S. PORTHMEOR was attacked and her steering gear was damaged at 0315 today, 40 miles N.E. of the Bishops.

YORK CITY reports that coaster FAIRFIELD, sailing independently was sunk at 0215/15 by F.W. A/C 7 miles S.W. of South Stack Light.

260

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

15 aircraft laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands and River Elbe. Mines were also laid off Lorient and St. Nazaire.

Sweepers reported cutting a new type of mine off Portland Bill at 1210. Convoy W.P.4 was diverted to the Southward and a danger area was declared.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary.

Enemy minelaying aircraft, estimated to number 25 operated last night between Spurn Head and Middlesborough.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

There were 3 air raids on Malta last night, but no casualties were caused and there was no Naval damage.

Air attack
on Messina.

Eight Wellingtons bombed the docks at Messina last night with success.

S/M
Operations.

Capt.(S)1 reports that TORBAY who has been operating in the Aegean sank 5 out of 6 sailing vessels carrying troops which were encountered in 3 days between Nauplia and Crete.

At 1400 today in the Kerkenah area P.33 secured two hits with torpedoes, probably on the largest ship of a northbound escorted convoy of 5 half laden merchantmen. P.33 was heavily depth charged and was slightly damaged by a mishap in diving.

/Libya.....

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

VENDETTA was slightly damaged in Tobruk harbour
(? by air attack.)

A convoy from Tripoli was attacked by 3
Blenheims today; one 8000 ton ship is claimed
as destroyed and another damaged.

Suez
Canal

No further mines have been detonated in the
Canal and navigation is proceeding throughout
the Canal and at the terminal points subject to
minesweeping.

Turkish
ports.

British ships of more than 5000 tons are not
to proceed to Turkish ports in present circum-
stances.

East Indies.

Iran.

C. in C. India considers that the continued
shipment of warlike stores to Iran constitutes
an increasing potential danger in an area where
the situation is already totally unsatisfactory
and he asks the War Office to press for
formulation of a definite policy as a matter
of urgency.

China.

British and Allied merchant ships over 4000
tons are not to be allowed north of Hong Kong
for the present.

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

O.B.V. LADY SOMERS was torpedoed at 0410 in
37° 12' N. 20° 32' W. and sank later.

*Corrected to
37° 27' N, 21° 04' W*

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CLEVELAND
ISAAC SWEERS

Your 1609B/1/6 and 1851B/7/6. In order to avoid constant changes, prefer if CLEVELAND could remain under my orders and the new HUNT which will take the place of ISAAC SWEERS be allocated to C. in C. Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1319/15 to Adty.)

Destroyers

Employment (A.C.N.S. (H) 1658B/15) see Operations Volume,

RENOWN
REPULSE

Re torpedoes (1st S.L. 2232B/15). See Operations Volume.

Co-operation with Russia.

Proposed
Operations

Head of Naval Mission, Moscow 1726C/15.
See Lion Copy. (p. 263A)

Defence of U.K.

Rosyth.

My 1830/28/5 and your 1355/29/5. Request the 8 3.7 inch mobile guns moved from Clyde for special protection PRINCE OF WALES may be retained at Rosyth observing capital ships as well as Cruisers will be constantly in dockyard at least for several months to come.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1637/15 to Adty.)

Clyde.

Extension of smoke protection if still under consideration is strongly recommended.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1856/15.)

Movements.

JUPITER

Cancel A.M. 1947B/14.
(D.O.D. (H) 0756B/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

BACHAQUERO
MISOA.

Special tank carrying vessels, will be ready to sail for Inverary on 19/7 and 21/7 respectively consider these ships should have special escort.
(N.O.I.C. Tyne, 1706/15 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

ADVENTURE

Is to be sailed for Milford Haven forthwith.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1946B/15 to R.A.(M)).

MOST SECRET

213A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1726/C/15 July
IN

From Head of Naval Mission Moscow.

DATE: 15.7.41
RECD: 2255

Interdepartmental Cypher by W/T I.T.T. & T/P

Addressed Admiralty

Number Naval 071. With improvement of relations here intend raise at an early date subject of movements of S/Ms and light craft from Baltic to Northern Waters via Stalin Canal.

2. By emphasizing necessity for combining war effort of maintaining S/Ms and destroyers in operation during the winter months consider Russians might agree to certain number of vessels proceeding U.K. for operations in other (? latitude) during this period observing all Baltic operations cease end of November.

3. Opportunity might be taken of fitting destroyers with Asdic and training personnel.

4. Before approaching Russian Naval Authorities request early views on this subject and following information.

- (a) Whether S/Ms and/or destroyers can be accepted U.K.
- (b) Proposed area of operations and employment
 - (1) S/Ms
 - (2) Destroyers.
- (c) Total numbers acceptable
 - (1) S/Ms
 - (2) Destroyers.

5. All movements North through canal must be completed by end of October.

6. Transferring of S/Ms will entail preparation of transport and collection of stores and spare gear which should commence early date. An exploring possibility of transport by rail for stores to Eastern Mediterranean Message ends.

1726C/15

1st Lord

1st S.L.

3rd S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

SEC.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D of P (2) for action

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.N.I. (4)

D.S.D.

D of L.D.

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (2)

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

W.D.

D.C.

Hd of M

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

N.I.D. 10 Payr. Cdr. Wilson

Admiral Bellairs.

EM

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET

1837/15 July

IN

From No. 30 Military Mission
Moscow.

Date. 16/7/41
Reed 2230.

CYIPHER.

Addressed. The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

27320.

Military 070 cipher 15/7.

Most Secret to Chiefs of Staff from Macfarlane.

Admiral Vian and party arrived 0800 hours today. Vian Pearce Miles Collier and I just finished conference with C.N.S. Admiral Kuznetsov Golikov was present. Admiral Kuznetsov agreed party should be given every facility to see anything they (want)ed in Murmansk-Archangel area. Also to (word omitted) one of my wireless sets go with the party: signals for Admiral Vian should be sent to Embassy Moscow for onward transmission.

Sottled very little here but Admiral Kuznetsov is giving instructions to Archangel and Murmansk Commanders to provide (all) information required by Vian and Pearce on the spot.

Hope to get party off to Archangel by air tonight. They will be flown on to Murmansk by Russians. Miles and Wyburd and Oird accompany party. The latter hopes to be able to start for home (in about) three days. Golikov is therefore giving me firm answer tonight as to whether he and Dragunak (go) back in Catalinas but I think he will probably do so.

1837/15,

1st Lord.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt, D.O.D.(H)
and D.D.I.C.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

Reed from War Office at 1000/16.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.I. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.O.D.(H)

D.N.I.(4)

D of P.(2)

Duty Capt.

E.P.S.

Hd of M.(8)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

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

D.S.D.

H.W.R.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.I. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.O.D.(H)

D.N.I.(4)

D of P.(2)

Duty Capt.

E.P.S.

Hd of M.(8)

MOST SECRET

263c

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

2310/15th July.

FROM: No. 30 Military Mission Moscow.

Date: 15.7.41.

Recd: 2355.

CYLLER.

ADDRESSED: The War Office

MOST IMMEDIATE.

27321. Military 072 Cipher 15/7.

Most Secret to Chiefs of Staff from Macfarlane.

Para 1. Vian and party left here for Murmansk via Archangel by air at 1800 hours.

Para 2. Please see telegram being sent by Ambassador to Foreign Office reporting suggestion made by Molotov half for operations at Spitzbergen, Medveshi Island and Northern coast Norway. Political issues involved are obvious and I have had no approach yet from Russian staff on subject. I understand idea is Molotov's although Golikov and Kuznetov were present at meeting. I propose giving no (Repeat no) opinion whatever unless briefed by you. If you wish Admirals Vian and Miles to consider any above suggestion while located Murmansk area will you instruct me most urgently.

2310/15.

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

Duty Capt.

E.P.S.

Hd. of M. (8)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

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

Recd by Hand from War Office at 1000/16.

264

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

→ SOKOL

If you can get within 5 miles of Ile de Yeu by 0400B/15 do so.

(F.O.(S) 0034B/15 to SOKOL).

My 0034B/15. If large Northbound Supply Ship probably escorted has not been encountered by day-light/15 proceed in accordance with my 2143B/14.

S.B.R. arranged in Area 55 south of 047° N. and east of 004° W. until 0800/16.

(F.O.S. 0052B/15 to SOKOL.)

SOKOL has been ordered to return to vicinity Ile de Yeu until daylight/15 and subsequently to proceed in accordance with my 2143B/14.

(F.O.S. 0054B/15 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/Ms.

British Submarines will be carrying out trials in an area between 56° 30' N. 55° 36' N. and 08° 09' W. and 06° 39' W. from 1600B/18 until 1600B/19. During this period any submarine in this area escorted or unescorted with or without navigation lights is to be considered friendly.

N.C.S.Os. are to warn any merchant ships or convoys likely to sail through this area during this period.

(C. in C. W.A. 1536B/15.)

Extending of sink at sight zone.

My 2202B/14. The extension of zone is not being made public. A portion of the Spanish Fleet is normally based at Ferrol. Possible that they may innocently enter zone though most improbable. If Spanish warships are encountered in the sink at sight zone they are not to be attacked.

(F.O.S. 1622B/15 to S/Ms. Area A.)

→ SOKOL, TUNA, TRIDENT.

Informing them of estimated U-Boat dispositions.

(F.O.S. 1648B/15.)

M.M.S.36

Is to operate from Harwich until further orders. Anticipate she will sail for Granton on 24/7.

(D.M.S. 1958B/15 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command Operations.

Six Blenheims, escorted by fighters, set out to attack shipping in Cherbourg Docks. Saw one burst on 6000 ton ship etc.

A force of 6 Blenheims, escorted by A/C of Fighter Command, set out to attack shipping in Le Havre Docks.

(on 14/7)

War Diary.

15.7.1941.265
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Bomber
Command
Operations.
Contd.

One A/C bombed a 2,000 ton M/V in the docks scoring direct hits.
A further 11 Blenheims were to attack a convoy off IJmuiden and 4 of them attacked a 6,000 ton M/V, scoring direct hits on rear hatch foredeck and stern. 2 others attacked a 3,000 ton M/V scored at the stern. One further Blenheim scored a direct hit amidships on a 1,500 ton escort vessel. Another attacked a 1,500 ton escort vessel. Another attacked a 1,500 ton M/V with near misses. 3 other Blenheims attacked 3 out of 6 trawlers with W/T aeriels. 20 M.W. of Zandvoort with near misses.
(H.Q.B.C., T.H.I. 0215/15.)
Night 14/15 July. Main objectives of 190 aircraft were Bremen, Hanover and Rotterdam Docks. Details of operations. (H.Q.B.C., T.H.I. 1720/15.) See Lion Copy.

T.B.R.

Request T.S/M.B.R. in area between 56° 30' N. and 55° 36' N. and 08° 09' W. and 06° 39' W. from 1600B/18 until 1600B/19.
(C. in C. W.A. 1520B/15 to H.Q.F.C, H.Q.C.C.)

Aircobra
aircraft.

Are coming into service forthwith flying principally from aerodromes in the South and West. Description.
(Air Min., 1615/15.)

Enemy Air Operations.

WAR PINDARI
(damaged
14/7.)

My 1715/14. Temporary repairs effected. Ship can now discharge cargo with one pump only and can steam half speed unless hidden damage in other steam pipes becomes apparent.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 0945/15 to A.C.O.S.)

S.S. FAIRFIELD

Sunk at about 0215/15 by enemy A/C five miles 250° from S. Stack. One survivor slightly injured picked up by YORK CITY.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1037/15.)
Sunk 230° South Stack Light 7 mile.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1307/15.)

CAROLINA
THORDEN

My 1715/14. At 1145/14 aircraft attacked wreck of CAROLINA THORDEN at Kvalvig with 4 bombs all fell on land and failed to explode no damage or casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1142B/15.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

T.H.I. 1720/15.

T.H.I. 1720/15th July

From Headquarters Bomber Command.

IN

Date 15.7.41.

Recd 2255.

268A

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Air Ministry War Room, Air Ministry War Room "Z", All Bomber Command Groups and Stations, R.A.F. Headquarters Northern Ireland, Coastal Command repeated Admiralty.

NOTWT. Bomber Command Intelligence Narrative of Operations No.138.

Covering period 0001 hours to 1200 hours 15 July.

Narrative of Operations.

Night 14/15 July. Bremen, Hanover and Rotterdam Docks were the main objectives for a force of 190 aircraft. Weather over the targets was clear and good visibility except for ground haze, and successful attacks took place. Full report of 1 Stirling of 3 Group and 4 aircraft of 4 Group and 1 Hampden of 5 Group not yet to hand.

Bremen.

Out of 98 aircraft detailed, 61 attacked comprising 23 Wellingtons of 1 Group, 22 Wellingtons of 3 Group and 16 Whitleys of 4 Group. Although weather was bad up to the neighbourhood of Bremen over the target it was clear except for haze which hampered exact pinpointing. A good load of bombs were dropped and at 0215 hours the whole town was reported ablaze with several large fires and many smaller ones. These increased until they could be seen as far as twenty miles West of Wilhelmshaven, also for forty miles distant from the target.

Hanover.

Main Railway Stations. Out of 65 aircraft detailed for this aiming point 51 aircraft attacked this area consisting of 4 Stirlings and 1 Wellington of 3 Group, 13 Halifax of 4 Group, and 33 Hampdens of 5 Group. A good bomb load was dropped amongst which were 5 X 4,000 lb three of these big ones caused terrific bursts followed by large fires. Many other fires were reported and the target area was left ablaze.

Continental Gasm Werke (Chemical Factory) Out of 19 Wellingtons of 4 Group detailed 11 aircraft attacked, one stick falling directly on the target followed immediately by vast green explosion and reddish fires. Other bombs fell in immediate vicinity of the aiming point.

Rotterdam Docks.

Out of 9 aircraft detailed 3 Wellingtons of 1 Group, 2 Wellingtons of 3 Group and 2 Wellingtons of 4 Group attacked. Bursts were seen on the West edge of Wallhaven and South of Maarhaven.

Alternative targets attacked:-

1 Group

Believed Delmonhorst, an aerodrome South East Bremen area and the Railway Station at Osnabruck were each bombed by one aircraft.

3 Group

Town in Bremen area (unidentified) by 2 aircraft.

Unidentified Town on Ems River by one aircraft, (believed) Emden by one aircraft, Verden by one aircraft, Ardorf Aerodrome by one aircraft Goods Yard Junction at Ihrhove (ZKSG 1028) by one aircraft, Oldenburg area by one aircraft, Papenburg by one aircraft (large fire started) Leer (believed) by one aircraft. In addition two small merchant vessels of the Frisian Isles were attacked by one aircraft, but bombs seen to miss and a ship ten miles West of Amsterdam heading South was bombed by one aircraft results being unobserved. A Wellington unable to reach its primary Bremen dropped its 4,000 lb bomb on Osnabruck causing explosions and blue flashes.

4 Group

4 Group

North West outskirts of Hanover by one Wellington, Borkum Aerodrome by one Wellington and Loningen by one Whitley.

5 Group

Wilhelmshaven by 2 aircraft, Borkum Aerodrome by one aircraft, Lingen Town by one aircraft, Bad Oeynhausen by one aircraft and Emden by one aircraft with no results observed in all instances.

Mining

10 Hampdens laid mines successfully.

For details see Summary of Operations No.138.

Advance copy sent Ops.,O.D.

1st Lord.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

N...1st S.L.

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

O.L.C. (2)

D.N.I. (4)

D.P.D.

D.N.A.D.

D.M.S.

D.M.S. Basement.

D. of P. (2)

D.S.D. (2)

O.C.S.C.

W.D.

111

SECRET

MESSAGE

1654N/15.July.

IN

272A

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 16.7.41.

Recd. 0604.

NAVAL CODE (J) by W/T - T/P.

Addressed S.A.S. Squadron, Repeated C. in C. East Indies, Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

356. Information obtained that Vichy French submarines in Madagascar area escorting merchant ships have orders to submerge on sighting any aircraft or surface ship and then, if merchant ship is intercepted by British or Free French ship to attack intercepting ship with torpedoes. The submarine will generally be astern of ship being intercepted. It is possible similar instructions may be given to French submarines operating from Vichy French territory in West Africa area though no indication of this as yet. This should be borne in mind and suitable tactics employed as required when boarding such as (1) approach from ahead or before beam, (2) Boarding boat dropped ahead and intercepting ship, not stopping too soon, (3) Intercepting ship to remain stopped as short time as possible (4) If weather suitable and presence of submarine suspected boat may be towed by intercepting ship to some distance before being picked up. (5) Overtaken ship being told to steer a diverted course before being boarded. It will be suspicious if ship stops or reduces speed much as this may indicate wish to remain in the vicinity from first sighting.

1654N/15.

Advance copy P.O., N.A. 1st S.L., Ops., O.D., O.I.C., A.C.N.S.(F).

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).
Ops.(4).
O.D.(5).
O.I.C.(2).
H.(30).
D.N.I.(4).
D. of P.(3).
E.P.S.
Ad. Chalmers.
D.A/S.W.
D.H.W.D.(3).
D.T.D.(4).
D.T.D.(1).
D.T.D.(C).
I.P.(5).
W.D.

War Diary.15.7.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Operations. - Contd.BRAES O'MAR

Trawler BRAES O'MAR reports when 15 miles W. of Blaskets at 0500/8 being attacked by plane. No casualties no damage.

JACKSORA

Trawler JACKSORA reports when 5 miles W. by S. of St. Govans Lightship at midnight July 5/6th being attacked by a Heinkel 115 plane made a silent approach and dropped two bombs no casualties no damage.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1129/15.)

M.M/S 34 and
escort H.M.T.
RIVER ESK.

Attacked 1540/14. 57° 48' N. - 1° 56' W. 2 bombs. No help message. Both vessels opened fire with 0.5 M/G and 12 pounder before attack. This is same A/C referred to in my 1731/14.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1152/15.)

Convoy
B.B.47

Convoy B.B.47. reports being attacked in 51° 27' 40' 41' at 1615/14. Attacking airplane Do.17 shot down by supporting fighters. No casualties. No damage.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1301/15.)

S.S.
PORTHMEOR

Reports being attacked and bombed by aircraft when 40 miles N.E. of Bishops at 0320/15. 1 slight casualty. Damaged steering gear.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1316/15.)

Mining.Thames
Estuary.

Four S.A. Mines 13/7 detonated as follows. (Capt. M/S 1241B/15.)
Explosions off Clacton 14/7, 15/7. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1847B/15.)

New type
mine off
Portland.

Sweepers report cutting new type mine in position 180°. Portland Bill 4 miles at 1210. Convoy W.P.4 diverted to southwards.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1245B/15.)
My 1245B/15. Request danger area may be declared 6 miles radius round position 6 miles 180° Portland Bill.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1322B/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operation
S.N.21.A.

Departure TEVIOT BANK, CASTLETON, and SCOTT.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A., 2257/15.)

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

3 German transports (sunk 9/6)

My 1551/11. Details of sinking of 3 Southbound German Transports off Oland 9/6. (N.A. Stockholm, 1541/14.)

TIRPITZ

TIRPITZ located in floating dock at Kiel on 12/7. (D.D.I.C. 2013B/15 to A.L.U.S.N.A.)

Technical.

Oiling Trials.

Request you will provide an oiler and arrange for fuelling at sea trials to be carried out by PRINCESS ASTRID and PRINCESS^{JOSEPHINE} CHARLOTTE also ROYAL ULSTERMAN when available. (D.O.D.(H) 1105B/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Casualties and Defects.

GIRL PAT

Intercept 0259 G.M.T. ~~DE~~ GIRL PAT "Have had collision with IRIS all crew picked up. We are returning to Clyde at slow speed making water forward slightly request tug position 128° 4 miles distant from Plaada. 0355 Ends". (C. in C. W.A. 0459/15.)

→ BLUE RANGER

Has been in collision and has sunk other ship. She is leaking forward and is returning to harbour with survivors. (N.S.O. Greenock, 0700B/15.)

→ IRIS BLUE RANGER

S.S. IRIS (Swedish) in Convoy W.N.53 sunk in collision with BLUE RANGER. Latter leaking returned to Greenock with IRIS survivors. Not possible to dock her in Clyde area. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0536/15, N.C.S.O. Greenock 0700B/15, 0954B/15, 1029/15, 1311/15, C. in C. W.A. No T.O.O., F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2142B/15.)

PRINCE PHILIPPE

Sunk in collision with unknown vessel in dense fog 55° 5' N. 5° 24' W. All boats accounted for. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0607/15, 0958B/15, 1143/15, 1804B/15, SALVONIA 1030B/15, C.O. PRINCE PHILIPPE in SALVONIA 1130B/15.)

/EMPIRE WAVE
See p 259

ENERGY

Faroese Fishing smack ashore 0222/15 Cairnbulg. Crew taken off by Fraserburgh lifeboat. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0900/15.)

/SEAMAN.....

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

SEAMAN

(Hazebe Tug.)

Ashore on rocks 2 miles South Carnlough Bay 1340B/15 damaged. Towed to Larne. (C.G. Port Patrick Radio, 1406/15, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1557B/15, SEAMAN 1755B/15.)

VISCOL

(R.F.A. Oiler.)

Refloating. Stern frame broken propeller damaged hull not leaking. (Port Patrick W/T, 1530B/15.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy

Abbreviations

Following are revised or existing abbreviations for ocean convoys:-

O.N. (Supersedes O.B.) - Northbound 9 kt. convoys to North America and West Indies.

O.N. (S) - 7½ kts. as above.

O.S. - Southbound 9 kt. convoys to West Africa including sections for West Indies and South Atlantic ports.

O.G. - Outward 7½ knots convoys to Gibraltar including sections for South Atlantic ports.

H.X. - 9 kt. homeward convoys from Canada.

S.C. - 7½ knots homeward convoys from Canada.

S.L. - 7½ knots homeward convoys from West Africa.

H.G. - 7½ knots homeward convoys from Gibraltar.

Note: Speeds given are the minimum speeds of ships to be included in convoys and must not be taken as speeds of advance.

(D.T.D. 0019B/15 to H.Q.F.C., H.Q. C.C.)

Convoy

Time.

Ref. C.B. 04024(40) Art. 98 (b) and (c) except as mentioned below, ships in the various portions of a convoy are to keep "Shore Time" as at their respective ports of departure from the time of sailing until joining the other sections, after which the Commodore should periodically adjust the "Convoy Time" by signal. In the case of H.X. and S.C. convoys, ships in all portions are to keep Halifax time until junction with the Commodore's section. When passing through the tropics, Commodores should adjust "Convoy Time" so as to make the maximum use of daylight. (D.T.D. 0202B/15 to A.I.G.26, A.I.G.19.)

Coastal

Convoys.

Your 1812/9. Arrangements for 2-day cycle. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1125/15 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Service.....

SECRET

1125/15th July IN

POSTAGRAM

From: Commander in Chief Portsmouth

Date 16.7.41.

Recd: 2100

Addressed: C in C Plymouth repeated Admiralty (F.O.I.C.
Falmouth F.O.I.C. Portland. H.O.I.C. Dartmouth
A.O.C. 10 Group. A.O.C. 19 Group.,
0205(D) /55
365P. Your 1813/9 *

3. Every endeavour will be made to conform to your proposals for a 2-day cycle.

Full use will be made of the Portland A/S trawlers which have frequently been used to supplement the Portsmouth Yachts. More Chasseurs are now available and it is anticipated that escorts to Dartmouth could be maintained.

2. (i) It is, however, considered that there will be no appreciable increase in total discharge at this end, as, though at present 50% of the ships unloading at Portsmouth, Southampton and Cowes get turned round and sail in the following convoy on a 3 day cycle, few, if any, will get turned round on a 2-day cycle.

(ii) Moreover, the speeding up of the convoy will put a considerable strain on the masters and crews, the available time in harbour at ports of call being largely taken up with berthing, unmooring and attending conferences.

3. It is therefore most desirable, both on the score of strain and in order to increase the turn round time, to reduce the time on passage and with these objects in view it is suggested that the call at Dartmouth should be given up and (accepting the slight additional risk of the moonlight nights) a passage of 24 hours be instituted between Needles and Falmouth. The escort of the present Falmouth-Dartmouth and Needles-Dartmouth sections co-operating on the double sector. The time saved, without interference with the rest of the schedule, would give an added 12 hours in the turn round time at the Solent ports.

4. With reference to my 1443/21/6. and your 1730/26/6. The introduction of a 2-day cycle makes it the more desirable to have Service Commodores, for there is a natural tendency for the N.C.S.O. at each port to select a master who has proved to be a competent Commodore for this duty on every occasion for which he is available. This puts a heavy strain on him for which he receives no additional remuneration.

1125/15.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops (4)
- O.D. (5)
- O.D.S.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D of S.T.
- I.P. (3)

* Proposal of two day Convoy cycle.

- D.A/S.W.
- O.I.C. (2)
- W.D.
- I.H.N.G.
- M (2)
- D of P (3)
- D of L.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (4)
- C.W. (2)
- D.P.S. (2)
- D. of S .2A.

269

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Service
Personnel,
Larne -
Stranraer.

Your 2006B/14. Concur that ships should cross unescorted as convenient. Considered that day passages are preferable as air protection can be provided and that night passages in full moonlight should be avoided.
(C. in C. W.A. 1215B/15 to Admty.)

O.G.68

Amended route owing to U/B. From K steer for N, omitting L and M.
(C. in C. W.A. 1558B/15 to Escorts of O.G.68.)
O.G.68 Ref. W A C I Part 132 Para. 10.
Commodore has been instructed that if numbers warrant and sufficient escort are in company S.O. of Escort in consultation Commodore has discretion to detach an escort with ships bound for Portuguese or Spanish Ports W. of Gibraltar so as to arrive off Cape St. Vincent after dark.
(C. in C. W.A. 1822B/15 to HYDRANGEA.)

H.X.135

Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all ships of your convoy H.X.135.
(C. in C. W.A. 1643B/15 to Vice Adm. L.L.P. Willan.)
Numbers and cargoes, (D.S. 678.)

270A

1745B/15 July.

SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To C. in C. Home Fleet. 716.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 950.
 New Zealand Naval Board 341.
 Naval Attache, Washington.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic. 612.
 C. in C. South Atlantic. 592.
 N.O.I.C. Simonstown. 530.
 R.A. South America Division 229.
 C. in C. America and West Indies. 266.
 Australian Commonwealth Naval Board 472.
 C. in C. China. 362.
 C. in C. East Indies. 134.

Date 15. 7. 41.

Naval Code (J)

From Admiralty.

NITE
My 1739B/8.

ATLANTIC.

U.S. PRESIDENT HAYES circled at high speed by unknown 12,000 tonship 28th June 29 degs 30' N. 67 degs 30' W. May have been harmless, but ST. LINDSAY overdue Trinidad and SUSAN MAERSK overdue Curacao should have been in this area. Therefore possible that a raider has been operating in North Atlantic.

No information about Raider C (No. 16) but believed to be still in South Atlantic.

INDIAN OCEAN

MARNEBA and Yugo-Slav VELEBIT are seriously overdue. Though both vessels old and may have been lost in recent bad weather, it must be assumed that a raider was in the vicinity of 8 degs N 88 degs E on 26th June.

Prisoners of war have stated that a raider, apparently No. 46 (see my 2217B/14/5 and 1649B/18/6) though they gave number as 45, was in Indian Ocean. As this raider had had no success it would proceed to S. Australia, New Zealand, Panama, and back to S. Atlantic via Cape Horn. This information is graded B.3.

Information graded B.2. has been received that Raider C (No. 16) visited Kerguelen, probably for two or three weeks December - January for refit and supplies.

1745E/15

D.D.I.C. (Green Line 8).
 Approved A.C.N.S. (F).

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

EW

MOST SECRETWar Diary15.7.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.Enemy A/C
Gibraltar

One or two enemy A/C approached Gibraltar shortly after 0001A/15. Apparently no bombs dropped on Rock or in Harbour, but possible from unconfirmed reports that objects fell in the sea off Eastern Beach La Linea. (F.O.C.N.A. 1728/15 to Admty.)

South AtlanticERLANGEN
FORTUNSTELLA

Buenos Aires reports ERLANGEN idle all day 14/7 strong S.E. gale prevents sailing. Italian FORTUNSTELLA received orders to delay departure indefinitely. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 0117Z/15 to S.O.I. Freetown etc)

U-Boat
Attack
LADY SOMERS

A corrupt SSSS distress message was intercepted by Freetown W/T Station at 0416Z/15 "torpedoed" being the only word received. Any ship having intercepted further details is to report forthwith by W/T. (C. in C. S.A. 1038N/15 to S.A. Stn.) Your 1038N/15. Following was made by LADY SOMERS 37° 12' N., 20° 32' torpedoed 0410/15. (D.C. 2329B/15 to C. in C. S.A.) See also U-Boat Campaign.

Vescas

Take no further action on my 1558 13th. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1137B/14 to Admty.)

HIMALAYA
(Italian)

Loading resumed and if work continues at present speed ship should be fully loaded by middle of next week. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1150/15 to S.O.(I) Freetown)

SANDY HOOK

Overdue shipping SANDY HOOK due Capetown 11th from Colombo not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1412B/15 to Admty. etc.)

Cancelled. p. 305.

/Vichy S/M's..

War Diary

15.7.41.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Vichy
Submarines

Orders to attack intercepting ships.
Tactics to be employed against them.
(C. in C. S.A. 1654N/15 to S.A. Station)
See Lion Copy.

UFFINGTON COURT
DARLINGTON COURT

My 1616N/12 and your 1709B/14. Confirm
UFFINGTON COURT arrived 12/7. Understood
DARLINGTON COURT torpedoed in May.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1630N/15 to Admty.)

FORT DE FRANCE

Vichy Merchant Ship trading in West Indies
and to Cayenne is not to be interfered
with unless she proceeds to a port outside
French Guiana. Ship has gone to Para
and is to be intercepted if met. (C. in C.
S.A. 1833N/15 to CILICIA amended, 0940N/16)
My 1833/15. CILICIA is on patrol in H33D
and I33B (C. in C. S.A. 2329N/15 to C. in
C. A.W.I.)

CHATEAU-ROUX
(British)

Have you any news? Sailed Duala 15/6
for Port Gentil. (D.T.D. 1949B/15 to
N.C.S.O. Freetown) Reply 1612/17.

HIMALAYA
(Italian)

Rio de Janeiro reports has resumed loading
and should be completed by middle of next
week. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2008Z/15 to S.A.D)

ELIZABETH BAKKE

A.M. 1249/4. The six Master' aircraft
must be discharged at Capetown instead of
Durban. Vessel should be detached from
convoy to fuel and discharge aircraft at
Capetown, and sail unescorted to R/V with
convoy off Durban. (D.O.D. (F) 2206B/15 to
C. in C. S.A.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA
and Vichy
GASCON

QUEEN OF BERMUDA has now been on patrol
off Lobito since 3/7 to intercept Vichy
GASCON to implement your 1930/25/6. Ship
shows no sign of leaving and Consul Loanda
reports waiting difficulties over payment
for bunkers. Intend QUEEN OF BERMUDA
who will soon want fuel shall leave for
Capetown 16/7. (C. in C. S.A., 2225N/15 to
Admty.) Orders to QUEEN OF BERMUDA (C. in C.
S.A. 2351N/15)

/NORDERNEY...

SECRET

MESSAGE

1654N/15.July.

272A
IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 16.7.41.

Recd. 0604.

NAVAL CODE (J) by W/T - T/P.

Addressed S.A.S. Squadron, Repeated C. in C. East Indies, Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

356. Information obtained that Vichy French submarines in Madagascar area escorting merchant ships have orders to submerge on sighting any aircraft or surface ship and then, if merchant ship is intercepted by British or Free French ship to attack intercepting ship with torpedoes. The submarine will generally be astern of ship being intercepted. It is possible similar instructions may be given to French submarines operating from Vichy French territory in West Africa area though no indication of this as yet. This should be borne in mind and suitable tactics employed as required when boarding such as (1) Approach from ahead or before beam, (2) Boarding boat dropped ahead and intercepting ship, not stopping too soon, (3) Intercepting ship to remain stopped as short time as possible (4) If weather suitable and presence of submarine suspected boat may be towed by intercepting ship to some distance before being picked up. (5) Overtaken ship being told to steer a diverted course before being boarded. It will be suspicious if ship stops or reduces speed much as this may indicate wish to remain in the vicinity from first sighting.

1654N/15.

Advance copy P.O., N.A. 1st S.L., Ops., O.D., O.I.C., A.C.N.S.(F).

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).
Ops.(4).
O.D.(5).
O.I.C.(2).
H.(30).
D.N.I.(4).
D. of P.(3).
E.P.S.
Ad. Chalmers.
D.A/S.W.
D.E.F.D.(3).
D.T.D.(4).
D.T.D.(1).
D.T.D.(C).
I.P.(5).
W.D.

War Diary15.7.41.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-ContdNORBERNEY
(German)

My 2052/8 same source states sailing delayed owing to presence of small warship off port reported by Condor plane. (S.O.I) Montevideo, 2255Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CRITON
(Sunk 21/6)
WRAY CASTLE
(Sunk 3/5)

Letter received from Capt. Dobeson SS CRITON dated 6/7 states (1) Vessel was 'Captured' at noon G.M.T. on 21/6 (2) All crew safe uninjured and interned at Conakry. (4) WRAY CASTLE's and CRITON's papers lost. No details of capture and sinking given. (S.O.I) Freetown, 2331N/15 to Admty.)

MediterraneanFORMIDABLE

Can approx. date for FORMIDABLE leaving Mediterranean be given?(1st S.L. 0017/15 to C. in C. Med.)

VENDETTA

Damaged alongside pier. At present capable of full speed but speed may be reduced if flooding extends. Ships are up to programme time at present. Request fighter protection at dawn. (R.A.D. Med. 0410/15 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria)

Enemy Units

P. C. and S. of enemy (5 merchant vessels, 6 destroyers) are 35.05 N., 12.06 E. 340° 10 knots. (Med. A/C Duty T 0725/15) (S.O.(S) Malta, 1135B/15 to S/M's.)

RORQUAL

Orders for return. U-Boats are known to be operating between Tobruk and Alexandria. (Capt. S.1. 0921C/15 to RORQUAL)

/Benghazi.....

War Diary

15.7.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Benghazi and Bardia Bombed.

Ops Summary No 400. Night 13/14.
18 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour.
2 Wellingtons bombed Bardia results unobserved
(H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. 1026/15)

LEANDER

Sail 1630/15 to arrive Haifa 0900/16 and act under orders C.S. 7. (C. in C. Med. 1153C/15 to LEANDER)

Syria

Protocols Nos 1 and 2. (C. in C. M.E. to W.O. 1204/15, 1230/15, 1412/15) See Lion Copy.

HASTY, NIZAM.

Carrying out A/S search between 033° 45' N. and 034° 10' N., and 035° 05' E., and 005° 32' E. during night of 15/16 keeping not less than 5 miles off Syrian Coast. (C.S. 7. 1257C/15 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports

Captain Morse has assumed duties of N.O. in Charge Syria Ports with H.Q. at Naval Base, Beirut. (N.O.I.C. Syria Ports, 1330C/15 to C. in C. Med.)

D.E.M.S.

Your 1104Z/26. Intend Captain of D.E.M.S. Port Said should proceed to Aden to discuss and agree details of co-operation between E. Med and E.I. D.E.M.S. organization. (C. in C. Med., 1331C/15 to C. in C. E.I.,)

JERVIS

My 1359/13. JERVIS is to leave Alexandria at 1500/16 to arrive Haifa 0800/17 and act under orders of F.O.C. 7 C.S. who is requested to sail one destroyer to arrive Alexandria 0700/18. R.A.(D) Med. 1513C/15 to Capt. D.14)

SALVIA
M.L. 1032
CARLISLE

Take M.L. 1032 under your orders and at 1800 sail for R/V with CARLISLE off Beirut at 0530C/16. If end of searched channel has not been signalled make for 315° Ras Beirut Light 7 miles (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1758C/15 to SALVIA)

Malta Raids

Attack on Convoy

Messina bombed.

C.S.R. Malta. Night 14/15. 3 Raids, 15 houses destroyed, no casualties. 15/7 off Tripoli, three Blenheims attacked convoy. 1 M.V. 8000 tons hit amidships with 2500 lb bomb, causing fires and smoke and an explosion another M.V. 8000 tons was hit in bows. 1 ship claimed totally destroyed and another damaged. 8 Wellingtons attacked Docks at Messina, night 14/15 with 3000 lb. G.P. 6 blast bombs and 3,500 incendiaries. (H.Q. Malta 1931/15)

/A/C Attack.....

274A

SECRET

MESSAGE

1204/15 July
IN

From C. in C. Middle East

Date 15.7.41
Recd. 1330.

CIPHER

Addressed War Office repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

27205 0/81877 cipher 15/7

Syria. Protocol No.1. Confidential and not for publication.

Protocol No.1. With reference to clause 8 of the Convention. It is agreed between General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson G.B.E. K.C.B. D.S.O. Gen. Officer Commanding in Chief of the Allied Forces in Palestine and Syria and General de Verdillac, Commander of the Legion of Honour, Deputy Commander in Chief of the French Troops in Syria, that (a) there will be no personal contact between French and Allied individuals in order to influence the free choice of French military personnel (b) the Allied authorities may use pamphlets wireless and loud speakers for dissemination of their point of view (c) the choice of alternatives will be made by the individual himself without any sort of pressure (d) the assistance of British Officers may be invoked by the French authorities if considered necessary. Signed H.Maitland Wilson General Officer Commanding in Chief Allied Forces in Palestine and Syria. Deputy Commander in Chief the French troops in Syria signed de Verdillac. Ends. Pass to Foreign Office.

1204/15

Recd. from W.O. 2105/16

1st Lord
1st S.L
2nd S.L
Controller
Vice Controller
4th S.L
5th S.L
V.C.N.S
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
Parl.Sec.
Civil Lord
Controller (M.S.R.)(London)
Sec.
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L
P.A.S.(3)
O.D.(5)
Ops.(4)

D.N.I.(4)
O.I.C.(3)
D of P(3)
M(6)
Admiral Bellairs
Admiral Chalmers
D.N.A.D
Air Branch
D.C.O
A.D.T.S.D.(C.O)
D.N.E.(C.O)
E.P.S
N.A.(F) 2nd S.L
D.E.W.D.(3)
D.P.D
W.D
I.P.(3)

SECRET

MESSAGE

1230/15th July

IN

274B

From C. in C. Middle East

Date 15.7.41

Recd. 1420

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

27206

O/81883 cipher 15/7.

Syria. Following is protocol No. 2 and may be published. As protocol No. 1 is not for publication protocol No. 2. when published should omit the words No. 2.

Begins. With reference to para. 9 of the convention the following are considered to be executive officials. The Chief Secretary of the High Commissioner. The members of the Civil and Military Cabinets, and of the Direction of Political Affairs. The Financial Adviser. The Economic Adviser. The Legislative Adviser. The Delegates and Assistant Delegates of the High Commissioner. The Administrative Advisers. The Officers, on the Active List, of the Commissariat (Supplies). Special Service Officers. French Officials of the Surete (CID) and Police and Gendarmerie. All other Officials are considered to be Officials of Technical Services. Signed H. Maitland Wilson General Officer Commanding in Chief Allied Forces in Palestine and Syria. Signed Deputy Commander in Chief The French Troops in Syria De Verdillac. 14 July, 1941. Ends. Pass to Foreign Office.

1230/15

Advance copy to O.D. M.

Received from War Office 2105/16

1st Lord	D.C.C.
1st S.L.	A.D.T.S.D.(C.O.)
2nd S.L.	D.N.E.(C.O.)
Contoller	E.P.S.
Vice Controller	N.A.(F) 2 S.L.
4th S.L.	D.E.W.D.(3)
5th S.L.	D.P.D.
V.C.N.S.	W.D.
A.C.N.S.(H)	I.P.(3)
A.C.N.S.(F)	
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	
Parl.Sec.	
Civil Lord	
Controller (M.S.R.) (London)	
Sec.	
Nav.Sec.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	
P.I.S.(S)	
G.D.(5)	
Ops.(4)	
D.N.I.(4)	
C.I.C.(3)	
D. of P.(3)	
M.(6)	
Admiral Bellairs	
Admiral Chalmers	
D.N.A.D.	
Air Branch	

SECRET

MESSAGE 1412/15th July

IN

274c

From C. in C. Middle East

Date 15.7.41

Recd. 1545

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

27238

O/S1900 cipher 15/7.

Syria. Ref. my O/S1877.

Para. (1) of Protocol No. 1 was result of conversation between Catroux and De Verdillac. Minister of State will consider matter this evening. Pass to Foreign Office.

1412/15
Received from War Office 2105/16

1st Lord
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
Controller
Vice Controller
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
Parl.Sec.
Civil Lord
Controller (M.S.R.) (London)
Sec.
Nav.Sec.
N.A.1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
O.D.(5)
Ops.(4)
D.N.I.(4)
C.I.C.(3)
D. of P.(3)
M.(6)
Admiral Bellairs
Admiral Chalmers
D.N.A.D.
Air Branch
D.C.O.
A.D.T.S.D.(C.O.)
D.N.E.(C.O.)
L.P.S.
N.A.(F) 2nd S.L.
D.E.W.D.(3)
D.P.D.
W.D.
I.P.(3)

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

A/C attack.

Following has been read. Mersa Matruh from ? ? ?
3 JAS. Am being bombed, position 32.13 N.
25.21 E. (Nore W/T, 1935/15.)

Suez Canal.

Situation 1900C/15. No mines detonated,
navigation proceeding throughout Canal and at
terminal ports subject to Minesweeping.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1939C/15 to C. in C. Med.)

S.V's sunk
by TORBAY.

TORBAY sank 5 out of 6 sailing vessels encountered
in 3 days between Nauplia and Crete. Main
merchant ship traffic lane is between Naxos and
Mykoni. Germans found in sailing vessels are
armed, one ship opened fire with heavy machine
gun but missed, one German attempted to throw
a hand grenade. (Capt. S.I. 2009C/15 to TETRARCH,
OSIRIS) W.D. Note. Summary of TORBAY's patrol
report. (C. in C. Med. 2054C/16.)

Greek Fleet.

Admty. 1127/29. Following are my proposals
on para. 5 (C. in C. Med. 2041C/15 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

MAURO CROCE.
(Italian)

? Arrived 14/7. (Barcelona T.H.I. 2100/15.)

Turkish Ports.

British ships of more than 5000 tons gross should
not proceed to Turkish Ports in present circum-
stances. (C. in C. Med. 2115C/15 to M. of W.T.)

Syria.

H.Q., P. and T.J. advise aerial demonstration
over part of Syria will take place 16/6.(details)
(N.O.I.C. Haifa, 2120/15 to N.O.I.C.Beyrout etc.)

Risk to
Troopships
Suez.

Admty. 2012/14. Arrangements are being made for
monster liners to be at Suez Bay one at a time
for one daylight period only. Watering, fuelling
and cargo discharging will be carried out at a
Southern anchorage. Other ships over 15,000
will be under weigh South of Suez during darkness
returned to anchorage after dawn. Orders already
given that not more than four personnel ships and
eight store cargo ships were to be in Suez
working cargo at one time, and in no case more than
35 ships of all descriptions. It appears that
this order had not been rigidly adhered to and
I am enquiring into the reason. (C. in C. Med.
2127C/15 to Admty.) *See also East India, 1256/15.*

/Russian

275 A

M E S S A G E

From War Registry

Date 21.7.41.

CORRECTION RECEIVED 0508/21.

C. in C. Mediterranean's 204⁺LC/15 - re Greek destroyers

In paragraph 6 please read reference as "My ^{is} 1101 29th May paragraph 5".

✓ Most Secret distribution

✗ Restricted secret distribution.

522

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F).
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- N.A. 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).
- I.P. (2).
- W.D.
- Duty Captain
- D.D.I.C. (2).
- E.P.S.
- D.A/S.W.
- N.A. (F) 2 S.L.
- D. of D.
- D. of P. (2).
- Head of M(12).
- D.T.S.D.
- Admiral Herman Hodge.
- Deputy Controller
- Sub. War Registry

} Bath by courier.

MOST SECRET

275B

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

20410/15 July

IN

Date 16. 7. 41.

From C. in C. Mediterranean

Recd. 0740

NAVAL CYPHER 'D' BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C. in C. East Indies, F.O.C.R.I.N.,
S.N.O. Red Sea.

IMPORTANT

Your 1127/29th to C. in C. Mediterranean only.
The following are my proposals on paragraph (five).

1. Reference (a) Greek Destroyers SPETSAL, QUEEN OLGA, KONDOURIOTIS, in that order to fit A/S and refit one at a time at Calcutta. Greek Destroyer SPETSAL to arrive Calcutta about 14 August. Greek Destroyers AETOS, IERAX, PANTHER, fit A/S and refit Calcutta after first three are completed. Greek Destroyer SPETSAL and KONDOURIOTIS can only steam 10 thousand miles before (re-metalling) of "a" becomes necessary. Greek Destroyers AETOS, IERAX, PANTHER, have endurance of 1200 miles and would have to fuel between Aden and India.

Reference (b). Greek Repair Ship HESPIESTOS, Greek Destroyer GEORGIOS AVEROFF, One Greek ~~Submarine~~ KATSONIS Class Submarine, and one Greek Destroyer, NIKI class Torpedo Boat to proceed to Port Said from Suez to refit in a few days time. The S/M and Torpedo Boat would subsequently require docking at Aden. Remaining Greek KATSONIS class S/Ms and NIKI class Torpedo Boats to follow same programme on completion of first batch.

3. Reference (c). The present arrangements of using resources of H.M.S. MEDWAY with s.s. (?corrupt group) 4 S W B A as depot ships is satisfactory and will be continued.

4. Reference (d). Greek ~~destroyer~~ GEORGIOS AVEROFF to berth at Port Sudan where she will (?assist) in the repair maintenance. Boiler requirements will be forwarded separately.

5. Reference (e). Consider it would be worth fitting A/S in all 6 destroyers and all 3 torpedo boats. Sets are already on board (?), but not fitted in Greek destroyer QUEEN OLGA or Greek Destroyers SPETSAL, AETOS, PANTHER and SPENDONI. Sets are required for Greek Destroyers IERAX, NIKI, ASPIS and KONDOURIOTIS.

6. Reference (f). Reply has been already sent in my 1101 29th ^{May} ~~para.~~ para. 5.

7. (g) Yes.

8. Reference (h) details have been sent by air mail, see Med. 597/398/2 of 29th May 1941.

9. Reference (i). Serving Greek warships are fit to operate except GEORGIOS AVEROFF due to boiler defect and SPENDONI and KATSONIS who must first refit. The remainder need fitting with anti-aircraft guns before operating in waters where there is any scale of air attack and the standard of training of submarines make it desirable that they serve at present in a relatively quiet area.

10. The Greek Minister of Marine is not at present desirous that IERAX, AETOS, PANTHER should make journeys to Calcutta on account

of/.....

of their age and low endurance, but he will probably raise no objection when the time comes for them to leave. Apart from this he is in agreement to all above proposals.

11. C. in C. East Indies' 0414 12 July and F.O.C. RI.N. 0947 11 July refer.

20410/15.

Adva cc copy Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- N.A. 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)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Duty Captain.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- E.P.S.
- D.A./S.W.
- N.A. (F) 2 S.L.
- D. of D.
- D. of P. (2)
- Head of M. (12) (M0947/41) for action
- Dep. Contr.)
- S.V.R.) Bath by courier.
- D.T.S.D.
- Adl. Herman Hodge.

War Diary

15.7.1941²⁷⁶
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd

Russian
Eastern Forces

Anxious to send a military mission to H.Q., Russian Far Eastern Forces. Russians before agreeing will probably suggest reciprocal action and ask to send a Russian mission to G.H.Q. M.E. Please consult C. in C. Med. and A.O.C. in C. and cable views?. (W.O. 2135/15 to C. in C., M.E.)

→ CARLISLE
Beyrout

Following is revised instruction for entering Beyrout. (Syrian Port, 2137C/15 to CARLISLE)

BOSFORO
Italian

Leaves Naples shortly and will pass through 033° 06' 020° 16' at 0630C/19 to arrive Benghazi 1200C/19. Torpedo boat will make A/S search off Benghazi p.m./18 and R/V with BOSFORO in above position. There will be A/S air search along line of approach a.m./18 and A/S and fighter patrols from dawn/19. (Capt. S.1. 2141C/15 to TAKU)

→ Situation
Report 87.

CARLISLE and minesweepers with Naval base party enter Beirut a.m/16. My 2346/14. LEANDER has left Alexandria to join C.S. 7 at Haifa. PERTH has returned to Alexandria with C.S. 15
2. Canal Area. Some movement in Canal today 15th. Ships being swept through.
3. Western Desert. VENDETTA slightly damaged in Tobruk harbour, returning to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 2311C/15 to Admty.)

East Indies

IRIS

Overdue shipping. Greek IRIS left Aden 21/6 for Mombasa not arrived. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0546Z/15 to Admty.)

War Imports
Iran.

SS STEEL MAKER ex New York arrives Karachi 14/7 en route Bandar Shahpur with trucks and mechanical transport parts consigned Ministry of Finance, Tehran. Emphasize continued shipment warlike stores to Iran constitutes increasing potential danger. Request you press for formulation of definite policy. (C. in C. India, 0830/15 to W.O.)

/Indian.....

War Diary15.7.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.Indian
Ocean

Proposals in event of war with Japan. (D. of L.D., 1157E/15 to F.O.C.R.I.N.) See Operations Volume.

Risk to
Troopships,
Suez.
U.S. 11 A.

Admty. 2012/14 (see Mediterranean)
 (1) Sweeping operations to assure safety from Coral Pinnacles in anchorage West of Ashrafi are proceeding. Weather conditions will probably render Abu Zanima latitude 029° more suitable as a waiting or transshipment anchorage and a similar sweep will be made there. Latter place has been favourably reported on by CITY OF NEWCASTLE and is recommended by Masters in preference to anchorages 3 (b) and (c) of my 1500/20/6.
 (2) Re M.W.T. Middle East 1935/14, not to Admty., Aden is unsuitable as a waiting port for big ships except MAURETANIA (see my 0800/8/4)
 (3) Consider it desirable U.S. 11 A should be accompanied through Red Sea by H.M. ship for communication purposes on passage and at anchorage. Could you spare CALEDON or other ship with naval cypher for this purpose?
 (4) I have no A.A. ship for protection of anchorage if this is considered necessary.
 (5) Intend sending STAGPOOL to Suez in readiness to water ships at anchorage if required.
 (C. in C. E.I., 1250Z/15 to C. in C. Med.)
 Reply to (3) concurring (C. in C. Med., 1602/16)

KIRRIEMOOR

Your 0940Z/7. Request KIRRIEMOOR be sailed as convenient for Trincomalee to await further instructions. (A.C.N.S./F 2242B/15 to C. in C. E.I.)

ChinaSIKIANG

Your 1031B/14. Departure of SIKIANG has already been reported see C/S 0759Z/13/6. *Decoux stated that he could not hold ship up indefinitely while awaiting Admiralty reply which was not made till 28/6 ship being due to sail 15/6. Necessary action is being taken to delay vessel at Sourabaya if she has not already left. Decoux has not yet replied to terms of Admty. 2206/28/6. Presumably ship will require to discharge Saigon now before returning Durban for troops unless Decoux decided to send another ship. (C. in C. China, 0419Z/15 to Admty.) and 0244Z/13/7.

/Shipping.....

War Diary15.7.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSChina-Contd.Shipping
North of
Hong Kong

Cancel my 0329/13/3. British and Allied Merchant ships over 4000 tons are not to be allowed north of Hong Kong for present. These instructions do not apply to Dutch who are making their own arrangements. (C. in C. China 0511Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Hong Kong S.O.I. Shanghai)

French Ships

Arrivals 15/7. FRANCOIS ED, MARECHAL JOFFRE
Departures LECONTE DE LISLE (N.C.S.O. Manila, 0721Z/15 to M. of W.T.)

D'ARTAGNAN
(French)

F.O. telegram 151 to Batavia (N.T. in W.R.) not understood D'ARTAGNAN arrived Manila 12/7 and all evidence here shows she intends to continue trading on China coast. (C. in C. China, 0853Z/15 to Admty.) (Reply:- 0206/17)

America & West Indies→ C.I.P.
(French)

St. Thomas departure p.m./14 Martinique. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1046R/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Canadian
M.T.B's.

Your 1837/9. Canadian Govt. agrees to transfer of four M.T.B's. Further 8 boats can be made available later. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1454Z/15 to Admty.)

VAN KINSBERGEN

Bermuda departure in accordance with my 1242Q/11 Amended E.T.A. position A 0500Z/21. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1613Q/15 to Admty.)

AURANIA

AURANIA's 2207/14. Should extent of damage necessitate it can AURANIA be received in U.S.A. for repairs to bows and concurrent refit while vessel is in hand and if so at what Yard? (D.O.D.(H.) 1736/15 to B.A.R.M.)

→ C.I.P.
French.

Departure 14/7, Martinique 17/7. (St. Thomas V.I., 1829/15 to M. of W.T.)

/French....

War Diary.

15.7. 1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

French Ships
for Indo-
China.

Intercepted letter RondOn Remit and Co. Marseilles gives following dates sailing from Marseilles to Indo-China. VILLE DE VERDUN, 10/7 PIERRE L.D. 13/7, ERIDAN End July, LIEUTENANT DE LA TOUR, beginning August. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1859Q/15 to S.O.I. Singapore Admty. etc).

AVILA STAR.

A.M.1235B/27. Did not sail in O.B. 344, but with .W.S. 9C on 12/7 and will leave the convoy in approx. 47° 00' N., 24° 00' W., at 1400/16. Route to Trinidad. (D.O.D. (H) 2044B/15 to C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.I.C. Trinidad).

Escort
Groups.

Capt. (D) N.F.'s 0149Z/14. Request you sail CHURCHILL, CHESTERFIELD, ARROWHEAD and EYEBRIGHT as a group with one O.B. Convoy. BURNHAM, AGASSIZ, WETASKIWIN, and MAYFLOWER, as another group. Whichever group remains longer should boiler clean as requisite. Grateful for early information of your intended disposition. (C.C.N.F., 2347Z/15 to A.C.I.C.)

Australia.

BENDIGO.

My 0251Z/10/6. Ref my 0710Z/9/12/1940 and last paragraph of your 0121/15 /12/1940. In view of depreciation of Far Eastern situation intend retaining BENDIGO on Australia Station for the present. (A.C.N.B., 1126Z/15 to Admty).

War Diary.15.7.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

ARUNDO
(attacked
1/7.) Dutch, 5163 tons, from Haifa to Liverpool, attacked and shelled by S/M at 0230/1 about 530 miles W. of Madeira. ARUNDO claims to have hit S/M with shell fire. (D.S. 679, 15/7.)

GEORGE J. GOULANDRIS
(torpedoed
29/6.) Whole crew landed at Oban on 12/7. (D.S., 679, 15/7.)

INVERNESS Presumed torpedoed, see North Atlantic 1634/15.

→ LADY SOMERS
(O.B.V.) 37.12 N. 20.32 W. LADY SOMERS torpedoed. (Via Liverpool W/T, 0410/15.) Detach one corvette to proceed best speed to assistance of LADY SOMERS reported torpedoed (position) at 0514A/15. (F.O.C.N.A. 0545A/15 to BIDEFORD.) Received 0434 G.M.T. LADY SOMERS, 2 torpedoes, sinking 0324. (Lands End Radio, 0635/15.) Intercept, 0458 G.M.T. LADY SOMERS, CAMPECHE is near in case sunk, please advise. (Lands End, 0659/15.)

HEKLA CANDYFUFT has aboard 7 sole survivors of Icelandic HEKLA torpedoed. (OTTAWA, 0830/15 to C.C.N.F.) 1215 tons, overdue at Halifax since 7/7, having left Reykjavik on 27/6. (D.S., 680.)

BRISBANE STAR S S S S 59.18 N. 25.22 W. Sighted submarine periscope 300 yards away heading south at 1110 G.M.T. (BRISBANE STAR, 1145/15, Lyness W/T, 1157/15, Port Patrick Radio, 1223/15.) My 1145 G.M.T. corrected position 59.18 N. 27.05 W. 1330 G.M.T. (BRISBANE STAR, 1338/15, Navycharge Greenock, 1452/15, Liverpool 1451/15.)

RUPERT DE LARRINAGA
(torpedoed
14/7.) Your 0545A/15. Request you will instruct corvette to search also for any survivors of RUPERT DE LARRINAGA torpedoed in 036.18' N. 021.11' W. at 0136/15. (C. in C. W.A. 1548B/15 to F.O.C.N.A.) My 0545A/15. Corvette detailed is to search for survivors of RUPERT DE LARRINAGA torpedoed (position) when she has thoroughly searched the area for survivors from LADY SOMERS. (F.O.C.N.A. 2025B/15 to BIDEFORD.)

War Diary.

15.7.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

- 2348/14 D/F bearings at 2348/14 G.M.T. indicate Italian U-Boat within 60 miles of 030° 00' N. 030° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0252A/15 to N.A. Stn.)
- 2253A/14 At 2253A/14, U-boat was in 36° 18' N. 21° 11' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0258A/15, to N.A. Stn.)
- 0514A. At 0514A/15 U-Boat was in 037° 12' N. 020° 32' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0551A/15, to N.A. Stn.)
- 0915 By D/F at 0915 G.M.T. U-Boat in 52° 30' N. 15° 30' W. reliable fix. May be bound Biscay port. (D.D.I.C. 1332B/15.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1429B/15 amended 1750B/16.)

Submarines Attacked.

By TORBAY

Congratulations on recent destruction of an Italian U-boat off Mykonos.
(1st S.L., 1334B/15 to TORBAY.)

Torbay 5/7/41