

1818/15 August

SECRET

MESSAGE

Date 16.8.41.

From C in C Mediterranean.

Recd. 0007

NAVAL CODE (L11) Secret by W/T.

Addressed. Mediterranean Fleet. Repeated. Force 1.
V.A. Malta 928. S.O. Force "H". S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 69
F.O.C. North Atlantic 52. R.A. Alexandria. S.O. Force (I)
N.O.I.C. Port Said. N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik. N.O.I.C. Famagusta
Cyprus. R.A.(D) Mediterranean. Capt.(S) 1st.Sub.Flot: A.O.
C in C Middle East. Group 201. Group 204. N.O.I.C. Palestine
Port. N.O.I.C. Syria.

IMPORTANT

Movements Summary Number 214. ^{Part} A. H.M.S. COVENTRY,
H.M.S. KIPLING, H.M.S. KINGSTON, H.M.S. NIZAM, H.M.S. JACKAL,
escorting two ships due Alex. a.m. 16th from Port Said.
H.M.A.S. HOBART H.M.S. ABDIEL H.M.S. DECOY H.M.S. HAVOCK
due Famagusta from Port Said night 15th/16th (corrupt group)
H.M.S. ABDIEL to Alexandria and remainder to Haifa. (Corrupt
group) ^{OLGA} arriving off Limassol 1000/16th from Alex. with
one merchant ship returning Alex. to arrive 1030/17th. Other
forces as for "Guillotine". French convoy A leaves Beirut 1700
16th as in my 1118/14th. Part B French Convoy B pass Messina
Eastward 1000/16th as in my 1721/11th. / H.M.S. HASTY,
H.M.S. JAGUAR, due Alex. 16th from Mersa Tobruk. H.M.S. FANDAHAR
H.M.S. KIMBERLEY leave Alex 0830/16th for Mersa Tobruk.
H.M.S. APHIS at Mersa Matruh. Part C and D Nil.

1818/15.
Advance Copy sent Ops. O.D. Trade.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F).
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim Admiralty House,
- Ops.(3).
- O.D.8.
- C.I.C.(2).
- D.A.S.W.
- M(2).
- I.P.(3).
- W.D.
- Mails.
- Movts.
- D.D.O.D.(M).
- gc. D.A/S.W.

SECRET M E S S A G E 1820C/15 August IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean Date 16/8/41
Recd. 0320

NAVAL CODE O MED. SECRET BY W/T CORRECTION RECD.
2251/16/8

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet. Repeated N.O.I.C. Port Said, V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H. N.O.I. Canal Area, F.O.C.N.A., R.A. Alexandria, S.O. Force I, Force I, N.O.I.C. Syria, N.O.I.C. Palestine Ports, N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, R.A. (D) Med. Capt. (S) 1, A.O.C. in C. Middle East, Group 201 Group 204.

IMPORTANT

Movements Summary Number 214.

Part A. H.M.S. COVENTRY. H.M.S. KIPLING, H.M.S. KINGSTON, H.M.S. NIZAM, H.M.S. JACKAL escorting two ships due Alexandria A.M. 16th from Port Said. H.M.S. HOBART, H.M.S. ABDIEL, H.M.S. DECOY, H.M.S. HAVOCK due Famagusta from Port Said night 15th/16th, also H.M.S. ABDIEL to Alexandria and remainder to Haifa. QUEEN OLGA arrives off Limassol 1000/16th from Alexandria with one merchant ship returning Alexandria to arrive 1030 17th. Other forces as for GUILLOTINE. French Convoy A leaves Beirut 1700 16th as in my 1118 14th.

Part B. French Convoy B passes Messina eastwards 1000 16th as in my 1721 11th. H.M. Ships HASTY, JAGUAR due Alexandria 16th from Tobruk. H.M.S. KANDAHAR H.M.S. KIMBERLEY leave Alexandria 0830 16th for Tobruk. H.M.S. APHIS at Mersa Matruh. Parts C and D. N.I.

1820C/15
adv. copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1st Lord. | O.I.C. (2) | D.T.D. (C) |
| 1st S.L. | Mails | B.N.L.O.F.F. (2) |
| V.C.N.S. | Movts. | File X. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | I.P. (3) | F.O.S. by |
| A.C.N.S. (T) (2) | W.D. | courier |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.A./S.W. | |
| Capt. Pim, Adlty. Hse. | D.P.S. | |
| Ops. (3) | E.P.S. | |
| O.D. 8. | D.D.O.D. (M) | |
| O.D. 5) | D.T.D. (4) | |
| H. (2) | D.T.D. (M) | |

SECRET

MESSAGE

1945A/15 August

OUT.

To C. in C. Mediterranean 596,
 C. in C. South Atlantic 323,
 C. in C. America and West Indies 747,
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 258,
 V.A. Malta 544,
 F.O. Force H. 462,
 C.O.I.S. Alexandria.

Date 15.8.41.

NAVAL CYPHER X.

From Admiralty.

AIDAC.

Despite the promotion and overriding powers recently given to Darlan as Minister for Defence it is reported that Weygand is well satisfied that the latest decisions at Vichy involve no immediate change as far as the African situation is concerned and that the position regarding German penetration is also unchanged. Apparent failure of Germans to achieve collaboration in North Africa is however believed to have caused serious complaints against Weygand, American economic aid having stimulated anti-German sentiment.

Continued German interest in African ports especially Bizerta remains a potential danger but it seems unlikely that Germany will try to force this issue while she remains so fully engaged in Russia. Weygand nevertheless seems to have some grounds for believing that resumption of German pressure for concessions in and collaboration by N. Africa may occur in about a month's time when a situation may have arisen whereby this can no longer be resisted. But this view is unsupported so far as is known by facts. Meanwhile Weygand has reiterated that in West Africa in general and Dakar in particular there are no Germans.

1945A/15.
 N.I.D.I for D.N.I. 773.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F).
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (S).
- Ops. (4).
- O.D. (5).
- O.I.C. (2).
- D.S.D. 9.
- D.N.I. (4).
- M(4) French Distribution.
- D. of P. (3).
- Admiral Chalmers.
- I.P. (3).
- W.D.
- E.P.S.

gc.

War Diary.

15.8.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

VOYAGER,
NUBIAN,
ISIS.

Your 0728/14 (0728/14). Sail VOYAGER in company with NUBIAN and ISIS to Bombay for onward passage to Sydney. (C. in C. E.I., 0449Z/15 to S.N.O.R.S.)

CARTHAGE.

Following patrol ? ordered. CARTHAGE leaves Durban A.M./17 returning A.M./26.
(C. in C. E.I., 0728Z/15 to N.L.O. Durban).

AUSTRALIA. *(To examine Capat ? Kerguelen Islands.)*

Re visit to certain places. (C. in C. E.I., 1428Z/15) See Operations Volume. 15/5 - P. 205

China.

1st S.L. 1442A/15 amended 1216A/16 to C. in C. China
See Operations Volume.

America & West Indies.

PRINCE ROBERT.

Navy Board Wellington 0010Z/15. Request you instruct PRINCE ROBERT direct if you wish to alter her destination.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1002Q/15 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa).
Proceed Esquimalt.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1302Q/15 to PRINCE ROBERT).
Your 2312Q/13 and N.Z.N.B.'s 0010M/15 request PRINCE ROBERT be (2 Corrupt groups) Esquimalt. On her arrival at Esquimalt PRINCE HENRY is available for your disposition.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1341Z/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

See also p. 297

S.V.
BASSELOURDE. ?

BASSILOUR intended

RESTIVE left St. Johns p.m./14 to tow in French Schooner BASSELOURDE being brought in for examination having been intercepted by POLYANTHUS. Expected return p.m./15.
(C.C.N.P., 1437Z/15 to Admty).

/RODNEY.....

War Diary.15.8.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.RODNEY.

My 1542R/7. Dates of leaving Boston and arrival Bermuda. (B.A.R.M., 1502R/15 to Admty).

VICIA.

Your 1926/14. VICIA's voyage to Dublin has been approved. She should be allowed to proceed in convoy and should not be seized in prize. (D.T.D., 1748A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

NORDERNEY intercepted.

DESPATCH reports having intercepted NORDERNEY in 012° 14' N., 043° 24' W., NORDERNEY scuttled and DESPATCH endeavoured to salvage. Oiler BISHOPDALE in company. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1822Q/15 to Admty.) See 2312/15.

AFRICANA HIMALAYA.

Proceed on passage to Freetown. Following Italian ships still unlocated.

(a) AFRICANA left Pernambuco with STELLA, 30/7 Description. (b) HIMALAYA left Rio de Janeiro 30/7. Description. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1832Q/15 to CIRCASSIA).

PRINCE HENRY.

N.S.H.Q. 1341Z/15. In view of absence of raider activity in Pacific I am very anxious to employ PRINCE HENRY in Atlantic where she is badly needed. Request your remarks. (C. in C, A.W.I., 1842Q/15 to N.Z.N.B.)

Finnish Ships.

Instructions received from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa that, reference Admty 1944B/5, H.M. Canadian ships are to -seize all ships flying Finnish Flag on high seas. (C.O.P.C., Esquimalt, 2031Z/15 to PRINCE ROBERT).

French Convoy from Tamatave.

S.O.(I) Capetown forwards following report received 6/8 grade A.O. Begins. Six merchant ships fully loaded now at Tamatave homeward bound, waiting for escort which will be MONTCALM. Ends. According to information available here MONTCALM was either at Casablanca or Dakar on 2/8 and Merchant vessels may be LIPARI (9954 G.R.T.) SAGITTAIRE (7706) VILLE D'ORAN (4861) LINIOS (7573) and possibly DALNY (6673) and COMMANDANT DORISE (5529). In view of considerable naval effort involved in intercepting such a convoy more definite information is required. Request you ask U.S. Authorities whether they can throw any light on the accuracy of the report with as little delay as possible. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2122A/15 to B.A.D., Washington).

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1755R/15th August.

FROM: B.A.D. Washington.

Date: 21.8.41.

Recd: 0215.

Naval Cypher X by Cable.

Passed to Admiralty for information.

ADDRESSED: N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

My 1845/13. Navy Department are supplying N.S.H.Q. Ottawa with 50 copies each of their call sign book call sign recoding tables and W/T procedure book immediately. They will also supply 50 copies of their confidential call sign book which is not at present in force in due course request Navy Department may be supplied with list of the following as soon as possible:- R.C.N. ships in commission and building together with their international call signs and also international call signs for necessary collective calls. These will be inserted in U.S. call sign book and also in U.S. confidential call sign book. The resultant necessary corrections to the former will be supplied to Ottawa as soon as available.

1755R/15.

Most Secret.

- 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.N.I. (4)
- D.S.D.
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.N.A.D.

- Duty Capt.
- Hd. of M.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Admiral Bailey.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D. (2)
- N.I.D. (2)
- N.I.D. 10. Pay. Cdr. Wilson.

War Diary.

15.8.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy
Cycles.

Your 1400/13. Suggest for consideration that under these conditions SHX convoys be abolished. This would cause some extra steaming to about five ships per convoy but would obviate junction and local escort problems.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2217Z/15 to Admty) Concur.
(D.T.D., 1705/16).

NORDERNEY.
Prisoners.

Your 0012Z/16. After fuelling at Trinidad proceed to Jamaica to land 38 German prisoners ex NORDERNEY. This is necessary owing to congestion at Trinidad and Bermuda.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2312Z/15 to S.O. West Indies Force).

Australia & New Zealand.

H.M.T.
QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Arrived (?Fremantle) 0112Z/15.
(N.B. Melbourne 1829Z/15).

PRINCE
ROBERT.

C. in C. A.W.I., 2312Q/13 Suggest PRINCE ROBERT returns to Esquimalt in accordance with your 1936Z/12. (N.Z.N.B. Wellington, 0010Z/15).

See p. 295.

War Diary.

15.8.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SHAHRISTAN
(torpedoed
29/7).

Master CHARLEBURY reports that no acknowledgment or repetition by Shore Station of Distress message from SHAHRISTAN was heard by his W/T operator. Message referred to was made on emergency spark set and read as follows SSSS de (GNGS) SHAHRISTAN 35. 20 N., 24.00 W., torpedoed and on fire aft (end). These steamers had dispersed from convoy O.G. 69 shortly before signal was made. (N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro, 1131/15 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

Submarines Reported.

2153 G.M.T.

Bearings at 2153 G.M.T. of Italian U-boat 14 U. (F.O.C.N.A., 0101A/15 to N.A. Stn).

0048 G.M.T.

Italian Submarine Identity 67 L bearing 290/3 at 0048 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A., 0205A/15 to N.A. Stn).

PARTHIAN
reported.

D/F Bearings at 0710 G.M.T. indicate that PARTHIAN may have been reported by Italian U-boat (D.D.I.C., 0925A/15 to PARTHIAN, H.Q.C.C.) My 0925A/15 Italian U-boat has made further signals at 0859 and 0922 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1110A/15).

0330/5
by S.^{ANT}ELENA.

My 1145/10 there was no Chilean ship in the vicinity but further information received by U.S.N.A. indicates report should be grade C.3. (A.N.A. Santiago de Chile 1300/15). U.S.A. N.A. Lima investigated report on board S.^{ANT}ELENA on arrival of latter Callao and considers report groundless. (N.A. Lima, 1534R/15).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1406A/15).

1426Z.

By D/F 46° 30' N., 12° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1637A/15).

1522Z.

By D/F estimated position of U-boat was within 100 miles of 42° 30' N., 19° 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 1747A/15).

/1530C.....

War Diary.

15.8.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. - Contd.

1530 C
by TORBAY.

U-boat surfaced and quickly submerged at 1530 C
34° 57' N. 021° 12' E course westerly range 5 miles.
1630 both periscopes seen. Searching vicinity
till moonlight. (TORBAY, 2101C/15).

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C

Am over enemy submarine in position 58° 45' N.,
4° 55' W., have attacked enemy with bombs dive
and estimate hits nil. (A/C E. 612 2140/15).
A/C E612's 2140/15 oil streak only sighted.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2246/15).

War Diary

16.8.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

It is reported today from the H.S.L Base at Felixtowe that H.S.L. 108 was lost in the North Sea on the 1st July. She may have been captured intact and the documents on board her may have been compromised.

PICOTEE
lost.

The Corvette PICOTEE, which left Greenock at 0825B/7 to join Convoy O.N. 4 and was heard to drop Depth Charges during the night after the Iceland portion of the Convoy had been detached, failed to rejoin the Convoy afterwards and has not been sighted by A/C from Iceland. It is feared that she may be a casualty.

The port of Hartlepool was opened this morning for small vessels but will be closed from 0700/17 until further notice.

At 0955 today the 3 major Enemy Ships at Brest were in their usual positions and their docks were seen to be dry. Five 500-ton U-Boats and two REDOUBTABLE's were also there.

British Air Operations

Two Fortresses bombed Brest today. One burst was seen in the docks.

War Diary16.8.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Operations

Yarmouth was bombed last night. No naval damage or casualties occurred. Arbroath was bombed today. Lowestoft and Ramsgate were bombed this evening without naval damage except at Lowestoft where some damage and casualties were caused and tug NESS POINT was sunk in Waveney Dock.

At 1130 the A.B.V. NORTHERN SKY was attacked off the Faeroes resulting in slight damage and casualties. The plane jettisoned its bombs and flew off, and is believed to have been damaged.

At 2116 determined low flying attacks by at least 6 aircraft were made on Convoy E.C. 61 in 52° 59' N., 1° 55' E. No apparent damage was caused to the convoy. One enemy plane was destroyed by the combined fire of ships and escort, finally striking the balloon wire of SS NEPHRITE and crashing. VALOROUS and VIMIERA each damaged one aircraft. At 2146 VIMIERA reported that 4 enemy aircraft were attacking the rear of the convoy, but were driven off. SS SUNTRAP was slightly damaged but proceeded with the convoy.

M.S. Group 13 report having brought down a Ju.88 at 2125A today off Yarmouth.

South Atlantic

The Brazilian Minister for foreign affairs has assured our ambassador that in future no enemy refugee ships will be permitted to sail from Brazilian ports.

War Diary

16.8.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

S/M O.23, operating in the Western Mediterranean attacked a convoy today and probably hit 2 ships.

Malta

4 raids on Malta last night caused civilian damage and casualties only.

Naples

It is reported that during the last two air attacks on Naples two tramp steamers were sunk and the cruisers GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI and DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI each received a hit on the stern.

Catania attacked.

9 Wellingtons attacked the port of Catania last night. It is believed that oil tanks were hit; the resulting fire, followed by explosions was visible for 70 miles.

Libya and Western Desert.

KANDAHAR reported enemy aircraft bombing at 1720C today in 31.38 N., 26.28 E. Fighters were sent to her assistance.

Wellingtons bombed shipping in Benghazi harbour last night, bombs falling near a tanker. 3 Naval and 4 R.A.F. aircraft attacked with bombs and torpedo a submarine reported in Bardia harbour, but no success is reported.

The scale of enemy air attack on Mersa Tobruk has increased, with dive bombing and minelaying raids. Supplies continue to be carried by two destroyers running nightly, as well as "A" lighters and schooners.

Cyprus

Two Greek merchantmen, AGHIOS NICOLAOS and VARVARA have reached Famagusta from Istanbul.

TARVISIO

An Ankara broadcast today stated that permission had been given to the Italian naval auxiliary tanker to proceed from Chanak to the Black Sea, but the vessel had not yet moved.

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.8.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTEast IndiesRaiders

According to a prisoner from Raider 33, prizes are believed not to be sent home but to hidden fjords in the Crozet or Kerguelen Islands where they can only be seen from the air. Raider 36, stated to be a Hansa vessel similar to 33 and 16, is possibly at present in Indian Ocean.

Slight damage has occurred to PRIMULA from suspected sabotage at Durban.

America & West IndiesNORDERNEY
Sunk.

S.O. West Indies Force reports it was impossible to save NORDERNEY, intercepted yesterday by DESPATCH. 38 prisoners are being landed at Trinidad.

Convoys

Admty. concur on the proposal of N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to abolish S.H.X. convoys. This will cause some extra steaming to about 5 ships per convoy, but will obviate junction and local escort problems.

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.8.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTU-Boat CampaignS/M's
Attacked.

200 Group, Gibraltar, reports that U-Boat depth charged by Catalina A/C on 13/8 has not yet returned to base and is 38 days out. Nothing heard since attack. Also that U-Boat attacked at 1416/6 and last sighted on surface is still being called unsuccessfully by base.

War Diary.16.8.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.RENOWN.

Admiralty's 2332B/15/7/41. Space is urgently required for Power rooms. If it is intended that torpedoes should be removed permanently, submit that torpedo tubes be landed and that Warhead room be utilised for Power room.
(RENOWN, 1644/16).

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Identification Signals. Admty 1818B/22/6. U.S. Signals continue as follows. (D.S.D., 1945A/16).

Co-operation with Russia.M/S Gear.

Your 1003C/10. It has been decided to disclose to Mission here details of LL and S.A. Sweeps, and you are free to make similar disclosures. It must be understood that we are not in a position to supply equipment for either type of sweep because of our own needs.
(D.T.M., 1610A/16 to N.A. Moscow).

Movements.LONDON.

Your 1101A/15. Inward route as follows. Thence to Scapa. (C. in C. W.A., 0630A/16 to LONDON).

SAGUENAY, ASSINIBOINE.

After fuelling proceed in company to St. Johns N.F. (PRINCE OF WALES, 1002Z/16).
Your 1456/16. ASSINIBOINE and SAGUENAY should now be sailed for St. John's Newfoundland.
2. A good look out for U-boats should be kept especially between 61° 30' N., and 59° N. and longitudes 29° and 32° W. (A.C.N.S. H., 2239A/16).

VALOROUS.

Your 0856A. Intend sailing M/Ls 230,193, 190 in time for R/V with VALOROUS in vicinity of 54 G Buoy at 2000. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1132A/16).

RAMILLIES, HESPERUS.

Admty 2308A/15 not to C.C.N.F. Request you will sail HESPERUS as additional A/S escort. She will be detached to Immingham on passage.
(C. in C. W.A., 1158/16 to A.C.I.C.) *See also next page*

SALAMANDER, HALCYON, BLACK RANGER.

SALAMANDER, HALCYON, and R.F.A. BLACK RANGER are to sail from Seidis Fjord p.m./17 and proceed -Hvalfjord. (C. in C. H.F., 1210A/16).

/PENELOPE.....

War Diary.16.8.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.PENELOPE.

Is to sail from Rosyth at 0800/17 and proceed to Scapa to arrive in daylight p.m./17. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1251/16).
My 1251/16. PENELOPE ET.A. Scapa 2000/17. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2137/16).

ASCANIA.

Intend sailing ASCANIA for Bermuda at 0900P/17. E.T.A. 1400Q/19. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S., 1337P/16).

CASTLETON
CHARLESTOWN.
RAMILLIES.

When released from W.S. 8 C. proceed ^{Lough} Loch Foyle and complete with fuel and water thence proceeding with despatch to Hvalfjord and escort RAMILLIES to Liverpool. (R.A.M. 1354A/16).
My 1354A/16. Anticipate destroyers will arrive Hvalfjord a.m./19. (R.A.M., 1355A/16 to RAMILLIES). *See previous page.*

A.F.D. IV.

Your 1314/14. Intend to sail POZARICA and VIVIEN to carry out this duty. S.O. POZARICA. (C. in C. W.A., 1548A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operations."Tablecloth"
Defence.

Anticipate TONBRIDGE will complete laying 23 miles "Tablecloth" defence between Bacton and Blakeney by 23/8. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1108A/16).

H.S.L. 108
lost on
1/7/41.

O.C. of H.S.L. Base Felixstowe reports loss of H.S.L. 108 on 1/7/41 in about 53° 34' N., 4° E. S.P. 02229 copy No. 6364 was on board at time of loss and it is possible that launch was captured intact. It is not known if secret and confidential documents were jettisoned. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1555/16).

British Air Activity.Patrols.

^{No. 4}
~~NOSE~~ 4 in operation until dusk. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0844/16).
My 0844/16. A/C encountered low visibility and has discontinued patrol. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0930/16).

ARGUS.

Your 1941B/8. Embarkation of aircraft completed except for Martlet spares not yet received. (ARGUS, 1417A/16 to Admty).

War Diary.

16.8.1941.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Arbroath
bombed.

At 0829/16 one twin engine A/C dipped out of cloud for 2 or 3 seconds and dropped two H.E. bombs on aerodrome disappearing in cloud immediately afterwards. Two craters in aerodrome surface. No casualties. All guns closed up. No guns fired. (N.A.S. Arbroath, 0815A/16).

Yarmouth
bombed.

Great Yarmouth bombed night 15/16. A to D nil. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0925A/16).

NORTHERN SKY,
(Armed
Boarding
Vessel)
damaged.

My 1135. Was attacked by Heinkel 111 ^{at} 1130 in 061° 43' N., 006° 20' W. Slight damage and casualties. Am continuing voyage. Plane believed damaged. It did not attack again. Jettisoned bombs and flew off, course 045°. (NORTHERN SKY, 1206/16).

Convoy
E.C.61.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ^{"Vield"} ~~VIELD~~, position 52° 59' N., 1° 55' E. (VALOROUS, 2116/16). My 2116. Determined low flying attacks by at least 6 aircraft. No apparent damage. SHEARWATER reports 1 enemy aircraft destroyed. (VALOROUS, 2145A/16). ^{"Vield"} 4 enemy aircraft attacking rear of ~~VIELD~~. Driven off to Eastward. 1 apparently hit and burning by four inch fire from VIMIERA. (VIMIERA, 2146A/16). My 2145. Add 1 aircraft damaged by VALOROUS, 1 aircraft damaged by VIMIERA. (VALOROUS, 2254A/16).

Lowestoft
bombed.

Lowestoft bombed at 2205A. Canteen wrecked. 3 casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 2320A/16).

Ramsgate
bombed.

At 2130 2 H.E. bombs appear to have been dropped in sea off East Cliff. At 2140 4 H.E. bombs dropped in town. 4 houses demolished, 2 seriously damaged, others slightly damaged. No naval casualties or damage. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 2325A/16).

War Diary.

16.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

9th and 13th Your 2210/15. On completion of present operation
M/S Flotillas. and when danbuoys have been weighed 9th and 13th
M.S.F. are to return to Portland to continue
previous clearance operation.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1309A/16 to S.O., 9 M/S F.)

Humber.

At 1235/16 one mine detonated by L L Trawlers in
Humber. Details. (F.O. Humber 1743A/16).

SJOBORG
(Faeroes
Schooner)
sunk.

Survivors report vessel sunk by underwater
explosion at 1200/13 in alleged position 061° 31'
N., 005° 40' W. Three of the crew lost.
Skipper well aware of prohibited area.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 2133/16).

Enemy Intelligence.

German Units
in
Norwegian
Waters.

NÜRNBERG - At Horten, 9/8. 4 or 5 destroyers
in Northern Norwegian Waters.
(D.D.I.C., 1212A/16 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

Casualties & Defects.

Hartlepool.

My 1950/15. Salvage operations temporarily
abandoned. Port of Hartlepool open.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0535/16).
Port of Hartlepool will be closed from 0700/17
until further notice. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1500/16)

HEARTSEASE.
(Corvette).

Have lost Oscillator and training shaft. Ship
not seaworthy. Am returning to Harbour.
(HEARTSEASE 0950A/16).
Capt. D. Greenock's 1254/15. HEARTSEASE returned
to Greenock with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock,
1657A/16).
Sailed HEARTSEASE to overtake convoy O.N.7.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1959A/16).

PICOTEE
(Corvette.)

Have you any news of PICOTEE. What information
did AYRSHIRE give you. (C. in C. W.A., 1027A/16
to A.C.I.C.)
Your 1027A/16. No further information of PICOTEE.
AYRSHIRE reported PICOTEE was heard dropping
stick of depth charges during the night after
Iceland portion had been detached from O.N.4 and
that PICOTEE had not rejoined AYRSHIRE afterwards.
It was assumed PICOTEE had rejoined her group.
She has not however been sighted by A/C from
Iceland. (A.C.I.C., 1144/16 to C. in C. W.A.)
Report immediately your position, course, and
speed. (C. in C. W.A., 1827A/16 to PICOTEE).

/In view.....

War Diary.

16.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

PICOTEE
(Corvette).
Contd.

In view of A.C.I.C., 1144/16 and in absence of any reply to my 1827A/16 I feel that there is grave cause for anxiety that PICOTEE may be a casualty. PICOTEE belongs to 4th Escort Group based on Greenock. (C. in C. W.A., 2201A/16). If you have not already done so request you will arrange air search as soon as possible for possible survivors of PICOTEE in area 61° to 62° 30' N., and 014° to 018° W. (C. in C. W.A., 2206A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

KING GEORGE V. Your 0251A/15. Approved to take KING GEORGE V in hand as proposed.
2. It is essential that KING GEORGE V should be clear of the dockyard by 4/9 in order that DUKE OF YORK shall not be delayed. (A.C.N.S. H., 1323A/16).

Convoy W.P.19. Went aground on Shambles. Tug RESOLVE from HAAKON HAUAN, Portsmouth and PILOT from Portland and 2 M/S (Norwegian Tanker) towed her off, apparently undamaged. Entered aground. Portland and will be sailed for Southampton tomorrow. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1531A/16, F.O.C. Portland 1533A/16, 1707A/16, 2057A/16, 2331A/16).

M.L.214. Has returned Immingham with starboard propeller fouled. (F.O. Humber, 1645A/16).

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.141. Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your convoy H.X.151. (?H.X.141) (C. in C. W.A., 1432A/16 to Vice-Adm. B Curtis).

W.S.10 X. Sailed WHITEHALL, WITCH escorting Liverpool Section W.S.10 X. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1635A/16 to Admty Etc).

Convoy Cycles. A.M. 1400A/13. Hoped to concur in C. in C. W.A.'s 1544A/15 within next few days. Subject to this concurrence, C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail H.X. Convoys with ships of minimum speed of 10 knots commencing with H.X. 147. V.A.C.N.A. is requested to sail H.G. 71 as proposed by C. in C. W.A. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1704A/16 to C. in C. W.A., V.A.C.N.A., C.O.A.C., Halifax).

/My 1543A/15.....

War Diary.16.8.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Convoy
Cycles. Contd.

My 1543A/15 (Part 1 of 1544A/15) Intend O.G.72 sail on 19/8 instead of on 28/8 on account of delay of ships already loaded. Propose H.G.71 sail on 18/8 as already arranged and there after every 15 days. To enable escorts to meet S.L.84 propose O.G. 73 sail on 29/8. Propose that O.G. 74 sail on 12/9 and there after every 15 days. (C. in C. W.A., 1915A/16 to Admty F.O.C.N.A.)
Concur (D.T.D., 0538A/17).

Indship
Tables.

Pass to N.C.S.O.'s. My 2122B/4, British merchant ships holding Indship Tables should now use them in all areas, except Areas 2, 3 and 4, if necessary to communicate with Naval Authorities. (D.T.D., 2005A/16 to A.I.G. 26, 19).

War Diary.16.8.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.→ Trawlers
→ and M/L's.

SOUTHERN GEM, SOUTHERN PRIDE, ARRAN, 17th M.L. Flotilla 261 242 256 263 265 266 272 274 (route) E.T.A. Bathurst 0900Z plus 1/25. Two telegraphists borne each trawler. Your 2121N/14 I have only just heard that KOS 7 and KOS 9 did not sail from England. (F.O.C.N.A., 0720A/16 to C. in C. S.A).

French
Shipping.

Passings 15/8. French Westward MEDIE ~~in~~ in ballast. Eastward CHENONCEAUX, AUVERGNE, both full, PORT-DE-BOUC in ballast. (V.A.C.N.A. 0917/16 to Admty.)

O.23.

S.O. Subs. Malta 1610B/14. Return by reverse of outward route. At your discretion report P.C. and S. during night of 18/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 0938A/16 to O.23).

→ M.L. 261.

Defect. Suggest M.L's be modified before leaving U.K. (C.S. Gib., 1127A/16 to Admty.)

O.24.
M/V and
S/V sunk.

Netherlands S/M. O.24 patrolling Gulf of Genoa thence passing West of Elba proceeded coastwise to Cape Circeo. Little traffic seen. O.24 sank fully laden southbound 5000 ton ship by torpedo in 041° 47' 012° 05' and 1000 ton sailing vessel by gunfire in 041° 23' 012° 27'. (F.O.C.N.A., 1136A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

CAVINA.

My 2204A/15. (Not to Admty.) and Admty. 2304A/14. CAVINA will arrive Funchal about 0800/19. Request permission for visit and that she be supplied with 550 tons of water on arrival. (F.O.C.N.A. 1548/16 to N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Funchal). My 1548A/16. Departure CAVINA for Funchal for water thence J.Z.1 (route). JONQUIL, COREOPSIS escort till position (d) then part company to R/V with CARDIUM. (F.O.C.N.A. 2202A/16 to Admty. S.O.W.P).

Force H.

Arrival 0930 S.O. Force "H" in NELSON, VIMY; 1210, WILD SWAN ex H.G. 70; 1610, HERMIONE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1632A/16 to Admty.)

ALBI
(French)

My 1351/1. All crew of ALBI except 2 officers have joined Free French. French N.A. should be informed merely that crew is safe and well and are at liberty to send news to their families in France. (Head of M. 2025A/16 to N.A. Madrid).

War Diary.16.8.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Enemy
Minelaying.

At entrances to Takoradi harbours. Re defensive measures. (G.O.C., West Africa, to W.O., 0660/16) See Lion Copy.

PRIMULA
defect.

My 0853/10/8. Further heated bearing developed during sea trials of PRIMULA investigations show that abrasive material had been placed into lubrication system. Completion date ex-trials now 19/8. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0818Z/16 to Admty.)

ADVANCE
Finnish.

Sailed from Santos for Rio de Janeiro p.m./15. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1050N/16 to Admty.)

CIRCASSIA.

C. in C. America & West Indies' 1626/6 (N.T. in W.R). From position (D) proceed direct to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1257N/16 to CIRCASSIA).

Enemy Ships
in Brazil.

Ambassador has had assurance of M. F.A. that in future no enemy refugee ships will be permitted to sail from Brazilian ports. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1541Z/16 to S.O.I's Montevideo etc.) List of such ships in Brazil. (D.S. 712, 17/8)

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

Proceed to patrol in I 33 B. (C. in C. S.A., 1739N/16).

Dispositions

Weekly State 16/8. (C. in C. S.A., 1939N/16.) See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.M/V.

One merchant vessel, bearing 230° distant 10 miles, approx course 360°. My position 37° 10' N. 36° 04' E. (A/C "Q", 0730/16 to Hal Far).

French
Convoy.

O.U. 63 29 (6) No. 4-5-24 passes Messina North-bound 1000/20 and are not to be attacked. (S.O.S. Malta 1015B/16 to URSULA). Vichy coastal convoy A, 3 ships westbound 12 knots, passed 180° Cape Gata 30' at 0600C/17 and 180° Gavdo 10' at 1900C/18. Convoy B, 3 ships eastbound 11 knots passed 180° (corrupt group) G.10 at 0900C/18 and 180° Cape Gata 30' at 0100C/20. Do not molest. (Capt. S.1, 1515/16 to NEREUS, TORBAY).

/UTMOST.....

MOST SECRET **M E S S A G E** 0600/16 August IN
 From ~~G.O.C. in C. West Africa.~~ Date 16/8/41
 Recd. 1345

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office.

36022. G/17126 cipher 15/8.

Enemy recently succeeded in laying mines at entrance Lagos and Takoradi harbours. C. in C. South Atlantic considers probably laid by submarines on surface on moonless nights approach of hostile craft on surface cannot be detected unless C.A.S.LS are regularly exposed. Such exposures undesirable as liable to give enemy fixations of harbour entrances and neutralise effect of seaward blackouts. Only alternative is warning by R.D.F. assume that C.O.L. to be included in (cover) for Takoradi approved by R.A.F. will provide warning required. If you agree strongly recommend that Air Ministry should be asked to expedite. Since similar R.A.F. arrangements not envisaged for Lagos the early provision of A.C.D. C.H.L. set for harbour defence strongly recommended. If supplied specially trained personnel will be required for siting. No site exceeding 20 ft. above M.S.L. exists on Lagos beach.

0660/16

Recd. by hand from War Office
 at 1125/18.

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)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D. of P. (2)

D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)
 D.O.D. (H)
 D.D.O.D. (H)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.S.D.
 D.N.A.D.
 D. of L.D.
 D.A./S.W.
 D.M.S.

D.G.D. (2)
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 D.C.
 Hd. of M.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D. (2)
 N.I.D. 10.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1327Z/16th August.

Date: 18.8.41.

From: N.O.I.C. Simonstown.

Recd: 0639

Naval Cypher C by W/T

Addressed: C. in C. East Indies, Repeated C. in C. South Atlantic, F.O.I.C. R.I.N., N.O.I.C. East Africa, N.O.I.C. Durban, N.O.I.C. Karachi, N.O.I.C. Capetown, Admiralty.

369. Ref. Admiralty's 1716 June 11th not to all addresses. 6 unconverted Norwegian Whale Catchers GLOBE (v) (VI) and (VII) POL (II) (IV) and (VI) are on passage Capetown to Durban. Ultimate destination 2 each to Karachi Bombay and Cochin for LL conversions. Vessels wearing Norwegian Ensign. No repeat no armament or effective W/T fitted and no repeat no Signalman Borne. Manned by Norwegian volunteers for Norwegian Navy who have had no previous Naval experience or training.

- (ii) Endurance of vessels as follows: (a) POL (II) and (IV). 11 days at 10 knots 7.3 tons per day.
- (B) POL (VI) and GLOBE (V). 14.5 days at 10 knots 7 tons per day.
- (C) GLOBE (VI) and (VII). 17.5 days at 10 knots 6 tons per day.

(iii) Intend all vessels to proceed in company from Durban to Kilindini. Thence (a) to Cochin via Seychelles (b) direct to Bombay and (c) direct to Karachi. Request you confirm concurrence in reply referring to 1716/11th June. After conversion vessels will be commissioned as units of Royal Norwegian Navy. Norwegian Commanding Officer Norwegian Training camp at Durban is investigating possibility of sending instructional staff to India from Durban to establish training centre. Request remarks as to most suitable Port and facilities available. Alternative dependent on minimum time required for conversion request remarks on desirability of returning crews to Durban for training.

(v) Possibility suggested to Admiralty that these vessels be retained for conversion in South Africa in order to centralize Norwegian training at Durban has been investigated and discarded owing to extreme congestion of (corrupt group) fitting out port.

1327Z/16
Advance Copy Ops, O.D. O.I.C.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| 2nd S.L. | | | |
| 3rd S.L. | | | |
| Vice Controller | D.N.I. (4) | • Dep. Contr. (3) | } Bath |
| 4th S.L. | D.A./S.W. | D. (4) | |
| V C.N.S. | N.A. (F) 2 S.L. | D.T.M. | |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | C.W. (2) | D.E.E. (4) | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.P.S. (2) | D.N.C. (2) | |
| Ops. (4) | D.T.M. | D.A./S.W. (2) | |
| O.D. (5) | D.D.T.M. | E. in C. | |
| O.D. 8 | D.T.S.D. | D. of S. | |
| O.I.C. (2) | D.S.D. (2) | D.S.D. (2) | |
| M. (2) | D.G.D. (2) | S.W.R. | |
| D.T.D. (4) | E. in C. | | |
| D.T.D. (M) | D. 57 O B 1 | | |
| D.S.V.P. (2) | W.D. | | |
| D.M.S. | D. of S. | | |
| D.M.S. Basement | I.P. (3) | | |

SECRET

MESSAGE

1939N/16th August IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 17.8.41.

Naval Cypher D. By W/T

Recd. 0900.

Addressed R.A.S.A.D., N.O.i/c Simonstown.

Weekly statement August 16.

Freetown H.M.S. EAGLE, H.M.S. DUNEDIN, H.M.S. VINDICTIVE,
H.M.S. CILICIA, 12 corvettes.

United Kingdom-Freetown H.M.S. EDINBURGH H.M.S. JUPITER
escorting W S 10. Local escort H.M.S. ^{? VANSITTERT} GLASGOW H.M.S. VELOX

H.M.S. WRESTLER 3 corvettes. H.M.S. CUMBRAE.

United Kingdom-Bathurst H.M.S. PHILANTE H.M.S. SANDWICH
COMMANDANT DOMINE escorting 0511 2.

Gibraltar-Freetown 17th M.L. Flotilla H.M.S. SOUTHERN
PRIDE, SOUTHERN GEM.

Bathurst H.M.S. CHALLENGER, CORBRAE, H.M.S. WESTON,
H.M.S. FOLKESTONE, H.M.S. LONDONDERRY.

Freetown-United Kingdom H.M.S. CATHAY, CITY OF
DURBAN, escorting S L 83. Local escort to S L 84 H.M.S. BRILLIANT
4 corvettes 2 trawlers.

Freetown-Takoradi H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S.
COLUMBINE, 2 trawlers.

Freetown area H.M.S. CHESHIRE in I 34.

Halifax-Freetown H.M.S. CIRCASSIA.

Bermuda-Freetown H.M.S. BULOLO.

Lagos H.M.S. SURPRISE.

Simonstown H.M.S. DRAGON, H.M.S. ALBATROSS,
H.M.S. JANUS, French Sloop M/S COMMANDANT DUBOC, PRESIDENTE

HOUDOUCE, H.M.S. BOTLEA.

Simonstown, ^{Port Elizabeth} ~~PORT ELIZABETH~~, H.M.S. KING GRUFFYDD.

-2-

Durban (~~QUEEN OF BERMUDA~~) H.M.S. CARTHAGE.

H.M.S. PRIMULA, H.M.S. CORNWALL.

Capetown-Trinidad, H.M.S. FORMIDABLE.

Plate area, H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM, H.M.S. NEWCASTLE,

H.M.S. ALCANTARA.

Rio de Janeiro area H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE.

Pernambuco area, H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE.

U.S. Ports, H.M.S. DELHI H.M.S. ASTURIAS.

U.K. Ports, H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, H.M.S. CANTON,

H.M.S. DERBYSHIRE.

Calcutta, H.M.S. CORFU.

1939M/16th August.

1st. Lord .

1st. S.L.

5th. S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

Naval Sec.

N.A. 1st. S.L.

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

D.N.I. (4)

O.I.C. (3)

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (H)

D.T.D. (C)

D. of P. (3)

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

D.T.S.D.

D.M.S.

D.H.S. Basement.

D.A./S.W.

Hails.

Movts.

D.T.H.

D.D.O.D. (C)

D.S.V.P.

D.G.D. (2)

D.S.D. (2)

W.D.

I.P. (3)

War Diary.

16.8.1941.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.UTMOST.

Intend sailing UTMOST P.M./19 for area M, 037° 36' 016° 16' - 310° - 80 - 120. (S.O. (S) Malta, 1120B/16 to Capt. S.1.)

Operation
"Guillotine".

Following is a repetition of my 1405/15: Amend my 1036 (N.T. in W.R) escort Serial S.22, 23 and 24 will sail 16th, 18th and 21st/8. Escort Serial 22, FLAMINGO, 23 PARRAMATTA, 24 FLAMINGO. PARRAMATTA and FLAMINGO to Alexandria on completion of their last serial. (Ends); (C. in C. Med. 1157/16 to all concerned in "Guillotine").

Minesweeping.

Re new material. (D.D.O.D. (M) 1205A/16 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

KEPHALLINIA
KEPHALONIA
sunk.

KEPHALLINIA
KEPHALONIA foundered on 13/8 in 31° 37' N. 29° 24' E. All books in weighted and eyeletted bags sank with ship in 33 fathoms. (R.A. Alexandria, 1546/16 to Admty.)

Malta
Raids.

CSR Malta to 1600/ Night 15-16/8 4 raids. Civilian casualties no other damage. Night 15/16, 9 Wellingtons attacked Catania port, dropping G.P. and incendiaries north of Central Mole and port railway station, fire later with explosion probably oil tanks. (H.Q. Malta 1600/16).

URGE
OSIRIS.

URGE reports east and westbound Vichy convoys sighted south of Messina at expected time. Enemy light surface patrol sighted off Augusta and south of Messina. URGE returned due to engine defect which could not be made good at sea. OSIRIS sighted U-boat in 035° 36' 015° 39' at 0200/14. Requires docking and starboard engine clutch defective. Machinery repairs at least 8 days. (S.O. (S) Malta, 1707B/16 to Capt. S.1).

KANDAHAR
bombed.

Following received. Addressed: Alexandria W/T from KANDAHAR. Help Position 31.38 N., 26.28 E., (Nore W/T 1720C/16 to Whitehall W/T) KANDAHAR from (M.S.G ? ?) Fighters despatched to your assistance. (Nore W/T 1744/16 to Whitehall W/T).

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

MOST SECRET

1205A/16 August

Addressed: C. in C. Mediterranean
608

Date: 16.8.42.

Repeated: ABDIEL
LATONA

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

From: Admiralty.

NITE BASEGRAM

Sweep Obstructor Mark I for use in minefields is in production and will be available shortly.

2. Pending its supply 25 improvised sweep Obstructor Units were shipped to you per S.S. GLENSTRAE due Suez at end of August.

3. These are for use by surface minelayers in minefields where sweeping may be expected and should be laid in the proportion of about one in every ten mines.

1205A/16
D.D.O.D. (M) (359)

- 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.D.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.S.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.A/S.W.
- D.M.S.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Duty Capt.
- Head of M.
- D.T.S.D.
- D.G.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D. (2)
- H.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson
- D.D.O.D. (M).

McC

War Diary.16.8.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Situation
report 119.

BARHAM has arrived at Alexandria.

(ii) Western Desert. Scale of enemy air attack on Mersa Tobruk has increased with dive bombing and minelaying raids. Supplies continue by two destroyers running nightly as well as a lighter and schooner.

(iii) Two Greek merchant ships AGHIOS NICOLAOS VARVARA have now reached Famagusta from Istanbul. (C. in C. Med., 2340C/16 to Admty.)

East Indies.ORONSAY.
R.N.
personnel.

Your 0704Z/12/8, my 1305/12/8 Admty 1921/12/8 D. S.T. 0055/13/8. In view of adjustments of dates for arrival and departure of personnel ships Suez, now proposed that R.N. draft for U.K. should embark ex Suez about 23/8 in ORONSAY. Request concurrence. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1150/16 to C. in C. E.I.)

W.S.9BX.

HECTOR arrived with W.S.9.B.X. (S.O.I. Bombay 1255Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Raiders.

My 1825/12 and your 1426Z/15. Prisoner from Raider F (33) now states that he believes Raiders in Indian Ocean have orders not to send prizes home but either to Crozet or Kerguelen Islands. Prizes to be hidden in Fjords which can only be entered at high water. Ships can only be seen from air. Prize Crews have orders to establish observation and W/T posts ashore and on approach of British Warships to scuttle prizes. This to be done by electrical cable from shore. Raider No. 36 stated to be Hansa Vessel similar to 33 and 16 and possibly at present in Indian Ocean. All above graded B.3. (D.D.I.C. 1646A/16 to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary.

16.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

SPREEWALD.
(German).

My 0501/14 SPREEWALD still present, deeply laden. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0156Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Malaya
Convoys.

Ultimate force for Malaya now under consideration in light of manpower problem. Size and composition of Convoys will depend on decision reached. (W.O. 0445/16 to G.O.C. Malaya).

America and West Indies.

NORDERNEY
(intercepted
by DESPATCH
15/8).

My 2057Z/15 (N.T. in W.D) Regret impossible to save NORDERNEY. Intend proceeding Trinidad to land 58 prisoners and complete with oil. Have ordered Oiler BISHOPDALE to comply with your 0952Q/12. (S.O., West Indies Force, 0012Z/16 to C. in C. A.W.I).
NORDERNEY sunk by gunfire. (PRETORIA CASTLE 0950Z/16 to DESPATCH).

INDOCHINOIS.

Rescue tug PRUDENT sailed at 0955Z/16 to assistance s.s. INDOCHINOIS aground in Straits of Belle Isle. (C.C.N.F. 0936Z/16 to Admty.)

Vichy
Ships.

Policy re interception. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1029Q/16 to A.W.I. Stn.) See Lion Copy.

MONTCALM
and French
M/V's.

Your 2122/15. French Cruiser MONTCALM was reported in ~~MEDAL~~ 35 graded B.O. as having left Casablanca on 30/7 for Dakar and/or Saigon, her arrival Dakar on 4/8 graded A.O. 611 reported in ~~MEDAL~~ 38. Navy Dept. has no further news MONTCALM but have asked Dakar if ship is still in port and Casablanca to confirm her final destination. Navy Dept. believe merchantmen mentioned are at Tamatave, U.S. Consul has been asked to confirm. (B.A.D. Washington, 1233R/16 to Admty.)

/Whale.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
1029Q/16th August
DATE 18.8.'41.
RECD. 0115.FROM C. in C. America and
West Indies.

NAVAL CYPHER "C" BY W/T

ADDRESSED America and West Indies Stations.

- (a) My ⁺1459Q/11th July. While general policy is still to avoid hostilities with Vichy forces risk of conflict resulting from execution of my 1459Q/11th July is accepted.
- (b) Intervention of Vichy forces not decisively superior may be contested in case valuable prize depending on degree of risk to H.M. Ships.
- (c) Unimportant French prizes should be sunk in preference to contesting recapture by Vichy forces.
- (d) Decision to contest recapture therefore depends on value of prize, risk to H.M. Ships, and chance of successfully bringing prize into port.
- (e) In order to minimize risk of hostilities when decision to sink prize has been made this action should always be effected by scuttling and not repeat not by gunfire.
- (f) Organization for scuttling should therefore always be worked out by British personnel in charge of such prizes.

1029Q/16.

+ No trace in War Reg. Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

1st Lord	Nav. Sec.	M. (2)	D.T.D. (M)
1st S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of P. (3)	D.T.D. (C)
V.C.N.S.	P.A.S. (S)	O.I.C. (2)	D.E.W.D. (3)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.N.I. (4)	I.P. (3)	N.L.
A.C.N.S. (F)	O.D. (5)	W.D.	Ad. Chalmers
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	Ops. (4)	D.T.D. (4)	File M.A. In
Sec.			

War Diary.

16.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

Whale
Catchers.

Admty. 1716/11/6. 6 Norwegian catchers on passage to Durban, ultimate destination 2 each to Karachi, Bombay and Cochin for L.L. conversions (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1327Z/16) See Lion Copy.
(p. 312 B.)

Corvettes.

Admty. 1349A/14, first three corvettes should be sailed as additional escorts for first convenient H.X. convoy. Report names of corvettes and convoy. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1342Z/16 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

BEARN.

On 14/8 French Aircraft Carrier BEARN anchored in Martinique. Information sent C.N.S. Ottawa. (ALUSNA, 1525/16 to Admty.)

Pacific
Routeing.

Following tentatively agreed with U.S. as basis for Pacific routeing plan under A.B.C. conditions. (B.A.D. Washington 1555R/16 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) See Lion Copy.

S.H.X.
Convoys.

Your 2217Z/15. (Re abolition of S.H.X. Convoys) Concur. (D.T.D. 1705/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X. 145.

Sailing telegram (contains names of 81 ships). (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1826Z/16).

BERA
suspicious.

Master SAMARIA on arrival Halifax reports Swedish oil tanker BERA was sighted on port beam 6 miles, painted white with Swedish colours bow and amidships. Was in very light trim. BERA endeavoured to close but SAMARIA took immediate avoiding action and drew away, BERA then steered 150° apparently for Monatpassaya. Sighting took place 13/8, 19.16 N., 68. 10 W. Master's definite opinion ship's actions were very suspicious.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1855Z/16 to Admty.).

LE TRIOMPHANT

Arrived and entered Canal 1400 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Colon 1905/16 to Admty.)

/Panama.....

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1555R/16th August

IN

From British Admiralty Delegation
Washington.

MOST SECRET

Date 17.8.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY CABLE

Recd. 035L.

Addressed Admiralty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

~~089~~

261.

The following have been tentatively agreed with United States Routeing Authorities as basis for a Pacific routeing plan under A B C conditions.

(i) 12th naval district route all shipping from West Coast to Australasian waters, and New Zealand Naval Board in reverse direction.

Routeing will normally be carried out on the line given in paragraph 3, route given being interchanged. Any question or difficulty arising will be settled through Liaison Officers at San Francisco and Wellington.

Emergency diversion would be made on an area basis, the other authorities being kept informed.

- (ii) Routeing will be based on following general principles:
 - (a) Route to be issued in form of lettered positions known only to masters of ships routed and routeing authorities at San Francisco and Wellington.
 - (b) No 2 ships or group to be routed the same.
 - (c) Ships to be at maximum dispersion by time limit of range of shore based aircraft is reached.

- (iii) The following rules in routeing will be observed:
 - (a) Area enclosed in line drawn between Sandakan, Fiji Honolulu and due North from Honolulu to be regarded as closed area through which shipping would not be sent without escort.
 - (b) The following areas are to be regarded as dangerous:
 - (i) Tasman and Coral Seas
 - (ii) East of New Zealand up to 170 degrees West between latitude 020 degrees and 040 degrees South
 - (iii) East of Fiji - Honolulu line except neighbourhood of Fiji and Honolulu.
 - (c) Protection in above areas will be afforded as follows:
 - (i) By escort
 - (ii) By routeing South and East of this area and by escort of important ships between New Zealand and Fiji
 - (iii) By cover from Honolulu and Pago Pago and by routeing ships as far East as possible. The number of ships calling at Honolulu and Fiji should be restricted.

Request your comments. This plan has also been communicated to Australian Commonwealth Naval Board Melbourne, and New Zealand Naval Board Wellington for comments and by United States Authorities to Commandant 12th Naval District.

1555R/16

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F) and D.T.D.

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

War Diary.

16.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Panama
Canal.

Your 2156Q/11. Considerable legal difficulties to be overcome if Masters leave their ships whilst in transit through Canal, would not arise if Chief Officer could be sent to obtain routing instructions from N.C.S.O. Alternatively can some arrangement be made to enable Master to receive route instructions on board his ship thus avoiding present delay? (A.C.N.S. (T) 1908A/16 to C. in C. A.W.I).

Task
Group
2. 5.

Prospective movements. (ALUSNA, 2009/16 to Admty.)

GOS 8.
GOS 9.

Norwegian Naval vessels GOS 8 and GOS (ex whale catchers) sailed Halifax today 16/8 with H.X. 145 destination Greenock. Vessels fitted with asdics, 4 inch guns and light A/A weapons. Request Norwegian C. in C. be informed. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2021Z/16 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

LE TRIOMPHANT.

N.Z.N.B's 1018/14 and B.A.D. Washington's 2127R/14. Anticipated F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT will remain at Tahiti for about 1 month. Later movements not decided. As no arrangements for an oiler to complete tanks at Papeete, appreciated if HAURAKI could carry 450 tons of oil fuel there. (4th S.L., 1226A/16 to N.Z.N.B., B.A.D).

War Diary.

16.8.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SHAHRISTAN
(torpedoed
29/7).

Permission received from Portuguese Authority for 21 Military Survivors SHAHRISTAN now at Ponta Delgada to leave island provided they do not travel in warship or transport. Request instructions where they are to be sent. (N.C.S. O. Ponta Delgada, 1215/16 to Admty.) N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro's 1131/15/8 is passed to you. SHAHRISTAN's message was not heard at Freetown. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1726N/16 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

2046Z/15.

By D/F at 2046Z/15. Position of U-boat was 48° N. - 49° N. 14° - 15° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0104A/16).

0318Z.

By D/F at 0318Z/16, position of Italian U-Boat, approx. 45° 30' N. 2° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 0527A/16 to PARTHIAN, SEALION, SOKOL, etc.).

Sighted by
Neutrals.

Submarines not British or Allied have been sighted in following positions by Neutral Masters. (A) 0001/9/7, 41' 03' N. 03' 32' E., hailed in French. (B) 3/8, 40 miles south of Genoa patrolling. (S.O.I. Gib., 1048A/16 to C. in C. Med. etc)

P.M./13

2 submarines sighted in approx. position 32. 42 N. 35.50 W. P.M./13. (F.O.C.N.A. 1324A/16 to CORINTHIAN). Request information on which your 1324A/16 is based. (D.O.D. (F) 2141A/16 to F.O.C.N.A). My 1324A/16 was based on B.A.D. Washington's 1727R/15 which was passed to you as Gibraltar series no. 35/866. (F.O.C.N.A. 2358A/16 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1450A/16).

1819 G.M.T.

Bearings at 1819 G.M.T. of Italian U/Boat 14 L. (D.D.I.C. 2004A/16 to F.O.C.N.A).

Submarines attacked.

6/8
13/8.

Daily summary Ops. 202 Squadron. Ref. my A. 729/7/8. Y sources report this U-boat not yet returned to base. 38 days out. Nothing heard since attack. Ref. my A.791, 13/8 first U-boat was Italian, still being called unsuccessfully by base. Y sources unable identify second. (200 Group 1838/16 to Air Ministry, amended 1730/17).

War Diary

17.8.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

An M/S listening Patrol will commence operating on the East Coast Channel between Aldeburgh and No.5. Buoy as from the night 20/21 August.

Cape Gris Nez batteries fired 8 rounds shortly before midnight when Convoy C.W. 46 was between Dover and South Foreland. No naval damage or casualties are reported.

TIGRIS, on passage to Murmansk sank by torpedo a westbound merchant vessel at 0815C today in 70° 59' N., 26° 45' E. *(Probably Finnish HOGLAND, loss of which was announced by Finnish broadcast on 24/8)*

British Air Operations

9 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Rotterdam docks last night and 8 Ostend docks.

Enemy Air Operations

SS KINDERSLEY in Convoy E.C. 61 was bombed and damaged late this evening off Blyth.

17.8.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Mines were detonated today off the Tyne and Mersey.

Thames Estuary.

There was slight air activity over the Thames Estuary last night. One mine was exploded at 2358/16.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the North Foreland.

Mediterranean

Operations by Naval Aircraft.

5 Naval Swordfish from Malta last night attacked Catania harbour with excellent results causing a widespread fire and several large explosions. Damage to shipping must have been considerable.

This evening 7 Swordfish attacked a southbound convoy of 5 merchant ships and one tanker escorted by 6 destroyers, 20 miles West of Lampedusa. One 8000 ton ship was sunk, one of 9000 tons was hit by torpedo and was subsequently beached off Lampedusa where it was bombed and set on fire by Blenheims on 18/8,* and the tanker, of 6000 tons was hit by a torpedo and set on fire.* This tanker was still on fire on 22/8. A 700 ton schooner, seen on its side alongside was probably hit on 18/8 by nearmiss. 3 Hurricanes today attacked the seaplane base at Catania.

Libya and Western Desert.

Mersa Matruh port is closed consequent on mine-laying raid last night. Two Yugoslav M.T.B's have proceeded there for Western desert operations.

Determined dive bombing attacks were made on Tobruk during daylight today. Some lighters were sunk, but no damage was caused to lighters or schooners unloading.

/The Russian

17.8.1941,
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

The Russian High Command reported that Nikolaiev was evacuated today and the dockyards blown up.

East Indies

Operation
"Ration"
("Kedgerree")

Five Vichy French ships, VILLE D'ORAN, LINOIS, DALNY, LIPARI and SAGITTAIRE are reported to have left Tamatave on 12/8 on homeward voyage, escorted by sloops and tanker LOT. It is possible that the French cruiser MONTCALM last reported at Dakar about 6/8 will join the convoy later and submarines may be in company. AUSTRALIA and HAWKINS, the latter from Convoy S.W. 8 which is to proceed unescorted to Durban, are to intercept the convoy. Any A/S vessels available in Cape ports are to assist, and air cooperation has been asked for.

U-Boat Campaign

Corvette ALBERNI claims to have destroyed a U-Boat sighted on the surface in foggy weather, at 0500Z today in 55° 25' N., 44° 5' W. the Convoy was not attacked.

War Diary.

17.8.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Recognition procedure.

Your 1450B/8. To keep recognition procedure as simple as possible for benefit of small vessels alternative 2 is preferred.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1119/17 to Adty.)

Biscay Fishing Ships.

While offensive action against fishing ships in Bay of Biscay should as a rule never be initiated by submarines as directed in S.W.M.18, French sail fishing ships are never to be attacked within following areas.

Bound west by longitude 7° W., on the north by latitude 49° N., on the south by latitude 047° 50' N., and on the east by the French coastline from lat., 047° 50' N., to lat., E Ushant thence Ushant then by line going due north from Ushant to lat., 49° N.

This message is S.M.X.11.
(F.O.S. 1238A/17 to S/M's Area A.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Force A.

Am constantly being asked about the movements of Force A but have no information. Soviet Naval Authorities today particularly asked whether any fuel or provisions are required at Murmansk.
(Admiral Miles, Moscow 1231C/17.)

Defence of U.K.

Scapa A/A Defences.

Your 1642/13. Assume this and previous incidents are being investigated by Dr. Bower of Air Ministry Operational Intelligence at Kirkwall, and you will report measures taken or action proposed to improve defences.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1445A/17 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

CURACOA PENELOPE.

Departure:- 0700 CURACOA. 0800 PENELOPE.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0800/17.)

TUNA.

Intend to sail TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR at 1000A/20 for 270° Wolf Rock 3 miles. E.T.A. 2200A/21. Thence to patrol in Bay of Biscay.
(Capt. S.3. 1035A/17.)

War Diary.

17.8.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

P.34.

→ (1) Intend to sail P.34 escorted by LA CAPRI-CIEUSE at 1700A/21 for 290° Bishop Rock 5 miles. E.T.A. 2200A/23. Route thence. Will enter N.A. Station at 0200A/27.
(Capt. S.3. 1135A/17.) *Cancelled - see 20/6 - p.354 -*

MARON
HILARY
CORINTHIAN.

Programme up to November 1941.
(S.O. Western Patrol 1150A/17.)
See Lion Copy.

CONQUEROR.

Intend to sail CONQUEROR at noon/20 to Portsmouth for onward routing to Tyne. E.T.A.1445/20. Request air protection be arranged.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1735A/17 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

H.50.

→ During night you may meet LA CAPRICIEUSE escorting S/M H.50.
(C. in C.W.A.1757A/17 to HORNPIPE and 1801A/17 to KEPPEL.)

HEYTHROP.

Anticipate HEYTHROP will be ready to leave U.K., about 20/8 for Suez.
2. C. in C.W.A., is requested to arrange for her to fuel at Londonderry and join O.G.72.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1957A/17.)

CASTLETOWN
CHARLESTON.

Confirm that CHARLESTON is in company.
(C. in C.W.A., 2344A/17 to CASTLETON.)

Operations.

East
Coast
Listening
Patrol.

My 25/331J/41 of 2nd Jan/41. M/S Listening patrol will commence operating on the East Coast Channel between Aldeburgh and No.5 Buoy as from night 20/21. Two Trawlers will be stationed during dark hours one mile to the eastward of each of the following buoys:-
54 C. 54E. 54 F. and 5.
(C. in C. Nore 1048A/17.)

"Dervish".

Your 1338A/16. In order to avoid amended route of H.X.143 convoy ~~DERVISH~~ should be ordered to alter course forthwith to 63° 00' N., 21° 00' W., omitting position 62° 00' N., 14° 00' W.
(D.O.D.(H)1232A/17 to A.C.O.S.)

/Trawlers....

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1150A/17 August.

IN

From: S.O. Western Patrol.

Date: 18.8.41.
Recd: 1047.-----
Naval Cypher C by T/P
-----Addressed: Admiralty. Repeated: C. in C. Western
Approaches, F.O.C. North Atlantic, N.O.i/c
Greenock.NITE

Owing to delay in completion of (GPXB) MARON's refit and boiler defects in MBCT (HILARY) the following amendments to my 1510B/26 July are necessary:

(ii) MBCT (HILARY) leaves Clyde a.m. 30/8 with O G 73 to relieve GPXB (MARON) 6/9; remain on patrol until p.m. 18/9 returning to Clyde with S L 86. Leaves Clyde a.m. 3/10 with O S 8 to relieve GPXB (MARON) 11/10.

(iii) GPXB (MARON) left Clyde 14/8 with O S 3 arrives H Z one p.m. 22/8; leaves patrol 1200 6th September to arrive Gibraltar 12/9. Leaves Gibraltar 16/9 and relieves GNGD (CORINTHIAN) 22/9; remain on patrol until 10/10 and arrives Gibraltar 16/10. Leaves Gibraltar 20/10 and arrives on patrol 26/10 leaving approx. 8/11 for Clyde.

1150A/17.

Advance copies to Ops, O.D. and
O.I.C.

Vice Controller

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.I.C. (2)

D.T.D (4)

D.T.D (M)

D.T.D (C)

D.A/S.W.

Movts.

Mails.

M (2)

W.D.

I.P. (3)

War Diary.17.8.41.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations Contd.Trawlers
for
Force A.

4 Trawlers from the 10th and 15th A/S Groups are required for service with Force A and are to be ready to sail with oiler OLIGARCH from Hvalfjord p.m./18. C. in C. H.F., is requested to issue further instructions.
(A.C.N.S(H) 2101A/17.)

British Air Activity.Patrols.

P.R.U. of Stavanger and Kristiansand now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1030/17.)
H.Q.C.C. have been asked to arrange A/S Air Search of area 60 miles square N.W. of Cape Wrath which will probably entail co-operation between 15 and 18 Groups. Search to be commenced as soon as possible and maintained until 0800 tomorrow.
(A.C.N.S(H) 1209A/17.)

Bombing
Operations.

On night 16/17 nine A/C bombed the docks at Rotterdam and 8 A/C bombed the docks at Ostend, bursts being seen at both places. One A/C also bombed Flushing Docks and one the Docks at Terneuzen. (H.Q.B.C. 1615/17.)

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy E.C.61.
A/C destroyed
on 16/8
SUNTRAP
damaged.

My 2145/16. Aircraft was destroyed by combined fire of ships and escort, finally striking balloon wire of steamship NEPHRITE and seen to crash. Slight damage to engine and hull of steamship SUNTRAP from near miss but she is able to proceed. Two feet missing from mast of NEPHRITE.
(VALOROUS 0806A/17.)

Lowestoft
attack of
16/8.
NESS POINT.
(Tug)
sunk in dock.
Buildings
damaged.

Requisitioned tug NESS POINT sunk in Waveney Dock by air attack at 2205A/16. Requires salvage.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1130A/17.)
(C.S. Officer, Lowestoft 1330A/17.)
Damage by enemy action 2215/16 at Herring Basin, Lowestoft. Base canteen 95% demolished, pier seriously damaged, base offices partly damaged, total estimated cost £8500. Also slight damage Naval Base main office, estimated cost £20. Casualties 3 injured.
(C.E. Yarmouth 1330A/17.)

War Diary.

17.8.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

Convoy
W.N.Odd.

Fighters are being sent.
(Rosyth W/T 1526/17.)

Enemy A/C.

Following received from 14 Group Intelligence. Information has been received that A/C of 1 K.G.26 are now active from Aalborg probably on shipping operations between Forth and Flamborough Head, possibly further North.
(N.L.O. 2300/17 to A.C.O.S.)

Mining.

Russian
minefields.

S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1241C/17. See Operations Volume.

Tyne.

Detonated 1 Red Ground magnetic mine at 1129 in 059° North Tier Light Tyne 29 cables.
(P.M.S.O., North Shields 1500/17.)

Thames
Estuary.

A mine exploded near North end of East Barrow Shoal at 2358. Aircraft was in vicinity at time. (S.O.T.L.D.F., Sheerness 1536/17.)

Liverpool.

At 1435/17 one Red Mine detonated by Sweeper in 265° Bar Light Vessel 7 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1605/17.)

Casualties & Defects.

FAULKNOR.

E.T.A. Needles 0530/18. Starboard shaft is out of action.
(FAULKNOR 0958A/17.)

Dumb Barge
off Kinnaird
Head.

Steamship ARDENZA reports losing dumb-barge in 57° 46' N., 1° 49' W., at 0100/17.
(N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 1156/17.)

PICOTEE.

Investigation shows A pattern depth charge was dropped by PICOTEE on starboard quarter of convoy about 0145Z/12. What appeared to be steam or smoke was then seen coming up astern Corvette which was steaming away from convoy at fair speed. 5 minutes later Corvette being out of sight dull thud was heard in her direction. At 0200 Submarine was definitely seen by Captain and 2 other officers of one of the convoys coming from direction of Corvette and 2 rockets were fired. Submarine was black and was about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile off.

/Submarine....

326

War Diary.17.8.41.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.PICOTEE
Contd.

Submarine immediately altered course away and disappeared at high speed. Position 0200 062° 16' N., 018° 15' W. This information has only just been received by me.

(A.C.I.C. 1347/17.)

Your 2206A/16. Nothing further seen since N/269 report at 0800. Area not completely covered owing to bad weather.

(A.C.I.C. 1920/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 1026/13. Request you ascertain from Masters of the Merchant Ships ex O.N.4 any information that they have regarding movements of PICOTEE and when she was last seen. Request you will report results by signal and confirm 8 ships and SALVONIA arrived with (AYRSHIRE)

(C. in C.W.A. 1930A/17 to A.C.I.C.)

Ann-B

On arrival of (AYRSHIRE) request you will fully investigate and report the circumstances attending the loss of touch with and subsequent disappearance of PICOTEE on night of the 11/12 August.

Investigation is to include whether any R/T or other signals were passed between these ships.

(C. in C.W.A. 2140A/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

RHONE.

My 1218/17. RHONE put back. Damage in collision (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1544/17.)

Hartlepool.

Port of Hartlepool open in accordance with restrictions outlined in my 1300/9.

(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1645/17.)

COVERLEY
damaged.

Whilst exercising action stations in harbour this forenoon, QUADRILLE fired port and starboard throwers whilst securing to buoy alongside COVERLEY. Both depth charges detonated under water. No damage to QUADRILLE. Following damage to COVERLEY but she can steam 7 knots. No casualties.

(WESTERN ISLES 1752A/17.)

BOADICEA.

Capt. (D) Greenock's 1106A/17th. Request assistance in making good class A defects. Details. (BOADICEA 190IA/17 to Capt. D. Liverpool.)

GLEN
STRATHALLAN.
(Collision
11/8.)

Sailed tug AMSTERDAM to assist GLEN STRATHALLAN in 053° 30' N., 004° 05' W.

(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 2020/17.)

War Diary.

17.8.1941.
Sunday.

327

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy
Cycles.

Your 1915A/16. Concur.
(D.T.D.0538A/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

S.L.82.

Arrived safely, Master of KING STEPHEN as
Commodore, to British, 1 neutral, 5 Allied Ships.
Cargoes. (D.S.713, 18/8.)

W.S.8C.

Clyde arrival convoy W.S.8.C. Codeword ^{'Expert'} ~~EXPERT~~.
(N.O.I.C. ~~GREENOCK~~, 1204A/17 to Admty., etc.)
Conform with Adty. 1232A/17.
(A.C.O.S. 1444A/17 to ELECTRA.)

D.S.10.

LEOPOLDVILLE and ROYAL ULSTERMAN will form
Convoy D.S.10 leaving Clyde p.m./21.
(D.O.D.(H) 1749A/17 to C. in C.W.A., etc.)

War Diary.

17.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Survivors
in Portuguese
Trawler.

?13

Portuguese Trawler MARIA LEONSPIE (? MARIA LEONOR) off Cape Juby 0900/17 proceeding Lisbon 10 knots has on board 14 British survivors, one of whom wounded, and very short of provisions, but does not wish proceed to a French port as survivors would be interned. Future positions will be reported. (N.A. Lisbon 1210/17 to F.O.C.N.A. amended 1526/18).
(Repeating substance of 1210/17). Endeavour to intercept and remove 3 British survivors and wounded. Give trawler provisions if you have to spare. (F.O.C.N.A. 2007A/17 to SOUTHERN GEM, JANETHA IV).

CLYDE,
SEVERN.

Intend to sail CLYDE p.m./18 for A/S patrol on line Cape St.Vincent to Madeira thence to Azores. CLYDE will leave patrol to reach Gibraltar 11/9. Intend to sail SEVERN p.m./20 for A/S patrol on Cape St.Vincent Madeira Line duration of patrol about 16 days.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1210A/17 to Admty.).

AVON VALE,
ERIDGE.

Admty.1239B/9 para.(iii). Intend sailing AVON VALE and ERIDGE a.m./18 for Freetown.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1304A/17 to C.in C., S.A.).

French
Ships.

Gibraltar 17/8 0837 - French Hospital Ship CANADA, Westbound. 1305 - Minesweeper COMMANDANT RIVIERE, S/M LE CONQUERANT, Westbound.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1425A/17 to Admty. etc).

KOS 7,
KOS 9.

Regret cancellation of sailing of KOS 7 and KOS 9 was not passed to you.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1827A/17 to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C.,S.A).

French
Convoys.

Passing Gibraltar 15/8. (D.O.R. 17/8).

French
Convoy.

1815 French L'AJACCIENNE escorting BRESTOIS, AGEN, CAP BLANC, ROUBASIEN, all full eastbound.
(S.O.I., Gibraltar 2055/17 to Admty.).

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War Diary.17.8.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Operation
"Ration",
convoy from
Tamatave.

S.O.I. Capetown's 0943Z/15 and my 0056A/17 (see East Indies). Carry out operation "Ration" forthwith (A.M. 1407/10/1 refers) against convoy of Vichy French ships which left Tamatave 1230Z/12 using AUSTRALIA. Possible that MONTCALM may have joined convoy and submarines may also be in company with convoy. If suitable A/S vessels are available in Cape Ports they are to assist in the operation. Air co-operation is to be asked for. Operation should be abandoned if interception has not been effected East of 15° East.
(V.C.N.S. 0135A/17 to C.in C., S.A.).

A/S Vessels,
Air R/C.

Admty. 0135/17. What A/S vessels are likely to be available giving speed endurance and present position. To what depth from coast can air R/C be carried out. Air co-operation may be required (a) to locate Vichy ships, (b) to cover operation of bringing them in if intercepted. (C.in C., S.A. 0931N/17 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown). Your 0931N/17/8. Only A/S vessels available are S.D.F. Whalers 1 at Durban, 5 at Capetown. Of these three at Capetown and one Durban are capable of maintaining 12 knots remainder not more than 10 knots. Endurance not less than 2000 miles. These vessels constitute sole A/S protection of Union ports. Air R/C - normally 200 miles with Avro Ansons but I am already negotiating with C.G.S. Pretoria, for loan of a limited number of Glen Martins for this operation. These machines are here awaiting tests and then delivery up north. They operate to depth of 500 miles with say 300 miles to play with. I am not very certain that they will be made available.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1613Z/17, to ? C.in C., S.A.).

AUSTRALIA
movements.

Admty. 0135/17. Request probable position AUSTRALIA and arrival Durban, presume will want fuel. Your 0450/17 Admty. messages 2228/13 and 1526/14 not held, to what do they refer? Does AUSTRALIA hold instructions for "Ration" (Admty. 1407/10/1) ?
(C.in C., S.A. 1013N/17 to C.in C., E.I.).
See 1703/17.

Instructions to AUSTRALIA. (C.in C., S.A. 1123N/17 to AUSTRALIA). See Lion Copy.

COMMANDANT DUBOC /

MOST SECRET

329A

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1123N/17th Aug. IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic. Date 17.8.41.

Recd 1431.

Naval Cypher (C) by W/TAddressed H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA, repeated C. in C.
East Indies, Admiralty, N.O.I.C. Simonstown.IMMEDIATE.AIDAC.

867

French ships FNOR (VILLE D'ORAN) FNMR
(LINOIS) FNMD (DALNY) FNMS (LIPARI) FNQK (SAGITTAIRE)
reported left Tamatave 1230Z/12 on homeward voyage
escorted by sloops and tanker **LOT** graded A1.Possible that French Cruiser MONTCALM last
reported Dakar about 6th August will join convoy later.
Submarines may be in company.You are to endeavour to intercept this convoy
in accordance with operation RATION which if not held
will be signalled. A/S Force in South Africa and
aircraft may be available to co-operate. Estimated
speed of convoy eight to ten knots. Tracks known to
have been previously followed are within 60 miles of a
line from 034 degs 00' South 042 degs 00' East to
040 degs 10' South 027 degs 30' East and have then
passed from between 250 to 600 miles from Cape Agulhas.

My 1655/15/7 is being repeated to you.

Proceed as soon as fuelled to intercept
in neighbourhood of tracks given reporting intentions
before sailing.

1123N/17

Note by War Reg:- 0135A/17 from Admiralty
to C. in C. South Atlantic refers.

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F) and D.D.I.C.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

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

D. of P.(2)

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.N.I.(4)

D.S.D.

D.A/S.W.

I.P.(2)

W.D.

Duty Captain

Hd. of M.

D.D.I.C.

093

E.P.S.

D.T.D.(2)

N.I.D.10. Pay.Cdr.

Wilson.

17.8.1941. ³³⁰
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.) Op: "Ration".

COMMANDANT
DUBOC.
("Ration")

Your 0135/17 and my 1123/17. French sloop minesweeper COMMANDANT DUBOC now at Simonstown would be very useful. Is there any objection to using her? (C.in C., S.A. 1213N/17 to Admty.). Your 1213N/17. Regretted COMMANDANT DUBOC may not be used for this operation. (V.C.N.S. 1825A/17 to C.in C., S.A.). Your 1213/17. COMMANDANT DUBOC is not fitted with asdics. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1834B/17 to C.in C., S.A.).

MONTCALM.

Your 1013N/17. A.M.2228/13 is cancelled. A.M. 1526/14 contains the substance of A.M.1336A/13 addressed to you. French cruiser MONTCALM was reported (B.O.) as having left Casablanca 30/7 for Dakar and/or Saigon. Reported (A.O.) having arrived Dakar 4/8. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1703A/17 to C.in C., S.A.).

"Ration"
Instructions.

My 1123/17. Following are Admty. instructions for Operation "Ration". (C.in C., S.A. 1919N/17 to AUSTRALIA). See Lion Copy. See *kp* 329, 331, 333

Whalers and
Air R/C.
AUSTRALIA.

My 0931/17 and your 1613/17. Request you will sail if possible one 12 knot whaler and one 10 knot whaler independently from Durban to patrol about 038° 10' S. 032° 20' E. whalers to meet in position. Also 3 12-knot whalers from Capetown to patrol about 040° 00' S. 024° 10'E. to arrive A.M./21. AUSTRALIA to be informed vice Durban of means of communication with these. Also you arrange air R/C as thought (corrupt group) best to assist. Request you will direct operations locally as necessary, pass out information from R/C, and move A/S vessels to assist AUSTRALIA if required. My instructions as regards trawler patrol are initial movements only and may be altered as required in view of local knowledge or AUSTRALIA requirements. (C.in C., S.A. 2041N/17 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

HAWKINS to
be used.

A.M. 0135A/17. HAWKINS should be used to ensure success of this operation. Convoy S W 8 may proceed unescorted to Durban. (V.C.N.S. 2234A/17 to C.in C., S.A., C.in C.,E.I). Admty. 2234A/17. Information should be given to HAWKINS as indicated in my 1957/17 and my 1907/17 and all other relevant signals. (C.in C., S.A. 2219N/17 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

My 1123/17 /

From C. in C. South Atlantic. Date 18.8.41. 330A

MOST SECRET
 NAVAL CYPHER C BY W/T.

Recd. 0150.

Addressed H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA, Repeated N.O. 1/c Simonstown
 C. in C. East Indies, Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE. AIDAC.

872. My 1123 17th August following are Admiralty instructions for Operation RATION: Begin: H.M.S. employed on interception of escorted French ships are to be guided by following instructions:

(i) Attempts stop ship should only be made if H.M. Ships are in overwhelming force.

(ii) The Commdr. escorting warship should be informed by means of a boarding officer if possible that merchant ship must proceed to a named British port for examination and requested to order merchant ship to proceed there. Every courtesy possible is to be ~~to~~ to Commdr. escorting warship.

(iii) If Commander of escorting warships refuses willingly to order merchant ships into a British Port, they should be taken on sent in without further reference to him, in accordance with usual procedure laid down in Article 78 and 79 of Naval prize manual. If necessary fire may be opened on merchant ships under authority there given.

(iv) If escorting warships attempt to prevent M.S. being sent or taken in, Force may be employed to compel them to desist intervening. British warships must not repetition not however fire first shot against escort. In no circumstances are escorting warships to be ordered or forcibly brought into port even if they have tried to resist exercise of control over merchant ships. Ends.

1919N/17

~~Z~~ ? "shown" omitted.

~~Z~~ Interception of French Convoy (Operation RATION)

Advance copy sent Duty Capt., D.D.I.C.

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

War Diary.

17.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HAWKINS to
be used.
(Contd)

My 1123/17, 1919/17 and 2041/17 are being passed to you. HAWKINS will take part in this operation. (C.in C., S.A. 2315N/17 to HAWKINS).

Code
"Kedgeree".

A.T.0135A/17 (not to AUSTRALIA and HAWKINS). Code word for this particular operation is "Kedgeree". (A.C.N.S.(F) 2241A/17 to C.in C., S.A.

CHESHIRE,
CILICIA.

Your 1826A/15/8. (CHESHIRE to replace CILICIA in escort to U.K.). This will be arranged - (2) Concur. (C.in C., S.A. 2300N/17 to Admty.).

Mediterranean.

TARVISIO
(Italian).

Angora broadcast on 16/8 stated permission given to proceed from Chanak to Black Sea, but vessel had not yet moved. (D.S. 713, 18/8).

Benghazi
and Bardia
bombed.

Night 15/16. 28 Wellingtons bombed Berka and Benina Aerodromes, also shipping in Benghazi Harbour. Bombs fell near tanker at Juliana Mole at Benghazi. 2 Blenheims 3 F.A.A. Albacores and 2 Wellingtons attacked s/m reported in Bardia Harbour with bombs and torpedo. One fire started near Mole. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1006/17).

U/B zigzag
precaution.

U-boats have been located within 100 miles of Malta on a few occasions (? this) month. Drastic zigzagging should be employed however dark. (S.O.S. Malta 1053B/17 to TAKU, s/ms Malta Force).

OTUS,
TAKU.

Instructions for arrival.
(S.O.S. Malta 1057B/17 to OTUS, TAKU).

Mine-
sweeping.

Alexandria Minesweeping Summary for week ending 16/8. No Minelaying Raids. No Mines swept. Three Mines from previous raid still in Flying Boat anchorage, Harbour otherwise believed clear. (R.A. Alexandria 1234C/17 to Admty.).

Enemy Convoy /

War Diary.17.8.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.Enemy Convoy.

Anticipate small escorted convoy leaving 037° 57' 023° 36' dusk tonight/17 for 124° midday (? zone time). (Capt. S.1. 1700C/17 to THRASHER.)

THUNDERBOLT.

Instructions. (Capt. S.1, 1755C/17, to THUNDERBOLT.)

Malta Raid.

Night 16/17. Single raider dropped incendiaries near Hal Far. No damage.

Catania Syracuse attacked.

Night 16/17 5 Swordfish attacked shipping Catania Harbour with excellent results. Whole of the harbour and railway sidings were lit up by fire as if by day. Damage to shipping which must have been considerable not yet ascertained. 3 Hurricanes attacked seaplanes Syracuse 17/8, 1 Cant Z 506 set on fire and 4 others severely damaged probably written-off. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q.R.A.F., Malta, 1800/17.)

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of 6 Enemy Destroyers and 6 Enemy Merchant Vessels 35.42 N., 11.42 E., 150°, 9, 1850. (A/C 8 H.S. of Z. Sqdn., 1910B/17, to Med. A/C.) (Repeating 1910B/17.) Aircraft will attack at dusk and dawn. (S.O.S., Malta, 1920/B/17 to S/M's Malta Force.) P.C. and S., of enemy, 6 destroyers and 6 merchant vessels 039 35° N., 11° E., 54, 155°, 9, 1850. (A/C 35B Sqdn., 1938/7, to Med. Stn.)

UNIQUE P.32. P.33.

Second convoy due Tripoli about noon/18. When passed P.33 return to Malta as in my 1144B/15. UNIQUE and P.32 proceed vicinity 033° 20' N. 013° 03' E. and 033° 17' N. 013° 14' E. respectively to intercept 3 large M/Ships 6 destroyers speed 17½ knots due Tripoli about noon/20. (S.O.S., Malta, 2015/B/17, to UNIQUE P 32 P 33, Amended 1101B/18.)

UNBEATEN. enemy convoy.

UNBEATEN sails p.m./18 to intercept fast convoy in 037° 05' 011° 50' p.m./20, returning to Malta for 24 hours before proceeding on full patrol in area N. (S.O.S., Malta, 2133B/17 to Capt. S.1.)

Situation report 120.

Vichy French Convoy 'A' left Beirut 2000/16. 2. Western Desert. Two Yugoslav M.T.B.s have proceeded Mersa Matruh for Western desert operations. Mersa Matruh Port closed due to minelaying raid night 16/17. (C. in C. Med., 2327C/17 to Admty.)

2032/17th August

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From Cairo

Date 17.8.41.

Recd. 1920

CYPHER

Addressed Foreign Office (Sir M. Lampson) repeated Jerusalem No. 380 for General Wilson, Spears Mission Beirut No. 69 Madrid No. 17.

MOST IMMEDIATENo. 44 LIMIT

Following from Minister of State.

1. 52 British officers and N.C.O. prisoners arrived Beirut by sea on Friday.
2. I now propose to release proportion of French officers, retaining equivalent number to our prisoners still hold at Scarpento and keeping General Dentz and Senior officers to the last French prisoners now released would be sent home in the next convoy.
3. I hope you agree.

2032/17

Received from Foreign Office 1440/13 Sept.

V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D.T.D. (4)
 D.T.D. (M)
 O.D. (5)
 D.N.I. (4)
 N.L.
 M. (2)
 Ad. Chalmers
 I.P. (3)
 W.D.
 D. of P. (3)
 E.P.S.

War Diary.

17.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

AUSTRALIA,
Operation
"Ration".

AUSTRALIA is to proceed to Durban at best speed. Further orders follow. (V.C.N.S., 0056A/17, to C. in C.E.I., C. in C.S.A.) See also S.Atlantic. W.D.Note:- AUSTRALIA left Aden 6/8. Arrived Mombasa 13/8, left Mombasa 1205 G.M.T./15, to examine certain islands. (C. in C.E.I., 1428Z/15.)
See pp 329, 330A, 7331

DORIS.

Overdue. Greek DORIS due Aden 11th, left Calcutta 24/7. (S.O.I., Colombo, 0530Z/17 to Admty.)

ORONSAY
personnel.

Your 1305/12 and 1150/16. Escort will be available at Aden 26/8. Request you will route ORONSAY to Aden. (C. in C.E.I., 0816Z/17, to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

EXETER.

Cancel my 1104/14, On relief by MAURITIUS proceed to Aden arriving A.M./25. (C. in C.E.I., 0830Z/17, to EXETER.)

China.

FRANCOIS L.D.
(French.)

Departed Saigon 15/8, cargo of rubber, vessel cleared for Kobe. (C.S.Singapore, 0241Z/17, to Admty.)

DUPLEIX.

Consul General Saigon telegram 172 to F.O. I do not intend intervening with Dutch to secure release of DUPLEIX especially as our policy has been to encourage them to intercept French shipping (see Admty. 2255/27/7.) (C. in C. China, 0533Z/17, to Admty.)

Fuel.

My 0901/1. It may become necessary for more ships to avoid (?North Pacific.) If so oil burners will require to bunker Auckland where present stocks are insufficient. Can arrangements be made for additional fuel (?oil based at) New Zealand of say 2500 tons monthly. (C. in C. China 0535Z/17 to Adty., N.Z.N.B.)

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War Diary.

17.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

MONT VISO
(French.)

Intercepted letter dated 30/7 from C Solis, S/Maitre Pilote, Depot Des Equipages, Casablanca states writer expected to sail on 15/8 for Martinique. Another letter dated 29/7 states "French ship MONT VISO will sail Martinique in a few days."
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1609/17 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

Task Force.
TASK FORCE.

Future movements.
(D.O.D.(F) 1711A/17 to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.)

VILLE DE
MAJUNGA.

Departure 17/8, Halifax 25/8.
(St. Thomas 2302/17 to M.of W.T.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Australian
Minesweepers.

Your 1445Z/12. Concur.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1227A/17 to A.C.N.B.)

Tahiti,
fuel for
LE TRIOMPHANT.

My 1018M/14 and Admty., 1226A/16. Request HAURAKI take 450 tons oil fuel to Tahiti.
(Navy Office, Wellington, 1234M/17 to A.C.N.B.)

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War Diary.17.8.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.HORN SHELL
(torpedoed
27/7.)

My 1415Z/17. Master and 14 of crew of HORN SHELL landed here to-day 17/8 by CUYABA. Ship was attacked by submerged submarine which fired 4 torpedoes. Ship heeled rapidly and was last seen at daylight 27/7 floating bottom upward. Ship was zigzagging and sunk after she had been diverted from original route by W/T from Gibraltar. No one killed or injured but 3 boats containing 42 officers and men unaccounted for. S/M not identified and no communication held with same.

(N.C.S.O.Pernambuco, 1450Z/17 to Admty.)

SUD.
(torpedoed
14/8.)

ALFERRAREDE called 17th landed Master and complete crew of 32 SUD which left Gibraltar 9th for Halifax. Master states vessel attacked by 2 S/M's torpedoed and gunfire 14/8 041° N., 017° 41' W., sank 1300 G.M.T. 1400 G.M.T., enemy aeroplane circled exchanging signals with S/M's. C.B. dumped in weighted bag. All ships' papers except wages cabinet destroyed by gunfire.

(R.O. Horta, 2322/17 to Admty.)

S.U.D. Yugoslav, 2589 tons, from Gibraltar to Halifax in ballast, had been in convoy H.G.70. (D.S.713, 18/8.)

Submarines Reported.General.

Keep good look out for U boats especially in area between 061° 30' N., and 059° N., and 029° W., and 032° W.
(A.C.I.C., 0127/17 to ASSINIBOINE, SAGUENAY.)

0922 G.M.T.

By D/F at 0922 G.M.T. enemy U-boat in 53° 30' N., 15° 30' W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1121A/17 to LEITH etc.)

14/8.

U.S. Naval Authorities report, two submarines were sighted by a Clipper at sunset 14/8. U/Boats were about ten miles apart, course W. Position 38°10' N., 36° 40' W. 1016/17.(ends.)
(D.D.I.C. 1133A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1411A/17.)

War Diary.17.8.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.By A/C,
0753.

Am over enemy S/M in 47.39N., 8.45W., enemy Submarine previously reported - periscope only sighted when first sighted was on course 270°. (A/C E 233/Sqdn., 0753/17 to 19 Group H.Q.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate no hits. (A/C, E 233 Sqdn., 0751/17 to 19 Group.) (D.S.712, 17/8.)

By A/C 1050.

Am over enemy S/M in 47°00' N., 8°31' W., S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge, Course 275°, speed 12 knots. (A/C 1050/17 to 19 Group H.Q.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Unsuccessful. (A/C 1100/17, to 19 Group H.Q.)

.? By PICOTEE
12/8.

Investigation shows A pattern depth charge was dropped by PICOTEE on starboard quarter of convoy about 0145Z/12. 5 minutes later, corvette being out of sight, dull thud was heard in her direction. (A.C.I.C., 1347/17 to C. in C.W.A.) See Casualties.

By ALBERNI.

ALBERNI claims to have destroyed U-boat in 055° 25' N., 044° 05' W., at 0500Z/17. Convoy not attacked. Weather foggy. Visibility 1500 yards. U-boat sighted on the surface. (CANDYTUFT, 1635Z/17 to Admt.) (D.S.713.)

By A/C.

At 1835/17, Beaufort A/C S/Z17, 47.40 N., 8.42W., 150' W.S.W., of Ushant, attack with 1 bomb which failed to explode. (D.S.713, 18/8.)

War Diary.

18.8.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Hartlepool was opened at 1335 to ships of 46 ft. beam and 21 ft. draft.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out a raid last night on Bremen and Z on Wilhelmshaven.

Blenheims this evening sank 3 Trawlers off the Dutch coast.

→ O.G.71
H.G.70.

An A/A sweep covering convoys O.G.71 and H.G.70 was flown and a special A/S escort was also provided for O.G.71 throughout the day and night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Bombs were dropped at Aberdeen and Peterhead tonight. No naval damage was caused.

E.C.61

Convoy E.C.61 was attacked again tonight, for the third night in succession, in $56^{\circ} 59'$ N. $1^{\circ} 56'$ W. No damage is reported.

→ O.G.71.

Convoy O.G.71 was unsuccessfully attacked by 2 JU.88 at 1815 in $50^{\circ} 28'$ N. $17^{\circ} 28'$ W. This is the first instance for several months of aircraft other than F.W.200's attacking a convoy to the westward of Ireland.

18.8.1941.
Monday.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

6 Hampdens laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands, 2 off the Great Belt, 1 off the Little Belt and one off Aalborg.

Thames Estuary.

QUORN received slight damage this morning from the explosion of a mine in the Thames Estuary. QUORN's S.A. gear was out of action at the time.

South Atlantic.

S.S. GAZCON.

Vichy French S.S. GAZCON at Lobito was reported bunkering today. CILICIA which left Freetown for Takoradi yesterday, and ALBATROSS at Simonstown have been ordered to intercept.

A ship resembling German Raider ^{** not identified*} EIN spoke U.S. ships p.m. today in 30° S. 12° 35' E. and refused her name when asked.

Mediterranean.

Libya and Western Desert.

4 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli in the early hours of today. 5 Wellingtons from Malta attacked the port again from 2150 to 2234 today.

25 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night.

There were two air attacks on Tobruk today; no damage was caused.

Canal area.

S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area reports that the last mining raid on the Canal was on the morning of 8/7. All subsequent reports of mines are now considered false reports or exploded bombs. Sweeping in the Canal is still in progress over one reported mine, and over 2 remaining mines reported in Suez Bay.

America and West Indies.

GREENWICH is to relieve FORTH as S/M depot ship at St. Johns, N.F.

War Diary.

18.8.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Zone Time
East of
26° W.

Cancel 274 AZ/1/5/41. Cancel 111 AK/1/5/41.
(D.S.D. 1305A/18).

SOLBRITT
(Prize).

Finnish SOLBRITT now at Kirkwall is to be sailed under Naval control to Glasgow for discharge of seized cargo. On arrival she is to be handed into custody of Collector of Customs as representative of Admiralty Marshal. (D.T.D. 2106A/18).

Defence of U.K.

Scapa
A/A
Defences.

Your 1445A/17. Yes.
(A.C.O.S. 1242/18 to Admty.)

Movements.

CASTLETON.
CHARLESTOWN.

Your 2344A/17. Confirmed CHARLESTOWN is in company. (CASTLETON 0040A/18).

(with prize transfer after meeting / Admiral Rosenthal)

PRINCE OF
WALES.

Scapa arrivals PRINCE OF WALES, TARTAR, PUNJABI, ESCAPADE, ECLIPSE and ORIBI. (A.C.O.S. 0827A/18).

PARTHIAN.

Intend following programme after arrival 19/8. If no major defects, submarine to be sailed from Portsmouth P.M./29 for working up at Dartmouth. C. Vessel to be ready to sail for Portsmouth, New Hampshire P.M. 1st. (Capt. S.5 0845A/18 to F.O.S). S.5. 0845/18. Propose vessel proceeds on 1/9 south of Ireland on route to be indicated by C. in C. W.A. and C. in C., Plymouth, proceeding submerged by day to longitude 15° W. (F.O.S. 1447A/18).

CHEVREUIL.

F.S. CHEVREUIL should be sailed to join an O.S. Convoy and break off as convenient for Kingston (Jamaica), and should subsequently proceed to Tahiti via Panama Canal. CHEVREUIL will be sailing under the orders of the Free French Naval Authorities but Cs. in C. are requested to arrange for onward routing and facilities. (A.C.N.S. F. 1059A/18 to C. in C. W.A)

GREENWICH.
FORTH.
SANDHURST.

GREENWICH will sail from the Clyde on 25/8 for St. Johns, Newfoundland, and it is understood that on arrival FORTH will return to U.K. SANDHURST will leave Londonderry for the Clyde on 25/8. (C. in C. W.A 1258/18).

/KING.....

War Diary.18.8.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.

KING GEORGE V. Screened by 3 destroyers is to proceed passing Hoxa Boom at 2200A/20 to Rosyth. E.T.A. May Island 0700A/21. (C. in C. H.F. 1515A/18). Your 1515A/18th. Request KING GEORGE V may pass Beamer Rock at 1300/21 and thence proceed into Dockyard Basin. (C. in C. Rosyth 2201/18 to C. in C. H.F).

INGLEFIELD. Sail at 0800/19 to Scapa, adjusting speed to arrive before dark. Speed west of Elieness should not exceed 9 knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 1615/18 to INGLEFIELD).

D.S.10. WELLS and ST. MARY'S detailed for D.S.10.
(Clyde-Iceland (R.A.M. 1823/18).
ferry)

4th M.L. Presume 106th M.L. Flotilla will relieve 4th M.L.
Flotilla. Flotilla and that latter will then return to the U.K. (A.C.I.C. 2107/18).

NIAGARA. Am proceeding Hvalfjard (corrupt group) for oil. Will join you as soon as possible. (NIAGARA 2350Z/18 to BURWELL).

Operations.

Operation Admty. 2101A/17. Request you will sail Oiler
'Gauntlet'. OLIGARCH escorted by 4 trawlers to R/V in
(Ship/amen.) position AA (078° N. 009° 30' E) with Force A, (NIGERIA, AURORA and 3 Destroyers) at 1000A/24. (2) OLIGARCH is to be prepared to fuel H.M. Ships at sea. (C. in C. H.F. 0014A/18 to A.C.I.C.) Admty. 2101A/17 and your 0014A/18. Only one A/S Trawler available. Trawler situation here is as follows. (A.C.I.C. 0957Z/18 to C. in C. H.F).
Return to Scapa with despatch. (C. in C. H.F. 1024A/18 to AURORA).
My 0957Z/18. Intend sailing oiler OLIGARCH at 2000/18 escorted by A/S trawlers ELM (S.O) HAZEL, SEALYHAM and VAN OOST routed through 070° 32' N. 008° 20' W. Reduction in patrols is being accepted to provide this escort. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1259Z/18 to C. in C. H.F).
W/T arrangements. (C. in C. H.F. 1807A/18).
See Operations Volume.
Your 0957Z/18 and Admty. 2101A/17. Request 4 trawlers be detailed and that they sail with oiler OLIGARCH as soon as practicable. Report E.T.A. in position A.A. if R/V with Force "A" cannot be made as in my 0014A/18. Oil burners preferably, but coal burners must be accepted if necessary. (C. in C. H.F. 1903A/18 to A.C.I.C)

/Request.....

War Diary.18.8.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation
'Gauntlet'-
Contd.

Request you take Force 'A' (NIGERIA, AURORA, ICARUS, ANTELOPE and ANTHONY) under your orders and carry out operation 'Gauntlet' in accordance with Admiralty directive addressed S.O. Force 'A' only. (C. in C. H.F. 1923A/18 to S.O. Force A) W/T arrangement. (C. in C. H.F., 2004A/18).

Dover
shelled.

Gris Nez Batteries fired 8 rounds between 2317/17 and 2322/17 when C.W. 46 was between Dover and South Foreland. Two shells fell outside the harbour, six inland behind the Castle. No casualties reported. No E-boat activity, probably owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 0950A/18).

A/P Positions.

In Yarmouth and Lowestoft areas. Positions FP, FA, FL, and FY amended as follows as from Night 20/21 August. Details. (C. in C. Nore 1018A/18 and 1302A/18). See Summaries Folder.

Western
Patrol.
New Areas.

Nine new Patrol Areas, namely GX.1, G.X. 2, G.X.3 H.X. 1, H.X. 2, H.X. 3, J.X. 1, J.X. 2 and J.X.3 established as follows. Details. (S.O.W.P. 1152A/18). See Summaries Folder.

Interception
of Tanker.
TUNA.
SEAWOLF.

My 1959A/18. ^{BRAKE} (a) Information graded B.3 that tanker (~~? ANKING~~) as a submarine supply ship will leave St. Nazaire between 28 and 30/8. (b) TUNA is to patrol near 45° 56' N. 6° 35' W. from 0600/28 until darkness 1st September, keeping clear to the westward of SEAWOLF's movements in paragraph (d). (c) If time permits before proceeding to this position TUNA is to visit S.E. corner of (corrupt group) at (corrupt group) zone with a view to attacking trade between Bayonne and Spanish Ports provided weather suitable. (d) SEAWOLF is to be sailed on 22/8 for patrol in Bay of Biscay North Zone, and is to leave that Zone in time to patrol near 45° 43' N. 5° 56' W. from 0600/28 until dark on 1st Sept. (F.O.S. 1959A/18).

*Sailed night zone*British Air Activity.Patrols.

'Stand' in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 0158/18). 'Fate I' will be flown daily during daylight hours commencing to-day. (C. in C. Rosyth 0208/18). P.R.U. Trondheim and Stavanger, 'Oslo' in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1204/18). My 0208/18. A/C returning with Engine trouble. (C. in C. Rosyth 1852/18).

/Firing.....

War Diary.18.8.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity-Contd.Firing of
Recognition
Cartridge.

Your X.112 15/8. As far as can be ascertained no aircraft of 3 Group fired recognition signal at time and place stated. Unlikely any other group this Command involved. (H.Q.B.C. 1820/18 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
E.C. 61.
KINDERSLEY
(British,
1999 Tons)
damaged on
17/8.

Your 1620/1/7. At 2120-2145/17 KINDERSLEY damaged in Engine-Room by near miss 3 miles S.E. by E. of B.L. Buoy. 2 slight casualties. (N.O.I.C Blyth 0305A/18).

A/C destroyed
by 15th M/S
Group on 16/8.

Following received from F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth. Begins. S.O. Group 13 reports was attacked at 2125A/16 by a Junkers 88. It received a direct hit from 12 pounder of CHARLES DORAN and was hit heavily with small arms from all ships and point 5 from CLOTILDE. All C.O's saw A/C dive into sea. 1140A/18. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 1459A/18)

Convoy
O.G. 71.

Help 'Clasp' in 50° 28' N. 17° 28' W.
(Y Squadron. Recd. 1815/18).

New
Torpedo
A/C.

In addition to H.E. 111 it is believed that two new types of German aircraft H.E. 177 and D.O. 217 have been equipped for torpedo dropping and will shortly be in service. It is hoped to promulgate description of these new types and information as to probable method of attack in the near future. It is also possible, but not probable, that some Focke Wulf aircraft may also have been equipped for torpedo attack. (N.I.D. 2145A/18).

Convoy
E.C.

Enemy bombing convoy 'Yield' in 56° 59' N. 1° 56' W. (CURACOA 2210/18).
Fighter protection is being sent. (Rosyth 2259/18)

Aberdeen
bombed.

Enemy aircraft dropped bombs near gasworks at 2220. Small fire started, now out.
Enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs near Torry Battery, 2 in sea one on shore. No casualties and no damage. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2250/18).

A/C Washed.

German A/C believed Junker crashed into mountain on Boro Island 062° 18' N. 006° 32' W. at 1215A today. Machine and crew in fragments. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2321A/18).

War Diary.18.8.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Fishguard.

Two red mines detonated by single L Drifter 040° Fishguard main breakwater light 8 cables and 8.5 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1455A/18)

Harwich
QUORN
damaged.

At 0810/18 one Green Mine exploded in 51° 48.9' N. 1° 30.6' E. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1556A/18) Explosions occurred in following positions at 0810/18. (1) 51° 50.3' N., 1° 29.7' E. (2) 51° 53.7' N. 1° 25.2' E. Presumed ground mines. No ships near. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1622A/18). Following received from QUORN begins. At 0756/18 in 044° B8 Buoy one mile, a mine exploded. Following damage so far apparent. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1830A/18).

S.N. 22B.

Intend to lay on 23/8 with AGAMEMNON and NEWARK Position. (R.A.M., 1814/18) See Operations Volume. My 1814/18. Operations will necessitate NEWARK leaving Scapa about 2100/22. She will probably be required to return to port Z.A. on completion. (R.A.M., 1815/18 to R.A.D.F.H.F.)

Operation
Q.L.1.

(1) C. in C. Nore's 3415/0528A/13 of 17/7/41. Operation Q.L. (1) will be carried out by three M.L.'s of 1st Flotilla from BEEHIVE on 23/8 or first suitable day after. (C. in C. Nore 2214A/18).

Enemy Intelligence.Warship
reported.

Unknown warship position 2 miles W.S.W. Hurleston Point. (INCHGOWER 1144/18).

Casualties and Defects.YORKSHIRE LASS
(A/P Drifter).

Reports water in engine-room. MAMMOUTH escorting. (MEYNELL 0925/18).

ACHATES
(Mined 25/7).

Anticipate ACHATES should be ready to sail on receipt first good weather report after 1200/21. Speed of tow 5 knots. Request A/S and air escort. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1302A/18).

Hartlepool

My 1300/9. Ships of 46 ft. beam and 21 ft. draft may now enter Hartlepool 2 hours each side of high water. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1335/18).

BOW WAVE.

(Torpedo Recovery Drifter). Reports breaking blade of propellor when entering Anstruther Harbour at 2230 yesterday. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1646/18).

War Diary.

18.8.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.G. 72.

Estimate 1400/23 LEITH and corvettes of 30th Escort Group will bring back H.G. 72. Detailed instructions will be issued by F.O.C.N.A. (C. in C. W.A. 0021A/18 to LEITH etc.)

Outward Convoys.

Anticipated dates of sailing from Liverpool of outward bound convoys, O.N. 10 - 15, O.G. 73, O.S. 5 (C. in C. W.A., 1105A/18 to F.O.I.C's). See Lion Copy.

DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL
WARWICK
CASTLE.

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, speed 17 knots, carrying 3,000 personnel will be ready to leave Clyde for Halifax on 26/8. At Halifax she will, after disembarking personnel for Canada, embark personnel at present in WARWICK CASTLE for onward passage to Capetown. Arrangements. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1755/18 to C. in C. W.A., etc.) My 1755A. Intended that DUCHESS OF ATHOLL should then proceed so as to join Convoy W.S.11, dependant on escort being available. C. in C. A.W.I. and C. in C.S.A. requested to report if they can arrange for A.M.C. or cruiser escort from Halifax. (D.O.D. (F) 1848A/18 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A). Reply: C. in C. A.W.I. 1232/19.

W.S.11.

Date, list, escorts. (-A.C.N.S. (H) 1818A/18 to C. in C. W. A.) See Lion Copy.

"Cam"
Ships.

It is desired to have a Cam ship with as many convoys as possible. When necessary a Cam Ship may be delayed to achieve this. (D.T.D. 1831A/18 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

W.S.10X.

Detach A/A and A/S escort as follows (1) WHITEHALL and WITCH are to remain with Convoy till prudent limits of endurance and then proceed Londonderry. (2) JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK is to return North Channel in company WHITEHALL and WITCH and then proceed Belfast. (3) GURKHA, LANCE, PIORUN and ISAAC SWEERS are to leave convoy after dark 19/8 and return Clyde carrying out an A/S sweep for which further order will be signalled. (C. in C. W.A., 1905A/18 to DORSETSHIRE).

344A

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1105A/18/August

IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches

Date 18.8.41

Recd 1130

P/L BY T/P

Addressed:- F.O.I.C.'s and N.C.S.O's in Western Approaches Command,
repeated Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth (For
N.C.S.O's) A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C. C.C.N.F.

637. Following is anticipated dates of sailing from Liverpool
of outward bound convoys and is promulgated pending the distribution
of the monthly schedule of convoy sailings. Is it possible that
alterations may be made at later date.

26th August O N 10

29th August O G 73

30th August O N 11

1st September O N 12

2nd September O S 5

5th September O N 13

7th September O N 14

11th September O N 15

Even numbered O N convoys will consist of ships of not
less than 7 and a half knots. Odd numbered convoys will consist of
ships of not less than 10 knots.

1105A/18

Advance copy sent Ops. 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.A.S.W.

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

D. of S.T.

W.D.

I.P. (3)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

031

TO:- C. in C. Western Approaches 10184/18th August 1941
repeated F.O.I.C. Liverpool

344B

~~MOST SECRET~~

F.O.I.C. Greenock
 F.O.I.C. Cardiff
 F.O.I.C. Belfast DATE:- 18.8.41.
 N.C.S.O. Liverpool
 N.C.S.O. Clyde
 N.C.S.O. Milford Haven
 N.C.S.O. Newport
 N.C.S.O. Swansea
 Commander in Chief Home Fleet 486
 Commander in Chief South Atlantic 379
 Commander in Chief Mediterranean 655
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 306
 S.O. Force H 498
 S.O.W.P.
 SHEFFIELD
 DERBYSHIRE
 H.Q.C.C.
 H.Q.F.C.

W.S. 11

NAVAL CYPHER C

FROM:- Admiralty

Convoy W.S. 11 carrying personnel and military stores for the Near East will be ready to leave the United Kingdom on August.30th.

2. Ships will load at the following ports and those from the Bristol Channel Ports will be ready to sail on August 29th.

From Newport with stores	MANCHESTER PROGRESS
" "	CITY OF MANCHESTER
Swansea " "	BARRISTER
" "	BHUTAN
Liverpool with personnel ...	KOSCIUSZKO
" " ...	NORTHUMBERLAND
" " ...	EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA
" " ...	ABOSSO
" " ...	VICEROY OF INDIA
" " ...	DUCHESS OF YORK
" " ...	OTRANTO
" stores ...	GLAUCUS
" " ...	GLENORCHY
Clyde " personnel ...	CHANTILLY
" " ...	MOOLTAN
" " ...	LARCS BAY
" " ...	SCYTHIA
" " ...	ORONTES
" Stores ...	KINA II
" " ...	CITY OF EDINBURGH

3. Ocean Escort.

From United Kingdom to Freetown - SHEFFIELD and DERBYSHIRE.
Freetown to Durban - DORSETSHIRE.

4. A/A Escort One Cruiser to limit of her endurance

5. A/S Escort 10 destroyers or cutters.

6/.....

6. The convoy will proceed in one portion from R/V "A" off Oversay Light to position "X" in the vicinity of the Azores. Speed of slowest ship 13 knots.
7. At position "X" convoy will divide into "Fast and Slow portions" until departure from Freetown.
8. The following ships will form the slow portion. Speed 13 knots:-

MANCHESTER PROGRESS
CITY OF MANCHESTER
BARRISTER
KOSCIUSZKO
NORTHULSTERLAND
GLAUCUS
CH. MILLY

9. Escort of Slow Portion on to Freetown from position "X" will be provided by 2 cutters and one destroyer, and DERBYSHIRE.

10. Fast Portion. Speed of slowest ship, 15 knots, escort to Freetown H.M.S. SHEFFIELD. 3 long endurance destroyers will provide A/S escort if considered necessary according to the S/W situation then obtaining south of the Azores. If not required to accompany the convoy these destroyers will return to United Kingdom. They may obtain fuel at Ponta Delgada if necessary.

9th Escort Group p. 294

11. A.M. 2258/15 destroyers of 9th Escort Group included in A/S escort should proceed to Gibraltar from position X fuelling if necessary or if ordered at Ponta Delgada.

Route

12. Route will be promulgated by Admiralty.
13. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to:-
- (a) Detail A/A escort
 - (b) Provide A/S escort in accordance with paras 5 9 10 and 11.
 - (c) Arrange sailing of ships to R/V off Oversay.
14. Admiralty will make arrangements for destroyers to fuel at Ponta Delgada.
15. Main Convoy Conference should be held at Greenock and arrangements should be made for C.Os of escorts to attend.
16. C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to sail SHEFFIELD to arrive at Clyde in time for Conference.
17. Commodore of Convoy should sail in ship of Fast Portion and most suitable master should be detailed

as/.....

MOST SECRET

344D.

- 3 -

as Vice Commodore to take charge of slow portion when convey splits.

18184/18

for D.O.D.(H)

Approved by A.C.N.S. (H)

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

War Diary.

18.8.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Patrol Areas.

Admty 1344B/16/7. 9 new areas established. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0049A/18 to F.O.C.N.A., S.O.W.P.) See Lion Copy.

French Shipping.

Passing Gibraltar, 15/8. (D.O.R., 18/8).

→ MARON.
CAVINA.

A.T. 0049A/18. Request you will arrange for MARON to occupy H.X.3 and H.M.S. CAVINA H.Z.1. (H.X.1 ?). MARON will remain under operational control of F.O.C.N.A. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0113A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.). *See below*

→ CAVINA
Funchal.

Your 1348A/16. No objection to this visit. (N.A. Lisbon, 1045/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ARK ROYAL.

Your 1724/15. Summary of more important defects in ARK ROYAL. With luck ship may carry on until mid November but this cannot be guaranteed. (S.O. Force H., 1121A/18 to Admty). *see page 345B.*

→ CAVINA.
MARON.

CAVINA is to patrol area H.Z.1. MARON is to patrol area H.X.3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1144A/18 to CAVINA, MARON repeated 1650A/18).

French Shipping.

1115. CHELMA, ^{*not identified*} ENDOME, OUED FES escort armed trawler W.62 passed Eastbound all laden. (V.A.C.N.A., 1440/18 to Admty).

MARIA LEONOR.
with survivors.

My 1210/17, amend number of survivors to 14. At 1000/18 trawler was in 32° N., 13° 10'. (N.A. Lisbon, 1526/18 to Admty).

GUNDA
(sunk 20/6
after A/C
attack).

Chief Officer and second engineer of Swedish GUNDA leave by air 19/8. Suggest they should be closely questioned also Master of STARLING. Am not fully satisfied that all steps were taken to save the GUNDA. (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1655/18 to Admty).

CLYDE A/S
Patrol.

My 1210A/17, departure CLYDE. (F.O.C.N.A., 1740A/18 to Admty).

/H.G. 71.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE OUT 0049A/18/August

To:- F.O.C. North Atlantic, 298. Date 18.8.41.
S.O.W.P.Repeated C. in C. Western Approaches, 400.
C. in C. Home Fleet, 479.
C. in C. Plymouth, 59.
C. in C. South Atlantic, 368.
C. in C. America and West Indies, 776.

NAVAL CYPHER A ONE TIME TABLE.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

A.T. 1344B/16 July.

Nine new patrol areas GX one GX two GX three; HX one HX two HX three; JX one JX two JX three are established in the area bounded by the positions

- (a) 34 deg. North 48 deg. 10' West.
- (b) 31 deg. North 48 deg. 10' West.
- (c) 34 deg. North 39 deg. 10' West.
- (d) 31 deg. North 39 deg. 10' West.

2. Areas are one degree of latitude deep and three degrees of longitude in width. Areas GX are the most northerly with GX one in the northwestern corner.

0049A/18.

for D.O.D. (F) (164)
Approved A.C.N.S. (F)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.N.I. (4)

D.S.D.
D. of L.D.
D.N.A.D.
D. A/S W.
D.M.S.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Capt.
Hd. of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson

M O S T S E C R E T

Most Secret. MESSAGE 1121A/18th August

IN.

From S.O.FORGE H.

DATE 19.8.41.
Recd. 0305.

NAVAL CYPHER D by cable.

Addressed: Admiralty, repeated C.IN C Western Approaches.

F.O.C.N.A.

90. Your 1724/15. Following is summary of more important defects in H.M.S. ARK ROYAL.

- (A) As in my number 421/386 of 20th May, but port main plan valve cannot now be moved.
- (B) S.2 boiler left hand super-heater as in my 2219 20 July.
- (C) S.2 boiler, two L H super heater inner tubes 10th and 11th from bottom perforated

My 695/602 of 10th August refers.

- (D) C. one boiler, 5 pin holes in R.H. super heater inner tubes, 6th from bottom.
- (E). P.2 boiler single perforation in left hand superheater inner tube 26 from bottom. All perforation within 12 inches of U bend.
- (F) Watertight tubes required round wing propeller shafts in petrol tank compartment.

My 551/392 June 26th refers.

- (11) Failure of tube in three super heaters within fortnight indicates super heaters near end of their life and further failures must be anticipated. With luck ship may carry on until mid-November but this cannot be guaranteed.

1121A/18.

+Can ARK ROYAL be kept in service.

1st Lord.	D. of P. (2)
1st S.L.	D.O.D. (H)
2nd S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)
3rd S.L.	D.O.D. (F)
4th S.L.	D.D.O.D. (F)
5th S.L.	D.N.A.D.
V.C.N.S.	Head of Air
S.E.N.S. (H)	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	W.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	E.P.S.
D. of D.	D.P.S.
Duty Captain	Head of M.
N.I.D. 10 Payr. Cdr. Wilson.	Deputy Controller)
	Head of S.W.R.)

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18.8.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

H.G.71

Departure DEPTFORD, SAMPHIRE, CONVOLVULUS, MARIGOLD, AURICULA escorting H.G.71. Local escort WILD SWAN to be joined by VIMY A.M./23. ST. NECTAN until limit of prudent endurance unless otherwise ordered. (F.O.C.N.A., 1742A/18 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

O.23

My position 2000/18 037° 59' 007° 16' E.T.A. 2000/20. Probably hit two ships in convoy on 16th Depth charged for three hours, hunted for nine, undamaged. (O.23 2330A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Spain.

1. No relaxation in military activities in the Campo of Gibraltar.
2. Francisco Esponosa de Los Monteros y Dato, son of late Spanish Ambassador in Berlin, stated to our Military Attache, Lisbon, that from information he had Spain would be at war with Britain within three months. (Governor, (Gen. Viscount Gort) No. T.O.O. 18 to .S. of S, for Colonies).

South Atlantic.

"Q" Report (cancelled).

Following has been read. Q Q Q Q 7° 29' N., 13° 32' W., NEW BRUNSWICK suspicious vessel following - 2350 G.M.T /17. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 0003Z/18). Following has been read QQQQ 7° 28' N., 13° 41' W., NEW BRUNSWICK suspicious vessel still following course 268° speed 10 knots. (Freetown W/T 0100G.M.T./18). Following has been read . Cancel my 0100 G.M.T./18 (Freetown W/T 0140G.M.T./18 NEW BRUNSWICK, 0245/18)

Operation "Ration".

My 1123/17. Operation is to be abandoned if interception has not been effected east of 13° E. Track previously followed is given only as basis on which to operate in default of other information. (C. in C. S.A., 0056/18 to AUSTRALIA). Durban arrival AUSTRALIA. (N.L.O. Durban, 1435Z/18 to Admty etc).

/EAGLE.....

War Diary.

18.8.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

EAGLE
W.S. 10 X.

Following is a repetition of my 1811N/16 (begins) EAGLE will be boiler cleaning at Freetown until 26/8 unless urgently required for other service. She will be ready to escort W.S. 10 X. (ends). (C. in C. S.A., 0429N/18 to Admty).

Troop
Transport.

My 1845/1. After disembarkation at Lagos DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and SOBIESKI should return to U.K. as quickly as possible. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD will not be able to load any cargo. NIEUW ZEELAND will be used as detailed in my 1308/11. (D. of S.T., 1442A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

NEW
NORTHLAND
(crew).

Desire to repatriate French Canadian crew of NEW NORTHLAND to Canada in CIRCASSIA if possible Can this be done direct or from Bermuda. (C. in C. S.A., 1127N/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

→ ALBATROSS.

17/8 ALBATROSS departed Simonstown for Capetown and after ranging on D.G. range departed at 1600 for St. Helena, Ascension and Freetown. S. of A 18 knots. E.T.A. St. Helena, 21/8. (F.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1155Z/18 to Admty etc).

Enemy M.Vs
Prevention of
Scuttling.

Admty 1943/1/5. Remarks on recent experiences. -(C. in C. S.A., 1341N/18 to Admty). See Lion Copy.

MAURETANIA,
NIEUW
AMSTERDAM,
ILE DE
FRANCE.

Your 1233A/14. Reply re A/A armament. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1534Z/18 to Admty).

→ GAZCON.

Vichy French ship GAZCON reported to be bunkering at Lobite 18/8 may sail 19th northbound probably for Dakar. ALBATROSS proceed and endeavour to intercept subsequently proceeding to St. Helena to fuel. CILICIA is to sail from Takoradi when complete and endeavour to intercept adjusting movements so as to arrive St. Helena by 29/8. -(C. in C. S.A. 1555H/18 to CILICIA, ALBATROSS).

See also p. 348

Oiling at
Sea.

Reply to R.A.S.A.D.'s 1743Z/12. (D.T.S.D., 1715A/18) See Lion Copy.

NEWCASTLE.

E.T.A. Freetown 0600N/26. (R.A.S.A.D., 1748Z/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1341N/18th August. IN.

From:- C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 19.8.41.

Recd 0040.

347A

Naval Cypher (X) by W/T & T/P.

Addressed:- Admiralty.

885. Admiralty message 36A / of 1st May and 1007/6/8, it is of interest that from recent experience the only occasion on which scuttling was not carried out was when an aircraft stopped the ship and machine gunned and bombed it, in case of 'salvage' this may have been entirely due to lack of determination ((1) of AM.36). But may have been partly due to lack of presence of a ship, a potential rescuer, or that machine gun and bombs were used before abandonment was actually started.

Consider this and other cases bear out that main factors still are efficiency in preparation and the determination to scuttle and that prevention can only be effected by careful planning and concentration to prevent which will take advantage of any flaw in enemy's organisation also main principles remain namely - immediate action against boats and men approaching them, this is to be done by ship, or aircraft if or when ship is near. Boats to be holed as early as possible and any approach to them prevented. If ship not near action by aircraft must depend on circumstances. If enemy vessel sights aircraft, aircraft take action otherwise shadow until ship is near. Action by aircraft is of particular value, being able to take action both sides of enemy ship. There is no evidence that use of W.B.A. has been of value and action should not wait for this and signal should always be supplemented by shot, and other signal by flashing and flags. Boarding to be carried out as early as possible with trained anti-scuttling party. In calm weather running alongside to be considered.

1341N/18.

Advance copy sent Ops, O.D, M.

/ 1943/1/5.

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.

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

P.A.S.(6)

M (3)

D.N.I.(4)

O.I.C.(3)

D. of P.(3)

D.E.W.D.(3)

D.T.D.(3)

D.S.D.9.

IP (3)

W.D.

347B.

MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL.

1715Z/18th August, OUT.

To:- R.A. South America Division, 321.
Repeated C. in C. South Atlantic, 375.
C. in C. America & West Indies, 787.

Date:- 18/8/41

NAVAL CODE (B)

From:- Admiralty.

Your 1743Z/12 not to C. in C. South Atlantic and C. in C. America & West Indies. Worst weather conditions during oiling described in A.N. 2023/5/7 were: sea decreasing from moderate, short swell, wind force four.

2. Oiler approached from astern, turned down wind and stopped stern to, about amidships.
3. Carrier provided Coston gun and hauling over lines. Oiler provided hawsers, 8 inch and 6 inch manillas and oiling at sea spring and breast. These were secured on slips on bollards in carrier, adjusted by winch in oiler and belayed on bollards.
4. Oiler supplied 5 inch fuel hose which was passed through trough suspended from aircraft crane and hauled over to carrier. Stirrup rail was not used.
5. Oiler's engines were kept ahead at slowest speed.
6. If opportunity offers, trial of this method by A.M.C.'s is desired. Adaptor pattern 1705, 5 inch double female, for flange of present fuelling connection, and sufficient lengths of 5 inch fuel hose to enable hose to be led to suitable position for coupling to oiler's hose can be obtained from Bermuda, or hose could be borrowed from R.F.A. oilers.
7. If necessary, hose might be led internally from fuelling recess to a position two decks above cutting holes and fitting stiffening plates as requisite.
8. If trials are promising, consideration would be given to fitting a permanent internal fuel lead.

171EA/18
D.T.S.D.

- Controller
 - Vice Controller
 - 4th S.L.
 - V.C.N.S.
 - A.C.N.S.(H)
 - A.C.N.S.(F)
 - N.A. 1st S.L.
 - O.D.(5)
 - Ops.(4)
 - D.T.S.D.(2)
 - D.N.C.
 - M.(2)
 - D.57 O.B.
 - D. of P.(2)
 - I.P.(3)
 - W.D.
 - Dep. Controller (3)
 - D.(4)
 - D. of S.
 - S.W.R.
- } Bath.

War Diary.

18.8.1941.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.New
C. in C.

Your 1951N/15. Agree as regards visit to West Africa. Consider visit to South Africa would be of value and request you will make necessary arrangements. Vice Adm. Willis E.T.A. Freetown 28/8 and Johannesburg on 6/9. He proposes to visit Capetown, Simonstown and Durban subsequently returning to Freetown. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1804A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

PRIMULA,
suspected
sabotage.

My 0818/16. Inquiry has been held but minutes not yet received at Simonstown. N.L.O. Durban reports that suspicion attached to Ignatius C. Coetzee. Stoker 2nd Cl., R.N.V.R. (S.A.) who joined PRIMULA at Simonstown on 15/6 now removed from ship. (Details)
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1918A/18 to Admty).

C.F.2

N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 2323/16. Short title of convoy conveying Nigerian Brigade Durban to Lagos is C.F.2. (C. in C. S.A., 2051N/18 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, etc).

OUED GROU
(intercepted
31/7).

Description. Could only be used for coastal work and this is not recommended in neighbourhood of Vichy French territory, where she has previously been running as would be likely to lead to re-capture. Might be employed south of Lagos.
(C. in C. S.A., 2209N/18, 2355N/18, to Admty, amended 1120N/19).

Reports.

Ref. A.L. M.06274/41 of 28/6. Request information if Admty have received (a) Report of S.O. of Escort MALAYA's 0108 of March 23 addressed Admty (b) Report of Cdre. of convoy, not received by C. in C. S.A. CANTON's report was not received by C. in C. until 9/5. An analysis of action of escorting corvettes compiled from report available will be forwarded. (C. in C. S.A., 2235N/18 to Admty).

S.S. GAZCON.

GAZCON at Lobito reported bunkering 18/8 CILICIA sailed from Freetown Takoradi 17/8, ordered to proceed from there to intercept then to St. Helena to arrive 29/8 ALBATROSS ordered to proceed from Simonstown to intercept thence to St. Helena for fuel. (C. in C. S.A., 2307N/18 to Admty).

See p. 347

War Diary.18.8.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Enemy
Units.

Small merchant ship and tanker due shortly from Tripoli (Libya). (S.O.(S), Malta, 0324B/18 to TETRARCH).

One merchant vessel one (?Escort Vessel) P.C. and S. of enemy Lampedusa - 008 - 2.

(A/C "Q" Sqn. 0636/18 to Hal Far).

5 Destroyers (61 VOKO 20-35A) 36.12 N., 11.40 E.

(A/C "Z" Sqn., 0740/18).

My 0740 36.12 N., 12.00 E. 6.

(A/C F. "Z" Sqn., 0820/18).

6 Merchant ships, 5 destroyers 036° 12' 012° 00' 350° at 0740B/18.

(S.O.(S) Malta, 0805B/18 to UPHOLDER).

P.C. and S. of enemy, one E boat 2 motor vessels 2000 tons, 38.17 N., 16.43 E., 09 course 030° Speed 8 knots. (Malta W/T, 0814/18 to Whitehall W/T).

6 destroyers escorting 3 large 17½ knot merchant ships expect to pass Maretimo about 1500/19 southbound. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1105B/18 to UPHOLDER).

4 Destroyers, 5 merchant vessels, 306° Tripoli 56' 130° 6. (A/C Duty X. 1216/18 to Med., Stn).

See also 1401/18.

HOTSPUR,
DECOY.

Sail HOTSPUR and DECOY to arrive Beyrout a.m./20 (C. in C. Med., 1004C/18 to HOBART).

Transport
Question.

Re relationship between Sir Henry Barker, M.W.T. Representative, and P.S.T.O. Egypt. (C. in C. Med., 1124C/18 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

Suez Canal
Mining.

C. in C. Med., 1850C/25/7 Part 3. *(information of mining)*

(b). The last mining raid on Canal was on morning of 8/7.7. Sweeping is still in progress over reported mine at kilos 158.8. All other reported mines now considered false reports or exploded bombs. In Suez Bay sweeping continues on only 2 remaining mines reported.

(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1138C/18 to Admty).

ADRIA.

Your 0620/13. and 1118/16. Consider ADRIA is too large for this service. For future reference can you tell me speed, cargo capacity and particulars of Derricks? (C. in C. Med., 1147C/18 to C. in C. E.I.) Reply, 0554/21.

REGENT
explosion.

Air vessel 21 inch mark (viii) two star R.N. Torpedo Factory's 1377 exploded on board REGENT p.m./17 while lying in trench as reload for six tube. No casualties.
(Capt. S.I. 1226C/18 to Admty).

SECRET

MESSAGE

1124C/18th August

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean

Date 19.8.41.

349A

Recd. 0555

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty Repeated G.H.Q. Middle East, M.W. Alexandria,
C. in C. East Indies.

941. Relationship between Sir Henry Barker representative of
Ministry of War Transport in Middle East and P.S.T.O. Egypt
requires definition.

The questions to be answered are: (A) Is Ministry for
War Transport at Alexandria to be organized as a corporate body
similar to Ministry of War Transport in United Kingdom with
common (?complaint) and signals organization.

(B) Is P.S.T.O. Egypt responsible to D. of S.T. in United
Kingdom or to Sir Henry Barker on matters of (I) policy (II)
internal administration and staff (III) requisitioning and finance?

(C) What are the limits of area to be controlled by
Ministry of War Transport Middle East, observing that at moment
P.S.T.O. Egypt and Sir Henry Barker have different scopes.
Should this area include (I) Malta (II) Aden.

It is assumed C. in C. Mediterranean and C. in C. East
Indies remain responsible for discipline and conduct of S.T.O's
within their command and retain over-riding power in operational
matters.

1124C/18

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

War Diary.

18.8.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Operation "Treachle" Serial 1. JERVIS, KIMBERLEY, HASTY. Times and route, Alexandria to Tobruk. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1258/18 to S.O. Force "I" etc). *Code word 'Loose' throughout.

UNIQUE Convoy at 1216B/18, 306° Tripoli 56' 130° 8 knots. Proceed with despatch to 033° 00'N. 013° 03' E (S.O.(S) Malta, 1401B /18 to UNIQUE).

URGE. Add to my 2133B/17 URGE to 037° 09'N. 011° 58' E.
Enemy Convoy. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1527B/18 to Capt. S.I.)

Enemy Convoy. Convoy 360° Tripoli 5.
(Med. A/C Duty "Q", 1540/18 to Hal Far).

Enemy M.V. P.C. and 3. of enemy (one Merchant Vessel) are 270 Tripoli (?10) 270 9.
(Med., A/C duty "Q" 1545/18 to Hal Far).
My 1545 Enemy previously reported are of type indicated 3000. (Med., A/C "Q" 1550/18 to Hal Far).

Gerbini, Tripoli, bombed. Night 17/18 Fulmar patrolled Catania and Gerbini Aerodromes. No aircraft seen. Bombs dropped Gerbini, result not seen. 4 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 0315 to 0430 hours.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/18).

A/C attack on Enemy Convoy 17/8. 7 Swordfish attacked Southbound convoy 5 M.V.s 1 tanker 6 drs. 20 miles W. Lampedusa. 2045 hours. 1 M.V. 8000 tons hit by torpedo and bombs, sank, crew seen 2 hours later abandoning ship which was then almost awash. DR's taking survivors aboard. Second M.V. 9,000 tons hit by torpedo and subsequently beached off Lampedusa. Third ship a tanker 6,000 tons hit by torpedo forward causing huge explosion which lit up sky 2 hours later tanker had stopped and was still on fire with volumes of black smoke coming from it. Shadower observed the general confusion gun fire was directed anywhere wildly and without any consideration.
Day 18/8. 2 Blenheims attacked 9,000 ton M/V with deck cargo M.T. Beached Lampedusa. 1 Blenheim scored 1 hit with 250 lb. bombs setting fire to ship. Second Blenheim endeavoured to attack half an hour later but ship was covered with volumes of smoke and on fire so pilot attacked a 2 masted Schooner unsuccessfully. Pilot of aircraft scoring hit slightly wounded, A.A. on run in to target and later attacked by 4 fighters. Aircraft from all these operations returned safely.
(H.Q. Malta, 1601/18).

/Fighter.....

War Diary.

18.8.1941. 351
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Fighter protection.

Priorities Tuesday 19/8. A.M. first (corrupt Group) Second JACKAL and KINGSTON as laid down in my 1614/16th.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1615C/18 to 201 Group)
My 1615/18 (Fighter protection priorities)
Cancel (? Dodecanese) and give A.M. priority to JACKAL and KINGSTON.
(R.A. Alexandria, 2320C/18 to N.O. Tobruk, etc).

ORONSAY.

Your 2045/15 and P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1305/12 and 1150/16. Not clear whether the proposal to use ORONSAY will not involve a further escorted sailing from Suez to U.K. Request report.
(D.O.D. (F) 1756A/18 to C. in C. Med). Reply 2331/19.

2 Beaufort Squadrons.

Request I may be informed of prospect of arrival of two Beaufort Squadrons destined Middle East. A.O.C. in C. informed me on 4/7 that they were expected. I consider arrival of these squadrons a matter of urgency.
(C. in C. Med., 1907/18 to Admty).

THORBRYN A/C attack.

Following has been read. Alexandria W/T from THORBRYN 20 aircraft (20 A.P.) help 32.06 N - 25.33 E. (Nore W/T 1925/18). (T.O.R., 1745/18).

THRASHER.

Proceed forthwith to establish patrol in area F. 035° 52' 023° 12' 4 miles 340° - 40 - 35, concentrating on Elaphonisos Channel.
(Capt. S.l. 1935C/18 to THRASHER).

HOTSPUR, PERSEUS.

HOTSPUR leaves Alexandria 2230C/18 for Haifa. Delete from my 0925C/18 all references to PERSEUS.
(Capt. S.l., 1950C/18 to S/M NEREUS).

→ JACKAL A/C attack.

Following received Addressed Alexandria W/T from JACKAL. 10 aircraft bearing 200° 8 miles my position 280 32° N., 26° E. (Nore W/T, 2000/18).

Situation Report No. 121.

Western Desert. Determined dive bombing attacks on Tobruk during daylight/17. Some lighters sunk but no damage to lighters or schooners unloading. JU 87 brought down by U.P. on 15th. Wellingtons attacked Benghazi Harbour night 15/16 and Albacores with Blenheims attacked U-boat reported Bardia, result unknown.
(C. in C. Med., 2306C/18 to Admty).

War Diary

18.8.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Gunboats

Can any of gunboats at present on your station be spared for Persian Gulf? In view of developments in Iraq and Persia these could be most usefully employed. (C. in C. E.I., 0802Z/18 to C. in C. China) *R44-21/8 - p.421*

French Somaliland.

Information from pro British captain of hospital launch which was allowed to enter Obok to convey sick to Jibuti (S.N.O. Red Sea 0845Z/18)

China

Vladivostok Mission.

C.O.I.S. Singapore 0526Z/29/7. Following for F.O. and Chiefs of Staff from C. in C. Far East and China. Nearly two months have elapsed since first proposal of D.N.I. to establish a Mission in Vladivostok was endorsed by C. in Cs Far East and China. If no decision yet reached request matter be taken up urgently by British Mission to Moscow. (C. in C. China 0506Z/18 to Admty.)

FRANCOIS L.D.
(French)

Left 14/8 Kobe 17/8. (Saigon 0749Z/18 to M. of W.T.)

MARECHAL JOFFRE
(French)

Departure Shanghai 21st. (N.C.S.O. Manila 0755Z/18 to M. of W.T.)

SCOUT

(?Hong Kong) arrival SCOUT from operation. (S.O.I. Singapore, 1007Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

TEGELBERG

Have you any news of Dutch TEGELBERG from Mauritius due Batavia 6/8? (D.T.D. 1320A/18 to S.O.I. Singapore) (Reply 0401Z/19)

0845Z/18th August

SECRET.

M E S S A G E. Date 19.8.41
Time 1112

352A

RECIRCULATION.

From S.N.O. Red Sea
Special Interservice X by Cable.

Following has been repeated to Admiralty for
information.

Addressed:- Force Nairobi, C. in C. East Indies from S.N.O.Red Sea.

- (A) Hospital launch has been allowed to enter Obock to convey sick to Jibouti. Following has been received from Captain who is pro British but not Pro de Gaulle.
- (A) Submarine came from Madagascar with 6 (six) tons of wine, milk and rice. It has now left. (Assessed C.1. and confirmed by air photographs.
- (B) Considered unlikely to return owing to cost.
- (C) Four torpedoes were fired at the SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA but H.M. Ships would not repetition not be attacked except by battery on Heron Plateau. (Comment. Only two torpedoes are believed to have been fired). Armed forces have been ordered to take action against SAVORGMAN DE BRAZZA.
- (D) In addition to ELORN there is another tanker in Jibouti which came from Madagascar with milk, tobacco and rice. (Assessed C.4. cannot be seen in air photographs).
- (E) Population excluding high officials would welcome British Occupation. Blockade is considered most effective and has not caused Anti British feelings.
- (F) Jibouti contains 9000 French soldiers and 20 Italian officers of armistice commission.
- (G) Six of ten aircraft are Potez 56 and two remainder converted as food carriers from Anghar. (According to records there are 4 (four) Potez 63 and 13 Potez 25 in French Somaliland).
- (H) ELORN considered unfit for sea.

0845Z/18

V.C.N.S.	O.I.C.(3)
A.C.N.S.(F)	D. of P.(3)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	D.A./S.W.
N.A.l.S.L.	M(2)
Ops.(4)	D.S.D.9
C.D.(5)	I.P.(3)
D.N.I.(4)	W.D.
	D.E.W.D.(3)

MN

18.8.1941.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

INDOCHINOIS
aground

My 0936Z/16. Rescue tug PRUDENT returned St. Johns N.F. 1037Z/18 (C.C.N.F. 1039Z/18 to Admty.)

REVENGE

Admty. 1926A/12 and R.A. 3's 1434P/14. REVENGE is to remain at Bermuda for the present. (V.C.N.S. 1101A/18 to C. in C., A.W.I., R.A. 3., REVENGE)

Patrol
areas.

Areas G.X. 1., G.X., 2., G.X. 3., G.Z.1., G.Z.2., established. Details. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1109Q/18) See Summaries Folder.

PRINCE HENRY
PRINCE ROBERT

Your 1341Z/15 and N.Z.N.B's 0950M/18 (N.T. in W.R.) Request PRINCE HENRY may be sailed for Bermuda as soon as (?convenient) after arrival of PRINCE ROBERT at Esquimalt. Most grateful for having her placed at my disposal. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1201Z/18 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

CIRCASSIA
PRINCE DAVID

CIRCASSIA leaves Freetown 23/8 PRINCE DAVID leaves Halifax 24/8 to R/V in 025° 00' N., 042° 30' W., at 1600Z/29. CIRCASSIA take PRINCE DAVID under his orders and patrol Eastern half of square F.32. Object interception of enemy raider and supply ships. CIRCASSIA and PRINCE DAVID leave patrol so as to arrive Bermuda 12/9. C. in C. S.A. and C.O.A.C. Halifax are requested to sail CIRCASSIA and PRINCE DAVID respectively to comply. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1202Q/18 to CIRCASSIA, PRINCE DAVID)

ST. GOBAIN

Have you any news of Swedish ST. GOBAIN from Clyde due 13/8?. (D.T.D. 1321A/18 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda.)
Your 1321A/18 ST. GOBAIN has not arrived. S. of S. telegram No 34488 of 15/8 addressed Governor Bermuda gives 18/8 as date of arrival Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2222Q/18 to Admty.)

NORTHUMBERLAND

Your 1257B/8 W.R. message giving repetition of 0311B/4. Report forwarded giving Movement control reasons for refusing to embark additional numbers in NORTHUMBERLAND. Please see my 2142Z/28/7. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1817Z/18 to Admty.)

/GREENWICH

SECRET.

POSTAGRAM.From. C. in C. America &
West Indies.1216Q/18th August.
IN.

Date. 10. 9. 41.

Recd. 1047.

Addressed. Admiralty. Repeated Naval Officer-in-
Charge, Jamaica.~~677~~ Your 1755A/12⁸/~~th~~ August, 1941.

A/S Craft.

(a) It was stated in AWI No. 275/0240 of 30th March, 1941, paragraph 3, that the allocation of A/S craft to Jamaica was not considered necessary. It appears, however, that sufficient craft are to be available for both Bermuda and Jamaica, in which case it is proposed that the flotilla of 110 ft. Fairmiles allocated to Jamaica should be based at Bermuda where craft have to work in more exposed waters, and the flotilla of 72 ft. M.L 's. allocated to Bermuda should be based at Jamaica.

(b) It is essential that all personnel required to man these craft should be sent from United Kingdom as requested in my 1104Q of 21st July.

1216Q/18.

Vice Controller.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.D.O.D. (C) (2)

D.A/S.W.

D. of P. (3) for action.

D. of L.D. (3)

D.P.S. (2)

N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)

N. (2)

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

M. (2)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

D.S.V.P. (2)

D.N.E.

Dep. Contr. (3)

E. in O.

D.N.C. (2)

D.A/S.W. (2)

} Bath By T/P.

EC.

War Diary18.8.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies-Contd.GREENWICH

Will be sailed from Clyde (date) in convoy O.N.(S) 10 for St. Johns N.F. intended that FORTH will sail for U.K. when she has been relieved by GREENWICH. Capt. Stevens is to remain at St. Johns as Captain (D) for a further short period before returning to U.K. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1913A/18 to C.C.N.F.)

FORMIDABLE

Ref. C. in C. Med's 2048C/2. Re ammunition. (D.G.D. 2046A/18 to FORMIDABLE)

ILEX

Can ILEX be accepted in U.S.A. for repairs and refit (date and details) (D.O.D. (F) 2111A/18 to B.A.R.M.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

From N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1855B/16 ^{NTMWD.} it is assumed personnel and material mentioned are on board QUEEN OF BERMUDA. In this case request ship may be instructed to proceed Bermuda after parting company from DURBAN CASTLE. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/18 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1138/20)

Australia and New ZealandR.A.F. Personnel

Re transport to Canada. (D.S.T. 0334 A/18 to A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.) See Operations Volume.

U.S. 12 A.

Proposals (D.S.T., 1532A/18 to A.C.N.B.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

354A.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE OUT.
1532A/18.Aug.

Date: 18.8.41.

To: Australian Commonwealth
Naval Board.
Repeated New Zealand Naval Board.
C. in C. East Indies.
C. in C. Mediterranean.

Naval Cypher (X)

From Director of Sea Transport.

C. in C. Mediterranean's 1156/10 not to New Zealand Naval Board on the basis that ships of U.S.12.A. should not be at Suez during the period of five days on either side of full moon following alternatives are open.

(a) To cancel the work on AQUITANIA referred to in your 0237/6 not to last two addressees and approved by my 1907/10 not to last two addressees. U.S.12 would then sail from Sydney 30.8 and arrive Suez about 23.9. This would enable ships to leave Suez before 30.9.

(b) To delay the sailing until about 16.9 so as to arrive not earlier than 10.10. This would enable work detailed in my 1435/16 to Australian Commonwealth Naval Board only.

2. Request report which alternative you propose to adopt.

1532A/18.
Director of Sea Transport.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
Duty Capt.
D.N.A.D.

D.S.D.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
Hd. of M.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D. of S.T.

War Diary18.8.1941.
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked.DESIGNER
(Torpedoed 9/7)

Dutch ALCYONE has four British Indian survivors of B/S DESIGNER, torpedoed and blown up on 9/7. 7 survivors were rescued in 41° 49' N., 32° 03' W. adrift in 2 large water tanks until 21/7 but 3 died immediately after rescue. One survivor states DESIGNER was not zig-zagging at time of attack, also that 6 days after torpedoing large grey painted vessel approached to hailing distance but made no attempt at rescue. All boats destroyed, no other survivors. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1520B/18 to Admt, amended 2330B/18)

Submarines Reported

0030

My 2134/17 D/F bearings at 0030 G.M.T. indicate that more than one U-Boat may be shadowing convoy. (D.D.I.C. 0204A/18 to LEITH)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1430A/18)

1458 A

Civil aircraft reported a U-Boat on surface in 43° 22' N., 10° 07' W., at 1458A/18 Course 246°. (D.D.I.C. 1609A/18 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.A., 1832A/18 to N.A. Stn.)

1636Z

My 1149A/18. (N.T. in W.D.) D/F bearings between 1548Z and 1644Z indicate that four or five U-Boats are in the vicinity of Convoy O.G. 71. Probable that O.G. 71 was reported by one of them at 1636Z. (D.D.I.C. 1851A/18 to LEITH)

2219Z

By D/F at 2219Z/18 position of U-Boat probably homeward bound, was 46° N., -48° N., 7° W., -9° W. (D.D.I.C. 2357A/18 to SOKOL, C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.)

/By SNOWDROP...

War Diary

18.8.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked.

By SNOWDROP
11/8.

C.A.F.O. 832/41 (a) SNOWDROP (b) 0610/11/8 G.M.T.
(c) 60.51 N., 16.34W (d) 20 (e) 0850/11 G.M.T.
(SNOWDROP 0957/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

^N
By ALBERNI
17/8

CANDYTUFT's 1635Z/17 not to ALBERNI and RAMSEY.
Report forthwith full details of sighting
and attack of U-Boat you claim to have sunk
0500Z/17. Report is to include geographical
positions of attack. (C. in C. W.A., 1127A/18
to ALBERNI)

Following from ALBERNI ref. your 1127A/18
A U-Boat seen to dive on starboard side after
contact obtained by asdic at 0118. Two white
Very lights fired. Enemy report sent S.O. of
escort. 10 charges shallow pattern fired at
0100. Unable to pick up contact afterwards.
Much oil seen on surface. Consider U-Boat
destroyed. Ref. (? W) A.C. 1. part 102. (C)
EDWARD in N.E. 7. (E) 17/8 056° 44' N., 043° 50'
W. (F) 205° 18'. (G) Light (?haze) slight swell
heavily (overcast?) very dark. All times zone
plus 3. (CANDYTUFT, 1355Z/18 to Admty.)

357

19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
'Gauntlet'.
(Spitzbergen.)

S.O. Force A in NIGERIA sailed from Scapa at 1623A today with AURORA, TARTAR, ICARUS, and ECLIPSE.

3 M.T.B.s are due to leave Dover at 2200 to sweep south-westward from Berck Buoy.

Cam ships are to be operated with Gibraltar convoys as first priority, they will work right through as soon as replacement aircraft are available at Gibraltar.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked the docks at Dunkirk last night. Smaller raids were made on the docks at Antwerp and Ostend. Hurricanes and Spitfires raided Ostend this afternoon and sank a small ship in the mouth of the harbour.

Enemy Air Operations.

Faeroes whaler HEYKUR was unsuccessfully bombed and machine gunned at 1205A today at the entrance to Skaale Fiord in low visibility.

Convoy W.N. 69 was attacked at 2359 in 58° 18' N. 2° 28' W (off Wick). No damage is reported.

Convoy F.N.⁶⁷ was bombed at 2100 in 52° 50' N., 2° 5' E. (off Yarmouth). No damage is reported.

War Diary.

19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the north east coast.

Thames Estuary.

Motor Barge GOLD^{EH} GRAIN was mined and sunk at 1000 today in 51° 35' 18" N., 1° 3' 18" E. (on the eastern edge of the Maplin Sands). Other S.A. mines were detonated in the Estuary today.

Operation 'Cutting'

South Atlantic.

The Admiralty today ordered a certain cable to be cut. (See A.C.N.S. (F) 2354/19).

Mediterranean.

UNBEATEN attacked a southbound convoy of four fast liners about 15 miles north of Pantellaria this evening. One possible hit is claimed.

Libya & Western Desert.

Operation 'Treacle' is in progress (Reinforcement of Tobruk by Polish Brigade and withdrawal of 18th Australian Brigade to Alexandria).

A/S Trawler THORBRYN was bombed and sunk off Tobruk this morning whilst towing two D. Lighters. A Rescue Schooner from Tobruk which went to THORBRYN's assistance was also sunk, and the lighters were seen drifting into enemy territory. M/S SKUDD V and 2 lighters were bombed by 13 JU 87's but were not damaged. Jan 20/8 - p. 396

Suez Canal Area.

There was an air raid on the Canal Zone last night. No Naval damage was caused.

War Diary.

19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Attack on
O.G. 71.

p. 377-378

Convoy O.G. 71, which was shadowed yesterday by U-boats was attacked more than once in the early hours of this morning in the Western Approaches. H.M.S. BATH and S.S. ALVA were torpedoed and sunk in the first attack and S.S. AGUILA (Commodore's ship) and CISCAR in second attack. Depth charges which exploded as BATH sank caused numerous casualties and only 46 survivors are reported to have been picked up, some of whom died subsequently. *BATH was Norwegian-manned, and commanded by Commander C.F.T. Melson R.N.R. N., who went down with his ship. 22 WRNS were lost in AGUILA, also Vice-Adm. P.E. Parker, Commodore.*

At 0755 an aircraft sighted a U-boat on the surface in the neighbourhood of the convoy, and attacked it after it dived.

C. in C. W.A. considers that the attacks on escorting vessels may indicate a deliberate change of enemy tactics.

S.S. SILDRA

Norwegian S.S. SILDRA is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 2015 G.M.T. today in 5° 0' N., 12° 10' W.

War Diary.19.8.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Faeroes.
Reduction
of A/S
Trawlers.

In view of changed conditions and acute shortage A/S Trawlers at Scapa, intend reducing number of A/S Trawlers stationed in Faeroes from 3 to 2. This will entail withdrawal of A/S Patrol West of Faeroes mentioned in N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1600/3/7. 2 Trawlers should be sufficient to ensure interception of ships in Skopen Fiord. (A.C.O.S., 1015A/19).

Rosyth
Escort
Force.

F. O. I. C. Liverpool 1854A/18/8. Request that a replacement for LUDLOW may be sent. This will ensure that the number of ships in the Rosyth Escort Force is not reduced below the minimum required for convoy commitments. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1105/19 to Admty).

Arming of
Icelandic
Trawlers.

Admty 1914/11/4. Icelandic Govt. asked me if offer to arm Icelandic Trawlers still stands. Request I may be informed if this is the case and if other Icelandic ships trading to U.K. would be included. (A.C.I.C., 1113/19).

Recognition
Signals.

Your 1450B/8. Consider value of any extra security gained by alternative (1) would not justify resultant complication of existing signals. Alternative (2) is little less secure but is preferred. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1427A/19).

Catapult
ships with
Gibraltar and
O.S. Convoys.

My 1025B/21 June and my 1650B/1 July. Until further orders fighter Catapult ships are to be operated with Gibraltar Convoys as first priority. If a fighter Catapult ship is available surplus to Gibraltar Convoy requirements, she should be operated with an O.S. Convoy. Admiralty is being asked to provide replacement aircraft at Gibraltar to enable fighter Catapult ships to work right through with O.G./H.G. Convoys. Pending this, fighter Catapult ships should work with normal out and in local escort. In cases where there is no 'meet', you should request C. in C. W.A. by signal to make arrangements for escort for the fighter Catapult ship from or to the convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1715A/19).

Avoidance of
A/C Torpedo
Attack.

Report of ships damaged by aircraft torpedo attack appears to show that majority of hits are aft. It may be that policy of turning away from an attack abaft beam is wrong or that there is some other cause. I suggest that this should be investigated. (C. in C. H.F., 1747A/19 to Admty).

WISTARIA.

Request return of WISTARIA to Iceland may be hastened. (A.C.I.C., 1829/19 to WESTERN ISLES).

War Diary.

19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Aberdeen
A/A
Defence.

A 946 19/8. Your A218 16/8. Consider importance of Aberdeen warrants permanent HAA defence. Admty. and Air Ministry agree your suggestion to move 4 HAA from Clyde to Aberdeen. (Air Ministry 1140/19 to Fighter Command).

Movements.

RAMILLIES,
HESPERUS.

My 0031/19. Sailed 0700Z/19. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 0900A/22. HESPERUS E.T.A. Immingham 0700 A/21. (A.C.I.C. 1006/19). Request you will adjust speed to arrive at seaward end of Q Z S 211 at 0630/22. Speed in swept channel and Mersey is not to exceed 9 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1009/19 to RAMILLIES). My 1006/19. Cancel E.T.A. for HESPERUS. (A.C.I.C., 1649/19).

TUNA.

My 1035A/17, para 2 amend to read. Thence TUNA diving by day through 48° N., 6° W., -and 46° 5' N., 5° 2' W., for patrol in Bay of Biscay South. (Capt. S.3. 1025A/19).

RUBIS.

Orders for leaving patrol after dark 23/8 and proceeding to Dundee. (Capt. S.9., 1035A/19 to RUBIS).

SOKOL.

Leave patrol after dark 21/8 routed as follows to R/V in 50° 31' N., 0° 41' W., at 0600A/26. S.B.R. as follows. (Capt. S.5 1155A/19 to SOKOL and 1211A/19 to C. in C. Plymouth).

LONDON.

Proceed 1800 today to Clyde. (11) Carry out boiler cleaning and be prepared to sail from Clyde on 26/8. (C. in C. H.F., 1231A/19 to LONDON).

KING GEORGE V.

In view of C. in C. Rosyth's 2201A/18 intend to pass Hoxa Gate at 2100A/20. E.T.A. May Island 0600A/21. (KING GEORGE V., 1938A/19).

War Diary.19.8.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation
'Gauntlet'.

Scapa arrival AURORA.

(A.C.O.S., 0116/19).

Your 1903A/18 and Admty 2101A/17. Sailed Oiler OLIGARCH escorted by ELM, HAZEL, SEALYHAM, and VAN OOST at 2330Z/18. E.T.A. position AA 2100A/24. (A.C.I.C., 0134/19).

Communications. (C. in C. H.F., 1049A/19 to S.O. Force A).

I have approved S.O. F "A" using AURORA and 4 trawlers for the security of Spitzbergen in the absence of EMPRESS OF CANADA. This is instead of 2 destroyers mentioned in the directions issued to S.O.F."A". (C. in C. H.F., 1235A/19 to Admty).

After receipt of mails and personnel from convoy ~~Patrol~~, SHROPSHIRE is to proceed to arrive

Akureyri a.m./22 and is to sail thence p.m./22 for Scapa, passing to eastwards of Iceland.

(C. in C. H.F., 1614A/19 to SHROPSHIRE).

S.O. Force A. in NIGERIA with EMPRESS OF CANADA, AURORA, ICARUS, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, E.T.A.

Hvalfjord 0600Z/21. (A.C.O.S. 1622A/19 to A.C.I.C.)

S.O. Force "A" in NIGERIA sailed from Scapa with AURORA, TARTAR, ICARUS, ECLIPSE.

(A.C.O.S., 1623A/19 to A.C.I.C.)

Request W/T Beacon facilities as arranged in your 1806C/23/7 and 1708C/27/7 may be available from 0800A/28 till 0800A/1/9.

(D.S.D., 1956A/19 to Ad. Miles.)

Request Special W/T arrangements made by Admiral Vian's Signal Officer with Polyarno W/T Station may be put into force from 1200A/27 till 1200A/8/9. These arrangements consisted of following.

(D.S.D., 2046A/19 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

Smith's
Knoll.

3 Motor Launches exercising vicinity Smith's Knoll tonight. (C. in C. Nore, 1537A/19).

'Grab'

Intend resume 'Grab' a.m./20.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2153A/19).

M.T.B.
operation.

Request you detail one M.T.B. fitted with Echo Sounding Gear and Auxiliary Silent Engine for a special operation 23/8.

(A.C.N.S. (H.), 2332A/19 to C. in C. Nore).

War Diary.

19.8.1941. ³⁶³
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Escorts.
ARGUS.
POZARICA.
(A.F.D.IV).

Expect one Blenheim A/A escort from first light, 19th. (C. in C. W.A., 0122A/19 to ARGUS).
Cancel my 0122/19. Expect two Blenheims A/A escort from 0800/19.
(C. in C. W.A. 0432A/19 to ARGUS).
3 sections 6 A/C single engined fighters will escort you from 0940 until 2045/20 and thence daily from 0545 until 2045 throughout passage in 10 group area, weather permitting and whilst in range of fighters. Another Squadron will be in readiness if required. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2032/19 to POZARICA).

Patrols.

'Stand' in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0438/19).
'Trost' in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1048/19).
'Bert' in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1338/19).
P.R.I. Stavanger - Kristiansand - Alborg - Frederikshaven - Oslo in operation.
'Stab' takes off at 1645/19.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1612/19).
'Stand' in Operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1938/19).

Enemy Air Activity.

Peterhead
bombed.

Attack by Junkers 88 at 2220/18. Three bombs No damage naval property or personnel. Defences in action before sounded or bombs dropped. Bofors mobile gun manned by military in North Harbour claim hit on aircraft.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0900/19).

HEYKUR
(Faeroes
Whaler).
attacked.

A/C attacked HEYKUR at 1205A/19 at entrance to Skaale Fiord in low visibility. 3 bombs dropped and machine gun attack. No damage or casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1420/19).

A/C
crashed on
18/8.

Enemy aircraft crashed Mountain Island Bordo 1140/18 and exploded. Believed Junkers. Paper found indicates from Stavanger. Crew defunct.
(O.C. Troops, Faeroes 2015/19 to War Office),

Convoy F.N.507
X.

One enemy aircraft bombing Convoy. Position 52° 50' N., 2° 5' E.
(-WOLFHOUD, 2100/19) (LIDDESDALE 2102/19).

Convoy W.N.69

Convoy 'Material I' is being attacked by aircraft in 58° 18' N., 2° 28' W.
(JAN VAN BRAKEL, 2239/19).

War Diary.19.8.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.East Coast
Minelaying.
Proposals.

- (i) Anticipate 2 east coast fields will be laid any time after 1/9.
(ii) Can a survey ship be made available for these in lieu of SCOTT. If necessary fields can be laid without a survey ship, but allowing slightly greater tolerance and leaving less water to westward for future field.
(iii) Suggest escort requirements east of Pentland are (a) Fighter escort (b) 2 Hunts or vessel with similar A/A fire (c) if possible one A/A ship
-(iv) Intend as far as possible to be east of Pentland during daylight hours.
(R.A.M., 1037A/19 to Admty.)
My 1431/11/4. R.A.(M)'s 1037/19/8. Propose these mines should be sterilised in accordance with Admty. 1140/1/4. (C. in C. H.F. 2150A/19).

744 20/8 - p. 389 -

Operation
Q.L.I.

Orders and particulars. (C. in C. Nore, 1446A/19)
See Operations Volume.
One Mine detonated by S.A. Trawler at 0653/19 and two more at 0700/19. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1547A/19).

Thames
Estuary.

3 S.A. Mines detonated this a.m. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1547A/19, 1551A/19).

GOLD^{EN} GRAIN,
(Motor Barge
101 tons).

Mined at 1000/19 in 51° 35' 18" N., 1° 3' 18" E.
Ship lost. No survivors.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea., 1830/19).

Acoustic
Mines.
Speed
Restrictions.

- (a) Between No. 17 and 21A buoys vessels other than those operating S.A., or those immediately preceded by vessels sweeping S.A., are normally to proceed at speeds not greater than 10 knots. If necessary to make the passage at speeds greater than 10 knots, speeds between 10 and 20 knots should be avoided.
- (b) Ships of the R.E.F. may, however, use speeds up to 14 knots to enable them to carry out their normal duties with convoys. When ships not able to adhere to the speed limits laid down, changes of speed should, when possible, be made gradually. Cancel my 1041/15/10/40 and 1739/7/7/41.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1845/19).

365

War Diary.19.8.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Trondheim
Area
on 18/8.

Enemy units reported in Trondheim area by R/C on 18/8.

In Aas Fjord. Hopleelven Fjord - One Minelayer (see diagram on page 12 of W.I.R. No. 22 of 9/8/40). Possibly being used as U-boat depot ship and 6 U-boats. Lofjord - U-boat depot ship SAAR and 2 U-boats.

At Trondheim.

One T/B one Aircraft Catapult ship, one Aircraft Security Vessel, one probable "M" Class M/S and 5 U-boats.

(D.D.I.C., 1619A/19) (F.O.S. 1922A/19 to RUBIS, and O.14).

2 M.V.s
off
Aalesund.

R/C at 1030 today report 2 M.V.s. in 062° 13' N., 005° 20' E. course 234°.

(F.O.S., 1759A/19 to RUBIS and O.14).

My 1759A/19. For 1030 read 1310. Ships are Finnish and of 4000 tons and unescorted. (F.O.S., 2002A/19 to O.14 and RUBIS).

Casualties and Defects.PICOTEE
(Missing
since
0150/12).

My 1535/18. Two officers of DELAWARE state quite definitely they saw large cloud of dark smoke and a hissing sound of escaping steam from direction of PICOTEE. When smoke lifted they clearly saw bow of corvette rising out of water at angle of 45°. No flash no loud explosion only series of dull thuds. Officers are convinced corvette was not torpedoed and think explosion occurred on board ship itself. If this is the case submarine reported in my 1347/17 was presumably investigating.

(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1650/19).

Your 2140A/17. Following abridged report after interview with C.O. AYRSHERE, PICOTEE and AYRSHERE detached 0800/11 with Iceland portion of convoy. 1045/11 AYRSHERE ordered by PICOTEE to screen on port bow PICOTEE took starboard bow. W/T guards ordered by PICOTEE were AYRSHERE 500 Kcs. PICOTEE 107 Kcs. Both ships 2410 Kcs. (Loudspeakers). PICOTEE passed intercepted signal by light to AYRSHERE 2300/11 reporting unidentified S/M sighted by A/C in 61° 36' N., 16° 20' W. AYRSHERE had just received similar signal on 500 Kcs. reporting S/M in 61° 36' N. 17° 20' W. and drew PICOTEE's attention to discrepancy in longitude. AYRSHERE estimated that position given in 17° 20' W. put S/M about 30 miles to Eastward of convoy. PICOTEE then informed AYRSHERE by light that she intended to sweep astern of Convoy and proceeded accordingly. This was last signal received in AYRSHERE from PICOTEE. AYRSHERE commenced sweep ahead of Convoy, considering it desirable to remain with convoy unless otherwise ordered by PICOTEE. At about 0150/12 in about 62° 10' N., 18° 55' W. course 314° speed 7, wind N.W. 4, sea 34, visibility 1, PICOTEE was observed from

Sunk by U568
in position
62° 16' N, 17° 50' W
(about 70 m S Iceland)
according to log.

Handy
16-8-65

War Diary.

19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

PICOTEE
(missing since 0150/12).
-Contd.

AYRSHIRE to steam up port side of Convoy at full speed, cross ahead of AYRSHIRE, and disappear down starboard side of Convoy. This was last time PICOTEE was seen by AYRSHIRE. About 5 minutes after PICOTEE passed ahead of AYRSHIRE pattern of 6 depth charges were heard. PICOTEE was by this time out of sight of AYRSHIRE and nothing unusual was observed in her direction in spite of a keen lookout. AYRSHIRE remained with Convoy.

AYRSHIRE reports (1) Convoy well closed up after 1045/11 (2) R/T sets with 4th E.G. tuned in in Minches and working well and AYRSHIRE then heard PICOTEE clearly. AYRSHIRE confirms that her R/T was receiving correctly at about 2200/11, but she had not had R/T communication with PICOTEE after leaving Minches. (3) Careful lookout kept on 12/8 for PICOTEE but, although visibility about 1 mile in darkness and maximum in daylight, no indication of PICOTEE observed.

(4) No rockets were observed in AYRSHIRE. C.O. of AYRSHIRE states that he is certain he can clearly distinguish the difference between a depth charge explosion and torpedo explosion.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2306/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Hartlepool.

Port of Hartlepool will be closed from 1000/20 for about 36 hours. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1655/19).

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.4

Convoy O.N.4 has dispersed. Request you will issue necessary orders for ships to return to Base. (C. in C. W.A., 1015A/19 to C.C.N.F.)

W.S.11.
FURIOUS.

A.C.N.S. (H) 1433/19 to C. in C. W.A., FURIOUS. (See Operations Volume). 19/8 - p. 108 -

S.C.39.

Congratulations on bringing all ships in your convoy S.C. 39 safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1520A/19 to Rear Adm. A.T. Tillard.) 28 ships, including 13 Allied and 1 neutral. Cargoes. (D.S. 715, 20/8).

F.C.
Ships.
MAPLIN.
ARIGUANI.
SPRINGBANK.

Extension of Focke Wulf activity to Southward now makes it desirable to run Fighter Catapult ships right through to Gibraltar. If this is done, essential that replacement aircraft should be available at Gibraltar, failing which, if fighters were flown off during outward voyage, ship would be out of action for F.C. purposes until return to

/U.K.....

War Diary.

19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

F.C. Ships.
- Contd.
MAPLIN.
ARIGUANI.
SPRINGBANK.

U.K. with H.G. Convoy. Request necessary arrangements may be made as soon as possible. This applies to MAPLIN, ARIGUANI and SPRINGBANK, but not to PEGASUS who has insufficient endurance to reach Gibraltar, with a convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1719A/19 to Admty).

H.X. 142.

Congratulations on splendid achievement in bringing your 21st convoy H.X.142 safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1720A/19 to Vice Adm. F.A. Somerville) 64 ships including 13 Allied and 1 neutral. Cargoes. (D.S., 715, 20/8).

Iceland Tankers.

Sparkes has advised Shipminder London that American flag tankers W.E. HUTTON and EAGLE are due Hvalfjord 31/8 and PENNSYLVANIA on 1/9. Passage time appears short in view of sailing dates already advised. Request immediate confirmation accurate forecast essential if transfer of cargoes is to take place without unnecessary delay. (D.T.D. 1830A/19 to B.A.D. Washington).

Convoy "Dervish"

Following stores have been loaded in vessels. (W.O., 2015/19 to No. 30 Military Mission). See Lion Copy.

367A
Covoy.
Dewish
Boots 725

MOST SECRET

tons. Cor 15 tons M E S S A G E

IN
: 2015/19 August

From: War Office.

Date: 19.8.41.

CIPHER

Addressed: No. 30 Military Mission.

84079 cipher Q(M) 3a. 19/8/41.

MOST SECRET. The following stores have been loaded in the vessels enumerated. These stores are separately consigned as indicated and you will inform the Russian Authorities who have agreed to take over their consignments at the Port of Discharge. Tonnages are deadweight.

s.s. LANCASTRIAN PRINCE (R206). For Russian Authorities Boots 206 tons, Cobalt 6 tons, Rubber 1225 tons, A.Mines 200 Depth Charges 750, with Primers and Detonators etc. Aircraft Hurricane 1, Tomahawks 12. For Military Mission, Stores various 6½ tons.

s.s. ESNEH (R207) For Russian Authorities. Boots 118 tons Cobalt 6 tons, Rubber 1354 tons, Petrol Cabs 24, A.Mines 200, Depth Charges 750, with Primers and Detonators etc. For R.A.F. Stores 59 tons, Explosives 47 tons.

s.s. ALCHIBA (R208) For Russian Authorities. Boots 130 tons, Cobalt 4 tons, Rubber 2950 tons, A.Mines 200 Depth Charges 750 with Primers and Detonators etc. For R.A.F. Stores 417 tons, Explosives 143 tons, Vehicles 20, Aircraft Hurricanes 12.

s.s. TREHATA (R209) For Russian Authorities. Boots 725 tons, Cobalt 4 tons, Rubber 3990 tons, A.Mines 200, Depth Charges 750 with Primers and Detonators etc. Aircraft Tomahawks 20, Ethyl Fluid 150 tons, G.L. Set 1 comprising Trailer Receiver, Trailer Transmitting and Trailer Generating with stores.

s,s./,.,.,

? LAN STEPHEN CASTLE.

s.s. NEW WESTMINSTER (R.213). For Russian Authorities.
Boats 238 tons, Cobalt 15 tons, Shellac, 46 tons, Ethyl
Fluid 192 tons, Gun Stores 6 cases, Sound Locator 1 with
stores, Diagrams, 4 cases Aircraft Tomahawks 16.

2015/19

Received from War Office p.m./20.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th 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.A/S W.
D.M.S.
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.C.(2)
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.(2)
E.P.S.
Admiral Herman Hodge.
D.T.D.(2)
D.T.D.(M)
N.I.D.10 Payr.Cdr.Wilson.

War Diary.19.8.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.→ BOREAS.

BOREAS sailed 0600 to join O.G.71 routed 20 miles off Cape St. Vincent. (F.O.C.N.A., 0600A/19, 0830/19 to Admty. etc., IMPERIALIST, SCOTTISH.)

French Sloop.

Class unknown steering 180° 14 knots 300° Cape Espichel 25 at 1100A/19. (IMPERIALIST, 1110A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1900 (reporting cruiser, cancelled at 1910A) probable French sloop steering (?) 180° am proceeding in executing previous orders.
*BOREAS, 1924A/19, to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE.

Further to my 1210A/17. CLYDE operates on Cape St. Vincent/Madeira line until 22, (?off) Madeira on 23 and 24 thence to Azores. (F.O.C.N.A., 1510A/19 to Admty.)

Enemy M/V's.

Prevention of scuttling. Reply to 1007B/6 (F.O.C.N.A., 1520A/19 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

→ O.G.71.

GURKHA, LANCE, are joining escort of O.G.71 at 0030Z/20. (F.O.C.N.A. 1706A/19 to BOREAS.)
O.G.71, see also U/B Campaign.

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.

On leaving O.S.3 in 043° 00' N., proceed independently through position (F) 022° 30' 022° 10' (D) 015° 30' 019° 30' thence direct to Freetown or as ordered by C. in C.S.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1904A/19 to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.)

Gibraltar Defence.

Request for expert assistance. (Govr. Gib., 1828/19 to W.O.)

Gibraltar.

Re evacuation. (D. of L.D., 2322A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)
See Operations Volume.

SECRET.

M E S S A G E 1520A/19th Aug.

I N

From: F.O.C.N.A.

Date: 20.8.41.
Recd: 1400

Naval Cypher (D) by cable.

Addressed: Admiralty.

459. Your 100⁷B 6.

In general, orders in Admiralty General message No.36 are agreed with but it is considered that to be effective more ruthless methods must be adopted, unless there is good reason to believe ship has persons on board.

(ii) If the signal to stop etc. is not immediately obeyed fire must be opened at once.

(iii) Boarding parties should be strong with orders to force members of crew to assist in salving ship warning them any refusal would meet with death and carrying that threat out.

(iv) Saving lives of crew to be of minor importance and no action taken in that direction until safety of ship has been ensured or her sinking is inevitable.

(v) Any boat crew deliberately declining invited pick up, to have their boats run down and swamped being rescued from water only if circumstances permit.

1520A/19.

Advance copy Ops. O.D. M.

✓ Prevention of scuttling of enemy merchant ships.

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

War Diary.19.8.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.→ Operation
"Ration".

Durban arrival HAWKINS 2108Z/18 (2) Departure AUSTRALIA at 2350Z/18 in accordance with C. in C. S.A., 1123Z/17.
(N.L.O. Durban, 0005Z/19 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)
HAWKINS sailed in accordance with C. in C.S.A.'s 2315N/17.
(N.L.O. Durban 0814Z/19 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)
Your 2041/17. SOUTHERN BARRIER and QDBERG departed Durban 1600 G.M.T. and BLAAUBERG, CEDARBERG and SYDNEYFLANDET departed Capetown 1700 G.M.T./18 for initial positions as ordered.
4 Glen Martin Maryland A/C are being sent from Pretoria to operate from Port Elizabeth in pairs for deep sea R/C in addition to coastal command Ansons. 2 of these Marylands may be available p.m./19.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0855Z/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

CHRISTIAN
HOLM,
KOLLSKEGG

Overdue shipping. CHRISTIAN HOLM due Capetown 14th from Aruba, KOLLSKEGG due Capetown 15th from Curacao both not arrived.
(S.O(I) Capetown 1117B/19 to Admty. etc.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1855/16. Your 1003Q/13 not received. Propose QUEEN OF BERMUDA after relief as escort to DURBAN CASTLE shall call Bermuda to disembark aircraft in accordance with Admty. 1903/3/7 then proceed Newport News.
(C. in C. S.A., 1305N/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

→ MONTCALM

Report received from Chief Censor Mauritius graded by me A.3 that MONTCALM was at Dakar 17/8.
(S.O(I) Capetown 1430B/19 to AUSTRALIA, HAWKINS.)

Convoy
W.S.10.

Admty. 1916B/7. Proposals re certain ships, and for onward escort from Cape.
(C. in C. S.A., 1615N/19 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

Pointe
Noire.

At 1700 G.M.T./16 A/S boom barrage will be in position at entrance to Pointe Noire harbour. Boom will be opened at 0500 G.M.T. daily and closes at 1700 G.M.T. Vessels cannot enter Pointe Noire Harbour between the hours of 1700 G.M.T. to 0500 G.M.T. unless previous authority has been obtained from S.N.O. of F.N.F.L. at Pointe Noire.
(B.N.L.O. West Africa, 1656/19.)

Freetown.

Port facilities. Reply to Admty. 1548A/14.
(C. in C. S.A. 1741N/19.)
See Lion Copy.

/ANTONIO.....

M E S S A G E. 1615N/19th August. IN

Date: 19.8.41.

Recd: 2138.

FROM: C. in C. South Atlantic

MOST SECRET

369A.

Naval Cypher C by W/T.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty, Repeated N.O.i/c Simonstown
N.O.i/c Durban C. in C. East Indies.
R.A.S.A.D.

W.S. 10.

IMPORTANT.

905. Reference 1916B/7 from Admiralty
Intend ships mentioned in para. 10 shall replenish
at Capetown and in addition PIHP(VOLENDAM)
PEWD(INDRAPOERA). Necessary for two last named
to do so on account of water consumption and
stability. GFMS(WINDSOR CASTLE) fit to proceed
Capetown in convoy where further examination should
be carried out. GYNF(MANCHESTER PORT) owing to
wet condition under which bunkering carried out at
Freetown cannot guarantee maintaining Convoy speed.
Intend to sail ship with convoy and if unable to
keep up that she shall proceed independently
to Durban.

Reference a.m. 1952 July 29 request information
as to onward escort from Cape. Suggest (a) H.M.S.
EDINEURGH takes on Cape portion to Durban or (b)
H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE due Simonstown Sept. 10th shall
arrive Sept. 5th to escort Cape portion on.

1615N/19.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F)
D.T.D.

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

Lin

369B.

MESSAGE. 174JN/19th August.

SECRET.

IN

From: C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 20.8.41.

NAVAL CYPHER X BY W/T & T/P.

Time 1631

Addressed Admiralty.

908. Your 1548A/14 and Secretary of State for Colonies telegram number 484. Present position is that a Committee for working of port facilities ashore and development exists under Chairmanship of Government Official of which N.O.i/c is most important Member this Committee instigated by Naval representation proposed additions to Government Wharf space completed, and building of Wharfage at Kline Bay nearing completion. My 1245/26/4 refers. N.O.i/c has power delegated to him under defence regulations to deal with congestion and removal of cargo and control and handling of traffic on wharf is under his direction, the work being actually carried out by a Captain R.E. with necessary Staff. Government service has no Official to direct this work and no staff. 85% of the traffic at the wharf consists of service and Government Stores. The Chairmanship of the Committee by experienced M of W.T.R. should be of value especially as regards development of facilities. In view of extent of service traffic it may be better for NO.i/c to continue to exercise executive control of this traffic with the powers given him rather than the Committee should do so, the Committee not having the same control over the service personnel. The present system of control in this respect and within the limits of the existing facilities and handicap is I think, working well and harmoniously. There is room for great improvement in matters such as space, wharfage and sheds, roads, motor and railway transport.

174JN/19.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops (4)
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D of P (3)
- M (6) for action

- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.A/S.W.
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D of S.T. (2)

370

19.8.1941.
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.ANTONIO
LIMONCELLI
(Italian)

Chief of Staff tells me that ANTONIO LIMONCELLI lying 3 miles out at Maranhão this morning asked for permission to sail. Permission refused. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1941Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Cables.

My 1702B/3/6. Re a certain operation by LADY DENISON PENDER. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2354/19 to C. in C. S.A.) See Operations Volume. *p.p. 208 & 209 19/8.*

MediterraneanSyrian Ports.

Reply to N.O.I.C. Syria 1423/1/8. From Adm. Muselier for Commandant Jaquet (Head of M., 0056A/19 to N.O.I.C. Syria) See Lion Copy. (Head of M. approved V.C.N.S., 0106A/19 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

CAPO ARMA
(Italian)
ALBA JULIA
BALCIC
(Roumanian)

Have all arrived at Trieste. Report that 2 had been sunk and other damaged should be disregarded. (D.S. 715, 20/8)

Suez Canal
Raid.

Night 18/19, about 14 enemy A/C attacked Suez Canal zone, bombs dropped at Kantara and Suez. No serious damage or casualties reported. (See also 1327C/19)

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 17/18, 25 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour, bombs bursting on bases of Juliana Central and Cathedral Moles and on railway sidings. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1013/19)

Enemy
Units.

N4 - one destroyer - one trawler - 37.40 N., 24.08 E., 045 - 10 K. (A/C 39 Sqdn. 1040/19 to 201 Gp. H. Q.)

Enemy
Convoy.

Convoy 2 hours ahead of schedule. (S.O.S. Malta 1313B/19 to URGE, UNBEATEN)
My 1401B/18. Later R/C shows convoy approaching position D from N.W. For Convoy in my 2015B/17 now 4 ships and 6 destroyers due Tripoli (Libya) about 0830/20 patrol UNIQUE in 033° 05'N, 013° 03'E and P. 32 in 033° 16'N, 013° 10'E. Attention is called to Q.B. 10. At 2000B/20 P.32 return to Malta as previously ordered, UNIQUE operating in area T. (S.O.S. Malta, 1316B/19 to UNIQUE, P.32)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

0056A/19 August
OUT

To N10. i/c Syria.

Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean 663.

Date 19.8.41. 370A

MOST SECRET

NAVAL CYPHER A.2

From Admiralty.

Your 1423/1/8. Following from Admiral Muselier for Commandant Jaquet begins:-

1. I concur with the opinion expressed by General de Gaulle that the task of controlling the ports and coastal defence of Syria should be taken over by the FNEL. This must be achieved by stages and cannot be completed before at least six months.

2. It must be understood that the naval high command in these ports will be assumed as before by British Admiral C. in C. Mediterranean. This organisation was in force before the Franco German armistice and is in keeping with the provisions of the Churchill De Gaulle agreement.

3. I assume you contemplate using Beirut as the main naval Bases Latakich as secondary base and elements of naval defence for the end of the pipeline at Tripoli. Kindly confirm if you share this view and settle that question on my behalf with General de Gaulle. End of part one.

Part two.

4. Personnel. Captain de Fregate Kolb-Bernard is leaving for Syria any time. He will be very soon followed by Engineer in Chief of Genie Maritime de Villeneuve and by a Paymaster at a later date. Furthermore 2 enseignes de vaisseau and a Naval Engineer have been instructed to rejoin you.

As regards your needs in P.Os. and ratings, I see no other I repeat no other solution but to disband the Battalion of Marines on the understanding that this unit shall be gradually drafted up again as soon as this becomes possible. In your early stages the assistance of the battalion officers should prove very valuable. I will add that the Naval Officer in Charge A.E.F. has received instructions to send you the available personnel from the 2nd Battalion of Marines at least 100 in number.

5. Material. This point will be dealt with in agreement with the Admiralty.

I intend to send you 2 patrol vessels, the Vikings from Africa and the Reine des Flots from U.K. to start with. Other ships will follow at a later date.

Concerning harbour craft and small vessels it is my intention to ask for the necessary craft available locally to be transferred to us as soon as we are in a position to commission them. End of message.

0056A/19
for Head of M. (86)

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

D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.D.
D. of F.D.
D.N.A.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P. (2)
W.D.

Duty Captain
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
N.I.D.I.O (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)
D.G.D.
Head of M. (35) French Distribution
Copy for Commander Lacy.
(M/P.D. 0311/41)

~~116~~

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

0106A/19 August
OUT

To C. in C. Mediterranean 664.
Repeated N.O. i/c Syria.

Date 19. 8. 41.

MOST SECRET

3708 116

NAVAL CYPHER A. 2

From Admiralty.

My 0056A/19. In the absence of a reply to my 2010/13 not to N.O. i/c Syria, it has not been possible to hold Admiral Muselier's message any longer. It has been made clear, however, to Admiral Muselier, that Admiralty is in no way committed by despatching his message.

It is thought that although we have a vital interest in the security of the main Syrian bases, we cannot escape in the long run ceding at least nominal control to the Free French. Admiral Muselier recognises that the process of taking over will occupy some months, and it is believed that by the time the Free French can collect sufficient ships and materiel we shall have decided to grant them that nominal control. They are already finding difficulty in providing sufficient A/S vessels for ports in Equatorial Africa and it is therefore unlikely that they will be able, for some time to come, to find the forces necessary before they can assume operational control of the larger ports.

In these circumstances it is doubted whether there is much to be gained in rigid insistence on principle of continuing British control of ports. Captain de Fregate Kolb-Bernard is reported to be an officer of a type to ensure smooth co-operation and a compromise on the basis of temporary British control until the Free French are able to take over would it is thought, give you all you want in practice.

It is of course realised that control of ports must be settled in conformity with the general Syrian policy of H.M.G. Request your early comments.

0106A/19

for Head of M. (86)
Approved by V.C.N.S.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (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. of L.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- D.A/S.W.
- D.M.S.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Duty Captain
- Head of M.
- (25 copies
- for French
- Distribution)

- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.L.C.
- E.F.S.
- L.T.D. (2)
- N.L.D. 10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)
- D.G.D.

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19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Suez Raid

Ref. C.A.F.O. 587. (a) 19/8, calm clear. (b) High level attack by six enemy A/C on Suez about 6 flares, waning moon. (c) H.E. and incendiary. (d) 20 H.E. bombs and 24 incendiaries 2 U.X. H.E. bombs. (e) No naval damage, one Naval officer slightly wounded.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1327C/19 to Admty.)

RORQUAL
PORPOISE

Your 1754/6 Admty. letter quoted not yet received. Proposed RORQUAL should leave Mediterranean in time to arrive in U.K. in October provided PORPOISE has arrived at Station by that time.
(C. in C. Med. 1345C/19 to F.O.S.)

A/C Attacked

(? Observation Aircraft) attacked by 2 100 M.E. Position 34.00 N., 24.27 E.
(A/C T. 203 Sqn. 1645/19 to 201 Group H.Q.)

Convoy B.

Return route of convoy B. with Vichy Troops from Syria.
(C. in C. Med., 1647C/19 to Med. Fleet.)

Tripoli
bombed.

Night 18/19. 5 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli 2150 to 2234 hours and dropped 13700 lbs. G.P. and 1200 lbs. incendiaries hits on and near Spanish Quay causing fires. Smoke screen made observation difficult, all aircraft returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1700/19.)

U-Boat.

Our P.S.N. 32 - 45 N., 31 - 25 E.
(A/C "F" of No.203 Sqn. 1755/19 to 201 Sqn.)
W.R. Note: Above refers to sighting of enemy submarine.

Enemy
Convoy.

4 escorted merchant ships P.C. and S. 033° 23' 012° 47' 345° 10 at 1700.
(UNIQUE 1837B/19 to R.A. Malta.) See p. 370

TRIUMPH

My 1713/14. ^{N.T. & W.D.} TRIUMPH sailed 1700/19. (Malta)
(Cdr. S.1, 1922B/19 to UPHOLDER.)

/MAYA.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary19.8.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.MAYA,
ALBARO.
(Italian)

Your 438 (of 8/8). Please confirm that the two Italian tankers loaded at Bourgas and not at Varna or Constanza, as there are conflicting reports on this point which, for special reasons, it is important to clear up. (M.E.W. 2300/19 to Istanbul)

Situation
Report No. 122.

Western Desert. Destroyers and Minelayers escorted by Cruisers fitted with R.D.F. are carrying troops of Polish Brigade to reinforce Tobruk and withdrawing 18th Australian Brigade to Alexandria. This operation "Treacle" will continue for about 10 days.

Malta. Naval and R.A.F. Aircraft have successfully attacked enemy merchant shipping vide H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1601/18/8.
(C. in C. Med. 2301/19 to Admty.)

Service
Personnel
ORONSAY.

Your 1756/18. Further escorted sailings will not be required provided about 8 opportunities for passage per month limited as in your 1744/16/7 are provided. (C.in C. Med., 2331C/19 to Admty,)

War Diary.19.8.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Red Sea.

Instructions for Shipping. (C. in C. E.I., 0614Z/19 to E.I. Stn). See Lion Copy.

→ Diego Garcia.

Admty. 1748/6. Para (2). (A) Are guns and ammunition for Diego Garcia to be provided from Bombay, Ceylon or other source. (B) What arrangements have been made for provision of fire control instruments for Diego Garcia? (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0915Z/19 to Admty.)

R.N. Personnel

My 1150/16/8. Your 0816Z/17/8, Admty. (Group omitted) A/18/8. In view of delay at Aden of W.S. 9B. necessitating further adjustment in arrival programme at Suez, Naval draft for U.K. will be embarked ex Suez 23 in ship 1055 for Durban and not in ORONSAY. Request routing instructions. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1131/19 to C. in C. E.I.).

Your 1756A/18/8. (2) R.N. draft numbering 800 embarking ex Suez ?as in my 1131/19/8.) (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1232/19 to Admty.)

Your 1131/19 escort will not be available before 26/8. Request you will route MAURETANIA to wait at Aden. It is urgently requested that she should not ask for water or fuel there. (C. in C. E.I., 1404Z/19 to D.S.T.O. Egypt).

→ Diego Garcia.
Defences.

D. of L.D. 2331A/19 to F.O.C.R.I.N. (See Operations Volume).

China.TEGELBERG
Dutch.

Your 1320/18. Ship arrived Batavia 4/8. Batavia apparently only reported arrival to Singapore as result of query from here as to whereabouts. Necessary action taken. (S.O.I. Singapore 0401Z/19 to Admty.)

MUNSTERLAND.

Yokohama Glen Line type ship returned 16/8, Kobe Departure 17/8, MUNSTERLAND. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0446Z/19 to Admty.)

KHAI DINH,
French.

Departure 19/8 for Sanghai. (Saigon 0835Z/19 to M. of W.T.).

/DANAE.....

373A

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE.

0614Z/19th August IN

From, C in C East Indies.

Date 20.8.41.

Recd 0049

Naval Code (B) by Gable.

Addressed East Indies Station .

205 G. For N.C.S.O's (1) Cancel my 1043 11th April 9590 . My 0552 25th April 9770 My 1153 17th July 1460

(2) A dividing line is established in Red Sea joining the following position (A) ~~210~~ degrees Shalwan Light 15 miles (B) The Brothers (C) Daedalus (D) 018 deg N 040deg East (E) Jebelteir . (5) The following conditions are to be observed (A) North bound ships are to keep at least 5 miles to Eastward and Southbound ships 5 miles to Westward of the dividing line. All ships are to pass East of Abu Ail (B) North of position (A) In paragraph 2 and between Jebel Teir and longitude 045 deg ships are to burn dimmed navigation lights and keep to starboard and when possible outside hundred fathom line (C) ships proceeding to and from Red Sea ports are to burn dimmed navigation lights when on the wrong side of dividing line . (4) All British, allied and United States ships under control of United States Maritime commission sailing independently for Red Sea ports are repetition are to call at Aden unless nature of cargo (E.G. Live animals) makes delay undesirable. In latter case ships are to be sailed direct to destination , Assistant Director Ports in Egypt at Alexandria , C in C Red Sea Force, and N.C.S.O. Port of Destination being informed (5) Action is being taken to request all American ships to conform (6) adjacent stations informed.

90° k

0614Z/19

Advance Copy Ops, O.D. Trade.

Amended 0542Z/13/9 to Admty

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

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.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (C)

D.T.D. (M)

D of P (3)

E.P.S.

D.N.I. (4)

Ad Bailey

Ad Bellairs.

M (2)

D.E.W.D. (3)

D of S.T.

M E S S A G E. 2120/19th August.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From The War Office.

Date. 21.8.41.

C Y P H E R.

CIRCULATED AT REQUEST OF

Addressed No. 30 Military Mission, Moscow.

D. of P.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

85033 Cipher (M.O.12) 19/8.

Your 430 Macfarlane to V.C.I.G.S.

You will have heard from Ambassador development of situation in Persia. See Teheran telegram to F.O.552 and 558 both repeated Moscow.

Very early exchange of liaison missions now desirable and may precede start of operations. Hope result of your pressure on Russians may produce early details of forces to be employed and plan and arrangements for exchange of liaison missions with Iraq. India has been warned to have mission ready in Iraq to move at shortest notice and we have suggested mission might fly from Mosul to Caucasus in aircraft which brings Russian mission.

2120/19

Advance copy sent D.C., 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. to 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.
- Head of M.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D. 10.
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.O.D. (H)

Recd. by hand from War Office at 1520/21.

C.

War Diary.

19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

DANAE.

Penang departure 18/8 DANAE with convoy.
(S.O.I. Singapore 1109Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Pacific
Routes.

Tentative agreement with U.S. for Pacific routeing
plan under A.B.C. conditions. (A.C.N.S. (T)
2010A/19 to C. in C. China) See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.

BERA
suspicious.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1855Z/16. BERA arrived Las
Piedras 12/8 and sailed 13/8 for New York.
Suggest in view of speed, C.A.F.O. 241/41,
and reported light suspicious ship was not BERA.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1048R/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc.)

Sink at
Sight Zone,
Pacific.

Policy of G.B. and U.S. Govts. (Head of M.,
1055A/19 to B.A.D., Washington). See Lion Copy.

→ DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL.
W.S.11.

Admty. 1848A/18. As far as can be foreseen at
present an A.M.C. of North Atlantic Escort Force
can be made available this duty if required.
(R.A. 3 B.S. 1202P/19 to C. in C. A.W.I).

RESOLUTION.

Your 2355A/14 and your 2138B/11/7. Is
RESOLUTION to proceed to U.K. via Halifax to
embark aircraft, aircraft stores, and Fleet
Air Arm crews? Possibility of transport of above
from Halifax to Philadelphia or Bermuda is
doubtful. (B.A.R.M. 1214R/19 to Admty.) Reply:
1756/20.

→ DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL.

Your 1848A/18. Escort will be provided. C. in C.
South Atlantic is requested to say if he will
provide escort to take over at 40° W. (C. in C.
A.W.I. 1232Q/19 to Admty.)

/PRINSES.....

MOST SECRET

2010A/19th August.

To: - C. in C. China 611.

MESSAGE
MOST SECRET

344A^{OUT}
Date 19.8.41.

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty

Following received from British Admiralty Delegation
Washington: Begins:-

The following have been tentatively agreed with United
States Routeing Authorities as basis for a Pacific routeing
plan under A. B. C. Conditions.

(1) 12th Naval district route all shipping from West Coast
to Australasian waters, and New Zealand Naval Board in
reverse direction.

Routeing will normally be carried out on the line
given in paragraph 3, route given being interchanged. Any
question or difficulty arising will be settled through
Liaison Officers at San Francisco and Wellington.

Emergency diversion would be made on an area basis,
the other authorities being kept informed.

(2) Routeing will be based on following general principles:

(a) Route to be issued in form of lettered positions
known only to masters of ships routed and
routeing authorities at San Francisco and
Wellington.

(b) No 2 ships or group to be routed the same.

(c) Ships to be at maximum dispersion by time limit
of range of shore based aircraft is reached

(3) The following rules in routeing will be observed:

(a) Area enclosed in line drawn between Sandakan,
Fiji, Honolulu and due North from Honolulu to be
regarded as closed area through which shipping would
not be sent without escort.

(b) The following areas are to be regarded as
dangerous;

(1)

374^c~~8~~

M E S S A G E. 2030/19th August.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From The War Office.

Date. 21.8.41.

C Y P H E R Circulated at request of

Addressed C. in C., Far East.

D. of P.

84983 Cipher (M.O.10) 18/8.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.30.

Your 285/4 13/8,

Please see Batavia 162 14/8.

2. Best approach to ensure removal of misunderstandings in N.E.I. is under active consideration here by Foreign Office, who consider that no action should at present be taken direct with N.E.I. authorities.

3. We realize fully the importance of our close relationship with N.E.I., political side of which is kept constantly under review by Ministeries concerned.

2030/19

Advance copy sent D.C., D.O.D. (F) & D.D.I.C.
Recd. by hand from War Office at
1520/21.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A. to 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.
- Head of M.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D.10.
- Admiral Bellairs.
- Admiral Palliser.

NO.

374B.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1055A/19th August.
OUT.

To: B.A.D. Washington, 329. Date 19.8.41.
Repeated C. in C. China, 609.

NAVAL CYPHER (F).

From Admiralty.

NITE

A. Following received from C. in C. China. Begins.
C. in C. Asiatic Fleet informs me U.S. Government has decided in war their submarines cannot repetition not be permitted to sink merchant ships on sight wherever found. They wish combat zone should be declared as necessary on outbreak of war by associated powers jointly. Am proposing to C. in C. Asiatic Fleet and ? Dutch following zone as a basis for agreed plan. That part of Far East area as defined in ABC - 1 lying to south and west of a line joining position 030 degrees North (?122 degrees) East and 007 degrees North 140 degrees East. This will leave remainder of Pacific area and waters round Japan to C. in C. Pacific Fleet to declare as he sees fit. Subject to your approval declaration would be made from here. Ends.

B. If a zone is declared we should prefer it to be extended so as to include the waters round Japan, but the United States may wish to make their own declaration in waters of the Pacific outside the limits of the Far Eastern area in ABC - 1. In the latter case we assume that zones outside the Far Eastern Area in ABC - 1 would be declared as necessary by the United States in the Pacific and by ourselves in the Indian Ocean and round Australia and New Zealand.

/C

C. Out policy has always been and remains opposed to unrestricted submarine warfare. In this war we have, however, been driven to retaliatory sinking at sight in certain areas where we could ensure that our attacks would be confined to enemy shipping. These areas we have generally declared dangerous to navigation. We wish to be guided by this policy vis-a-vis Japan, and consider that the zone should not be declared until we are satisfied that Japan is not abiding by the rules of submarine or air warfare.

D. Subject to B and C above we concur in the Commander in Chief China's proposals but would first like confirmation from U.S. Naval Authorities that by combat zone they intend a zone in which authority would be given to sink at sight. If such is their intention request you try and obtain their concurrence in views expressed in paragraphs B and C. Proposals for sink at sight zone ultimately agreed, will require Cabinet approval.

1055A/19.

for Head of M. (86)
Approved V.C.N.S.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- Soc.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (3)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.C.
- D.D.I.C.
- Head of M. (35) China Distribution.
- D. of P. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Admiral Bailey
- Admiral Bellairs.
- E.P.S.
- N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson).

MG

War Diary.19.8.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.-Contd.PRINSES
JULIANA.

Your 1812Q/12. As several small Vichy ships are being permitted to trade on this route it is not intended to press Dutch Govt. to alter employment of PRINSES JULIANA. (D.T.D. 1258A/19 to C. in C. A.W.I).

GREENWICH.
FORTH.

Admty. 1913A/18. FORTH cannot be surrendered until some arrangement is made for barracks accommodation of 50 officers and 230 ratings. Request passenger ship such as those employed by Canada Steamship Lines on Saguenay River may be requisitioned and sent to St. Johns for this purpose to arrive not later than 12/9, if FORTH is to be made available for other service immediately on arrival of GREENWICH. Propose this vessel be renamed AVALON pending construction of barracks on shore. (C.C.N.F., 1300Z/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Escort
Groups.

C. in C. W.A. 1105A/18. Request you will sail Newfoundland Escort Groups as follows: O.N. 7 Group 18, O.N. 8 Group 19, O.N. 9 Group 25, O.N. 10 Group 15, O.N. 11 Group 16. (C.C.N.F. 1302Z/19 to A.C.I.C.

RICHMOND

On completion of RICHMOND request she be sailed for St. John's N.F. with moderate despatch. (C.C.N.F. 1253Z/19 to B.A.R.M).
My 1716R/18. RICHMOND will sail for St. Johns N.E at 1800 Zone 5/22 C.C.N.F. pass to Capt. (D) N.F. (B.A.R.M. 1514R/19 to C.C.N.F) See 1326/20.

Japanese
Ships.

My 1848Z/13. D/F bearings indicate ^{not identified} DAIITI? OGURA MARU, KEN-YOUMARU, OMUROSAN MARU and SANRAMON MARU are on Westerly course. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1352Z/19 to Capt O.S. Singapore).

SURREY
"Q" Report.

Following intercepted by Bermuda Commercial W/T (Begins) QQQ from SURREY 24.3 N.; unread, changed course S. 48 W. true speed 13 knots, 1325Z/19. (ends).
Have you any information? Details of SURREY's voyage not known. (C. in C. W.A. 1543Q/19 to C.O.A.C).
Following received from U.S. Naval Authorities: At 1322 G.M.T. today following intercept was reported QQQQ (Unknown Ship) 24° 03' N. 65° 04' W. course 048° Speed 13 knots. Chased. This is being passed to C.N.S. Ottawa. 1619/19. (Ends). (D.D.I.C. 2041A/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
See 1445Z/20, 1602Z/20.

/CORSAIR.....

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19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

CORSAIR.

Can be accepted by Navy Yard Charleston South Carolina end of August. (B.A.R.M. 1602R/19 to C. in C. A.W.I).

ORBITA.
T.C. 12B.

Your 1926A/12. On arrival ORBITA at Halifax Master reports maximum speed 13.5 knots. In view of probable delay EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and hence sailing date being later than 25/8 suggested ORBITA be transferred to H.X. 147, which is a 10 knot convoy, in which case T.C.12B will have a 16 knot speed of advance and will be able to maintain expected arrival date in U.K. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1627Z/19 to Admty.) See 1522/20, 1806/20.

ILEX.

Your 211A/18. ILEX can be accepted but port cannot be given until approx. date of arrival is known. (B.A.R.M., 1646R/19 to Admty.)

Finnish Ships.

Your 1604Z/14. Finnish Ships carrying cargoes destined for U.S. or proceeding on voyages approved by U.S. Maritime Commission should not be seized vide A.M. 1948B/5. (D.T.D. 2141A/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

CIRCASSIA.

(Rehabilitation
of NEW NORTHLAND
Crew)

Your 1127N/18. No objections but it is probable crew will have to remain in CIRCASSIA for at least three weeks vide my 1202Q/18. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2212Q/19 to C. in C. S.A).

Service Personnel
via Iceland.

Owing to lack of accommodation in Iceland, decided to suspend trans-atlantic traffic via Reykjavik. Last batch of R.A.F. for Halifax will be sent from U.K. in Convoy D. S.10 on 21/8. LACONIA should be the last A.M.C. carrying personnel from Halifax to Reykjavik. (R.A. 3rd B.S. 1152P/9/8 not to all addressees refers). (A.C.N.S. (H) 2320A/19 to R.A.3, A.C.I.C).

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19.8.1941.
Tuesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

General

Enemy
Tactics.

For information, one destroyer escort has been torpedoed and sunk and one corvette believed torpedoed and sunk whilst escorting convoys in Western Approaches. This may indicate a deliberate change in enemy tactics. (C. in C. W.A. 1456A/19 to W.A., G.M., 165N)

Ships Attacked

O.G. 71.
BATH, ALVA,
AGUILA,
CISCAR.
Sunk.

O.G. 71 attacked by U-Boats at 0115A/19 in 048° (230) N., 017° 46' W. H.M.S. BATH and SS ALVA torpedoed and sunk, survivors being picked up. And again at 0310A/19, casualties not yet known. (LEITH 0300A/19 to Admty.) ALVA, British, 1584 tons, Glasgow to Lisbon with coal. (D.S. 714, 19/8).

Following has been read - de 31, torpedo passed ahead port side (ends) (Valencia Radio, 0335/19).

Am standing by with HYDRANGEA picking up survivors from BATH. Only 46 recovered so far. After transferring survivors at daylight HYDRANGEA will rejoin convoy. She will have on board 8 dangerously wounded which cannot be moved. M.O. of WANDERER will remain in her to attend to them. My position 049° 38' N., 017° 34' W. (WANDERER, 0427A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

SS AGUILA, No. 41 Cmdre. and CISCAR No. 21., sunk in attack at 0310A/19 049° 23' N., 017° 56' W. Known survivors ALVA - 11, AGUILA - master and 14 CISCAR 25. W.A.C.I. part 3. (a) nil (b) both from ahead (c) N.E. 8- H.M.S. BATH in H.A. as above and ALVA No. 61. (f) 232° - 1½ hours. 162° - ¼ hours. (g) very dark - wind west 4 sea 34 (h) U-Boat probably stopped ahead and allowed convoy to over-run them. Light seen near torpedoed ships just before attack. ST. ALBANS not in company. (LEITH 0915A/19 to Admty.)
AGUILA, British, 3255 tons, Liverpool for Lisbon and Gibraltar with general cargo;
CISCAR, British, 1809 tons, Bristol for Gibraltar with Govt. stores. (D.S. 715, 20/8)

/My P.C. & S....

Loss of WRNS. in AGUILA, see Search 4986

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War Diary19.8.1941.
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked-Contd.O. G. 71
BATH etc.
sunk cont:

My P. C. and S 050° N., 017° W., 042° 12. Estimate have just sufficient fuel to reach Lough Foyle if weather does not deteriorate. Have on board 35 survivors from BATH. HYDRANGEA rejoining convoy has 9 other seriously wounded and 2 who died during the night. Total number picked up is therefore 46 which includes 1st Lieutenant and engineer both seriously wounded. (Weather) (WANDERER, 1100A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Following account of sinking of BATH gleaned from survivors. BATH - in A.S.V. position 2½ miles astern convoy. At 0110A/19 U-Boat sighted on starboard beam. Before star shell could be fired torpedo seen (corrupt group) 090° 300 yards. Hit engine room, ship at once broke in two and sank within 3 minutes. 2 depth charges set 100 feet exploded as beam sank causing numerous casualties. U-Boat presumably passed on into convoy. (WANDERER, 1116A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Expect to join LEITH at 0030z/20. (GURKHA 1530A/19 to C. in C. W.A.) D/F bearings at 1426 G.M.T. indicate O.G. 71 is still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 1618A/19 to LEITH, LANCE, GURKHA, etc.) Ops./896 19/8. O.G. 71 will be escorted until 1700/21 when estimated position of Convoy will be 42.15 N., 16.13 W. Can you arrange escort from that time and place.? (H.Q.C.C. 1635/19 to 200 Group.) D/F Bearings at 2110 G.M.T. indicate O.G. 71 is still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 2324B/19 to LEITH, LANCE, GURKHA. ST. ALBANS etc.)

HORN SHELL(Torpedoed 26/7)

Your (2352?) A/17 not to Admty. Trawler MARIA LEONOR intercepted at 0920A/19 in 034° 51' N., (009°?)(55') W. 8 survivors from HORN SHELL taken on board AVON VALE. Survivors state ship was torpedoed at dark/26/7 in 032° 23' 023° 20' W. 4 lifeboats made initially for Madeira. This boat became separated on 2nd night and made for Canary Islands. Boat was found by trawler in 025° (05'?) N., 016° (25'?) W. on 14/8. Third (Officer of?) boat injured but will recover. Necessary provisions supplied to trawler. 5 Chinese survivors were left (on board?). Names of British survivors follow. (AVON VALE 1131A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/DESIGNER....

19.8.1941.
TuesdayWar DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked-Contd.DESIGNER
(Torpedoed
9/7).

My 1520/18. Survivors names. Further interrogation reveals that large vessel stopped for five minutes within half a mile (Description). When torpedo struck DESIGNER No. 1. hold blew up. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1515B/19 to Admty. etc.)

Submarines Reported

0754/15.

PARTHIAN reports that at 0754/15 in 45° 02' N., 09° 02' W. dived for unidentified vessel sighted at short range in heavy rain squall. Nothing heard after diving. This was probably referred to in Admty. 0925A/15 giving Italian U-Boats report of sighting. (F.O.S. 1221A/19 to Admty.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1438A/19)

0400/15.

On July 15 at 0400 a submarine sighted about 30 miles from Cape Sta. Maria. C.2. (N.A. Lisbon 1204/9 to D.N.I.)

3 German U-Boats in Bay of Biscay area inward bound. (F.O.S. 1609A/19 to Pol.S/M SOKOL)

2125A

Periscope sighted 58° 30' N., 2° 42' W. (STELLA CAPELLA 2125A/19 to S. and A., Orkneys etc.) *See also next page.*

Submarines AttackedBy A/C.

Am over Enemy S/M in 49.40 N., 17.25 W., Enemy previously reported was sighted on surface and seen to submerge. (A/C, call sign M.K. 7, 0745/19 to 15 R. Gp. H.Q.) Have attacked enemy submarine with bombs (dive) depth charges. Nil hits. Enemy's course 188° (A/C call sign M.K.7, 0755/19 to 18 Gp. H.Q.) Aircraft report U-Boat in 049° 40' N., 018° 35' W at 0745A. At 16 knots E. T.A. 1230A/19. Have not met O.G. 71. (ST. ALBANS, 0830A/19 to C. in C. W.A. amended 1001A/19) W.D. Note:- Position apparently decoded wrongly by ST. ALBANS A/C report was KR (49° N.) W.M. (18° W) 4035 = 49.40 N., 17.25 W., but see 1210/19.

/Am in.....

19.8.1941.
TuesdayWar DiaryU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Attacked-Contd.By A/c cont:

Am in position reported in his 0755/19, cannot make contact with aircraft Duty 'J'.
(WANDERER, 0915A/19 to H.Q.C.C. C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0830A/19. Position given by aircraft was 49° 40' N., 17° 25' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1055A/19 to ST. ALBANS)
Your 1055A/19. Have altered course and my E.T.A. in new position 1430A/19. (ST. ALBANS 1140A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
Correct U-Boat position by landfall 48.16 N., 16.46 W. (A/C J5 of No. 15 Group, 1210/19 to 15 Gp. H.Q.)

By A/C

Am over enemy submarine in 60.53 N., 29.10 W.
(G.A.M.? A/C H. of 209 Squadron, 1404/19 to S.A. 8 (?))
Periscope only sighted of enemy S/M previously reported. When first sighted was on course 324° 5 knots. (GAM ? A/C H of 209 Sqdn. 1406/19 to S.A. 8 (?)) (D.S. 715)
I have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate nil hits. (GAM A/C H Sqdn. 1410/19 to S.A. 8 (?))

By STELLA
CAPELLA

At 2125/19, 58.30 N., 2.42 W., 10' E. of Wick.
D/C's dropped, result not yet reported.
(D.S. 715, 20/8.) *See previous page*

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20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
'Dervish'.

An enemy aircraft reconnoitred Iceland (C) this morning. Convoy ~~DERVISH~~ (Stores and equipment for Russia) was passing the boom at the time.

British Air Operations.

Six aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Le Havre last night.

A reporting vessel was attacked and possibly damaged today N.E. of Heligoland, and two E-boats attacked off St. Valerie this morning may have been damaged.

A Hudson claims a direct hit this evening on a small merchantman off Karmo.

Enemy Air Operations.

Steam trawler JULIET was bombed and sunk this afternoon whilst fishing about 25 miles S. by W. of the Old Head of Kinsale. Her crew were subsequently machine gunned in their boat, but no casualties were caused.

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Off Cromer.

Polish S.S. CZESTOCHOWA in Convoy F.N.⁵⁰7 was sunk by underwater explosion, believed to be a mine in the early hours of to-day in 53° 11' 30" N. 1° 6' E. S.S. DALEWOOD in the same convoy was mined and badly damaged near the same position but was towed to the Humber.

Thames Estuary.

Mines were detonated in the Estuary to-day.

South Atlantic.

H.M.T. LORINDA broke down yesterday and sank early today on passage from Freetown to Capetown.

With reference to the report of a possible raider on 18/8 in 30° S. 12° 35' E., D/F bearings at 0037Z to-day indicated enemy surface units within 150 miles of position 25° S. 7° E.

Mediterranean.

6 Hurricanes attacked Syracuse at Noon to-day.

UNIQUE this morning attacked a convoy of 4 liners with escort of destroyers, T.B's, M.A.S., and flying boats in approx. 33° N., 13° E. 3 hits were obtained on S.S. ESPERIA (11,398 tons.) The result is not reported. During the afternoon UNIQUE was attacked by a flying boat and slightly damaged.

/Libya.....

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Sweeping
ahead of
convoys.

My 1824/27/7. Regular sweeping ahead of these convoys is to cease. To reinforce convoy escorts CORIOLANUS, JULIET, and HORATIO, are to return to operational control of Comdr.A/P. (C. in C. Plymouth 1820/20 to Capt. M/S. Comdr.A/P.)

Movements.

ALCA.

Intend sailing ALCA in convoy O.S. 1600/23 for Bathurst in compliance with Adty. 1207A/12. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1036/20.)

S/M O.14.

Orders for leaving patrol after dark 22/8 for Dundee. (Capt.(S) 9. 1057A/20, 1445A/20 to O.14.)

P.34.

Cancel my 1135A/17/8. Sailing is postponed. (S.3. 1142A/20.)

Speeds on
E.coast.

When between 21 A Buoy and 17 Buoy vessels other than those operating S.A. are normally to proceed at speeds not greater than 10 knots. If it is necessary to make the passage at speeds greater than 10 knots speeds between 10 and 20 knots should be avoided. (C. in C. Rosyth 1510/20 to MAORI, HESPERUS.)

PRINCE OF
WALES.

The President of the U.S. has stated that locality of recent meeting with the Prime Minister will not be announced until after the War, because of certain scientific information which the enemy could glean if it were made public now. It has been decided that we should also conform to this. Request arrangements may be made to ensure that the recent movements of the PRINCE OF WALES shall not be disclosed with the exception of the visit to Iceland. (1st S.L. 1642A/20 to C. in C.H.F.)

A.F.D.IV.

Sailed 1800 A.F.D.IV., POZARICA, KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK, VIVIEN. Tugs: EMPIRE HENCHMAN, FREEBOOTER, SUPERMAN, M/Ls 177, 157. (C. in C. Plymouth 1914/20.)

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

^{"Grab"}
GRAB Patrol.

^{"Grab"}
~~GRAB~~ Patrol out 1100/20. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0723A/20.)
~~GRAB~~ Patrol withdrawn 1500/20 August. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1517A/20.)

→ Convoy
"Dervish".

Arrived convoy "Dervish" and escort 0630Z. (A.C.I.C.0929/20 to C. in C.H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Lights for
Force A.

S.O. Force 'A' requests arrangements may be made for following lights to be exhibited during darkness 28/29 August Mount Sazonova, Cape Orlov Terski, Veshnyak Island. T.O.O. 1221A/19. (C. in C.H.F. 0935A/20 to Adty.)

Russian
Co-operation.

Request you will arrange:-
(a) Approach channel to White Sea may be watched and swept by Russian forces before arrival of
(1) Convoy "Dervish" (2) EMPRESS OF CANADA. Date of arrival of latter will be signalled later.
(b) Air protection where possible for both operations including duration of stay of vessels in harbour.
(c) That Russian naval and air forces may remain South of lat. 073° N. from 26/8 until Convoy "Dervish" has passed long. 15° E. on return.
2. S.B.N.O. Murmansk is requested to arrange that British submarines conform with paragraph (c) above. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1026A/20 to Admiral Miles.)
See also p 407

A/S Trawler
patrol.

Your 1015A/19. Patrol west of Faeroes withdrawn at 1200/20. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1250A/20 to A.C.O.S.)

→ Operations
"Dervish"
"Strength".

D. One is 21/8. (C. in C.H.F. 1317A/20 to A.C.O.S., F.O.(S), C.S.1, ARGUS, HARRIER, Adty. R.A.(D) H.F., SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS, ELECTRA, C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.I.C., R.A.2nd B.S.)

Special
Operation.

Your 2332A/19. M.T.B.34 detailed. (C. in C. Nore 1432A/20 to Adty.) *See next page*

P.W.14.

Intend carrying out operation P.W.14 with 3 M.T.B's tonight Wednesday. (C. in C. Nore. 1502A/20 to Adty., V.A. Dover.) *See next page*

/Force A.

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War Diary.20.8.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.Force A.*(Spitzbergen)*

Request signals to S.O. Force A. may be kept to a minimum. My 1049A/19, signals which will be made on BN broadcast (a guard on which is being kept until 1200A 21) should bear D.G's for Force 'A' and signals in HD broadcast should bear D.G's for North Sea Force etc. A.C.O.S. is requested to repeat both types of signals on Scapa auxiliary wave. (C. in C.H.F. 1502A/20 to Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Rosyth, F.O. 2nd i/c H.F., A.C.O.S.)

FURIOUS, re secret signals.

Open draft notes and/or signals in plain language disclosing destination of FURIOUS next operation which was most secret are being received from DAEDALUS, JACKDAW and HERON. (FURIOUS 1518A/20 to V.A. N.A.S.)

Beacons for "Gauntlet".*(Spitzbergen)*

Your 1956/19. As convoy will presumably arrive off Cape Kanin on 31/8 Soviet Naval authorities are reluctant to start beacons before 0700/G.M.T./30. This seems to me reasonable and suggest we concur. (Admiral Miles 1823C/20 to Adty.)

? P.W.14.

Harwich departures M.T.B's 30, 32, 34. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1930A/20.) *see previous page*

British Air Operations.A/S search.

In confirmation of telephone conversation. Request A/S search assuming that a U-boat was within 20 miles PF 58° 45' N. 3° W. at 2200/19. Suggest search each side of course to Bergen as far as practicable. (C. in C.H.F.1126A/20 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Patrols.

^{"Fate II"}
FATE II will be flown from 1315 to 2015 today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1130/20.)
STAND now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1900/20.)

Balloons at Oban.

H.Q.C.C. report that N.O.I.C. Oban has been instructed to fly balloons from anchored merchant vessels at 3,000 ft. This is contrary to the regulation agreed between Adty., and Air Staff. Request N.O.I.C. Oban be instructed to revert to original arrangement of 150 ft. which is considered only practicable means of safeguarding aircraft operating in vicinity. (Air Min. 1600/20 to Adty.)

/Prestwick.....

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20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations - Contd.

Prestwick - Archangel Air Service.

Russians hope to begin service about 25/8. Request as much as possible of following be telegraphed at once remainder by quickest route. (Air Mission Moscow 1735/20 to Air Min.)

Lancaster 1 A/C's.

Lancaster 1 aircraft are now flying. Description. (Air Min. 1745/20.)

→ Convoy "Dervish".

Request you arrange if practicable for air protection to be available for Convoy "Dervish" during passage through Denmark Straits. Object to drive off shadowers. (F.O.2 i/c.H.F. 2059A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

→ "Dervish" sighted by A/C.

Enemy Air Operations.

German aircraft sighted over Hvalfjord at 0702Z 20. Convoy "Dervish" passing boom at that time and was probably seen. Aircraft disappeared to west at 0745 after flying over Reykjavik aerodrome. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0802/20 to Adty.)

Blenheim over Thorshavn.

At 0700A/20 an aircraft subsequently identified as a Blenheim flew twice over the town and harbour of Thorshavn at about 500 ft., made no attempt to identify itself and was engaged by machine guns from ships in harbour. It is particularly requested aircraft may be instructed to avoid as far as possible flying over the land or harbours of these islands. Four Bofors guns are now mounted in the vicinity of Thorshavn. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1006/20 to A.C.O.S.)

R/C of Iceland. A German aircraft carried out R/C of Iceland today 20/8. (D.D.I.C.1257A/20 to A.C.I.C., C. in C.H.F., A.C.O.S.)

A/C engaged.

Report whether aircraft was engaged by convoy or escort at about 0220 today Wednesday. (C. in C. Nore. 1505A/20 to LIDDESDALE.)

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War Diary.20.8.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.S.S. DALEWOOD
CZESTOCHOWA
mined.

(GLING) DALEWOOD Mined in 053° 11' 24" N. 001° 05' 30" E. Ship may remain afloat. (CATTISTOCK 0322A/20.)

Polish ship CZESTOCHOWA sunk under water explosion considered to be mine in 053° 11' 30" N. 001° 06' E. ship is completely submerged. Motor launches 195 and 197 have 24 survivors between them including master, I have one, am darning position. (SHELDRAKE 0345A/20.)

DALEWOOD mined, stem badly damaged. Am taking in tow. Request tugs. PETER HENDRIKS in company. 3 killed 8 survivors in PUFFIN and 3 injured men aboard CATTISTOCK. My position 053° 11' 48" N. 001° 07' E. (CATTISTOCK 0430/20.)

Departure Tug KROOMAN at 0530 to assist S.S. DALEWOOD in distress in 53° 11' N. 01° 05' E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0538A/20.)

Departure tug DIVERSION at 0600 to assist S.S. DALEWOOD and S.S. CZESTOCHOWA in distress in 053° 12' N. 001° 06' E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0620A/20.)

Am escorting PETER HENDRIKS towing DALEWOOD proceeding towards Humber. Position 053° 12' N. 001° 10' E. speed 4 knots. (SHELDRAKE 0620A/20.)

SHELDRAKE 0620. Proceeding at 20 knots. Propose to enter Humber to transfer one seriously wounded cot case, 2 slightly injured and one other and then rejoin convoy. E.T.A. Humber L.V. 0900. (CATTISTOCK 0638A/20.)

Departure tug SCOTSMAN to assist S.S. DALEWOOD at 0910. Tug SABINE at 0730. (F.O. Humber, 0917A/20.)

Departure SCAWFELL to escort S.S. DALEWOOD in tow 0945. (F.O. Humber 1050A/20.)

S.S. CZESTOCHOWA of F.N. 7 sunk by underwater explosion in 53° 11' 30" N. 01° 06' E. Casualties unknown and 25 survivors landed at Humber.

S.S. DALEWOOD of same convoy stern badly damaged by explosion in position 53° 11' 24" N. 01° 05' 30" E. Ship in tow of PETER HENDRIKS to Humber. Tugs have left to assist. Casualties 3 killed, 3 injured. Nine other survivors landed at Humber by CATTISTOCK and PUFFIN. Explosions believed by escorts to have been caused by mines, but possibility of long range torpedoes from E.Boats cannot be overlooked. (C. in C. Nore 1146A/20.) 25 Survivors from S.S. CZESTOCHOWA landed Grimsby, one believed lost with ship. 11 Survivors from S.S. DALEWOOD landed Grimsby. 8 Survivors and 3 bodies believed on board. (F.O. Humber 1300A/20.)

F.O.I.C. Humber reports wreck of CZESTOCHOWA located in 53° 11' 40" N. 01° 05' 36" E. Request QZH and buoy. (C. in C. Nore 2209A/20 to Adty.)

/Operation

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining - Contd.

Operation
N.L.19.

Intend to carry out operation N.L.19 tonight.
(V.A. Dover 1004A/20.)

Operation
S.N.22 B.

My 1814A/18. Now intend to carry out as follows with AGAMEMNON and NEWARK on 22/8. Details. (R.A.M.1058A/20) See Operations Volume. 20/8 - p 210 -

Operation
S.N.70 A.

Intentions. (R.A.(M) 1134A/20.) See Operations Volume. 20/8 - p.210 -

Forthcoming
operations.
(E.Coast M/L)

R.A.(M)'s 1037/19. It is not intended to provide another survey ship. Greater tolerance and less clear water can be accepted.
2. The A.A. ship is required in addition to ADVENTURE. Could WELSHMAN and MANXMAN if available, be considered ?
3. Reference C. in C. H.F. 1111/H.F.001340 not to R.A.(M), no mines are to be laid south of latitude 57° 06' N.
4. C. in C.H.F.2150A/19. Concur. R.A.(M) is requested to do this locally.
5. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1302A/20 to C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Rosyth R.A.(M).)

Thames
Estuary.

S.A. Mine exploded 0659/20 in 51° 48.5' N. 1° 30.8' E. $\frac{1}{2}$ cable from EARL KITCHENER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1417A/20.)

Swedish
Minelaying
between
Oland and
German area.

Your 1815/26 para A. Is this done yet? (D.N.I. 1603A/20 to N.A. Stockholm.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown
fishing
vessel.

Unknown fishing vessel was sighted from shore 20 miles S. of Prawle Point at 0800/20. M.L. and A/C searched. A/C sighted her at 1455 too close to French coast for M.L. to chase and board. Military and police in Devon and Cornwall informed. (C. in C. Plymouth 1818/20.)

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20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

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S.S.PORTH-
MEOR sunk.

GLENDENE sank S.S. PORTHMEOR Cardiff for Dublin at 0315. Ship capable of 9 knots. Mate only survivor of crew of 10. (INDIAN STAR 0745A/20 FOWEY 1959/20.)

ACHATES.

Request long term weather forecast for area Faeroes to Tyne with special reference to wind and sea may be passed to TARTAR commencing a.m./21.
2. TARTAR will be escorting ACHATES damaged and in tow from Faeroes to Tyne approx. speed 5 knots. (R.A.(D) 1021A/20 to Adty.)
In view of my 1613/13 preferable that ACHATES should not arrive Tyne earlier than a.m./27. (N.O.I.C. Tyne 1738/20 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

GOLDEN WEST.
CALEDONIA.

N.C.S. Steam Drifter GOLDEN WEST was in collision with Methil Pilot Launch CALEDONIA in Methil Roads at 1030/19. No damage to GOLDEN WEST stem of CALEDONIA damaged but vessel seaworthy. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1248/20.)

HEYTHROP.

Arrived HEYTHROP with defects to stern Gland. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1321A/20, 1924A/20.)

M.G.B.60.

Regret M.G.B.60 sustained damage by fire on 18/8 damage more extensive than at first appeared. (BEEHIVE 1709A/20 to R.A.C.F.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.G.71.

Shortage of fuel will necessitate GURKHA and LANCE leaving convoy on 23/8. (GURKHA 1205A/20 to C. in C.W.A.)
Admty. 2258/15. GURKHA, LANCE will come under the orders of S.O. Force H. on arrival with O.G.71 at Gibraltar. (C. in C.W.A. 1426A/20 to S.O. Force H. etc.)
O.G.71 alter course after dark tonight 20/8 direct for position L. Omit K. Then as ordered previously. (C. in C.W.A. 1557A/20 to Escorts of O.G.71, GURKHA, LANCE.)

/C.E.46

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys - contd.

C.E.46.

Following are convoy call signs for C.E.46.
(Capt. D.1. 1416/20 to V.A. Dover etc.)

W.S.11
LIVELY.

R.A.D. is requested to sail LIVELY to arrive Clyde 28/8. LIVELY is to sail with W.S.11 on 30/8 and boiler cleaning is to be postponed till arrival at Gibraltar. (C. in C.W.A. 1431A/20 to R.A.D.H.F. etc.)
C.2 will be unable to sail in W.S.11 owing to breakdown of refrigerating machinery.
(D.S.T.O. Liverpool 1745/20 to D. of S.T.)

O.S.4.
H.G.71.

My 2215B/8. Local escort of O.S.4 will meet H.G.71 on 28/8. (C. in C.W.A. 1521A/20 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

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SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1542A/20th August. 1 OUT.

To: B.A.D. Washington 337.
(BRITMAN)

Date 20.8.41.

Naval Cypher (X)

From Admiralty D.N.I.

METER. German Main Units.

TIRPITZ - Kiel, alongside, 19th August.

LÜTZOW }
HIPPER } - Kiel, in dry dock, 19th August.

GNEISENAU }
SCHARNHORST } Brest in dock, 19th August.
PRINZ EUGEN }

SEYDLITZ - Bremen, fitting out, 19th August.

LEIPZIG }
NURNBERG } One at Copenhagen 19th August,
One at Flensburg, 19th August.

KÖLN - Left Copenhagen between 24th July and 19th August.
Possibly at Aarhus, 12th August. (D.3).

EMDEN - Left Flensburg between 24th July and 19th August.
Thought to be exercising in Western Baltic.

ADMIRAL SCHEER - No new information.
Thought to be exercising in Western Baltic.

Remainder - No change.

Italian Main Units.

GORIZIA. At Palermo in dock 31.7.41 (B.2)

MUZIO ATTINDOLO }
RAIMONDO MONTECUCCOLI } At Palermo 31.7.41. (B.2)
EUGENIO SAVOIA }

GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI. At Palermo 29.7.41 (B.2)

BUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI. At Messina 16.7.41 (B.1)

ALBERTO DI GUISSANO. At Messina 29.4.41 (B.1)

BOLZANO. At Messina 16.7.41 (B.1)

Messina. Four Cruisers 18.8.41. (A.1)

Remainder - No change.

1542A/20.

D.D.I.C. (Green Line 8).

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

Nav. Sec.

Jr.

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pin, Admiralty Hse.

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

D.N.I. (4)

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

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)

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20.8.1941.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

EUGENIO C.
Italian.

Left Ferrol 1 a.m. Wednesday 20/8 after taking 80 tons bunkers. (Corunna 1600/20 to Admty.)

Spanish Ships
War Material.

Following received from British Consul Valencia (begins) Arrival 17/8 Spanish steamer CASTILLO OROPESA from Barcelona; 19/8, Spanish Gunboat CANALEJAS. Informed that first named has on board 60 motor lorries and will take more and also war material probably for Ceuta 2001/19 (ends) (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1623/20 to Admty.)

French
Convoy.

Gibraltar 0916 French Sloop ENGAGEANTE French ships ARCTURUS, CARIMARE, LIEUTENANT DE LA TOUR, all laden passed Westbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1711A/20 to Admiralty etc.)

Aircraft
Las Palmas.

Several unidentifiable large aircraft passed without landing southbound. (Las Palmas, 1800/20 to Admty.)

VIMY
H.G. 71.

Departure VIMY to join H.G. 71 during daylight 23/8 and remaining till limit of prudent endurance. (F.O.C.N.A. 2230A/20 to Admty. etc).

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON
CASTLE
Suspicious
ship.

Am chasing suspicious vessel. My position is 029° 54' S., 047° 48' W. (CARNARVON CASTLE, 0110Z/20 to R.A.S.A.D., C. in C. S.A.) My 0110Z/20. Ship still in sight, my P.C. and S. 029° 41' S., 049° 36' W. 000° 16 knots, intend shadowing until daylight. (CARNARVON CASTLE 0200Z/20 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D).

/QUEEN OF BERMUDA...

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Your 2212/18. Personnel are already on board and one Seafox will be embarked before QUEEN OF BERMUDA leaves Capetown. C. in C. S.A.'s 1305/19 refers. (F.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1138B/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

LORINDA sunk.

Trawler BALTA and LORINDA on passage South. Report from BALTA received at 0700/19 that LORINDA was broken down engine failed and in tow at 1200/19, 6° 30' N., 11° 37' W. Proceeding Freetown LAVENDER on patrol was ordered to proceed and assist. At 0400/20 BALTA reported LORINDA making water, fires out. No immediate danger. At 0610/20 reported would have to abandon ship shortly. At 0845/20 reported LORINDA sunk, all crew safe. BALTA returning to Freetown. No information as to cause yet. (C. in C. S.A., 1151N/20 to Admty).

18th D.F.

Following destroyers normally based on Freetown will form the 18th Destroyer Flotilla:- BOREAS, BRILLIANT, VANSITTART (Divisional leader), VELOX, VIMY, WILD SWAN, WIVERN (Divisional Leader), WRESTLER. (C. in C. S.A., 1221N/20).

W.S.10 REINA DEL PACIFICO.

Your 1615/19. Dept. of Defence, Union of South Africa, requests REINA DEL PACIFICO may also be diverted to Capetown where personnel can be more conveniently distributed. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1247B/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

LADY DENISON PENDER, cable -operation. "Cullin."

Your 1245N/19 (N.T. in W.D.) Operation ordered in my 2354/19 should be carried out first and in view of ship's slow speed the date of 27/8 may be extended at your discretion. Preferred that ship should then proceed to Cape Town for docking and not Lagos. (D.S.D., 1253A/20 to C. in C. S.A.) Your 2354/19 and 1253/20. LADY DENISON PENDER will arrive in position about 28/8 and will require at least seven days in area. Escort will be provided. (C. in C. S.A., 2027N/20 to Admty).

GAZCON.

Admty 2236/19 (N.T. in W.D.) (interception of GAZCON) is repeated to you. Consul General Loanda has been informed that ship will be available to intercept 21/8. It is important to keep out of sight of land. If intercepted ship is to be sent to Capetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1701N/20 to ALBATROSS).

/Suspicious.....

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday. 394

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

Suspicious
Ship.

Message 0055/20 from F.O.I.C. Simonstown (N.T.in W.R.) (2) U.S.A. ship PRESIDENT FILLMORE p.m./18 in 30° S., 12° 35' E., course 130° sighted strange vessel steering 45° which crossed his bow passing on port side and altered to 260° approx. Stranger asked "What ship" and U.S.A., vessel gave name and in turn asked "What ship" reply being "Sorry".
(3) Description. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1740B/20 to Admtty etc.)

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

Return to Freetown. (C. in C.S.A. 1933N/20 to PRETORIA CASTLE.)

BULOLO.

From position B proceed direct to Freetown. (C. in C.S.A., 1959N/20 to BULOLO.)

PRIMULA.

My 0818/16 and 1918/18. Trials not yet satisfactory. Further signal will be made when ship is ready to sail. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2005B/20 to Admtty.)

Convoy
W.S.10.
EDINBURGH.

Your 1615N/19.
1. Service personnel mentioned in C. in C. Med., 1450/6 will be embarked in MAURETANIA leaving Aden (date) for Durban where personnel will be transhipped to a returning ship of W.S.10 for escorted passage to U.K.
2. Advantage should also be taken of this opportunity to clear any service personnel awaiting passage to U.K. from Cape area.
3. Intended that EDINBURGH should act as escort for this ship from Durban or Cape to U.K. Therefore at your discretion to arrange escort of W.S.10 from Cape to Durban, observing that EDINBURGH should boiler clean in Cape area but should not otherwise be delayed.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2222A/20 to C. in C.S.A.)

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday. 395

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aircraft carriers.

Request for 2. Policy. (C. in C. Med., 0930C/20 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

Alexandria Raid.

Night 19/20. About 6 enemy A/C operated over Alex. No bombs dropped but believed mines laid in harbour. No fighters sent up owing to bad weather conditions. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.1001/20). Alexandria air raid 0345 to 0515/20 5 or 6 enemy high level bombing, using flares. About 20 medium bombs over wide area. No damage or casualties. (R.A. Alexandria, 1221C/20).

Vichy Convoy C.

Route to Beirut. (C. in C. Med., 1048C/20 to Med., Fleet amended 1154/21.

GALATEA.

GALATEA is to join 15th Cruiser Squadron. (C. in C. Med., 1115/20).

Fast Supply Ships.

Your 1045/11 Para 4 and 1022/17. 4 Northern's would be very useful but smaller number would be acceptable. WOLBOROUGH has been converted locally for cargo carrying. (C. in C. Med., 1350C/20 to Admty).

PERSEUS.
AJAX.
NEPTUNE.
TALISMAN.

?PERSEUS leaves Alexandria 1930C/20 through 032° 20' 029° 35' and Kaso Strait to Aegean. AJAX, NEPTUNE operating to N.E. of Ras Al Melh night of 20/21. TALISMAN leaves Alexandria 1930C/21 through 033° 35' 025° 32' and 033° 35' 020° 00' to Gulf of Sirte. (Capt. S.I., 1350C/20 to TORBAY).

Italian Fleet.

Disposition of Main Units. (D.D.I.C., 1542A/20) See Lion and Tiger Copies.

Malta Raid.

Night 19/20 3-5 raiders dropped some incendiaries. No damage, civilian casualties.

Syracuse attacked.

6 Hurricanes attacked Syracuse noon 20/8. 3 Balloons down in flames. Oil tanks repeatedly hit, but cannon ricoched and did not appear to penetrate. Two seaplanes damaged. Boom ships also attacked. Complete surprise. All aircraft returned. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/20).

Yugoslav Forces.

Your 2354B/21/7. The two M.T.B.s and crews are efficient and are being employed operationally. S/M NEBOJSCA is unfit for further service as a submarine without very extensive refit. She could be used for training Folbot parties or as a power unit. Crew can be considered partly trained.

/Personnel.....

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E

0930C/20 Aug.

395A

IN

From. C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 21.8.41.
Time. 0031.

ONE TIME TABLE BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty.

AIDAC.

971. Request that consideration may be given to stationing 2 aircraft carriers in Eastern Mediterranean during next winter.

2. Primary role of their aircraft would be fighter protection to fleet thus giving full scope for surface forces to attack shipping route, for bombardment, minelaying etc. Offensive operations by torpedo spotter reconnaissance aircraft would also be continued as in the past.

3. No operations by surface forces can be conducted in Eastern Mediterranean without air protection. The protection that can be given by shore based fighters is limited by range of aircraft to that required for defensive operations only, and there are in any case insufficient fighters available for requirements of all services.

4. Given adequate fighter protection fleet can move anywhere and scope for useful operations is very great. This ability to attack anywhere must involve enemy devoting considerable air strength for protection of important points with consequent reduction in forces available elsewhere. It may also involve him in desperate measures which we would be well prepared to meet.

5. Requirements for strong fighter protection, while still allowing carriers to embark an adequate striking force, can just be met by 2 carriers, with one spare fighter squadron and one spare torpedo spotter reconnaissance squadron available ashore.

6. Basis of calculation of fighters required. Assuming an operation lasts about one week, as is normal for extended operation in Ionian, the following fighter patrols will be required:

(i) Continuous patrols by 4 aircraft will be required during approximately 12 hours of daylight daily throughout period.

(ii) Patrols will have to be increased to not less than 6 Fighters during period when there is some risk of air attack, i.e. for period of about 8 hours for 5 days.

(iii) Patrols will have to be increased to 18 Aircraft during period when there is great risk

of/

of air attack, i.e. for about 6 hours on 4 days.

(vii) Total number of flying hours required for above (not allowing for overlaps or landing times- is 704 hours.

(viii) Fatigue will not allow each pilot doing more than 1st operational flights per day for 7 days continuously. Assuming each flight is 2 hours, each pilot will be capable of doing 21 hours. Total number of crew/aircraft required will be 35. Allowing 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent margin for losses by accident or in action or aircraft unserviceable for various reasons, total number of fighters required is 47.

(ix) It is considered a spare squadron should be available to provide for period of rest and training.

(x) Eastern Mediterranean is excellent operating area for carriers in winter when weather conditions are bad at home. If Mediterranean campaign goes well during winter they could be transferred to other areas in the Spring by which time they will have reached a high standard of efficiency.

(xi) Assuming 2 carriers will comprise H.M.S. INDOMITABLE and one H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS class, Squadrons required are 4 Torpedo Spotter reconnaissance aircraft and 5 Fighters of which 2 Torpedo spotter reconnaissance and 3 Fighter squadrons are now on station.

(xii) Type Fighters. It is considered 3 of Fighter Squadron should be single seaters i.e. Martlet 2 or Sea Hurricane.

(xiii) Facilities in Egypt. It is expected Naval resources in Eastern Mediterranean should be adequate by Mid October to Service 9. 1st line Squadrons.

(xiv) Supply aircraft. If supply of Albacore is also maintained at the rate of about 20 per month, reserves should be adequate to maintain 4 Squadrons Reserve position of Fighters is ~~on early~~ ^{dependent} commencement of delivery of Martlet 2. It will probably be necessary (corrupt group) to bring 100% A.R. Lieuts for which, in view of Squadrons already on station, they will have (corrupt group)

(xv) Though 2 Carriers have been damaged in Eastern Mediterranean it is considered if 5 fighter Squadrons are available they should be able to meet a high proportion of whole German Air Force with confidence. For operations during which H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS and H.M.S. FORMIDABLE were damaged number of fighters squadrons for operations, number serviceable at time of attack(? comma) and number in air 65 15, 12, 8 and 12, 4, 2 respectively.

16. In view of strength of German Air Force in Mediterranean at time of these attacks it will be appreciated number of fighters proposed should provide very satisfactory degree of protection.

17. It is considered this Fighter Squadron, together with fire of Fleet, should provide such formidable target to attack, that it must result in destruction of many enemy aircraft, or alternately a sense of frustration, and hence loss of morale, at difficulty of task.

0930C/20.

/? "Dependent" omitted, being verified
/ This whole sentence being verified.

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

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

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Yugoslav
Forces.
- Contd.

Personnel remaining (A) 9 officers, two of whom are proceeding to England for courses, are partly trained. (B) 10 ratings, partly trained. Commander Saksida is collecting other units which should amount to about 70. He is confident of obtaining sufficient men to man a small submarine and a small destroyer in addition to the two M.T.B.s already in commission. (C. in C. Med., 1928/20 to Admty).

Crete,
guerilla
warfare.

Pacific transmission of B.B.C. 0615 G.M.T. 20/8. carried following. Guerilla warfare has broken out on the island of Crete and it is learned that the people are being supplied with arms by ships which sail into shallow bays and creeks. German warehouses have been set on fire also a large store of olive oil (ends). Urgently requested here all items bearing on resistance and escapes be stopped. (C. in C. M.E., 2200/20 to W.O.)

Situation
Report No.
123.
THORBRYN.
sunk.
TURBO
torpedoed.

A/S Trawler THORBRYN bombed and sunk off Tobruk 0830/19 when towing 2 D Lighters. Rescue Schooner from Tobruk also sunk and both lighters seen drifting into Enemy Territory. No news of any survivors except from Schooner. SKUDD 5 and 2 Lighters bombed by 31 JU 87, no damage. Syria. Two Destroyers now based at Beirut, one Cruiser at Haifa. Canal Area. Tanker TURBO torpedoed by Aircraft P.M./20, N., of Port Said, 32° 08' N., 31° 57' E., proceeding south slowly under own power. Assistance being sent. Alexandria, air raid night 19/20 no damage. (C. in C. Med., 2256C/20).

German
Ships.

Departure 19/8 Lisbon ^{*not identified} MURRUCHA in ballast. ELIZABETH H. FISSER ready to sail with cargo iron ore probably for Savona. (Valencia, 2310/20).

War Diary.20.8.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.DORIS.Cancel my 0530/17. DORIS arrived Aden.
(S.O.I. Colombo 0506Z/20 to Admt.)S.S.COMPIEGNE
(French).

No.438. In view of suspension of all sailings of French ships to or from Madagascar, attention is drawn to possible significance of the projected sailing of the COMPIEGNE from Saigon. It is known -

(a) general cargo aboard for Madagascar and Reunion valued at over 25,000,000 francs including cement for Diego Suarez and Majunga harbour works, tinsplate, sacks, soap, candles and clothing. Arrival would impair effects of our blockade.

(b) French Admiralty coal for Diego Suarez valued at 7,000,000 francs probably aboard.

(c) 1,500 tons of graphite purchased by Japan awaits shipment by French Steamer from Madagascar in September. No other opportunity in sight.

2. Other reasons may be opportunity to despatch Government mails from Indo-China by air from Madagascar to Franco, and carriage of important passengers and possibly troops and munitions, but no evidence of this. Please inform Blanketing. (Governor, Mauritius, No.T.O.O/20.)

W.S.9 B.Embarkations ex Suez returning vessels W.S.9 B.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1252/20 to C. in C.E.I.)Operation
"Countenance".(1st S.L. 2158A/20 to C. in C.E.I.) See
Operations Volume.China.SAGITTAIRE.
(French)Reported with cargo of rubber for France turned back near Cape of Good Hope for Madagascar. Previously reported arrived Tamatave 12/77.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore 0423Z/20 to C. in C.E.I., C. in C.S.A.)

/ODENWALD

War Diary.20.8.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. - contd.ODENWALD.
(German)Tokio Bay departure 18/8 same markings, my
1401/20/7. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0757Z/20.)D'ARTAGNAN.
(French)Departure 19/8. Shanghai 20/8. (Saigon,
0932Z/20 to M. of W.T.)America and West Indies.GASLIGHT.Admty. 1854B/26. British GASLIGHT not yet
arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica 0928R/20 to Admty.)QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.Your 1305N/19. Concur. (C. in C.A.W.I.
1042Q/20 to C. in C.S.A.)CAROLINE
MOLLER.Proposing she be employed in U.K. (C. in C.A.W.I.
1052Q/20, C.C.N.F. 2122Z/20.)Bauxite
Defence.

Question of lack of defence for Bauxite installations in British and Dutch Guianas is causing me concern. Danger would come from Brazil where Germans could organize a large force of civil aircraft. Suggest question of joint defences be discussed with U.S. Army. Loss by sabotage of Curacao or Aruba refineries would not cause nearly so much damage to war effort as loss of Bauxite Plant, which could not be replaced under 3 to 6 months. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1101Q/20 to B.A.D.)

ASCANIA.

Intend to sail ASCANIA from Bermuda to Trinidad 21/8 with draft for GOSHAWK. ASCANIA will return Halifax direct from Trinidad arriving about 1/9. In view of Admty. 1212B/29/6 consider that absence of an A.M.C. escort for A.S.C. convoy from Sydney to Western R/V can be accepted. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1132Q/20 to Admty. R.A.3.)

/SURREY

War Diary.20.8.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.SURREY.
"Q" Report.

My 1543Q/19. Admiralty reports QQQQ message cancelled. From SURREY's description suspicious vessel may have been British ship SOLARIUM. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1209Q/20 to C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Your 1543Q/19. U.S. Navy Dept. reported this QQQ and also intercepted cancellation with T.O.O. 1435/19. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1445Z/20 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

Your 1543Q/19. Please refer to A.M.1849B/1 re SURREY due Trinidad ? 21/8. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1602Z/20 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

RICHMOND.

Your 1514R/19. Request RICHMOND's destination be changed to Halifax reporting E.T.A. to C.O.A.C. Halifax. Cancel my 1253Z/19. (C.C.N.F. 1326Z/20 to B.A.R.M.)

EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.
T.C.12 B.

C.O.A.C's 1627Z/19. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA should arrive Halifax by 1600Z/24. She has only to -embark troops and requires no stores or cargo working. Hoped therefore that sailing date will be maintained. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1522Z/20 to Admty.)

U.S. Routeing.

Your 1555R/16, concur generally. Cdr. Wilson, British C.S.A., San Francisco, should also act as Liaison Officer. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1629Z/20 to B.A.D. Washington.)

REVENGE.
T.C.12 B.

Your 1101A/18. Is it intended that REVENGE should still escort T.C.12 B, vide your 1926A/12 ? (R.A.3, 1711P/20 to Admty.)

RESOLUTION.

Your 1214R/19. If arrangements cannot be made to transport aircraft, stores and personnel to Philadelphia or Bermuda, RESOLUTION will be ordered to Halifax instead of Bermuda and will work up from that port. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1756A/20 to B.A.R.M.)

ORBITA.
T.C.12 B.

Your 1627Z/19. ORBITA is not to sail in convoy T.C.12 B. T.C.12 B will then be constituted as a special fast convoy of S. of A. 16 knots. ORBITA may be included in H.X.147 if it is in fact a 10-knot convoy. If H.X.147 is constituted as a normal slow convoy, the number of troops in ORBITA must be limited to 300. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1806A/20 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

· FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies -contd.

U.S. Forces.
Information.

C. in C.A.W.I. 1233Q/11. Suggest that C. in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, and any other British or Canadian naval authorities concerned should be informed from Washington direct of movements of U.S. Naval Forces and of any contacts they may report. Navy Dept. would continue to inform Admiralty and should be responsible for initiation of all these signals, being assisted by B.A.D. operational staff officers. Signal to Admty. could include names of other authorities informed. If you approve we will try to get agreement of Navy Dept. (B.A.D. Washington, 1815R/20 to Admty.)

Atlantic
Convoys.

Naval Operations requests that routing instructions for East and West bound North Atlantic Convoys be transmitted now to O.P.N.A.V. by the Admiralty. Direct routing instructions to continue to Halifax is now in effect. This is in order that Navy Dept. may be informed and prepared for placing W.P.L.51 in full effect at some later date. (A.L.U.S.N.A. 1935/20 to Admty.)

FORMIDABLE.

Your 1102/13. Arriving Jamaica a.m./23. Arriving Cape Henry 0600R/26. (FORMIDABLE, 2101Z/20 to C.in C.A.W.I.)

PRIMROSE.
NASTURTIUM.

Your 1222R/20 (N.T.in W.D.) Intend to sail PRIMROSE 21/8 E.T.A. Charleston 1800R/26. Request information earliest date NASTURTIUM can be accepted. (? C.C.N.F. 2358Z/20 to B.A.R.M.)

Australia.

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.
QUEEN MARY,
AQUITANIA.

Reply to Admty. 1236/14 re A/A armament. (A.C.N.B. 1204Z/20 to Admty.)

20.8.1941⁴⁰¹
Wednesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.O.G.71.
(ships
torpedoed
19/8.)

Return to base at prudent limit of endurance.
(C. in C.W.A., 1054A/20, to ST.ALBANS.)
If condition of survivors necessitates it
proceed at best speed to Gibraltar.
(C. in C.W.A., 1110A/20 to HYDRANGEA.)
E.T.A. Gibraltar 2000 A/22. 6 seriously
injured and 3 non-cot cases, all survivors from
BATH. Lieut. Haave R.N.H. died A.M./20 and was
buried at sea. My position is 045° 00' 016°
27' (Weather.)
HYDRANGEA, 1446A/20, to F.O.C.N.A.)

MACON
(torpedoed
24/7.)

F.O.C.N.A.'s 2320/3.
Ref. N.C.S.I.69.
(A) MACON. (B) 24/7, 1941, 2230 G.M.T. 32° 48'N.,
36° 12' W. (C) Left on bridge of ship. (D) Left in
wireless cabin. (E) No. (F) Master does not think
that vessel was boarded by enemy. (G) Master (H)
All books including S-P., 02272 (10) (11) Left on
ship as (C) and (D) MACON proceeding singly, sunk
by one torpedo and gunfire from submarine possibly
of ENRICO TAZZOLI class. Four dead. 25
unaccounted for, Master and 20 crew landed
Freetown.
(C. in C.S.A., 1934N/20 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B. dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1451A/20.)
Result of aircraft searches for suspected U-Boat
East of Wick, nothing seen.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1810/20, to R.A.2.B.S.)

C.B.3057 para.9 (i) 1 (ii) Orange Yellow turning
to green (iii) fire balls (iv) Surface (v) 225°
(vi) 2 to 3 miles. Remarks my position 046°
58' N. 017° W. possible meaning: sighting or
hydrophone effect of destroyer proceeding at 15
knots. GURKHA and LANCE altered course together
towards fire balls. No A/S contact obtained,
no attack materialised. R.D.F. contact of
convoy fire on starboard bow one minute later
at (?8000) yards. (GURKHA 0307A/20 to Admty.)

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Gauntlet".

Force A. (NIGERIA, AURORA, ICARUS, ANTELOPE and ANTHONY) and EMPRESS OF CANADA sailed from Iceland (C) at 2100Z today. *Spitzbergen (C) 2105*

Convoy
"Dervish".

Convoy "Dervish" left Iceland (C) at 1130 today.

The port of Hartlepool was reopened at 1553 today.

British Air Operations.

An E-boat was attacked off Gravelines today by a Spitfire. Explosions resulted and it is presumed the magazine was hit.

Enemy Air Operations.

It is reported that a F.W. aircraft has been observed to drop parachute mines ahead of a convoy.

Convoy E.C.63 reported being bombed at 2053A today in 52° 49' N. 2° 9' E. but was not damaged. Fighters shot down one enemy aircraft.

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operations.
P.W.14.

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

S.N.22 B.

AGAMEMNON left Port Z A. at 2150A to lay mines north west of Cape Wrath, screened by NEWARK.

RUBIS.

RUBIS today laid mines off the coast of Norway. (see 22/8, Home Commands).

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was suspected last night in the Thames Estuary. Mines were detonated off Harwich and Seaham today.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Mincemeat"

S.O. Force H. in NELSON left Gibraltar at 2158A today with ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, and 5 destroyers.

South Atlantic.

French S.S. KROUMIR made S.O.S. at 0703 in the Gulf of Guinea.

War Diary.21.8.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Malta.

Luga and Hal Far aerodromes were attacked by Italian aircraft at dawn today. Damage was very slight.

O.23.

Netherlands S/M O23 reports that at 1000A/16 she attacked a convoy of 6 or more ships escorted by 4 destroyers and a flying boat in 39° 35' N. 12° 18' E. and probably secured 2 hits. About 100 depth charges were dropped on O.23 without damaging her.

Corinth Canal.

It is believed the Canal will take 9 months to repair.

Libya and Western Desert.

Operation "Treacle", 7th C.S. and destroyers returning from Tobruk were attacked by aircraft this morning. NIZAM was stopped by a near miss but was able to proceed later and all H.M. ships reached Alexandria.

Tobruk was bombed today, but no damage was caused.

Suez Canal area.

There was an attack on Port Said and Ismailia in the early hours of this morning by about 6 enemy aircraft. No naval damage or casualties were caused.

Cyprus.

3 Italian aircraft raided Famagusta at 0911 today. S.S. EL FATH (Egyptian) was hit and damaged. Army, but no Naval casualties are reported.

East Indies.Force V.

EXETER, EMERALD, CERES and MAURITIUS have been diverted in readiness to deal with a suspicious vessel sighted by a Catalina today at anchor in 6° 57' N. 72° 55' E. ENTERPRISE leaves Colombo p.m. tomorrow to investigate if the ship is still at the anchorage. The vessel was eventually found to be Panamanian S.S. MASCOT, short of fuel; ENTERPRISE supplied fuel and returned to Colombo. Force V. was disbanded.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - contd.

REVENGE.

REVENGE is to join the East Indies station for duty with troop convoys.

U-Boat Campaign.

A loop crossing was reported at Scapa this evening.

406

21.8.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.A/A Cruisers

Administration of A/A cruisers operating with WN and EC convoys has been transferred to C. in C. Rosyth.
(R.A.D., 1213/21.)

P.A.C.
Projectors.

My 1607A/14. Report number of vessels employed on ocean A/S escort which are not yet fitted with two P.A.C. projectors and for which supplies of projectors are not available at Bases.
(D.A/S.W., 1341A/21.)

4th and
106th M/L.F.

Your 2107/18. It is not intended that the 106th M.L.F. should relieve the 4th M.L.F. Both Flotillas are to remain under your command.
(D.D.O.D. C. 1526A/21, to A.C.I.C.)

Movements.D.S.10.

One S/M escorted by SENATEUR DUHAMEL proceeding to Clyde from southwards is likely to be met during dark hours. D.S.10 consisting of two transports unescorted sailed Clyde 1900/21 speed 11 knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 1924A/21 to FURIOUS.)

ACHATES.

Your 1626/20. Sailed 1500 ACHATES in tow of tug ASSURANCE with tug LE LUTTEUR escorted by TARTAR.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1521A/21 to A.C.O.S.)

Convoy
F.S.573.
H.31.

Have lost touch with convoy. Am proceeding independently with S/M H.31 speed of advance 8 knots.
(T/B Z.5, 2045A/20 to Capt.S.6.)
Submarine H.31 now straggling 6 miles astern of F.S.573. Have instructed her and escort Z.5 into Humber together with number 87 JIM. E.T.A. 0200.
(? Origin, 2146A/21 to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

PORPOISE.

Your 1345C/19, and my 1724A/14. PORPOISE will not now be ready to sail for Mediterranean before about 21/9.
(F.O.S., 2314A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

See also p. 415

407

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Net Laying.

Departure TONBRIDGE and escorts, net laying vicinity Weybourne.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0625A/21.)

N.L.19.

My 1004/20. N.L.19 postponed owing to weather.
(V.A. Dover, 0827A/21.)

Operation "Gauntlet".

(Raid on Spitzbergen)

Arrived Force (A) and EMPRESS OF CANADA 0730.
(A.C.I.C. 0954/21 to V.A.2.)

Russian requests for information as to flight of Hurricanes from ARGUS to Voyengo.
(Britlistaf, Moscow, 1150/21 to Air Ministry.)

See Lion Copy. 407A

Force 'A' and EMPRESS OF CANADA sailed 2100Z.
(A.C.I.C. 2132/21 to V.A.2.)

Following received from B.S.N.O. Murmansk. Begins. Your 1554A/19, para.4. Consider most desirable not to withdraw or interfere with British or Soviet S/M patrols westward 33° E.

Request ARGUS keep North 75° N. until reaching 35° E., and East 34° E. while S. of 71° N. S/M's will be ordered to keep west 34° E. for any period required. 2116C/20. Ends.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1233A/21 to V.A.2.)

Operation "Dervish".

^{-p 385}
Your 1026A/20. Paras. A and B have already been provisionally arranged. Before I put request in para C to Soviet Naval Authorities please confirm that this restriction is to remain in force during the period "Dervish" is in White Sea (dates). I doubt if they would agree to this.
(Admiral Miles, 1048/21 to Adty.)

My 1508/20. Sailed 1130.
(A.C.I.C., 1229/21 to V.A.2.)

Your 1554A/19 para. 3. Destroyer will meet convoy at 0600 G.M.T./31 in 090° Cape Gorodetarei Light 10 miles.

(Admiral Miles, 1621C/21.)

Your 1956A/19. Details of Beacons confirmed but see my 1823C/20.

(Ad. Miles, 1622C/21, to Admty.)

Following received from Admiral Miles. Begins:- Your 1956/19. As convoy will presumably arrive off Cape Kanin on 31/8 Soviet Naval Authorities are reluctant to start beacons before 0700/ G.M.T./30. This seems to me reasonable and suggest we concur. 1823C/20 Ends.

2. Request your remarks.

(D.S.D., 1928A/21 to V.A.2.)

/Operations.....

407A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1150/21st August.

From Britlistaf Moscow.

Date 22.8.41.
Recd. 0036.

CYPHER.

Addressed Air Ministry. Repeated Admiralty.

WX. 1054.
Airtel 1150 24/8

Your X.462 4/8.

1. Russian Naval air authorities today discussed operational questions connected with flight of Benedict Hurricanes from carrier to Voyengo Aerodrome.
2. They emphasised treacherous nature weather conditions in North and made strong recommendation that W/T communication be established between land and **ARGUS** in order that latter may know further conditions before fly-off. Perhaps you have provided Benedict with special ciphers for this purpose. Understand S.B.N.O. Murmansk holds ciphers to communicate with Force A but not ~~repeat not~~ **ARGUS**.
3. Russians ask whether Hurricanes will be led to Voyengo from Carrier by aircraft with facilities for navigation. If so what type.
4. Russians ask that route followed shall be to East of line drawn North and South through Murmansk.
5. Russians desire all possible information regarding recognition signals air to air and air to ground. Our aircraft should cross coast under 2000 feet when coloured cartridges will be used.

1150/21.

Advance copy D.C. (2).

Received from Air Ministry
0900/22/8.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.N.I. (4) |
| 1st S.L. | D.D.I.C. |
| 5th S.L. | E.P.S. |
| V.C.N.S. | N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson) |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | I.P. (2) |
| D.C. (2) | W.D. |
| D.O.D. (H) | Head of M |
| D.D.O.D. (H) | |
| D. of P. (2) | |

MOST SECRET

408

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation
"Dervish".
Contd.

Operations "Dervish" and "Strength" para. two.
LONDON is detailed as cruiser of Force L.
(2) Intend to sail Force L to arrive Hvalfjord
a.m. 31 proceeding thence as necessary to pass
through position W and R/V with Force M in
position R (074° 20' N. 012° 10' E.) at 0800/4.
(V.A.2., 1533A/21 to C.S.1.)

P.W.14.

Weather permitting P.W.14 will be carried out
tonight.
(C. in C. Nore, 1620A/21.)

Patrol.

M.Ls. 312 and 314 will patrol on latitude 050°
15' N. between 2° W. and 1° 15' W. from dark 21
to dawn 22 August, sailing from and returning
to Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1703A/21 to H.Q.C.C.)

Operation
"Follow".

SEALION reports operation "Follow" unsuccessful.
Vessel not encountered.
(F.O.S., 2121A/21.)

Exercise
"Leapfrog".

A.M. 1303A/14.
F.O.i/c. Greenock is to co-ordinate all
requirements which affect the movements of ships
mentioned in paras. 1 and 3.
Further arrangements.
5. Admiralty is to be kept informed weekly of
state and disposition of ships concerned.
(A.C.N.S. H., 2252A/21.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

"~~Fate~~
FATE III" being flown from 0800 to 2000 today.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0758/21.)
P R U. R/C of Norwegian Coast, Aalesund to
Bergen, in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1130/21.)

Information
for H.Q.B.C.

Ops. 182. August 21. Request that copies of
any Portsmouth operations which affect aircraft
of this Command are sent to the C. in C. H.Q.B.C.
as well as to the Bomber Group concerned.
Otherwise immediate co-operation may not be
available and misunderstandings may arise.
Also request that a copy of operation "GRAB" is
forwarded to C. in C. H.Q.B.C.
(N.S.O. H.Q.B.C., 1120/21, to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/S.N.22B.....

409

21.8.1941.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - Contd.S.N.22B.

Your 1058A/20. Air escort will be provided tomorrow by Hudson aircraft from 18 Group from first light till return to harbour.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1900/21, to R.A.M.)

Enemy Air Activity.Information.

For Information. (A) JU.88 aircraft have been operating up to about 600 miles from Brest. These aircraft are capable of dive bombing. (B) There are indications that tactics of F.W. are now to shadow convoys rather than to attack, in order to assist U-Boat attacks, and that F.W. attacks, if carried out at all, are likely to be from a greater height than heretofore. (C. in C. W.A., 1914A/21.)

Convoy
E.C.63.

Enemy A/C bombing convoy ^{"Taddie"} ~~PADDLE~~. Position
52° 49' N. 2° 9' E.
(VORTIGERN, 2053A/21.)

Mining.DALEWOOD
(Mined 20/8)

Arrived Humber in tow. Considerably damaged through enemy action.
(N.C.S.O. Grimsby, 0920/21.)

Forthcoming
Operations.

AQty. 1302A/20. Intend to utilise WELSHMAN and MANXMAN if they are available, in which case Hunts will not be required.
(R.A.M., 1043A/21.)

Firth of
Forth.

One mine suspected dropped in about 220° May Island Light 3.5 miles, 20/8.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1115/21.)

Mines
dropped
ahead of
Convoy.

Reported that a F.W. aircraft was observed to drop parachute mines ahead of a convoy at sea. Any further evidence of such actions by the enemy is to be reported by signal on return to harbour.
(C. in C.W.A., 1127A/21.)

Mining
between
Oland and
German Area.

Your 1603A/20. Yes. This was completed shortly after despatch of my 1815/June 26th. Ministry of Defence informed me on July 14th that it was probably some of these which caused sinking of three German transports off Oland.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1139/21.)

Seaham.....

21.8.1941⁴¹⁰
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Seaham.

At 0950/21 and 1036/21 detonated 2 magnetic mines. Details.
(P.M/S.O. North Shields, 1404/21.)

S.N.70A.

Your 1134A/20. C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE with SUFFOLK and VICTORIOUS will be carrying out an operation and will be in a position to cover S.N.70A against surface attack.
(F.O.2 H.F., 1529/21 to R.A.M.)
Departures WELLS and ST. MARY'S.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A., 1915/21.)

Harwich.

At 0736/21 one Green Mine detonated by S.A. Gear. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1631A/21.)

S.N.22B.

Departure AGAMEMNON.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A., 2150A/21.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unidentified Vessel.

My 1818/20. Aircraft reported vessel was yawl estimated 60 feet long, 5 men on deck. Tunny Rods out but no lines. Blue hull brown sails. Photograph was taken.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1704/21.)

Fishing craft.

A/C K/53 reports sighted two derelict life boats waterlogged no markings visible, also two rafts, all one mile 150° from 61B Buoy. In position 53° N. 0° 50' E. sighted 5 fishing craft one of which No.963 was flying white rags from two poles. Craft had crew of three.
(Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1814/21.)

Casualties and Defects.

NIGHT HAWK.
(M/S Trawler)

Arrival 0925/21, with engine defects.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1004/21.)

PORTHMEOR
(British,
449 tons)
sunk.

INDIAN STAR reports GLENDENE was in collision with PORTHMEOR who subsequently sank. Only survivor on board GLENDENE.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1034/21.)

CHEVREUIL

Your 2116A/19. CHEVREUIL delayed by defect. Anticipate ship ready to sail A.M./23.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1442/21.)

/Hartlepool.....

411

21.8.1941.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

Hartlepool.

Negative my 1722/6. My 1655/19. Port of Hartlepool is now open.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1553/21.)

MARJORIE
M. HASTIE.

Lifted today and berthed near Middleton Sands clear of Channel. Propose float into Hartlepool P.M./22.
(Smith, West Hartlepool, 1732/21.)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.C. Convoys.

Heavy ship close escort not required. See America and West Indies. (1353/21.)

S.L.82

Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your convoy S.L.82.
(C. in C. W.A., 1236A/21, to Capt. Metcalfe.)

Firing at
Aircraft.

Admty. message "G.N." Merchant ships in Atlantic when north of Equator and Westward of 36° W. are not to open fire on aircraft unless actually attacked. Within this area U.S.A. aircraft are likely to be encountered, who have, however, been warned not to approach close to merchant vessels.
(D.T.D., 1840Z/21 to G.B.M.S. all areas.)

ERODONA.

My 1908/14. Intend sailing ERODONA in tow of tug SALVONIA shortly. Request destination. She will have approx. 400 tons of her original cargo of petrol as necessary ballast. Ship cannot be degaussed.
(A.C.I.C., 1844/21, to Admty.)

Lights.

To avoid difficulty and danger to M/Ls. meeting convoys, the Commodore's ship and the leading ship of the Loch Ewe portion should burn dimmed navigation lights when approaching the splitting point off Tiumpan Head. Request Commodores may be instructed accordingly.
(D.T.D., 1845A/21 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, etc.)

North
American
Convoys.

Ref. A.M. 1400A/13 and 1704A/16.
Concur with proposals contained in C. in C. W.A. 1544A/15.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2257A/21 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

War Diary.21.8.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ITA
intercepted.Have sent Spanish ITA to Gibraltar under armed guard. Bound Huelva to Passajes with Pyrites. She will arrive about 1730/21.
(SCOTTISH, 0510A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)French
Shipping.For M.E.W. Passings 20/8, French Westward, ARCTURUS, LIEUT. DE LA TOUR, CARIMARE, all full.
(V.A.C.N.A., 0917A/21, to Admty.)O.23. report
of patrol.
Convoy
attacked.
100 D/C's.
dropped.Netherlands S/M O.23 attacked convoy 6 or more ships escorted by 4 destroyers and flying boat at 1000A/16 in 039° 35' 012° 18' course 212°. Attack made at long range and 2 hits seemed probable, confirmation however cannot be obtained here. O.23 subsequently had about 100 depth charges dropped on her but none close enough to damage submarine in any way. (ii) Convoy 2 ships escorted by 1 Torpedo boat sighted east-bound in 038° 08' 014° 20' at 1500A/11.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1310A/21 to C. in C. Med.)O.G.71.Departure VIDETTE to R/V O.G.71 at 0700/23.
(? F.O.C.N.A. 1802A/21.)OBSTINE.French Tug OBSTINE sailed for high seas from Lisbon 1800/21 destination believed Casablanca.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1810/21 to S.O.I. Gib.)EUGENIO C.
(Italian)Arrived Castro Urdiales 21/8 to load iron ore. She is expected to leave for France evening 22/8.
(Consul, Bilbao, 1824/21 to Admty., etc.)BESSEL
(German)1878 tons, reported sailed from Vigo night 20/21, 11 knots, Cruiser stern, high bridge, close funnels.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2030A/21 to N.A. Stn.)

S.O.

Force H.
Op. "Mincamuk"
(Sardinia)Departure/Force H in NELSON, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, NESTOR, FURY, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, ENCOUNTER.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2158A/21 to Admty.)BUTTERFLY
(Italian)

Danish broadcast today reports arrived in "a friendly-disposed neutral country". Presumed occupied France is intended. (Ship left Pernambuco 28/6.) (D.S.N.E. 715.)

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

413

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

KROUMIR
(French)
S.O.S.

Following has been read S.O.S. de KROUMIR en FAU lat. 4.50 Long. 4.30.
(Gibraltar W/T, No. T.O.O. T.O.R.0703/21.)

GASCON.

Your 1701N/20. E.T.A. St. Helena 1600/21 for fuel. Request speed destination and time of sailing of GASCON.
(ALBATROSS, 0913Z/21, to C. in C.S.A.)

W.S.10.

My 1615/19? F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1247/20. Intend REINA DEL PACIFICO shall also proceed to Capetown.
(C. in C.S.A., 1047N/21 to Admty.)

Suspected
Raider
18/8.

Ship resembling raider EIN W.I.R. 64 raider supplement, but without prominent Samson posts, spoke to U.S. ships in 30° S.12° 35' E., p.m./18 and refused name when asked. D/F bearings at 0037Z/20 indicated enemy surface units within 150 miles position 25° S. 7° E.
(C. in C.S.A., 1511N/21 to S.A.Stn.)

EAGLE.

Regret it is necessary to withdraw EAGLE temporarily from your Station. Request you will sail her as soon as practicable for U.K.
A.C.N.S.(F) 1547A/21 to C. in C.S.A.)

REVENGE
W.S.10X.

My 2336/1, para. 3 (b) and (c). REVENGE should arrive Freetown 31/8, and should be used for onward escort for W.S.10X whose sailing may be delayed till 1/9. REVENGE may continue as escort as far as required by C. in C. E.I.
(A.C.N.S.(F)1548A/21, to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.I.)

CILICIA.

Request your intentions concerning six monthly docking of CILICIA due this month.
(D.O.D.(F) 1651A/21 to C. in C.S.A.)

C.F.2.

Convoy sailing telegram. (1) CF2 (2) 1630Z/21 (6) QUEEN OF BERMUDA (9) DURBAN CASTLE, NIEUW ZEELAND, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, SOBIESKI.
(N.C.S.O.Durban 1726Z/21 to Admty.)

/Falklands.....

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21.8.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Falklands.

Re Defences.

(M.A., Buenos Aires, T.H.I. 1930/21 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

M.A. Buenos Aires telegram 062/21 (T.O.O. 1930/21 intended) addressed W.O. who are asked to repeat to Admty., was sent after consulting Ambassador and N.A. I urge it may be (? treated) as immediate and important.

(N.A. Buenos Aires, 2035Z/21 to Admty.)

B/D Vessels.

Your 1311N/12. Request JENNET, PUNNET, and RENNET be sailed as early as practicable for Durban. Interference in boom work pending arrival of reliefs vide my 1853A/19 must be accepted. Decision as to ultimate destination of these vessels will be dependent upon conditions prevailing when they reach Durban. (D.B.D., 2027A/21 to C. in C.S.A.)

W.S.10.

Convoy Sailing Telegram.

(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2133/21 to Admty.)

MALAYA
report.

Your 2235/18. MALAYA's report of 23/3 received. Report of Commodore of Convoy lost in transit from Halifax but narrative compiled from Commodore's rough notes has been received. (Head of M. 2150A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.Vichy Ships
seized by
Free French.Following from Gen. Spears addressed Mideast for Embassy for Minister of State. Pass to Spears Mission London. Ref. Troopers 82655 (20 M.M.) of 7/8 (not to Admty.) to Mideast. This telegram was in answer to my ELS 250 on the subject of seizure by Free French ships of Vichy ships. De Gaulle has given me the following note on the subject. 'We do not consider a French ship seized by us as a prize. We have been compelled up to the present to allow the British authorities to seize certain French ships and to consent to their case being adjudicated by British prize courts. This is only a provisional measure until we are in a position to act otherwise without hindering the employment of these ships for war purposes.' (Ends.)
(C. in C. M.E., 0900/21, to W.O.)

/Corinth.....

414A
MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

T.H.I. 1930/21st Aug.
IN

T.H.I. 1930/21.

From Buenos Aires, Military Attache.

Date 22.8.41.
Recd. 0350

I.D.V. 14. by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

062/21 SECRET AND URGENT.

1. Since writing my M.41 journal I have discussed Far Eastern situation with R.A. Commanding South Atlantic Division and seen his signal 1342 March 5th to Admiralty accompanied by his report O312A/12 to C. in C. South Atlantic, and Governor's telegram March 3rd to Secretary of State for the Colonies.

2. My Ambassadors entirely concur with R.A.'s appreciation of the political importance of defending Island.

3. In the event of war with Japanese the bait offered by Port Stanley as at present defended appears so tempting as to invite a destructive raid and a conservative estimate of the force which it would be practicable for Japan thus to employ makes it that defence measures hitherto contemplated are on a scale altogether inadequate to interests involved bearing in mind the not improbable absence of major naval units.

4. The Admiral's recommendations are clearly stated to be minimum and deal with naval armaments. He enquired from me regarding possibility of sending land volunteers from here.

5. It will not be easy to comply efficiently with Governor's modest request incorporated in Foreign Office's Telegram No. 0556 (? August 18th) to this Embassy for a volunteer reinforcement force of Officers and (corrupt group) other ranks and I request authority to utilize reserve officers resident here if required. Such a unit can at best be only makeshift composed of untrained and undisciplined men who will have to live under conditions calling for best of discipline and without adequate instructors.

6. I most strongly recommend that land defence of naval base at Port Stanley be given most serious and immediate attention. The Air Arm is outside my province but as an absolute minimum ^a good infantry garrison battalion less one company, on special establishment to include A/A and anti-tank weapons and Bren carriers appear to be indispensable to stiffen local force for defence of Port Stanley by land, to provide a mobile force able to deal with isolated landings on East Falkland, and to find a detachment in South Georgia. Hutting for semi Arctic conditions would be required and could possibly be supplied from here. Interior of country is impassable by wheels.

7. Very early reply is requested to enable me to proceed or defer complaint with Governor's request for reinforcement.

/ 8.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

8. Addressed D.M.I. repeated Admiralty at the request of Naval Attache.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 2nd S.L.
 3rd S.L.
 4th S.L.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 A.C.N.S.(H)
 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. of L.D.
 D.A/S.W.
 D.G.D.
 I.P.(2)
 D.C.
 W.D. ✓
 Head of M.(for action)
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 N.I.D.10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)
 Admiral Bellairs
 Admiral Willis
 Admiral Palliser.

e.d.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.21.8.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Corinth Canal,

From Turkish source just returned from Athens graded B.2. Informed circles there believe Corinth Canal damaged in recent raid will take 9 months to repair.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 0959/21, to S.O.I. Med.)

Alexandria Suez Raids.

Bombs and mines dropped Alexandria area in raid night 19/20, of which most fell in sea or Lake Mariut. No damage or casualties. Night 20/21, about 6 enemy aircraft operated over Suez Canal zone. Bombs dropped at Port Said and Ismailia. No damage or casualties reported.

Benghazi bombed.

Night 19/20, 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi bombs falling near telephone exchange and power station. Damage unobserved.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1016/21.)

Enemy Convoy.

5 Destroyers 3 17-knot Merchant Ships expected to leave Tripoli (Libya) 1700/21. Patrol in 033° 07' 013° 07'.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1231B/21 to UNIQUE.)

PORPOISE, RORQUAL.

Your 1345C/19. PORPOISE should arrive Gibraltar about 23/9.* RORQUAL can be taken in hand at Troon mid-November.
(F.O.S., 1244A/21 to C. in C. Med.) * See p. 406

TURBO (attacked 20/8.)

Attacked by 2 Italian planes one torpedo hit amidships close to pump room. Ship unable to pump and in danger of breaking in half. Intend to discharge ~~British~~ SERGEANT to shore tanks and transfer TURBO's cargo to her.
(N.O.I/C. Port Said, 1308C/21.)

Famagusta Raid.

Famagusta raided by 3 Savoias at 0911. About 30 seconds warning. Visibility difficult. Ship guns opened. Shore guns unable to owing to dust from bombs. 3 bombs in sea N. of harbour and one S. EL FATH hit on forecastle. About 5 bombs in A.A. gun positions and town to Southward of harbour. Some army and civilian casualties. EL FATH could probably be towed away stern first, appears to have no under-water damage.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1340C/21 to C. in C. Med.)

/Enemy Convoy.....

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

416

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy
Convoy.

Three 17-knot ships 5 destroyers expected to pass 037° 40' 012° 04' at 1200/22, and Cape San Vito (Sicily) about 1445/22. Endeavour to intercept in the latter vicinity from whence convoy proceeds to Naples.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1340B/21 to UPHOLDER.)

Syria.

Re control of ports.
(C. in C. Med., 1353C/21 to Admty.)
See Mediterranean Volume.

Malta.

Re defence of Gozo Island. Chiefs of Staff No. 161.
(1st S.L., 1354A/21 to Govr. Malta.)
See Lion Copy.

Vichy
Convoy.

3 ships, passes 041° 35' 010° 00' about 0001/21 Messina about 1000 Malta and 037° 03' 016° 46' 2000/22 and is not to be attacked.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1415B/21 to UTMOST, URSULA, TRIUMPH.)

Malta Raid.

Night 20/21, 3 Macchi 200 with 9 Macchi 200's as high cover attempted dawn low flying attack Luqa and Hal Far one Cookhouse hit. No other damage no casualties.

Enemy Sloop
attacked.

1 Hurricane attacked sloop off Sicily with cannon. Pieces seen flying off bridge and super structure.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1615/21.)

STUART.

Admty. 2330/19. Intend STUART to leave Alexandria P.M./22 to arrive Aden 27th. C. in C. E.I. is requested order onward passage.
(C. in C. Med., 1631C/21, to Admty.)

Suez Raid.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 587.
(A) 21/8, calm clear. (B) High level attack, 6 E A on Port Said 0324 - 0458, 8 - 10 flares, waning moon. (C) H.E. bombs and incendiaries. (D) 16 - 20 bombs size unknown. (E) No naval damage or casualties. Considerable civilian damage, casualties. (F) A/A active and fighter patrol, no interception. (K) Canal open, traffic unaffected.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1801C/21 to Admty., etc.)

/ALBARO.....

MOST SECRETMOST SECRET.MESSAGE1354A/21 August.
OUT.

To: Governor & C. in C. Malta.
 Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean. 725. Date 21.8.41.
 A.O.C. in C. Middle East.
 V.A. Malta. 578.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT. AIDAC.

Following for Governor and C. in C. Malta from
 Chiefs of Staff No. 161. Begins.

1. We understand that there is no present intention of developing aerodrome on Gozo or of using island as a base for offensive operations. If this be so only object of defending Gozo would be to deny it to the enemy. We are not however clear whether you do or do not consider that the defence of Gozo is necessary to the security of Malta.
2. We regard problem as primarily a tactical one to which the answer can only be provided by you. If you in consultation with C. in C. Mediterranean and A.O.C. in C., Middle East consider defence of Gozo is necessary please inform us of forces required and what if any you can find from your resources on main island. We can then weigh your requirements against our liabilities in other theatres, in the light of the present transportation situation in the Mediterranean.
 Ends.

C. in C. Mediterranean please pass to A.O.C. in C.
 Middle East.

V.A. Malta pass to Governor.

1354A/21.

Asst. Secretary to 1st Sea Lord,

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S.(S).

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.N.I.(4)

D. of P.(2)

Duty Captain.

E.P.S.

Head of M.(8)

I.P.(2)

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

W.D.

417
21.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ALBARO
(Italian)

Arrived Istanbul from Piraeus bound for Varna. Partly laden, cargo stated to be about 2000 tons fuel oil from previous voyage which destined Trieste remained undischarged owing blockade Corinth canal. Vessel detained here by German authority.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1806C/21 to S.O.I. Med.)

Blue
Warnings.

The system of blue warnings to ships at sea will be instituted on Mediterranean Station, but at present warnings will only be made to units and not to small craft. A.F.O.2/41 refers.
(C. in C. Med., 1846C/21 to Med. Stn.)

TORBAY.
TALISMAN.

Your 1558C/21 understood. TALISMAN leaves Alexandria 2000C/21 for 033° 25' 025° 31' direct. 15th C.S. and destroyers leave Alexandria 0900C/22.
(Capt. S.1., 1905C/2 to TORBAY.)

Malta.

Oil requirements by any submarine coming to Malta.
(Govr. Malta, 2015/21 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

UNIQUE.
P.32. P.33.

If safe to do so report if, when and where S.S.T. communication was established with P.32 or P.33.
(S.O.S. Malta, 2028B/21, to UNIQUE.)

Enemy
Convoy.

Colonia 0600C/22, eastbound convoy and escort leaving 032° 10' 015° 23' following inshore route to opposite point on Eastern shore gulf of Sirte.
(Capt. S.1., 2155C/21 to TETRARCH.)

THRASHER.
PERSEUS.

Leave patrol P.M./23 for 035° 40' 024° 10' thence within 15 miles north coast of Crete through Kaso Straits thence direct to arrive Alexandria 0530C/27. PERSEUS expects to pass through Kaso 23/8 thence E. and Northward Anaphi Island and northward 036° 00' arriving your area 24th. Considerable shipping reported using Suda Bay.
(Capt. S.1., 2220C/21 to THRASHER.)

/Situation.....

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation
Report 124.

(? Canal) Area. S.S. DUNERA with prisoners of war reported torpedoed by A/C off the Brothers, 250 miles S. of Suez, not yet confirmed, no details.* COVENTRY sailed from Suez for protection anchorage F, CARLISLE remaining Suez. Oiler TURBO has reached (? Port Said) under own power.
2. Syria. French ships of Convoy B. have reached Beirut.
4. Western Desert. 7th C.S. and destroyers returned from Tobruk attacked by A/C a.m./21. NIZAM stopped by near miss but later able to proceed and all H.M. Ships have now reached Alexandria. Operation "Treacle" and normal supply to Tobruk continuing.
(C. in C. Me., 2319C/21 to Aänty.)

COMEDIAN.

My 1625/31. COMEDIAN required for further voyage Massawa Suez. Vessel to be sailed accordingly. Expect to release vessel about 10/9.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 2335/21, to D.S.T.O. Suez.)

* Report unfounded. (C. Me., 1101C/23, page 465)

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Indian Ocean.

Proposals in event of war with Japan. (C. in C.E.I., 0542Z/21 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

ADRIA.

Your 1147/18 to C. in C.E.I. Details. (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 0554Z/21 to C. in C. Med.)

COMPIEGNE Importance of cargo.

Please see Governor of Mauritius Telegram 438 to S. of S. for Colonies. (C. in C.E.I. 1034Z/21 to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.10.

Your 1916/7. and 2127/9. Request disposal instructions for BRITANNIC, WINDSOR CASTLE, STRATHALLAN, Wadi Haifa R. Palestine W. on completion discharge Bombay. (S.S.T.O. India 1150Z/21 to Admty.)

Suspicious Ship. Search by Force V.

Suspicious A/C was reported by EXETER in 007° 40' N. 074° 20' at 1110Z/20 and subsequent search by Catalina FVS revealed suspicious vessel at anchor in 006° 57' N. 072° 55'. Ship was still at anchor when Catalina left patrol at 1230Z/21. (2) EXETER, EMERALD, CERES and MAURITIUS have been diverted in readiness for further report from search by Catalina FVS early 22/8. Catalina FVX now at Diego Garcia. Catalinas refuel Mahe night 21/22. (3) ENTERPRISE leaves Colombo p.m./22 to investigate ship if still at anchorage a.m./22. (4) Ships to be known as Force V. (C. in C.E.I. 1434Z/21 to Admty.)

GIORGIOS AVEROFF.

Departure 1530Z/21. E.T.A. Aden 0600Z/25. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1532Z/21 to Admty.)

ILEX.

My 1727B/17 and 1845B/20/7 and C. in C.E.I. 1354Z/26/7. ILEX will now be taken in hand in U.S.A. for repairs and refit arriving about end October. C. in C.E.I. is requested to sail ship to the Cape as soon as weather permits. C. in C.S.A. is requested to route her onwards, avoiding neutral ports and informing B.A.R.M. of her E.T.A. at repair port. (D.O.D.(F) 1650A/21 to C. in C.E.I.) *See also p. 423*

/French

War Diary.21.8.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.French Somaliland Intelligence.

Three French N.C.O's who boarded HINDUSTAN off Tajura report :

(1) Submarine arrived at Djibouti 15/7 and left 21/7. Captain had orders to search for and sink SAVORGNAN DE BRAZA.

(2) Three masted Schooner with (?75) tons of food arrived from Madagascar on 2/7 and is still there. This is now confirmed by air (?reconnaissance). Schooner was escorted by submarine but was lost.

(3) Smuggling of food in dhows for European consumption is confirmed.

(4) Food in Djibouti is short but not desperately so. Food supplies which come in are not issued but hoarded against a long blockade. Morale is low.

(5) There are about 2000 European troops and 5000 Senegalese troops in French Somaliland. Senegalese troops are given preferential treatment to keep them quiet. (S.N.O. Red Sea 1709Z/21.)

Personnel in Unescorted ships.

Your 0628Z/21/7. In cases where adherence to limitation of 100 mercantile marine seamen would entail splitting a relief crew, numbers may be embarked up to 200 in one unescorted ship. Admty. approval should however be obtained on each occasion. (4th S.L. 1743A/21 to C. in C.E.I.)

Kilindini.

Your 1400Z/8. Colonial Office informed that proposal has Admiralty support. (Head of M. 2153A/21 to C. in C.E.I.)

China.MUNSTERLAND. (German)

Yokohama arrival 19/8. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0241Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

/SCARAB

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

SCARAB.
SEAMEW.

C. in C.E.I.'s 0802/18. I could spare SCARAB from Singapore and would re-arm her with 6-inch guns. SEAMEW though of value to defence of Hong Kong could be spared if required. (C. in C. China, 0311Z/21 to Admty.) ~~...~~ 351

ALBERT
SARRAUT.

(French) Arrived 20/8. (Saigon 1128Z/21.)

Bases.

Review of defences in Eastern theatre. Proposals. (D. of P. 1939A/21 (amended 1041A/23) 1958A/21 to C. in C. China, C. in C.E.I.) See Lion Copy.

MARECHAL
JOFFRE.

Arrived. (Shanghai 2352Z/21.)

America and West Indies.

RICHMOND
CASTLE.

My 1520Z/18 - Following from New York (begins) - RICHMOND CASTLE to remain Halifax until further instructions from Midship. (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0345Z/21 to C.O.A.C.)

→ REVENGE.

Leave Bermuda 1830Q/21 and proceed to Freetown so as to arrive a.m./31. Route. (C. in C.A.W.I. 0922Q/21 to REVENGE.)

FORTH.

Admty. 1913A/18. Before sailing for U.K. following should be transferred to B.A.R.M. (F.O.S. 1019A/21 to FORTH.)

→ REVENGE.

Request you will sail REVENGE forthwith to Freetown so as to arrive if possible on 31/8. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1033A/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Your 1033A/21. I am not aware of service on which REVENGE may be employed, but ship reports that only 15-inch shell on board is armour piercing capped. (C. in C.A.W.I. 0921Q/21 to Admty.) REVENGE is to join East Indies Station being employed with Troop Convoys on the East Coast of Africa until further orders. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1627A/21 to C.in C.A.W.I. etc.)

/TRUANT

MOST SECRET

421A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1939A/21st August.

OUT

To: C in C. China. 639.
C in C. East Indies 732.
Repeated C in C. Mediterranean 718.
A.C.N.B. 674
N.Z.N.B. 460.

Date 21. 8. 41.

FOCRIN 957 (amended 1941A/23)
NAVAL CYPHER (D)

From: Admiralty.

A. We have had under review defences of bases in Eastern theatre and following arrangements are being put in hand.

B. Port 'T' coast defences 6-6" guns and one 4" gun.

Controlled minefields in southern entrances to be laid by ATREUS and ALSEY.

Indicator nets in southern entrance to be laid by GUARDIAN.

Work is not to be started until further orders.

C. Port 'W' policy is to develop as an advanced fuelling base. Coast defence 4-4" guns. Controlled minefields in both entrances to be laid by ATREUS and ALSEY. Indicator nets to be laid by GUARDIAN. No A/A guns are proposed in view of urgent need for these in Malaya. Ships must rely on own armament for protection. C in C. China is authorised to undertake preparatory work on 'W' including anti-malarial measures and arrangements for supply and administration of controlled mining personnel numbering four Officers and sixteen men.

D. Diego Garcia. Though not referred to in B.D. or A.B.D. considered that its importance as a fuelling base justifies installation of certain defences. Proposed defences two 6" guns and indicator nets, the latter to be laid by GUARDIAN Priority after 'T' and 'W'.

E. Installation and manning of coast defence guns at above ports. Arrangements being made for India to prepare personnel and first M.N.B.D.O. ex-Middle East may also be available. Allocation of duties between these two and

order/.....

MOST SECRET

421B.

2.

order of priority for installing guns will be signalled later.

F. ATREUS and ALSEY have been sailed to Trincomalee in first place for laying controlled minefields at 'T' and 'W'. Not yet decided which of these to complete first and further signal will be made.

G. GUARDIAN will be sailed to Indian Ocean shortly to lay indicator nets at Diego Garcia, 'T' and 'W'. Separate signal will be made about this.

H. Dutch bases have been under consideration from the point of view of refuelling patrol cruisers. Tapanuli or other base on west coast of Sumatra can be provided with two 6" guns and indicator nets on low priority. Batavia consider present Dutch defences are too short range and that it is desirable to offer the Dutch two 6" guns for installing on Edam Island.

I. Request your remarks on the above arrangements.

1939A/21

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

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

42/c.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE OUT.
1958A/21. Aug.

Date; 21.8.41.

To: C. in C. China 638.
C. in C. East Indies, 731.
Repeated: Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, 673.
New Zealand Naval Board, 459a

Naval Cypher (D).

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

A. ADA and BD reports having been approved as a basis for planning, Admiralty policy is to make good as far as possible any requirements you have to enable your plans to be implemented.

B. ADB has not been approved but action has been authorised as in C.O.S. F.E.8.

C. It is assumed that detailed plans based on above reports are being prepared. Certain steps are being taken here of which A.M. 1939A/21 which follows is an example, but it would be helpful if we had your views on other requirements, particularly administrative necessary for carrying out your plans.

1958A/21.

D. of P.

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

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MGB.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

TRUANT.

Your 2205A/11. TRUANT sails from New London Connecticut on 1/9 for St. Johns, N.F. Programme. (B.A.R.M. 1042R/21 to Admty.etc.)

LE TRIOMPHANT.

Excess fuel consumption Kingston to Panama has made it necessary to refuel Balboa on 17th. Considered 2 days in San Diego will be required for defects. Propose to arrive 25th evening leaving 27th onward programme unchanged. My position is 016° 08' N. 098° 37' W. (LE TRIOMPHANT 1120R/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Naval authorities Acapulco declare held only existing fuel have stated stocks did not allow for supplying LE TRIOMPHANT. Supply arranged St. Miguel 22/8. HOWE sailed from Acapulco 2000S/21. Programme laid down in my 1020R/21 (?1120R/21) unchanged. (LE TRIOMPHANT 2030R/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

*not made in
London.*

ASCANIA.

Bermuda departure ASCANIA in accordance with my 1212Q/20. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1203Q/21 to Admty.)

RESOLUTION.

Your 2335A/14. RESOLUTION requires following days after completion of refit before arriving Bermuda. (total 11). Working up programme 7 days. (B.A.R.M. 1212R/21 to Admty.)

NASTURTIUM,
PRIMROSE.

Your 2358Z/20. NASTURTIUM can be received with PRIMROSE on 26/8. Please confirm. See my 1558R/19 regarding T. of A. and position for meeting Pilot. (B.A.R.M. 1226R/21 to C.C.N.F.)

T.C. Convoys,
Heavy
Escorts.

In present circumstances, not considered heavy ship close escort is required for T.C. Convoys. Each T.C. Convoy will in future be judged on its merits. Therefore not now intended that REVENGE shall afford escort to convoy T.C.12 (B) Rear Adml. Nelles is aware of situation and concurs. (1st S.L. 1353A/21 to C.O.A.C. Halifax R.A.3.)

/T.C.12 B.

War Diary.21.8.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies -contd.

- T.C.12 B. My 1823Z/11. Escort for T.C.12 B. will consist of HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, ST.LAURENT, ASSINIBOINE, SAGUENAY, RIPLEY. SAGUENAY and RIPLEY will join convoy off St. Johns, N.F. and RICHMOND and ANNAPOLIS will provide local escort from Halifax to position off St. Johns, N.F. (C.C.N.F.1451Z/21 to C. in C.W.A.)
- RODNEY. On completion of working up RODNEY is required to sail for Gibraltar. Working up period at Bermuda is to be adjusted to ensure that RODNEY arrives at Gibraltar by (date). Intended, depending on circumstances obtaining at the time, that NELSON, on relief by RODNEY, should sail for the Clyde. (1st S.L. 1524A/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.)
- A.M.C's. Approved for two A.M.C's to be sailed for U.K. to give leave. Ships should proceed at first suitable opportunity and arrangements should be made for them to carry their full complement of passengers. (V.C.N.S. 1541A/21 to R.A.3.)
- CORSAIR. My 1602R/19. Request CORSAIR may arrive 27/8. (B.A.R.M. 1648R/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.)
- ILEX. Your 1646R/19. Approx. 28/10 vide my 2111A/18. (D.O.D.(F) 1652A/21 to B.A.R.M.) See p. 419.
- DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL. N.C.S.O. Halifax 1514/14. Movement arrangements of personnel ex WARWICK CASTLE. (D.S.T.1759A/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) See Lion Copy.
- North
Atlantic
convoys. Proposed method for promulgating routes. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1934A/21 to O.P.N.A.V., C.O.A.C. Halifax) See Lion Copy.
- St. John's
D.F. H.M. and H.M. Canadian ships approaching St. Johns, N.F. may obtain D/F Bearings from non naval station at St. Johns N.F. and Cape Race using following procedure. (C. in C.W.A. 2343A/21 to W. App. G.M. 172N.)

423A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1759A/21/August

ONE

To: - N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Date 19.6.41
 Repeated C.O.A.C. Halifax
 C. in C. America & West Indies
 R.A.3. B.S.
 C. in C. South Atlantic
 P.S.T.O. Simonstown

NAVAL CYPHER (X)

From Director of Sea Transport.

N.C.S.O. Halifax's 1514/14 not to all addressees.

To provide for movement from Halifax to Middle East of 1500 personnel ex "WARWICK CASTLE", "DUCHESS OF ATHOLL" is being sailed from Clyde 26.8. and will arrive Halifax 4.9 approx.

2 Her total capacity is 3050 of which accommodation for 1500 will be occupied by personnel for Middle East from U.K. Balance is being used by personnel for Halifax from U.K. and will then be available for "WARWICK CASTLE" personnel.

3. Details of personnel disembarking at Halifax will be signalled later.

4. "DUCHESS OF ATHOLL" will leave Halifax probably about 6.9. and proceed via Trinidad to join Convoy W.S. 11.

5. Main bunkering will be carried out at Trinidad sufficient being taken at Halifax for voyage from Halifax to Trinidad.

6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Whilst at Halifax opportunity should be taken to store vessel as far as possible.

7. War Office are arranging for unit and personal equipment and baggage of personnel ex "WARWICK CASTLE" to be forwarded from New York to Halifax for shipment in "DUCHESS OF ATHOLL".

8. Agreed with War Office.

1759A/21.

for Director of Sea Transport.

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1934A/21 August

OUT

To O.P.N.A.V. via Spenavo.
C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Date 21.8.41.

4 23B

Repeated C. in C. Western Approaches 531.
C. in C. America and West Indies 846.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 496.
A.C.I.C. 971.
C.C.N.F.
B.A.D. Washington 342.

NAVAL CYPHER A.1.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

~~170~~

Following is proposed method for promulgating routes for North Atlantic Convoys.

A. Admiralty routes for convoys are promulgated at present seven days prior to sailing. When W P L 51 is brought into force convoy routes will be addressed to OPNAV eight days before sailing for concurrence of C.N.O. On receipt of this Admiralty will inform all British commands concerned as at present.

B. Route signals are promulgated in fixed forms in order to shorten messages. All positions are given a letter for reference in subsequent signals.

C. HX and SC messages contain four paragraphs

- (1) Ocean route positions
- (2) Time G.M.T. and date of arrival at Mid Ocean meeting point
- (3) Position of Mid Ocean meeting point
- (4) Onward route to U.K.

N.C.S.Os. at Assembly Ports repeat back paras. 2 and 3 also C.O.A.C. Halifax gives lettered positions in his area to the westward of those in para. 1. Subsequently C.O.A.C. Halifax promulgates standard route for stragglers and secret reference positions.

D. ON convoy ocean routes (westbound) with date and position of Mid Ocean meeting point will be passed to OPNAV and on receipt of agreement Admiralty will promulgate to all British commands concerned route signal in following form:-

(1).....

(2)
MOST SECRET

423c

- (1) Ocean route
- (2) Date and position of Mid Ocean meeting point
- (3) Standard route for stragglers
- (4) Secret reference positions
- (5) Subdivided to indicate positions at which ships will part company as follows:-
 - (1) Longitude at which ships may be detached as convenient for Newfoundland ports and Belle Isle Strait.
 - (2) Departure point for South Atlantic.
 - (3) Longitude of departure for Cabot Strait.
 - (4) Departure point for America and West Indies.
- (6) Letter selected by Admiralty for first position on individual routes of ships on dispersal.

E. All route signals to be passed to Admiral Commanding Iceland (C)

F. Until W P L 51 is brought into force OPNAV will be added to addressees of route signals also the routes of HX 146 and SC 41 already promulgated are being repeated to OPNAV.

C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to conform.

G. A separate signal will be made about 48 hours after O.N. convoy sails giving routes from the dispersal points to the destination of each ship in the convoy.

1934A/21

for D.T.D. (959)

Approved by A.C.N.S.(T)

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.O.D.(H)
D.D.O.D.(H)
D.N.I.(4)
D.A/S.W.
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Duty Captain (2)
Head of M.
D.D.I.'C.(2)
E.P.S.

D.T.D.(2)
D.T.D.(M)
Admiral Bailey

War Diary.

21.8.1941. 424
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

→ U.S.12 A.
U.S.12 B.
U.S.13.

Your 1432A/18. Intentions and numbers.
(A.C.N.B.1350Z/21 to D. of S.T.) See Lion
Copy.

R.A.F.
Personnel.
transport.

Your 0344Z/18. Numbers for CAPETOWN CASTLE,
AKAROA, etc. (N.Z.N.B. 0947M/21 to D. of
S.T.)

→ U.S.12 A.
at Suez.

*
Your 1523A/18. Prefer alternative (A).
(N.Z.N.B. 1530M/21 to D. of S.T.)

*? 1532A intended (P.354)

MOST SECRET

424 A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1350Z/21st August

IN

From Australian Commonwealth
Naval Board.

Date 21.8.41.

Recd. 1840.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T

Addressed D. of S.T. Repeated New Zealand Navy Board, C. in C.
East Indies, C. in C. Mediterranean.

IMPORTANT

Your 1432 A 18. As anticipated numbers for U S 13
are New Zealand nil Australia 11000 for which GLRZ (AQUITANIA)
will not be required and 12 A cannot arrive before full moon
period if GLRZ (AQUITANIA) is included intend as follows:-
U S 12 A consisting of GBTT (QUEEN MARY) GBSS (QUEEN ELIZABETH)
to sail Sydney 3rd September to arrive Suez 23rd September.
U S 12 B consisting of GLRZ (AQUITANIA) PFVA (MARNIX VAN ST
ALDGONDE) PFEB (JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT) PHMD (SIBAJAK) to
sail to arrive Suez not earlier than 10th October. PHMD
(SIBAJAK) will be diverted to Singapore with 1400 reinforcements.

1350Z/21

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F)
and D.T.D.

Presume 1532A/18 intended.

177
1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).
A.C.N.S.(T) (2).
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.. of P. (2).
D.O.D.(F).
D.D.O.D.(F).
Duty Captain
D.N.A.D.
D.S.D.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.(2).
Head of M.
I.P.(2).
W.D.
D. of S.T.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.21.8.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

- 0647 G.M.T. D/F at 0647 G.M.T. U Boat in 43° 30' N., 14° 30' W.
→ (D.D.I.C. 1056A/21 to LEITH, LANCE, GURKHA, WIVERN, etc.)
- 2105/19. Master of motor vessel CARDITA, rear ship of 2nd. column in W.N.69, reports "AT 2105/19/8 in position $\frac{1}{2}$ mile 155° (true) from No. 35 buoy, a periscope, bearing red 110° distant about 700 yards, was sighted twice by naval gunner and others. A report by lamp was immediately sent to escort."
(N.C.S.O., Methil, 1123/21, to Admty.)
- 1035Z. D/F at 1035Z/21, position of U-boat approx., 43° 30' N., 15° 30' W. Unreliable fix.
→ (D.D.I.C. 1244A/21 to LEITH, LANCE, GURKHA, WIVERN.
Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1421A/21.)
- 1325Z. S/M sighted by A/C 059° 59' N., 013° 44' W., at 1325Z.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1732Z/21.)
- Scapa. Loop crossing at 2037 outside Eastern entrances. Precautions being taken.
(A.C.O.S. 2211A/21.)
- 2141Z. D/F at 2141Z/21, position of U/Boat, probably homeward bound, was 47° N., - 48° 30' N. 7° W. - 8° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2357A/21.)

Submarines Attacked.By ALBERNI
17/8.

ALBERNI reports attacking contact in 56.44 N., 43.50 W., at 0418 G.M.T./17. Ten charge pattern dropped 14 minutes after sighting submerging object resembling U-boat. Pattern exploded at 100 and 225 feet after which contact was not regained. Subsequently oil patch covering approx., square mile observed with oil still rising. On arrival of ALBERNI and investigation of report consider that contact attacked was U-boat and in view of large oil patch, this was seriously damaged if not destroyed.
(Capt D.N.F., 1453Z/21 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.

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22.8.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation
P.W.14.

M.T.B's from Dover carried out a mining operation last night.

Q.Z.S. 211.

Liverpool was closed today.

Mines were detonated off North Shields and in the Bristol Channel.

Mediterranean.

Swordfish
attack
on Convoy.

7 Swordfish sent off as a striking force to attack a convoy of 3 large merchant vessels with considerable destroyer escort, located the convoy at night in bad weather and fired torpedoes at two of the destroyers. No hits are claimed.

M.V. DURHAM.

DURHAM (10,893 tons) under Government charter was damaged by a mine, early this morning, west of Pantellaria but reached Gibraltar safely on 24/8.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Last night, the heaviest air attack of the war was made on Tripoli by 16 Wellingtons. Considerable damage is reported to have been done to the shipping in the harbour and to harbour installations. Photographs taken subsequently showed one merchant ship sunk at the south mole. 1 Wellington bombed Derna port last night. Tobruk was bombed today, but no serious damage was caused.

The Italians are believed to be contemplating an operation, probably minelaying within a radius of 28 miles of 32.07 N., 20.04 E., (Gulf of Sidra, W. of Benghazi) 4 gunboats are being sent there for A/S work.

/Alexandria.....

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22.8.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.-Contd.

Alexandria.

There was an air raid on Alexandria early this morning by about 7 A/C. Bombs fell mainly in the sea, but Karmoñs power station was slightly damaged.

America and West Indies.

S.S. KOTA
NOPAN sunk
17/8 by
raider.

ORION has learnt that S.S. KOTA NOPAN (Dutch) was sunk off Galapagos Islands on 17/8, by a raider. C. in C. A.W.I. has instructed ORION to examine Galapagos Islands and provide cover for S.S. KAIKOURI (which left Balboa 0705 today) before continuing her passage to San Diego.

U-Boat Campaign.

O.G. 71.

GURKHA reported at 0001A to-day that Convoy O.G. 71 was being shadowed by 6 U-boats and aircraft west of Spain. She was conducting a diversion to attract them to the North. W/T traffic about noon suggested that there were up to 9 U-boats in the general neighbourhood of the convoy. At 2100Z GURKHA reported that a ship had been torpedoed. Another ship was reported torpedoed at 2250 in 40° 43' N. 11° 39' W.

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22.8.1941.
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Icelandic
Convoys.

As U.S. Navy destroyers are now escorting Icelandic (word omitted? Convoys) to and from U.S.A., could arrangements be made by which British ships for U.S. or Canada might be included in such convoys which usually consist of one small vessel. This might frequently save vessels the necessity of being retained to await O.N. convoys. (A.C.I.C. 1823/22 to Admty.)

Polish
personnel
for U.K.

1. Chiefs of Staff have directed that as many Polish Service personnel as possible be sent to U.K. on ship now on way to Archangel in following order of priority.
Normal accommodation of troopship 800 could be probably considerably increased.
2. Foreign Office will urge Polish Government to arrange with Soviet Government. (War Office, 2050/22 to Mil. Mission, Moscow)

Co-operation with Russia

Supply of
British
Equipment.

Please confirm that following A/A Equipment is being sent out with Convoy. Will it be accompanied by relative Personnel.
(No. 30 Mil. Mission, Moscow 1115/22 to War Office) See Operations Volume

Movements

FURIOUS

1. On completion of her next duty FURIOUS is to proceed to U.S.A. to refit.
2. E.T.A. in U.S.A. is second week in October. FURIOUS should proceed from Gibraltar to Bermuda to fuel, thence to Jamaica to disembark aircraft. Then to refitting port. (A.C.N.S. H. 1550A/22 to FURIOUS)

A.F.D. IV

Sail 2 minelayers for Fishguard. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail them as necessary to R/V with others at L and act as additional escort as far as position C in QZS 259, thence to Holyhead. (C. in C. W.A. 1016A/22 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)

/In view.....

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22.8.1941.
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

A.F.D. IV
Contd.

In view of your arrival off Milford Haven during dark hours, oropesa trawler from Milford Haven will meet you at approx. 1900 today. Direct BUSHWOOD and ANDELLE to return Swansea when Q.Z.S. 242 is entered. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1044A/22 to POZARICA)

H. 31.

Intend to sail H.31 with escort Z.5. to join F.S.574 at H.3. buoy at 1900 today. (F.O.Humber, 1156A/22)

ARETHUSA

Proceed passing Hoxa Boom at 0330/24 to Tyne. (V.A. 2. 1305A/22 to ARETHUSA)

MALAYA

Intend to sail MALAYA for Scapa A.M./27. Request Destroyer Escort. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1932/22 to V.A.2)

Operations

Finnish
4000 ton
M/V
torpedoed.

Your 2149A/19 (ordering RUBIS to attack ships mentioned in 2002A/19) One torpedoed. (RUBIS 0100A/22 to F.O.S.) See Casualties.

Operation
"Gauntlet"

(Spitzbergen)

Following received from S.O. Force A. Begins: Request arrangements may be made for following lights to be exhibited during darkness 28/29 Aug. Mount Sazonova, Cape Orlov Terski, Veshnyak Island. 1221/19 Ends. (D.O.D. H. 1122A/22 to Ad, Miles.)

A.M. 1026A/20 and A.M. 1715A/19. EMPRESS OF CANADA escorted by NIGERIA and three destroyers E.T.A. position DD 69° N., 43° E at 1600A/28 and at North Dvina Light Vessel at 0800A/29.
2. Course of approach to position DD is 177°
3. Destroyers will require fuel at Archangel.
4. Force will leave p.m/30. (A.C.N.S. H. 1549A/22)

ARGUS
(aircraft for
Murmansk)

Your 1233A/21. ARGUS is routed in accordance with S.B.N.O. Murmansk's request. Your 1233A/21 has been passed to F.O.C. 1st C.S. (V.A. 2 1635A/22 to Admty.)

Operation F.V.A..

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22.8.1941.
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Operation
F.V.A. One.

Operation F.V.A. One, para two. Intend to proceed West of Sulisker and West of Faeroes. (C.S. 1. 1133A/22 to V.A. 2.)

Operations
"Dervish"

"Strength"

A.M. 1026A/20. Following received from Admiral Miles (Repeats Ad. Miles 1048/21)
2. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1404A/22 to V.A. 2.)
Your 1404A/22. It had not been appreciated that return of convoy would be so long delayed. Request restriction may remain in force until 8/9 when operation "Strength" will be completed and forces clear of area. (V.A. 2. 1901A/22 to Admty.)

Operation
off Berck

Three M.T.B's leave Dover at 2200 to operate between Berck Buoy and Fecamp leaving area at 0300. Route via "D" buoy each way. (V.A. Dover 1614A/22)

Exercise
"Leapfrog"

Admiralty 2252A/21 does not deal with administration of naval personnel embarked. Consider that one authority should be responsible for these and that administrative position should be made clear. If S.N.O.L. is to be this authority, request (a) Staff of N.O.I.C. designated to be appointed Quebec and be on staff S.N.O.L. for administration. (b) N.O. in C's executive officer to have disciplinary authority over ratings embarked. (Commodore Warren, S.N.O.L. 1748/22 to Admty.)

M.L. Patrol
shelled.
(M.L.'s 312 7314)

S.O. of M.L's on patrol last night in about 358° Gris Nez 10 miles reports having been shelled at 0110/22 eight rounds and 0250/22 two rounds. Nearest round covered M.L. with spray and furthest was 400 yards distant. Gun flash observed in direction of Gris Nez. On each occasion M.L's had been running on a steady course for some time. (V.A. Dover, 1812A/22.) 3. 21/8 - 1.408.

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Ijmuiden
bombed.

Night 20/21. All operations were cancelled owing to weather. On day 21/8 A/C attacked the iron and steel works at Ijmuiden from a low level, many direct hits being obtained.
Night 21/22. All operations cancelled owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C. 0123/22)

Information

Your 1120/21 Ops. 182. This will be done in future. All copies of operation orders for "Grab" have now been recalled. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1033A/22 to H.Q.B.C.)

Patrols.

Patrol of area - Orkneys 01° 40' W., 59° 30' N., 58° 40' N. - in operation 1100/22 until last light. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1054/22)
P.R.U. Stavanger - Bergen on operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1208/22)
Cancel my 1054/22. A/S Patrol of exercise area in operation till first light/23. (C. in C. Rosyth 1500/22 to V.A. 2.)

RUBIS
Escort.

Escort of 2 Blenheim fighters being maintained in vicinity of RUBIS throughout daylight. Additional escort of 2 Beaufighters is being sent now. (C. in C. Rosyth 1116/22)

Lancaster
A/C
camouflage.

My 1745/20. Lancaster 1 aircraft now flying vary from silhouette for experimental aircraft 124 as follows. (Air Ministry 1210/22)

AUDACITY

Your 2157A/14/8. Concur that full complement of fighter aircraft only should be carried initially. (5th S.L. 1227A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

Archangel
to U.K.
Air Service.

Your AIR 462/21/8. Arrangements, communications, etc., Archangel to Iceland. (Air Ministry 1740/22 and 1800/22 to Britlistaf, Moscow.)

MOST SECRET22.8.1941.
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air ActivityTONBRIDGE
(A/B Netlayer)
Sunk.

TONBRIDGE hit in engine room by bomb. Sunk in six minutes. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1644A/22) Position. 2 cables 200° from Scroby Elbow Buoy. About 52°37' 12" N., 1° 46' 3" E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1844A/22 and 1905A/22)

LEICESTER CITY
(A/S Trawler)
attacked.

Am being attacked by enemy aircraft. Position indecipherable. (LEICESTER CITY 1810B/22) Cancel previous message A/C driven off. No casualties or damage. (LEICESTER CITY 1835/22)

M.G.B. 70.

M.G.B. 70 was attacked by aircraft while carrying out after repair trials East of Corton at 1626 today. One Officer and 3 ratings wounded, and boat received minor damage. (C. in C. Nore. 1901A/22)

Convoy
F.N. 508.

Help 53° 5' N., 1° 30' E. (SOUTHDOWN 2042/22)

MiningRUBIS

Your 2149A/19. (Not circulated). First and second groups laid. (RUBIS 0100A/22 to F.O.S.) See Casualties.

Temporary
operation.

Two motor mine sweepers from Sheerness are to be sailed to Harwich on 24th for temporary operation under orders of F.O.I.C. Harwich. (C. in C. Nore, 1003A/22)

P.W. 14.

Following from BEEHIVE. P.W. 14 completed in position ordered. Nothing to report. (C. in C. Nore. 1146A/22)

Portland
Loops.

All loops and H.D.A's working satisfactorily but new unit for H.D.A. "A" laid 21/8 awaits final orientation. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1158A/22)

Operation
S.N. 15.

My 1037/19. Propose to carry out as follows on 1/9 with 1st M/L Squadron and Escort. Details (R.A.M. 1229/22) See Operations Volume.

/R.A.(M)....

War Diary22.8.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSMining-Contd.Op. S.N.15. cont:

R.A.(M) 1229/22. Request your remarks.
Anticipate MANXMAN will be available. (D.D.O.D.M.
2347A/22 to C. in C. Rosyth, V.A. 2.)

Liverpool

Port of Liverpool included in Q.Z.S. 211 will
be opened at 0630/23. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool,
1424/22 to WHITE BEAR)

Tyne

At 0922/22 one Green Mine exploded by S.A. Gear.
Details. (P.M.S.O. North Shields, 1605/22)

Bristol
Channel.

Blue mine detonated at 0930/22 by LL Trawler in
210° 2.5 miles from Breaksea Light Vessel.
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 1635A/22)

S.N. 22 B.

Arrivals Port ZA AGAMEMNON and NEWARK.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA 1801/22)

Enemy Intelligence

Following German vessels observed from
Helsingborg on 18/8 passing northwards.
1330 1 Light Cruiser
1600 5 large transports with light (?cruiser).
Graded C.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 1513/22)

Casualties & Defects.RUBIS

Seriously damaged, cannot dive. Request
immediately all assistance. My P.C.S. are 058°
16' N., 004° 48' E., 245° 10. Your 2149A/19.
One torpedoed, first and second groups laid.
(RUBIS 0100A/22 to F.O.S.)
RUBIS 0100A/22 and my 0244A/22. Request air
protection. (F.O.S. 0252A/22 to C. in C. Rosyth)
Expect 3 Blenheim fighters about 0515. (C. in C
Rosyth 0304/22 to RUBIS)
You should expect friendly aircraft at dawn.
(F.O.S. 0309A/22 to RUBIS)
RUBIS damaged in 058° 16' N., 004° 48' E., course
245° 10 knots at 0100. Cannot dive. Two
destroyers proceed with all despatch to act as
A/A escort.
2. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to send CURACOA
if available. (R.A. 2 B.S. 0412A/22 to R.A.D. H.F)

/Proceed.....

War Diary22.8.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSCasualties & DefectsRUBIS-Contd.

Proceed with despatch to assist RUBIS damaged and returning on surface at ten knots through positions:- (A) 057° 25' N., 003° 25' E. (B) 057° 25' N., 001° 14' E. thence for Gap A. You are not to proceed East of 101° 30' E. unless RUBIS is being engaged by surface craft. LIGHTNING and LIVELY proceeding to assistance of RUBIS from Scapa, passing North of East coast mine barrier. Blenheim fighter escort is being provided for RUBIS from 0530. Attention is drawn to C.B. 03056 June 1941. RUBIS estimated at position (A) at 0800/22. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0510/22 to CURACOA) Proceed with LIVELY with all despatch to R/V with RUBIS damaged and proceeding on surface at 10 knots. Estimate position at 0500 057° 45' N., 003° 52' E. thence proceeding through following positions to gap A. When met, provide A/A protection. CURACOA is proceeding from Rosyth. (R.A.D. H.F. 0523A/22 to LIGHTNING)

My 0531A/22. CURACOA passes May Island 0730 speed 22 knots. 2 Destroyers left Scapa at 0625 proceeding with all despatch. (F.O.S. 0638A/22 to RUBIS)

Aircraft reports RUBIS stopped in 57° 35' N., 3° 14' E. (C. in C. Rosyth 0918/22 to LIGHTNING, LIVELY)

No need to proceed with my 0523. (R.A.D. H.F. 0725/22 to CURACOA)

At 0625 sighted RUBIS on surface in 57° 51' N., 3° 52' E. 220° 8. Course zigzag and speed approximate and diminishing.

At 0700 sighted 6 mines 3 miles ahead of S/M and reported these by V/S. Speed of S/M by now almost nil.

At 0715 S/M signalled by V/S "Tow needed" Signal acknowledged.

At 0725 left RUBIS stationary in 57° 45' N., 3° 45' E. A/C report. (Pitreavie, 0925/22)

All information concerning minefield in your vicinity is given C.B. 03056 June 1941. (D.D.I.C. 1047A/22 to LIVELY, etc.)

LIVELY and LIGHTNING are to proceed to position K. 57° 25' N., 01° 14' E. 2. CURACOA is to R/V in position K with LIVELY and LIGHTNING and will arrive about 1515A/22.

3. Tug ABEILLE escorted by WOLFHOUND and 2 M.S. Trawlers are being sailed from Peterhead with ordersto steer for position K.

4. QZX 397 is not to be entered without further orders. (V.A. 2 1121A/22 to LIVELY, LIGHTNING, CURACOA.)

/Admiralty.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary22.8.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSCasualties & DefectsRUBIS-Contd.

Admiralty 1047A/22. If you are again able to proceed you should pass through following positions instead of those stated in my 0244A/22

A. 57° 27' N., 03° 29' E.

B. 57° 19' 30" N., 03° 05' E.

C. 56° 34' N., 01° 30' E.

(F.O.S. 1144A/22 to RUBIS)

RUBIS damaged to eastward of position CURACOA, LIGHTNING and LIVELY are supporting her.

ABEILLE IV escorted by CLEVELLA and FILEY BAY are to proceed to 25 Buoy with all despatch to R/V with WOLFHOUND who is to proceed with this Force through Gap A to position K, thence steer 090° and act under orders of CURACOA QZX 397, 399 and 398 are not to be entered without further orders. (C. in C. Rosyth 1145/22 to N.O.I.C. Peterhead.)

Rescue tug ABEILLE with escort of M/S CLEVELLA and FILEY BAY sailed for R/V 25 Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1145/22) read

My 1121A/22. Amend position K to 56° 30' N., 0° 30' E. Act on subsequent information, avoiding all QZX. (V.A. 2. 1239/22 to LIGHTNING, LIVELY, CURACOA)

Inform aircraft by V/S of your estimated position and if and when you are likely to be able to proceed on your engines or your motors. Do not break W/T silence. (F.O.S. 1249A/22 to RUBIS)

My 1144A/22 and my 1249A/22. If you do not wish destroyers to pass between QZX 397 and QZX 399 and if RUBIS engines are out of action, it is still possible that she might be able to reach approx. position 57° 10' N., 2° 52' E. on her motors. If you concur, and dependent on reply to my 1249A/22, request RUBIS may be instructed accordingly. (F.O.S. 1254A/22 to V.A. 2)

My 1145/22. Amend position K. to read 56° 30' N., 0° 30' E. Act on subsequent information avoiding all QZX. (C. in C. Rosyth 1510/22 to WOLFHOUND)

E.T.A. position K 0200A/23. Speed of advance 10 knots. (WOLFHOUND 1730A/22)

In absence of further information forces proceed as follows.

(1) CURACOA with LIVELY and LIGHTNING pass through position "C" 56° 34' N., 1° 30' E. and sweep towards position "B" 57° 19' 30" N., 3° 5' E keeping west of 2° 35' E. and avoiding all QZX.
(11) WOLFHOUND with her force, passes through same position "C" and proceeds towards position "B" subject to same restrictions. (V.A.2.1807A/22 to CURACOA, etc.)

/My 1249A/22....

MOST SECRETWar Diary22.8.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSCasualties & DefectsRUBIS-Contd.

My 1249A/22. If you have not been able to pass this information by V/S to aircraft, pass it by W/T after dark tonight to addressees of this signal. If you can proceed on main motors state also for what distance. (F.O.S. 1828A/22 to RUBIS)

RUBIS sighted by A/C drifting in 058° 17' N., 004° 08' E. at 1955. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2234/22 to V.A. 2., CURACOA)

Remain on patrol in southern part of zone C.3. You may be required to assist RUBIS. (F.O.S. 2351A/22 to O.14.)

Convoy E.C.63.
PEGRIX
(British,
296 tons)
Sunk.

My 0135A. Motor ship PEGRIX sunk after collision in 053° 5' 42" N., 1° 34' E. All crew saved. (VORTIGERN, 0231/22) (LEEDS 0245/22)

SNOWDROP
ST. LOMAN
NORWICH CITY

My 1214/20. SNOWDROP, ST. LOMAN, and NORWICH CITY delayed by defects. (Capt. D. Greenock 0949A/22)

SHROPSHIRE

Admty. 1327B/29/6.

2. It is intended that SHROPSHIRE should be taken in hand at Hebburn-on-Tyne, for turbine defects changing guns and fitting R.D/F when NORFOLK rejoins the Fleet.

3. It is requested that F.O.i/c Tyne may be informed of the anticipated date of arrival of SHROPSHIRE. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1630A/22 to V.A. 2)

Shipping & ConvoysEast Coast Convoys.

Timetable, commencing with F.S. 83 and F.N. 13. on 1/9. (C. in C. Rosyth 1200/22) See Lion Copy.

Independent Ships.

Issue of Diversion Code. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1216A/22, "A" Message) See Lion Copy.

W.S. 10 X.

Following transports sailed U.K. 16/8 in convoy W.S. 10 X. (D.O.D. F. 1307/22)

H.X. 145.

Amend route to avoid U.Boat route instructions from new (V) 059° 00' N., 039° 00' W. to (W) 063° 20' N., 033° 00' W., to (X) 063° 20' N., 030° 00' W. thence to H. Omit F. and G. (C. in C. W.A. 1356A/22 to CALIFORNIA)

/Belfast.....

437.A

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

IN.

1200/22 August.

From : C. in C. Rosyth.

Date: 22.8.41
Recd: 2236.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed: Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, S.L.B.C.C.D. H.Q.F.C.,
H.Q.C.C., 11, 12, 13 Groups.

596 NOTWT.

Convoy message.

Starting with F S 83 and F N 13 on September first, East Coast
convoys will operate to the following timetable, southbound
convoys using Q Z S 287 and northbound convoys Q Z S 288.

Southbound.	9 KT Ships.	7 1/2 KT ships.	7 KT ships
_____	(F) (8 1/2 KTS)	(M) (7 KTS)	(S) 6 1/2 KTS
Methil	2100	1230	0800
20 C (Tyne)	0900	0300	2345
19 D(Toes Bay)	1100	0530	0215
19(Whitby)	1315	0815	0515
17 (Flamborough)	1700	1300	1015
62 D(Humber N)	2015	1645	1430
H.3(HumberS)	2215	1915	1700
Sheringham	0230	0015	2230
No. 5 buoy	0800	0700	0545
Sunk Buoy	1315	1315	1230
Southend	1745	1900	1845

Northbound.

Southend	0700	0700	0700
Sunk Buoy	1145	1245	1315
No. 5 buoy	1700	1900	2000
Sheringham	2330	0315	0445
H.3(Humber S)	0345	0815	1000

/ 62 D.(Humber N.)

437^B

62 D. (Humber N.)	0545	1045	1245
17 (Flamborough)	0900	1430	1700
19 (Whitby)	1245	1915	2200
19 D (Tees Bay)	1500	2200	0100
20 C (Tyne)	1700	0015	0330
+ 22 A (May Island)	0330	1300	1715
Hathill	0500	1445	1915

+ Junction for E C Convoys with Forth Section.

1200/22.

Advance copy Ops., Trade.

- A.C.N.S(T) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- O.D. 8.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of S. 2.A.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D. of S.T
- I.P. (3)
- D.A./S.V.
- O.I.C. (2)
- W.D.
- I.M.N.G

B.

4378^c

SECRET

MESSAGE 1216A/22nd August OUT

Date 22.8.41

To 'A' Message Home and Abroad. 472A

BASEGRAM

NAVAL CODE (J) Secret.

WILLPRINT.

From Admiralty

NITE.

S.P.02424, Independently Routed Merchant Ships Diversion Code, and S.P.02413 series, One - Ship Recoding Pads for use therewith, will be distributed shortly to certain naval authorities at home and abroad. Copies of S.P.02424 and separate editions of S.P.02413 will be supplied to certain book issuing ports. One copy of S.P.02424 and one edition of S.P.02413 are to be supplied on receipt to Masters of each of the following a different edition of S.P.02413 being issued to each merchant ship:- (a) British ocean-going merchant ships of 15 knots and over routed independently.

(b) Allied ocean-going merchant ships of 15 knots and over routed independently and on charter to or requisitioned by the Ministry of War Transport.

(c) British or Allied tankers sailing independently between West Indies and Freetown or Gibraltar.

2. Each independently routed merchant ship of the above classes will thus hold a different recoding pad, thereby affording a high degree of security to diversion signals sent by the naval authorities to whom complete sets of these recoding pads are issued. Instructions for the use of the Diversion Code and One-Ship Recoding Pads together with a list of naval holders are contained in S.P.02424 and should be studied carefully on receipt. It is emphasised that the Diversion Code, which is a five figure code, is only to be used for diversion signals from naval authorities to merchant ships. It is to be brought into force on receipt for communication with merchant ships known to be in possession of it.

3. Issue to merchant ships of S.P.02424 and editions of S.P.02413 are to be reported in accordance with the instructions contained in Admiralty message 1123 of 14th July, addressed A.I.Gs 19 and 26 only (passed to N.C.S.Os).

4. In addition issues of editions of S.P.02413 are to be reported as follows:-

(a) At home, by inclusion in column 1 of Outward Routing Form No.1 quoting the edition number not repetition not the copy number, e.g. "One-Ship 246."

(b) Abroad by inclusion in the Route signal (vide A.M.1954 of 7th July, passed to N.C.S.Os abroad) as an addition to paragraph 11, in the same form as shown in (a) above.

5. Admiralty will inform naval holders by signal of the editions of One-Ship Recoding Pads issued to merchant vessel. This list will eventually be published in book form, but in the meantime, holders should compile their own lists. Two lists will be necessary, one in alphabetical order of ships names, and one in numerical order of editions of S.P.02413.

continued 6.With Ref.

437 D

-2-

6. With reference to C.A.F.O. 1709/41, paragraph 2, S.P. 02424 should be accounted for on Form S. 1512A, and S.P. 02413 on Form S. 1512B.

7. S.P. 02424 (1) is to be retained by Masters of British ocean-going merchant ships routed independently, and is also to be distributed to Masters of Allied ocean-going merchant ships of 15 knots and over routed independently and on charter to or requisitioned by the Ministry of War Transport.

8. N.C.S.C's are to be informed accordingly.

1216A/22
for D.T.D. (360)
Approved by A.C.N.S.(T)

A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
O.D. 8
D.N.I. (4)
D. of S. 2A
D.T.D. (12)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of S.T.
I.P. (3)
D.A/S.W.
O.I.C. (2)
W.B.
I.M.N.G.
N.I.D. 10 (2)
D.S.D. (2)
D.T.D. (12) (T.D. 02090/41)
M. Books. (2)
H.W.R. (2)
M. (2)
W/T. Room
S.W.R. Bath

MOST SECRET22.8.1941.
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSShipping & Convoys-Contd.Belfast Shipping.

C. in C. W.A. 2223A/12 and F.O.I.C. Belfast 1116A/13. Port authorities naturally assume that ships from ocean convoys will sail onwards for British Channel in next B.B. Convoy. Whenever a ship arriving for B.B. Convoy will be held for repairs or other reason the circumstances must be reported by telephone to Admty. as soon as ascertained. (D.T.D. 1622A/22 to N.C.S.O. Belfast)

Ships following next ahead.

Six valuable merchant ships were recently lost in an East Coast Convoy. The cause of this disaster is still to be investigated but it is probable that the blind following of the next ahead which is adopted by many merchant vessels in convoy was at least a contributory cause. N.C.S.O's are to impress on Masters once again the danger of such a procedure. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1629A/22)

H.G. 70.

Congratulations on again bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your convoy H.G. 70. (C. in C. W.A. 1748A/22 to R/A. E.W. Leir) 21 ships, 18 British, 1 Panamanian, 2 Norwegian. Cargoes. (D.S., 716, 23/8.)

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War Diary.

22.8.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H.

Departure "Mincemeat". (F.O.C.N.A. 0224A/22 to Admty. etc.)

O.G.71
WIVERN.

Not met. My P.C. and S. 41° 50' N. 013° 18' W. 139° 16. (WIVERN 1030A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Sea
Hurricanes.

C. in C. W.A. 1719A/19. Report number of Sea Hurricanes now serviceable At Gibraltar. (5th S.L. 1215A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Reply nil but expect one could be made serviceable within 6 hours of ARK ROYAL's return. (2) of the other two, one is un-serviceable in ARK ROYAL and the other at North Front due to shortage of spares. (F.O.C.N.A. 1614A/22.)

French Ships.
Spanish
Ships.

Gibraltar 0900 Destroyer BRESTOIS, S.S. FORT DE VAUX laden, ROUENNAIS, THISBE, CONDE, all light, westbound. 1047 Armed Trawler LA TOULONNAISE, S.S. BOURGES light, ST. BASILE, ALFRED, CARTHAGE, all laden eastbound. 0950 Spanish Sloop * EDUARDO DATO, Spanish Ship CASTILLO OROPESA, deck cargo approx. 19 lorries, entered Ceuta from N.E. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1517A/22.)

** Name shortened to 3000. (Harris fighting ships 1940)*

L'OBSTINE.

Departure 21/8 L'OBSTINE Oporto 22nd. (Lisbon 1809/22.)

U-boat
situation.

German possibly one west or S.W. of Madeira. 6 or 7 Italian in Azores Madeira Portugal area. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810A/22 to CLYDE, SEVERN.)

South Atlantic.

DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL.

Your 1848/18 and C. in C.A. and W.I. 1128/20. A.M.C. escort can be provided from 040° W. (C. in C.S.A. 0309N/22 to Admty.)

/KOLLSKEGG

War Diary.

22.8.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

KOLLSKEGG. Overdue shipping my 1117/19. KOLLSKEGG arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0942B/22.)

ALBATROSS. St. Helena departure 0200/22 ALBATROSS on operations. (General St. Helena 1005/22.)

Escort arrangements. Owing to additional escort commitments due to arrival of REVENGE and departure of EAGLE in addition to W.S.10 X. propose to retain AVONVALE and ERIDGE to meet and escort REVENGE in and assist in escort of REVENGE and W.S.10 X out. Escort difficulties of fast ships are increased owing to withdrawal of 4 destroyers. (C. in C.S.A. 1337N/22 to Adty.)

EAGLE. Adty. 1547/21 and my 1811/16 DUNOTTAR CASTLE arriving Freetown about 27/8 has 7 officers and 8 ratings for EAGLE, also escort problems will be easier about 28/8. Can EAGLE be retained until latter date. (C. in C.S.A. 1347N/22 to Adty.)

S.S.SILDRA
(torpedoed
19/8.) Your 1333N/22. There is no other indication of any U-Boat in this area. (D.D.I.C.1943A/22 to C. in C.S.A.)

Operation
"Kedgeree"
S.S.
SAGITTAIRE. Ref. "Kedgeree" Capetown section of S.D.F. whalers report contact with SAGITTAIRE and one unknown French vessel (merchant) escorted by two funnelled sloop in 40° 15' S. 24° 47' E. at 1530Z/22. All units informed. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2030Z/22 to Adty., C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Air attacks
Canal area
Benghazi. Some damage to private property Port Said in raid on night Aug. 20/21. Civilian casualties. Night 20/21 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour bombs falling on and near railway sidings. Day 21/8. Tomahawks provided covering Patrols over shipping off Sidi Barrani. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1006/22.)

/ALBARO

War Diary.

22.8.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

ALBARO.
(Italian)

My 1806C/21. ALBARO proceeded Varna.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1059C/22.)

Alexandria
Raid.

Air Raid 0415 to 0515. 7 Planes high level bombing with flares about 21 bombs. Slight damage Karmous Power Station, 3 killed 6 injured. (R.A. Alexandria, 1101C/22 to Admty.)

UNIQUE.

Do not approach within 20? miles of Tripoli (Libya). (S.O.S., Malta, 1104B/22 to UNIQUE.)

Shipping
Alexandria.

Reply to C. in C. Med. 1124/18. (D.S.T., 1117A/22) See Lion Copy.

PELES
torpedoed.

(A) Report B.1 Roumanian steamer PELES torpedoed and sunk by submarine 1135C/15 15 miles off Cape Emine, Roumania. (B) 3 air raids Constantza 16th, 17th, 18/8, hits on Petroleum Co. Basin pipelines at Palas and many fires started. Cernavoda Bridge again hit 17/8, pipelines caught fire and damaged the railway track. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1124C/22 to S.O.I. Med.) N.I.D. Comment. PELES is 5708 G.T. and has been trading in Black Sea.

→ UPRIGHT.

UPRIGHT leaves Malta p.m./24 for Area K. 038° 00' 011° N. - 000° - 60 - 75. (S.O.S. Malta, 1152B/22 to Capt. S.8.) *see also p. 442*

Enemy
Shipping.

21st departure DERNA Genoa, SAINT BRIEU French. Arrival 22nd COETLOGON French. French ship KOULA ? beached near Palmas apparently after having been on fire. (Barcelona, 1225/22 to M. of W.T.) * *Not identified.*

Enemy
Tanker.

Medium size tanker en route Benghazi is due position 45 miles 310° from that place at 0500 G.M.T./25. (Capt. S.1. 1345C/22 to TETRARCH.)

→ UPRIGHT.
TRIUMPH.
TAKU.

UPRIGHT will make passage to N.W. through Q.B.B.65 during daylight/25 to operate in area K. north of 038° 15' and west of 011° 50' until a.m./26. If you make return passage through Q.B.B. Area on 25/8 attempt to communicate with UPRIGHT by S.S.T. TAKU probably leaves Malta p.m./25 to N.W. through 036° 30' 013° 40' to make passage during daylight/27. (Cdr. S.1. 1355B/22 to TRIUMPH.)

/UPHOLDER

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT

1117A/22nd August.

To C. in C. Mediterranean.
 Repeated C. in C. East Indies.
 P.S.T.O. Egypt.
 M.W.T. Alexandria.

Date. 22.8.41.

Naval Cypher (X)

From Director of Sea Transport.

Your 1124/18 not to P.S.T.O. Egypt.
 Copy of telegram to General Haining from Ministry of War Transport as to responsibilities of Barker is being repeated to you for your information.

2. In reply to your specific question -
 (a) no such change is proposed in the Ministry of War Transport organisation at Alexandria.

(b) P.S.T.O. is responsible to D. of S.T. in U.K. for dealing with merchant ships and commercial small craft employed on Naval Military and Air Force Service and for expenditure administration and staff connected therewith. He is similarly responsible for requisitioning. K.R. & A.I. 314 Et Seq refers. Responsibility for discharge of Military Maintenance ships is however at present under consideration.

(c) The area covered by M.W.T.R. is Egypt Syria Palestine Port Sudan. The area covered by P.S.T.O. Egypt is all Mediterranean Ports East of Malta and all Red Sea Ports including Eritrea. In neither case is Malta or Aden included.

3. The assumption in the last paragraph of your telegram as to discipline and conduct of S.T.O's is correct.

1117A/22.
 for Director of Sea Transport.

4th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 Ops (4)
 O.D.(5)
 D. of S.T.
 D.T.D.(4)
 D.T.D.(M)
 D.T.D.(C)
 D.S.D.(2)
 H.(3)
 O.I.C.(2)
 D.N.I.(4)
 D. of P.(3)
 I.P.(3)
 W.B.

* re relationship between Sir Henry Barker and P.S.T.O. Egypt.

UC

War Diary.22.8.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.UPHOLDER.
UPRIGHT.

Leave area so as to make passage through Q.B.B. 65 during daylight/24 carrying out Coastal operation if opportunity arises, then to arrive Malta a.m./26. UPRIGHT leaves Malta through 036° 30' 013° 40' to make same passage to N.W. during daylight/25. (Cdr. S.1. 1401B/22 to UPHOLDER.) *see p. 441.*

"Fortu"

The code word "~~FORTE~~" ^{"Fortu"} may be amplified by letters and figures showing the type and number of aircraft being sent and a 4 figure group indicating the approx. time they will arrive over ships. Letters to indicate types are as follows:- A.Spitfire, B.Beaufighter, C.Tomahawk, D.Fulmar, F.Martlet, G.Maryland, H.Blenheim, J.Short range Hurricane, K.Long range Hurricane. (C. in C. Med. 1410C/22.)

Air
Operations.

22/8. Lampedusa Harbour. M.V. bombed 18/8 still on fire. Photos now show Schooner 700 tons on its side alongside. Must have been hit by Blenheim with near miss at same time. 0710 hours one M.V. and 1 tanker 1,000 tons, 2 schooners 800 tons, 1 small sailing vessel 40 degs. Lampion Island 6 miles. 1200 hours Vichy convoy 3 M.V's 15,000 tons southbound Straits of Messina.

Part lll. 2 Swordfish out on shipping sweep located a convoy of 3 large M.V's with considerable destroyer escort northbound off Kerkena, 7 Swordfish sent off as striking force and in very bad visibility down to $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile in gusty weather and a black night found convoy. Destroyers then put up smoke screen and flares only illuminated targets for momentary period. 2 torpedoes aimed at 2 separate destroyers as M.V's were never seen. No hits claimed.

Heavy attack
on Tripoli.

A very gallant attempt to strike convoy. Heaviest attack of war was made on Tripoli night 21/22 August. 16 Wellingtons dropped 24 tons H.E. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons incendiaries Spanish Quay Tripoli from 4,000 to 9,000 feet. Many explosions and good fires started. 1 (very fire) (sic) was visible from 55 miles. Many sticks straddled Spanish Quay where 4 ships were alongside with numerous small craft and lighters. Explosions seen inside Spanish Quay warehouses which are believed destroyed. Other considerable damage done to shipping in the harbour and harbour installations.

A.M.22/8 - 5 Blenheims shipping sweep Gulf of Sidra. No shipping seen. (H.Q. Malta 1600/22.)

/Communications ...

War Diary.

22.8.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Communications
by French
warships at
Alexandria.

Your 1955/28/7. Messages received in Admiralty are either in plain language or in a code which cannot at present be read. There are obvious security risks in a situation in which the French warships may communicate with Vichy authorities in cyphers to which we have not the key. Request, therefore, information concerning your understanding and your further observations. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1647A/22 to C. in C. Med.)

10th D.F.

The 10th D.F. has from today 22/8 ceased to exist. VENDETTA has joined 7th D.F. and DECOY 2nd D.F. (C. in C. Med., 1835C/22 to Med. Stn.)

HANS SCHMIDT,
(German)

Departure 21/8. (Valencia, 1910/22 to M. of W.T.)

Forthcoming
Italian
operation.

Italians contemplate operation nature unknown within radius of 28 miles of 032° 07' 020° 04'. 4 gunboats being sent that place for A/S work. (Capt.(S) One 1920C/22 to TETRARCH) Probably minelaying.(Capt. S.1. 1155C/23.)

Relief of
NELSON by
RODNEY.

Adty. 1524A/21 is passed to you for information. (H.W.R. 2145A/22 to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea.

Following from S.N.L.O. Black Sea. Chief Naval Staff Officer (I) Sebastopol requests Admiralty confirmation or not of alleged recent transportation of German E-Boats to Black Sea. He states hulls of all warships at Nikolaev including battleship under construction have been removed together with most of the machinery and armament for completion in other ports. Most male population evacuated and plant destroyed. Three Soviet gunboats supporting troops Odessa yesterday. Small scale air attacks on enemy shipping near Dniester Bay and on Suloma and Ploesti and bridges above Constanza. Stated enemy submarine definitely operating Black Sea but so far only one unsuccessful attack experienced. Sebastopol quiet. T.O.O.1804C/21. (Admiral Miles 2240/22.)

22.8.1941.
Friday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Suspicious
Vessel.

My 1458/21 not to Admty. Ship purports to be MASCOT. ENTERPRISE is to continue investigating. Remaining ships are to proceed as follows: EXETER to Aden direct, 16 knots. EMERALD to Seychelles, 15 knots. MAURITIUS towards 006° N. 090° 20 knots. CERES to Bombay, 15 knots. (C. in C. E.I., 0456Z/22 to Force V).
My 1434 21 (i) Force V has been dispersed (ii) Air Search A.M./22 reveals ship still at anchor and a second ship close to anchorage from Eastwards. Latter subsequently identified as BARON ELPHINSTONE from Vizagapatam to Durban routed through 8 degs. channel and Cutter (?cutting) Corner by passing through Gallandu Channel (iii) ENTERPRISE has confirmed ship at anchorage is Panamanian MASCOT from Capetown to Colombo due 16/8 with no wireless and almost run out of fuel. ENTERPRISE is giving fuel and returns to Colombo. (C. in C. E.I. 1306Z/22 to Admty.)

Operation
"Countenance"

Russians have asked for postponement of operation on technical grounds until dawn/25. H.M. Govt. have agreed and D.1 will therefore be 25/8. Acknowledge. (W.O. 1415/22 to No. 30 Mily. Mission).

CORFU.
HECTOR.
ANTENOR.

Your 0630Z/12 and earlier signals.
2. It has been decided that:-
A. CORFU should remain on E.I. Station on completion.
B. HECTOR ~~ex~~(R) or ANTENOR should be returned to trade.
C. Re crew for CORFU.
D. Guns and ammunition surplus to D.E.M.S. should be landed at Colombo for local defence on E.I. Station. (D.O.D.(F) 1709A/22 to C. in C.E.I.)

Diego
Garcia.

A.M. 1748R/6 and 2331A/19 are to be amended to accord with A.M. 1939/21. (D. of L.D. 1815A/22 to F.O.C.R.I.N).

Air attack
on docks.

Your 0650Z/28/7. Following figures apply to Japanese aircraft so far as is known:-
(D.N.A.D. 1841A/22 to F.O.C.R.I.N).

Service
passengers.

Admiralty 1744/16/7 para. 2.
A. Should it be possible to avoid formation of an escorted convoy by increasing the number of Naval personnel to 150 this is acceptable, but every effort should be made to spread numbers over available passages as at present.
B. The following need not be included in the limitation of 100 Army passengers:-
(4th S.L. 1848A/22 to C's in C. and authorities abroad).

22.8.1941. 445
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Pacific
Routeing
Plans.

Remarks (C. in C. China 0503Z/22).
See Operations Volume.

French
Ships.

Arrivals 22/8. D'ARTAGNAN, KHAI-DINH.
(N.C.S.O. Manila 0655Z/22).

U.S. Naval
representative.

Your 1535 of 17/5 para. (ix) and A.C.N.B.
(?1415) of 18/6 paras. (ii) and (iii). Is
proposal to appoint representative of C. in
C.U.S. Pacific Fleet to combine staff at Singapore
proceeding. Consider appointment not essential
if present naval observer is regarded as also
representing C. in C. Pacific Fleet.
(C. in C. China 0905Z/22 to Adty.)

I.A.F.

From Chiefs of Staff. War Cabinet have
reviewed their previous decision regarding
training facilities to be afforded International
Air Force in Burma. Details. (Air Min., 1416/22
to C. in C. Far East.)

SCARAB.
SEAMEW.

Your 0311Z/21. Approved for SCARAB and SEAMEW
to be transferred to the E.I. station as
proposed. Request you will make further
arrangements direct with C. in C. E.I.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1717A/22 to C. in C. China).

America and West Indies.

LACONIA.

Your 2320A/19 and your 1541A (?20). As it is
desired LACONIA should be among first to give
leave and as ship after refit can carry large
number of passengers propose LACONIA proceeds
U.K. H.X. 147. Any R.A.F. remaining Iceland
could be brought to Halifax by escort for
H.X. 148 who would take provisions there in
place LACONIA. (R.A. 3 1131P/22 to Adty.)
Concur. (D.O.D.(H) 1052A/25).

/LE TRIOMPHANT....

446

22.8.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

- LE TRIOMPHANT. My 1222Q/10. LE TRIOMPHANT reports excessive fuel consumption which has now been remedied necessitated fuelling Balboa 17th. Fuel not available Acapulco but British and Mexican authorities have arranged supply St. Miguel 22nd. Ship proposes to arrive San Diego p.m./25 and remain until 27th to make good defects. Onward programme unchanged. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1222Q/22 to Admty., B.A.D). Permission is being requested through State Dept. for F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT to remain at San Diego until approx. 4/9. in order that Commandants D'Argenlieu and Cabanier who are proceeding from U.K. by air, may join ship there. 2. Ad's 1949B/25/7 and 1851B/30/7 refer. (D.O.D.(F) 1335A/22 to C. in C. A.W.I).
- Tampico. Decided to abolish Tampico as N.C.S. Port. Appointments. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1224Q/22 to C. S.A., Tampico).
- FURIOUS. Your 0504A/15. FURIOUS allotted to Philadelphia. (B.A.R.M. 1528R/22 to Admty.)
- CARADOC.
DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL. My 1232Q/19 and D. of S.T. 1759A/21. CARADOC will be detailed to escort DUCHESS OF ATHOLL from Halifax to Trinidad and from Trinidad to 040° W. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1602S/22 to Admty. amended 1232Q/23).
- T.C.14. It is proposed to form T.C.14 as follows. (D. of S.T. 1725A/22).
- RICHMOND
CASTLE. My 1520Z/18. RICHMOND CASTLE sailed Halifax 22/8 arriving New York 1200Z/25 for repairs, cargo being loaded into another ship by crew. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2103Z/22 to Admty.)
- Task Force
3. Composition and future movements. (D.O.D. (F) 2128A/22).

/STELLA.....

447

22.8.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

STELLA.
Italian.

Your 1632Q/22. Manifest of STELLA shows following cargo on board.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2142Q/22 to Admty.)

ORION
to examine
Galapagos Is.

Your 1643 G.M.T/17. Proceed Galapagos Islands examine anchorages providing cover for KAIKOURA en route then continue passage San Diego at best possible speed. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2251Q/22 to ORION). Approved (A.C.N.S. (F), 1155A/23).

S.S. KOTA
NOPAN
sunk 17/8
by raider.

ORION reports: S.S. ARDENVOHR reports S.S. KOTA NOPAN sunk by raider off Galapagos Islands on 17/8. Information received by radio at 1650 G.M.T/17 from KOTA NOPAN in 001 22 S. 089 10 W. Message stopped abruptly during third repeat. 1643 G.M.T./22 ends.. KAIKOURA sailed Balboa 0705/22 request instructions. U.S. Authorities informed. 1601/22 ends.. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2303Q/22 to Admty.)

Australia.

U.S.12B.

My 1045M/18 A.C.N.B. 1359Z/21, R.A. Malaya 0834Z/21. If permission granted to embark 5000 tons stores and equipment in JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT anticipated New Zealand portion U.S. 12 B. will be ready to sail Wellington (date). (N.Z.N.B., 0952M/22 to D. of S.T).

CAP TARIFA.
(French).

Arrival and departure Sydney. (Port Kembla, 2355Z/22 to M. of W.T).

22.8.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.S. SILDRA
(torpedoed
19/8).

24 survivors from Norwegian S.S. SILDRA landed Bonthe in Sierra Leone. Vessel torpedoed 2015 G.M.T/19 in 005° 00' N., 012° 10' W. Any indication whether this is likely to have been German or Italian Submarine would be of assistance for purpose of D/F Watch Set.
(C.in C. S.A., 1333N/22 to Admty) See also South Atlantic.

BATH
(torpedoed
19/8).

Arrival HYDRANGEA with 9 survivors.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1946A/22).

Convoy
O.G.71.
2 ships
torpedoed.

1 ship has been torpedoed.
(GURKHA, 2100Z/22).
1 ship, number unknown, torpedoed in 040° 43' N., 011° 39' W., at 2230.
(GURKHA, 2250A/22 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.A., 0722/23 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

O.G.71

O.G.71 being shadowed by 6 U-boats and aircraft. All U-boats to W. and S.W. at dusk. Am conducting diversion to attract them to N., and steering 110° throughout night. Estimate my position at 0600A/22 042° 26' N., 012° 40' W. Urgently request air support from dawn. Essential that aircraft should carry S.P.02266 and be able to communicate by R/T. Request you will indicate Frequency. (GURKHA, 0001A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Am being shadowed by 2 aircraft who are making homeward signals on 300 Kc/s. 2 S/Ms have answered and are closing from westward. Aircraft unable to catch enemy aircraft. Have sent aircraft and BOREAS to down S/Ms. My P.C. and S. at 1115A 41° 53', 12° 18', 195° 7.
(GURKHA, 1116A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Wireless traffic from U-boats suggests there are up to 9 U-boats in your general vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1229A/22 to LEITH, GURKHA, LANCE, WIVERN, BOREAS).
The same U-boat has made shadowing reports at 1430A 1534A, 1639A, 1753A. Times of origin of signals 25 minutes past the hour. (D.D.I.C., 1835A/22 to GURKHA, LANCE, LEITH)

/Orkneys.....

War Diary.

22.8.1941. 449
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - Contd.

Orkneys,
Loop
crossing.

In view of crossing of indicator loop again last night request search by A/C for suspected U-boat in area bounded by Orkneys, 59° 30' N., 58° 40' N. and longitude 1° 40' W., from 1100/22. Three destroyers at instant notice to co-operate if U-boat detected. Naval A/C have patrolled off Eastern entrances since first light and continue up to 1100. No report so far.
(A.C.O.S., 1010A/22 to 18 Group).

My 1010/22, request you will divert search to area to Westward of Orkneys with particular attention to Hoy Entrance to Flow. Area to eastward will now be covered by Naval A/C all today but Naval A/C will not now be operating to Westward. (A.C.O.S., 1115A/22 to 18 Group).
My 1115/22. Request search detailed in my 1010/22 may be substituted for search to westward of Orkneys during hours of darkness 22/23/8 using A.S.V.

This search not required after sunrise 23/8 if no further developments. Surface patrols will be maintained off Holm Sound by one trawler, two M.L.'s and one destroyer on three lines the outermost being 200° from Copinsay.
(A.C.O.S., 1800/22 to 18 Group).

Search being carried out tonight as requested in your 1800/22 to 18 Group.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2032/22 to A.C.O.S.)

1155.

(A) RO/G11/22/8.

(C) One Hudson to locate damaged submarine in vicinity 57.45 N., 3.45 E., Object to report precise position S/M. Wireless silence not to be broken. Special attention to navigation. A/C to return immediately on sighting.
(Pitreavie, 1155/22 to Leuchars.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1442A/22).

1300Z.

U-boat sighted on surface by A/C in 62° 35' N., 24° 10' W., course 067°, 8 knots at 1300/22. U-boat crash dived. (R.A.F. ICE, 1640/22 to H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C., 1646/22, 1649/22 to S. & A, O. & S, Valencia Radio, 1658/22).

Estimated
U-boats.

German one Orkneys. Two in Bay of Biscay inward bound one of them about 046° 30' N., 007° W. Italian 3 in Bay of Biscay. (F.O.(S), 1637A/22 to S/Ms Area A).

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Three M.T.B's from Dover operated last night between Berck Buoy and Fecamp.

Operation
~~"Guantlet"~~
"Dervish"

C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE, with VICTORIOUS, SUFFOLK, and 3 Destroyers, left Scapa at 1541A for the operations in North Russian waters.

A case of suspected sabotage is reported today in RENOWN whose ventilating-fans have been damaged.

British Air Activity.

During the night 22/23 nineteen A/C bombed the docks at Havre, starting fires; and bombs were also dropped at Nieuport, Ostend, and Dunkirk.

Enemy Air Activity.

An enemy A/C passed over Scapa Flow at 1403 today at 25,000 feet in clear weather. No RDF was received.

An A/C over Burnham last night is suspected of having taken photographs.

H.M. Trawler BRABANT shot down an enemy aircraft which bombed her this evening in 55° 43' N. 1° 36' W. BRABANT suffered no serious damage.

A.P. Vessel MORGAN JONES was slightly damaged by air attack off the Tyne tonight.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation
S.N.70 A.

R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, with PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, CHARLESTON and NEWARK, left Port Z.A. at 1630 for the postponed minelaying operation S.N.70 A., in which ADVENTURE also left to take part at 1841.

Liverpool was reopened at 0630.

Shipping and Convoys.

To provide a greater margin of endurance and greater flexibility in routeing S.L. and O.S. convoys, it is proposed to try out a scheme for fuelling escorts at sea at the Southern R/V.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Kedgeree".

The French convoy has not been sighted, and AUSTRALIA at 1750Z today ordered all the SDF whalers to return to harbour. Air patrols to a depth of 450 miles will continue tomorrow and Monday as far as 15° E.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Mincemeat".

10 Swordfish were flown off from ARK ROYAL at 0250 west of Sardinia and set fire to the cork woods and a factory near Tempio. At 0740 Force H. was sighted and two hours later reports of the enemy's battle fleet at sea south of Sardinia were received.

/Anticipating

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Anticipating that the enemy heavy units were probably proceeding westward south of Sardinia at dawn tomorrow, UPHOLDER, TRIUMPH, URSULA and UTMOST were today ordered to take up certain positions for attack.

Convoy attacked.

Blenheims today attacked a small convoy off Kerkenah and secured a direct hit with a 250 lb. bomb on a merchant ship of 1000 tons and also damaged a schooner.

Libya and Western Desert.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night and Derna today.

C. in C. Med. reports that storeship LESBOS was damaged by bombing and unable to sail from Tobruk after unloading.

TORBAY, on return to Alexandria reports a possible hit on an escorted convoy off Benghazi at 1250/12 and that she sank a large Italian schooner by demolition charge off Cape Matapan on 16/8.

Crete.

TORBAY has returned to Alexandria with 130 British and Allied troops evacuated from Crete.

Black Sea.

Adm. Miles reports that enemy shipping is using the western seaboard of Black Sea with as yet little opposition, even from the air. Roumanian warships are being used operationally and Bulgarian torpedo boats as convoy escorts. Russian shipping to the eastward of Sebastopol is, however, proceeding normally, and about 1 ship each night is entering Odessa, which town is being defended principally by sailors.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Vichy
Ships.

Netherlands East Indies Authorities have detained DUPLEIX, which they intercepted nearly 3 weeks ago and took into Tanjong Priok, and are placing her in prize with a view to seizure in compensation for Dutch ships held in French North Africa. They will also try to seize COMPIEGNE (returned to Saigon) as further compensation should she sail for Madagascar.

Plans for certain coastal defences in the Maldive Islands were outlined by the Admty. today.

America and West Indies.

KOTA NOPAN
sunk by
raider 17/8.

Further dispositions were ordered today owing to the news received yesterday of the sinking of the Dutch KOTA NOPAN by a raider off the Galapagos Islands on 17/8.

DESPATCH was ordered to return to Jamaica to fuel in readiness to proceed through the Canal and establish patrol off Galapagos Islands. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa were asked to sail PRINCE HENRY to establish a patrol off the Islands.

C. in C.A.W.I. has asked for immediate action to enable H.M. ships to fuel in U.S. ports without restriction.

Spanish
Campas
Line.

Tankers of Spanish Campas line are suspected of having fuelled enemy ships in the Atlantic during May, June and July.

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23.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

O.G.71.
BATH,
ZINNIA and
8 ships
sunk.

Following the attacks on Convoy O.G.71 on 19/8, in which the destroyer BATH and ALVA, CISCAR and AGUILA were torpedoed, 3 more attacks were made last night. In the first, EMPIRE OAK and CLONLARA were sunk; in the second, ALDERGROVE and STORK; and in the third the corvette ZINNIA.

Norwegian SPIND which had separated from the convoy was shelled by a S/M and set on fire and had to be sunk by one of the convoy escorts.

The Admiralty ordered the remainder of the convoy to enter the Tagus. The fact that no contact was made with the enemy is considered disturbing by Admty. who have asked C.O's of escorts on arrival at Gibraltar to report whether any new or special circumstances may account for it. Preliminary reports from escort ships appear to indicate that the convoy was browned from extreme range by not more than two submarines.

INGER.

Was torpedoed and sunk at 1000A today in 58° 58' N. 7° 50' W.

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23.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

East
Coast
Convoy
Escorts.

Reference nightly duty of Nore destroyers when weather is suitable for E. boats, one at least of Nore destroyers with A.S.V. is to occupy position V ahead of each convoy as soon as it is quite dark and carry out broad zigzag where navigation conditions permit. (C. in C. Nore 1106A/23).

M.L.'s.

Motor Launches 1006, 1050, 1052, 1076, and 1077 awaiting shipment to West Africa, and 1046 unallocated to a flotilla, may be employed on local patrol duties until further orders. (D.D.O.D. C. 1854A/23 to C. in C. W.A).

22nd M.L.F.

It is proposed that the 22nd M.L. Flotilla, completing about December 1941, be based at Lerwick. A.C.O.S. is requested to state his views as to the suitability of Lerwick as a base during the winter months. (D.D.O.D. C. 1855A/23).

A/C
Torpedo
attacks.
Procedure.

Your 1747A/19 From our own experience there is always a tendency to underestimate speed due to lack of practice against high speed targets, and this is reflected in propensity of our aircraft to hit aft on enemy ships.
2. Turn away from attack abaft the beam clearly reduces probability of hits. Whether turn away makes hit aft more probable than hit forward depends very largely on how far the ship has swung when torpedo arrives. A turn towards, by presenting larger virtual target and reducing time of flight of torpedo, will increase the probability of hits from attacks abaft the beam.
3. Do you wish further investigation into any particular aspect?
(5th S.L. 2153A/23 to C. in C. H.F).

Co-operation with Russia.

A/C in
ARGUS.

Your Air 459. 21/8. Following instructions given for flight to Voyengo. (Air Ministry 1445/23 to Britlistaf, Moscow). See Operations Volume.

Proposed
S/M patrol.

Admiral Miles 1758/23. See Operations Volume.

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25.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VIVACIOUS.

Sail at 0600 tomorrow to Scapa adjusting speed to arrive before dark. Speed west of Elieness should not exceed 9 knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 1119/23 to VIVACIOUS).

ARETHUSA.
VERDUN.
HAMBLEDON.

Your 1305A/22 and your 1040A/23. Weather permitting VERDUN from R.E.F. and HAMBLEDON from the Nore will be available to provide S.A. escort for ARETHUSA (in accordance with Adty. 1105B/24/7 para. one) from 090° Fifeness eight miles at estimated 1100/24 to the Tyne. (C. in C. Rosyth 1257/23).

1. HAMBLEDON is to sail from Tyne at 0600/24 and VERDUN sail from Methil at 1000/24 and both ships proceed by War Channels independently at speeds as requisite to R/V with ARETHUSA at 1200/24 in 090 degs Fifeness 8 miles.
2. HAMBLEDON and VERDUN are to act as S.A. escort to ARETHUSA from R/V 1200/24 to Tyne Pier Head.
3. VERDUN is to enter Tyne and F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail VERDUN 0800/25th at 14 knots for Rosyth.
4. From Tyne Pier Head, HAMBLEDON is to proceed independently by the war channels at 15 knots to Harwich unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Nore.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1925/23).

AFD. IV.
KRAKOWIAK.
KUJAWIAK.

If you consider POZARICA and BLANKNEY are now sufficient escort for AFD.4., request you order POZARICA to detach KRAKOWIAK and KUJAWIAK to arrive Milford Haven and Falmouth respectively by 1200/24. (C. in C. Plymouth 1306/23 to C. in C. W.A).

C. in C. Plymouth's 1306/23. On passing Bardsey Island POZARICA is to detach KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK to proceed to Milford Haven and Falmouth respectively at best speed. (C. in C. W.A. 1602A/23) Cancel my 1602A/23. POZARICA is to detach KRAKOWIAK and KUJAWIAK at such time as will allow them to arrive at Milford Haven and Falmouth respectively at 1200A/24. (C. in C. W.A. 2018A/23).

P.34.

(1) Intend to sail P.34 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE for Barrow at 1900A/24. E.T.A. 1200A/25. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. (Capt. S.3 1615A/23).

O.14.

Return to Dundee diving by day by route previously ordered by Capt. (S) 9. (F.O.S. 2359A/23 to O.14).

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation
'Gauntlet'.

Your 1928A/21. Please inform Admiral Miles that Force 'A' with EMPRESS OF CANADA expected to arrive at position "DD" (069° N. 043° E) at 1600/28.

(ii) Admiral Miles 1823C/20. Request beacons may be started at 0700Z/27 for Force A. Concur otherwise with suggestion in signal quoted. Presume beacons operate in fog only.

(iii) My 1807A/18 para. one (a) and your 2046A/19/8. Request confirmation that W/T arrangements have been made. (V.A.2 1214/23 to Adty.)

Operations

'Dervish'

'Strength'.

Scapa departure C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE with VICTORIOUS, SUFFOLK, INGLEFIELD, ECLIPSE, ESCAPADE. (A.C.O.S. 1541A/23 to Admty.)

In view of your 1549A/22 cancel my 1823C/20 (re Beacons). (Ad. Miles 1730/23 to Adty.)

Your 2046A/19. Arrangements made. Limit of Soviet air protection 180 miles radius from Murmansk.

Reference (b) letter G for George has been omitted from recoding table arranged. Have arranged with Soviet signal officer that G for George will not be transposed. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk 2121C/23 to Adty.)

Operation
'Dervish'.

Your 1048/21. Request you will arrange restriction in para. 1 (c) of A.M. 1026/20 between following dates, after which 'Benedict' forces will be clear of the area. (V.C.N.S. 1818A/23 to Ad. Miles).

British Air Activity.

Escort
for
RUBIS.

My 0642/23. Two Beaufighters due in area about 0820/23. Two Catalinas and one Sunderland escorted by six Blenheim Fighters due in area about 1015/23. It is hoped to maintain four Beaufighters in area from 1000/23 until completion of embarkation. (C. in C. Rosyth 0812/23).

Escort for
S.N.70A
on 23 and
24/8.

18 Group will provide air escort. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth 0948/23).

/Bombing.....

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity-Contd.

Bombing operations.

On Night 22/23 nineteen A/C bombed the docks at Havre, starting fires. Bombs were also dropped at Nieuport, Ostend, and Dunkirk. (H.Q.B.C. 1420/23).

A/C for Russia.

Air Ministry 1445/23. See Operations Volume.

A/S sweep and search.

An A/S sweep is being carried out to-morrow by 6 Whitleys and we shall be searching an area B.P.K.T. 2800, J.Z.Q.Q. 2210, Z.N.R.A. 3626, G.F.T.Y. 2238 between 0500 and 1200/24. (C. in C. W.A. 2254A/23).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy.

Fighters are being sent to assist Convoy 'Fitting'. (Lyness W/T 0831/23).

JULIET (Trawler) sunk on 20/8.

Trawler JULIET when fishing 25 miles S. by W. of Old Head of Kinsale at 1500 G.M.T/20 was sunk by near misses from 4 engined plane flying at great height. Crew later machine gunned in boat. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1006A/23).

Burnham.

Following from R.N.O. Burnham, begins. Had several reports last night at 2317, 2320 and 2322/22 (and similar reports on previous nights) of an aircraft flying over Burnham at varying heights from very high to as low as 500 ft. but with almost complete absence of engine sound and showing a bright white light directly downwards for very short intervals. Reports are now most reliable. It has been suggested that photographs may have been taken. 0941A/23 ends. (C. in C. Nore 1446A/23).

A/C over Scapa.

At 1403/23 enemy A/C identified by ground defences passed over Flow from N.W. to S.E. at 25,000. No cloud. No R.D.F. received. (A.C.O.S. 1625A/23).

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23.8.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.S.N.15.

Your 2347A/22 and R.A.(M)'s 1229/22.
Concur in proposed position of mine-field.
Escort outlined in para. (III) of R.A.(M)'s
1229/22 cannot be provided from Rosyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1115/23 to Adty.)

Port Edgar
Loop.

M.F.7 loop and new tail laid 22/8.
(Capt. Port Edgar 1149/23.)

Q.L.1.

My 2214A/18 and my 1446A/19. Operation Q.L.
(1) postponed until 26/8. (C. in C. Nore
1202A/23.)

Portsmouth
Area
Clearance
Sweeps.

Area cleared in Q.Z.Y. 247 and Q.Z.Y. 250 by
9th and 13th M/S Flotillas to date. Details.
Two explosive Cutters were cut and destroyed
in the following positions.
One T type mine dragged from estimated position
50° 26' 18" N., 2° 13' 36" W., and sunk in
estimated position 50° 28' N., 2° 11' 18" W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1203A/23.)

Operation
S.N.70A.

Port Z.A. departures R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE,
PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, CHARLESTON, and NEWARK
at 1630. ADVENTURE at 1841. (N.O.I.C. Port
Z.A. 1845/23.)

SOLARRIS.
(Faroese,
236 Tons)
sunk about
20/8.

Reported SOLARRIS struck a mine and sank off
Seidis Fiord about 20th August. Only 2 survivors
Vessel was presumably in prohibited area.
(A.C.I.C. 2157/23.)

Casualties and Defects.RUBIS.
(Damaged
22/8.)

My 1828A/22. A. If no signal is received from
RUBIS suggest every effort be made to locate
her by air at daylight, the aircraft landing on
the water to communicate verbally. If she
cannot move, crew to be removed and submarine
sunk.

B. If RUBIS reports tonight that she cannot
move, suggest similar action. (F.O.S. 0012A/23
to V.A.2.)

Position of RUBIS doubtful. Comply with my
1807A/22 keeping on line between position C and
B to assist aircraft. (V.A.2 0056/23 to CURACOA,
WOLFHOUND.)

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War Diary.23.8.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.RUBIS
(Damaged
22/8)
-Contd.

058° 04'. 004° 09' E. (RUBIS No T.O.O./23
Recd. 0057/23, C. in C. Rosyth 0140/23 to V.A.
2, F.O. (S), CURACOA).

Reference RUBIS position 58° 04' N. 04° 09' E.
Consider use of tug out of question and only
hope lies in sending fast A/A vessels.

2. The risk from mines and air for these ships
is considerable and I do not consider they
should be accepted.

3. Request arrangements be made as in F.O.S.
0012A/23 to investigate with aircraft and if
necessary to bring off crew and sink RUBIS.

4. CURACOA and WOLFHOUND with respective forces
to R/V in position C. and remain in vicinity
in case RUBIS can move. (V.A.2. 0251/23).

Beauforts proceeding to search.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0350/23 to CURACOA, WOLFHOUND).

3 Catalina aircraft are proceeding 0710 today
to locate you and will alight. If you are still
unable to move aircraft have orders to embark
your crew. Destroy all secret papers before
evacuating ship and then sink your ship.

(F.O.S. 0614A/23 to RUBIS).

A/C reports RUBIS in 58° 15' N. 04° 11' E. at
0609/23. (C. in C. Rosyth 0642/23 to CURACOA).

628. A/C reports RUBIS in about 58° N. 04°
10' E. at 1225/23, course 225 degrees 7½
knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 1444/23).

Following is repetition of my 1424A/23.

RUBIS unable to move or dive last reported by
own aircraft at 0854 today in 58° 13' N.
04° 12' E.

Proceed on surface at your discretion to locate
RUBIS and embark her crew. RUBIS is to be
scuttled after destruction of secret papers
and you are then to return to base by route
which will be ordered later. T.B.R. arranged.
(F.O.S. 1454A/23 to O.14).

Request next aircraft to gain touch with
RUBIS makes following signals to her by V/S.

1. "Can you maintain your present speed". Then
wait for reply.

2. "Proceed to position 56° 34' N. 1° 30' E.
where surface forces are waiting.

3. "Pass through 57° 27' N. 03° 29' E. and
57° 19' N. 03° 05' E.

4. "Your best chance is under your own power".
(F.O.S. 1526A/23 to V.A.2).

My 1424A/23. RUBIS sighted by aircraft at
1225 proceeding under own power on course 225°.
You are to continue to make for 58° 13' N. 004°
12' E. (F.O.S. 1551A/23 to O.14).

/My 1807.....

War Diary.25.8.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.RUBIS
(Damaged
22/8)
-Contd.

My 1807/22 and C. in C. Rosyth 1444/23. Proceed to meet RUBIS, keeping clear of all Q.Z.X. and to westward of position B. (V.A.2. 1604/23 to CURACOA, WOLFHOUND). Surface forces including CURACOA and WOLFHOUND are to proceed towards 057° 19' 30" N. 005° 05' E. to meet you. (F.O.S. 1837A/23 to RUBIS). A/C Reports RUBIS in 57° 20' N. 5° 38' E. at 1720/23, course 220, speed 7 knots. No surface craft sighted. (C. in C. Rosyth 1928/23 to CURACOA).
My 1551A/23. On arrival in this position patrol in its vicinity. (F.O.S. 2204A/23 to O.14). If Surface Forces make contact with RUBIS I would be most grateful if RUBIS could be escorted to Dundee by 1 ship. (F.O.S. 2254A/23 to V.A.2).

RENOWN.
Suspected
sabotage.

A.F.O. 199/41. Suspected case of sabotage has occurred in RENOWN when damage was caused to ventilating fans. Written report from RENOWN is being forwarded.
A.S. Rosyth is requested to inform A.P.O who is to investigate. RENOWN is to hold preliminary enquiry as soon as possible. (C. in C. Rosyth 1815/23).

Shipping and Convoys.Northbound
Convoys.

Forecast of sailings from Southend. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1145/23) See Lion Copy.

H.X. 144.
S.C. 40.

When ships addressed have joined, H.X. 144 and S.C.40 are to separate and H.X. 144 is to proceed at 8½ knots. CHURCHILL and BURNHAM are to join escort of H.X. 144. S.O. of Group BULLDOG. (C. in C. W.A. 1245A/23 to Escorts of H.X. 144, S.C.40, CHURCHILL, BURNHAM, GEORGETOWN, SALADIN).

Code
words.

For East Coast Convoys allocated as follows:-
F. S.580 ~~MERRIT~~, F.N.510 ~~CASINE~~, E.C. 66 ~~YIELD~~.
As from Friday 29/8 allocation of Convoy code words will be given in the weekly sailing forecast. (C. in C. Rosyth 1541/23 to R.E.F. No. 270).

/O.G.71.....

SECRET.**MESSAGE.**

1140 / 23RD AUGUST 41.

From C. in C. Rosyth.

Date 23.8.41.

P/L BY T/P.

Recd. 1915.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, H.Q. Fighter Command
 H.Q. Coastal Command, 11, 12, 13 Groups.

Convey message less SEECOD.Forecast of Northbound convoy sailings from Southern.

Saturday	Twenty-third	E C 64 (S)
Sunday	Twenty-four	F N 59 (M)
Monday	Twenty-fifth	E C 65 (M)
Tuesday	Twenty-sixth	F N 510 (S)
Wednesday	Twenty-seventh	Blank day
Thursday	Twenty-eighth	E C 66 (M)
Friday	Twenty-ninth	F N 511 (F)
Saturday	Thirtieth	E C 67 (S)
Sunday	Thirty-first	F N 512 (M)
Monday	First	F N 513 (F)
Tuesday	Second	E C 68 (S)
Wednesday	Third	Blank Day
Thursday	Fourth	E C 69 (M)
Friday	Fifth	F N 514 (F)
Saturday	Sixth	E C 70 (S)
Sunday	Seventh	F N 515 (M)

After passing May Island, E C 66 and E C 68 will run as fast convoys. Cancel my 1110/30/7.

1145/23.

(Advancecopy sent Ops. O.D.Trade)

A.C.N.S.(T)(2).
 N.A.1st S.L.
 Ops.(4).
 O.D.(5).
 O.D.8
 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.
 C.I.C.(2).
 W.D.
 I.M.N.G.

462
23.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

- O.G. 71. Ships from O.G. 71 bound for Gibraltar are to be sailed as convenient independently from Lisbon keeping inside territorial waters. (D.T.D. 1716A/23 to Consul, Lisbon).
Ships torpedoed in O.G. 71, see U-boat Campaign.
- S.C. 39. At R/V with H.X. 142. All ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1834A/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- H.X. 142. Met as arranged with all ships. Calm weather except for two days strong westerly winds. All ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1835A/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- Fuelling Escorts at Sea. Proposed schemes at Southern R.V. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1927/23 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. S.A).
See Lion Copy.
- H.X. 143. Has arrived under Cdre. R.P. Galer, R.N.R. 72 ships, 50 British, 19 Allied, 3 neutral. 23 tankers. Other cargoes. (D.S. 716, 23/8).
- Cable Ships. Movements of following Cable Ships are to be reported by VESCA system irrespective of whether they are also reported by S.N.O. present. (list). D.T.D. 1938A/23 to C's in C. for N.C.S.O's and R.O's.

462A

1927/23 August.

SECRET. MESSAGE. OUT.

To C. in C. Western Approaches 622 Date 23.8.41.
C. in C. South Atlantic 479

NAVAL CIPHER (X).

From Admiralty.

Routing of S.L. and O.S. convoys is at present governed by endurance of U.K. escorts which allows little latitude in the choice of the Southern rendezvous.

To provide a greater margin of endurance and at the same time give greater flexibility in routing of convoys it is proposed to try out a scheme for fuelling escorts at sea.

The following is proposed for trial. R.F.A. RAPIDOL to be sailed with a S.L. convoy to the Southern rendezvous and to return to Freetown with the O.S. convoy. U.K. escorts from Bathurst to join the S.L. convoy in time to top up with fuel from RAPIDOL before the Freetown local escort leave. U.K. escorts outward bound with the O.S. convoy to replenish with fuel after meeting RAPIDOL and Freetown local escort as necessary to reach Bathurst.

If this trial were successful, arrangements might be made in future for a nearly empty tanker to accompany each O.S. convoy to fuel the U.K. escorts in the area north of Cape Verde Islands, this tanker subsequently proceeding independently to Trinidad.

C. in C. Western Approaches proposals for utilising floating rubber hose in place of the trough method of oiling are receiving urgent attention but useful experience might first be gained by the proposed trial with RAPIDOL.

Your early remarks are requested.

1927/ 23.

for D.T.D. (981)
Approved A.C.N.S. (T)

1st. Lord.
1st. 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).
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st. S.L.

Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
O.D. 8.
D.N.I. (4)
D. of S. 2A.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)

D. of S. T.
I.P. (3)
D.A/S.W.
O.I.C. (2)
W.D.
I.M.N.G.
M. (2)
D. of P. (3)

463

War Diary23.8.1941.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticEnemy A/C
sighting
report.

Italian aircraft reports sighting Naval Force, Force 4, accompanying of unit at 0710Z. Message in all broadcasts by shore stations. (F.O.C.N.A. 0936A/23 to S.O. Force H.)

P.A.C.
Projectors.

Your 1341A/21. Four trawlers, six corvettes, six destroyers. (V.A.C.N.A., 1011A/23 to Admty.)

L'OBSTINE
French Tug.

Arrival 22nd from Casablanca via Lisbon presumably to escort further craft to Casablanca. (R.O., Oporto, 1027/23 to M.E.W.)

French
Convoys.

Passing Gibraltar 22/8. D.O.R. 23/8.)

Spanish
ship.Ref. Huelva 0945/22 Spanish CASTILLO GIBRALFARO loading Pyrites. Do you wish vessel intercepted? Request immediate reply. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 1110/23 to Admty.)
Following from M.E.W. Your 1110/23 Huelva telegram not received. Intercept CASTILLO GIBRALFARO if any grounds for suspicion and report. (D.E.W.D. 1801A/23 to C.C.S.O. Gib.)V.A. Willis

Admty. 1618B/6. Vice Adm. Willis E.T.A. Gibraltar a.m./26 in F/B of 204 Sqdn. and would like to confer with you on matters of mutual interest. (D.O.D. (F) 1242A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EUGENIO-C.
(Italian)Sailing late tonight 23/8. (Bilbao 1248/23 to Admty.) *Belonged see p 510*Fulmar
in sea.

Fulmar down in sea estimated position 10 miles South of line joining 037° N., 000° E. and 038° N 002° E. (S.O. Force H, 1320/23 to F.O.C.N.A.) F.O.C.N.A. 0926/23 and your 1320/23. Sunderland air borne 1350 1st searching Fulmar call sign M.9. (200 Group 1446A/23 to S.O. Force H.) Your 1320/23 not to ARK ROYAL. Crew rescued. (F.O.C.N.A. 1857A/23 to S.O. Force H.)

BESSEL
German.

Arrived Ferrol from Vigo 21/8, 2300, and entered dry dock 22/8. (Corunna, 1900/23 to Admty.)

-MAPLIN.

Your 1614/22. Sea Hurricanes should be rendered serviceable as soon as possible and held as reserves for MAPLIN who may require one or two within a week. (D.N.A.D. 2004A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/CALEDONIEN.....

War Diary23.8.1941.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.CALEDONIEN

For information. Reported French ship CALEDONIEN leaves Marseilles for Dakar on 25/8 with cargo of munitions, lorries and bridging equipment. B.3. (D.O.D. (F) 2308A/23 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.)

South AtlanticSuspicious
Spanish
Tankers.

Reports regarding tankers of Spanish Campas line throw considerable suspicion on activities of these vessels. Tanker CAMFILO particularly suspect, is reported manned by Naval Personnel, and believed to have cruised in Atlantic in May, June and July for fuelling enemy ships. Suggest tankers of this line if met be brought into British Ports for examination of tanks and shipping documents. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0944Q/23 to Admty.)

Speed and
Zigzag.

Ref. A.M. 1954B/7/7/41 instruction No. 8. There is some doubt as to speeds given by Admty. in serial and convoy route signals. Does T.S. speed given allow for zigzag in both cases? (C. in C. S.A., 1119N/23 to Admty.) Reply 1838/25.

Escort
Commitments

Your 1337/22. HUNTS must not be delayed at Freetown. EAGLE may be retained till 28th in accordance with your 1347/22. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1130A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

Operation
"Kedgeree"

Your 2201/22. My estimated P.C. and S. 040° 08', 019° 55', 070° 12 knots. Dense fog all day. On completion your search maintain position (?on) Port Bow of Convoy assuming his course and speed 270°, 11 knots from 1730Z/22 position. If fog lifts carry out daylight unit patrol p.m./23 and Vignot search tomorrow earlier Southwards from Convoy (?reported). AUSTRALIA will act similarly to Northwards. Indicate in advance when (?it will be)(corrupt group) proceed to Simonstown for fuel. (AUSTRALIA 1145Z/23 to HAWKINS)
All S.D.F. vessels engaged in operation "Kedgeree" return to harbour. (AUSTRALIA 1750Z/23 to BLAAUWBERG, SOUTHERN BARRIER.)

War Diary.23.8.1941.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.W.S. 10.

Your 2223/13. Proposals for on carriage of personnel in C.M. 17 and C.M. 18. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1218B/23 to D.of S.T.) See Lion Copy.

CHAUCER

In view of SSS of 29/7 not cancelled have you any news of CHAUCER from Oban, due Buenos Aires 18/8? (D.T.D. 1255A/23 to S.O.I. Montevideo)
Your 1255A/23 CHAUCER not arrived. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2156Z/23)

Ex-Italian Ships.

Am reliably informed that taking over of Italian ships by Argentine Govt. foreshadowed in today's press, will probably be fulfilled early next week. Manager of (as received could be 'British') firms have been asked to quote for repairs of Italian ships in Buenos Aires work being for account of Argentine Govt. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2146Z/23 to D.N.I.)

Mediterranean.Russia

Information from Comdr. Wyburd (30 Mil. Mission, Moscow, 0122/23) See Lion Copy.

Alexandria bombed.

Night 21/22/8. About 7 enemy aircraft bombed Alexandria. Bombs fell mainly in sea and Lake Mariut but some damaged electric Power Station Nasria and civilian property.

Derna bombed.

Night 21/22/8. 1 Wellington bombed Derna port. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1039/23)

Situation report 125.

My 2319/?21 report of attack on DUNERA entirely unfounded. COVENTRY returning to Suez.
(ii) Considerable air fighting over C.S. 7. and destroyers returning from Tobruk on 21st. Previously reported damage to NIZAM probably not serious. Store ship LESBOS has completed unloading at Tobruk despite heavy dive bombing attacks now returning to Alexandria.

/(iii)

MOST SECRET

465B

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1218B/23rd August IN

From P.S.T.O. Simonstown, Date 23.8.41.
Recd. 1620.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY W/T & T/P.

Addressed D. of S.T. C. in C. East Indies P.S.T.O. Egypt
S.N.O. Red Sea S.T.O. Durban for Imp. Dechief
Pretoria C. in C. South Atlantic.

IMPORTANT

Your 2223/13. Position has now clarified sufficiently to make following proposals for on carriage of personnel ex W S 10 to Middle East. ANDES, RANGITIKI, ORCADES, CAMERONIA, HIGHLAND MONARCH, disembark 10750 (10750) personnel at Durban. BRITANNIC, WINDSOR CASTLE, and STRATHALLAN, disembark 500 (500) personnel at Capetown who will be transferred to Durban by train. To this number must be added 800 (800) South African priority troops of fifth armoured regiment making 12050 (12050) in all. These will be on carried as follows - CITY OF CANTERBURY, NIEUW HOLLAND, LLANDAFF CASTLE, JOHANN DE WITT, with 4000 will form convoy C M 17 (17) and be ready to sail about 8th September. NIEUW AMSTERDAM, and MAURETANIA, will form C M 18 (18) and sail about 12th September.

2. 3000 balance second South ^{? Africa} America Division will be sent forward later when more Group B ships are available.

3. These proposals are made on assumption that NEA HELMAS continues to Suez but if it should be found that further Group B ships arrive at Durban in time and are available ship may possibly be released. EMPIRE TROOPER will not be available.

4. The disposal of the additional South ^(? Africa) America personnel referred to in paragraph 4 is still under consideration and a further signal will be made in due course. It is not intended that they should go forward with above mentioned convoys.

1218B/23.

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

I.P.
W.D.
Duty Capt.
Head of M. (6)
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)
D. of S.T. (2) for action.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRETWar Diary23.8.1941.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanSituation
Report 125-
Contd.

(iii) Syria. Convoy B. for repatriation of Vichy French has left (?Beirut).
 (iv) Submarines. UNBEATEN scored one torpedo hit on convoy of 4 fast southbound liners (?at) 1830/19 in 037° 03' N., and 011° 58' E. result unknown. URGE attacked same convoy simultaneously but was sighted by aircraft and prevented from firing by heavy counter attacks. (C. in C. Med. 1101C/23 to Admty.etc.)

STUART

Tribute to her fine service on leaving Station (C. in C. Med., 1102C/23 to A.C.N.B.)

Forthcoming
Italian
Operation.

My 1920C/22. Operation probably Minelaying.
 My 1345C/22. Tanker delayed. (Capt. S. 1. 1155C/23 to TETRARCH)

Enemy
Convoy.

Your 1310A/21 to C. in C. Med. presumably same convoy attacked by Swordfish off Lampedusa night 17/18, consisted of 5 merchant vessels, one tanker, and 6 destroyers. (V.A.Malta 1215B/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Gozo Island.

Remarks on Admty. 1354/21. (C. in C. Med. 1311C/23) See Lion Copy.

Defence of
Bases.

Admty 1939A/21 and 1404A/16. It has been decided to proceed with the defences at T. now. Request you will comply. Reply to C. in C. Med's 1231C/19 and technical instructions will follow. (D. of L.D. 1329A/23 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N.)
 Technical Instructions. (D. of L.D. 1330A/23)
 See Lion Copy.

ATLAS
(German)

Arrived 22/8. (Valencia 1340/23 to M. of W.T.)

OTTO LEONHARDT
(German)

Arrived 23/8. (Barcelona, T.H.I., 1540/23 to M. of W.T.)

Russia
Black Sea.

My 1832C/22 (T.O.O. 2250/22) Fawkes to submarine base at Sevastopol, Ambrose to destroyer BONDY. In addition they have office in Sevastopol Naval Hq. 2. Enemy shipping using Western seaboard of Black Sea with as yet little opposition even from air. Roumanian warships are being used operationally and Bulgarian torpedo boats as convoy escorts. 3. Russian shipping movements to eastwards of Sevastopol proceeding normally. 4. About one supply ship each night is entering Odessa. (Adm.Miles 1544/23 to Admty.)
 /Situation...

466A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECF ~~SECRET~~ 23rd Aug. IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean. Date 23.8.41.
Recd 1523.

Naval Cypher (D) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty, repeated V.A. Malta, Governor Malta, A.O.C. Middle East.

IMPORTANT.

~~28~~

Go Island.

Your 1354/21. As stated in your message this is primarily a matter for Governor and C. in C. Malta. It has however always been my view that we were running dangers in allowing enemy to establish himself in Gozo and experience of enemy's adaptability in seizing and consolidating position in Crete has tended to reinforce me in this opinion. It appears to me unsound to allow enemy any footing whatever on islands. There may be ^{? other} ~~occupying~~ objections however which outweigh this point of view and our supply problems for island are already sufficiently acute. I had understood the troops passed in during ^{? "Substance"} ~~inaction~~ were reinforcements to allow garrisoning Gozo. V.A. Malta pass to Governor Malta.

1311C/23.

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F) and Hd. of M.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S.(S)
- D.O.D.(F)
- D.D.C.D.(F)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D. of P.(2)
- Duty Captain
- B.P.L.S.
- Hd. of M.(8)
- I.P.(2)
- N.I.D. 10. Pay. Cdr. Wilson.
- W.D.

217

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

466B

24/8/41

From War Registry.

Corrections to 13110/23 August from C. in C.
Mediterranean -

- Line 9. For "occupying" read (?) Other
Line 12. For "inaction" read (?) SUBSTANCE.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Captain
E.P.S.
H.G. of M. (8)
I.P. (2)
N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson
W.D.

To. C. in C. Mediterranean. 777 Date. 23.8.41.
 C. in C. East Indies. 771.
 Repeated. F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy. 759
 C. in C. China 651.

466 C

MOST SECRET
 NAVAL CYPHER (D) (BY CABLE).

From Admiralty.

- A. C. in C. Mediterranean's 1231C/19 and C. in C. East Indies' 0542Z/21 neither to all addressees. Scale of defences communicated in Admiralty 1939A/21 which is being repeated to F.O.C.R.I.N.
- B. Port T. All three 2 gun 6" batteries are for counter-bombardment. At least one gun of one of these batteries with one D.E.L. to give close defence to back up A/S boom at Gan Channel. One 4" gun with one D.E.L. to give close defence of Willingli Channel
- C. Port W. Both batteries are for close defence of entrances.
- D. Six six inch guns from East Indies referred to in Admiralty message 1157B/15 July are to be used for T. Source of the five 4" guns will be notified in near future.
- E. In view of A.M. 1329A/23 and in order to ensure earliest possible installation, M.N.B.D.O.I. is required to proceed to install and man armament at T. as first priority and concurrently or as soon after as practicable at W. At both places they will eventually be relieved by Indian personnel.
- F. Diago Garcia will be entirely an Indian commitment but its priority is below T and W.
- G. Personnel for installing and mounting all batteries are being provided and trained in India, three batteries becoming available during next three months, remainder early in 1942. Training of personnel for installation is required to continue despite paragraph E.
- H. C. in C. Mediterranean is requested to sail requisite men and equipment of M.N.B.D.O. I including beach roadway pier and D.E.L's as necessary to comply. Arrangements for joining up six inch guns with force are to be made between C. in C. Mediterranean and C. in C. East Indies.
- I. C. in C. East Indies is requested to make requisite administrative arrangements for T. on the lines of his 0542Z/21 to Admiralty only.

1330A/23.

Director of Local Defence (330)

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

D.D.O.D. (H)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.S.D.
 D. of T.D.
 D.N.A.D.
 D.A/S W.
 D.M.S.
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 Duty Captain.
 Head of M. (10) (and for War Office,
 India Office and
 Sec. Port Defence
 Committee.)
 D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C. 214
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D. (2)
 N.I.D. 10 (Payr.
 Cdr. Wilson).
 D.G.D.
 D.T.M.
 D.B.D.
 Admiral Bellairs.

War Diary

23.8.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Russia,
Black Sea
-Contd.

Situation at Odessa as received from C.N.S. by Adm. Miles today. Town being defended principally by Sailors with some Soldiers. Impression was that latter did not appreciate importance of its defence but that the Navy are determined to stay there. Sailors have been successful against Cavalry which delights them. Shore batteries now facing Inland. Support also being given from the sea and regular supplies arriving. C.N.S. considered that Germans should have captured the town by 22/8 to show credit balance on the operation. (30 Mission Moscow, 1729C/23 to Admty.)

Malta
5 Blenheims attacked small convoy 1 small M/V 1 tug, 2 schooners, off Kerkenah. M/V of 1,000 tons direct hit 250lb. bomb penetrating superstructure and exploding on deck. 1 Schooner left listing. Decks machine-gunned. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1745/23 amended 1600/24)

TETRARCH
TALISMAN

Leave patrol p.m./25 passing S. and E. 032° 45' 020° 00' for daylight R/C of Apollonia and Rasfel Hill Cal Ancud thence through 033° 07' 025° 22' to arrive Alexandria sanctuary 0530C/30 TALISMAN routed along parallel of 033° 35' to 019° 30' thence west of 019° 30' to arrive your area 26th. (Capt. S. 1. 1750C/23 to TETRARCH)

Enemy report
TALISMAN

Your 1427 and your 1445 (N.T. in W.R.) report immediately it is safe to do so, P.C. and S of enemy. (Capt. S.1. 1830C/23 to TALISMAN)

See next page.

Syrian
Ports.

Following for Admiral Muselier from Commandant Jacquet. (begins) "Your 0056/19 understood. I am acting locally in consequence. I am obliged to correspond very often with you by Free French or R.N. (?W/T) signal. I beg you to dictate your important orders to me by second process. I confirm that Beyrut is used as main base, Tripoli and Latakia as secondary bases, the first more important. Terminal of pipe line destroyed by Vichy. Iraq petroleum company and British authorities not doing any repairs yet". (ends) (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1834C/23 to Admty.)

/UPHOLDER.....

War Diary

23.8.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

UPHOLDER

Proceed with despatch to 038° 30' 012° 00'. Anticipate enemy heavy units are proceeding to westward through this position at 0030/24. (S.O.S. Malta 1855B/23 to UPHOLDER)

TRIUMPH
URSULA
UTMOST

Cancel recall signal and take up following positions. TRIUMPH on completion of operation tonight 038° 22' 015° 35' URSULA 037° 56' 015° 36' UTMOST 039° 07' 017° 20'. Enemy heavy unit(s) probably South of Sardinia dawn/24 anticipated returning to Taranto shortly. (S.O.S. Malta, 1925B/23 to UTMOST, UPHOLDER, TRIUMPH, URSULA)

ELISABETH H.
FISSER.
(German)

Arrival 22nd at Sargunto. (Valencia, 2200/23 to M. of W.T.)

Situation
Report 126.

Western Desert. (?LESBOS) LESFASTOS damaged by near miss before leaving Tobruk unable to sail. Enemy supply ship sighted by TALISMAN in 033° 30' N., 024° 30' E. 1430/23 steering S.E. This ship also sighted and attacked by aircraft unsuccessfully and was later reported by TALISMAN to have turned northwards.
2. TORBAY has returned to Alexandria with 130 British and Allied troops evacuated from Crete. TORBAY also reports possible hit on escorted convoy off Benghazi at 1250/12 and sank large Italian schooner by demolition charge off Cape Matapan on 16/8. Request no mention of evacuation in press.
(C. in C. Med. 2343C/23.)

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

TURBO

British tanker, 4782 tons, hit by A/C torpedo on 20/8, has reached Port Said under her own power.
(D.S. 716, 23/8.)

Suspicious Vessel.

My 1306/22 para. 2.
BARON ELPHINSTONE did not go through Gallandú Channel. Her position was erroneously reported.
(C. in C. E.I., 0832Z/23 to Admty.)

Monster Liners at Trincomalee.

N.B. Melbourne's 1244/21 and A.M. 1720/20/7.
1. When consideration is being given to refuge port for QUEEN ELIZABETH and QUEEN MARY request limitation of Trincomalee should be borne in mind.
2. Lack of space does not permit two monsters being berthed inside Trincomalee harbour without risk of their fouling each other. Risk is accepted during short visits for refuelling but entails tug standing by continuously.
3. The permanent presence even one of these ships would seriously reduce the value of Trincomalee as a naval base.
(C. in C. E.I., 1034Z/23 to Admty.)

DUPLEIX, COMPIEGNE (French)

Your 1034/21. N.E.I. authorities have detained DUPLEIX and are placing ship and cargo in Prize Court with a view to seizure in compensation for Dutch ships held in French North Africa. COMPIEGNE has returned to Saigon but Dutch will endeavour to seize her as further compensation should she sail for Madagascar. Please inform Governor Mauritius.
(D.E.W.D. 1156A/23 to C. in C. E.I.)

Russian Mission.

Not arrived Mosul today 23/8.
(A.H.Q. Iraq, 1955/23 to Air Ministry.)

Base Defences.

In Maládive Islands, (Gan Channel and Wilingli Channel), ref. Admty. 1329A/23 (see Mediterranean)
(D.T.M., 2219A/23 to C. in C. E.I.)
See Lion Copy.

469A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE OUT
2219A/23 August

Addressed: C. in C. East Indies 780 Date: 23.8.41.
Repeated: C. in C. China 659

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

From: Admiralty.

Reference Admiralty Signal 1329A/23 and Secret Chart Z.14. Controlled Minefields for two Southerly Channels of Port "T" consist of one guard loop and five mine loops in Gan Channel and one guard loop and three mine loops in Wilingili Channel, both fields controlled by a single control station on North West Corner of Wilingili Island.

Gan Channel direction of guard loop 070 degrees from position 0 degrees 41.3 minutes South, 73 degrees 10.5 minutes East, approximate length to cover channel 1,440 yards. Five standard 640 yard mine loops approximately parallel to, and North of, guard loop. Wilingili Channel direction of guard loop 038 degrees from position 0 degrees 39.95 minutes South, 73 degrees 12 minutes East, approximate length 900 yards. Three standard mine loops parallel to guard 700 yards to North West.

Northern mine loop on a line 060 degrees to overlap reef. Layout may be modified to meet local conditions, but undesirable to move guard loops further to seaward on account of proposed boom defences. Plan C.M.88/41 in A.L. M.L.D. 002487/41 of 21st July refers. ATREUS will require Chart Z.14. Further instruction for Northern entrances follow.

2219A/23
for D.T.M.

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.O.D.(H) | E.P.S. |
| 1st S.L. | D.D.O.D.(H) | D.T.D.(2) |
| 2nd S.L. | D.N.I.(4) | N.I.D.10(Pay.Cdr.Wilson) |
| 3rd S.L. | D.S.D. | D.G.D. |
| 4th S.L. | D. of L.D. | D.T.M. |
| 5th S.L. | D.N.A.D. | Admiral Bellairs |
| V.C.N.S. | D.A/S.W. | D.B.D. |
| 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 Capt. | |
| D. of P.(2) | Head of M.(10) & for War Office, India Office | |
| D.O.D.(F) | D.T.S.D. | & Secretary Port Defence |
| D.D.O.D.(F) | D.D.I.C. | Committee) |

Melrose Islands

ec

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

¹⁷
FUSWAMA
(Italian)

Kobe arrival 22/8.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0201Z/23.)

COMMANDANT
DORISE
(French)

From intercepted correspondence expected to arrive Saigon 30/8 from Tamatave.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0237Z/23 to Admty.)

Japanese
Ships.

Movements.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0453Z/23.)

Fuelling
Base.

Proposed at a certain place.
(D. of P., app. V.C.N.S., 1409A/23 to C. in C. China.) See Operations Volume.
Reply. (C. in C. China, 0431/27.)

KOTA NOPAN
sunk by
raider 17/8.

Raid B.

Following from N.C.S. Colon by CZ M "1650Z/?17 KOTA NOPAN position 001° 22' S. 089° 10' W. sunk by raider." S.O.S. ended suddenly on third transmission. No message from or about crew. American Authorities informed.
(C. in C. China, 1801Z/23, to Admty.)
KOTA NOPAN, Dutch, 7322 tons, Singapore to Panama Canal.
See also America and West Indies.

America and West Indies.

Suspicious
Ship, 15/8.

BRASTAGI reports sighting suspicious Japanese ship 15/8 in 003° 25' S. 090° 34' W. Description. Comment. Description similar to MONTEVIDEO MARU which sailed Buenos Aires 21/7 for Santos, not since reported. Possibly proceeded via Magellan Straits and may be intending to fuel Zorritos, Peru.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 0151R/23 to ORION, Admty. etc.)

/DESPATCH.....

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

→ DESPATCH

Return to Jamaica forthwith.
 (C. in C. A.W.I., 1001Q/23, to DESPATCH.)
 My 1001Q/23. Top up with fuel at Jamaica in readiness to transit canal. Indications of a Raider in the vicinity of Galapagos Island, and it is intended that you should establish patrol for a short period. Reply immediately by W/T whether your damage will affect this.
 (C. in C. A.W.I., 1002Q/23 to DESPATCH.)
 Leave Jamaica a.m./24 transit canal on 26th.
 2. Proceed thence to establish patrol on shipping routes in vicinity Galapagos Island object to cover shipping and intercept enemy surface raider believed to be operating in this vicinity.
 3. Re intelligence.
 4. Fuel at Talara when necessary.
 5. Your future movements will be communicated in due course depending on fuelling arrangements and your relief by PRINCE HENRY.
 N.S.O.I. Jamaica pass to H.M.S. DESPATCH.
 (C. in C. A.W.I., 2142Q/23 to DESPATCH.)

CARADOC

Proceed (? Bermuda) forthwith, fuelling at Trinidad if essential.
 (C. in C. A.W.I., 1022Q/23 to CARADOC.)

→ PRINCE ROBERT
PRINCE HENRY.

My 2251Q/22. In anticipation arrival PRINCE ROBERT at Esquimalt request PRINCE HENRY may be sailed as soon as possible to establish patrol in vicinity Galapagos Islands.
 (C. in C. A.W.I., 1041Q/23, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
 Comply with C. in C. A.W.I. 1041Q/23.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2204Z/23 to C.O.P.C. Esquimalt.)

Galapagos
Patrol,
fuelling
in U.S.A.

Your 2052/22/4 to N.A. Washington. Patrol is being established in vicinity of Galapagos Islands in view of suspected raider activity. Request immediate action be taken to enable H.M. ships to fuel in U.S. ports without restriction.
 (C. in C. A.W.I., 1042Q/23 to Admty.)
 S.O.(I) Callao reports U.S. Naval Attache Peru prepared request 15th Naval District Commander at Colon arrange fuel British Warship from U.S. Navy Tankers at sea near Galapagos.
 (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1632R/23 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., DESPATCH.)

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War Diary.23.8.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.LACONIAYour 1131P/22. Concur with your proposals.
(D.O.D.(H) 1052A/23 to R.A.3.)T.C.12B.HAVELOCK and HARVESTER are to be detached from T.C.12B as requisite to refuel at St. Johns N.F. subsequently requiring (as received, ? returning) and escorting convoy to U.K.
(C.C.N.F., 1154Z/23 to R.A.3.)ORION to
examine
Galapagos.Your 2251/22. Approved to use ORION. She is believed to have only 2 turrets serviceable and those in local control. Request you will consider passing one of your cruisers through to Pacific in view of raider threat.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1155A/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Your 2251/22. E.T.A. East of Galapagos 1200Z/25. Only chart on board showing these Islands No.786, Cape Horn to Cape Corrientes. Have no aircraft. Present gun armament, no forward turrets, 2 after turrets in local control, 4 inch in local control. Where is KAIKOURA and what is her route? No shipping summary being received, world wide tables only held; this reported to N.O.I.C. Trinidad before sailing. It will be necessary to return to Balboa to refuel before proceeding to San Diego.
(ORION, 2230Z/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)P.A.C.
Projectors.Your 1341A/21. Of ships of N.E.F. who have visited St. John's, READING only is fitted.
(C.C.N.F., 1405Z/23 to Admty.)FORTHYour 1019A/21 not to C.C.N.F. Items (2) and (3) include the following. Proposed that FORTH remain at St. Johns until the departure of TRUANT and then proceed to New London (or other convenient port) to disembark all items mentioned in your 1019A/21 before proceeding to U.K.
(FORTH, 1431Z/23 to F.O.S. Amended 1251Z/24.)Germans in
Mexico.Mexico cancelled all exequaturs of German consulates as at 1/9.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1505R/23 to Admty.)

/KOTA NOPAN.....

473

23.8.1941.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

KOTA NOPAN
sunk 17/8
by raider.

Your (? 2552)/22 (2303/22 intended). Only details of message received are contained in Panama's 1601/22. ARDENVOHR reported to ORION by V/S. No earlier report as ship's speed only 12 knots and Master afraid to break wireless silence owing to close proximity of raider. (N.C.S.O. Colon, 1525/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.) My 1525/23. Message received by ARDENVOHR was "Q Q Q Q PFLS (KOTA NOPAN) attacked 001° 22' S. 089° 10' W." Message repeated twice and broken off in middle of third repeat. (N.C.S.O. Colon, 1735/23 to Admty.)

U.S. Task
Forces.

Future movements.
D.O.D.(F) 1616A/23 to C. in C. .A.W.I., etc.)

FORT LAMY.
LUCIJANA.

Your 1091Q/4 and my 1801Q/12. Further trouble may be expected in FORT LAMY at Newhaven Port. Recommendations.
Trouble in LUCIJANA purely private Balkans war so am recommending N.O.i/c Trinidad they should be given further chance not in Jugo-slavia ships. (CARADOC, 1705Q/13 (?23) to Admty.)

Communications. Between ships etc. on one side of Atlantic and those on other side. Proposals.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1730A/23 to B.A.D. Washington.)
See Lion Copy.

Ex-Enemy
Ships in
U.S. Service.

Following is list of ex-enemy ships sailing under U.S. flag. All but five have been renamed and list gives new names.

1. Danish. LOOKOUT, JOHNSTOWN, MONTROSE, KINGMAN, AZRA, HALMA, LAWREN, *LOANTAKA, ALCEDO, MONTANAN, ARISTIDES, VAGRANT, DAYSTAR, LEONATUS, BUCHANAN, SPOKANE, SALVATOR, CAVALCADE, *CRICAMOLA, CHANT, *CALDERA, BEN BRUSH, SIR HUON, FIRETHORN, SNARK, PINK STAR, PONTIAC, BOLD VENTURE, WAR ADMIRAL, DONERAIL, MANUEL, ALAN A. DALE, JONNA, SICILIEN, TUNIS.
2. Italian. TYPHOON, PLAUDIT, REIGH. COUNT, MERIDIAN, EXTERMINATOR, ELWOOD, STONE STREET, GALLANT FOX, MARIA
3. German. * STING.
4. Roumanian. MANGALIA.

A number of ships not yet allocated or renamed are not included but will follow in due course. (B.A.D. Washington, 1909R/23 to Admty.)

* NOT IDENTIFIED.

see p. 599.

/Pacific.....

MOST
SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

17504/23rd August

OUT

473A..

To: B.A.D. Washington 359

Date: 23.8.41

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME TABLE.

From: Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

A.M.1944B/5 and relevant signals.

1. Question of rapid transmission of information repetition information from ships and authorities on one side of the Atlantic to those on the other side has been under consideration. Following method is proposed.

- (a) British - U.S. Cypher, Joint Fleet Code or Self evident code to be used as appropriate.
- (b) Forwarding instructions to be expressed in British U.S. call signs. When passed over cable these to be expressed in U.S. phonetic alphabet form.
- (c) These messages to be forwarded to addressees at once without waiting to decypher in Admiralty or Navy Department.
- (d) Example of handling as follows. Message from C.in C Western Approaches to U.S.S.UPSHUR informing her that convoy she is due to meet will be late at rendezvous. Message passed by teleprinter to Admiralty. Admiralty passes by cable to OPNAV prefixed "Transmit to Unit nine Tare seven". OPNAV at once transmits message to UPSHUR by radio and subsequently decyphers for information of OPNAV.

2. Following rules are proposed regarding breaking of W/T silence on ships intercommunication waves. W/T silence may be broken.

- (a) To report enemy or any imminent danger.

.....For signals

MOST SECRET

- (b) For signals to ensure ^{2.} escort and relief escort making contact if either is seriously out of programme position or if actual position is doubtful.
3. If necessary for escort or relief escort to "home" by D/F 366 Kc/s is proposed for use.
4. Following additions to spare call signs and cable groups in S.P. 02378 (1) are proposed. Page 23 number 19 and page 27 number 10 "Convoy escorts in Eastern Atlantic". Page 85 number 20 and page 89 number seven "Convoy escorts in Western Atlantic".
5. Request you will obtain Navy Departments concurrence or remarks on above points. A copy has been sent to the U.S. Naval Mission London.

1730i/ 23

D.S.D. (94)
 Approved by A.C.N.S. (T)

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D of P. (2)
 D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)
 D.O.D. (H)
 D.D.O.D. (H)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.S.D. (S D 02414/41)
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 Duty Capt.
 Head of M.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D. (2)
 Adm. Bailey
 N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

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War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Pacific
Routeing.

Your 1555R/16. Concur generally.
Request complete routes be passed to local
British C.S.A. for Admiralty. Request
amplification of area basis referred to.
Recommend the addition of widely dispersed
Reference Positions for security reasons when
diversion is required.
Consider Torres Strait should be included in
closed Area.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1926/23 to B.A.D. Washington.)

Task
Units.

Changes. (Spenavo, no T.O.O./23.)

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Convoy
O.G.71.

Oiler torpedoed. Blaze strongly illuminating Convoy.
(GURKHA, 0120A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ ZINNIA.

H.M.S. ZINNIA sunk. Some survivors.
(GURKHA, 0530A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE OAK,
X CANTURA.
ALDERGROVE.
STORK.
→ SPIND.

*X CAMANARA intended
Sep. 4.54. + 496.*

Regret three attacks on O.G.71 during the night. Ships torpedoed and sunk, EMPIRE OAK, and CANTURA in first attack, ALDERGROVE and STORK in * ensuing attack, H.M.S. ZINNIA in third attack. In addition SPIND separated from convoy and sunk. 67 survivors follow. No contact made with enemy. 8 out of 14 ships left are for Portuguese Port.
(GURKHA 0730A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)
O.G.71 should arrive position off Tagus at 2230A/23. Consider if present scale of attack continues that loss will be extreme during next night. GURKHA must leave convoy noon today to reach Gibraltar with fuel remaining. LANCE can remain until 2200A/23.
(GURKHA, 0807A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ SPIND.

Norwegian S.S. SPIND gunned by U-Boat at 0600A. All crew picked up. Ship on fire, impossible to save so sunk by gunfire. U-Boat not located. Am rejoining convoy with CAMPANULA and BLUEBELL. CAMPANULA has 16 survivors from ZINNIA including Captain and First Lieut.
(BOREAS, 0957A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)
Owing to shortage of fuel it may be necessary for WIVERN to leave O.G.71 P.M./24.
(WIVERN, 1140A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Report by V/S through Catalina or next occasion of breaking W/T silence, if earlier, present state of convoy O.G.71 with names of ships sunk other than those contained in GURKHA's 0730A/23.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1148A/23 to BLACKTHORN.)
Your 1148A/23 LEITH reported BATH, ALVA, CISCAR, AGUILA previously. 14 Ships, now present. 25 survivors from CISCAR aboard PETREL bound for Oporto.
(GURKHA, 1400A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Failure to
contact U/B's.

GURKHA's 0730A/23. The fact that no contacts with U.boats were made during these three night attacks is disturbing. On arrival of escorts request you will interview C.O's., and report whether there were any new or special circumstances which may account for this.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1600A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

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War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. Contd.

A/S. Sweep.

A.M. 1536A/23. (N.T. in W.D.)
Escorts are to carry out an A/S sweep over an arc 320° to 260° from Cape Roca, escorts being detached as soon as convoy approaches territorial waters. Escorts should continue hunt until prudent limit of endurance, returning to Gibraltar to fuel. F.O.C. N.A., is requested to supply maximum air cooperation. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1632A/23, to BOREAS, escorts of O.G.71 etc.)
Your 1632A/23. WALLFLOWER and CAMPION have been sent to Gibraltar with injured and survivors. WIVERN, VIDETTE, LEITH carrying out (Admty. orders?) O.G.71 entering (from East?). (WIVERN, 2031A/23 to Admty.)
My 2031A/23. BOREAS and BLUEBELL joined sweep. CAMPANULA sent to Gibraltar with injured. (WIVERN, 2145A/23 to Admty.)
E.T.A. off breakwater 1240Z/24. Have some defects requiring assistance of Dockyard welders. Boiler cleaning overdue. (GURKHA, 2310Z/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

INGER.

INGER torpedoed 058° 58' N., 007° 50' W., 2303/23.
(?LADY MADELAINE, 2320A/23, to C. in C.W.A.)

See p 496.

Submarines Reported.

0726Z/22.

Following received from U.S. Naval Authorities. Inner air patrol of Task group 2.5 in 33° 45' N., 28° 36' W., at 0726Z/22 sighted submerged U-boat on Northerly course. (Ends.) (D.C., 0141A/23, to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.A., 0238A/23 to N.A.Stn.)
Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1430A/23.)

2005 G.M.T.

Bearings at 2005 G.M.T. of Italian U-boat 14 F. (D.D.I.C. 2136A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

2120 G.M.T.

Bearings at 2120 G.M.T. of Italian U Boat 34 D. (D.D.I.C. 2249A/23.)

War Diary.

24.8.1941⁴⁷⁷
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

WOLSEY reports having sunk LL Trawler KOS XVI in collision off Hornsea.

A Russian submarine reports having penetrated Petsamo harbour and torpedoed a 2000 ton vessel alongside and a 5000 ton loaded ammunition ship entering the harbour.

Operations
"Dervish",
"Benedict"

Force M (DEVONSHIRE - C.S.1., SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS and 3 destroyers) will operate as close escort for Operations "Dervish" and "Benedict". The force is also covering mining operation S.N.70A.

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy aircraft bombed Myggenaes Lighthouse (Færoes) this afternoon. The W/T Station was damaged but is working intermittently.

BLACK SWAN escorting Convoy B.B.67 was bombed in the Milford Haven area at 2100 and had her tiller flat damaged; there are two U.X.Bs. on board, one of which BLACK SWAN reports cannot be removed without cutting her plating. Both bombs were successfully removed later. The convoy suffered no damage.

Mining.

Danish S.S. SKAGERAK was mined and sunk in the river Orwell this afternoon.

Mines were detonated in the Humber and Thames Estuary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A ship, apparently S.S. BRAJARA, reported being followed by a suspicious ship at 0355Z in 28° 20' S. 34° 24' E.

Operation
"Cutting"
(see 19/8)

LADY DENISON PENDER escorted by MILFORD left Freetown at 1630 today.

Mediterranean.

Malta,

Two aircraft were over Malta last night and started small fires in the dockyard. Damage was insignificant.

Operation
"Mincemeat"

The minelaying operation was completed at 0338B today. Force H demonstrated off Valencia.

Italian
battle
fleet
at sea.

At 0810 today air patrols sighted 2 battleships and 13 or 14 destroyers 30 miles S.S.E. of Cape Spartivento, steering 240° and at 0828 4 cruisers and 6 destroyers 15 miles S.E. of the battle fleet, steering the same course. The two forces were both located again at 1700, when they were steering 140° and 70° respectively. UPHOLDER, one of the 4 S/Ms ordered yesterday to the area secured a possible hit on the rear ship of 3 6-inch cruisers with 6 destroyers and 2 flying boats in 38° 30' N. 12° 0' E. but was prevented by counter attack from seeing the result.

P.33. P.32
overdue.

P.33 is overdue from patrol since 20/8 and must be considered lost.
P.32 is also overdue.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

10 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli dock and suspected petrol dump areas from 0001 to 0400 today. Three large fires visible 60 miles were caused in the dock area and a very large fire visible 135 miles in a supply dump area South of the town.

/During.....

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya &
Western
Desert.
Contd.

During a shipping sweep in the Gulf of Sidra today Blenheims sank a schooner and an escort vessel; a second schooner left with a heavy list, probably sank later.

There was a heavy air raid by 10 aircraft on Mersa Matruh last night. Little damage was caused.

90 sorties were made by fighter aircraft today, to protect shipping proceeding to and from Tobruk.

Suez
Canal
Area.

A tug and a 30 ton crane which the tug was towing were both damaged today by the explosion of a mine in Abadih Bay, Suez. The area was swept without result and normal traffic was resumed.

War Diary.24.8.41.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.W.A.
Convoy
Instructions.

Western Approaches convoy instructions part 372 para.4. In view of new F.W. tactics, cancel second sentence and substitute "The A/C should only be launched if C.O. has good reason to believe approaching or shadowing A/C is hostile and that there is a reasonable chance of interception."
(C. in C.W.A.1004A/24.)

26th M.L.F.
for
Freetown.

Request you will arrange for Motor Launches 209, 244, 251, 271, 277, 279, 281 and 289 forming the 26th M.L. Flotilla, now working up at Troon or equipping prior to proceeding there, to assemble at Londonderry by 12/9.
2. Motor Launches are to be sailed under their own power for Freetown with suitable escort details of which will be signalled later. Escort and Flotilla should be routed via Gibraltar and Bathurst.
(D.D.O.D.C. 1155A/24 to C. in C.W.A.)

DISCOVERY II.

Is required at Harwich. She should be sailed for Loch Ewe in convoy at the first convenient opportunity. From Loch Ewe she should be sailed in coastal convoy.
(D.O.D.H. 1221A/24.)

CAM Ships.

It is understood instructions given at convoy conferences in Canada have sometimes led to C.A.M. ships closing down W/T watch and failing to read meteorological report. Request it may be made clear that C.A.M. ships should read such reports.
(C. in C.W.A. 1606A/24 to Adty.)

Movements.SHROPSHIRE.

Scapa arrival. (A.C.O.S. 1551A/24.)

LONDON.

Request you will sail LONDON for Scapa on 26/8.
(V.A.2. 1723A/24 to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)

O.14.

My 1057A/20 and F.O.(S)'s 2359A/23. After passing through position (C) you should R/V with drifter in 090° Bressay Light 15 miles at 0615A/27 for passage to Lerwick. You will leave Lerwick for Dundee escorted a.m. 28th.
(Capt. S.9. 1901A/24 to O.14.)

P.34.

Sailed P.34 escorted LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with S 3's 1615A/23.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1948A/24.)

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War Diary.

24.8.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

Task Unit
1.1.3.
SELFOSS
(Icelandic.)
~~MIKE~~
VICTOR.

Following received from Opanav. ^{?m/s} SELFOSS with Task Unit 1.1.3, two Destroyers left Reykjavik at 2000 G.C.T./23. MIKE/VICTOR is bound for New York via Louisburg and will follow the following course. The Task Unit will upon arrival at 55° W., proceed to Casco Bay. (Spenavo 2100/24.)

ACHATES.
(Mined
25/7.)

ACHATES in tow of Tug ASSURANCE escorted by TARTAR arrived 2243/24. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2323/24.)

Operations.

Dover
Patrols.

MGB's 43 (S.O.) 46 and S.2 will patrol between South Varne and East Varne Buoy during dark hours tonight to cover C.W.47 and act on R.D.F. reports from Dover W/T. The only other patrol at sea will be 2 trawlers on O.D. One. (V.A.Dover 1035A/24.)

Operations ^{Darvish} Position F changed.

DARVISH. ~~Benedict~~ (C.S.1. 1306A/24 to ELECTRA.) See Operations Volume.

ELECTRA.

Force M. Force M consists of DEVONSHIRE, SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS, and 3 Destroyers. Will act as close Escort for Operations ~~DARVISH~~ and ~~BENEDICT~~. Further movements.

(V.C.N.S. 1453A/24 to Ad.Miles.)

See Operations Volume.

Communications (V.A.2 1624A/24)

See Operations Volume.

A.M. 1956A/19. In the event of fog, request beacons may be in operation from 0700Z/27 until arrival of Force mentioned in A.M. 1549A/22, and from 0700Z/30 for ~~DARVISH~~ Convoy.

(D.S.D. 1709A/24 to Ad. Miles, Moscow.)

Your 1214/23 para. three. Following from S.B.N.O. Murmansk to Admiralty. Repeats B.S.N.O., Murmansk 2121C/23.

(D.S.D. 1710A/24 to V.A.2.)

TIGRIS.
One M/V.
sunk on
17/8.

TIGRIS arrived. Estimates one torpedo hit M/V (? 3000 Tons.) at 0815C/17 in 70° 59' N., 26° 45' E. Ship sank in less than two minutes. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1510C/24.)

Petsamo
2 M/V's
torpedoed.

Submarine MOLODKI type number 172 returned here from patrol off Petsamo to-day, having penetrated Petsamo harbour and torpedoed 2000 ton vessel alongside and 5,000 ton loaded ammunition ship entering Petsamo. Explosion later observed by Soviet signal station Ribachi Peninsula. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1522C/24.)

War Diary.24.8.41.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Escort.

Expect escort of 2 Beaufighters from dawn.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0044/24 to CURACOA.)
Aircraft delayed by weather, dense fog on coast.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0710/24 to CURACOA.)

Patrols.

~~STAND~~^{"stand"} now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0156/24.)
~~STAND~~ in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2016/24.)

Archangel
to U.K.
Air Service.

X.715 24/8. My X.585 and X.586 22/8.
Corrections to wave lengths.
(Air Ministry 1200/24 to Britlistaf.)

S.B.R.

Ops/906 24/8. Cancel S.B.R. in areas 14 and
15 forthwith, and in area 13 from 0800/25.
(H.Q.C.C. 1210/24.)

Firing of
Recognition
Cartridge.

Your X112 15/8. A/A Site. (Map reference)
report seeing recognition signal at 2200/14/8
hearing 100 degs. No pilot or defence personnel
of Coltishall saw any aircraft fire a cartridge
recognition signal at that time, and neither
Bury St. Edmunds nor Norwich Royal Observer
Corps centres have any record of such a signal
at that time.
(H.Q.F.C. 1915/24 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.MORGAN
JONES.
damaged.

(A/P vessel) Attacked by enemy A/C.
Sustained slight damage from near misses, and
machine gun bullets. Has returned to harbour.
No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0020/24.)

Unknown
Ship.

AAAA signal heard 1045 G.M.T. Details.
(Burnham Radio 1046/24, 1055/24.)
(Port Patrick 1048/24.) (C. in C. Rosyth 1138/24
to Adty.)

BRABANT.
(M/S Trawler)
A/C destroyed.

Attacked at 2115/23 in 55° 43' N., 01° 36' W., by
believed Dornier 17 flying straight towards ship,
height 150 feet. Fire opened at 250 yards with
single Hotchkiss on bridge and twin Lewis aft,
and hits scored. Two bombs 4 feet high seen
to drop close astern, exploded ten seconds later.

/Aircraft.....

War Diary.24.8.41.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.BRABANT.
(M/S Trawler)
A/C destroyed.
(Contd.)

Aircraft seen to skim water about 1 mile on starboard quarter. Hits claimed continuously by Port Hotchkiss and twin Lewis. BRABANT continued on course to carry out special sweep ordered.

(6) No serious damage to ship.

(7) VERDUN picked up 4 survivors from enemy aircraft at 2151/23 in 55° 48' 45" N., 01° 45' W. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1735/24.)

BLACK SWAN.
damaged.

At 2100 German A/C flying low, approaching from westward, dropped bomb near BLACK SWAN's stern. No damage to convoy. Some damage to BLACK SWAN's tiller flat, which still contains two unexploded bombs, one of which is difficult to remove. All explosives in vicinity removed. After end of ship evacuated. BLACK SWAN proceeding independently in vicinity of convoy, steering by main engine.

(BLACK SWAN 2130A/24.)

My 2130A. Bombs weigh about 300 lbs. They cannot be removed until a hole is cut in ships side. Proceeding slowly in direction of the Smalls. AQUAMARINE, CAPE ARGONA standing by. (BLACK SWAN 2155A/24.)

Mining.S.N.15.

R.A.M's 1229/22. It is hoped to be able to provide a HUNT and an A/A cruiser from ships working up at Scapa. (V.A.2. 1047A/24.)

SKAGERAK.
(Danish
collier,
1200 Tons.)
sunk.

Struck Mine in River Orwell at about 1530A/24 and broke in two. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1857A/24.) (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1930/24.)

Spurn
Point.

The following three mines were detonated today. Details. (F.O.Humber 2011A/24.)

Explosion
on (?)
23/8.

Reference PD/01/24/8. Following additional information elicited from Capt. of K/10. At 0929 in 51° 5' N., 5° 33' W. Rear Gunner reported explosion on water 600 yds. astern.. Capt. of A/C thinks a mine may have been detonated by A/C passing over. However height of A/C, which was 1000 ft., renders this explanation doubtful. SP of K/10 was 105 kts. (Plymouth 2105/24.)

War Diary.24.8.41.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.At
(?)Svaerholt-
havet on 13
and 19/8.
TIGRIS
report.

Constant patrols A/S fitted vessels across
(? Svaerholthavet.)
Following sighted at (? Svaerholthavet) 1000C/13
KARL GALSTER, MOWE Class destroyer Westbound
and returned Eastbound 1400C escorting one M/V.
At 0655C/19 KARL GALSTER and unknown destroyer
with two patrol craft Westbound. At 1345 C
BREMSE and (? presumably) same destroyer Eastbound
escorting convoy. Air activity slight and only
by Dornier 18. No minesweepers observed at
(? Svaerholthavet) or Bredsund and no A/S activity
latterly. This appears suitable operation for
Force A with good chance of intercepting convoy.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1510C/24.)

Casualties & Defects.RUBIS.
(Damaged
22/8.)

At 2013, over S/M in 58° 35' N., 3° 20' E.,
course 220°, speed 7 knots. S/M slightly down
by stern.
At 2030, 2 Dr. 1 A/A ship contacted S/M which
hove to.
At 2045, S/M under way 255° 7 knots.
At 2053, in 57° 35' N., 3° 15' E., left S/M naval
escort on same course and speed. Hudson still
escorting. (A/C report.)
(Pitreavie A.C.H.Q., 0020/24.)
Detach LIGHTNING and LIVELY to Scapa as soon as
you can spare them.
(V.A.2. 0955A/24 to CURACOA.)
Consider it advisable that you use your mine
sweepers to sweep your force through gap A as
it has not been swept for some time.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1618/24 to CURACOA.)
When clear of Gap A minesweepers and tug are to
be detached to Aberdeen and Peterhead respectively
if no longer required. WOLFHOUD is to escort
RUBIS to Dundee and is then to return to Rosyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1802/24 to CURACOA.)
As a precaution against acoustic mines you will
be met at S.E. Tay Approach buoy at 0630 A/25
by tug HARECRAIG who will tow you to Dundee.
Bell Rock light arranged.
(Capt. S.9. 1913A/24 to RUBIS.)
Your 1901A/24. E.T.A. Lerwick 1400/26.
Submarine presence in zone C 2 and C 3 known to
enemy since yesterday.
(O.14. 2240A/24 to Capt. S.9.)

/GLEN DALOUGH...

War Diary.

24.8.41.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. Contd.

GLENDALOUGH.

Re: towing to Hull 25/8. Request fighter protection.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1316A/24.)

KOS. 16. XVI
(L.L. Trawler)
sunk.

Arrival NEIL MACKAY at 1640 with survivors from KOS. 16.
(F.O. Humber 1700A/24.)
NEIL MACKAY reports wreck of KOS. 16 in 53° 50' 15" N., 00° 35' 12" E.
(F.O. Humber 1828A/24.)
WOLSEY reports having been in collision with KOS XVI which subsequently sank.
(C. in C. Nore 2221A/24.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Escort
Groups.

O.G. and H.G. Convoys, when new cycle is in operation. Programme. (C. in C.W.A., 1209A/24.) See Lion Copy.

Tankers.
E. Coast.

During next few weeks there will be an increase in number of Tankers required to discharge on East Coast. In order to minimise delays, the present limit of 3 tankers per F.S. convoy may be increased to 5. Requested you will consider possibility of reinforcing air and surface escorts of convoys which include these tankers. 11 tankers ex HX 145 are expected to arrive Methil about 1/9. Of these 7 are bound Thames, 3 bound Humber and 1 bound Tyne.
(A.C.N.S(T) 1650A/24, to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Irish
Sea, O.G.74.

Considered circumstances are now favourable, except during full moon period, to route an occasional O.G. convoy through Irish Sea with strong A.A. escort. Propose this should be tried out as soon as possible after AUDACITY completes early September commencing with O.G.74 sailing 12/9. Suggested operations should be covered by offensive R.A.F. daylight sweep over Western Channel and N.W. France while convoy is within medium bomber striking range.
(C. in C.W.A., 2232A/24 to Admty.)

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1209A/24 August IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches

Date 24.8.41.

Recd. 1319

P/L BY P/P.

Addressed D Liverpool, Repeated D Londonderry D. Greenock
F.O.I/C's Liverpool, Belfast, Greenock, Admiralty.

790. When new O G H G convoy cycle is in operation, three groups only instead of five will be required for through escort, and escorts will spend about ten days at home and five days at Gibraltar between convoys.

2. The three new groups will be named 35th, 36th and 37th groups, and Captain D Liverpool is requested to detail 3 Corvettes for each group from the 29 Corvettes now allocated to Gibraltar escort. Further orders will be given as to allocation of the remaining 5 Corvettes.

3. Ships other than Corvettes will be allocated to these groups as they become available.

4. New groups will be required to sail as follows :-

- A. 35th with O G 73 on August 29th.
- B. 36th with O G 74 on September 12th.
- C. 37th with O G 75 on September 27th.

5. Anticipated dates of arrival of existing groups in U.K. are :-

- A. 31st and 34th now in U.K.
- B. 32nd with H G 71 September 2nd.
- C. 30th and 33rd with H G 72 September 17th.

6. My 2215D/8. For 34th group read 35th group.

1209A/24

Advance copy Ops. O.D.

/ Orders for escort groups.

V.C.N.S.	D.T.D. (4)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.D. (M)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (C)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.M.S.
Ops. (4)	D.M.S. Basement
O.D. (5)	M. (2)
O.D. 8	
O.I.C. (3)	
I.P. (3)	
D.S.D. 9	
D.A/S.	
W.D.	

War Diary.24.8.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Shadowing
Enemy.

If West of Cagliari can you shadow enemy 1600 to 2100.
(S.O. Force H., 1221/24 to N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Spanish
and French
Ships.*? ILE ROUSSE intended*

Gibraltar 24/8 0930 Spanish Minelayer NEPTUNO, Eastbound. 0900 French Minesweeper ENGAGEANTE 2 unidentified unarmed trawlers, TOURS, PENERF, ILE RONESE all laden eastbound.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1445A/24 to Admty. etc.) My 1445A/24, unarmed trawlers were MONT CASSEL, AUGUSTE DENISE. PENERF deck cargo approx. 30 horses.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1825A/24 to Admty. etc.)

O.21
patrol.

Intend to sail Netherlands S/M O.21 P.M./27 for patrol in South Tyrrhenian Sea. Approx. programme Marittimo/Naples route P.M./31 to P.M./4 keeping North 039° N. when East of 012° E., coastal route North Naples 3 days, East coast Sardinia 2 days, (? West) coast Sardinia one day thence to arrive Gibraltar 15. S.O. S/M's. Malta's 1148B/24 received.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1640A/24, to C. in C. Med.)

M.V. DURHAM
Air Search.

Ref. my A.822, 23/8, 1 Sunderland F.230 search for M/V DURHAM to E. Rescued missing Fulmar crew in 36.54 N. 00.31 E., 1700/23.
(200 Group, 1726/24.)
DURHAM, British, 10,893 tons, under Govt. charter, arrived at Gibraltar 24/8 from Malta in ballast after having been mined and seriously damaged at 0315/22 W. of Pantellaria.
(D.S. 718, 25/8.)
See also Mediterranean. p.489.

Operation
"Mincemeat"

Attack on Cork woods and factories successful. Fires visible 75 miles. (? meat) of "Mincemeat" apparently unobserved.
2. Your 1241/23 received corrupt and not decyphered until 2145. Swordfish R/C p.m./24 failed to locate enemy West of Sardinia. No other information until receipt of V.A. Malta 1912 at 2030/24.
3. One JU.52 with German markings shot down East of Balearic Islands. 3 Combat Cants, 2 damaged but appeared rather tough. Demonstration off Valencia tomorrow Monday.
(S.O. Force H., 2114B/24 to Admty.)

/FARA ISLAY.....

War Diary.24.8.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.FARA, ISLAY.
(A/s. M/s Trainers.)

Your 1738A/20 and 2344A/23. Attention is called to A.M. 1250B/4. You should inform N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada for British Vice Consul Horta of estimated dates of arrival and quantities of fuel required for FARA and ISLAY. N.A. Lisbon is responsible only for acquainting Ambassador who will inform Portuguese Govt.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2204A/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

South Atlantic.Operation
"Kedgeree"

My 2044Z/23. ^{NY mwd} BLAAUWBERG now reports course of convoy when sighted was East. My suggestion in para.4 therefore seems to have been confirmed and that vessel named was not SAGITTAIRE. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0834Z/24 to C. in C. S.A.) Operation "Kedgeree" was initiated in accordance with my 1123/17 and 2041/17. AUSTRALIA and HAWKINS as directed by AUSTRALIA sailed at 2320/18 and 0800/19 respectively to search either side of anticipated track of convoy. F.O.I.C. Simonstown reported location of a French convoy by a Whaler in my 2030/22 but Whaler did not report course and later lost contact. F.O.I.C. Simonstown reports further in his 2044/23 and 0834/24 repeated to you. (C. in C. S.A., 2001N/24 to Admty.) Your 1741/23. Situation is very obscure. As far as is known Cruisers have not been in contact. Whalers lost contact at 2115/22 and apparently turned to eastward and I have been unable to discover why owing to limited power of their D/T. At 1125Z/24, AUSTRALIA reported having been in dense fog all day and giving estimated position as 040.08 S. 019.55 E. Failure of Maryland A/C to come up to endurance expectations and lack of visibility has not helped, and they have sighted nothing. Present whereabouts of convoy and direction in which proceeding is unknown. Without further information from BLAAUWBERG as to sighting course of convoy which was not originally reported I feel there may be a possibility of that being an Eastbound. AUSTRALIA has now ordered Whalers to return to Harbour but Air Patrols to a depth of 450 miles will continue tomorrow and Monday as far as 15° E. AUSTRALIA's 1145Z/23 and 1750Z/23 refer.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2044Z/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

/CARNARVON....

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Leave patrol and proceed to Capetown to arrive by 3/9.
(C. in C. S.A., 2137N/24.)

C.F.2.

Capetown arrival 24/8 QUEEN OF BERMUDA and convoy C.F.2.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0920Z/24 to Admty.)

"Q" Report,
(cancelled)

Your 1219A/24 (N.T. in W.D.) Following received from Simonstown at 0318N begins:-
QQQQ 28.20 S. 34.24 E. BRIGARA (BRAJARA?) followed suspicious T.O.R. 0355Z (ends.)
(C. in C. S.A., 1226N/24 to Admty.)
Cancel my 0354/24, suspected raider.
(BRAJARA 0510/24, to Jacobs Natal Radio,
Passed to Whitehall W/T. from Freetown W/T.)

M/S Groups.

M/S Groups 156, 157 and 158 now on passage through your command are urgently required at their destination.
Request you will expedite progress and keep Admiralty informed.
(D.M.S. 1538A/24 to C. in C. S.A.)

CALABAR

Have you any news of CALABAR from Capetown due 13/8?
(D.T.D. 1651A/24 to N.C.S.O. Lagos.)

Operation
"Cutting"

Your 2354/19 LADY DENISON PENDER escorted by MILFORD left Freetown for operation "Cutting" 1630/24.
(C. in C. S.A., 2311N/24 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

BARBARIGO
(Italian)

Report, believed reliable, states this ship of 5293 tons has been sunk. Possible this was the "8000 ton ship" claimed by Blenheims as sunk off Tripoli on 15/7.
(D.S. 717, 24/8.)

/DURHAM.....

War Diary.24.8.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.DURHAM

Lack of reports from DURHAM at dark/22 of safe passage has caused me great anxiety. Request you inspect W/T log and ascertain if report was made as ordered.

(V.A. Malta, 0950B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Reply. (F.O.C.N.A. 1714/25.)

See also North Atlantic, 1726/24. p 486

E-Boats,
Black Sea.

Your 2240/22 passed by Admty. to C. in C. Med. Admty. have no confirmation of transportation of German E-boats to Black Sea. For your personal information, unlikely that they would have been so transported, or at any rate, operated on arrival, without our knowledge. (D.N.I., 1028A/24 to Adm. Miles.)

Enemy
Fleet.

One Battle Ship 2 Cruisers 6 Destroyers, P.C. and S. of Enemy are 038° 30' 012° 00' 215° 25 knots. Cruiser probably damaged. (UPHOLDER, 1030B/24 to S.O.S. Malta.) Maryland reports 1655, 2 battleships 14 destroyers, 038° 38' N. 009° 31' E. course 140° 15 knots. 1700, 4 cruisers 5 destroyers 038° 35' N. 009° 25' E. course 70° 15 knots. Not shadowing.

(V.A. Malta, 1912B/24 to S.O. Force H.)

(Com. S.1., 1957B/24 to S/Ms. Malta Force, TRIUMPH.)

P.33, P.32
Overdue.

Regret to report P.33 is now overdue since 20/8 and must be considered lost. P.33 was on patrol off Tripoli (Africa). Also appears that P.32 is now overdue. Admty. 1151/20 and 1623/20 refer. Commander (S) 1 is requested to confirm. Books are being treated as compromised. (C. in C. Med., 1034C/24 to Admty.)

Benghazi,
Derna
bombed,
M/V attacked.

Night 22/23. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour starting large fires. 1 Wellington bombed Derna and gun position near Bomba day 23/8. Main effort during day directed to offensive R/C for enemy shipping to Tobruk. Marylands carried out offensive sweeps over a wide area. A merchant ship was attacked by a Blenheim 75 miles north of Tobruk, 1 of a stick of bombs falling close to vessel. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1049/24.)

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy S/V.

Sailing vessel carrying petroleum for 032° 07' 020° 04' awaiting escort 130 miles 237° from there.
(Capt. S.1., 1050C/24 to TETRARCH.)

French convoys.

O U 63 29 (VI) numbers 6 26 33 passing 037° 03' (? 016°) 34' at (? 0100)/26 Messina at 2300/26 and 041° 35' 010° 00' at 2000/27 are not to be molested.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1117B/24 to S/Ms. Malta Force, TRIUMPH.)

TAKU.

TAKU leaves Malta p.m./25 routed from 038° 00' 011° 43' to arrive 038° 10' 009° 00' about 0100B/30, thence as directed by you.
(V.A. Malta, 1141B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

UPHOLDER

Torpedoes expended. Intend to pass through Q.B.B.65 daylight/25. E.T.A. 0600/27 after coastal operation.
(UPHOLDER, 1145B/24 to S.O.S. Malta.)
Your 1145/24 to S.O. S/Ms. Malta acknowledged. UPRIGHT making passage from position H to J daylight/25th. Attempt to communicate by S S T.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1320B/24 to UPHOLDER.)

URGE

Intend URGE leave Malta p.m./25 for patrol in South Tyrrhenean Sea as follows.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1148B/24 to Capt. S.1., Capt. S.8.)

M.T.B's.

Your 1517/3. Request details of shipment of motor torpedo boats from U.S.A.
(C. in C. Med., 1206C/24 to Admty.)
Reply: 1819/25.

DUQUESNE
(French Cruiser)

N.T.N.W.
Admty. 1647A/22. Use of W/T. Danger of traffic considered negligible.
(C. in C. Med., 1240C/24 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

/UNBEATEN.....

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1240C/24th August.
IN.

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 25. 8. 41.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY CABLE. Reel. 1941.

Addressed Admiralty.

40. Admiralty 1647A/22. Terms of agreement as regards W/T are as given in paragraph 2 below.

2. W/T communications will be carried out from French Cruiser DUQUESNE only who will exercise control to ensure that no message affecting or referring to operation of British Fleet is permitted.

3. The agreement with Admiral Godfrey has now been in force for 13 months and so far as I am aware it has been scrupulously kept in every detail.

4. It is obvious, as stated in A.M. under reply, that there is a source of leakage by this method. On the other hand the number of messages transmitted appear to be small indeed at the moment it is of the order of about 1 (one) or 2 a week and no messages at all have been intercepted for a fortnight.

5. In my view the dangers from this traffic are negligible and had that not been my opinion I should have informed their Lordships and taken appropriate action.

1240C/24.

Advance copy Ops, O.D. & M.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S).
O.D. (5).
Ops. (4).
D. of P. (3).
D.N.I. (4).
D.S.D. (2).
E. (35) (M.011216/41).
Adl. Chalmers.
I.P. (3).
W.D. ✓

War Diary.24.8.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.UNBEATEN
URSULA,

UNBEATEN sails Malta p.m./24 to arrive 037° 56' 015° 36' about 0500B/26 keeping East 015° 40'. Leave patrol at 0001/26 keeping West of 015° 35' until south of Augusta to arrive at Malta by reverse of outward route before 2030B/27 or at 0700B/28.

(S.O.S. Malta, 1312B/24 to URSULA.)

MAURO CROCE
(Italian)

Arrival 24th.
(Barcelona, T.H.I. 1345/24 to M. of W.T.)

UNIQUE
R. of P.

UNIQUE reports at 0956/20 in 033° 03' 013° 03' sighted convoy of 4 Liners and escort of Navigatori Destroyers, Torpedo Boats and M.A.S. and 3 Cant Flying Boats. Concentrated salvo fired at 1019 resulting in 3 hits at running range of 650 yards on ESPERIA second ship of port wing column, counter attack light and ineffective. At 1618/20 in 033° 13' 012° 56' Cant Flying Boat attacked with 2 depth bombs, second shook S/M severely and slightly damaged O tank and forward fuel group. At 2015 in 033° 13' 012° 51' an anti-submarine group consisting of 1 GENERALE Destroyer 1 M.A.S. and 1 (auxiliary ?) hunted for half-hour, no D/C dropped but passed overhead 4 times, possibly sweeping. Hunt initiated by Destroyer sighting periscope.

(S.O.S. Malta, 1453B/24 to Capt. S.1.)

Syrian
Ports.

Conversation between Minister of State and Gen. Catroux.
(C. in C. Med., 1546C/24 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Malta
Raid.

Night 23/24, 2 aircraft over, incendiaries started small fires in dockyard, insignificant damage no casualties.

Enemy
Fleet.

24/8 patrols sighted 0810 hours two Battleships 13 Destroyers 165° Cape Spartivento (Sardinia) 30 miles course 240° 12 knots. 0828 hours 4 cruisers 6 Destroyers 15 miles S.E. of above battleships same course speed 15 knots.

Tripoli
bombed.

Night 23/24, 10 Wellingtons dropped 15 tons 448 lbs. bombs and one ton, 1344 lbs. incendiaries, Tripoli Dock and suspected petrol dump areas. Over target 0001 to 0400 hours. Enormous fire supply dump area south of town visible 135 miles. Three other big fires dock area visible 60 miles. Roads and buildings near harbour and Mellaha aerodrome machine-gunned from 800 feet.

/Schooner.....

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1546C/24th Aug.

IN

491A

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 24.8.41.

Recd 1815.

Naval Cypher (D) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

44

Your 1141/23rd. Following is text of N.O.I.C. Syrian Port's 1445/12th begins. Following is the text of a conversation between Minister and General Catroux. Begins (one group) Syrian ports.

Mr. Lyttelton asked General Catroux whether difficulties had arisen over the Syrian ports and their use by the British warships. General Catroux replied that he knew of no repetition no such difficulties. Royal Navy could continue to use Syrian ports as a base for Naval operations against enemy and to continue to enjoy their present facilities there, including the use of W/T. If at any time any facilities at present being enjoyed by British warships were required by Free French Warships, General Catroux would make necessary changes in present arrangements in concert with British authorities.

(ii) It was agreed question (?shore) security in the Syrian Ports was already covered by existing security arrangements, but that a special commission should be set up, consisting of representative(s) of Free French Authorities, and of British Naval and Military Authorities, to consider any special (? requests) which might be formulated by British Naval Authorities. 9th August 1941. ends.

1546/24.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
Secyry
N.A. 1st S.L.
N.A. (F) 2.S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D.N.I. (4)
O.D. (5)

Calling for N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports 1445/12
Ops (4) in quoted C.in C.Meds
O.I.C. (3) 1153/15
D of P (3)
M (3)
E.P.S.
D of L.D. (2)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
Adml. Chalmers.
Adml. Belleirs.

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Schooner
and E/V sunk,
schooner
damaged.

Day 24/8, 4 Blenheims shipping sweep gulf of Sidra, attacked 2 schooners and escort vessels each 800 tons off Nufilia. 1 Schooner and 1 escort vessel sunk. Second schooner hit left with heavy list probably sank later. Ref. my I.54, Part 2, photos showed crippled M/V south Mole Spanish Quay now with back broken and sunk as result of Wellington attack night 21/22.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/24.)

Enemy
Shipping.

S.O.(I) Istanbul 1655/1. VIRGINA S. (Greek G.R.T. 3885) is also included in Trieste-Istanbul service. She and three ships in above-quoted signal now at Trieste. BALCIC and VIRGINA S. ready for sailing about 21.8.41 and 24.8.41 respectively. CAPO ARMA discharged 21.8.41 and ALBA JULIA discharged 24.8.41. All graded B.2.
(D.N.I., 1640A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea
Situation.

Officially informed situation as follows. Enemy occupied territories West of Dnieper Kiev to Kherson, except Odessa, which though hard pressed is being still supplied from Sebastopol by about one ship daily. Minesweeping (?) and other vessels collected in Killa Estuary and fishing boats in Dniester Bay for purpose possibly of landing parties in (? Crimea). Increased activity at Bulgarian Aerodromes near Turkish Frontier and concentration of 200,000 German troops in this area. Attack through Turkey expected. Unofficially informed, hull of Battleship LINKORA was blown up before evacuation of Nikolayev, this is contrary to official notification.
(L.O. Black Sea, 1828/24, to Adm. Miles.)

RORQUAL.

Establish patrol in area P, 037° 08' 020° 05' - 340° - 80 - 70. Lay mines as in my 1717C/11 to S.O. S/MS. Malta. Attention is called to Q.B. 40. You will probably be recalled about 7/9.
(Capt. S.1., 1840C/24 to RORQUAL.)

DEUCALION.

In view of uncertainty of Italian Fleet's future movements sailing of DEUCALION postponed until 26/8.
(V.A. Malta, 2140B/24 to Admty., etc.)

/Enemy.....

War Diary.24.8.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Enemy Fleet,
instructions
to S/M's.

Despite enemy heavy ships being at sea any worthwhile target should be attacked provided one salvo is retained.
(S.O.S., Malta, 2320B/24 to S/M's Malta Force, TRIUMPH.)

Situation
Report.

Enemy heavy forces reported at sea South of Sardinia today 24th. UPHOLDER reports one cruiser probably damaged. Western Desert. Heavy air raid on Mersa Matruh, one Officer wounded, believed little damage. Operation "Treacle" (? continues).
(C. in C. Med., 2336/24 to Admty.)

East Indies.ALFIOS.

Overdue, Greek ALFIOS, left Bombay 8th for Aden.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 0400Z/24 to Admty.)
Cancelled, see 0654Z/25.

Convoy
Escorts.

Admty. 1934A/11. Accommodation at Colombo, etc.
(C. in C. E.I., 0740Z/24 to C. in C. China.)
See Lion Copy.

B.M.8.

Departure CERES escorting B.M.8.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0930Z/24.)

Port T.

Admty. 1329A/23. Intend to send MAURITIUS to Port T on about 30/8 with an army R/C party to obtain information required for landing, siting and installation of these guns.
(C. in C. E.I., 1054Z/24, to Admty.)

Abaqan
fuelling.

Request your views as to practicability of bunkering at Abaqan oil fired transports and storeships proceeding Basra.
(D.O.D.(F) 1253A/24 to C. in C. E.I.)
Cancelled, 1337/27.

MOST SECRET

493A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0740Z/24th August IN

From: C. in C. East Indies.

Date 24.8.41.

Recd: 2140

Naval Cypher (D) by W/T.

Addressed: C in C China repeated Admiralty

AIDAC.

171.

A.M. 1934/11 paragraph (B)

(i) Under normal circumstances Colombo has sufficient accommodation to essemble 20 ships of convoy plus escorts. In the event of overcrowding Cochin and (?Nanking) might be made available to us.

(ii) If endurance figures for Japanese S/ms given in C.B. 1815 are correct, S/M attack and minelaying are possible in the vicinity of Colombo. If these attacks do develop it may be necessary for escorts to augment my present slender resources for A/S patrol and minesweeping during assembly of convoys. In this case these vessels will be deprived of at least a part of their 6 days in harbour.

(iii) Another factor for consideration is that there are often unavoidable delays in sailing of convoys of this nature due to late arrivals of important ships at the assembly port. In such cases the turn round of escort will be longer at Colombo and shorter at Singapore.

0740Z/24.

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.,

1st Lord	W.D.
1st S.L.	Duty Capt.,
2nd S.L.	Hd of M.
3rd S.L.	(PD 0126/41)
4th S.L.	D.D.I.C.
V.C.N.S.	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.T.D.(2)
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)	N.I.D.10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)
N.A. 1st S.L.	
D of P (2)	
D.O.D.(F)	
D.D.O.D.(F)	
D.N.I. (4)	
D.A/S.W.	
I.P.(2)	

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War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Port W.

Your 1939/21. C. in C. Far East has already arranged with Military C. in C. India to undertake anti-Malaria measures at Port W. Therefore do not propose to include anti-Malaria measures in preparatory work for the present. I intend proceeding with requisitioning of a base ship for Port W and prepare her for service with special attention to water supply.
(C. in C. China, 0335Z/24 to Admty.)

Convoy
Escorts.

Admty. 1934/11. Proposals.
(C. in C. China, 0337Z/24 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.

ORION

Your 2230Z/23. Cancel my 2251Q/22, failing further report of raider today to north of Galapagos Island. Instructions for fuelling follow. Keep constant watch on 500 K/Cs.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0033Q/24 to ORION.)
Request immediate arrangements be made for ORION to refuel at Balboa about 27/8 as a special case pending action on my 1042Q/23.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0931Q/24 to B.A.D. Washington.)
Your 0931Q/24. This will probably be authorized. Further signal will be made a.m./25.
(B.A.D. Washington, 1925Z/24 to C. IN C. A.W.I.)

Warning
to M/V's.

A raider is known to be operating in the vicinity of Galapagos Islands. Attention is called to Admty. Lettered Message F.S.
(Navy Com. Bermuda, 0937/24 to G.B.M.S.10.)

Routes to
avoid Raider,
Panama.

In view of raider activity presume you are giving ships as widely dispersed routes as possible when approaching Gulf of Panama.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1012Q/24 to N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B.)

/DESPATCH.....

MOST SECRET

H94A.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

0337Z/24th August.
IN

From C. in C. China.

Date 24.8.41.

Recd. 1747.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty Repeated C. in C. East Indies,
Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, New Zealand Navy
Board.

131.

Your 1934 11th. Owing to existing shortage of
suitable A/S escort ships propose initially to provide
A/S escorts as follows

(a) Australia and Singapore convoys. As in A.C.N.B.
1555/13 addressed C. in C. China and between
Singapore and vicinity of Christmas Island.

(b) Colombo and Singapore convoys. Between Singapore
and 093 degrees East and from Colombo as arranged by
C. in C. East Indies.

(ii) As more mine sweepers become available and if
mining situation permits they will be used initially to
augment escorts in Far East area. Arrangements will be
reviewed as mining vessels arrive.

(iii) Dutch destroyers are not yet fitted with asdic
but two under my control would be used as additional
escort in approaches Sunda Strait.

(iv) Personnel convoys if run would have to be timed to
enable limited escort available to compete.

(v) The only suitable vessels now at Singapore for 1
(a) and (b) are BURNIE VJ CZ (GOULBURN) H.M.S. TENEDOS and
H.M.S. STRONGHOLD.

(vi) The provision of air anti submarine escort locally
is being investigated.

(vii) The situation would be improved if and when United
States destroyers are available although it is desired to
detain these vessels for operational and special convoys.

(viii) Concur in allocation given in paragraphs (a) and
(b) of Admiralty message if it is eventually decided to
run anti submarine escort right (?through).

0337Z/24

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Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F) and D.D.I.C.

1st Lord		
1st S.L.	D.O.D.(F).	D.T.D.(2).
2nd S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F).	N.I.D.10 (Paymaster
3rd S.L.	D.N.I.(4).	Cdr. Wilson).
4th S.L.	D.A/S.W.	Admiral Palliser.
V.C.N.S.	I.P.(2).	D.M.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).	W.D.	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S.(T)(2).	Duty Captain	
N.A. 1st S.L.	Head of M. (P.D.0126/41) for action.	
D. of P.(2).	D.D.I.C.	

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

DESPATCH

Kingston departure DESPATCH in accordance with C. in C. A.W.I. 2142Q/23 (~~1042Q/23~~) *Sum p. 471*
(Capt. i/c Jamaica, 1040R/24 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Fuelling,
Galapagos
Patrol.

S.O.(I) Kingston 1632R/23 being passed to you. This would be very acceptable if action requested in my 1042Q/23 is not agreeable. I would however prefer that ships should fuel in port as it is necessary for fresh provisions to be embarked from time to time.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1052Q/24 to B.A.D.)

Japanese
Shipping.

Summary of Japanese shipping west coast Central and South America.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1537R/24 to ORION.)

T.C.12B.

Your 1154Z/23. HAVELOCK and HARVESTER being sailed by C.O.A.C. Halifax as necessary to arrive St. Johns N.F. for fuelling at 1500Z/26 and to join T.C.12B (? as in) my 1811P/23.
(R.A.3., 1643P/24 to C.C.N.F.)

PRINCE HENRY

Left Esquimalt. Expects to enter area 10 P.M./28.
(S.O.I. Esquimalt, 1923Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

O.G.71.

E.T.A. 1700 A/24. Have 34 survivors on board. Request accommodation and transport.

(CAMPANULA, 0100A/24, to F.O.C.N.A.)

E.T.A. 1600 A/24 CAMPION in company. CAMPION has 6 seriously injured, and WALLFLOWER two CAMPION and WALLFLOWER have on board following survivors from AGUILA, CISCAR, ZINNIA, CLONLARA, ALVA and STORK.

(WALLFLOWER, 0930A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1632A/23. Am proceeding to Gibraltar for fuel. It will be necessary for BOREAS to proceed at 1800. Estimate BLUEBELL can remain in area till a.m./26 remainder p.m./27.

(WIVERN, 1601A/24, to Admty.)

Your 1600/23. Preliminary reports from GURKHA and LANCE appear to indicate that not more than two submarines actually attacked O.G.71 on 22/23. Asdic conditions were excellent and attacks probably delivered at extreme range from bow or beam Browning shots.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1658A/24 to Admty.)

PETREL arrived with following survivors of CISCAR. U.K. Shipping Rep., Lisbon, 1740/24 to S.O.I., Gib.)

Your 2022A/24. Have left area due to shortage of fuel. BOREAS continuing search till daylight/25 when she will have to return for fuel.

(WIVERN, 2240A/24, to F.O.C.N.A.)

INGER.
(torpedoed
23/8.)

Have searched area for Submarine and survivors without result. Intend joining AYRSHIRE who is escorting convoy.

(LADY MADELINE, 0300/24, to C. in C.W.A.)

LADY MADELINE and AYRSHIRE are to return to area and continue search. Air cooperating.

Ships in convoy proceed independently.

(C. in C.W.A., 0756A/24, to ships named.)

Following intercepted from LADY MADELINE.

Intercepted Trawler ~~LO FARRIED ISLES~~ at 1500, 058° 49' N., 006° 30' W., with 14 survivors from INGER. Captain reports 9 lost. Ship struck by 2 torpedoes and sank in 2 minutes. Am

proceeding to Ardrossan. Survivors returning to Stornoway in Trawler. AYRSHIRE not in company.

(C. in C.W.A., 1607A/24 to Admty.)

Trawler LADYLOVE (L.O.167) arrived Stornoway 2100A/24 with 14 survivors from Norwegian INGER.

One slightly injured. 9 lost including 2 British Army Gunners who joined ship at Newport, Mon. Remaining British Members of crew

numbering three, safe. Ship torpedoed at 1000A/23 in position 340 Butt of Lewis 40 miles.

(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 2144A/24 to Admty.)

War Diary.24.8.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

2150/23. Following has been read. Addressed Liverpool W/T. SSSS. 59° 00' N., 7° 34' W. Submarine sighted 2150. (Port Patrick, 0118/24 to Whitehall W/T.) (S.S.BRITISH COLONY, 0227/24, to Whitehall W/T.)

1035. Am over two enemy submarines in position WMKT 4347.
(A/C duty S 1035/23 ? 24 to 15 Group H.Q.)
(W.D.Note. Position indecipherable.
? T.V.K.T. 4347 = 59.43 N., 13.13 W.)

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1421A/24.)

1829. Ref. Admty., Message A.F. 38° 15' N., 09° 35' W., at 1829/24.
(Gibraltar W/T, 1947A/24.)
(F.O.C.N.A. 2022A/24 to WIVERN, LEITH.)

1120 G.C.T. Comtaskforce 3 reported a doubtful S/M contact at 01.00 S., 41.16 W., 1120 GCT today. A plane and destroyer search did not develop contact.
(Spenavo, 2107/24, to Admty.)

1929Z. By D/F at 1929Z/24, position of U-Boat, probably homeward bound, was approx., 47° 30' N., 8° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 2117A/24 to TUNA, SEAWOLF etc.)

2014Z. By D/F at 2014Z/24 position of Italian U-boat, callsign 16 V, was within 60 miles of 44° 30' N., 12° 30' W. Same U-Boat transmitted a further message at 2016Z/24.
(D.D.I.C. 2156A/24 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy submarine in 58.42 N., 12.37 W.
(A/C H/52 Sqn., to No. 15 Group H.Q. 0856/24.)
Details of attack by two 500 lb. 2 Secs Delay A/S bombs at 0855.
(R.A.F., Iceland 1740/24 to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 60.40 N., 18.43 W.
(A/C duty N., 1010/24 to 15 Group H.Q.)
Following received from A/C. U-Boat sighted in 060° 40' N., 018° 43' W., attacked with depth charges, estimate 1 hit.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1259/24, to S and A., Orkneys and Shetlands etc.)
Am over enemy S/M in 61.52 N., 16.50W.
(A/C duty Q., 1352/24 to 15 Group H.Q.)

/Submarine.....

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C
Contd.

Submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked with bombs, dive, result unknown. (A/C 1400/24 to 15 Group H.Q.)
Details of attack by two 500 lb. 1 Sec. A/S bombs at 1348 BST. Bombs exploded few feet to port of conning tower which was still above surface of water.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Iceland, 1930/24, to 15 Group.)

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The Russians propose to establish a certain submarine patrol. (See Admiral Miles 1758/23).

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy O.N.(M) 10 reported being attacked at 2135 about 10 miles south of St. David's Head. No details are known.

LA MOQUEUSE was unsuccessfully attacked at 2134 near the South Bishop.

Mining.

S.N. 70 A.

R.A.(M) reported this operation completed at 1209/25. (Minelaying East of Iceland (C))
This ship SOUTHERN PRINCE was torpedoed (p. 522, 508) also p 501

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected from the Faeroe Islands to St. Abbs Head, off Tynemouth and possibly in the Firth of Forth area.

M.L.195 was mined off the Humber at 0700 and was taken in tow by M.L. 197. Other mines were detonated off the Humber and in the Thames Estuary.

South Atlantic.

Italian
Ships.

An agreement was signed today between the Argentine and Italian Governments, under which the former purchases 8 ships, and has a call on a further 8 on condition that the Italian Government has the right of repurchase within 6 months of the end of the war.

/Operation.....

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Operation
'Kedgeree'

The operation was abandoned at 1700Z today, the Vichy French Convoy not having been sighted. AUSTRALIA, and HAWKINS after refuelling at Simonstown, are proceeding to Durban.

Mediterranean.

The enemy battle fleet (see 24/8) was sighted again by air R/C at 0815 today in 38° 40' N., 9° 40' E steering 210°. Evening air R/C failed to sight them.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

15th C.S. was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo aircraft at dusk today, whilst covering operation 'Treacle'.

Nine Wellingtons attacked Tripoli dock area from 0300 to 0345 today.

Fighter aircraft today made 62 sorties to protect shipping proceeding to and from Tobruk.

East Indies.

Operation
'Countenance'

A combined operation was carried out today in the Persian Gulf, in connection with the entry of Imperial and Russian troops into Iran. There was some opposition by the Iranian forces.

By the evening, British forces were completely in control of the oil refinery at Abadan, which is undamaged. Down river, however, there are still some Iranian posts and guns; operations to clean them up and render the passage of the river safe will commence tomorrow.

Khorramshah and the Naval Barracks at Karun were occupied and the passage of the river secured between Basra and Abadan.

/Bandar.....

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

501

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

Op. "Countenance"
contd.

Bandar Shahpur the terminal port of the Trans-Iranian Railway surrendered during the morning and our forces were in full occupation by the afternoon. Eight merchant ships were captured, all more or less damaged by sabotage, though most of them are repairable. *(All except one German ship were repaired and cleared the port under British control by 8/9)*

Iranian naval losses were the* sloops PALANG and BABR sunk, 4 gunboats (which C. in C. E.I. hopes to be able to put into service), 1 depot ship, 2 tugs and a floating dock for 6,000 ton ships captured. Admiral Bayendor, C. in C. of the Iranian naval and military forces in this area was killed. A number of Germans and Italians were taken prisoners as well as many Iranian naval personnel. * Gunboats - c. B. 1815"

There were a very few British naval casualties and some military casualties.

U-boat Campaign.

SOUTHERN
PRINCE,
Torpedoed.

SOUTHERN PRINCE (Flag of R.A.M.) was torpedoed tonight whilst returning from minelaying operation S.N. 70 A, but reached port under her own power.

A/S sweeps by aircraft were carried out today, as far as weather permitted, in the N.W. Approaches.

At 0655 a Catalina from Iceland reported having secured two direct hits on a U-boat which was attacked by depth charges 240 miles S.E. of Reykjavik.

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SHROPSHIRE.

Your 1630/22. SHROPSHIRE cannot be taken in hand at Hebburn until completion of ARETHUSA. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0935/25 to Adty.)

A/S Escort Ships without P.A.C. projectors.

Your 1341A/21. Eleven at Londonderry, Eleven at Stornoway. (C. in C. W.A. 1001A/25 to Adty.)

17th and 86th. A/S Groups.

Consider the provision of escort of greater importance than local patrols. Propose 17th and 86th A/S Groups be employed accordingly and allocated to I.S.E.F. (C. in C. W.A., 1214A/25)

EURYALUS for Mediterranean.

EURYALUS is to join the Mediterranean Fleet. 2. V.A. 2 is requested to state the date on which it is anticipated that she will be ready for service after having changed her propeller. (V.C.N.S., 1315A/25.)

Lerwick as base for 22nd Motor Launch Flotilla.

Your 1855/23. Consider Lerwick suitable as a base during winter months. (A.C.O.S., 1317/25.)

PEGASUS.

Admiralty's 1848B/19 July. PEGASUS is to be considered as available for resuming operational duties at three weeks notice. Composition of 804 Squadron is under review in the light of new routing of Fighter Catapult Ships. (5th.S.L. 1330A/25.)

Polish personnel from Russia to U.K.

You should see War Office telegrams 85669 Cypher 22/8 and 86020 Cypher (M.I.L.) 24/8 to No. 30 Military Mission, Moscow.
2. Request you will also afford assistance to Poles in collaboration with Military Mission. (V.C.N.S. 1636A/25 to Ad. Miles.)
Negotiations are now proceeding between the Polish and Soviet Governments for release and transport to U.K. of Polish personnel in EMPRESS OF CANADA and in ships of ~~DERVISH~~ "Dervish".
2. If negotiations succeed the Chiefs of Staff have directed that the maximum possible numbers should be embarked in the following order of priority.
3. Admiral Miles has been informed and instructed to assist. (V.C.N.S. 1637/25 to V.A. 2.)

25.8.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - contd.

EDENVALE.
(Irish,
444 Tons.)

Left Lisbon 22/8 for Dublin without Navicerts. If encountered she is to be brought into U.K. Port. (C. in C. Plymouth 1746/25.)

Clyde.
Labour
Dispute.

A serious labour situation has come to a head during week-end. A number of members of Boilermakers Society on outside work in 4 constructional firms building T.L.C's went on strike on Thursday demanding that all men engaged on steel constructional work must be members of the Boilermakers Society. Every effort in conciliation has been under way. However, there is a serious danger of all members of the Boilermakers Society in the Clyde shipyards striking at a very early date in support. Such a step would rapidly paralyse all construction -and repairs on the Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1930A/25.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Communication
Secrecy.

For reasons of security very desirable to conceal fact that certain messages from you to Admiralty are subsequently rebroadcast to ships at sea. Procedure proposed. (D.S.D. 0037A/25 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

Narvik S/M
Patrol.

Admiralty welcome the proposal for the establishment of a Soviet submarine patrol in the Vest Fiord Narvik Approaches.
2. It is requested that limits of patrol area may be signalled in due course. (V.C.N.S. 1255A/25 to Ad. Miles, Moscow.)

Movements.

LONDON.

V.A.2's 1723/24. Intend to sail LONDON 1400A/26 for Scapa. E.T.A. 1130A/27. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1128A/25.)

FARA.
ISLAY. ~~XXXX~~.
(A/S/M/S
Trawlers.)

Sailed via Fayal. E.T.A. Fayal 1/9. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1218A/25.)

/BLANKNEY

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

BLANKNEY.
STORK.

Will be required for special escort, sailing Greenock and Belfast respectively 27/8. Duration 7 days. (C. in C. W.A. 1257A/25 and 1906A/25 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

O.14.

Your 2240A/24. Drifter HARMATTAN will R/V with you in 090° Bressay Light 15 miles at 1400A/26th for passage to Lerwick. (Capt.S.9 1407A/25 to O.14.)

WOLSEY.

Sail at 0600/26 and proceed to Invergordon. Adjust speed as necessary to arrive by 1800/26. You are required for special escort duty P.M.26th to Lerwick, thence returning to Invergordon. On completion return independently to Rosyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1749/25 to WOLSEY.)

TEVIOTBANK
for
Singapore.

A.M. 1036B/21. When ready to proceed abroad request you will sail TEVIOTBANK in an O.S. convoy to Freetown, proceeding thence independently to Singapore at best speed. (A.C.N.S. F. 1928A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

A/S Patrol.

A/S Patrol of following 10 Trawlers has been ordered on parallel of 55° 30' N. as follows. (C. in C. W.A. 1240A/25) (Orders are in C. in C. W.A. 1211A/25, 1219A/25, 1221A/25.)

Operations
GAUNTLET
BERVICH: Bervich.
"Strength"

Your 1709A/24 (Re Beacons). Arrangements made. Please inform C. in C. H.F. and V.A.2. (Ad. Miles, Moscow 1224C/25 to Adty.)
Your 1709A 24/8, 1122A 22/8, 1549A 22/8 para.3 and 1818A 23/8. Arrangements confirmed. Please inform Flag Officers concerned. (Ad. Miles, Moscow 1756C/25 to Adty.)
V.A.2 0004/24. Cancel my 1621C/21. Arrangements now made for Russian destroyer to R/V with convoy BERVICH in position Z at 0700 G.M.T./31. Please inform all concerned. (Ad. Miles 2021C/25 to Adty.)
Eastern limits of area in which British and Russian S/M's may operate is meridian 034° E. until conclusion of operation STRENGTH and is then extended to 037° E. (V.A.2 1227A/25 to S.O. Force A., C.S.1.)

/A/S Sweep

War Diary.25.8.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.A/S Sweep.

Two motor launches will carry out an A/S sweep at visibility distance apart on a 135° course from Vestmann Island commencing 0600 tomorrow to a depth of 120 miles. (?search channel) 250 QQ for 30 miles. Then return Vestmann Island. (A.C.I.C. 2331/25.)

British Air Activity.A/S Sweep.

C. in C. W.A. 2154A/23. An A/S sweep is being carried out today by two Whitleys and 3 Wellingtons, by 4 Hudsons commencing 0500, and by 3 Northrops from 0900 to 1600, searching the following 3 areas respectively. (A.C.I.C. 0026/25.)

My 0026/25. Sweep postponed owing to weather. (A.C.I.C. 0557/25.)

My 0026/25. Sweep postponed until tomorrow. (A.C.I.C. 1324/25.)

My 0026/25 and 1324/25. A/S sweep will take place tomorrow. Whitleys and Wellingtons commence 0500Z, Hudsons and Northrops commence 0900Z. (A.C.I.C. 2259/25.)

Patrols.

^{Fak}
~~FATE~~ IV now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0334/25.)

Portsmouth and Orkneys Sanctuaries. S.B.R.

Institute Portsmouth Sanctuary from 0500/26 to 1000/26. Orkneys Sanctuary from 0700/26 to 1300/26. Cancel S.B.R's in Area 14 instituted by my Ops. 907/24/8 forthwith. (H.Q.C.C. 0950/25.)

Institute T.S.B.R. in Area 14 forthwith until further notice. (H.Q.C.C. 0951/25.)

A/C in ARGUS.

Following reply to queries raised by British Air Mission Moscow has been made. Repeats Air Ministry 1445/23 to Britlistaf, Moscow. (D.O.D. H. 1016A/25 to V.A.2.)

Dropping of Recognition Signals.

Following received by A/C from DOUGLAS. Begins - On 3 occasions last night Aircraft dropped recognition signals on convoy. Particularly request this to be stopped 2234/24. Ends. No British or American Aircraft from Iceland dropped these. Suggest however aircraft must fire recognition signals to avoid being fired on as on recent occasions. (A.C.I.C. 2333/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Zenit

War Diary.25.8.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Zenit
Patrol.

The Trondheim Zenit aircraft is flying in a North Westerly direction towards Jan Mayen Island today. (D.D.I.C. 1014A/25.)

Myggenaes
Lighthouse.

Attacked by enemy aircraft at 1430A/24. 3 bombs dropped. Wireless station damaged but working intermittently. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1048/25.)

BLACK SWAN.
(bombed 24/8.)

BLACK SWAN's 2130A/24. The two U.X.B's have been removed from BLACK SWAN. Vessel is being docked at Pembroke Dock tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1738/25.)

Convoy
O.N.(M)10.

Convoy "Poker" is being attacked by enemy aircraft. (Plymouth W/T 2135/25.)

Mining.M.L.195.

M.L.195 mined in vicinity H.1 Buoy at 0700 today. Now in tow of M.L.197. (F.O. Humber 0805A/25.)

East Coast.

HOLDERNESS reports two mines exploded by S.A. gear as follows. (C. in C. Nore 1035A/25.)

Thames
Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 0225/25 as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1129/25.)

S.N.70 A.

Completed. (R.A.M. 1209/25.)

Harwich.

One mine detonated at 1250 and one at 1251. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1751A/25.)

Spurn Point.

The following three mines were detonated today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1859A/25.)

Practice Lay.

WELSHMAN is to sail from Methil at 2200 today for Scapa, carrying out practice mine lay in Q.Z.S. 243 on passage. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1925/25.)

RUBIS.

At 0800A and 1402A/21 laid two groups of Mines off Stavanger. Details. (F.O.S. 2159A/25.)

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.
GNEISENAU.

At 1740 GNEISENAU seen in usual dry dock, and adjoining dock appeared to be occupied. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1850/25.)

BLLENHEIM
destroyed.

Intercepted information dated 1/6/41 states Norwegian BLLENHEIM, 1807 tons, blown up in North Norway in Porsanger Fjord. Was acting as a troop carrier and fire broke out. Grounded on an island, but 104 German soldiers, 4 girls, 2 pilots and 2 firemen died. Believed this refers to an attack in April or May 1940. (D.S. 718, 25/8.)

Casualties and Defects.

ERODONA.

Your 1844/21. Request you will arrange for ERODONA to be towed to Kirkwall whence arrangements will be made to tow to port of repair. SALVONIA should proceed to Cambeltown on completion of this duty. (C.C.R.T. 1113A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

RUBIS
(Damaged
22/8.)

Remain with RUBIS until she enters the Tay. (C. in C. Rosyth 1204/25 to WOLFHOUND.) RUBIS arrived Dundee. (S.9. 1339A/25.) RUBIS reports that at 1435A/21 she attacked two Finnish M/V's escorted by two trawlers. Two torpedoes fired estimated range 500 yards, explosions heard at 7 and 10 seconds after firing. Torpedo explosions severely damaged main batteries, curtailing use of auxiliary machinery for main engines. Considerable acid gas inside submarine kept majority of crew on upper deck during homeward passage. One Petty Officer was lost overboard. No German aircraft seen. (F.O.S. 2159A/25.)

COVERLEY.

COVERLEY unable to steam. Proposed to tow COVERLEY to Oban. Oban concurs. (WESTERN ISLES 1942A/25.)

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.9.
H.X.145.

Leave convoy forthwith and proceed to Londonderry at best speed to fuel. You will be required to leave P.M./26 to join H.X.145. On passage to Londonderry sweep along 56° 20' N. In view of Admty. 2057A/24. Cancel my 1946A/24. (Dispersal instructions for O.N.9) (C. in C. W.A. 1019A/25 to BEAGLE, SALISBURY.)

F.S.
Convoys etc.

Forecast of sailings. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1200/25.) See Lion Copy.

Escorts.

Orders for Escort Groups. (C. in C. W.A. 1255A/25) See Lion Copy.

H.X. 143.

Congratulations on bringing yet another convoy H.X.143 safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A. 1412A/25 to Cdre. R.P. Galer, R.N.R.)

Balloons.

Balloons and Kites are not to be towed in outbound Ocean Convoys until further orders. (C. in C. W.A. 1457A/25, W.A. Gen. Message No.176.)

DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL.

A.M. 1755/18. On completion of loading DUCHESS OF ATHOLL and destroyer escort should remain at Clyde and await further orders. (V.C.N.S. 1635A/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Iceland.

Request names of ships awaiting passage to U.K. They are not to be sailed pending provision of suitable escorts which will be arranged as soon as possible. (D.T.D. 1900A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

1200/25th August

IN

FROM C. in C. Rosyth

DATE 25.8.41
RECD. 1440

P/L BY T/P

ADDRESSED Admiralty C. in C. Nore S.E.E.C.C.D. H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C., 11, 12, 13 Groups.

NOT/WT.

665 Convoy Message..
Forecast of Convoy Sailings.

F S581 (S)	"PARALLEL"	0900	Friday 29	SOUTHDOWN QUANTOCK
F S582 (F)	"BOOTY"	2300	Saturday 30	LIDDESDALE, VIMIERA
F S583 (M)	"ARENA"	1230	Monday	1st Sept. WHADDON, VALOROUS
F S584 (S)	"OCEAN"	0800	Tuesday	2nd Sept. VIVIEN, WOLFHOUD
F S585 (F)	"PLUMB"	2100	Wednesday	3rd Sept. VERSATILE, WOLSEY.
F S586 (M)	"EVIDENCE"	1230	Thursday	4th Sept. WESTMINSTER, VERDUN
F N511 (F)	"CONSEQUENCE"	0600	Friday 29th	VERSATILE, VIVIEN
E C 67 (S)	"MIGHT"	0600	Saturday 30th	VORTIGERN, VERDUN
F N512 (M)	"ATTEMPT"	0600	Sunday 31st	WESTMINSTER WINCHESTER
F N513 (F)	"PRIZE"	0700	Monday	1st Sept. SOUTHDOWN QUANTOCK
E C 68 (S)	"PADDLE"	0700	Tuesday	2nd Sept. LIDDESDALE, VIMIERA
E C 69 (M)	"USAGE"	0700	Thursday	4th Sept. WHADDON, VALOROUS

Time Tables as in my 1130/26/5 up to and including F S582 and F N512, then as in my 1200/22/8.

After passing May Island E C 68 will run as A fast.

1200/25

+ Convoy Message.

Advance Copy Ops. Trade.

A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty House
O.D. (5)
O.D. 8.
D.N.I. (4)
D. of S. 2A.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of S.T.
B.A.A. Ops. (4)

I.P. (3)
D.A/S.W.
O.I.C. (3)
W.D.
I.M.N.G.
D.S.D. 9.
Movts.
M. (2)
E.P.S.
D.P.S.
A.H.C.H.F.
D.S.D. (2)

MESSAGE

1255A/25th August

SECRET

IN

FROM C. in G. Western Approaches

DATE 25.8.41
RECD. 1745

P/J. BY T/P

ADDRESSED D. Londonderry D. Greenock D. Liverpool Repeated
F.O.I.C. Belfast F.O.I.C. Greenock F.O.I.C. Liverpool
Admiralty M S L, M S 6, N.O.I.C. Oban N.O.I.C.
Stornoway A.C.I.C.

816 orders for escort Groups.

Group	Out	Sail	Meet	R/V
6	OS5	2/9	None	
Special K	OS5	2	With Convoy	to Bathurst
2	ON13	5	SC 42	10
4	ON14	7	HX 148	13
5	None	10	SL 85	13
1	ON15	11	SC 43	16
36	OG74	12	With Convoy	to Gibraltar
7	OS6	12	None	
Special L	OS6	12	With Convoy	to Bathurst
8	ON16	13	HX 149	19
3	ON17	17	SC 44	22

2. Special group K will be ENCHANTRESS, WALNEY, HARTLAND.
Composition of special group L will be signalled later.

1255A/25

Advance Copy Ops. Trade.

- V. C. N. S.
 - A. C. N. 3. (H)
 - N. A. 1st S. L.
 - Ops. (4)
 - O. D. (5)
 - O. D. 8.
 - O. I. C. (3)
 - I. P. (3)
 - D. S. D. 9.
 - D. A/S. W
 - W. D.
 - Movts.
 - D. T. D. (4)
 - D. T. D. (M)
 - D. T. D. (C)
- B.A.A.

War Diary25.8.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticSt. Vincent
Patrol.Departure to Patrol off Cape St. Vincent
SPIREA at 1200/24, LANCE at 1030/25. (F.O.C.N.A.
1138A/25 to Admty.)FARA
ISLAYYour 2204A/24. Request information date
arrival Fayal. (N.A. Lisbon 1305/25 to Admty.)

ET.A.119 - See p. 503 -

FARADAYYour 1303A/22. FARADAY is to be docked at
expense of naval commitments so as to be ready
to sail by end of September when it is
expected another tug will be available.
(Controller, 1537A/25 to C.S. Gibraltar)Escort for
S.L. 88
and tankers.Intended to utilise A/S escort of slow section of
W.S. 11 consisting of 2 Cutters and 1 Destroyer
on their return voyage to U.K. for providing
additional protection to an S.L. Convoy,
probably S.L. 88 sailing on 24/9 for part of
its voyage and subsequently to escort two
tankers bound for Gibraltar* Two freighting
tankers on Admty. service will be sailed from
West Indies for Freetown in time to catch
S.L. 88. These tankers and the above A/S escort
are to break off to meet local escort from
Gibraltar as arranged between C. in C. S.A. and
F.O.C.N.A. After the meet the former escort
should rejoin S.L. 88 if endurance permits
otherwise proceed to Gibraltar for fuel.
(D.T.D. 1654A/25 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.)
* Names of tankers SANDAR and VANJA (D.T.D.,
1752A/28) p. 588Catalina
operations.
O.G. 71.My A.893, 24/8, A/S patrol Catalina attacked
U-Boat position 38.15 N., 09.55 W. at 1949.
Believed unsuccessful. My A.883, 22/8. First
Catalina on O.G. 71 engaged two F.W. Condors
around convoy at 0930. M.G. bullets
punctured port float Catalina. Several hits
registered on Condors no apparent results.
(200 Group, 1710/25)DURHAM
(mined 22/8)Your 0950B/24 not to Admiralty. Master reports
he made following signal to V.P.T. at 2014
G.M.T./22 (begins) Through area have struck
a mine between positions B,C, proceeded (ends)
Atmospherics were bad. He did not consider
it justifiable or safe to repeat this at 2200
as (a) Signal entailed 8 groups and repetition
and considerable preamble.

/b).....

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DURHAM
(mined 22/8)
Contd.

(b) Atmospherics were worse. (c) Distance from Malta had increased and if first signal was not received it was improbable that a further one would be. (d) Ship had not had safe passage. (e) Close proximity of ship to hostilities. (F.O.C.N.A., 1714A/25 to N.O.I.C. Malta.)
Details of damage to DURHAM.
(C.S. Gib., 1902A/25.)

EUGENIO C.

Leaves from Castro Urdiales late tonight Monday. Delay caused by iron ore shortage at (?); she has loaded 7,000 tons.
(Consul, Bilbao, 1930/25 to Admty.)

WILD SWAN

Departure WILD SWAN to patrol off Cape St. Vincent.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2042A/25 to Admty.)

Operation
"Mincemeat"

My 2114/24. Report on operation.
(S.O. Force H., 2130A/25 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.
Operation completed apparently undetected at 0338B/(?24). Prescribed rectangle is displaced 2.5 cables in a 160° direction and Southernmost line of mines projects from its S.W. corner 1.6 miles in a 250° direction. French colours and camouflage not challenged. Have no cause to think MANXMAN's presence in Mediterranean has become known to or suspected by French or Italians.
(MANXMAN (?), 2301A/25 to S.O. Force H.)

O.G.71.

Comment on re-routeing within R/C range of enemy shore-based aircraft.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2352A/25 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

2130A/25 Aug.

IN

MOST SECRET

From S.O. Force 'H'

Date 26. 8. 41.

Recd. 0032

NAVAL CYPHER 'D' BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty, repeated V.A. Malta, F.O.C. North Atlantic, C. in C. Mediterranean

Operation "Minicant"

IMPORTANT

ON RETURN

111. My 2114 24. Weather fair throughout.

22

Force apparently unobserved D 1.

(11) D 2. Force shadowed early forenoon and late afternoon. A.M. Fighters made 2 (?contacts).

No decisive result. P.M. No contact except JU 52 shot down in position 038 degs. 57' North (006³ degs.) 51'

23

East steering south possibly full of Germans. 1 Fulmar lost due faulty navigation. Crew rescued by Sunderland from Gibraltar.

(111) D 3. Flow off 10 Swordfish 0250 in position 040 degs. 50' North 006 degs. 59' East. Woods North

4

West and South East Tempio attacked by 4 aircraft each.

Small fires in former large fires latter which are well alight. Large building south east outskirts Tempio

(?explosives) warehouse attacked by (?two) aircraft left well alight.

(IV) Visibility exceptional. Black out poor.

Only opposition one light Flak one mile North Tempio, few machine guns on warehouse and few rounds heavy Flak on return journey from Sassari and Cape Falcone. All aircraft returned.

(V) 0740 force sighted and reported by low flying aircraft which disappeared in cloud before fighters could intercept. 0920 received two reports of enemy units South Sardinia and 1251 further reports from H.M.S. UPHOLDER indicating total force 3 battleships 6 cruisers 25 destroyers.

Shapod.....

MOST SECRET

(two) aircraft left well

Shaped course as requisite to carry out dusk striking force attack if enemy located West of Cagliari. As no further reports or information concerning action being taken to locate enemy received was forced to break W/T Silence at 1410.

(V1) 1615 flew off reconnaissance position 38 degs. 25' North (7004 degs.) 14' East to search 110 miles eastward. Nothing sighted.

(V11) Force shadowed 1720 by Cant heavily engaged by Fighters. Damaged but escaped. Cants now appear well armoured. The report of enemy received at 2030 but too late for torpedo spotter reconnaissance (?attack) and position too far east. Proceeded North between I(?VIZ)A and Majorca during the night.

(V111) D 4. Steamed past Valencia distance 7 miles with 17 Swordfish 14 Fulmar over head. One Spanish Submarine on surface off Valencia.

(1X) P.M. one Swordfish lost due to engine failure. Crew recovered. Expect to arrive Gibraltar 1415 26.

(X) General. It was disappointing that enemy's wrong appreciation of situation could not be exploited but this was due to enemy determination not to leave close protection (?of) shore based aircraft and (?lack) of information concerning (?movements) on D 3.

2130A/25.

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

1st Lord

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

N... 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.../S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Duty Capt.

Hd. of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.G.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

N.I.D. 10

Paymr. Cdr.

Wilson

D.P.D.

5109

SECRET

M E S S A G E

2352A/25 August

IN

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 26/8/41

Recd. 0527

Naval Cypher (X) by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C, in C. Western Approaches,
C. in C. South Atlantic.

IMPORTANT, 572. Though unaware of their nature, I presume that good reasons existed to necessitate the re-routing of Convoys O G 69 and 71 within such easy reconnaissance range of enemy shore based aircraft.

2. Similarly I presume there was good reason for deflecting the whole of O G 71 into Tagus.

3. My own inclination was to take advantage of the low visibility conditions to bring all the remaining ships for Gibraltar on in Convoy whilst so many escorts were available and the chance of air attack or shadowing considerably reduced.

^HA.T.1536/23 however crossed my 1532/23 to WIVERN (not to Admt) and in view of position of Convoy any further alteration on my part could only have caused confusion.

4. In the light of recent experience consider para.3 A.T.2305/16/7 should be adhered to in the future. My 0012/13/7 refers if this is not acceptable essential I should be given reason for re-routing.

5. It appears abundantly clear that U boats were homed on to O G 71 by aircraft and unless there are strong reasons for doing so I am very averse to convoys in the North Atlantic Command being routed within easy range of enemy aircraft especially if beyond effective range of our own.

1st. Lord

1st. S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

Nav. Soc.

N.A. 1st. S.L.

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (2)

D.A./S.W.

D. of P. (3)

D.T.D. (4) for action

2352A/25

Most Secret.

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

D.W.A.D.

M. (2)

W.D.

I.P. (3)

511

25.8.1941.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.AVON VALE
ERIDGE.

Proceed at 1200/25 to St. Helena arriving A.M./30 and passing through (a) $5^{\circ} 30' N.$ $15^{\circ} 30' W.$ thence direct. After fuelling (? proceed) at best speed to Simonstown repeating (? reporting) E.T.A. before leaving St. Helena.
(C. in C. S.A., 0821N/25 to AVON VALE, ERIDGE.)

*see P. 539 + 562.*SURREY.

For SURREY. Cancel previous instructions and return to port from which you have just sailed.
(D.T.D. 1053Z/25 to G.B.M.S. 7 and 9.)

New
C. in C.

Admty. 1723A/1 and your 1005N/22. Following is approx. outward itinerary.
(D.O.D.(F) 1252A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Operation
"Keagereee"

Your 2041N/17. Interception not effected. My position $039^{\circ} 06' 014^{\circ} 09'$. 2070 tons fuel short. Am proceeding Durban in accordance with N.O.I/C. Simonstown 1610/25.
(AUSTRALIA, 1700Z/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

CONDE

For information. Reported that French ship CONDE which passed Gibraltar westbound on 22/8 en route from Marseilles to Dakar was loaded with munitions, explosives including aerial bombs and lorries. B.3.
(D.N.I., 1723A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Speed and
Zig-Zag.

Your 1119N/23. Descriptive speed of Convoys (vide A.M. 0001/1/5/41 Sect.1 para.3) represents minimum speed of slowest ship in accordance with A.M. 1819/26/9/40. Sailing Telegram Speed of a particular Convoy refers to S. of A. in accordance with C.B. 04024(40) Sect.83 (4). Speeds of ships dispersed from Convoy are Declared Speeds for current voyage as agreed between N.C.S.O. and Master. Necessary adjustment of such speed for zig-zagging should therefore be made when plotting ships' positions according to area through which ships pass. Experience shows that speeds declared by Masters are usually under-estimates by half a knot to a knot of the speed likely to be maintained.
(D.T.D. 1838A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

ATLAS
German

Loading with pyrites for Savina 0028.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 1950/25 to M. of W.T.)

25.8.1941.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Warship

From D/F Italian warship call sign 4 C.Q. was in approx. 034° 50' N., 023° 00' E. at 1735 G.M.T./24. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0120C/25 to C. in C. Med., C.S. 7.)

"Bosom" attacked.

^{"Bosom"}
 Enemy bombing. ~~BOSOM~~ JH8H 2024. (LATONA, 0620/25 to Alexandria W/T)
 My 0620. Fighters have arrived. (LATONA, 0638/25 to Alexandria W/T)
 4 Beaufighters being sent to your assistance. Calls on 6000 K/cs. (Med. A/C, C 8 J, 0742/25 to AJAX, NEPTUNE, LATONA.)
~~BOSOM~~ E.T.A. 1245. Gate 1330. Request S.E.O. may come on board AJAX on arrival. (7 C.S., 1003C/25 to R.A. Alexandria)

Sollum, Bardia, Gambut bombed. Mersa Matruh bombed.

Night 23/24. 4 Wellingtons bombed enemy camps in Sollum, Bardia, and Gambut Areas. 6 Albacores carried out offensive sweep for enemy shipping in Bardia harbour and approaches. No shipping located. 10 unidentified enemy aircraft bombed Mersa Matruh. One Naval officer wounded. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1032/25)

Force I

My 0735/25. Intend to sail (? WOLBOROUGH) at 2130 to R/V with ~~BLADE~~ at 0530/26 and remain in company to Alexandria. (S.O. Force I, 1141C/25 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria)

Vichy Convoy.

My 1720C/12. Convoy of 5 ships including 2 tankers and Fr. Sloop Minesweeper ELAN escorted by SUS expected to leave Iskanderun 26th. T.O.O. 1241C/25. (C. in C. Med., 1253C/25 to Med. Fleet)
 Does French repatriation convoy pass North or South of Corsica. (Capt. S.8. 1417A/25 to Capt. S. 1.) Reply: 1617/26.

RORQUAL PERSEUS

Proceed to establish Patrol as from 0600C/27 until further orders in following position. RORQUAL 036° 25' N. 021° 01' E. PERSEUS 036° 25' N. 021° 19' E. You are not to attack Submarines when patrolling in these positions. (Capt. S.1 1425C/25 to RORQUAL, PERSEUS)

TALISMAN

Watch northernmost approach to (?Benghazi) during daylight 28th. (Capt. S. 1. 1427C/25 to TALISMAN)

/MUZIO.....

UNIQUE

Sinking of L'ESPERIA (SOS, Malta, 1650 B/25) See Signal.

512A

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

IN

1650B/25th August. ~~512A~~

From: S.O. S/M's Malta.

Date: 25.8.41.

512A

Recd: 1753.

RECIRCULATION.

NAVAL CYPHER 'C' BY W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty. Repeated. Capt.S.I. F.O.S., C. in C.
Mediterranean.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41 .

A.	B.	C.	G.	J.
Aug. 20.	Southbound	M.A.S. and	H.M.S.	Concen-
	Convoy 4 liners	3 Flying	UNIQUE.	treted
	escorted by	boats 10	4 Mark.	salvoes
	destroyer torpedo	miles 316 ⁰	(iv)star.	fired from
	boats.	from Tripoli	S J (35)	650 yards
		(Africa)light.	R.N.T.F.	3 hits on
			891 - one liner	
			thousand	ESPERIA
			W and C O	ship sank.
			623 - 12	
			74.	

1650B/25.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
3rd S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (3)
Press Division.
M. (2)
D.T.S.D.
D.T.M.
D.A.S.
D.N.A.D.
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.N.A.D. }
D.A.S. } Bath
D.T.M. } by
S.W.R. } Courier.

Note by War Registry:- Message
previously circulated to depts.
concerned with ammunition
expenditure.

Received 5/9/41

25.8.1941.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

MUZIO
ATTENDOLO

Italian Cruiser, in Gulf of Athens 0100C/25.
(Capt. S. 1. 1430C/25 to PERSEUS)

A/C attacks
on Shipping.

Following account received from Air Ministry of method adopted by our aircraft may be useful to Russians in attacking shipping in Black Sea.
(5th S.L. 1452A/25 to Adm.Miles, Moscow)

Enemy M/V's

P.C. and S. of enemy, 1 M/V 2000 tons, 2 M/V's 800 tons left Lampedusa harbour. (Med. A/C duty B. 1523B/25 to Hal Far)
1 M/V 11.55 E., 35.00 N. 30 JR 10. (A/C X Sqdn. 1615B/25 to Hal Far)

Turkey

Re air support for (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1641/25)
See Lion Copy. Progress report on conversations.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1643/25) See Lion Copy.

Enemy Fleet

At0815, 2 battleship 4 cruisers large number of destroyers, P.C. and S. 038° 40' 009° 40' 210° 20. Evening R/C now out. (V.A. Malta 1727B/25 to Admty.)
My 1727B/25. Area Sardinia Galita Islands Marittimo searched and nothing sighted. Visibility extreme. Should be grateful for any information before sailing next ship. (V.A.Malta 1940B/25 to Admty.)
Enemy unit not located by afternoon R/C from Marittimo to South of Sardinia. They may be returning to base. UPRIGHT proceeding to 038° 27'N.012° 40'E.(S.O.S. Malta, 2110B/25 to S/M's Malta Force, TRIUMPH)
Your 1805C/25 (N.T. in W.D.) A.O.C. states he cannot provide air reconnaissance 26/8 but has already planned to locate and attack these ships at dawn/27. (V.A.Malta, 2140B/25 to C. in C. Med.)

M.T.B's

Your 1206/24. Since A.M. 1517/3 the 10 ex-American 70 feet M.T.B's have proved themselves quite unsuitable for service anywhere. Effort is being made to rectify this but no information is yet available from U.S.A. as to prospects of success. Hoped to commence shipment of 20 77 foot ELCO boats late October at the rate of approx. 2 per week. (D.D.O.D.(C) 1819A/25 to C. in C. Med.)

/NAIAD.....

MOST SECRET

513A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN.
1641/25 August.

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

Date: 25.8.41.
Recd: 2150.

Cipher.

Addressed Air Ministry Whitehall.

IMMEDIATE.

WX.1777. A.203 25/8 MOST SECRET.

For C.O.S. from CS in C. Following is signal from A.A. Ankara referred to in para 2 (H) of our A202 25/8. Suggested reply follows in separate signal. Begins: Reference my S.183 dated August 23. Before subsequent consideration number aerodromes and satellites required they naturally want to know amount of assistance likely to be forthcoming. My directive on giving this information up to November 1 states that it is for my personal information only. As preparations of aerodromes and location stocks will have to go on throughout winter I would request you to consider position as it is likely to be in Spring and give me minimum figure for air assistance of use which I may be authorised pass to Turks. The importance they attach to air support is indicated by fact that though they have asked what air support we can give they have not yet specifically made the same request regarding the army without wishing appear unduly to force your hand in this matter I do feel (and Military Attache strongly supports this view) that it is of utmost importance that we now come clean with definite and substantial offer as there is little doubt the attitude Turkish Government will at the time largely depend on outcome of these talks as it is on them that Marshal will make his recommendations and these will have decisive

influence

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

influence. If Marshal is satisfied that support we
 promise will suffice to ensure Turkey's safety all
 will be well. If we are indefinite he may well
 feel compelled report unfavourably. Ends.

Please pass War Office and Admiralty.

1641/25.

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

Received by hand from
 Air Ministry at 0020/26..

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 5th 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.
 P.A.S.(S)
 Head of M.
 I.P.(2)
 W.D.
 N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
 D.N.A.D.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

5138

~~MOST SECRET~~ ~~REF ID: A6322~~ ~~Aug.~~

IN

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

Date. 25. 8. 41.

Reed. 2300

Cypher

Addressed Air Ministry Whitehall.

IMMEDIATE

VX.1786 A.202 25/8 Most Secret.

For C O S from C's in C. Following received from Ankara. Begins.

.. Progress Report on conversations.

1. At the request Turks conversations at this stage being reached as follows. British submit written statements on questionnaire which Turks answer in writing. Any points not clear after exchange of documents discussed verbally.
2. We accordingly submitted in our own wording under joint signature 4 papers embodying gist of item 1 (A) and (B) portion item 2 item 5 (A) and (B) and item 7 (A) and (B). We selected this order to get early agreement Secretary of State for War Works and Preparations. Replies are satisfactory and encouraging and include (A) Agreement in principle to preparations short of actual despatch troops and a request for firm proposals. Acceptance the British view as to probable date and direction of attack. We purposely avoided mentioning scale as from past experience been partial agreement seldom possible on this subject. (C) A plea for acceleration of delivery materials to Turkey. (D) Agreement regarding necessity of support part development project of Diarbekir-Mardin Road. Proposed latter should be combined Anglo-Turkish project on lines Kilia-Havsa Road. (E) Disagreement of advantage Diarberki-Arada link. See also MA 61212 dated 22/8 (F) Admission vulnerability of existing railways. Statement that all preparations have been taken ~~and promise provide details.~~ (G) Agreement in principle to our aerodrome construction proposals and further suggestion that aerodromes are necessary along

MOST SECRET

War Diary25.8.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.

NAIAD Fighters are being sent to your assistance,
air protection. Martlett 6 Maryland 1, 0650 ~~0650~~ 26th August
 1005Z. (M.S.G. 9. 1830C/25 to NAIAD)

THRASHER
REGENT

Proceed through 032° 16' 029° 22' arriving
 Alexandria Sanctuary 0530C/27. REGENT leaves
 Alexandria 1900C/26 routed through 031° 45' 028°
 23' and 033° 46' 026° 40' to 035° 16' 016° 40'
 (Capt. S. 1. 1905C/25 to THRASHER)

URGE
TAKU
UPHOLDER

URGE and TAKU left Malta p.m./25 through 036°
 30' 013° 40' to make passage H. to K. during
 daylight, URGE on 26th TAKU on 27th. Keep to
 North of line H. to Gozo. (S.O.S. Malta, 2102B/25
 to UPHOLDER)

TALISMAN

My 1920C/22. ^{N.T.W.D.} Small number of minesweepers also
 expected to arrive about noon/27.
 (Capt. S.1. 2235C/25 to TALISMAN)

Situation
Report No 128.

C. in C. Med. 2345C/25 See Lion Copy.

RAMB IV
Crew

My 1350/4/6. Admiralty 2015/13/6, my 1938/22/6
 and Admty. 1429/1/7. Propose to repatriate the
 crew interned at Fayid of Italian Hospital
 ship RAMB IV subject to their giving undertaking
 that they will take no combatant part during
 period of hostilities. (C. in C. Med., 2355C/25
 to Admty.)

Tripoli
bombed.

Night 24/25. 9 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli
 dock area in 3 waves from 0300 to 0345 hours.
 Total bombs dropped 30,750 pounds H.E. and
 2160 pounds incendiaries.
 (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta no T.O.O./25)

MOST SECRET

514A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 2345C/25th August.

IN

From: C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date: 27.8.41.

Recd: 1530.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY CABLE.

Addressed: Admiralty. Repeated: V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H,
S.B.N.O. Suoz.

55. Situation report number 128. Enemy heavy forces still
at sea A.M. 25 South of Sardinia.

2. Western Desert. Operation TREACLE continues. Petrol
carrier PASS OF BALMAMA has arrived Tobruk and unloaded.

LESBOS unable to leave Tobruk due to machinery damage.

2 Yugo Slavian M.T.B's returning to Alexandria with defects
having operated 2 nights off Bardia.

3. Malta A/C see H.Q. R.A.F. 1600/24.

2345C/25.

Advance Copy sent 1st Lord, A.C.N.S. (H)

N.A. 1st S.L. Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C. & D.P.D.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

D. of P. (2)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D.S.D.

D.N.A.D.

D. of L.D.

D.A./S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Duty Capt.

Hd. of M. (30)

D.T.S.D.

D.G.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

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

D.P.D.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Advance into Iran.

Operation
'Countenance'.

Abadan. Troops established on fore shore of refinery. Considerable opposition. PALANG sunk. Khorramshar. BABR sunk. 2 Gunboats captured. Little ? new progress ashore. Bandar Shahpur. 2 gunboats disposed of. Some ships including HOHENFELS and STURMFELS captured. Floating dock with (corrupt group) German. (S.N.O.P.G., 0630Z/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

Enemy Shipping.
Iranian Gunboats and F.D.

Your 0707/25 (N.T. in W.D.) Principal method of sabotage fire, only 2 ships are undamaged by it. 3 (?Italian) probably serviceable but want repairing. 2 German apparently serviceable. 2 beached and possibly salvageable, one on fire and about 2 turned turtle. 2 Iranian gunboats captured and one in use by me. Floating dock captured probably without any damage to machinery. Military (believed?) landed unopposed. (S.O. Force B., 0800/25, S.N.O.P.G.)

Bandar Shahpur.

Bandar Shahpur has surrendered. N.O.I.C. Basra pass to Army addressees. (S.N.O.P.G., 0801Z/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

Communiques.

Govt. of India intend to issue daily Press Communiques reporting progress of Persia operations. May I use my discretion in approving release of news of Naval co-operation? (F.O.C.R.I.N., 1230A/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

→ Situation.

Persian Gulf situation report 1300 G.M.T./25. Abadan. Troops established on foreshore of refinery, considerable opposition. Persian Escort Vessel PALANG sunk. Khorramshah. Persian Escort Vessel BABR sunk, two gunboats captured. Little news progress ashore. Bandarshapur. Port surrendered, two gunboats disposed of. Some ships including German HOHENFELS and STURMFELS captured, also floating dock apparently in good condition. LAWRENCE is proceeding Bushire now with BARPETA in case they are needed for evacuation of British civilians. (C. in C. E.I., 1334Z/25 to Admty).

* Gunboats - C.B. 1615 -
See also next page.

YARRA.

Proceed to Bandar Abbas with all despatch. Capture Italian Merchant Ship HILDA and be prepared evacuate British Nationals. (S.N.O.P.G. 1537Z/25 to YARRA).

/Situation.....

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Advance into Iran. - Contd.

Situation.

Abadan. We are completely in control of refinery which is undamaged. Some sniping on the outskirts. From Southern boundary of refinery down river there are still some Iranian posts and guns, so passage of river is not yet safe. Operations to clean this up will commence 26/8.

(2) Khorramshah. We have occupied town and everything West of it along Shatt-el-Arab. On South bank Karun we have occupied Naval Barracks. Passage of river is safe between Basra and Abadan. No organized resistance left in this area. Area between Khorramshar and Abadan will be cleared 26/8.

3. Persian naval losses are 2 sloops sunk, 4 gunboats 1 depot ship 2 tugs 1 floating dock for 6,000 ton ships captured. Admiral Bayendor killed. Our naval losses nil.

4. At Bandar Shahpur, we are in full occupation. Our captives are 7 of (?) 8 ships, 2 of which are undamaged and 5 repairable. 1 sunk. Enemy attempted to sabotage all by fire.

5. Prisoners include number of Germans and Italians at Bandar Shahpur and large number of Persian naval prisoners there and at Khorramshar.

6. Our naval casualties 1 officer and 3 ratings wounded. This (? does not) include Bandar Shahpur from where no figure yet available. Army casualties while not severe have been relatively numerous.

7. Basra W/T pass to General Iraq.
(S.N.O.P.G., 1545Z/25 to C. in C, E.I., Amended 0443Z/26). *See previous page.*

Axis Shipping.

My 0800/25. Fuller investigation of state of ships follows: MARIENFELS, sabotaged gear could be replaced by 3 skilled men plus labourers in 5 days.

STURMFELS, as MARIENFELS but work will take 7 days. HOHENFELS is beached, and very low in water. Has one valve chest removed but may not have received any other hull damage. If salvaged probably would want at least as long as STURMFELS to replace gear.

WILDENFELS, as MARIENFELS.

WEISSENFELS, probable total wreck.

BRONTE, 70% auxiliary machinery is smashed beyond repair. Boiler may be intact.

BARBARA, 50 % main machinery smashed beyond repair. Boiler may be intact.

/CABOTO H.P.....

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Advance into Iran. - Contd.

Axis
Shipping.
- Contd.

CABOTO H.P. cylinder cracked, I.P. piston valve missing. Steering engine one cylinder blown off. One spring door missing.
All Italian ships have bridge structure and midship accommodation completely gutted by fire. Hulls all ships except WEISSENFELS and possibly HOHENFELS are intact but will require survey after fires which have occurred in all ships except MARIENFELS and WILDENFELS. All ships require water coal or oil. (S.O. Force B., 1605Z/25 to S.N.O.P.G.)

Air Report.

Daily operational Summary No. 1 up to 1800 hours L.S.T. 25/8/1941. 12 Blenheims 45 Sqn. dropped 25,000 No. 1 pamphlets in Persian on Kashan. No A.A. or air opposition. All returned safely. 1 Blenheim 45 Sqn. photo R/C Road Sari-Pul-Uhad (34° 27' N., 45° 52' E) to Karind (34° 17' N., 46° 15' E). Unfavourable weather prevented pamphlet operations by Blenheim 11 Sqn. from Shaiyah. 12 Blenheims 14 Sqn of which 4 returned prior to reaching objective owing to engine trouble dropped 60,000 No. 1 pamphlets on Tehran. One A/C forced landed in Iraq near frontier owing engine trouble. Hurricanes 261 Sqn. covering Army advance strafed 3 Hawker A/C on ground while running up at Ahwaz. 2 Troop carrying Valentias 31 Sqn. crashed on landing Haft Kel. No casualties. Crews returned. Troop landing successful. Heavy inaccurate A.A. fire at Abadan, Khorramshahk and Ahwaz.
(A.H.Q., Iraq, 1730/25 to Air Ministry).

Sinking of
Persian
Sloops.

S.N.O. P.G. 1545/25. I have called for a report from S.N.O. P.G. as to circumstances which led up to sinking of 2 Persian sloops.
(C. in C. E.I., 2306Z/25 to Admty).

ALFIOS
(Greek).

Cancel my 0400/24, arrived.
(S.O.(I), Colombo, 0654Z/25 to Admty).

Diego Garcia
Defences.

Re Admty 2331/19. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0911Z/25)
See Operations Volume.

/Port T.....

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Advance into Iran. - Contd.

Port T.

Admty 1329/23 and my 0934/24. I intend to despatch gun to port T as soon as personnel required for installation can be made available. Until accommodation ship arrives I intend to retain a Cruiser or A.M.C. at port T for communications, etc. and to assist generally with preparation of base. N.O.I.C. and base staff to be accommodated in cruiser or A.M.C. until arrival of accommodation ship. (C. in C. E.I., 1118Z/25 to Admty). My 0502/17, not to Admty. Has it been possible to earmark a ship for port T yet? If not, I suggest in view of the decision to commence preparation of port T now, vide A.M.1329/23, that ship referred to in your 0335/24 having been allocated for this purpose. If you agree request she be sent to Colombo as soon as possible for fitting out.

(C. in C. E.I., 1122Z/25 to C. in C. China).
Admty 1330/23. Request to what extent East Indies resources will be called upon to meet requirements of M.N.B.D.O. at Port T. I propose to ask India to supply. Grateful if a M.N.B.D.O. Officer can be sent to Colombo as soon as possible to advise. (C. in C. E.I., 1340Z/25 to C. in C. Med).
Reply: 1305/26

America & West Indies.

PRINZ
EUGEN.

Colon passes unofficial U.S. report that rumour in German circles to effect that PRINZ EUGEN operating South Pacific. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0915R/25 to Admty etc).

FORT DE
FRANCE.
(French).

Cleared Fort de France a.m./24 to load fuel at St. Thomas. She was in ballast.
(A.L.U.S.N.A., 1010/25 to Admty).
St. Thomas arrival? 25/8 French FORT DE FRANCE.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1207R/25 to Admty etc).

/"Q" Report.....

War Diary.

25.8.1941. 519
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

"Q" Report
19/8.

N.C.S.O. Panama reports HALIZONES heard Q Signal jammed at 2235Z/19 when in 005° 50' S., 091° 20' W. Position and call sign unintelligible but from strength of signal estimated 50 miles distant. Signal was jammed by powerful spark set transmitting British Call Signs. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1019Q/25 to Admty, ORION, DESPATCH).

ILEX.

My 1646R/19. Yard selected for ILEX is Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. (B.A.R.M., 1230R/25 to Admty).

ORION.
DESPATCH.

My 0033Q/24. Leave patrol so as to arrive Balboa 28/8 refuel and proceed to refitting port as previously arranged. DESPATCH leaves Balboa for patrol off Galapagos Islands P.M./26. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1232Q/25 to ORION). Your 0931Q/24 (ORION to refuel at Balboa). and my 1925Z/24, arrangements made. (B.A.D., Washington, 1343Z/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Task Patrol.

August 28 Task Group 2.7 composed of NASHVILLE, LONG ISLAND and 3 destroyers, leaves Bermuda on patrol through 18 North 32-30 W, thence 22 N., 32-30 W., thence Hampton Roads on 11/9. (A.L.U.S.N.A. London, 1435/25 to D.C., Admty).

FORTH,
St. John's.

FORTH's 1431Z/23. Concur generally with this proposal. Very desirable that FORTH should remain at St. Johns until departure of TRUANT. In view of early departure of submarines' depot ship from American waters it is even more important for efficient working up of future submarines after refit in U.S.A., that arrangements should be completed for this to be done from an American Base (F.O.S., 1716B/6/8 and Admty 2203A/11/8 refer) Torpedo stores from FORTH should then be deposited at the Base selected. (F.O.S., 1439A/25 to Admty).

PORT HUON,
suspicious
signalling.

Br. PORT HUON reports 1052 10/8 in position 005. 07 S., 034.14 W., loud series of signals each approx. 10 seconds continuing 2½ minutes unintelligible due to jamming. 16/8 in position 008.29 N., 057.22 W., heard HPGL calling FPPY no message heard. This reported by W/T to C. in C. S.A., Comment: HPGL renamed HAKKO MARU last reported in Pacific. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1518R/25)

/Fuelling.....

War Diary.

25.8.1941. Monday. 520

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Fuelling
in U.S.A.

C. in C. A.W.I., (1042) Q/23. Embassy express opinion that approach to State Dept. is necessary and are ready to (? do so) if so instructed by Foreign Office. (B.A.D., 1751R/25 to Admty).

Raider
precautions.

In view of Raider activity in Eastern Pacific, request personal attention of Masters of Ships fitted with high frequency be called to great importance of complying with Admiralty letter message F.S. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1832Q/25 to A.I.G., 127 etc).

RODNEY

Your 1524A/21. Intended dates to leave Bermuda and arrive Gibraltar. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/25 to Admty).

Tankers for
Iceland.

At about 1525/26. Task Unit 1.1.6. consisting of 4 destroyers from Argentinia will R/V in 46° N., and 55°W with 3 tankers and will escort the ships to Iceland. (A.L.U.S.N.A., London, 2230/25 to D.C. Admty) Names of tankers: 0825/26.

P. 826

Australia and New Zealand.

MONTEVIDEO
MARU,
suspected
raider.

Your 0151R/23. From special intelligence report MONTEVIDEO MARU reported being closed and spoken by a Foreign Auxiliary Cruiser on 6/8 in 29° 02' S., 114° 29' W. (A.C.N.B., 0647Z/25 to S.O.(I) Kingston).

O.I.C. Comment. S.O.(I) Kingston 0151R/23 reported the sighting on 15/8 by BRASTAGI of a vessel resembling the MONTEVIDEO MARU in 003° 25' S., 090° 34' W., MONTEVIDEO MARU's position on 6/8 makes it appear unlikely that she was the vessel sighted -on 15/8 which may possibly have been the Auxiliary Cruiser which spoke to MONTEVIDEO MARU on 6/8 and attacked the KOTA NOPAN off the Galapagos on 17/8. If this is so, the raider off the Galapagos may be 'A' of Raider Supplement to W/R No. 64.

A.C.N.B. Melbourne's 0647Z/25. This was almost certainly PRINCE ROBERT. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1159Q/25 to A.C.N.B.)

/Routes to.....

25.8.1941.
Monday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Routes to
avoid
raiders.

Your 1012Q/24 - After passing vicinity Easter Island intend routing (A) all large fast vessels to W. and N., of Galapagos Islands (B) Remaining vessels widely dispersed between South American coast and Galapagos Islands.

(N.Z.N.B., 0950M/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Your 1012Q/24. This is being done.

(A.C.N.B., 1153Z/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U.S. Ships
and W/T.

Your 0842Z/20. U.S. Navy Dept. has requested Maritime Commission to issue instructions concerning W/T silence in general agreement with policy for British & Allied ships. U.S. Merchant vessels at sea and in foreign ports have been warned in similar sense by signal from Navy Dept.
(D.T.D., 1328A/25 to A.C.N.B.)

25.8.1941. ⁵²²
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

O.G. 71
(attacked
23/8)

Search unsuccessful. My position 0630/25 (7220°) Cape. St. Vincent 5. E.T.A. Gate 2000/25 request Dockyard crane berth. Survivors from SPIND, Master 5 officers 18 crew, 1 naval rating, EMPIRE OAK Master 2 officers 2 crew, ALDERGROVE 4 crew, ALVA 2 officers 2 crew 1 naval rating. 1 cot case, remainder fit. (BOREAS, 0700A/25 to F.O.C.N.A). Arrivals BOREAS, WIVERN with survivors. Details follow. (F.O.C.N.A. 1930A/25 to Admty. C. in C. W.A).

Can following statement be issued by Reuter for Portuguese in view of strong German propoganda about recent convoy attack. A German communique has stated that 25 ships of a British convoy have been destroyed off Portuguese coast by enemy action. It is officially stated, in fact, the maximum number of ships in this convoy was less than total sinkings claimed by Germans. 14 ships of convoy reached the Tagus safely, but fate of one or two is still uncertain. Total tonnage of convoy was less than 30% of sinkings claimed by the Germans. (N.A. Lisbon, 1835/25 to Admty.) Reply: 0050/26, p. 548

MACON
(torpedoed
24/7)

British CLAN MACPHERSON has landed 27 survivors of British MACON torpedoed on 24/7 in 32° 20' N. 26° 12' W. Chief Officer and one fireman killed. Master and 20 members of crew in No. 1 lifeboat parted company with object of making Azores for assistance, but fate unknown. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1034B/25 to Admty.)

SOUTHERN
PRINCE.

H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRINCE torpedoed, proceeding slowly, my position is 062° 55' N. 009° 55' W. (S.O. 1st Minelaying Squadron 2356A/25 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.).

War Diary.

25. 8. 1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1914/24.

By D/F at 1914/24 position of Italian U-Boat call sign 16 V was within 60 miles of $044^{\circ} 30' N.$ $012^{\circ} 30' W.$ Same U-Boat transmitted a further message at 2016/24. (F.O.C.N.A. 0033A/25 to N.A. Stn.)

0755 -
1248/24.

Form Orange. ICE/02/25/8. The three Whitleys and three Wellingtons on A/S sweep from Limavady to Iceland report as follows Q/502 sighted U/Boat in $61.52 N., 16.50 W.$ at 1248 (see ICE/BS4/24/8). S/502 sighted 2 U/Boats $59.43 N., 13.16 W.,$ at 0927 (see ICE/BS3/24/8). H/502 sighted U/Boat $58.42 N., 12.37 W.$ at 0755 (see ICE/BS2/24/8). N/221 sighted U/Boat at 0900 hours $60.40 N., 18.43 W.,$ (see ICE/BS1/24/8.) F. and R./221, nothing seen. (R.A.F. Iceland 0105/25 to H.Q.C.C.)

0158.

One Enemy S/M on surface bearing 330° distance 1 mile Course 290° . My position $146^{\circ} 37' N. 9^{\circ} W.$ 31 based on a fix at 0100. (WILD SWAN 0158/25 to Gib. W/T).

My 0158A. S/M was detected by R.D.F. and sighted by one officer. It dived and doubtful Asdic contact was obtained but quickly lost. Have searched the area with Asdic and Star Shell for three hours. Owing to shortage of fuel am proceeding to Gibraltar. (WILD SWAN, 0513A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0525Z.

By D/F at 0525Z/25, position of Italian U-boat call sign 34D, was approx. $44^{\circ} 30' N. 10^{\circ} 30' W.$ (D.D.I.C. 0710A/25 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

O.S.4.

To avoid U-Boats proceed direct to position C, omitting B. WALKER Pass to LULWORTH. (C. in C. W.A. 0715A/25 to Escorts of O.S.4.)

S.L. 83.

To avoid U/Boats steer forthwith for splitting position. (C. in C. W.A. 0720A/25 to Escorts of S.L. 83).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1442A/25).

/1535A.....

War Diary.

25.8.1941. Monday. 524

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1535A.

At 1535A/25 in 57° 43' 20" N. 05° 48' W. S/M reported by Postman, Port Henderson. Sighted believed submerging. Graded C.5. A/S Trawler investigating. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1551A/25 to A.C.W.A.).

My 1551A/25. A/S Trawler has investigated with negative result. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 2341/25 to C. in C. W.A.).

Am investigating suspicious object possible periscope. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge in 54.18 N., 5.12 W. (A/C 1712/25 to 15 Group).

1851A

Proceed with despatch to search for suspicious object possibly periscope reported in 54° 18' N. 05° 12' W. If no results obtained by 0900A/26 abandon search and return Belfast. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1851A/25 to SENATEUR DUHAMEL).

My 1851A/25. Return to harbour forthwith and anchor South of C. Line. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2230A/25 to SENATEUR DUHAMEL).

1815 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1815 G.M.T. enemy U/B in about 51° N. 15° 30' W. probably Northward bound. (D.D.I.C. 2008A/25).

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 61.42 N., 15.40 W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 2 hits. (A/C call sign 9AMJ 0655/25 to Aldergrove).

By VASCAMA.

U. 452
(cmd 6843.1946)

1 S/M bearing 193° 3 miles course 090°. My position 329 61° N., 15° W. 19. (VASCAMA, 0819A/25 to Scapa W/T).

U-Boat has dived. In contact. (VASCAMA, 0835A/25 to S.O.N.T).

My position 061° 13' N. 015° 25' W., have dropped 2 patterns, oil on the surface. (VASCAMA 0900/25 to S.O.N.T).

/Contact.....

War Diary.25.8.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.By VASCAMA
-Contd.*(Probably destroyed.
Account 1903A/15/10,
page 371 October)
{U. 452 - cmd 6843-
1946}*

Contact lost. Large quantity crude oil on surface. (VASCAMA, 1100A/25 to S.O.N.T.) Estimated position $061^{\circ} 13' N.$ $015^{\circ} 18' W.$ From 2222/24. Contact not recovered. (VASCAMA 1215A/25 to S.O.N.T.) My 0819. First warned of U-boat from Catalina A/C. Aircraft now departed to base. (VASCAMA 1225A/25 to S.O.N.T.) NORTHERN FOAM and NORTHERN GIFT in company. (VASCAMA 1415A/25 to S.O.N.T.) Large quantity of oil coming to surface in vicinity of attack. (VASCAMA, 1611A/25 to S.O.N.T.) Oil welling freely. No contact. (VASCAMA 1635A/25 to S.O.N.T.) My position is $061^{\circ} 39' N.$ $015^{\circ} 47' W.$, in company KINGSTON AGATE. Have swept $120^{\circ} 20$ miles width 6 miles now sweeping 210° Hudson A/C reports no trace of U-Boat. (VISENDA 1745A/25 to S.O.N.T.) Contact unconfirmed dropped pattern. (VASCAMA, 1835A/25 to S.O.N.T.) My 1835. Contact not recovered. (VASCAMA, 2016A/25 to S.O.N.T.)

By A/C.

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate unhit $62.14 N.$, $17.24 W.$ (A/C "Y" 2, 1309/25 to Reykjavik W/T). Enemy S/M previously reported when first sighted was on course indicated 290 VN VIS I. (A/C "Y" 2 1315/25 to Reykjavik). Hudson sighted and attacked U-Boat $62.14 N.$, $17.44 W.$ at 1309 G.M.T. (R.A.F. Iceland 1345/25 to 15 Group). Attack by A/C in $61^{\circ} 18' N.$ $15^{\circ} 20' W.$ No damage seen. (H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland 2027/25 to H.Q.C.C.)

By ST. LOMAN.

At 1335 in $057^{\circ} 50' N.$ $013^{\circ} 28' W.$ picked up firm and promising contact, hydrophone effected. Attacked at 1413 after stern chase on steady bearing 255° at average speed of 10 knots. Contact not regained after attack nor any conclusive evidence of destruction. Course and speed $239^{\circ} 10$ knots. (ST. LOMAN 1430/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

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26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Spitzbergen.

The Military Governor of Spitzbergen (R.N.N. Lieut. ^{Tamber}) reports that he has captured 3 cargo ships and 3 smaller vessels. He asks for supplies and for an escort to take away the ships.

British Air Operations.

Blenheims of Bomber Command today hit and set on fire 3,000 - 4,000 ton merchant ship in a convoy of 12, 26 miles north of Norderney.

A convoy of 20 ships was attacked off Ijmuiden. A ship of 7,000 - 8,000 tons was sunk, and 4 ships of from 2,000 to 5,000 tons were hit.

Eight reporting vessels were attacked 23 miles north of Ijmuiden; one was sunk and another was hit.

Seven minesweepers were attacked by aircraft of Fighter Command off Calais; one was left on fire and 2 smoking. Trawlers were attacked in Calais harbour, one being hit.

Mining.

Milford Haven was closed at 2337A today, owing to minelaying by enemy aircraft.

Two mines of an old controlled minefield were exploded off Dundee. M/S trawler SOUTHERN FIELD was damaged.

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation
'Mincemeat'

S.O. Force H., in NELSON with ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, and 5 destroyers returned to Gibraltar at 1508A today.

Mediterranean.

6 S/Ms are to be sent to reinforce the Mediterranean.

2 Blenheims today claimed to have sunk a 4,000 ton merchant ship N.E. of Kerkenah. Later, it became known that the ship (? S.S. ARTA) was already badly damaged and abandoned.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

9 Wellingtons last night dropped 31,750 lbs. of bombs and 1,920 lbs of incendiaries on Tripoli harbour and suspected dumps. 5 Wellingtons bombed railway sidings in Benghazi harbour. 4 Naval aircraft bombed Bardia harbour and obtained 3 hits on one ship and one hit on a second ship.

Egypt and
Suez Canal.

There was an air raid on Alexandria and Aboukir early this morning. No naval damage is reported and no important damage occurred.

It is considered that no mines remain in the Canal; no sweeping has been carried out since 21/8.

Italian
Cruiser
torpedoed.

At 0700 today TRIUMPH attacked a force of one battleship, 2 cruisers and 10 destroyers entering the Straits of Messina from the northward and obtained a possible hit on a cruiser. British prisoners from Syria being returned from Italy whither General Dentz had treacherously transferred them in contravention of the Armistice terms, reported seeing an Italian Cruiser of the POLA class being beached near Messina a.m. today.

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Operation
'Mopup'

S.N.O. Persian Gulf reports this operation (occupation of Khazalabad) completed and that there are now no Persian troops left on Abadan Island.

U-Boat Campaign.

A Soviet merchant vessel is reported to have been torpedoed today near 69° 30' N., 35° E.

Convoy O.S.4

This convoy was attacked late tonight and 2 ships were torpedoed. (See 27/8).

N.W.
Approaches.

Reports are considered to give evidence of the presence of substantial numbers of U-boats in the area bounded by Malin Head; Barra Head, 60° 10', South coast of Iceland (C), 60° 20', 55° 15', Achill Head.

War Diary.26.8.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Manning.

The First Sea Lord will preside over a meeting in Admiralty at 1600/29 which you are requested to attend. Agenda.

1. Statement on the present and future manning position.
2. The necessity consequent on (1) for a review of the numbers of vessels employed in coastal forces, auxiliary patrol, miscellaneous craft, and small vessels pools, and also for a review of base staffs.
(1st S.L., 1120A/26 to C's in C., etc.)

Reports
by S.A.
Destroyers.

- Destroyers fitted with S.A. gear are not normally to break wireless silence to report the detonation of a ground mine.
2. Exception may be made at C.O.'s discretion if the numbers and position of such mines indicate a heavy lay which might constitute a danger to shipping.
 3. On return to harbour, Admiralty should be informed by signal as follows.
(D.M.S., 1939A/26.)

Clyde
Labour
Dispute.

My 1930A/25. A Meeting was held this afternoon and the men resume work tomorrow morning. The risk of an early stoppage of boilermakers has not yet abated but discussions are proceeding.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2201A/26.)

RIPLEY.

Anticipate that RIPLEY will arrive in U.K. from escort duty about 1/9. Request arrangements for ship to refit in U.K. and that C.C.N.F. be instructed to detail another destroyer to refit in U.S.A.
(C. in C. W.A., 2305A/26 to Admty.)

Movements.

Task Unit
1.1.3.
SELFOSS.
~~SEVING~~ VICTOR.

Following received, begins. Repeats Spenavo 2100/24.
(Admty. 0300A/26 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A.W.I., C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., R.A.3 B.S.)

CURACOA.

^{N.T. N.W.3}
Your 1304/25. Minesweepers not used owing to thick fog at time of receipt of your *1618/24. Following positions passed through. Front covered about one mile. CURACOA used same route for outward passage.
(CURACOA, 0831/26. to C. in C. Rosyth.) * P.484

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War Diary.26.8.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.AFD.4.

Arrived in tow of tugs FREEBOOTER, SUPERMAN, and EMPIRE HENCHMAN escorted by POZARICA and BLANKNEY. Oropesa Sweepers detached to Ardrossan. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1048A/26.)

L.27.

Intend to sail L.27 escorted by ALECTO at 0600A/27 for Rothesay. E.T.A. 1830A. (WESTERN ISLES, 1310A/26.)

MINERVE.

Passes Bell Rock 1530A/26 escorted by CUTTY SARK to 061° N. 000° 00' W. Route thence to patrol in Zone C 3 and C 4. (Capt. S.9., 1415A/26 to S/M's on patrol in Area A.)

BLANKNEY.
STORK.
WHITEHALL.
WITCH.

BLANKNEY and STORK are to be sailed early A.M./28 to R/V with WHITEHALL and WITCH from Londonderry. Ships will then proceed in company to meet special convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1536/26 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

M/S Trawlers
for Mombasa.

A.M. 1829A/16. When ready for service request you will sail M/S Trawlers KENNET, AIGLON, POST BOY, MYRLAND, and ESTRELLA DO NORTE to Freetown calling at Azores for fuel.
2. C's in C. concerned are requested to arrange for their onward passage to Mombasa. Their ultimate destination will be decided later.
3. Ships should not be sailed in less than pairs. (A.C.N.S.(F.), 1933A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

A/S
Patrol.

Request you will sail GOSSAMER to R/V with SPEEDWELL in 055° 30' N. 011° 30' W. at 1500A/26 and establish A/S Patrol on parallel 055° 30' N. between 011° 30' and 012° 45' West. (C. in C. W.A., 0057A/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.) Sailed GOSSAMER at 0245/26. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0725A/26.) Carry A/S patrol between 55° 30' N. 15° W. and 55° 30' N. 14° W. until further orders. (C. in C. W.A., 1541A/26 to ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY.) In R/V position at 2000A/26. (SPEEDWELL, 1946A/26 to GOSSAMER.) Take up new A/S patrol positions forthwith on parallel 55° N. HEBE and HAZARD between 15° and 13° 30' W. GOSSAMER and SPEEDWELL between 12° and 13° 30' W. (C. in C. W.A., 2353A/26.)

/ A/S sweep.....

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26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

A/S sweep
by M/L's.

My 2331/25. Weather unsuitable.
(A.C.I.C. 1033/26.)

Operations
"Gauntlet"
"Dervish".

A.M. 1549/22, 1818/23, 1709/24, and C. in C. H.F. 0935/20. (Re Beacons) Arrangements confirmed. (D.O.D.(H), 1126A/26 to V.A.2.) Arrangements in Home Fleet Charge Document H.V. One in force from 1200A/27/8 till 1200A/8/9. (ii) Limit of Soviet air protection 180 miles radius from Murmansk. (iii) Reference recoding table letter G will not be recoded. W/T beacon facilities as in my 1827A/18 to C.S.1 and S.O. Force A only will operate in fog when forces are estimated to be approaching. (F.O.2 H.F., 1341A/26 to C.S.1., S.O. Force A., ELECTRA.)

Spitzbergen,^s
6 M/V's
captured.

Messengers arrived by motor boat 25 (th) with letter from Lieutenant R.A. Tamber, Royal Norwegian Navy, Military Governor Spitzbergen, stating that he has captured three cargo (? ships) and three smaller craft. ? (Russian) and Norwegian settlements running short of supplies and Germans becoming suspicious. He requests escort ship to take away (? ships) and ask for supplies. His letter is being (? sent to Admiralty) by first opportunity. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1303/26 to Admty.) P.558

British Air Activity.

Escort for
S.N.70A.

Air Escort delayed by weather. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0226/26 to R.A.M.) My 1248/26th. Sunderland may be considerably delayed. Expect Hudson about 1600/26th to be relieved by Whitley. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1346/26 to R.A.M.)

Patrol.

^{"Hornet"}
~~HORNET~~ now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0904/26.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Myggenaes
Beacon.

My 1048A/25. Myggenaes Radio Beacon temporarily out of action. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1205A/26.)

LA MOQUEUSE
attacked
on 25/8.

On escort duty at 2134/25 near South Bishop attacked by a twin-engined enemy plane. Three bombs. No damage. (LA MOQUEUSE, 2006/26.)

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War Diary.26.8.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.S.N.15.

R.A.M. 2356A/25. Sail two destroyers as additional A/S Escort for 1st M.L. Squadron as required by R.A.M.
(V.A.2., 0340A/26 to R.A.D.)
LIGHTNING and LAMERTON proceed 0700 to act as additional A/S screen as ordered by you.
(R.A.D. H.F., 0430/26 to R.A.M.)

Harwich.

At 1250/25 one Red Mine detonated by Sweeper. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1036A/26.)

Yarmouth.

L.L. Trawlers detonated red magnetic mine. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1458A/26.)

Off
Buddon.

Mine detonated at 1250 today over position of old controlled minefield off Buddon. No evidence of recent enemy mine-laying, and considered possible that mine may have been detonated through its remaining tail. Area now being swept by L L and S A.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1635/26.)
My 1635/26. A second mine has been exploded by LL in approximate same position and with same characteristics at 1935/26. Sweeping will be resumed tomorrow. Port remains open.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 2319/26.)

Milford
Haven.

Port is closed owing to minelaying by enemy aircraft.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2337A/26.)

Enemy Intelligence.Murmansk.

Information Soviet Army High Commissioner for Intelligence indicates German Combined operation against Murmansk district projected. German Staff given instructions for use if necessary all Air Forces Norway, Finland for this purpose and have ordered R/C of district. Stated orders given not to bomb docks and wharves Murmansk. German troop and Air Reinforcements have (? arrived) West of Kandalaksha area, latter from Kirkenes and Banak; fierce fighting reported Alakuritt 80 miles West Kandalaksha with some enemy gains.
Inference Germans attempting to cut railway if no (? ordered) offensive against Murmansk before winter.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1611C/26.)

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Enemy Units
on 18/8.

Following repeated to you for information.
Repeats Admty. 1619A/19.
(Admty. 1934A/26 to N.A. Stockholm.)

Casualties and Defects.

COVERLEY.

Your 1942A/25. Approved to tow COVERLEY to Oban.
(D.A.S.W. 1800A/26 to WESTERN ISLES.)

OCEAN
VICTOR.

Your 1116/18. No news of (MNZR) OCEAN VICTOR since leaving Reykjavik to fish on 5/8. Understood she was returning to U.K. direct.
(A.C.I.C. 2353/25 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

KINGSTON
AGATE.

Superheated safety valve defective and condenser leaking. Can continue patrol on wet steam only.
(KINGSTON AGATE, 2355A/26.)

Shipping and Convoys.

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

Harwich additional escorts.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1114A/26.)
See Lion Copy.

T.C.12B.

Owing to U-Boat situation T.C.12B. will be re-routed by Admty. Destroyer escort will be required to remain with convoy throughout the voyage refuelling at St. Johns. Canadian destroyers will subsequently escort DUCHESS OF ATHOLL to Halifax.
(C. in C. W.A., 1132A/26 to C.C.N.F.)

Speeding Up
Turn-Round.

Your 2239/21. Concur. A/S Trawler escort can be provided from 40th A/S Group at Portland, but no Hunt Class Destroyer is available until PUCKERIDGE, now working up, joins 1st D.F.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1545/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

DUCHESS
OF ATHOLL.

A.M. 1755/18 and A.M. 1635A/25 & C. in C. W.A. 1132A/26. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL will not now sail until the first week in September when it is hoped she will proceed direct to Halifax without calling at Iceland.
(V.C.N.S. 1753A/26 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

1114A/26 August.

IN

Date 26.8.47.

From. F.O.I.C. Harwich.

Recd. 1131

P/L BY T/P

Addressed. C in C Nore, 1st Division Corvettes, repeated
C in C Rosyth, Admiralty, N.C.S.O. Southend,
F.O.I.C. Humber,

1st Division Corvettes acknowledge

F N, E C, F S	Harwich additional escorts.
511 -- 581	GUILLEMOT
-- 67 582	KITLWAKE
512 -- 583	MAILLARD
513 -- 583	WIDGEON
-- 68 584	PUFFIN
-- 68 585	GUILLEMOT
-- 69 586	SIBLDRAKE

MAILLARD leaves F N512 off H 3 buoy enters the Humber
and sails on 2/9 so as to join F S583 off H3 buoy at 1915/2/9
GUILLEMOT leaves E C 68 off H 3 buoy enters the Humber and
sails on 4/9 so as to join F S585 off 62D buoy at 2015/4/9

Names of A/S Trawlers detailed will be signalled at 1000 on
the day before sailing.

1114A/26

Advance copy to Ops. O.D.

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)
D of P (3)
D.A./S.W.

D.N.I. (4)
O.I.C. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
W.D.
I.P. (3)

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26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Kites.

sup. 539

My 1457A/25. Kites should be flown in outbound Ocean convoys east of 8° West. (C. in C. W.A, 1945A/26 to W.A. Gen. Message N.177.)

Russian Shipping.

Admiral Miles reports that Russians wish to send 9 or 10 ships to U.K. with return of convoy "Dervish". Some of these ships may be only 9 knots. It has been decided that these ships must be accepted. (V.C.N.S. 1954A/26 to V.A.2.)

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Intelligence. D.D.I.C., 1825A/26, (See Lion Copy.)

North Atlantic.

EUGENIO C.

Expected leaving Castro Urdialles late p.m./25 with 7000 tons iron ore. (F.O.C.N.A., 0527A/26 to N.A. Stn.)

→ MANXMAN.

Departure at 0130A. (F.O.C.N.A. 0732A/26 to Admty.)

→ LEITH.
VIDETTE.
BLUEBELL.

Return in company to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1022A/26).

Vichy Flag.

Majority of Vichy merchant ships now surround French Flag on hull with a yellow repeated yellow frame. (F.O.C.N.A. 1028A/26 to Admty.)

Aircraft
over Las
Palmas.

Military Governor Las Palmas has informed Consul there that without obtaining prior authority from Spanish Govt. 2 aeroplanes flew over Grand Canary on 18/8 and 1 on 20/8. Above aeroplanes are believed to have been British and Governor states that any future unauthorized flights will result in aeroplanes being fired upon. (Teneriffe, 1200/26 to Ambassador, Madrid).

Dispositions.

Situation report No. 1 at 2000A/26, all positions N. and W. (i) SEVERN on patrol within 20 miles of 34.40N13.10W moving during night 26/27 to patrol within 20 miles of 33.45, 14.50. (ii) VIDETTE, LEITH and BLUEBELL returning to Gibraltar from patrol off Tagus (iii) WILD SWAN SPIREA on patrol off Cape St. Vincent (iv) SCOTTISH -leaves patrol Y.3 for Gibraltar 2100/26 (v) LOCH OSKAIG on patrol Y.1 (vi) VIMY in 39.18N. 12.55W.130°, 14 knots to Gibraltar (vii) LANCE 38.00N12.30W about 292° 21 knots. (viii) MANXMAN in 36.00 13.00 through 36.00 15.00 and 40.00 18.00, 20 knots. (ix) IMPERIALIST sails 0900/27 for patrol Y.3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1340A/26).

685A

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

OUT.

1825A/26 August.

To: C. in C. Home Fleet 647.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 583
 New Zealand Naval Board 472 Date 26.8.41.
 BRITMAN 378
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 457
 C. in C. South Atlantic 534
 N.O.i/c Simonstown 60
 R.A. South America Division 336
 C. in C. America and West Indies 907
 Australian Commonwealth Naval Board 694.
 C. in C. China 671.
 C. in C. East Indies 823.
 V.A.2 118

NAVAL CODE (J) (Secret)

From Admiralty.

NITE.

My 1825A/12.

North Atlantic.

CHAUCER now overdue at Buenos Ayres, so probable that raider was operating W. of Cape Verdes at end of July.

South Atlantic.

CHRISTIAN HOLM overdue at Capetown from Aruba. Vessel resembling Raider E. in W.I.R.64 challenged U.S. PRESIDENT FILIMORE on 18th August in 30 degs. S. 12 degs. 35' E. Raider E. thought to be still in Germany, but description fits TOTENHAM's attacker.
Indian Ocean.

CONNELLIN not reported as arrived Colombo from Durban.

Pacific Ocean.

Suspicious vessel, probably raider, sighted 6th August in 29 degs. 02' S. 114 degs. 29' W. Probably same ship sighted 15th August 150 miles S.W. of Galapagos. Description: 7,000 ton Freighter, straight bow, counter stern, one black funnel with 2 white bands, 2 masts with short topmasts, black hull with Japanese flag on it. On 17th August Dutch KOTA NOPAN attacked off Galapagos and on 19th August unknown vessel made Q message from area 5 degs. 50' S. 91 degs. 20' W. This ship thought to be AUSTRALIND six days overdue at Balboa from Adelaide.

Description of vessel sighted on 15th August fits Raider A. This raider's number now reported to be 36. She is probably vessel referred to in my 1745B/15 July para. 4 and not 45 or 46.

1825A/26

D.D.I.C. (Green Line 8)

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

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 4th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(H).
 A.C.N.S.(F).
 A.C.N.S.(T). (2).
 Nav. Sec.
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 Capt. Pim Admty Hse.
 D.H.I.(4).
 D.T.D.(4).

D.T.D.(M).
 D.T.D.(C).
 O.I.C.(4).
 D. of P.(3).
 Cdr. Holbrook.
 D.A/S.W.
 I.P.(3).
 Ops.(4).
 O.D.(5).

W.D.
 D.P.D.
 D.D.(2).
 M.(2).

War Diary.26.8;1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.O.24.

Intend to sail Netherlands Sub. O.24 p.m./28 for 18 days patrol in Gulf of Genoa and on Italian coast North of 042° 30' N. (F.O.C.N.A., 1408A/26 to C. in C. Med.)

Operation
"Mincemeat".

Arrival S.O. Force H. in NELSON, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, NESTOR, FURY, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, ENCOUNTER. (F.O.C.N.A. 1508A/26 to Admty. etc.)

JUERGEN (?)

Empty Life Boat from German S.S. ^{not identified} JUERGEN in position 038° 56' N. 013° 44' W. now in tow. (VIMY, 1930A/26 to F.O.C.N.A). W.D. Note:- No JUERGEN in Lloyds' List except an auxiliary sailing vessel of 100 tons.

FARNDALE.
O.21.

V.A. Malta 1520B. O.21 leaves Gibraltar 2100A/27 through 036° 20' 002° 15' W. 038° 00' 005° 00' E. 038° 35' 009° 00' speed 13 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 2138A/26 to FARNDALE) See also 1119/27. See p. 541

FARADAY.
Gibraltar
Tugs.

In view decision expressed in Admty. 1537/25, request you will now take action as my 0003/3. ^{W.D.} Further signal will be sent respecting amended tug position, life saving appliances, and gear. (D.S. T. 2154A/26 to A.S. Gibraltar).

CORDELA.

In position 028° 41' N. 024° 55' W. at 1345A on 26/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 2304A/26 to FLEUR DE LYS, AZALEA).

EAGLE.

Your 1235N/26. Request you will sail EAGLE to R/V with 2 destroyers in 021° N. 019° W. at 1200A/2. (F.O.C.N.A., 2358A/26 to C. in C. S.A.)

See also p. 538

French
Warships.

Minesweeper COMMANDANT RIVIERE and S/M SIDI FERRUCH passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1138/26. (D.O.R. 27/8).

War Diary.26.8.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic."Kedgerree".

Operation "Kedgerree" was abandoned at 1700Z/25. No contact made other than that reported in my 2030/22, 2044/23 and 0834/24. AUSTRALIA is returning to Durban and HAWKINS refuelling at Simonstown before proceeding to Durban. C. in C. E.I. has been requested to give orders for future movements of both ships. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0907Z/26 to Admty. etc.) *See also p 554*

Corvettes
and Destroyers
Freetown.

In view of F.O.C.N.A.'s 1314B/1 in reply to your 0301N/29/7 and in order to alleviate conditions of service in the Freetown area it is proposed:-

- A. That all destroyers and corvettes on S.A. Station should do their annual refit in U.K.
 - B. That they should carry out 6-monthly docking on the station.
 - C. To increase corvettes and destroyers on your station if and when proposals A. and B. are put into effect, should submarine threat be sufficient to justify this: otherwise to accept reduction in Freetown escort Force implied by A. and B.
2. Emphasized that arrangements depend on how S/M situation develops.
3. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1113A/26 to C. in C. S.A.)

W.S.10.
EDINBURGH.
CARNARVON
CASTLE.
HAWKINS.

Intend following arrangements for escort of W.S.10 Cape to Durban and of returning ship with service personnel. EDINBURGH to escort Durban portion to Durban then return Simonstown to boiler clean.* CARNARVON CASTLE to arrive Capetown 3/9 and escort Cape Portion on to Durban sailing about 5/9 then return with returning ship requiring escort to Capetown, where EDINBURGH will take on escort to U.K. (C. in C. S.A. 1159N/26 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown). My 1159/26 and C. in C. E.I 0952/26. Request you sail HAWKINS to relieve EDINBURGH as escort to W.S.10 when in the vicinity of Cape and then to escort Durban portion of convoy to Durban. EDINBURGH to proceed to Simonstown boiler cleaning as directed in Admty. 2222A/20 and wait arrival of ships detailed from W.S.10 for conveyance of personnel to U.K. (C. in C. S.A., 2101N/26 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C.S.18.) *See also p 544*

* See p 539

/EAGLE.....

539

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

SURREY.

Your 1053X/25. ^{p. 511} Please confirm name of ship SURREY. Have no information about her movements. (C. in C. S.A., 1904N/26 to Admty.)
Reply: 1358/27. ^{p. 562}

Oiling
at Sea.

My 1715A/18. Details of further trials.
(4 S.L., 1956A/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Your 2143/24. If CARNARVON CASTLE cannot R/V with you as required and arrive Capetown on 3/9 (my 2137 /24) request you inform me if R/V is important arrival at Capetown A.M./4 can be accepted. (C. in C. S.A. 2045N/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)

O.S. and
S.L. Convoys.

Up to the present escorts of S.L. convoys have to relieve those of O.S. convoys in about latitude 15° N. instead of 19° N. Result of this is O.S. escorts have had 5½ to 7 days in Harbour Bathurst and the larger Freetown escort has been about 240 miles less with both convoys than intended. Would it be possible for O.S. convoy to sail later in comparison with corresponding S.L. convoy? (C. in C. S.A. 2111N/26 to Admty.) See C. in C. W. Approaches 1656A/28 (Shipping).

GAZCON
(French).

Consul General Loanda expects earliest GAZCON can sail is P.M./28. You should leave patrol so as to reach Lagos with reasonable margin of fuel even if vessel has not been intercepted. Report when you have left and E.T.A. (C. in C. S.A. 2113N/26 to ALBATROSS).

Mediterranean.

MASSIS.

Tanker 5022 tons, sequestered by Vichy about June and handed over to Italians under guise of compliance with Armistice terms, reported sunk. Had previously been reported as one of 4 French tankers proceeding to Constanza to load about middle of May, 2 of which, ALBERTA and CAPITAINE DAMIANI, were torpedoed. (D.S. 719, 26/8).

/Enemy E/B....

War Diary.

26.8.1941. 540
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy E/B.

Reported E-boat maintaining patrol between 038° 26' and Messina East of 015° 20'.
(S.O.S., Malta, 1003/26 to TRIUMPH).

Enemy
Cruiser.

038° 54' 010° 00' at 0912B/26, one cruiser,
course 100°, speed 20 knots.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1025B/26 to UPRIGHT).

Alexandria,
Raid.

Night 25/26. 8 unidentified enemy aircraft
dropped bombs on Alexandria. Several bombs
fell in sea. One fire was started innative
quarter South of Harbour.

Bardia
bombed.

Day 25/8. 9 Marylands dropped 7 tons of bombs
on large dump near Bardia. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.
1031/26).

Alexandria air raid 0350 to 0515/26. About
(8?) aircraft, H.L. bombing, using flares.
About 15 H/E over a wide area. Six houses
demolished and (?) an Egyptian army store damaged
by fire. Two R.A.F. personnel slightly injured.
No other casualties. (R.A. Alexandria,
1143C/26 to Admt.)

REGENT.

Sail 1700C/26 to arrive Malta before 2000B/1
or a.m./2 (route). (Capt. S.1, 1050C/26 to
REGENT) Cancelled, see 1601/26. p.542

Turkey
and
Iran.

From Admiral Kelly, interview with General
Asim Gunduz 25/8. (N.A. Angora, 1231C/26
to Admt.) See Lion Copy.

Enemy
Convoy
orders
to S/M's.

One destroyer and torpedo boat escorting 8
knots southbound convoy expected Marittimo about
0500B/27. UPRIGHT intercept in 038° 43' 012°
35' at about 2000B/26. URGE between position
L and Marittimo until 0800B/27 then to carry
out original programme. UPRIGHT remaining east
of 012° 10' between 038° 20' and 038° 30' until
URGE and TRIUMPH have passed. (S.O.S. Malta
1245B/26 to UPRIGHT, URGE).

/UTMOST.....

MOST SECRET

540 A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1231C/26 Aug.

IN

From N.A. Angora.

Date. 26. 8. 41.

Recd. 1904

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (SPECIAL) BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean,
H.M. Ambassador Angora (Saving).

Part one of my 1247C/26.

Following from Admiral Kelly.

Discussed situation with General Asim Gunduz
August 25th; news of Anglo Russian advance into Iran just
released. Asked what he thought about it he said it was
good for Germany and that we should have tried to have Iran
on our side. He complained that British and Russian planes
had violated Turkish territory in Van area and that Turks
had had to fire on them which was regrettable between allies.
The Russians had bombed Maku near Turkish frontier.

(2) Later I asked him what Ribbentrop
had said to Turkish Ambassador, he said nothing, only to
say how many Russian troops tanks and aeroplanes had been
destroyed. When pressed he said they also wanted to know
what Turkey was going to do if Britain invaded Iran and
supposed that Turkey would at once act in accordance with
Saadabad Pact. He also asked whether Germany could if
desired send help to Iran through Turkey. The Turkish
Ambassador could say nothing, but the General said they
would do nothing to help.

Part 2 follows.

1231C/26.

Advance copy Part two called form (F)D.D.I.C.

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

I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Capt.
Hd. of M.

MOST SECRET

D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
N.I.D. IO (Paym. Cdr. Wilson)
Admiral Herman Hodge
D.S.D.9.
Admiral Palliser.

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E .

12470/26th Aug.

IN.

From : Naval Attache Angora.

Date : 27.8.41.

Reed : 1215.

I.D.V. (14) By Cable.

Addressed : Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean,
H.M. Ambassador, Angora.

AIDAC.

Part 2. Final.

3. He considers Russia now can hold out until Winter when German position will be very difficult. They are very down in their Oil reserves and in Winter with Danube frozen it will be difficult to build them up again. He suggested we might be able to find air bases in or near Crimea for bombing Roumanian Oil Fields, showing his objections about our action were open to discussion.

4. The Turks have no anxiety about an attack by Germany. He had heard all rumours, there was nothing in them. It is possible that one Italian Division has just arrived at Philippopolis, perhaps for Bessarabian Front, perhaps to keep peace between two halves of Bulgarian Army, one pro Russian and one pro German. It would be impossible to maintain a force of any strength landed on Northern Coast through any Black Sea Port specially in Winter. The General Staff consider an attack on Smyrna by Sea is not possible which I confirm with Naval Forces available, and British Fleet still in being, nor could landings in sufficient force be made on this Coast where there is an Army Corps in Defence and ample Aerodromes. The Greek Islands do not lend themselves for large scale Air Attacks.

/ 5. By their....

5. By their later information no German Troops have been withdrawn from Africa, and we should keep close watch against reinforcements.

6. Hitler and Mussolini are to meet in very near future with Von Papen to help.

1247C/26

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

Note : Part One circulated with T.O.O. 1231/26.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F).
- Sec.
- N.A.1st S.L.
- P.A.S.(S).
- D. of P.(2).
- D.O.D.(F).
- D.D.O.D.(F).
- D.N.I.(4).
- I.P.(2).
- W.D.
- D.C.
- D.T.B.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- N.I.D.10 Pay Cdr. Wilson.
- Ad. Herman Hodge.
- D.S.D.9.
- Ad. Pallisen.

N.P.

540D

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2152/26th August. IN

From: British Military Attache Ankara. Date: 27.8.41
Recd: 1430.

MOST SECRET

CYFHER.

Addressed: C. in C. Middle East. Repeated: C. in C. India War Office.

38643 64826 cipher 26/8 for MICE. Your 9596.

1st. Turkish press reception of events in Iran display petulance on following lines.

- (a) Was occupation really necessary.
- (b) Why could British not do job without bringing (4 groups missing) trust by Turkey.
- (c) Will (? Germans) react with pressure on Turkey.
- (d) Are Allied and particularly British forces to proceed or will it be another Syria.

2. Foreign Minister not yet disclosed his line publicly but was very friendly when H.M. Ambassador and Soviet colleague called on August 25th to explain reason for action.

3. General Staff critical that action may hasten German action against Turkey while at the same time tying up British forces in Iran.

4. On the whole reaction restrained but will get stronger unless (a) whole show goes through quickly (b) British occupy lion's share.

5. For Turkish consumption communique should be crisp. References to resistance by Persians or kid glove method on our part to avoid bloodshed react unfavourably here as Turks now merely wish to see job completed as soon as possible.

2152/26.

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

Received by hand from War Office at 0045/23

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.D.O.D. (F) |
| 1st S.L. | D.P.D. |
| V.C.N.S. | D.N.I. (4) |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D. of P. (2) |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | Duty Capt. |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | E.P.S. |
| D.O.D. (H) | F.A.S. (S) |
| D.D.O.D. (H) | Head of M. |
| D.O.D. (F) | I.P. (2) |

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

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

UTMOST.

Leave present position p.m./26 and carry out special operation and leave patrol p.m/28 returning by reverse of outward route to arrive Malta before 2030B/30 or at 0700B/31. (S.O.S., Malta, 1253B/26, to UTMOST).

Suez Canal.

C. in C. Med. 1850C/25/7. No mines considered remain in Canal. No sweeping in Canal since 21/8. In Suez Bay on 21/8 one explosion 6 cables north of Newport Rock. In Abadieh Bay, Suez, on 24/8 explosion(s) close astern tug towing 30 ton crane in 8 fathoms. Both damaged, 4 casualties. Searching sweep of area completed 25th. No results. Normal traffic resumed. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1259C/26 to Admty.)

M.N.B.D.O.
Port T.

Your 1340/25. M.N.B.D.O. Officer will be sent to Colombo. Further signal will be made about requirements from East Indies resources. (C. in C. Med., 1305C/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

→ DEUCALION.
→ FARNDALE.
MELBOURNE
STAR.

Intend sailing DEUCALION at 1100B/26 followed by FARNDALE sailing 2000B. If no signal is made by FARNDALE after passing M/V it will mean that they are safely through the Narrows and I intend to sail MELBOURNE STAR on 27/8. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to locate DEUCALION during day of 28th, same route from Galita Island and speed as DURHAM. (V.A. Malta, 1316B/26 to Admty.) FARNDALE sailed 2000. (V.A. Malta, 2010B/26 to F.O.C.N.A. 2203B.)

TRIUMPH.

Leave Patrol at 2030B/26 and proceed through 038° 20' 012° 40' thence direct to position J to make passage to position H. during daylight/28 to arrive Malta before 2030B/29 or at 0630B/30. (S.O.S., Malta, 1347B/26 to TRIUMPH).

→ FARNDALE.
O.21.
→ DEUCALION.

Request you will signal to FARNDALE route ordered for Dutch S/M O.21. FARNDALE has been instructed to adjust her route so as to pass at least 20 miles clear. Please inform O.21 that DEUCALION sailed 1130B/26 routed as for DURHAM. (V.A. Malta 1520B/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

536

/THRASHER.....

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

THRASHER.
REGENT.

Sailing REGENT postponed. Cancel my 1050C/26. PASS OF BALMAHA and escort due Alexandria, from westward 0600C/27. (Capt. S.1, 1601C/26 to THRASHER). *See p. 540*

French
Convoy.

Your 1417A/25. Original convoy passed north as well and it is understood they still do so. (Capt. S.1, 1617C/26 to Capt. S.8.)

S/M
Reserve
Torpedoes.

A number of reserve Submarine torpedoes are available to complete outfits of Submarines refitting in U.S.A. When circumstances permit and in order to conserve Torpedoes in Mediterranean it is most desirable that Submarines should disembark reload Torpedoes before sailing for refit in U.S.A. (F.O.S., 1619A/26 to S.1).

Malta
Raid.

Night 25/26, 2 aircraft dropped incendiaries in sea. No illuminations or interceptions. Day 25/8, 3 Blenheims despatched to attack M/V 3000 tons Northbound off Kerkenah, unlocated, returned with bombs.

Tripoli
bombed

Night 25/26, 9 Wellingtons dropped 31,750 lbs. bombs and 1920 lbs. incendiaries Tripoli harbour and suspected dumps.

M/V
sunk.

Day 26, 2 Blenheims bombed M/V 4000 tons N.E. Kerkenah, leader 2 hits with 250 lbs. bombs, unfortunately he hit mast, aircraft hit sea in flames. No hope of survivors, second aircraft one hit with 500 lbs. bomb and near miss with another. Ship left sinking fast on even keel and well down, confirmed by photography, claimed as sunk. (H.Q. Malta, 1715/26).

Turkey.

Question of air support. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1722/26, 1723/26) See Mediterranean Volume.

Operation
"Mincemeat".

F.O. Force H 2130/25 paras 5 and 10. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1744A/26 to V.A. Malta).

/Tobruk.....

543

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Tobruk
mining.

Weekly report ending 25/8. Two magnetic mines red polarity detonated south of swept channel outside booms. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk 1746C/26).

HANS SCHMIDT.
(German).

Anchored in Valencia Roads after leaving Port 0029. (Valencia THI 1910/26 to M. of W.T.)

S/M's.

Decided that in addition to PORPOISE and P.34 4 submarines should be sent to reinforce Med. Fleet as early as possible. Requested you will signal proposals. (V.C.N.S. 1936A/26 to F.O.S).

URGE.

Your 1913/26 (N.T. in W.R) received. URGE proceeding in to Naples down West Coast. (V.A. Malta, 2304B/26 to TRIUMPH).

Situation
Report 129.

15th C.S. unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo A/C at dusk/25 while covering operation "Treacle" Air Raid on Alexandria 0350 to 0515/26. No important damage. Syria. French Hospital ship SPHINX left Beirut 1900C/26. (C. in C. Med., 2356C/26 to Admty.)

War Diary.

26.8.1941. ⁵44
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bunkering
at Abadan.

Ref. A.M.1253/24. This has always been practicable and will of course uninterruptedly continue. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0304Z/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

Axis Ships
in Iran,
BARBARA,
BRONTE.

S.O. Force B1605/25 is being passed to you for information. Attention is invited to Troopers 78352/17/8 (N.T. in W.R.) regarding the (?decision) use of two tankers BARBARA and BRONTE to refuel Italian ships evacuating civilians from Ethiopia. Admty. 1743/24 also refers. (C. in C. E.I. 0622Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

AUSTRALIA,
HAWKINS,
C.M.18
W.S.10.

Your 2032/25. (i) AUSTRALIA is required for escort of C.M.(?18) from Durban 13/9. Request she may remain at Durban. Further signal will be made if required for patrol in Mozambique Channel. (ii) On arrival Simonstown 26/8* HAWKINS will have done 47 days at sea out of 50, and I am anxious she should have a spell in harbour. She is required for escort of W.S.10 B. from Durban 8/9. My 1152/25 refers. (iii) HAWKINS could be used to escort Durban portion of W.S.10 from the Cape. (C. in C. E.I., 0952Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.) *See p 537*

** Simon - See p. 538 -*

Gunboats.

Ref. 2030 from Admty. 23. (Repetition of 1717/22 re transfer of SCARAB and SEAMEW to East Indies -Station) If (?4) Persian Gunboats captured yesterday can be taken over permanently and examination show that they are in good condition and well found in spares I will no longer require SCARAB and SEAMEW. Pending Admty. decision on this matter C. in C. China is requested not to proceed with preparations of these ships for passage to East Indies. (C. in C. E.I. 1218Z/26 to Admty., C. in C. China.) *Reply: 1825Z/27 p. 539.*

EL MADINA.

Has twice shown herself incapable of making more than 10 knots and her inclusion in personnel convoys of 14 and 15 knots ships should if possible be avoided. (C. in C. E.I. 1222Z/26 to S.S.T.O. Bombay.)

Abadan.
Operation
"Mopup".

Operation "Mopup" completed. There are now no Persian troops left on Abadan Island. I intend to visit Bandar Shahpur tomorrow 27th by air. (S.N.O. P.G., 1401Z/26 to C. in C. E.I.) S.N.O. P.G. 1401/26 para. 1 refers to occupation of Khazalabad. (C. in C. E.I., 1710Z/22 (?/26))

/Iran

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Iran
Evacuations.

Political Resident requires that approach for evacuation to Persian Gulf Ports should not take place before 28/8. LAWRENCE and YARRA are therefore to defer approach to Bushire and Bandar Abbas respectively until that date. (S.N.O. P.G., 1947Z/26 to YARRA, LAWRENCE.) Evacuation of British civilians from Bandar Abbas is not to take place at present. Further orders regarding HILDA follow. (S.N.O. P.G., 2335Z/26 to YARRA amended 0120Z/27.)

Visit to
certain
places.

It is regretted that "Kedgerree" interfered with the operation planned in your 1428/15 which it is hoped you will be able to carry out in the near future. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2148A/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

Port T.

Your 1054/24. In view of need for preserving secrecy as long as possible, and as major part of the installation will be carried out by M.N.B.D.O., request your R/C may be delayed until shortly before the arrival of M.N.B.D.O. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2257A/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Plans.

Reply to Admty.1958/21. (C. in C. China, 0411Z/26)
See Operations Volume.

Aircraft.

(C. in C. Far East 0032/26 to Governor, Burma.)
See Lion Copy.

Indo-China.
Thailand.

F.E.W.45. (C.O.I.S., Far East, 0932Z/26) See
Lion Copy.

D'ARTAGNAN
(French)

Departure 25/8, Shanghai 28/8. (N.C.S.O. Manila,
0612Z/26 to M. of W.T.)

545A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET
MESSAGE 0032/26 Aug.

IN

From C. in C. Far East.

Date. 26. 8. 41.

Recd. 0300

CYPHER

Circulated at request of

Addressed Governor Burma, repeated The War Office. D. of P.

38280 416/4 cipher 25/8.

For Chief of Staff.

(1) Governor Burma 91 22/8. Personal telegram 1330 of 16/8 not repeated C. in C. Far East and ref imminent threat to Burma or Malaya not understood.

(2) Bombs. A large consignment of bombs including 960 250 lbs. bombs was despatched to Burma on August 23rd.

(3) Bombers. Blenheims are considered suitable for close support. No British dive bombers exist at present.

(4) Fighters. It has always been my intention to despatch a single scatter fighter squadron to Burma as soon as one could be spared.

In order to get some fighters to Burma quickly I decided to re-equip one flight of No. 60 Squadron temporarily with Buffalos the squadron then consisting of one bomber flight and one fighter flight. It was never my intention that all the Buffalos sent to Burma should be initial equipment. Maintenance of air effort is essential and 16 Buffalos sent to Burma included a generous reserve. .5 ammunition has been very short but 80,000 rounds left Malaya for Burma August 23rd.

(5) International Air Force. I telegraphed personally to McArthur, Philippines asking whether he could help International Air Force by supplying .5 ammunition. Have not yet had reply but am told verbally that some is already on the way.

(6) Operational training, International Air Force. Your tel.X.571 awaited giving sanction has now been received.

(7)/....

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

(7) Reinforcements. I realize number of aircraft actually in Burma now small but all landings in Far East are under my control and I will allot squadrons to various theatres as situation demands. With small Air Force at my disposal maximum concentration at vital points is essential and plans are already in hand for quick R.A.F. reinforcement of Burma pending arrival of British troop carrying aircraft for maintenance personnel. It is hoped to borrow Dutch aircraft temporarily.

(8) Anti-tank guns and armoured fighting vehicles. 10 anti-tank rifles and approximately 500 rounds of ammunition despatched Burma ex Malaya August 18th. Agree that armoured fighting vehicles are desirable but Burma Army already have 25 BREN carriers 4 obsolete armoured cars and in addition have been supplied with plans etc. to enable local construction of armoured cars.

0032/26 .

Recd. by hand from War Office at 1155/27.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 5th 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)
- D.C.
- E.P.S.
- P.A.S. (S)
- Hd. of M.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.N.A.D.

0932Z/26 August

SECRET.

MESSAGE

IN

Date 27.8.41.

From C.O.I.S. Far East Singapore. Time 1131

Interdepartmental Cypher 13 by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty, D.N.I., D.N.I. Ottawa, C.in C East Indies, A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., Air H.Q. New Delhi pass to F.O.C.R.I.N., C.in C China., G.H.Q. Far East, G.O.C. Malaya, G.O.C. Burma., G.O.C. Hongkong, British Ambassador Tokyo 163., British Ambassador Chungking, A.O.C. Far East., Army H.Q. India., British Admiralty Delegation Washington.,

F E W 45. French Indo China Disembarkation of Japanese troops at Saigon ceased after one division had been landed. EGAL was released August 23rd.

Thailand. Japan still trying to force Thailand into Yen bloc. Among the portfolios relinquished by Thai Prime Minister was that of Minister for foreign affairs which has been taken over by pro British deputy foreign affairs.

Japan. Japanese paper Hochi seems to evade the usual strict Government control and has printed an article criticizing the vacillating policy of Prince Konoye. (3 corrupt groups) Continue from all areas except South America (?coasts). Of half million reservists recently mobilized (?up to) 50 thousand have returned to civil life. In addition, 200 detachments called up for line communication duties were demobilized after (7) days training. Construction of air raid shelters at key points in Tokyo now intensified.

0932Z/26.

Advance Copy 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.
F.A.S. (S)
Ops. (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.
I.P.

~~D. of L.D. (2)~~
W.D.
Admiral Palliser.
Admiral Chalmers.

546

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Tankers for
Iceland.

Ref. A.L.U.S.N.A. London, 2230/25. ^{P.520} Names
of 3 tankers are W.E. HUTTON, EAGLE, PENNSYL-
VANIA. (Spenavo, 0825/26 to Admty.)

Task Forces.

Future Movements. (D.O.D.(H) 1230/26 to C. in C.
A.W.I., etc.)

ORION.

Your 1232/25 E.T.A. Balboa 1300 G.M.T./28.
About 1200 tons fuel required. Propose pro-
ceeding direct to Mare Island after fuelling.
(ORION, 1432Z/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Approved
1032/27.

AUSTRALIND.

Due Balboa 20/8 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica,
1444R/26 to Admty. etc.)

St. John's,
N.F.

A/T Baffle has now been laid in entrance to St.
John's Harbour, Newfoundland. Following are
positions of Baffle Buoys. (C.C.N.F. 1511Z/26
to Admty.)

FURIOUS.

A.M. 1550A/22, para.3. FURIOUS allotted to
Philadelphia, job number S.137. (D.O.D.(H)
1540A/26 to FURIOUS, F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)

EMPRESS OF
ASIA.

Your 1609Z/25. ^{N.F. W/D} H.M. Transport EMPRESS OF ASIA
cannot complete coaling before 27/8; cannot
arrive New York before p.m./3. earliest.
Request British Embassy, Washington, be asked to
arrange landing permits for approx. 100 civilian
passengers. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1517Q/26 to
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Your 0303/26. If no unforeseen delay occurs,
ship should be able to embark personnel at
Halifax to sail in H.X.149 10/9. Assume
personnel to full capacity are to be embarked.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1616Z/26 to D. of S.T.)

Comtask
Force 3.

From O.P.N.A.V. for Duty Captain. New Schedule.
(Spenavo, 1618/26 to Admty.)

CARSLOGIE.

Have you any news of CARSLOGIE from Loch Ewe due
19/8. (D.T.D. 1629A/26 to N.C.S.O. Sydney N.S.)
Reply: 1507/27.

ASCANIA.

Departure ASCANIA due Bermuda 1600Q/31. Captain
wishes to carry out full calibre night firing
on leaving Bermuda. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1715Q/26
to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/TRUANT

War Diary.26.8.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.TRUANT.

My 1042R/21. Owing to delay in completion of refit dates are amended as follows: Leave Portsmouth N.H. 30/8 etc. (B.A.R.M. 1748R/26 to Admty. etc.)

C.A.M.
Ships.

C.A.M. ships EASTERN CITY and EMPIRE FAITH in Convoy O.N.8 and EMPIRE SPRAY and EMPIRE OCEAN in Convoy O.N.9 will call at Halifax and will be routed on for loading at U.S.A. Ports. Aircraft should be disembarked for servicing on arrival and should be re-embarked on return of vessels to Halifax for Convoy. (D.T.D. 2107A/26 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Galapagos.

All shipping between North American and South American west coast ports is being routed east of Galapagos Islands. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2152Q/26 to Commander West Indies, PRINCE HENRY.)

GUADELOUPE.
(French)

Arrived 25th. (New York, 2230Z/26 to D. of S.T.)

Australia and New Zealand.Service
Personnel.

Your 0334A/18 and 1725A/22. Intend lifting Australian commitment as follows: AORANGI for U.K., 32 R.A.N., 100 R.A.A.F. MONTEREY 430 R.A.A.F., of which 208 for U.K. CERAMIC for U.K., 41 R.A.N. 31 A.I.F., 100 R.A.A.F. ATHLONE CASTLE 100 R.A.A.F. for U.K. ATHLONE CASTLE contingent will take passage to New Zealand in MONTEREY. (A.C.N.B., 0553Z/26 to D. of S.T.)

MONTEVIDEO
MARU, raider
report.

My 0647Z/25. From special Intelligence report MONTEVIDEO MARU (corrupt group) on Sunday 24/8 001° 40' N. 166° 16' W. or E. (A.C.N.B. 0605Z/26 to S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica.)

Pacific
Routeing
Plans.

Your 0503Z/22. Concur Cape York, Fiji. (A.C.N.B., 0751Z/26 to C. in C. China.)

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

O.G. 71

Your 1835/25. Accurate story of Convoy has been circulated from Lisbon by Reuters and Associated Press of America. Latter refers to a Press conference at which a Naval Officer was present. Story will also be broadcast by B.B.C. No further statements appear necessary. (D.P.D., 0050A/26 Approved by V.C.N.3. to N.A. Lisbon).

SOUTHERN PRINCE, (torpedoed 25/8).

SOUTHERN PRINCE P.C. and S. at 0430 was 062° 15' N., 009° 21' W., 150° 10 knots. NEWARK in company. (R.A.M., 0432A/26 to Admty).

Unknown ship.

S S S S 2327 from unknown station strength 2 torpedoed no further particulars. (Wick Radio, 2327/26 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

0220

1 submarine my position 348 62° N., 11° W. 18 (CAPE PALLISER, 0220/26 to Scapa W/T). My 0220 (report of S/M) Unable to maintain contact proceeding to T R 34. Request instructions. (CAPE PALLISER, 0310/26 to S.O.N.T.) Am over enemy S/M in 62.09N., 18.01 W. (A/C using call sign MK7S 0740/26 to 15 Group H.Q.) Enemy S/M previously reported when first sighted was on course 090° 4 knots. Request return REK rearm. (A/C 0800/26 to 15 Group H.Q.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Reports considered to evidence presence of substantial number of U/Bs. in area bounded by Malin Head, Barra Head, 60° 10° S. coast of Iceland (C), 60° 20° , 55° 15°, Achill Head. (D.D.I.C., 1432A/26).

1500

Training A/C from Arbroath reports S/M on surface 084°. Arbroath 44 miles steering 060° at 1500/26. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1544/26 to Admty V.A.2, A.C.O.S.) My 1544. S/M was submerged throughout and periscope and feather in sight for about 1 minute. Shape of S/M seen under water. Height of A/C 1,000 feet, state of sea 2 to 3. Course of S/M doubtful. Classified B.4. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1744/26 to Admty, V.A.2 A.C.O.S.) Am over enemy S/M in 53.20 N., 16.15 W., Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C using call sign F.H.6 Q 1550/26 to 15 Group H.Q.)

/S/M.....

War Diary.26.8.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

- 1500- Contd. S/M previously reported was on course 180° speed 8 knots. (A/C using call sign F.H. 6 Q, 1615/26 to 15 Group H.Q.)
- 1426 G.M.T. D/F at 1426 G.M.T. U-boat in 53° 30' N., 13° 30' W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1608A/26).
- 2110 G.M.T. It is probable that H.X.144 has been sighted by a U-boat at 2110 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 2310A/26 to BULLDOG, AMAZON, GEORGETOWN).

Submarines Attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 58.17 N., 13.48 W. Have attacked enemy with bombs level and estimate Nil hits. (A/C using call sign MGXJ, 0940/26) Whitley A/C. (D.S.720).

By A/C

U-boat attacked 61.33 N., 16.47 W. (A/C using call sign B.8 D.P. 1014/26 to Kaldadarnes H/F D/F Stn.) (Liverpool W/T, 1220A/26 to Orkneys and Shetlands) Hudson A/C (D.S. 720).

My 1014. Periscope only sighted on course 040° 8 knots. Have attacked enemy with depth charges, result unknown. (A/C using call sign B.8 D.P. 1026/26 to Kaldardames H/F D/F Stn).

No enemy has been sighted between bearings CFHX 836 and JZWM 2810 up to a distance of 30 miles from JZHD 0959. Average visibility is 8 miles. Am maintaining prearranged track. (A/C using call sign B 8 D.P. 1115/26 to 15 Group).

By A/C
1009.

A/C reports S/M bombed by own A/C 061° 03' N., 017° 04' W., at 1009. Am proceeding to position to hunt. (KINGSTON AGATE, 1400A/26 to S.O.N.T.)

By A/C

Sub bearing 270° distance 3 miles course 270° position 59.10 N., 13.15 W. (A/C using call sign OQ7P 1510/26 to Wick) Hudson A/C, attack with D/Cs believed damaged. (D.S., 720).

/By VIMY.....

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. - Contd.

By VIMY,
1600/25
1300/26.

Attacked contact in 043° 21' N., 019° 55' W.,
at 1600A/25 and 040° 35' N., 014° 45' W., at
1330A/26, both 2 hour hunts. Result doubtful.
My P.C. and S. 040° 24' N., 014° 30' W., 130° 13
knots, weather. (VIMY, 1600A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C

Am over enemy S/M in 58.45 N., 12.06 W., sighted
on surface and observed to submerge. Periscope
only sighted. When first sighted was on course
270°.

(A/C 'J' 2030/26 to 15 Group) Whitley A/C.
(D.S. 720).

Have attacked enemy with bombs dive, and estimate
no hits. (A/C - 2035/26 to 15 Group).

By A/C

Am over Enemy S/M in 58.54 N., 13.09 W. Have
attacked estimate no hits.

(A/C 'J' 2154/26 to 15 Group) Whitley A/C.
(D.S. 720).

551

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Spitzbergen. Force A is operating at Spitzbergen.

Unknown Ship.

A civil aircraft reported a large merchant ship without markings in 44° 22' N. 9° 52' W. course 095° at 1540 today. TUNA was ordered to intercept and air patrols were established.

V. 570 Captured.

U. 570 surrendered today to A/C 'S' (Hudson) of 269 Sqdn, Coastal Command, off Iceland, and was towed there on 29.8.41. U. 570 was later renamed GRAPH in the Royal Navy.

British Air Operations.

25 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the docks at Le Havre last night. Warehouses at Boulogne were also attacked.

Enemy Air Operations.

A Heinkel III dropped 2 bombs near the oil tanks at Thorshavn at 1247A today. The tanks were not damaged.

Mining.

16 aircraft laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands and Denmark. A few aircraft laid mines off Brest, Lorient and St. Nazaire.

/It is.....

552

27.8.1941.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - Contd.

It is thought that enemy aircraft laid mines last night off the Pembrokeshire coast. Mines were detonated today off Milford Haven. The port was reopened subject to local restrictions at 1041A today.

Mines were also detonated off the Humber and in the Thames Estuary.

Mediterranean.

M.V.
DEUCALION.

M.V. DEUCALION which sailed from Malta yesterday for Gibraltar was shelled by a S/M N.E. of Kelibia but was not hit. In escaping, she was forced on to the edge of a minefield. Her paravane exploded a mine in 36° 59' 30" N. 11° 9' E.; both paravanes were broken but the ship was undamaged. At 1220 she was attacked by torpedo bomber aircraft in 37° 18' N. 8° 19' E. and again at 1736 in 37° 24' N. 6° 54(?) E. It is reported that she brought down one of the aircraft in the second attack. At 1755 G.M.T. she reported being shadowed by an enemy U-boat in 37° 24' N. 6° 30' E.

FARNDALE which sailed from Malta 7 hours later than DEUCALION intends to close and escort her. Both ships arrived at Gibraltar a.m./29.

See p. 615

Operations
by UPHOLDER

UPHOLDER reports that on 20/8 she sank an escorted 2000 ton laden eastbound merchant ship off Cape St. Vito.

At 1630/22 off Cape St. Vito she reports that she obtained 2 hits with torpedoes on a 4000 ton tanker which she reported as the Italian Fleet oiler TARVISIO; heavy counter attack prevented observation of result.

/Convoy.....

553

27.8.1941.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoy
attacked
by F.A.A.

6 out of 9 Sworáfish from Malta attacked at 2005 today off Lampeúsa in very bad weather a convoy of 4 large merchant ships escorted by 4 destroyers sighted during the afternoon steering south. One 8000 ton ship was hit.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

8 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli in the early hours of today, dropping 30,000 lbs. of bombs and 1920 lbs. of incendiaries. Fires were visible 120 miles.

SKUDD ~~III~~³ (minesweeper) was hit and set on fire and subsequently sank, in a heavy dive-bombing attack on Tobruk at 1745 today.

Operation "Treacle" is proceeding normally. PHOEBE was hit by an aircraft torpedo at 2145C today, 30 miles north of Bardia, whilst covering the operation. She is returning to Alexandria under her own steam with C.S.15 (NAIAD) with GALATEA and 4 destroyers in company.

Egypt
& Canal
Zone.

There was an air raid on Ismailia Aerodrome by 3 aircraft early this morning. No naval damage was caused but the R.A.F. had a few casualties and slight damage to buildings.

East Indies.

Iran.

KANIMBLA has been ordered to land a detachment to assist the military at Bandar Mashur, where the Anglo Iranian Oil Company's officials are threatened with arrest. SHOREHAM has been ordered to Bandar Shahpur.

COCK CHAFER, River Steamers and Eureka's are supporting the Army in the Karun River. All is quiet at Abadan. General mobilisation orders were issued today.

554

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Raider
sighted.

At 0830Z today PRINCE DAVID, on patrol reported an unknown enemy ship in 34° 30' N. 51° 47' W. steering 140° at 25 knots. At 0930Z she reported that she had lost touch and that the enemy appeared to be a heavy cruiser. RODNEY at Bermuda was ordered to raise steam for full speed; she proceeded at 1243Q.

Galapagos
Area.

Late today, U.S. air reconnaissance had failed to find evidence of a raider in the Galapagos area.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy
O.S.4.

Convoy O.S.4 was attacked last night and in the early hours of today in approx. 53° 37' N. 16° 40' W. in a moderate gale and heavy rain. Nothing was seen of the U-Boat. The following ships are reported to have been sunk: SEGUNDO, SAUGOR. The following are missing: LANGLEETARN, EMBASSAGE and ~~H.M.S.~~ ^{U.S.} CHEVREUIL. TREMODA was torpedoed and abandoned but it is hoped to get her in. (CHEVREUIL broke off from convoy 0700Z today. See p. 573.)

U-Boat
surrendered.

(U. 570)

There are indications of several U-boats in the N.W. Approaches; aircraft sweeps and hunts were carried out.

An A/C from Iceland (C) attacked a U-boat this morning in 62° 15' N. 18° 35' W. The U-boat surfaced at noon and surrendered.

555
27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

"Snowflakes"
for O.E.
Ships.

My 1607A/14. To expedite the distribution of snowflakes to ocean escort vessels, arrangements are to be made, at ports where stocks of snowflakes exist, to ensure that before any ocean escort vessel leaves harbour she has on board her correct outfit of snowflakes. (A.C.N.S.(T), 1007A/27).

S/Ms for
Mediterranean.

Propose to sail following four S/Ms on following dates. (F.O.S., 1022A/27 to Admty). See Mediterranean Volume.

Manning
Conference.

My 1120A/26. It is not intended that C. in C. H.F. should be recalled from leave, but it is requested that a representative may attend. (1st S.L., 1156A/26).

Flag of
R.A.M.

My flag has been transferred to AGAMEMNON today. (R.A.M., 1536A/27).

Spitzbergen
Evacuation.

Report recieved by Soviet Embassy here from Russian Consul in Spitzbergen alleging that evacuation arrangements not working smoothly. Ambassador complains in particular that evacuees were not allowed to take their personal belongings, and that Russians were not being treated with courtesy. [Untrue: page 581]
2. No doubt you realise importance of showing all possible consideration to evacuees.
3. As far as space allows valuable parts of mining machinery should be withdrawn to U.K. and not destroyed.
4. Request short signalled report on next occasion of breaking W/T silence.
5. AURORA pass to Brigadier Potts. (V.C.N.S., 1940A/27 to S.O. Force A).

8th D.F.
"F" Class
Armaments.

A.M. 2258A/15. Before joining W.A. Command following modifications to armament of "F" class destroyers of 8th D.F. are to be carried out during present repair and refit periods. Particulars The Armament landed is to be retained in readiness for replacement in the event of invasion warning. (A.C.N.S. T., 2123A/27).

Plymouth
Command.

C. in C. Portsmouth's 1845/26 and my 2239/21. Request 1 A/A Destroyer and 40th A/S Group may be transferred to Plymouth Command when PUCKERIDGE joins 1st D.F. (C. in C. Plymouth 2306/27).

War Diary.

27.8.1941.⁵⁵⁶
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia.

British Representatives for Archangel. Re flying boat to take urgently 3 naval officers and 3 representatives of Ministry of War Transport to Archangel. (V.C.N.S., 1704A/27 to A.O.C. in C. C.C., H.Q.C.C., 2300/27).

Movements.

SKATE. To comply with C. in C. W.A. 2350A/26 sailed SKATE 0156A/27. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 0159A/27).

PARTHIAN. Intend to sail PARTHIAN at 1530A/29 by following route to R/V in 110° Start Point 6 miles at 0800A/30 and on completion independent exercises to Dartmouth. (Capt. S. S., 1444A/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

UPSHUR, GREER. (U.S. Ships). Following received from Opnav. U.S.S. UPSHUR departs Reykjavik 28/8 for Argentina arriving 2/9. U.S.S. GREER departs Boston 1600/28 for Reykjavik via Argentina. (Spnava 1639/27 to Admty).

Operations.

A/S sweep. BLANKNEY, STORK. BLANKNEY and STORK are to be sailed to R/V 180° 5 miles from Mull of Kintyre at 1200A/27 and proceed in company to carry out an A/S sweep in lat. 054° 45' N., between 012° and 014° W. Ships concerned will subsequently be ordered to meet special Convoy arriving from Westward. (C. in C. W.A., 0123A/27).

Operations "Dervish", "Strength". My 1533A/21. Cancel paragraph (ii) and substitute new paragraph (ii):- "Intend to sail Force L to arrive Seidis Fiord P.M./31, proceeding thence as necessary to pass through position "W" and R/V with Force M in position "R" 075° N., 008° E., at 2000/3. (F.O.2 H.F., 1219A/27).

A/S Patrol. Sailed AYRSHIRE in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1240A/25. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1615A/27).

INT. W.D.

/Operation.....

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation
"Iliad".

Will not be carried out tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1620A/27).

Interception
of M/V.

Air patrols are being established when weather permits to the Eastward of your positions. Submarines may be ordered to intercept or pursue enemy, whose speed is not expected to exceed 12½ knots. T.B.R. arranged between 46° 30' and 44° N., and 05° and 11° W from 0600/28 until further notice. (F.O.S., 1856A/27 to TUNA, SEAWOLF). Large M/V reported by Civil Aircraft in 44° 22' N., 09° 52' W., course 095° 12 knots at 1540A/27 If you can do so proceed to intercept to Westward of 04° 40' W., on assumption that vessel is proceeding to Bilbao.

(F.O.S., 1934A/27 to TUNA)

A.M.1756/27. If TUNA can reach an intercepting position she may sink the M.V. at sight wherever met provided - (A) TUNA is satisfied M.V. is hostile. (B) M.V. is outside territorial waters. (V.C.N.S., 1948A/27 to F.O.S.) My 1934A/27.

1. Delete last two words and substitute "towards 43° 48' N., 04° 40' W".
2. You may sink the merchant vessel wherever met provided (a) you are satisfied merchant vessel is hostile (b) merchant vessel is outside territorial waters. (F.O.S., 2319A/27 to TUNA).

Enemy Air Activity.

Thorshaven
bombed.

One Heinkel III attacked Thorshaven at 1247A/27. 2 bombs dropped near oil tanks. No casualties. Slight damage to civilian property. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1427A/27).

Mining.

Milford
Haven.

My 2337/26. Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1041A/27). One blue mine detonated by LL Trawlers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801A/27).

Thames
Estuary.

1 S.A. Mine detonated at 1234/27 as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1620/27).

/ADVENTURE.....

558

27.8.1941.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

ADVENTURE.

My 0121/12. After experience of last operation with ship light and moving in a seaway, somewhat heavier vibration has been experienced than was previously reported. Further signal with recommendation will be made to-morrow after gaugings have been taken.
(R.A.M., 1849/27).

Spurn Point.

At 1640/27 one magnetic mine was detonated. Details. (F.O. Humber, 2000A/27).

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast.

O.14 Reports. (A) Shipping patrol and air activity all practically non-existent. (B) Smoke screen trial on coast Lat. 60° 15' N. (F.O.S., 1102A/27).

Brest.
La Pallice.
La Rochelle.

Cloudy photographs at 0945/27 at Brest show both Battle Cruisers and HIPPER Cruiser at usual positions. Only part Rade De Brest photoed but three M/Vs 350/400 ft. new arrivals a.m. 26/8 have left positions then occupied. At La Pallice four destroyers still present. No change in shipping in Roads since 16/8. 450 ft. M/V reported as probably departed on 26/8 still present, together with two tankers 450 ft. and two M/Vs aground of Ile De Re. At La Rochelle, no significant change in shipping since 26/8. (P.R.U., St. Eval 1355/27).

M/V off Corunna.

Civil Aircraft reports a large M.V. in 44° 22' N., 9° 52' W. Course 095°, 12 knots, at 1540/27. No markings. (D.D.I.C., 1756A/27).

Murmansk Area.
Projected attack.

Russian report graded C.O. indicates German combined operation against Murmansk district projected on which all air forces Norway and Finland may be employed. German 6th mountain division proceeding Stettin to Oslo in eight convoys of 3 to 5 ships in each convoy. Total 31 ships. Convoys to sail every two days commencing 27/8. Last convoy 10/9. M.A. Stockholm reports graded C.O. German mountain division now on way to far North via Oslo, Trondheim, thence by sea and vehicles shipped via Vaasa. (D.N.I., 1814A/27 to V.A.2).

Unknown Ships.

^{p.531.}
A.C.I.C.'s 1303/26. It is probable that the 3 ships are the MUNIN, RANDI, INGERTO, which are Norwegian ships. (D.D.I.C., 1934A/27 to V.A.2).

27.8.1941.⁵⁵⁹
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

M.L.177

My 1015. M.L.177 broke down 025° Start Point 2 miles. Towing to harbour. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1229/27).

CHARLESTOWN.
NEWARK.

Defects. (R.A.M. 1321/27) See U-boat Campaign, SOUTHERN PRINCE.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

(A/S Trawler) In distress with rope round screw last position 9 miles 067° from Lundy South Light at 1210/27 drifting westward. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1331A/27 to KUJAWIAK). My 1331A/27 BEDFORDSHIRE taken in tow. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1716/27).

OMA.

My 1426/27. Reported after arrival had to be towed part of the way by motor vessel ENERGIE from Looe Channel owing to engine trouble. She was able to enter harbour under her own power but is now completely broken down and unserviceable (R.N.O. Shoreham, 1610/27).

PROTEUS.

Cover plate leaks badly. Propose to return to TITANIA. E.T.A. 1800A. (PROTEUS, 1615A/27).

Shipping & Convoys.

P.S. and
-S.P. Groups.

Intend to establish a schedule of escorted groups of Coastal M.V. on the inshore route between St. Helens and Shoreham commencing 27/8. These groups will be escorted by 1 A/S trawler or Chasseur and will operate on a timetable dependent on high water at Shoreham. They will be called P.S. and S.P. groups and will be numbered according to the day of the month. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0957A/27 to Admty).

Balloons.

p. 534 has 'east'

Cancel my 1457A/25 and 1945A/26. Ballons and kites are not to be flown in convoys when west of 8° W. (C. in C. W.A., 1143A/27 to W.A.G.M.N.178).

/W.S.11.....

560

27.8.1941.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

W.S.11

My 1818A/18, .Ships to be sailed to R/V at 0830A
/31. Route. (D.O.D. H., 1908/27 to C. in C. W.A).
See Lion Copy.

E.T.A.

My 1659/10/6. Importance of accurate forecasts.
(D.T.D., 1920A/27 to N.C.S.O.'s) See Lion Copy.

Oil
Transfer,
Iceland.

My 1932A/21 and your 0731A/23 and N.C.S.O. Aultbea
1010A/25. BRITISH COLONY is intended to inaugurate
a service of oil transfer from U.S. to British
Flag ships in Hvalfjord. Transfer of cargo
had been arranged to take place on 1/9. Request
you will therefore take first available
opportunity of sailing this ship.
(D.T.D. 1941A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

560A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

OUT
1908/27th August

TO:- C. in C. Western Approaches 764
 repeated F.O.I.C. Liverpool
 F.O.I.C. Greenock
 F.O.I.C. Cardiff
 F.O.I.C. Belfast
 N.C.S.O. Liverpool
 N.C.S.O. Clyde
 N.C.S.O. Milford Haven
 N.C.S.O. Newport
 N.C.S.O. Swansea
 C. in C. Home Fleet 664
 C. in C. South Atlantic 557
 C. in C. Mediterranean 889
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 472
 S.O. Force H 549
 S.O.W.P.
 SHEFFIELD
 DERBYSHIRE
 V.A.2. 132

DATE:- 27.8.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (C)

FROM:- Admiralty

IMPORTANT

My 1818A/18.

Route for W S 11

I. Ships should be sailed to rendezvous at 0830A/31 in position A 270 degs. 6 miles from Oversay thence through

B 54 degs. N 23 degs. W
 X 45 degs. N 26 degs. W
 D 37 degs. 30' N 31 degs. W
 E 26 degs. N 27 degs. W
 F 14 degs. N 26 degs. W.
 G 08 degs. 30' N 15 degs. W

thence to Freetown

II. Standard Route

P 55 degs. 30' N 10 degs. W
 Q 54 degs. N 22 degs. W
 R 47 degs. N 26 degs. W
 S 38 degs. N 30 degs. 30' W
 T 27 degs. N 28 degs. W.
 U 13 degs. 30' N 26 degs. W.
 V 08 degs. 30' N 15 degs. W.

III. Daisy 56 degs. N 13 degs. W.
 Robin 53 degs. N 22 degs. W
 Horse 48 degs. N 28 degs. W
 Lupin 41 degs. N 26 degs. W
 Lark 35 degs. N 28 degs. W
 Tiger 28 degs. N 30 degs. W
 Pansy 23 degs. N 25 degs. W
 Swift 17 degs. N 28 degs. W.
 Cow 14 degs. N 22 degs. W.
 Rose 11 degs. N 17 degs. W.

IV Speed of advance to X estimated 11 1/2 knots thereafter slow 11 1/2 fast 13 1/2

V./.....

560^B

- 2 -

V. H.Q.F.C. and H.Q.C.C. have been informed as far as the route concerns them.

1908/27

for D.O.D.(H)

A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.O.D.(H)
D.D.O.D.(H)
D.T.D.(2)
D.T.D.(M)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.L/S.W.
Duty Captain (2)
I.P.(2)

EG

~~300~~

5608

MESSAGE

1920A/27 August. OUT.

To: N.C.S.O. Aultbea
N.C.S.O. Avonmouth
N.C.S.O. Barry Roads,
N.C.S.O. Belfast
N.C.S.O. Cardiff
N.C.S.O. Clyde
N.C.S.O. Liverpool
N.C.S.O. Londonderry
N.C.S.O. Milford Haven
N.C.S.O. Oban.

Date: 27.8.41.

P/L

From: Admiralty

NINE.

My 1659/10 June.

Expected times of arrival included in Outward Routeing Forms continue to show large margins of error when compared with actual dates of arrival, and in addition in some instances ships in the same convoy bound for the same port at the same speed on almost identical routes are estimated to arrive on different dates by the same N.C.S.O. while slow ships are estimated to arrive before faster ships.

It is again emphasised that these expected times of arrival are the basis of the Outward Vesca signal and the expeditious handling of shipping at loading ports abroad depends increasingly on accurate forecasts of arrival dates.

Outward Routeing Forms are not required for ships which are proceeding to Freetown or Gibraltar respectively in OS or OG convoys.

1920A/27.
for D.T.D. (851)

A.C.N.S. (T)
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of S.T.
D. of S.2A.
I.P. (3)
W.D.

561

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.DEUCALION.

Attacked by S/M, mine, and A/C. See under Mediterranean.

BESSEL.
EUGENIO C.German BESSEL left Ferrol 1 a.m. 26/8.
Italian EUGENIO C. reported at Castro Urdiales.
(Guyatt Coruna, 1000/27 to Admty.)
BESSEL sailed from Ferrol 0100/26. Destination unknown. (F.O.C.N.A. 1653A/27 to N.A. Stn.)O. 21.

My 2138A/26. Insert new position 37° 15'N, 00° 00'E. (F.O.C.N.A. 1119A/27 to FARNDALE.)

Dispositions.Situation report No. 3 at 2000/27, all positions N.W. (i) STELLA CARINA approx. position 23.00N. 17.35W through 25.36N 16.45W thence 50° 10'N (ii) MARON patrol H.X.3 (iii) CAVINA patrol H.Z.1. (F.O.C.N.A., 1258A/27 to N.A. Stn.)MARIA
BELMATTI.Spanish auxiliary sailing vessel MARIA BELMATTI sailed last night for Rio de Oro. Loaded 400 empty drums rumoured vessel will load petrol for enemy at Dakar or elsewhere. Am informed members of crew were offered substantial remuneration and some refused to sail in vessel. (Las Palmas, 1300/27 to Admty.)
Your 1300/27 has been repeated to S.O.I. Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 2302A/27 to N.C.S.O. Las Palmas.)DURHAM.Your 1746A/25. Please give Master of DURHAM congratulations of Board of Admiralty on the way he brought his ship to Gibraltar in spite of damage by mine. (1st S.L. 1544A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)S/M to visit
Freetown.Admty. 2249A/15. In view of large number of A/S craft now based on Freetown, approved for a submarine to visit that port for about a month so that A/S training can be carried out. Request you will detail either SEVERN or CLYDE to proceed to Freetown as convenient. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1813A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)MAURO CROCE.
(Italian)For information. Probable that MAURO CROCE will leave Barcelona about 3/9 for Genoa with large cargo of olive oil. This commodity is of great importance to Italy. (D.E.W.D. 2234A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Mines.

Floating mines were reported in 31° 30' S., 12° E. 360° W.N.W. Capetown, on 25/8. (D.S.721, 28/8.)

LAFONIA.

Your 0723/16. Decided to allocate LAFONIA as an additional ship for service on West coast of Africa as a troopship. Estimated that she can be fitted for a total of 300 all ranks. (D. of S.T. 0243A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

CHESHIRE.

Return to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1141N/27 to CHESHIRE.)

Norwegian
Whale
Catchers.

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1327B/16. Vessels sailed. E.T.A. Kilindini a.m./5. S. of A. 9 knots. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1142Z/27 to N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar.)

CIRCASSIA.

Your 1202Q/18 and my 2145N/22. CIRCASSIA leaves Freetown 1800/27 routed through :-
(a) 010° 20' N. 016° 40' W. and
(z) 010° 45' N. 030° 00' W. to
(c) 025° 00' N. 042° 30' W.
E.T.A. (c) 0001/3. (C. in C. S.A. 1153N/27 to Admty. etc.)

Troops for
M.E.

On completion of movement of personnel ex W.S.10 the undermentioned troops will require transport from Durban to Mid East. Very desirable they should all be cleared by end of October, total 20964. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown 1216B/27 to D. of S.T.)

SURREY.

Your 1904N/26, confirm ship addressed was SURREY sailed Trinidad 23rd for Buenos Aires. (D.T.D. 1358A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE.
ALCANTARA.

If likely that under present arrangements CARNARVON CASTLE and ALCANTARA will be away from S.A. Station at same time, endeavour will be made to provide another A.M.C. instead. (C. in C. S.A., 1433N/27 to R.A.S.A.D.)

/EXMOUTH

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

EXMOUTH.

Have you any news of American EXMOUTH from Karachi due 21/8 ? (D.T.D. 1545A/27 to N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

Codewords.

Your 2311/24 (Operation "Cutting") Codewords should give no indication of nature of operation. Following codewords are allocated for your use. If more are required request you will apply to Admiralty. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1705A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

564

27.8.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

TETRARCH
REGENT

15th C.S. ABDIEL and 3 destroyers pass through 33°00' 26° 08' from Tobruk at 0600C/28 Keep West of 25° 15' until 0600C/28.
(Capt. S.1. 0030C/27 to TETRARCH)
My 0030C/27. Keep westward 025° 15' until 0600C/28 then proceed through 033° 06' 025° 15' & 033° 20' 026° 36' arriving Alexandria Sanctuary 0600C/30. REGENT leaving Alexandria p.m./27 for 032° 16' 029° 22' and 033° 40' 027° 26' thence course 280°. (Capt. S. 1. 1215C/27)

DEUCALION

Communications of DEUCALION as for DURHAM Code Word "Canon". (V.A. Malta, 0831B/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)
DEUCALION shelled by S/M N.E. of Kelibia. No hits. Paravane exploded mine in 036° 59' 30" 011° 09'. Both paravanes broken, otherwise no damage. Ship (?? proceeding).
(FARNDALE, 0754B/27 to V.A. Malta)
Following has been read. Addressed: Malta Radio. Help "Canon" 37.18 N., 8.19 E.
(DEUCALION, 1220/27)
Following has been read. Addressed Gibraltar W/T. Enemy aircraft bombing "Canon", 37.24 N. 6.54 15 E.
(DEUCALION, no T.O.O. Recd. 1736/27)
DEUCALION reports being shadowed by submarine in 037° 24' N., 006° 30' E. Intend to close and escort her, my position 037° 24' N., 005° 47' E.
(FARNDALE, 2001B/27 to V.A. Malta)
DEUCALION made help in 037° 18' N., 008° 19' E at 1220. At 1755 G.M.T. she reported being followed by enemy U-Boat. (F.O.C.N.A. 2017A/27 to FARNDALE)

Submarines

Reply to Admty. 1936A/26. (F.O.S. 1022A/27 to Admty.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Alexandria
Raid.

During raid night 25/26 4 bombs dropped on Aboukir. Barracks damaged. 8 Airmen wounded. Some civilian damage and casualties.
Night 26/27. Some enemy aircraft reported over Suez Canal zone. 3 Parachutes Flares reported dropped 10 miles E. of Heliopolis. No damage or casualties reported.

Benghazi
Bardia
bombed.

Night 25/26. 5 Wellingtons bombed Railway Sidings in Benghazi Harbour. A sixth Wellington unable to reach Benghazi bombed Enemy Camp between Bardia and Tobruk.
4 Albacores F.A.A. dropped 2½ tons of bombs on Bardia Harbour, obtaining 3 hits on 1 ship and 1 hit on a second ship. Further bombs started 3 fires among petrol dumps.
(H. Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1034/27)

/Enemy....

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

564A

IN

1231B/27th August

From S.O. S/M's Malta.

Date. 27.8.41.
Recd. 1445.

~~Naval Cypher (O) by W/E. REPRODUCTION.~~

Addressed Admiralty Reported Capt (S) I F.O.(B)
C. in C. Mediterranean.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41.

(a) Aug: 20th.	(b) 2,00 tons eastbound laden merchant vessel escorted by armed trawlers off Cape Saint Vito.	(c) H.M.S. UPHOLDER.	(g) one mark 8 2 star AA 13 57 1 mark 8 R N T F 146.	(j) One hit ship observed to sink.
Aug: 22nd.	Fleet Italian Oiler TARVISIO in convoy with two tankers escorted by 3 destroyers and flying boats off Cape Saint Vito.	H.M.S. UPHOLDER.	3 mark 8 2 star AA 13 97 14 89-14 55 15 14.	3 hits on Italian Oiler TARVISIO heavy and accurate counter attack prevented observation.
Aug: 24th.	Rear ship of 3 6 inch cruisers with 6 destroyers 2 flying boats in 033° 30' North 012° 00' East.	H.M.S. UPHOLDER.	2 mark 8 2 star A W 370 AA 14 92.	1 possible hit, 25 minutes counter attack followed. Nothing in sight 50 minutes after chase.

1231B/27.

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 Pin, Admy. 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.(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)

E.P.S.
D.T.S.D.
D.A.S.
D.T.M.
D.A.S.(3)
D.T.M.
S.W.R. } Bath by courier.

UCA

War Diary27.8.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Tripoli
bombed.

Night 26/27. 8 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 2340 to 0330 hours dropped 30000 lbs. bombs and 1920 lbs. incendiaries. Fires visible 120 miles in military stores, other fires near W/T Station and on harbour foreshore. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1750/27)

→ UNIQUE
UPHOLDER

My warmest congratulations to UNIQUE on his skilful and determined attack when sinking ESPERIA and to UPHOLDER again on his important success of 20, 22 and 24/8. (F.O.S., 1906A/27 to UNIQUE, UPHOLDER)

Situation
Report 130.

Western Desert, Operation "Treacle" proceeding normally. SKUDD III hit and on fire in dive bombing attack Tobruk. Some casualties. Relief minsweepers being sent. Central Mediterranean R/C reveals no movement of enemy merchant vessels Southward. (C. in C. Med. 2135C/27)

Turkey.

Staff talks. Chiefs of Staff No. 163. (1st S.L., 2221A/27 to C's in C. Med., and M.E.) See Lion and Tiger Copies.

OTTO
LEONHARDT

Departure 26/8. (Barcelona, 2300/27)

→ UNIQUE
URSULA
Air Attacks

UNIQUE suffered structure damage from (?20/8) air attack. After being sighted at periscope depth explosion occurred when submarine was passing 60 feet and damage indicates explosion occurred below submarine. URSULA attacked but undamaged by impact bomb. Indication that danger greatest when sun at low altitude. Report required on return whether use of Bifocal periscope interfered with wireless telegraphy reception. (S.O.S. Malta, 2342B/27 to S/M's Malta Force)

Turkey,
fighter A/C

To C.I.G.S. Ref. A/205 26/8. for Chiefs of Staff from H.Q., R.A.F, M.E. Consider urgent need of promise of assistance to Turkey warrants increase in fighter aircraft in Middle East. See J.P.S. paper No. 59, para. 20. (C. in C. M.E., 2350/27 to W.O.)

565A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2221A/27th August OUT

To: C. in ~~C. Mediterranean 897 B4~~ Date 27.8.41

Naval Cypher (One Time Table)

From Admiralty.

AIDAC. IMMEDIATE.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 163, to Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East and Mediterranean.

Reference C.O.S. telegram No.154 and your A.205 26/8. We consider it would be of advantage if, in the Staff talks with Turkey, we could give some specific assurance as to extent of fighter forces which we could make available to Turkey without over-stressing dates or conditions.

2. We propose, subject to your agreement, that the following sub-para. should be added after sub-para. 2 (f) of C.O.S. telegram No. 154:-

Sub-para. begins. "Preparations should be made to receive a force of 2 heavy bomber squadrons, 7 medium bomber squadrons, 8 fighter squadrons, 3 Army co-operation squadrons, 1 G.R. squadron and 1 squadron torpedo bombers (F.A.A.) which we intend to send to support Turkey provided situation in the Western Desert permits. Plans should be made to receive a first contingent of 4 fighter squadrons which will be sent on zero day whatever situation elsewhere may be".

3. You will note we have increased your figure for fighter squadrons. This additional commitment, together with the 4 fighter squadrons which should be held in readiness from zero day, will be taken into consideration in Air Force programme for reinforcement of Middle East.

4. Your comments urgently required.

2221A/27
Secretary to First Sea Lord.

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Lord | D.O.D. (F) | Head of M. (8) |
| 1st S.L. | D.D.O.D. (F) | I.P. (2) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.N.I. (4) | N.I.D. 10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson) |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D. of P. (2) | W.D. |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | Duty Captain | |
| P.A.S. (S) | H.P.S. | |

MOST SECRETWar Diary27.8.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Enemy
Fleet.

TRIUMPH reports one battleship, two cruisers, ten destroyers entered Straits of Messina from Northward at 0700/26. (V.A. Malta, 1045B/27 to Admty. amended 1241B/27)

UNBEATEN

You now have freedom of action in area N. (S.O.S. Malta, 1103B/27 to UNBEATEN)
URSULA reports swept channel only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from shore Spartivento Cape to Del-Armi and traffic liable to be missed unless patrol maintained close inshore, U-Boat was sighted coast crawling westwards. I do not wish you to maintain whole patrol in this much compromised area but when there keep close in. (S.O. (S) Malta, 2348B/27 to UNBEATEN)

French
Convoy

Vichy convoy, 3-10 knot ships, passes N. through Messina at 1200B/2 and Straits of Bonifacio a.m./4 and are not to be molested. (S.O.S. Malta, 1115B/27 to S/M's Malta Force.)

Vichy
Convoy Z.1.

2 ships, DJENNE and KOUTOUBIA, leaves Toulon daylight 28th to Messina 1000/30, Point A 1600/30, Point B. 0800/1, Point C. 1700/2. Arrive Beirut daylight/3. All times G.M.T. (C. in C. Med. 1203C/27 to Med. Fleet)

UPHOLDER

Attacks on enemy vessels 20/8, 22/8, 24/8. Report for C.A.F.O. 1278/41. (S.O.S. Malta 1231B/27 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. P. 564A

Suez Canal
Raid.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 587. (a) 27/8 calm clear. (b) High level attack 0334 to 0500 by three E.A. on Ismailia aerodrome, several flares, no moon. (c) H.E. and incendiaries. (d) 16 to 20 bombs number of incendiaries unknown. (e) no Naval damage or casualties, R.A.F. damage to buildings slight, 2 killed, 2 injured. (f) 2 Hurricanes up. No interception. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1301C/27 to Admty. etc.)

Malta
Raid.

Night 26/27. 2 aircraft over dropped incendiaries. No damage or casualties. Both JU's? illuminated and engaged by Hurricanes, and damaged.

/Tripoli.....

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War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

YARRA.
operation
against
HILDA
(Italian).

My 1947/26 and my 2335/26. Approx. position HILDA is 114 miles south of Flagstaff on jetty. Approach Bandar Abbas as early as possible after dark/27. After capturing HILDA tow her to Karachi. If possible be out of sight of Bandar Abbas with your tow by daylight/28. Probable that enemy will try to sabotage ship by setting fire to officers quarters and superstructure. Be prepared to deal with this. (S.N.O. P.G., 0116Z/27 to YARRA).

VOYAGER.

Left Colombo 0230Z/27 for Singapore, E.T.A. 0300/1. (C. in C. E.I., 0346Z/27 to C. in C. China).

EL MADINA.

Your 1222/26 loss of speed on 2 voyages due to indifferent engine room appointment on each occasion. New crew supplied no further trouble now anticipated. (S.S.T.O. Bombay 0803Z/27 to C. in C. E.I.).

Iran,
KANIMBLA,
SHOREHAM,
COCKCHAFER.

(1) Anglo Iranian Oil Company's Officials at Bandar Mashur are being threatened with arrest. Have ordered KANIMBLA to land detachment to assist Military and ordered SHOREHAM to Bandar Shahpur. Indications that Iranian resistance may increase.

(2) Am supporting Army plans up Karun River with COCKCHAFER, River steamers and Eurekas.

(3) All quiet in Abadan Island where population appear to welcome our arrival since most territory Arabian. (S.N.O. P.G., 1012/27).

N.I.D. Comment. Bandar Mashur is 15 miles S.W. of Bandar Shahpur.

Iraq.

Situation. (General, Iraq, 1105/27 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

ANSON
fuelling.

Intend detaining BRITISH MERCHANT 24 hours for purpose of fuelling ANSON. Informed British Tanker Co., Wrightson, consulted and agree. (Cdre. R.I.N., 1132/27 to Admty.)

/CONGELLA.....

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1105/27th Aug. IN " **MOST SECRET**

567A

From: General Iraq

Date: 27.8.41.

Recd: 1910.

CYPHER.

Addressed: The War Office, The Air Ministry,
Repeated: C. in C. Middle East, C. in C. India,
MICE Cairo, G.O.C. Iraq, A.O.C. Iraq.

IMPORTANT.

38702. OD/IX/29. cipher. 25/8.

From C.I.C.I. Baghdad.

Reports from most urban areas show increasing Nazi and pro-Rashid Ali propaganda especially in the north. This attributed largely to lenient Government policy. Mosul reports activities gang organised for stealing British military equipment. Reports Iraqis insulting British troops received from Mosul and Erbil. In Baghdad when film "For Freedom" shown locals booed Churchill and cheered Hitler. Government banned film in question. Government propaganda in press and broadcasts very favourable but proving only partially effective owing to otherwise weak policy. Trial of Rashid Ali and supporters in absentia still unfixed and internment camp not yet ready to receive inmates. Many rumours concerning British advance into Iran circulating. These and German successes in Russia causing minor nervous tension in capital. Some cases reported of Iran situation being exploited by anti British propagandists. All Iraq quiet but watching keenly situation developments.

1105/27.

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

Received by hand from War Office at 0045/29.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
D.O.D.(M)
D.P.O.D.(F)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C.
D.N.I.(4)

D. of P.(2)
Hd. of M.
E.P.S.
W.D.
I.F.(2)

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27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.-Contd.

CONGELLA.

Your 1825/26. CONGELLA arrived Colombo 18/8 from Durban as reported in N.C.S.O. Colombo's 1414/18. This ship was not reported overdue at Colombo. (C. in C. E.I. 1202Z/27 to Admty.)

LUCIA.

Ref. N.O.I.C. Massowa 1152/26 (N.T. in W.D) para. (1) (B) Not considered necessary to keep stock of Welsh Coal for Taikoo only; para. (1) (C) LUCIA has now left Massowa and will be refitting for at least 2 months after which her movements are uncertain. (C. in C. E.I., 1214Z/27 to Admty.)

WEST ZEDA.

Have you any news of American WEST ZEDA from Suez due 22/8. (D.T.D. 1251A/27 to N.C.S.O. Aden.) Reply: 1548/28.

Plans.

Commitments in event of a Far East War. (C. in C. E.I., 1314Z/27, 1320Z/27 to Admty., C. in C. China). See Operations Volume.

Abadan
fuelling.

Cancel my 1253A/24. (4th Sea Lord 1337A/27 to C. in C. E.I.)

ANTENOR.
CORFU.

Your 1709/22 (1) ANTENOR selected to return to trading (2) ANTENOR due Colombo about 4/9 from escort, requires to lift turbine. CORFU due Colombo 16/9 after completing gun trials at Trincomalee. (3) Crew composed of Officers and men awaiting passage Home have already joined CORFU at Calcutta and she expects to sail 9/9. (4) Propose to let present crew in CORFU steam ship to Colombo where ANTENOR's crew will take over. CORFU's crew to be found freighter passage home to U.K. as soon as possible as they have already been waiting for 3 months at Colombo. (5) F.O.C.R.I.N. to be requested to arrange a crew to steam ANTENOR to fitting out port. (C. in C. E.I., 1434Z/27 to Admty.)

Iran
Mobilization.

1. General mobilization orders issued today.
2. Unconfirmed reports split between Crown Prince and Shah and possible coup d'etat. 3. Influential British business men and others state that Teheran population is terrified at prospects of Russian occupation and would welcome British Troops temporarily as protection.
(M.A. Teheran, 1545/27 to General, Iraq.)

/Madagascar.....

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War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Madagascar
Reunion.

Policy towards Free French. (A.C.N.S. (T)
1715A/27 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A).
See Operations Volume.

Persian
Gunboats.

Your 1218/26. It must be assumed that these
ships will be returned to the Persians as soon
as the latter come to heel. (1st S.L., 1825A/27
to C. in C. E.I.)

Movements.

Request Admty. may be kept informed of movements
of H.M. Ships under your command. N.O.I.C.
Aden's 1250/21 and 0315/22 reported CORNWALL
and COLOMBO leaving Aden but we have no
information of their present whereabouts.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2210A/27 to C. in C. E.I.)
Reply: 1318Z/28.

China.

Fuelling
Base.

Reply to Admty. 1409/23. (C. in C. China, 0431Z/
27) See Operations Volume.

America and West Indies.

T.C.12B,
route
possibly
compromised.

Route of T.C.12B has been passed by A.O.C. E.A.C.
in P/L T/P to C.C.N.F. for R.C.A.F. ~~GANDER~~ Gander.
T/P line passes through Western Union Offices
at Halifax and St. Johns and possibility
exists that route could have thus been compromised.
Details were route of T.C.12B from 41.17 W. to
position P and onwards course. (C.C.N.F., 0058Z/27
to Admty. C. in C. W.A.).

/EMPRESS.....

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27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

EMPRESS
OF ASIA.

My 1616/26. Impossible to maintain this sailing date in view of N.O.I.C. Trinidad's 1517Q/26 and 1109Q/25. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0420Z/27 to D. of S.T.)

→ RODNEY.

Raise steam for full speed.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0801Q/27 to RODNEY) See also 1001/27.

Suspected
Enemy
Cruiser.

At 0830Z, PRINCE DAVID reported unknown enemy ship in 034° 30' N. 051° 47' W. Course 140°, speed 25 knots. At 0930Z she reported lost touch and that enemy appeared a heavy cruiser. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0811Q/27 to Admty.)
One vessel, destroyer or larger warship, type unknown, bearing 165° 14 miles, course 140° (? veering 25) position (as 0811Q) (Halifax W/T 0830Z/27 to Whitehall W/T) (C. in C. A.W.I., 0838/27 to Admty.)
Proceed to patrol area in accordance with my 1202Q/18. CIRCASSIA is delayed. R/V will be communicated later. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0922Q/27 to PRINCE DAVID).

→ Orders to
RODNEY.

Unknown enemy ship probably heavy cruiser reported by PRINCE DAVID (as 0811/27). Leave Bermuda a.m./27 and proceed at 18 knots towards 025° N. (7040°) W. Further orders will follow. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1001Q/27 to RODNEY.)
My 1001Q/27. Propose RODNEY should return to Bermuda on completion of present duties to resume working up. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1002Q/27 to Admty.)
Bermuda departure RODNEY in accordance with my 1001Q/27. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1243Q/27 to Admty. etc.)

U.S.
Warships.

My 0811/Q/27. U.S. Aircraft Carrier YORKTOWN and U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN have arrived Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1803Q/27 to Admty.)

/Troop.....

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Troop
Convoys.

Movement control estimates, including Australian and New Zealand Airmen proceeding U.K. via Canada, and output of joint air training plan in Canada averaging 60 all ranks each day, that accommodation for 2,000 air force personnel each month is required. Military request one special ship be allocated for above air force personnel, to be on regular service between Halifax and U.K. Believed from this end that capacity accommodation can always be used from U.K. as well as from Halifax to U.K. Assumed troop convoys will continue at regular intervals as in the past.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0951Z/27 to Admty.)

ORION.

Your 1452Z/26. Approved. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1032Q/27 to ORION).

U.S. Tankers.

A.M. 1230/26. Para. 1. Area. I. Task Unit 1.1.6 escorting U.S. Tankers EAGLE, W.E. HUTTON and PENNSYLVANIA due Reykjavik 0200 G.M.T./2. (D.O.D.(H) 1222A/27 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

Task Force.

Future Movements Area III.
(D.O.D. (F) 1402A/27 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

CARSLOGIE.

Your 1629A/26. British CARSLOGIE due 10/9 from New York for convoy. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1507Z/27 to Admty.)

ALAUNIA.

My 1151P/22. ALAUNIA escorting H.X. 148 and proceeding Iceland with provisions could take 45 officers and 200 other Air Force ranks. Request early confirmation that these should be embarked and that onward passage to U.K. from Iceland can be arranged. (R.A. 3., 1557P/27 to Admty.)

Ex-Enemy
Ships in
U.S.
Service.

Your 1909/25. Para. 1. Is DONERAIL MANVEL one ship or two? Para. 2. Request repetition separating names with stops. (Head of M. 1555A/27 to B.A.D.).

Your 1555/27. My 1901/25 Para 1. DONERAIL and MANUEL are 2 ships. Para 2 quotes 9 ships. Following is repetition: Italian, TYPHOON, PLAUDIT, REIGH COUNT, MERIDIAN, EXTERMINATOR, STONE STREET, GALLANT FOX, MARIA, ELWOOD.
(B.A.D., 2245R/27 to Admty.)

/Task.....

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27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Task
Group
2.7.

For Operations Duty Captain. Ref. A.E.-Amty. 1/26/8/41. (T.O.O. 1435/25), Opnav advises that Task Group 2.7 contains 2 instead of 3 destroyers as originally reported. (Spenavo, 1635/27 to Admty.)

PRINZ EUGEN.

Your 0915R/25. These rumours are discredited. (D.D.I.C. 1655A/27 to S.O.I. Jamaica).

WARWICK
CASTLE
(collision
7/8).

My 2001/25. (N.T. in W.R). Para. (V) of your 1725/22. Sparks reports expect repairs WARWICK CASTLE will be completed at New York 25/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1757Z/27 to D. of S.T.)

FORTH.
TRUANT.

Your 1431Z/25. Approved for FORTH to remain at St. Johns until departure of TRUANT. Question of disembarkation of submarine gear is under negotiation. (V.C.N.S., 1956A/27 to FORTH).

Enemy S/M
Report.

U.S. Authorities at Trinidad and St. Lucia appear to be most concerned at result of a report that enemy submarines with a depot ship are in that area. I have no knowledge of such a report. Can you say from whence it came? (C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/27 to B.A.D.)

Galapagos
Raider.

Opnav advises that Commandant of 15th Naval District confirms that no evidence of a raider has thus far been found in the Galapagos area by air R/C. (Spenavo 2325/27 to Admty.)

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War Diary.27.8.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.General.Star Shell.

In view of the recent night attacks made by U Boats on convoys, it is imperative that supplies of Star Shell and appropriate charges for Q.F. 4.7., Mark IX, and also 4 inch Marks IV, and V, and B.L. 4 inch Mark IX, be sent forthwith. (F.O.C.N.A., 1034A/27 to Admty.)

Ships Attacked.

O.S.4,
SEGUNDO
SAUGOR
LANGLEETARN
TREMODA.
EMBASSAGE.

Convoy believed attacked. Moderate gale blowing heavy rain makes it impossible to give details. (WALKER, 0130Z/27, to C. in C.W.A.)
My 0130/27. My position 0230, 053° 37' N., 016° 40' W.
(WALKER, 0225A/27, to C. in C.W.A.)
Have ? broken off from convoy O S 4 in accordance with previous instructions. My position and speed are 053° 23' N., 018° 20' W., 250° 10 knots. Have following survivors on board, 3 officers 15 Lascars from SAUGOR, 2 officers 11 ratings from TREMODA.
(CHEVREUIL, 0700Z/27, to Admty.)
Your 0700Z/27. Proceed Kingston Jamaica passing through following positions (a) 051° 55' N., 024° 40' W. (b) 040° 00' N., 039° 15' W. (C. in C.W.A., 2234A/27 to CHEVREUIL.)
Convoy attacked at 0030 and again at 0330 today. Following ships sunk. SEGUNDO, SAUGOR. Following missing: LANGLEETARN, TREMODA, EMBASSAGE, and H.M.S. CHEVREUIL. Nothing seen of U-boat in heavy weather and rain prevailing H.M.S. LULWORTH has survivors of SEGUNDO. H.M.S. ARIGUANI flew off Fulmar to attack F/W at 1010/27. Weather report.
(WALKER, 1128A/27 to C. in C.W.A.)
Detach one trawler to search for survivors of ships sunk in O.S.4 during night 26/27 to leeward of positions 053° 45' N., 016° 33' W., and 053° 32' N., 016° 47' W. On leaving O.S.4, WALKER is to report details of survivors. (C. in C.W.A., 1744A/27, to BOADICEA.)
On return of AYRSHIRE request you will sail ZWARTE ZEE in company to unknown abandoned British ship 6000 tons single grey funnel two goal posts, deck cargo of crates, drifting in 54° 13' N., 14° 40' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1809A/27, to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1809A/27. Now proceeding to position ordered.
(ZWARTE ZEE, 2040/27 to Capt. D. Londonderry.)

/Aircraft.....

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War Diary.27.8.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.O.S.4.
SEGUNDO
SAUGOR
LANGLEETARN
TREMODA.
EMBASSAGE.
Contd.

Aircraft reports 6000 ton ship with no sign of life on board drifting in 054° 13' N., 014° 40' W., at 0937/27. A good lookout is to be kept for survivors of ship sunk in O.S.4 during night/26 in approx., 053° 40' N., 016° 30' W. (C. in C.W.A., 1929A/27 to BOADICEA, BLANKNEY, DOUGLAS, GOSSAMER, STORK, HEBE, SPEEDWELL.)

SOUTHERN
PRINCE.
(torpedoed
25/8.)

Admty., 1829A/26. SOUTHERN PRINCE E.T.A., at point of arrival 1300/28. Ship cannot anchor except in emergency as anchors cannot be weighed. Draft about 22 feet. (R.A.M., 0107/27 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.) SOUTHERN PRINCE hit within 15 feet of stem. No casualties. Parts of German torpedo recovered. Estimated time of repair 2 months. Departed 1215/27 escorted by CHARLESTON and NEWARK. CHARLESTON has defects estimated 6 hours for repair, NEWARK defects estimated 2 days. CASTLETON at Port Z.A. 3 boilers much overdue for cleaning. (R.A.M., 1321/27 to Admty.) Arrival and departure SOUTHERN PRINCE with CHARLESTON and NEWARK for Belfast. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1320/27.) My 1321. Present orders are for destroyers to return to Port Z.A. on arrival at entrance to swept channel, Belfast. (R.A.M., 1535A/27 to Admty.)

S/M. O.14.

Reported 2145/23/8 torpedo track in 58.30 N., 04.10 E., while proceeding on surface towards RUBIS. (F.O.S., 1102A/27 to Admty.)

Soviet
Ship.

Soviet merchant vessel torpedoed vicinity of 69° 30' N., 35° E., 26/8. Above from Soviet intelligence. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1610C/27, to Admty.)

SHAHRISTAN.
(torpedoed
29/7.)

Arrived Clyde CORINTHIAN with 9 survivors from S.S. SHAHRISTAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1646A/27 to Admty., etc.)

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War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0640. Am over enemy submarine in position DCHU NGUP. (indecipherable.)
A/C Duty E of Station LX Kaldatyes (Call sign B.8.D.) (Recd. 0730/27 to Kaldadarmes W/T.) Submarine has dived in 62° 33' N., 18° 05' W., DDS. Am circling. 0640. (A/C duty E., 0812/27.)
Following has been read. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface in position CWFM 3040. (? 1330/27) W.D. Note. Position indecipherable.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1430A/27.)

1218Z. U Boat has made a sighting report at 1218Z/27, probably of Convoy H.X.145, but possibly of Convoy H.X.144. Alterations of course at discretion of Commodores.
(D.D.I.C. 1437A/27 to BOADICEA, BEAGLE, WINCHELSEA BULLDOG, AMAZON, GEORGETOWN, etc.) Amended 1514A/27.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy S/M in 62.15 N., 18.35 W. (A/C duty S, 1050/27, to Kaldadarmes.)
U.570
My 1050. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C duty S, 1100/27.)
A/C 3/269. Enemy has been severely damaged by air attack. (A/C duty S, 1110/27.)
(later renamed GRAPH) My 1050. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Estimate 1 hit. (A/C duty S, 1205/27.)
Suggest A/C endeavour to locate nearest Northern Patrol trawler estimated to be in position 60 miles 130° from 62° 15' N., 18° 35' W., and guide to position. If it appears surface craft unable to reach position before dark after giving due warning you should sink U/Boat. (H.Q.C.C., 1500/27 to H.Q.R.A.F., Iceland.)
Hudson N F/269, U boat on surface 62.43 N., 18.55 W., 0730 hours 100 ft. D.ICE/G1/27/8. Sea very rough. Vis. 2-12 miles, cloud base 800 ft., showery.

/4 depth.....

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War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.
Contd.
(U.570)

4 depth charges failed to release L 1 first sighted as swirl and wake at 0640 at 800 yards ahead on U boat course 340° T sighted on surface at 0730 at one S mile on port bow, 1 U boat course 090° T 5 4 hours 50 mins. S. First sighted swirl and wake from U boat at 0640 at R 800 yards ahead during rain squall. 2 smoke floats were dropped, but these were not seen to have marked position. Aircraft commenced square search at 0730. U boat sighted in approx., same position on surface at 1 mile on port bow. Aircraft turned and dived from 800 ft. to 100 ft. to drop 4 D/C's, all of which failed to release. Photo taken of swirl caused by U boat diving. Aircraft continued square search till 1220, nothing else sighted. (R.A.F., Iceland, 2045/27 to H.Q.C.C.) At 1200/27 U-boat surfaced and hoisted the white flag and the aircraft requested surface craft to pick up survivors. (D.O.R., 28/8.)

577

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operations
"Dervish" &
"Strength".

SHROPSHIRE is to take the place of LONDON as cruiser of Force L.

British Air Operations.

Small attacks were made last night on targets at Dunkirk, Boulogne and Ostend.

Blenheims with fighter escort attacked the docks and shipping at Rotterdam today. Direct hits are claimed on two large ships.

Enemy Air Operations.

Milford
Haven
area.

S.S. DONOVANIA was attacked off Milford Haven this evening; the ship was seriously damaged, and she anchored in the convoy anchorage. Attacks on shipping occurred near Milford Haven at dusk on 24/8 and 25/8 and there was a raid in the Milford Haven area on the night of 26/8.

Mining.

17 aircraft laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands and Jade River.

/Minelaying.....

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War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - Contd.

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected off the Tyne and Tees and from Whitby to Cromer.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven.

South Atlantic.

Raider
search.
(Possible
HIPPER cruiser.)

Following on the sighting of a raider this afternoon in the north Atlantic by an U.S. aircraft DORSETSHIRE, EAGLE and NEWCASTLE were ordered to proceed from Freetown towards St. Paul's Rocks. See also p. 560.

C. in C. S.A. reports that a Hurricane on 22/8 shot down in Sierra Leone territory a Vichy French Glen Martin A/C which had appeared over Freetown shortly before.

Mediterranean.

Air attacks
on Shipping.

At 0559 today the convoy attacked yesterday by Swordfish was sighted 25 miles E.N.E. of Kerkenah complete and steering S.E. but slowed down to 4 knots.

At 1215, 5 Blenheims attacked 2 5000 ton merchant ships sighted at 0540 36 miles W. of Sapienza steering east at 8 knots. 3 hits were made on one ship and one on the other.

/Italian.....

579

28.8.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Air Attacks
on Shipping
Contd.

Italian SICILIA made S O S at 1402B today in 35° 38' N. 21° 6' E., after attack by aircraft, and ALFREDO ORIANI made S O S in 36° 0' N. 21° 30' E. at some time unknown.

Railway
damaged.

UTMOST today severely damaged or destroyed a railway bridge on the west coast of the Gulf of Taranto. TRIUMPH demolished 120 ft. of railway bridge last night in 38° 3' N. 14° 34' E.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night. Bardia was bombed by one Blenheim today, and 9 Marylands dropped 7 tons of bombs on a stores dump near the place.

Egypt &
Canal
Area.

There were air raids on Suez, Port Said, Abu Sultan and Kantara early this morning. No service damage or casualties were caused other than the destruction of some trucks of ammunition at Abu Sultan.

Crete
area.

It is reported that RORQUAL sank an enemy motor ship, believed to be of the same class as the Italian REMO (9780 tons) off the west coast of Crete.

RORQUAL also laid a minefield (see C. in C. Med. 2359C/29.)

Her periscope and standard were damaged in collision with a second merchant vessel in company with the one that sank.

East Indies.Shatt-el-
Arab.

C. in C. E.I. has asked that in view of the vital importance of the waterways of the Shatt-el-Arab no Armistice terms so far as they affect this area will be arranged with the Persians without consultation with the Naval authorities. He has informed the Admiralty of the measures necessary to secure our interests.

The Shah ordered cessation of all resistance this morning.

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War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Raider
sighted.

Following on PRINCE DAVID's sighting of a supposed raider yesterday, an A/C from U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP reported an unknown ship, possibly HIPPER class, at 1330Z today in 26° 13' N. 57° 47' W. (550 miles S.E. of Bermuda) steering 160° at about 20 knots. RODNEY has been ordered to take the necessary action and DIOMEDE, which has just completed refit at Bermuda, was ordered to steer towards 20° N. 60° W., but had to return to Bermuda with defects. Shipping in the area has been diverted. *See p. 578*

Galapagos
area.

With reference to the reports of a raider in the Galapagos area, DESPATCH which left Balboa at 1700Z/26 is to remain in the Pacific until further orders, as PRINCE HENRY's armament is likely to be inferior to the raider's.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy O.S.4

WALKER reported OTAIO which had just been dispersed from Convoy O.S.4 torpedoed in 52° 16' N. 18° 12' W. at 1555A today.

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

581

Policy.

S/Ms for
Mediterranean.

Your 1022A/27. Proposals for TRUSTY, THORN and P.31 approved. Polish authorities are being consulted regarding SOKOL. (1st S.L. 0159A/28 to F.O.S.)

EURYALUS.

Your 1315A/25, para. 2. (Ready for service) 25/9 at Scapa. (V.A. 2., 1231A/28 to Adty.)

Iceland.

Adty. 2258A/24. Turn-round and repair of shipping. Situation and prospects. (A.C.I.C. 1237/28). See Lion Copy.

M/S Trawlers
for
Mombasa.

A.M. 1933A/26. If it is intended that KENNET, AIGLON, POST BOY, MYRLAND, ESTRELLA DEL NORTE, should sail from Londonderry request they may be made thoroughly efficient and supplied with suitable coal before arrival. Reasons. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1523A/28).

Clyde
Labour
Dispute.

My 1930A/25 and 2201A/26. Risk of general stoppage of boilermakers is now most unlikely, and boilermakers work in yards concerned with T.L.C's. is expected to be resumed tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2259A/28 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Spitzbergen
Evacuation.

Your 1940A/27. Quite untrue. ^{b555}
(S.O. Force A., 2205/28 to Adty.)

Movements.

GREENWICH.

Sailed in accordance with Admiralty 1913A/18. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0456A/28).

BROCKLESBY.

Return to harbour. (C. in C. Plymouth 0628/28).

O.14.

Sailed to R/V with CUTTY SARK in accordance with S.9's 1901/24 at 0555/28. (A.C.O.S. 0830/28).

MINERVE.

You are not to enter area bounded by the coast Norway and longitude 005° 05' E. and the latitude (illegible) and 059° 24' N. (F.O.S. 1246A/28 to MINERVE).

/PARTHIAN.....

MESSAGE. 1237/28th August 581A IN

SECRET.

From A.C.I.C.

RECEIVED:—

DATE 29.8.41.

TIME 1550

R.A.F. (X) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

390. Admiralty's ^X 2258A/24. Concur some modification my No.222/621929/41 of 11th August. This due entirely improvements extensions and equipment being provided by Americans, and to much greater efficiency of their Decks Personnel. As result of which clearance of ships and deck area much improved. I consider that if winter is favourable, right type of ship available and no interference from enemy action, number quoted can be maintained as a maximum. No further increase possible without improvements East and North Coast Ports and direct shipments, thereto. As stated in G.O.C's signal quoted margin of capacity is small. Numbers considered do not include Navy and R.A.F. and certain U.S.A. Flying Personnel, to a total of approximately 4000. My views were based on experience last winter which was best in Iceland for over 50 years. Consider considerable delay in movement shipping in and out of harbour must be expected normal year, coal situation in particular may be difficult. No calculation in signal quoted for delays due necessity ballast empty ships particularly in winter. Nor for Military leave movements.

Repairs by local yard Naval vessels will necessitate 150 foot berth for Navy shortly, these neglected recently to facilitate large Military arrivals.

MESSAGE.

581B

IN

SECRET.

RECEIVED:—

From

DATE

TIME

Addressed

-2-

skerdic
 Absolutely essential smaller ships sent from U.S.A. after September than hitherto, otherwise whole Port will be endangered. As regards para 6E of quoted signal, Naval calls have in no case interfered institution regular services this entirely due failure military provide cargo justify such routine. Service provided has been adequate and every reasonable demand has been met. Objections Locknagar are coal consumption and lack of coeking facilities. Former the' expensive has been met hitherto latter incosiderable hardship considering shortness of journey. In view shortage shipping consider she should be accepted but cannot meet preposed increased leave.

1237/28 Requesting reply to letter No.218/6/1929/41

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- E.P.S.
- W.D.
- D. of P (3)
- M (2) (M.01300/41) for action
- I.P. (3)

582

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

PARTHIAN.

My 1444A/27. For 1530A/29 read 1645A/29.
(Capt. S.5 1333A/28).

REPULSE.
SHEFFIELD.
(Convoy
W.S.11.)

Admiralty 1818A/18. REPULSE with SHEFFIELD and screened by 3 destroyers detailed by F.O.C. D.F. H.F. is to proceed passing Hoxa Boom at 1300/29 to Clyde. Convoy conference is at 1530/30.
(ii) C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. W.A. are requested to arrange A.S. air escort during daylight hours. Estimated speed of advance 20 knots. Code word "Drover".
(V.A.2., 1753A/28 to REPULSE).

CASTLETON.

Am proceeding via Irish Sea to avoid gale.
(CASTLETON 2225A/28).

Operations.

A/S
Patrol.

Proceed to 061° 30' N. 020° W. and patrol to (?distance) 20 miles East and West from there at visibility distance. Motor launch ordered to return to Vestmann. (A.C.I.C. 0014/28 to WASTWATER, WINDERMERE).

Interception
of M.V.

F.O. (S) 2319A/27. Vessel is about 7000 tons and has blue or grey hull and upper works propeller just not out of water no visible armament or national markings.
(N.A. Lisbon 0014/28 to Adty. F.O.(S) 0834A/28 to TUNA).
My 1934A/27. If you have not intercepted by 1600A today proceed to patrol in the vicinity of 045° 56' N. 006° 3' W. as previously ordered, so as to arrive by 0600A/29 if possible.
(F.O.S. 1031A/28 to TUNA).

Operation
"Gauntlet".

E.T.A. NIGERIA, three destroyers, and EMPRESS OF CANADA at Cape Gorodetski 0330A/29. Dvina Light Vessel 1300A/29. Request smaller vessels for onward transport from EMPRESS OF CANADA may be arranged from latter point. (V.C.N. S. 1206A/28 to Ad. Miles).

Operation
"Iliad".

Will not be carried out tonight.
(V.A. Dover 1630A/28).

/Operations.....

War Diary.28.8.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.Operations
"Dervish"
"Strength".

My 1533A/21, para. 1. Delete LONDON and substitute SHROPSHIRE. Add SHROPSHIRE to addressees of my 1533A/21 and my 1219A/27. (V.A.2., 1633A/28).
Your 1410A/27. Arrangements have been made for (A) Russian Destroyer to meet "Dervish" at position Z.A. (1500) G.M.T./30.
(B) Lights mentioned in Admiralty 1122A/22 to be lit from sunset 30/8. (Ad. Miles 1956C/28 to Adty.)
Orders for Force L. Code word "Encore". (V.A.2., 2010A/28). See Operations Volume.
My 1633A/26. "Dervish" now arrives at position Z 0800A/30. T.O.O. 1713/28. Ends.
(C.S.1., 2236A/28 to V.A.2.)

Narvik
S/M
Patrol.

My 1314C/23 and your 1255A/25. Soviet submarine K.1. sails Polyarno 2100C/28 for patrol Vestfjord and Narvik approaches. Limits of area as follows. Route. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1919C/28 to Adty.)

British Air Activity.Patrols.

"Hornli" now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1446/28).

ARIGUANI's
(with O.S.4)
A/C lands
in Eire.

Fulmar N. 4072 catapulted from ARIGUANI, 1000/27 arrive Elgonton Aerodrome 1430/27 having previously landed in Eire from Ardara Beach owing to weather. Pilot confirmed position and took off 20 minutes later. Enemy aircraft not seen by Pilot but was chased by R/T control beyond R.D.F. range of app. 45 miles. (804 Sqdn. 1721/28).

Escort.

V.A.2., 1753/28. Expect A/S air escort by Sunderland from 1500/29 to last light.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2200/28 to REPULSE.)

584

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Myggenaes
Beacon
unreliable.

My 1016B/9, my 1048A/25 and my 1205A/26. Owing to recent aircraft attacks on Myggenaes, the last of which was more serious than originally realised, Faroes Lighthouse keepers have evacuated and refused to return. Hoped to make arrangements but in meantime operation of Lighthouse and radio beacon cannot be relied upon. Request I may be informed if regular operation of radio beacon as mentioned in C. in C. H.F's letter no. 1405/HF1515 of 23/8/1940 can be dispersed. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1016A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

A/C off
Orkneys.

At 1046/28 unidentified A/C was plotted 5 miles W. of Orkneys mainland at 15000 feet on N.E. course. Fighters up but failed to intercept. Owing good visibility possible aircraft saw into fleet anchorage. (A.C.O.S. 1245/28).

Thorshavn.

Considerable enemy air activity Thorshavn area last 24 hours including unsuccessful bombing attack on oil tanks. Civil hospital suffered from blast but no military or civilian casualties. Light A.A. in action. (O.C. Troops Faroe Is. 1336/28).

Convoy.

Enemy aircraft are attacking Convoy "Steward". (Liverpool W/T 2110/28).

Mining.

Sweep
off
Kirkwall.

Estimated position 4 mine sweepers with air escort at 1630/28 58° 48' N. 2° 00' W. sweeping on a course 270° at 7 knots. (A.C.O.S. 0900/28 to CUTTY SARK) (Capt. S.9., 1035A/28 to 0.14).

Mines
off
Buddon
Ness.

My 1635/26 and 2319/26. About 25 controlled mines still unrecovered off Buddon Ness. Many of these may have tails stretching in any direction. Considered to be dangerous to sweep over this area with L.L. and this has been discontinued. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1227/28).

/SOUTHERN. FIELD.

585

28.8.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining-Contd.SOUTHERN
FIELD.
(M/S Trawler)
damaged.Damaged by Mine reported in my 1635/26.
Will be laid up for about 7 days. (N.O.I.C; Dundee
1227/28).Liverpool.As from 0001A/1/9 Port of Liverpool including
QZS 211 and QZS 215 will be closed from half
an hour after sunset until 0700 each day.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1510A/28).Milford
Haven.2 Ground mines self detonated as follows at
2140A and 2255A/27. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1726/28).
At 0910/28 one Red Mine detonated by Sweeper.
Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1728/28).→ S.N. 15.In view of lack of destroyer escort, damage to
SOUTHERN PRINCE, and condition of ADVENTURE,
operation S.N. 15 must be postponed. (V.C.N.S.
1935A/28).Enemy Intelligence.German
Main Units.Report graded B.2 states - ADMIRAL SCHEER at
Travemünde, 17/8. KÖLN at Travemünde, 19/8.
(D.D.I.C, 1236A/28).Casualties and Defects.NEWARK.
CHARLESTOWN N.1. Request following defects may be taken in
hand on arrival. (R.A.M. 0953A/28 to F.O.I.C.
Belfast.)→ ADVENTURE.My 1849/27. Gaugings show no change. Estimate
ADVENTURE may be able to complete another
operation but no guarantee can be given against
stoppage of port engine. Recommend ADVENTURE
be taken in hand forthwith. (R.A.M. 1258A/28
to Adty.)
R.A.M.'s 1258A/28. ADVENTURE can be taken in
hand by Liverpool and is to be sailed for
Liverpool as convenient accordingly. (V.C.N.S.
1936A/28).AARLA.(A/S Yacht) Sustained considerable damage
during heavy weather last night. Seaworthiness
is affected. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1500A/28).

War Diary.28.8.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.W.S.11.
REPULSE.

REPULSE will sail with convoy W.S.11 from U.K. to Durban and it is intended she shall remain in the Indian Ocean for some months to come. Further instructions follow. (V.C.N.S. 0028A/28 to V.A.2).
Your 1818A/18 and 1908/A/27 are being passed to REPULSE. (C. in C. H.F., 1106A/28 to Admty.)
Orders for REPULSE, SHEFFIELD, DUNEDIN and oiler RAPIDOL. (V.C.N.S. 1513A/28, amended 1704A/28 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. S.A.)
(D.O.D.(F) 1828A/28 and 1910A/28 to C. in C.S.A.)
-See Lion Copy.
A.M. 1818A/18. Fighter protection Code Word, "Miracle". (D.O.D. (H) 1624A/28 to C. in C.W.A.)

T.C.12B.

Due to arrive U.K. 31/8, comprising DOMINION MONARCH, STRATHEDEN and EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.
(D. of S.T. 0317A/28 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland).

H.X. 144.

PANAMA missing since 18th (in) ? fog, VINLAND ordered to Belfast with degaussing trouble.
* ROSCAN in command of stragglers escorted by ANGLE. (S.O. 3rd Escort Group 1025A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

* *not identified.*Iceland.

Route signals for U.S. and Icelandic Flag ships plying between Iceland and U.S. ports should be repeated to A. C.I.C. and C. in C. W.A.
(D.T.D. 1216A/28 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

H.X. 145.

Met as arranged, no stragglers, all ships arrived.
An exceptionally good convoy especially as regards absence of smoke and station - keeping.
(D.T.D. 1319A/28 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

O.S. and
S.L. Convoys.

Ref. C. in C. S.A. 2111N/26. The arrival of O.S. convoys at Southern R/V cannot be anticipated within 24 hours owing to diversion. As local U.K. escort when available is not now dependent on sailing of O.G. convoys it is proposed S.L. convoys proceed best speed and be sailed to conform with arrival O.S. convoy at Southern R/V. If necessary amend E.T.A. of S.L. at U.K. R/V signal to be made 4 days before arrival at that R/V. (C. in C. W.A., 1656A/28 to Admty.)

/CAP.....

C. in C. South Atlantic. 573.
 Repeated. C. in C. Home Fleet. 683.

Date. 28.8.41.

H.M.S. DERBYSHIRE.
 C. in C. East Indies. 587.
 C. in C. Mediterranean. 907.B2.
 F.O.C.N.A. 487.
 S.O. Force H. 555.
 S.O.W.P.
 F.O.I.C. Greenock.
 H.M.S. REPULSE.
 H.M.S. SHEFFIELD.
 H.Q.C.C.
 H.Q.F.C.
 V.A.2. 144.

N.V.L. CYPIER (C)

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

A.M. 1818A/18 and 0028A/28.

H.M.S. REPULSE is to act as Ocean Escort for
 convoy W 8 11 from U.K. to Durban. Cancel reference to
 DORSETSHIRE.

2. In view however of probable enemy cruiser reported
 in 34 degs. 30' N. 51 degs. 47' W. at 0830Z/27 SHEFFIELD will
 be required to sail with convoy from U.K. and escort the slow
 portion from the point of splitting until relieved by DUNEDIN.

3. If in the meantime information is received which
 discounts the accuracy of PRINCE DAVID's report, SHEFFIELD will
 be ordered to return to Scapa.

4. C. in C. South Atlantic is requested to sail R.F.A.
 RAPIDOL accompanied by H.M.S. DUNEDIN so as to be about 200 miles
 south of the Azores a.m. ^{6th} 7th September. (amended 1704 A/28)

5. DUNEDIN is to fuel from RAPIDOL and will relieve
 SHEFFIELD with the slow portion of convoy as far North as
 practicable.

6. REPULSE is subsequently to fuel from RAPIDOL and rejoin
 the fast portion of the convoy.

7. On completion RAPIDOL should if possible join the slow
 portion of the convoy, otherwise return to Freetown independently.

8./.....

2.

8. Detailed instructions as to rendezvous etc. will be signalled later.

9. A.M. 1818A/18 paragraph 10. C. in C. Western Approach is requested to arrange for the 3 destroyers to accompany the fast portion as far as R/V with RAPIDOL and to screen REPULSE as requisite during fuelling. If it is necessary for these destroyers to proceed to Freetown instructions for their fuelling will be given later.

10. A.M. 1818A/18, paragraph 9. SUTLEJ may take the place of the destroyer.

1513A/28

for D.O.D. (H)

Approved V.C.N.S.

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

5868

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET 1828A/28 August OUT

To C. in C. South Atlantic 577
Repeated F.O.C. North Atlantic 496
F.O. i/c Greenock
REPULSE

DATE 28.8.41.

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty

IMMEDIATE

My 1513/28 and 1704/28.

Rendezvous is in position 35° North 30 Degrees West

Repeated 35 Degrees North 30 Degrees West.

2. RAPIDOL should be in this position by 1000 G.M.T. 6th September having already fuelled DUNEDIN - It is important that DUNEDIN relieves SHEFFIELD as early as practicable.
3. Request you will supply RAPIDOL with S.P. 02315/6 and 02355 (18) and (19) repeated 02315/6 and 02355 (18) and(19), and comply with my 1131/2/5.
4. Delivery groups and call signs for RAPIDOL are:-
S.P. 02198 (27) and (28) Spare Group No. 241.
S.P. 02218 (15) and (16) Spare Group No. 239.
5. Communication between REPULSE and RAPIDOL should be thro C. in C. South Atlantic, or, if necessary, on 500 kc/s.
6. Code word for Rendezvous which should be used in any signals will be made in separate signal. ("Summer")
7. Request you will supply REPULSE with Area 2 Tables on arrival at Freetown.

1828A/28

D.O.D. (F)

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.C.D. (F)
D.D.C. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.D. (2)

D.A/S.W.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Captain (2)
Head of M (2)
D.N.C.
D.T.D. (2)
E.P.S.
H.W.R.

MOST SECRETMOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

OUT

1910A/28th August.

To: C. in C. South Atlantic. 579.
 Repeated. F.O.C.N.A. 497.
 F.O.I.C. Greenock.
 REPULSE.

Date: 28.8.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) & P/L BY T/P

From: Admiralty.

BASEGRAM.IMMEDIATE.

A.M. 1828/28 para. 6. SUMMER.

1910A/28.

D.O.D.(F)

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 4th S.L.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D. of P.
 D.O.D.(F)
 D.D.O.D.(F)
 D.M.I.(4)

D.S.D.(2)
 D.A./S.W.
 I.P.(2)
 W.D.
 Duty Captain.
 Hd. of M.(2)
 M.Books.
 D.D.I.C.
 D.T.D.(2)
 E.P.S.
 H.W.R.

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

CAP DES
PALMES.

Following instructions are issued with concurrence of Adm. Com. F.N.F.L. When ready for sea and passengers embarked F.S. CAP DES PALMES should be sailed so as to join an O.S. Convoy and break off as convenient for Kingston (Jamaica). She should subsequently proceed to Tahiti via Panama Canal. CAP DES PALMES will be sailing under orders of Free French Naval Authorities but C's in C. are requested to arrange for onward routeing and facilities within their Stations. Admty. will arrange for Diesel fuel at Kingston (Jamaica) and for permission to pass through Panama Canal. CAP DES PALMES has an endurance of 7,000 miles at 12 knots and a capacity of 400 tons of Marine Diesel Fuel. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1810A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

D.S.11.
C.T.2.

Convoy D.S.11 to Iceland (C) consisting of LEOPOLDVILLE, speed 15 knots, will be ready to leave U.K. on 4/9.
2. C.T.2. consisting of PASTEUR will be ready to leave U.K. with 3,500 Service personnel for Halifax on 5/9.
3. These 2 ships will leave Clyde on 5/9 in company with DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (vide A.M. 1753A/26)
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange destroyer escort using:- (a) Destroyers of 17th Div. who will proceed to Reykjavik with LEOPOLDVILLE from position to be arranged. (b) Canadian Destroyers returning from T.C.12 (B)
5. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ships in accordance with route to be promulgated by Admty. (D.O.D.(H) 1944A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

S E C R E T

MESSAGE

I N

No.T.O.O./28 Aug.

From N.A. Madrid

Date
Recd.

4.9.41

587A

Addressed S.O.(I) Gibraltar repeated D.N.I.

A report has just come in, as yet unconfirmed, that the other day about 30 aircraft from H.M.S. ARK ROYAL were observed near Valencia, but of course not above territorial waters, flying in "V" formation. This is stated to have caused great enthusiasm in Valencia and to have made the ship's company of an unnamed small Spanish warship line the side and cheer.

H.M. Ambassador is very pleased with the report and hopes that on occasion a demonstration of this kind may be repeated.

No.T.O.O./28/8

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

War Diary.28.8.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Suspicious
Ship seen
by A/C.N.A. Lisbon 0014/28. See Home Commands,
Operations.French
Convoy.

Passing Gib. eastbound 26/8. (D.O.R. 28/8.)

TAKU.
O.21.From 038° 10' 009° 00' pass through (F) 037° 00'
001° 00' E. (G) 035° 40' 003° 00' W. Proceed
on surface at discretion by day when W. of
007° E. T.B.R. arranged. Report P.C. and S.
and set normal watch on Gibraltar broadcast
24 hours before arrival. Estimate Netherlands
Sub. O.21 passes through 038° 35' 009° 00'
eastbound at 0300A/30 approx. (F.O.C.N.A.
1406A/28 to TAKU.)O.24.Netherland Sub. O.24 leaves Gibraltar 2100A/28
through 036° 20' N. 002° 15' W. 037° 30' 000°
00', 13 Knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1440A/28 to
FARNDALE.)DEUCALION,
CORDELIA.202 Sqn., 1 Catalina Escort M.V. DEUCALION and
1 DR. from East, Dawn to dusk. Area covered
37.21 N., 03.42 E. to 36.28 N., 01.00 W. 1
Catalina escort tanker CORDELIA to west, 1200
till dusk, area covered (327).03 N., 16.28 W.,
to 32.28 N., 14.55 W. (200 Group, 1718/28.)Tankers for
Gibraltar.My 1654A/25. ^{1.509} Names of Tankers are SANDAR and
VANJA. (D.T.D. 1752A/28 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in
C. S.A.)South Atlantic.CHAUCER.(S.S.S signal on 29/7 about 750 miles W. of
Cape Verde Islands) Is now presumed sunk by
a raider. (D.S. 721, 28/8.)CLOVER.My 1324N/24 (N.T. in W.R.) Return to Freetown
through Sector E. (C. in C. S.A., 1027N/28
to CLOVER.)

/ W/T

589

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic -contd.

W/T
Silence.

CANTON reports that EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA had been instructed to break W/T silence in accordance with A.M. 0001/1/5 Section II Para.12. This is not intended to apply to escorted ships. (D.T.D.1110A/28 to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

Ex-Italian
Ships.

S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1802/27 Italian vessels in Quequen have been ordered to raise steam to sail Saturday or Sunday. They will join those from Bahia Blanca forming convoy to Buenos Aires. Argentine flag will be flown. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1156Z/28 to S.A. Sqdn.) They should not be interfered with. (R.A.S.A.D., 1227Z/28 to ALCANTARA.)

Falklands
Defence.

M.A. Buenos Aires 1208/28 to W.O. (See Operations Volume.)

CHRISTIAN
HOLM.

Overdue shipping. My 1117/19. CHRISTIAN HOLM arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1221B/28 to Admty. etc.)

Vichy A/C,
Freetown.

At 1635/22 Vichy French Glen Martin which had appeared over Freetown and Harbour shortly before and been engaged by A.A. gunfire from ships and shore defences was shot down by a Hurricane Aircraft in Sierra Leone territory 1½ miles from Newton. This Hurricane was one of the four taken out of ships on passage to Takoradi on 23/6 and erected at Hastings. (C. in C. S.A., 1315N/28 to Admty.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Wearing flag of R.A.S.A.D. arrived Rio de Janeiro 1230 G.M.T./28 and intends to leave 1230 G.M.T./30. (R.A.S.A.D. 1341Z/28 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

EXMOUTH.

Your 1545A/27. Ship arrived 27/8. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1646B/28 to Admty.)

RANGITIKI,
ARONDA.

Your 1218/23. RANGITIKI will not now proceed to the Plate. Instead she will continue to New Zealand to load for U.K. Proposed she should be used for personnel for India instead of ARONDA. ARONDA will, therefore, be available for C.M.17. Propose she be used to capacity to M.E. (D.S.T., 1651A/28 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown) See C. in C. E.I., 0818/1/9.

/Royal

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Royal Party
in DURBAN
CASTLE.

King of Greece etc., sailed for U.K. DURBAN CASTLE 26/8. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1747B/28 to Admty.)

EGRET,
ASTER.
BANFF.
FISHGUARD.

R/V with ASTER and 3 Corvettes in 015° 15' N. 019° 23' W. at 1200/29. After ASTER has taken over escort proceed with BANFF and FISHGUARD to Bathurst. Convoy will proceed to Freetown. Q.G.B.60 to 62 inclusive does not concern you. Air escort may be expected. (C. in C. S.A., 2233N/28 to EGRET.)

Possible
HIPPER
Cruiser.

B.A.D. Washington 1930Z/28. Hold EAGLE and NEWCASTLE and order DORSETSHIRE to leave Convoy and proceed Freetown at best speed. (1st S.L. 2235A/28 to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 2235A/28. DORSETSHIRE is at Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 2147N/28 to Admty.)
Request you will sail EAGLE and NEWCASTLE as soon as possible at 15 knots towards St. Paul's Rocks. DORSETSHIRE is to follow and overtake after fuelling. (1st S.L. 2340A/28 to C. in C. S.A.) *See also p. 599*

W.S.10 X.

Arrivals 1400 DORSETSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, BRILLIANT, WRESTLER, CROCUS and CLEMATIS with Convoy W.S.10 X. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2305N/28 to Admty.)

M.S. Groups.

Your 1538/24/8. Following is latest information of 156th, 157th and 158th M.S. Groups. (C. in C. S.A., 2315N/28 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.

TRUSTY,
THORN,
P.31.

F.O.S., 0159A/28. See Policy.

Enemy M/V's.

036° 50' 021° 00' 041° 8 knots 2 merchant ships. (S.O.S. Malta, 0740B/28 to RORQUAL, PERSEUS.)

/Ismailia

M E S S A G ESECRET.

2315N/28th August.

IN.

From:- C.in C.South Atlantic.

Date:- 29/8/41

Recd:- 0955

NAVAL CYBER (X) by W/T & T/PAddressed:- Admiralty, repeated F.O.I.C.Simonstown 609, C.in C.East Indies,
C.in C.Mediterranean.

26. Your 1538/24/8 not to F.O.I.C.Simonstown. Following is the latest information available of 156th, 157th and 158th H.S.Groups. F.O.I.C.Simonstown is requested to report what ships mentioned below have arrived Cape Area.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Date due</u>
GOS 7 KOS 10 and KOS 11.	Malvis Bay	8th August.
KOS 12	St. Helena	27th July.
GOS 2 and GOS 3	Durban	28th August
CORDELA and NORSE	Malvis Bay	28th August
KOS 8	Movements unknown	

KOS 7 and KOS 9 delayed in U.K. LORINDA sunk vide my 1151/20/8.

2315N/28.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops.(4).
O.D.(5).
O.D.8.
O.I.C.(3).
I.P.(3).
D.S.D.9.
D.A/S.W.
W.D.

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

D.M.S.(2) (1/80635/41) for action.
D.M.S. Basement.

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War Diary.28.8.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Ismailia
Raid.

My A.899 27/8. Para.1. Bombs dropped Ismailia R.A.F. Stn. 26/27/8 night. R.A.F. damage and casualties.

Suez Raid.

Night 27/28/8. About 8 enemy aircraft operated over Suez Canal Zone.

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 26/27/8. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1032/28.)

Black Sea.

Your 1828/24. C. in C. Med. is to be included in the address of your reports. T.O.O. 1034C/28. Admty. pass to Moscow. (C. in C. Med., 1036C/28 to N.L.O. Black Sea.)

PHOEBE
damaged.

PHOEBE hit by an A/C torpedo 30 miles north of Bardia at 2145C/27 whilst covering operation "Treacle". She is now returning to Alexandria under own steam at about 12 knots. C.S.15 in NAIAD with GALATEA and 4 destroyers in company. Extent of damage not yet known. (C. in C. Med., 1226C/28 to Admty.)

Suez Raid.

Ref. C.A.F. O. 587. 1. (a) 28/8, calm slight haze (b) high level attack by 2 enemy A/C on Suez 0430 - 0520, some flares, no moon (c) H.E. (d) about 10 bombs (e) no damage or casualties (g) balloons up. 2. (a) 28/8 calm, slight haze (b) high level attack by 4 enemy A/C on Abou Sultan 0335 - 0535, no moon, no flares. (c) H.E. (d) 4 bombs from one enemy A/C (e) 3 railway trucks mixed ammunition destroyed, no damage to railway or service establishments, no service casualties (f) 4 fighters up. no interception. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1327C/28.)

Enemy Convoy,
orders to
URGE.
UPRIGHT.17-knot convoy including ^{OCEANIA intended} OCEANA leaves Naples probably late p.m./29 arriving Marittimo area mid-day/30. URGE remain Naples, vicinity north of 040° until dawn/30 then to S.E. according to programme. UPRIGHT patrol in the vicinity 038° 07' 012° 00' until fast convoy passes or until 2359B/30, then move to vicinity of 038° 09' 012° 36'. 12-knot convoy probably due Marittimo about 2000/31 and Naples mid-day 1/9. Information is rather vague. (S.O.S. Malta, 1711B/28 to URGE, UPRIGHT.)

/HANS SCHMIDT

War Diary.28.8.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.HANS SCHMIDT.
(German).

Departure 26/8. (Valencia, 1752/28 to M. of W.T.)

Convoy
attacked M/V
hit 27/8.

Night 27/28, 9 Swordfish despatched 1820 hours to attack convoy 4 destroyers, 4 M.V's 10,000 - 12,050 tons steaming south near Lampedusa. 2 A/C lost formation in cloud, 1 A/C returned with engine trouble. Remaining 6 A/C sighted convoy 2005 hours. Despite very bad weather conditions, including thunder storm, a hit was made on an 8,000 ton M/V. At 1215 5 Blenheims attacked 2 M/V's sighted at 0540. 3 hits 5,000 ton ship and 1 hit on the other. Superstructure was blown off 5,000 ton ship. When last seen ship had stopped and was down by stern. Other ship result not seen. Bomb entered through deck. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1755/28, 1758/28.)

2 M/V's hit
28/8.? Enemy
battle fleet.

My 1445/28. Amend para.2 to read - Evening report could not be made until A/C landed as R.A.F. ordered A/C not to break W/T silence if sighted. (V.A. Malta, 1811B/28 to Adty.)

TETRARCH,
REGENT.

TETRARCH proceeds through 033° 26' 027° 20' thence direct to Alexandria reporting E.T.A. Submarines are not to be attacked night of 28/29. 7th C.S. LATONA and 3 Destroyers pass through 032° 57' 026° 10' at 0600C/29. through (? 032°) 57' 027° 10' at 0800, thence Alexandria. (Capt. S.l., 1920C/28 to TETRARCH, REGENT.)

^c
SILICIA
(Italian).

Made S O S in 035° 38' 021° 06' at 1402B/28 after attack by aircraft. (S.O.S. Malta, 1932B/28 to PERSEUS, RORQUAL.)

Syrian Ports.

Re Appt. of Kolb-Bernard. (V.C.N.S., 2012A/28 to C. in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.

French and
German ships.

Departure 27th, SAINT BRIEUX, French; Arrival 27th, COETLOGON, French; ELISABETH HENDRIK FISSER, German. (Barcelona, 2130/28 to M. of W.T.)

/PERSEUS

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

PERSEUS,
RORQUAL.

Cancel my 1425C/25. Establish patrol as follows. PERSEUS proceed through Elaphonisos Zea and Doro Channel to area off Dardanelles north of 039° 30' N. and east of 025° 00' E. RORQUAL (A) If mines have not been laid proceed in accordance with my 1240C/24 to area P. (B) If mines have been laid proceed through 036° 00' 021° 20' and Kytheria Channel to area F 035° 54' 023° 13' 340° 40 35, RORQUAL report to which area she is proceeding. (Capt. S.1. 2230C/28 to PERSEUS, RORQUAL.)

Situation
Report 131.

PHOEBE damaged. Reports of sinkings by THRASHER and UPHOLDER 15/8 to 24/8. (C. in C. Med., 2354C/28 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

593A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2354C/28th Aug. IN.

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 30.8.41

Recd. 0035.

Naval Cypher (X) by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated V.A.M, F.O.H, S.B.N.O.C.A.

109. Situation Report No. 131. Western Desert.

H.M.S. PHOEBE hit by aircraft torpedo at 2145/27 in position 32 degs 15' North 24 degs 53' East reached Alexandria 2300 28th August under own power. Damaged from one hundred feet to one hundred and seventy feet from bow. Extensive flooding increased draft aft by seven feet. Heavy air raid Tobruk by forty dive-bombers 1745/27. SKUBD 3 repeat 3 set on fire and subsequently sunk. One aircraft confirmed and three probable shot down. Central Mediterranean two merchant vessels sighted 36 degs 50' North 21 degs East steering South East 0800 /28th S.O.S. from SILICIA at 1502 in position 35 degs 38' north and 21 degs 06' east. And S.O.S. from ALFREDO ORIANI in position 36 degs 00' north 21 degs 30' east at 210.

EMC/

Submarines. THRASHER reports

(a) Possible hit on merchant ship steering south from Mandri Channel A.M. 15th and

(b) One Schooner with cargo of oil sunk by gunfire in Elaphonisos Channel P.M. 20th. UPHOLDER reports

(a) sinking 2000 ton eastbound merchant ship in position 38 degs 12' north 12 degs 41' east at 0920/20

(b) obtaining two hits on 4000 ton tanker in position 38 degs 13 north 12 degs 44 east at 1630/ 22 and

2.

(c) possibly one hit on rear ship of 3 - 6 inch cruisers
in position 38 degs 30' north 12 degs 00' east at 1035/24.

2354Q/28

1st Lord
1st S.L.
Controller
Vice Controller
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
PARL SEC.
NAV SEC.
NA. 1st S.L.
M (30)
Movts.
I.P.(3)
Ops (4)
O.D.(5)
O.D.8
O.I.C.(2)
D.
H.L.
D.N.I.(4)
Hydrog.
Press Division
C.C.R.T.
W.D.

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

Salvage
D.A/S.W.
D of N
D.N.A.D.
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Basement
D.T.M.
D.D.T.M.
D.T.S.D.
D.M.W.D.
D.T.D.
D.S.V.P.(2)
File X
T/P for Deputy Controller (3) Bath
D (4) Bath
P Bath
D.A/S.W.(2) Bath

BM

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War Diary.28.8.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Iran
Armistice
Naval needs.

In event of any armistice being arranged with Persia following are points upon which there should be no compromise while hostilities last.

- (1) Naval base Khraftramshahr must be an Admiralty commitment and retained as such. It is ideally situated for minesweeping and headquarters on Shatt-el-Arab, has good workshops, jetties and accommodation and is ready for immediate occupation.
- (2) Retention of all captured Persian ships and ships and docks.
- (3) Occupation and use of wireless station at Khraftramshahr indefinitely for naval purposes.
- (4) Facilities for use of all Persian ports and harbours.
- (5) All navigation lights on Shatt-el-Arab appertaining to Persian to become British. It is most important that no vestige of these rights should be alienated to Iraq or to Basra port organization.
- (6) Full British control of all Persian rivers (?a) in area in Shatt-el-Arab and of whole estuary Khor Musa from sea to Bandar Mashur and aerodrome there.

(S.N.O.P.G., 0235Z/28 to C. in C.E.I.)

In view of vital importance of waterways of the Shatt-el-Arab I request no Armistice terms so far as they affect this area will be arranged with Persians without consultation with Naval Authorities. Further signal follows giving what I regard as essential Naval requirements.

(C. in C.E.I., 0742Z/28 to Armindia.)

My 0742/28 and S.N.O.P.G. 0235/28.

- (i) In my view we cannot return (?to) the Status Quo Ante Bellum and at same time retain security of our vital interests in Abadan and Shatt-el-Arab area. Any armistice terms, agreement or treaties which we may make with Persia should have full regard for this Governing factor.
- (ii) Following are my comments on proposal in S.N.O.P.G.'s 0235/28:-
 - (a) I agree to 1, 2 and 3. As regards 2, if the gunboats are allowed to return to Persian control we will be forced to retain Naval Units in Persian Gulf which may be urgently required elsewhere in the event of a Far Eastern war, vide my 1320/27.
 - (b) I would suggest adding a further clause that (?de-militarised) zone be declared on Persian Bank of Waterway of Shatt-el-Arab and Khor Musa (If it is intended to retain control of Bandar Shahpur.)
 - (c) I also agree 4,5 and 6 but consider that these matters depend chiefly upon political attitude it is intended to adopt towards Persia, which I am not in a position to judge.
- (iii) As it may be necessary to deliver our Armistice terms at short notice, I request an early decision may be given to above proposal.

(iv) I assume.....

War Diary.28.8.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Iran Armistice (iv) I assume final agreement will include some measures of control of Persian aerodromes in view of their potential value to enemy as bases for magnetic minelaying.
Naval needs.
Contd. (C. in C.E.I., 1234Z/28 to Admty.)

Press
Communiques.

F.O.C.R.I.N. 1230 and my 1736/25. Simla Communiques in both press and broadcast are containing naval news. May I be informed of the channel of these releases? Recommend policy should be for me to send daily communiques on Naval operations to Admiralty. News to be released as an Admiralty communique. My reasons for objecting to bulletin originating from Simla are (1) Simla are not necessarily fully informed (2) avoidance of an incident such as occurred with KIMBERLEY's action. My 1112/24/10/40 refers. (C. in C.E.I., 0620Z/28 to Admty.)

HILDA
captured
by YARRA.

S.N.O. P.G. 2335/26. YARRA proceeded Bandar Abbas to capture Italian ship HILDA after dark 27/8. YARRA reported HILDA on fire. Not known yet whether it has been possible to get fire under control but was considered unlikely. (C. in C.E.I., 0728Z/28 to Admty.)

Port T.

My 1122 25th not to D. of S.T. and your 0745/25 not to Admiralty. It is necessary to commence preparation of accommodation for ship at an early date in view of Admiralty's decision to proceed with defence of Port T. Request ANHUI or another suitable vessel may be requisitioned now and sent to Colombo as soon as possible. (C. in C.E.I., 1308Z/28 to C. in C. China.)

EL MADINA,
loss of
speed, B.M.8.

Your 0803/27. Measures have not been successful. B.M.8 is now being delayed at least 30 hours through EL MADINA inability to do more than 10 knots. (C. in C.E.I., 1316Z/28, to S.S.T.O.India.)

Dispositions.

Your 2210/27. CORNWALL towed (? CLIVE) to about 050° E., so that latter could make Karachi. CORNWALL then escorted TILAWA to vicinity of Bombay and arrives Colombo a.m./30 to dock and exchange 8-inch guns. COLOMBO arrived Mombasa 27/8 and will escort (? C) M 16 B to Aden leaving 3/9.

/KESTREL.....

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War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Dispositions.
Contd.

*no trace
in P. List*

KESTRAL arrives Colombo 30/8 from Nancowry.
? EXETER escorting MAURETANIA left Aden p.m./26
due Durban a.m./3.
Force T cleaning boilers and carrying out
aircraft inspection at Ceylon.
I intend to issue an occasional movement summary
for ships on E.I.Stn., and this will be repeated
to Admty.
(C. in C.E.I., 1318Z/28 to Admty.)

Iran
Resistance
Ended.

1052/28/8. Prime Minister announced to Majlis
to-day Shah has ordered cessation of all
resistance. (Britmil, Tehran, T.H.I., 1340/28,
to Troopers.)

Iran
Occupation,
Orders.

My 11456/G 20/8. (1605/20.)
1. If administrative considerations permit and
opposition is not considered likely to be beyond
your means to overcome you are authorised to
continue advance to Kermanshah. 2. Provided
similar considerations as in para. 1 permit, you
will take steps to occupy the whole of the
Southern oil area. You will also take any
action possible to prevent destruction of railway
and removal of rolling stock. Latter point is
of especial importance.
(C. in C. India, 1540/28, to General, Iraq.)

WEST ZEDA.

Enemy Ships.
Persian Gulf.

Your 1251/27. WEST ZEDA ashore on Abu Ail,
tugs in attendance.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 1548Z/28, to Admty.)
Situation report Persian Gulf 1730Z/28.
(1) No further news regarding threat to Officials
of A.I.O.C. at Bandar Mashur vide S.N.O.P.G.
1012/27/8. (2) Condition of enemy vessels at
Bandar Shahpur as follows. MARIENFELS steam
raised 60% auxiliaries successfully tried.
Estimated completion date 28th. STURMFELS
estimated completion date p.m./30. WILDENFELS
estimated completion date 30th. HOHENFELS
largest hole located by divers should be able
to start pumping 27th. Italian ships can only
be moved by tugs. WILDENFELS has sufficient
coal for trip to Karachi. S.O.Force B
1605/25/8 refers.
(C. in C.E.I., 1720Z/28 to Admty.)

/Aden fuelling...

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28.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

Aden
fuelling.

In order to avoid delays at Aden and to assist the position there generally, M. of W. T., have instructed Campbell Calcutta and Campbell Capetown that colliers on the Middle East Coal Programme should bunker for the round voyage at Calcutta or South Africa.
(D.T.D. 1904A/28 to C. in C.E.I.)

Port W.

Your 0911Z/25. Total requirements notified in my 1939/21 and 1330/25 together with 4 additional searchlights for Port W., have been communicated to W.O. Source of additional personnel required is under consideration by W.O.
(D. of L.D. 2338A/28, to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

China.

Japanese
Convoy.

Between Wenchow and Foochow 23/8 convoy of about 22 Japanese ships course N.E. ly.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0724Z/28 to Admty.)

ALBERT
SARRANT,
French.

Departure 27/8 for Haiphong.
(Saigon 0731Z/28 to M. of W.T.)

"Matador"
& "Sandwich".

C. in C.F.E. 1857/28. See Lion Copy.

D'ARTAGNAN.
(French.)

Arrived. (Shanghai, 2349Z/28 to M. of W.T.)

MOST SECRET

597A

MOST SECRET

1857/28th August.
MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. Far East.

Date 29.8.41.
Recd. 0300

CYPHER.

Addressed War Office.
39106 440/4 cipher 28/8
Following for Chiefs of Staff.

It seems certain that if either MATADOR or /and SANDWICH are ordered the British Minister will be in Bangkok at the time. Up to now he has not been informed from here that these operations are being planned or that we have prepared leaflets in Thai for distribution both by air and by hand. I consider that Sir Josiah should not know of these plans, until the last moment mainly because it will make his dealings with the Thai Government both now and afterwards much easier if he can state with perfect sincerity that he was ignorant of the plans. But he must be in a position to inform the Thai Prime Minister at the right time of our intentions. Request that when the time comes Foreign Office may brief him on the reason for our contemplated action and of the scope of our proposed operations and instruct him fully to co-operate.

1857/28.

Received from War Office 1120/31.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
D.C.
E.P.S.
Head of M. (8)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)
D.D.I.C.
Admiral Palliser
Admiral Bellairs.
D.O.D. (F)

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MS MOST SECRET **MOST SECRET** IN
2111/28 August

From C. in C. Far East.

Date. 28. 8. 41.
Recd. 0300

CIPH LR.

Addressed The War Office.

39265. Your 84981 (M.O.10) 19/8.

Foll. for chiefs of Staff Ref. No.29.

1. We estimate Japan can operate 72 heavy bombers 24 light bombers 36 fighters from South Indo China within range of Malaya and if Japan occupied Southern Thailand to Malaya frontier she can operate further 24 heavy bombers 48 light bombers and 36 fighters making a total of 240 shore based aircraft after considerable aerodrome development.

2. Your figure of 155 may represent a reasonable figure for shipborne aircraft that might be used against Malaya but war experience has shown that aircraft carriers while invaluable for sea action and spasmodic raids cannot operate for any length of time in range of shore based aircraft and in submarine waters without great risk. These aircraft therefore could not be considered capable of sustained operations amounting to support to opposed landings.

3. The following landing grounds exist in South Thailand

- (A) Between Malaya and line A. Pattani. Singgora
- (B) Between lines A and B Puket on west coast Nagornsridharmraj and Iandon.
- (C) Between lines B and C. Chumpon (also Victoria Point). These are roughly 80 and 210 and 460 miles respectively from Alor Star. They have maximum 800 yards runway or less at present and no facilities.

4. South of line A is an area in which aerodromes can quickly be developed. This is not so north of that line.

5. The objects of moving to line A are (A) to deny the aerodromes in 3(A) and the development of aerodromes near our frontier. (B) to deny port facilities at Singgora. (C) to deny use of east and west coast railway and only road.

6. Agree with your para 4 but advance to line C is preferable to line B. The advantage of going to line C is that it would deny the aerodromes in 3(B) and C and possible submarine base on west coast.

7. The disadvantages are - (A) Dependence solely on railway and westbound sea communications as roads are poor or non-existent. (B) The need for large reinforcements

/to

to protect long and vulnerable lines of communications and to secure aerodromes. (C) the need for much greater administrative services that are available in Malaya at the present time (D) difficulty of reinforcing any threatened area owing to scarcity of roads. (E) Impossibility at present of using torpedo bombers against seaborne attack from these aerodromes as no portable air compressors are available.

8. The disadvantages outweigh the advantages therefore do not consider that the advance to Line C is worth while.

9. The possibility of cutting the Isthmus on line C and holding it with a force based on Victoria Point has been suggested but appears to be impracticable.

10 The G.O.C. Burma has already made preparations to cut the Bangkok railway at Prachuab Orikhan from Mergui. If forces become available a similar railing force from Victoria Point will be used to cut the railway at Chumpon line C.

2111/28

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- A.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.
- A.S.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson.
- Ad. Bellairs.
- Ad. Palliser.
- D.N.A.D.

Received from War Office
2020/1 September.

Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

598

28.8.1941.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Enemy Ships
27/8.

Break W/T silence and report forthwith all details of enemy ships sighted on 27/8 which will help identification. Include range and condition of light. Also if enemy challenged or opened fire. Repeat your reply to addressees.

(C. in C. A.W.I., 1033Q/28 to PRINCE DAVID, repeated Admty etc).

Your 0838Q/27 and 0811Q/27. Further information as to description of ship is urgently required. If necessary PRINCE DAVID must be asked and the breaking of W/T silence must be accepted.

(V.C.N.S., 1323A/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

Your 1033Q/28. Vessel sighted before dawn in moderate to poor visibility. Estimated range 12,000 yards. Vessel proceeded away at high speed. Stern view was that of warship unanimous opinion of bridge personnel. Challenge made but not answered correctly. His signal projector was most efficient. Vessel was not visible after 50 minutes. Estimated speed from plot 24 knots. Did not open fire. (PRINCE DAVID, 1545P/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ORION.

Arrival Balboa 0700 Zone + 5/28 ORION from sea.

(N.C.S.O. Panama, 1155/28 to Admty).

Departure Balboa 1730 Zone + 5/28 ORION.

(N.C.S.O. Panama, 2037/28 to Admty).

N.E.F.
refits.

C. in C. W.A. 2305A/26. Would prefer to defer further refits of destroyers of N.E.F. until return to the Force of RIPLEY, HESPERUS or some other destroyers at present refitting or undergoing repairs. (C.C.N.F., 1237Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

U.S.
Defence Plan.

Presumed details of U.S. Navy Western Hemisphere Defence Plan No. 4 have been supplied direct to C.N.S. Ottawa through you. No action is consequently being taken by Admty to provide C.N.S. Ottawa with a copy. (V.C.N.S., 1244/28 to B.A.D.) Your 1244/28. 2 copies of plan and appendix were sent by Navy Dept. to U.S.N.A. Ottawa to be handed to C.N.S. Ottawa. (B.A.D., 2111R/28 to Admty).

/Ex-Enemy.....

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Ex -
Enemy Ships.

My 1909R/23. Vessels enumerated will not sail under U.S. Flag. They will sail under Panamanian or British flag depending on whether manned by American or British crews. Understood that following 5 vessels included in my 1909R/23 are being taken up by U.S. Army and Navy and will sail under U.S. flag:- JONNA, SICILIEN, TUNIS, MARIA, MANGALA. (B.A.D., 1415R/28 to Admty).

See 1473

EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.

My 1757Z/27. Your 1725A/22 para (ii) D. EMPRESS OF JAPAN is due Esquimalt for docking A.M. /4. Extent of repairs required not known until ships arrival. Unless they are extensive estimate ship will be ready to sail last week September. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1432Z/28 to D. of S.T.)

S.C.42

No ocean escort available for S.C. 42. (R.A. 3 1442P/28 to Admty etc).

Galapagos.

Following from Opnav for D.C. Opnav reports that Comfifteen states he has no information regarding raiders in vicinity of Galapagos. (Spenavo, 1500/28 to Admty).

Enemy S/Ms

R.N.O. St. Lucia informed by U.S. Intelligence that British Admiralty believe enemy submarine and tender en route Caribbean. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1533R/28 to Admty etc).

Suspicious
Ship,
possible
HIPPER
Cruiser.

Following from U.S. Authorities Bermuda. (Begins) A/C from U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP report unknown ship possibly HIPPER class in 026° 13' N., 057° 47' W., at 1330Z/28 course 160° speed about 20 knots. (ends) RODNEY take necessary action. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1622Q/28 to Admty, RODNEY). My 1622Q/28. Steer towards 020° N., 060° W., at best possible speed. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1632 Q/28 to DIOMEDE). Steer to pass through approx position 025° N., 054° W. U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP is being informed by U.S. Aircraft Carrier YORKTOWN now at Bermuda that you will be in this position on approx. course 160° at about 1200Z/29. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1822Q/28 to RODNEY).

See p. 590

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Suspicious
Ship
possible
HIPPER
Cruiser -
Contd.

1330 G.C.T./28 ~~WASP~~ A/C in 26.13 N., 57.47 W., sighted unknown ship possibly HIPPER Class, course 160°, speed approx. (?20) knots. Investigation continuing. Admty inform Spenavo. (Opnav, Washington, 1910/28 to Admty, C.N.S. Ottawa).

A/C from U.S. Task force report ship possibly HIPPER class in 026° 13' N., 057° 47' W., steering 160° speed 20 knots at 1330Z/28. Further investigation being made.

(B.A.D., 1930Z/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Your 1930Z/28. Suggest time lag in receipt by our forces of enemy reports made by U.S. Forces would be reduced if these were made in plain language on 500 k/cs in accordance with para 5. of Admty 0142/27/4. These may have been made but no reports have been received from shore stations. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152Q/28 to B.A.D.) Raider reported 550 miles S.E. Bermuda at 1330 G.M.T./28. All ships to and from Caribbean Sea keep west of 065° W., when between Bermuda and Caribbean Sea. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 2052G.M.T./28 to G.B.M.S.7).

Comtask Group 216 reports succeeding (My 281910) flight at 1700 G.C.T. failed make contact and concludes speed at least 25 kts. Detailed information first contact, ship gray, fairly large, speed in excess merchant types. One pilot picked HIPPER silhouette as probable. Admiralty inform Spenavo. Sent to C.N.S. Ottawa for information. (Opnav, 2325/28 to Admty).

LIVERPOOL.

Your 1924A/27. Following is a repetition of my 1150R/26. (Begins) My Armuk 631. Anticipated LIVERPOOL completes ex trials in mid October. Request Admty policy re completing to full complement. No officers or ratings of ORION will be taken for RESOLUTION. 1150R/26 (ends). Anticipated date of completion was advanced because work in ship has progressed more speedily than originally estimated. (B.A.R.M., 1654R/28 to Admty).

Shipping
Routes.

All shipping between Caribbean ports and U.K. and North America is to be routed through Monaco or Windward Passage or Florida Straits and on dispersed routes to west of Bermuda taking advantage of cover U.S. coast when this will not unduly prolong voyage. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1702Q/28 to A.I.G. 129).

/DESPATCH.....

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War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

DESPATCH.

Your 2142/23. It is considered desirable that DESPATCH should remain in Pacific until further orders as PRINCE HENRY's armament is likely to be inferior to that of any enemy raider.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1730A/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ST. MARGARET.

PRINCE DAVID has taken in tow ST. MARGARET disabled in 29° 10' N., 46° 30' W., and is proceeding Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2202Q/28 to Admty).

CIRCASSIA.

Cancel my 1202Q/18. CIRCASSIA proceed to Halifax passing through 025° N., 040° W. R.A. 3 is requested to sail CIRCASSIA for Bermuda after she has disembarked personnel mentioned in C. in C. S.A. 1127N/18. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/28 to CIRCASSIA).

New Zealand.

Service
Personnel
unescorted
ships.

A.M.1744B/16/7. Owing to shortage of passenger vessels sailing from New Zealand to U.K. and lack of accommodation in Matson liners it is not being found possible to adhere rigidly to the numbers of air crews mentioned in para (c) without unduly delaying their arrival in U.K. Every endeavour is made to keep to the rates specified.
(N.Z.N.B., 1514M/28 to Admty).

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

→ O.S.4
(attacked
27/8).

Continue search, weather permitting 5 A/C will carry out an A/S sweep a.m. and p.m./28 passing your vicinity. (C. in C. W.A., 0009A/28 to BELMONT).

No further attack was made on convoy last night. It would seem that 2 U-boats attacking (?attacked) by BIDEFORD and WALKER were only ones in touch. Homing signals were heard on 505 kc/s before BIDEFORD submarine was sighted. Weather. (WALKER, 1017A/28 to C. in C. W.A.) See p. 604

Tanker.

A/C report at 1005A/28 (begins). One tanker appeared to be abandoned 2 miles North of H.X.144, corvettes investigating, 055° 19' N., 008° 36' W. (ends). Are tugs required? (C. in C. W.A., 1609A/28 to BULLDOG, escorts of H.X.144).

Unknown ship.

A/C report at 0915A/28 Begins:- Sighted abandoned merchant vessel 6,000 tons in 053° 52' N., 014° 24' W., one escort vessel from convoy investigates (ends). If an escort vessel is detached from convoy she should report situation immediately. My 0929A/27 a tug is on the way to 054° 13' N., 014° 40' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1621A/28 to BOADICEA Escorts of H.X. 145).

→ OTAIO
(O.S.4)

OTAIO torpedoed in (? 052°) 16' N., 018° 12' W. (WALKER, 1555A/28, to C. in C. W.A.) British, 10298 tons, from Liverpool for Curacao and Sydney with stores and general. (D.S., 722, 29/8). My 1555A/28. OTAIO had just been dispersed when torpedoed and has (sunk?). Am sweeping in vicinity with VOLUNTEER, LULWORTH, GORLESTON. (WALKER, 1750A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

TREMODA
(torpedoed
27/8).

TREMODA torpedoed but salvable was in 054° 08' N., 015° 28' W., at 1016A/28. Tugs ST. OLAVES, SUPERMAN are being sailed from Londonderry to tow in and trawlers ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY, are being instructed to escort. Proceeding now to position of TREMODA and assist tugs to locate her. (BELMONT, 2031A/28, to C. in C. W.A.)

/ARAB's.....

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28.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked - Contd.

TREMODA
(torpedoed
27/8).
Contd.

ARAB's 1016A/28. Request you will sail ST. OLAVES and SUPERMAN to tow in TREMODA. ST. LOMAN and NORWICH CITY at present patrolling in 55° 30' N. between 14° W., and 15° W., are available now as escort. Request you will arrange R/V and give necessary instructions to trawlers.

(C. in C. W.A., 2034A/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Proceed in company forthwith to search for derelict S.S. TREMODA reported at 1015A/28 in 54° 08' N., 15° 28' W., After passing Tory Island you are to proceed along the 55° parallel to 55° 00' N., 12° 50' W., where ST. LOMAN and NORWICH CITY have been ordered to R/V with you at 1600A/29 and escort you during search. If trawlers not met by dark proceed to given position of TREMODA. Trawlers have similar orders.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2055/28 to ST. OLAVES, SUPERMAN).

Tugs ST. OLAVES and SUPERMAN have been ordered to proceed from Londonderry along parallel of 55° N., to R/V with you in 55° 00' N., 12° 50' W., at 1600A/29. You are then to escort them in search of derelict S.S. TREMODA reported by ARAB at 1015A/29 in 54° 08' N., 15° 28' W. If tugs not met by dark proceed to given position of TREMODA. Tugs have similar orders.

(F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2103/28 to NORWICH CITY, ST. LOMAN).

O.S.4

A/C reported 6,000 ton ship drifting in 054° 13' N., 14° 40' W., at 0937/27. ZWARTE ZEE escorted by AYRSHIRE left Londonderry at 2100A/27 to tow in. Proceed now to endeavour to locate this ship and report position.

(C. in C. W.A., 2325A/28 to BLANKNEY).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-B. dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1407A/28).

1247Z.

By D/F at 1247Z/28. Position of U/B was 53° N., 15° W. Reliable fix.
(D.D.I.C., 1434A/28 to BOADICEA, WINCHELSEA, BEAGLE, SALISBURY, ST. MARY'S.)

1259Z.

By D/F at 1259Z/28. Position of U-boat was 51° 40' N., 18° - 19° W.
(D.D.I.C., 1450A/28 to WALKER, VANOC).

/1329Z.....

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War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. - Contd.

1329Z

By D/F at 1329Z/28. Position of U-boat was 52° 30' N., 16° - 16° 30' W. Reliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1504A/28).

En route Caribbean. (S.O.(I), Jamaica 1533R/28)
See America and West Indies.

Submarines Attacked.

By WALKER.
BIDEFORD.

S/M sighted on surface by BIDEFORD at 0020/28 position 052° 25' N., 018° 00' W. Attacked with depth charges, contact lost. (WALKER, 0130A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

Sighted and attacked S/M in 052° 25' N., 018° 00' W., and made three subsequent attacks on firm contact. (WALKER, 0335A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

See p 602

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29.8.1941.

Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

R/C of Brest at 0830Z today showed the two battle cruisers and PRINZ EUGEN still present all in dry dock.

A Catalina sighted at 2120 a force consisting of one large and two small cruisers steering a southerly course in 58° 58' N., 5° 20' E. The force has not been identified and air R/C of the Skagerrak and Norwegian coast was arranged for tomorrow.

British Air Operations

Attacks were made by Bomber Command aircraft last night on Ostend and Dunkirk.

Enemy Air Operations

A fishing trawler was unsuccessfully attacked in Westmannhavn (Faeroes) today.

Convoy E.C. 66 was bombed at 2127 today in 54° 55' N., 1° 9' W. but no damage was reported.

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29.8.1941.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft late this evening was suspected from the Norfolk coast to the Humber. The Humber was closed at 2309.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic

Catalinas

F.O.C.N.A. reports that the present state of 202 Aircraft Squadron is not sufficient to give proper protection to convoys as well as carry out R/C which ought to be done daily. He requires a permanent increase to at least 12 in the number of Catalinas based at Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

Force F.
Search for
raider.

DORSETSHIRE (S.O.) EAGLE and NEWCASTLE sailed from Freetown at 0815 today towards St. Paul's Rocks, to search for the reported raider. The force will be known as Force F.

C. in C. S.A. 1741N/29 gives the positions of the various British and U.S. forces operating in the area.

29.8.1941.
Friday

War DiarySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanLibya and
Western
Desert.

8 Naval Albacores bombed stores dumps near Bardia last night.

Heavy air
raid on
Tripoli

A raid on Tripoli by 15 Wellingtons is claimed as the most successful carried out at a low altitude. Aircraft were over the target from 1905 to 2240/29. The whole end of Spanish Quay was fired, bombs driving off the fire fighters. One M.V. of 8000 tons was set heavily on fire, and also 2 of 5,000 tons, of which 1 exploded an hour after being hit. A petrol depot on the Mole was blown up. R/C on 30/8 showed that the 8000 ton merchant ship was on fire from stern to funnel, one 5000 ton ship was burnt out and another of 5000 tons was on fire.

There was an air raid on Tobruk last night. Jarabut and Mersa Matruh were raided today. No damage was caused.

East IndiesIran

An Armistice was signed with Iran last night.

^{on 27/8}
YARRA ~~last night~~ seized Italian SS HILDA at Bandar Abbas and is towing her to Karachi. The ship has been sabotaged and is still on fire. To minimise the risk of political difficulties arising out of the capture in Persian Territorial waters of German and Italian ships, they are to be sailed to Karachi as soon as possible.

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29.8.1941.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

Raider
search

Two U.S. destroyers have searched the Galapagos area except Albemarle, but have not found trace of the raider.

Refits of
S/M's.

B.A.D. Washington, have been asked by Admty. to investigate the possibility of submarines, after refit in U.S. Ports, working up from an American naval base.

U-Boat Campaign

A submarine of unknown nationality was reported in Eire territorial waters at 2212 today.

China

One or possibly two unidentified submarines were sighted today in 10° 13' N., 110° 23' E. steering S.W.

War Diary.

29.8.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TRUSTY.
THORN.
P.31.

(a) Following submarines are to be prepared for service in Mediterranean and are to be sailed as follows. TRUSTY on completion working up and repair about 2/9. THORN on completion working up about 21/9. P.31 about 30/9.
(b) Allocation of a fourth submarine to Mediterranean is under consideration.
(F.O.S. 1117A/29.)

Ocean
Convoys and
Fleet M/S.

Fleet Minesweepers are not to be sailed with Ocean Convoys in future. (C. in C. W. A. 1449A/29.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Narvik S/M
Patrol.

Your 1919C/28. If Soviet S/M intends to enter Vestfiord, she should be warned that British Mines exist as follows. Details. (V.C.N.S. 1553A/29 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.) See Operations Volume.

Operation
"Dervish".

(Ad. Miles 1936C/29) See Operations.

Movements.

REPULSE.
SHEFFIELD.

My 1753A/28. For ^{"Drover"} DROVER read ^{"Dimple"} DIMPLE.
(V.A.2. 0027A/29.)

PARTHIAN.

Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1653A/29.)

Operations.

Operation
"Dervish".

"Dervish" now expects to arrive at position "Z" 0800A/30. (D.O.D.H. 0954A/29 to Ad. Miles) (? V.A.2 1003/29 to Adty.)
V.A.2's 2010/28. Intend Force "L" shall sail from Scapa at 0800A/30. (SHROPSHIRE 1202A/29.)
V.A.2 2010A/28. Force L. expect to arrive Seydisfordjur anchorage at 2000Z/31. Request Oiler WAR SUDRA may be instructed to be under way by this time and to go alongside ARGUS after anchoring. (SHROPSHIRE 1215A/29.)
Cancel my 1956C/28. Arrangements being made (A) Russian destroyers to meet "Dervish" in accordance with your 0954A/29. (B) To inform Vian. (Ad. Miles, 1936C/29 to Adty.)

/Operation

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29.8.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Operation
"Iliad".

If weather unsuitable tonight intend to add 30/31st August as a possible date for operation "Iliad". A.O.C. 11 Group concurs. (V.A. Dover 1053A/29.)
Operation "Iliad" will not be carried out tonight. (V.A. Dover 1657A/29.)

Operation
"Acid-Drop".

If weather unsuitable tonight intend to add 30/31st August as a possible date for operation "Acid-Drop". (V.A. Dover 1055A/29.)

A/S Sweep.

My 1223/27th. In view of Admiralty's 1935/28 (postponing S.N.15), further special search will not be carried out until date of lay is known. Request 24 hours notice when search again required. (A.C.O.S. 1122A/29 to R.A.M.)

Narvik S/M
Patrol.

Warning of British Mines. (V.C.N.S. 1553A/29 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Force
off Stavanger.

Request information whether Force reported by aircraft Catalina R 2120 can be identified. Request aircraft R/C of Skagerrak and Norwegian Coast at daylight tomorrow. (F.O.2 H.F. 2337/29 to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

P R U of Stavanger and Aalborg now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1052/29.) "Stand" ~~STAND~~ now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1820/29)

R/C's
requested.

Request photographic R/C of Kiel and Brest may be carried out today if possible. (D.D.I.C. 1111A/29.)
Request aircraft R/C of Skagerrak and Norwegian Coast at daylight tomorrow. (F.O.2. H.F. 2337/29 to Adty.)

Escort.

V.A.2 2010 28. Expect A/S air escort by 18 Group aircraft of one Whitley from 0800/30 to 1300/30 Belfast relieved by Sunderland until last light. (C. in C. Rosyth 1838/29 to SHROPSHIRE.)

/Dartmouth

War Diary.

29.8.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - contd.

Dartmouth
S/M
Sanctuary.

Request Dartmouth submarine sanctuary from 0700 - 1800/30, from 0800 - 1800/31, and on 1/9. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1509/29 to H.Q.C.C.)

Attack on
Enemy.

Have attacked unknown enemy 270°, 10, 62° N. 22° W. (A/C Duty Y. 1835/29 to Kaldadarmes, Reykjavik.)

Enemy Air Activity.

DONOVANIA
(British
Tanker, 8149
Tons) damaged
on 28/8.

DONOVANIA attacked by single A/C off Milford Haven in Swept Channel at 2101/28. Serious damage to ship, now anchored in convoy anchorage. One of crew missing. Attacks on shipping in vicinity of Milford Haven at dusk on 24 and 25/8 and raid in Milford Haven on night of 26/8 indicate renewal of air attack on this area. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1037A/29.)

Faroes.
Trawler
attacked.

A/C attacked fishing trawler in Westmannhavn ? two bombs dropped. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1352A/29.)

BRIARWOOD
(bombed
14/8.)

Details of attacks. One bomber Jettisoned bombs 1 mile away, dropped and tail burning. Small damage. No serious casualties. Four engine F.W., Condor. Cross on wings, Swastika on tail. (N.C.S.O. New York 1353Z/29.)

Convoy E.C.66.

^{"Yield"}
Help ~~YIELD~~ 54° 55' N. 1° 9' W. (LEEDS 2127/29.) My 2130. One aircraft, several bombs, no damage reported. (LEEDS 2226/29.)

Mining.

Isle of Man.

Douglas I.O.M. observation minefield now operative. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1041/29.)

Dover.

Anticipate that MINSTER will lay one mile of R mine trot on 1 or 2/9. (V.A. Dover 1117A/29.)

Narvik S/M
Patrol.

If Soviet S/M intends to enter Vestfiord she should be warned that British Mines exist as follows. (V.C.N.S. 1553A/29) See Operations Volume.

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29.8.1941.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.S.N.23 A.

Intend to lay on 4/9 with PORT QUEBEC and WELLS or ST. MARYS as follows. (R.A.M. 1607/29)
See Operations Volume.

Thames Estuary.

At 1150/29 one S.A. Mine detonated as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1915/29.)

Humber closed.

Humber is closed to Navigation. Enemy mine-laying. Anticipate opening 1200 tomorrow. (F.O. Humber 2309/29.)

Enemy Intelligence.Brest.

At 0830Z/29. (1) PRINZ EUGEN still camouflaged and in dry dock. (2) SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. Faint photographs show both indistinctly, still camouflaged and in usual dry docks. U.S. Naval Authorities informed. (D.D.I.C. 1412A/29.)

*See also p. 623*Kiel. (TIRPITZ).

PRU Sortie at 0945/29 shows TIRPITZ has returned alongside the North Quay at Wik. No camouflage between battleship and quay and two floating cranes alongside her. The torpedo boom is open to allow passage of a third floating crane being towed away at time of photography. The port South of Wik, including usual positions of ADMIRAL HIPPER and LUTZOW, is not photographed. (PRU. Benson, 1615/29.)

EMDEN, LEIPZIG.

EMDEN and LEIPZIG in Oslo Fjord 26/8. Graded C.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1647/29.)

Force off Stavanger.

One Cruiser two Destroyers position 58° 58' N., 5° 20' E. course 195°. (A/C "R", 2120/29 to 18 R. Group.)
My 2120. Enemy Cruiser 10,000 tons, 2 Cruisers 6,000 tons, position 58° 58' N., 5° 20' E. course 185°. (A/C "R" 2120/29 to 18 Group H.Q.)

E-Boats.

Suspected E-Boat activity (374° or 384°), Cromer 21 miles. (Nore 2145/29.)

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War Diary.29.8.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- ADVENTURE. Admiralty's 1936/28. Intend to sail ADVENTURE for Liverpool at 1300 today. E.T.A. Bar Lightship 1500 tomorrow. (R.A.M. 0924/29.) Departure ADVENTURE. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1309/29.)
- S.O.S. Automatic S.O.S. Signal heard, Strength two, bearing easterly. (Lands End Radio 1056/29.)
- DANUBE VI. Your 1418A/27. Delayed at Grimsby by damage. Will return Yarmouth. (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth, 1555A/29 to N.C.S.O. Blyth.)
- ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ST. MARYS.
(collision.) ROYAL ULSTERMAN, and ST. MARYS have been in collision. ROYAL ULSTERMAN holed in number one hold below water line, will require docking. ST. MARYS bow buckled to (? Number 10) Station, forepeak and paint shop holed. Propose ST. MARYS proceed to Greenock with S.D.10 to effect temporary repairs. (WELLS 1945A/29.) Your 1945A/29. Approved. (D.O.D.H. 2343A/29 to WELLS.)
- Shipping and Convoys.
- S.L.83. Has arrived safely under Cdre. Rees, R.N.R., 16 ships, 7 Allied, rest British. Cargoes. (D.S.722, 29/8.)
- T.C.12B. My 0317/28. Following are details of personnel on board vessels of T.C.12B. (D. of S.T. 0304A/29 to P.S.T.O., W. of Scotland etc.) For Commodore T.C.12B. ships proceed following destination DOMINION MONARCH to Liverpool 8. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, STRATHEDEN to Clyde. (C. in C.W.A., 0914A/29 to Escorts T.C.12B.)
- E.T.A. Forecasts. Your 1920A/27. Suggest greater accuracy would be attainable if E.T.A., of convoy at dispersal point could be given in Admty., routing signals. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1146A/29 to Admty.)
- Iceland Route Signals. Your 1216A/28. N.O.I.C. Iceland and C. in C. W.A., are added to addressees in para 4 my 1914A/21. Is this satisfactory? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1428Z/29 to Admty.)

/H.X.144 B.....

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War Diary.

29.8.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- H.X.144 B. Is to anchor Moelfre Bay and not enter (?today). (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1548A/29 to CAPE WARWICK.)
- F.C.Ships. Fighter catapult ships are to be sailed right through to Gibraltar when with O.G. Convoys. F.O.C. N.A. is requested to sail them with next H.G. Convoy after arrival. (C. in C. W.A. 1614A/29 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)
- H.G.71. For Commodore. Weather permitting all ships are to stream paravanes before arrival at position C. and keep then running until well clear of position E. If leading ships of columns are not fitted with paravanes, order of convoy must be changed. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1644A/29 to Escorts of H.G.71.)
- O.G.72. Not met. Search continues. (BOREAS, 1800A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- ISAAC SWEERS, W.S.11. Dutch authorities are unwilling for ISAAC SWEERS to proceed on foreign service until certain minor alterations and repairs have been carried out. Request you will sail ISAAC SWEERS as A/S escort for W.S.11 ordering her to return from X or such position as you consider advisable. (D.O.D.(H) 1826A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.S. and S.L. Convoys. Your 2111N/26. Subject to your remarks concur with C. in C. W.A. 1656A/28. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2350A/29 to C. in C.S.A.)

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29.8.1941.
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticDEUCALIONArrivals FARNDALE with DEUCALION.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1138A/29 to Admty.)→ CLYDEYour 1813A/27. In view of large mileage already run by SEVERN since refit intend detailing CLYDE. CLYDE returns from patrol 11th and will be sailed about 22/9.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1410A/29 to Admty.)EUGENIO C.
(Italian)

Departure 28/8. (Recd. from M. of W.T. at 0620/30)

* MARIA BELMATTI
Spanish,
suspect.My 1300/27. 400 empty drums were supplied by Girth Coal Company. Now understand that vessel will load aviation spirit Rio de Oro for Isle of Sal. Cape Verde Is. Owner of vessel is local agent of Spanish refinery Tenerife. Following sailing vessels same owner, 1. *DELFIN. 2. *FERMINA CONCEPCION, 3. *ENRIQUETA. ends. (Las Palmas, 1630/29 to Admty.) * *not identified.*NESTOR
ENCOUNTER
to join
W.S. 11.

A.M. 2258/15 para 4. Not now considered necessary to retain NESTOR and ENCOUNTER for Operation "Status". Request you will sail them to join Convoy W.S. 11 in position "X" and accompany REPULSE to Freetown. Destroyers should top up with fuel at Ponta Delgada before joining and from R.F.A. RAPIDOL subsequently. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for 2 destroyers to return to U.K. after NESTOR and ENCOUNTER have joined. C's in C. concerned are requested to arrange for onward passage of NESTOR and ENCOUNTER to Mediterranean via Cape at best speed. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1751A/29 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A. etc.)

→ DispositionsSituation report No. 3 at 2000A/29. All positions North and West (i) CLYDE patrol in area bounded by 40 N., and 34 N., and 23 W. and 31 W. (ii) CAVINA patrol H.Z. 1. (iii) MARON patrol H.X. 3.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1826A/29 to N.A. Station.)

/Catalinas....

MOST SECRET29.8.1941.
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.Catalinas
Gibraltar.

Present state of 202 Squadron is not sufficient to give proper protection to convoy as well as carry out R/C which ought to be done daily. (? Request) immediate consideration may be given to permanent increase of Catalinas based Gibraltar to at least 12. A/T 1916/7/6 refers.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1848A/29 to Admty.)

French
ships.

Gibraltar 1402/29 Survey Vessel SENTINELLE
Ship PLATON laden east bound.
(S.O.I. Gib. 1853A/29 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

BESSEL
(German)

Returned to Ferrol a.m./27 where her hold No.2 is being converted into four tanks of total approx. capacity 800 to 1000 tons of Fuel. Work will not be completed in less than 30 days.
(Guyatt, Coruna, 1930/29 to Admty.)

DEUCALION

Following information obtained from DEUCALION. (F.O.C.N.A., 2128/29 to V.A. Malta)
See Lion Copy.

Enemy Ships

Latest information SULLBERG arrived Valencia 27th. HANS SCHMIDT for Lisbon at La Garrucha
ATLAS arrived Valencia 22nd E.H. FISSER left Valencia 21st, Sagunto thence to Savona.
OTTO LEONHARDT left Barcelona 26th, MAURO CROCE at Barcelona. (?SPEZIA) at Genoa.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2210A/29 to S/M O.24.)

MOST SECRETMOST ~~SECRET~~ 2128/29/August.

From F.O.C.N.A.S.

Date 30.8.41.

Recd. 0412.

NAVAL CYPHER X BY W/T.

Addressed V.A. Malta, Repeated Admiralty, *Ci Med.*

IMPORTANT.

652. Following information obtained from DEUCALION.
All times G.M.T. and positions North and East.

2. Ship had no trouble until in the vicinity
of Kelibia Light.

3. At 0145/27th when Kelidia Light bore 195 deg.
5.2 miles what was assumed to be a shore battery in vicinity
of Guard House fired 8 single rounds which missed.

4. At 0150 when Cape Bon Light House bore
325 deg. 6.8 miles explosion occurred on Port side
carrying away port PV. Ship damaged but not holed. Report
follows after survey.

5. When in position 37 deg. 18' 08 deg. 22'
at 1208/27th ship was attacked by two Savoia Marchetti
planes both of whom attacked with torpedoes which ship
avoided.

6. At 1540 in position 37 deg. 23' 07 deg. 12'
believed sighted submerged submarine on starboard quarter.

7. At 1625 in position 37 deg. 24' 06 deg. 56'
avoided attack by two more Savoia's one of whom unloaded
bombs before torpedo attack due to gunfire.

8. At 1626 the other Savoia aircraft shot down
at close range.

9. During this attack torpedo fired by aircraft
from port bow grazed starboard bow of ship but did not
explode.

10. At 1630 and 1640 ship thought periscope of
submarine sighted on quarter.

11. French colours were flown during day 27th
until dusk attack by aircraft and then all colours were
removed.

2128A/29

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.	N.A. 1st S.I.	D. A/S W.	D.T.D. (2)
1st S.L.	D. of P. (2)	D.M.S.	D.P.D.
4th S.I.	D.O.D. (F)	Duty Capt.	D.G.D.
5th S.I.	D.D.O.D. (F)	Hq. of M.	I.P. (2)
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I. (1)	C.T.S.D.	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.S.L. (2)	L.D.R.W.	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.N.A.D.	R.P.S.	

MOST SECRET

War Diary29.8.1941.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic→ Force F.

DORSETSHIRE (S.O.) NEWCASTLE and EAGLE have been directed to form Force F.
(C. in C. S.A., 0921N/29 to Admty. etc.)

Search for possible HIPPER Cruiser.

Your 2340/28. DORSETSHIRE, EAGLE, and NEWCASTLE, sailed in company at 0815/29. EAGLE had been out flying on 28th and it was considered desirable to complete her with fuel before sailing. Ships, detailed as Force F, given all information available and instructed to steer towards St. Paul's Rocks at 15 knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 0953N/29 to Admty.)

REPULSE
DUNEDIN
RAPIDOL
SHEFFIELD

Orders re fuelling, etc.
(C. in C. S.A., 1017N/29 to Ships named.)
See Lion Copy.

YAMAURA MARU
(Japanese)

Buenos Aires 27/8. Yokohama.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1144N/29 to S.O.I. Kingston)

Dispositions
(Raider Search)

Information re RODNEY, CIRCASSIA, DUNEDIN REPULSE, SHEFFIELD, MILFORD, and U.S. Forces.
(C. in C. S.A., 1741N/29 to Force F.)
See Operations Volume. 29/6 - P. 219.

→ EAGLE

A.M. 1547A/21. Return of EAGLE to U.K. is postponed indefinitely. (D.O.D. (F) 1931A/29 to C. in C. S.A.)

617A

~~MOST SECRET~~

MOST SECRET

M I S S A G E

1017N/29 August
IN

From. C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 29.8.41.
Time. 2154.

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY W/T

Addressed. H.M. Ships REPULSE, DUNEDIN, SHEFFIELD.
Repeated Admiralty., F.O.C.N.A.,
C. in C. Western Approaches., N.O.I.C.
Greenock.

33.

H.M.S. DUNEDIN's 1828A/26 not to all
addressees. H.M.S. DUNEDIN is to leave Freetown
at 1600 August 29 with Oiler RAPIDOL in company
passing through position

P. 010 degs. 20' North 018 degs. 00' West and
Q. 033 degs. 10' North ? 028 degs. 45' West to
rendezvous with H.M.S. REPULSE in
035 degs. 00' North 030 degs. 00' West at 0900
6th September speed of advance 11½ knots
approach course H.M.S. REPULSE UNION JACK /.

H.M.S. DUNEDIN is to oil from Oiler
RAPIDOL as convenient on 5th September.

H.M.S. REPULSE will oil from Oiler
RAPIDOL and is requested to give her subsequent
orders in accordance with Admiralty 1513A/28/8
paragraph (vii). H.M.S. DUNEDIN after meeting
H.M.S. REPULSE as above is to proceed independently
to rendezvous with H.M.S. SHEFFIELD and slow
portion of W S 11 at 1600 6th September in 036 degs.
08' North 030 degs. 32' West or as ordered by
H.M.S. REPULSE. Approach course H.M.S. SHEFFIELD
UNION JACK /. H.M.S. DUNEDIN will then escort
slow portion to Freetown and H.M.S. SHEFFIELD will
return U.K.

1017N/29

Ø not received in Admiralty.

/ as received, might be 163 degs.

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

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

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

29.8.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

N.T. in W.D.

PERSEUS.

Your 2001C/28 acknowledged. Proceed as in my 2250C/28. (Capt. S.I., 0510C/29 to PERSEUS).

RORQUAL.
REGENT.

Your 1925C/28 (N.T. in W.D). Well done. Proceed through 180° Gavdos and 034° 16' 026° 40' to arrive at Alexandria Sanctuary 0600C/2. REGENT passing through 035° 40' 027° 26' about 0200C/29 for position 035° 16' 016° 40'. (Capt. S.I., 0540C/29 to RORQUAL).

Vichy
Convoy.

2 Vichy ships O.U. 6529 (6) No. 33 pass south through Messina at 1000/30 and point A at 1600/30 and are not to be attacked. (S.O.S. Malta, 0957B/29 to S/M's Malta Force.)

TRIUMPH.
UPRIGHT.

TRIUMPH will make passage J to H on 31/8 or 1/9. UPRIGHT to make same passage 2/9 to arrive Malta P.M./3. (S.O.S. Malta., 1005B/29 to UPRIGHT).

Suez
Raid.

About 6 enemy A/C dropped bombs on Suez, Abu Sultan, Kantara and Port Said on night 27/28. No damage except at Abu Sultan where ammunition train was hit and 5 trucks destroyed. Egyptian casualties.

Benghazi.
Bardia
bombed.

Western Desert, 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi starting small fires on the docks. Day 28/8, 9 Marylands dropped 7 tons bombs on stores dump near Bardia.

U/B
attacked.

5 Blenheims searched unsuccessfully for ship target. On returning one of them bombed Bardia result unobserved. 2 Blenheims on sea R/C attacked a S/M 65 miles N. of Ras El Milh with 4 bombs and M/G fire. Damage unknown. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1057/29).

SULLBERG
German.

Arrival 27/8 from Genoa, Sulphate of Ammonia, 0031. (Valencia, 1150/29 to M. of W.T.)

THUNDERBOLT
TETRARCH.
TRITON.

THUNDERBOLT leaves Alexandria 1900C/29 through 032° 25' N. 029° 38' E and 033° 40' N. 026° 00' E. TETRARCH arrives Alexandria sanctuary 0800C/30 from 035° 26' N. 027° 20' E. Greek S/M TRITON from Port Said passes through 032° 08' N. 030° 00' E to arrive Alexandria 1400C/30. Steamer LES(?) OS and escort arrive Alexandria 0600C/30 from Westward. (Capt. S.I., 1240C/29 to TETRARCH, TRITON).

/UPHOLDER.....

War Diary.

29.8.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

- UPHOLDER. Congratulations further successful patrol. Your work is excellent. (C. in C. Med., 1242/29 to UPHOLDER).
- Turkey. For Chiefs of Staff, re C.O.S. 163, 27/8.
Air support. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1719/29). See Lion Copy.
- Schooner attacked. 2 Hurricanes returning from R/C rail movements Sicily attacked small Schooner 1 mile off shore 1303 hours, no damage observed. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1835/29).
- SULLBERG ATLAS (German). Departure 29th, noon, SULLBERG for Sagunto in ballast. Probable intention load iron ore for Savona. ATLAS finished loading Pyrites, expected sailing tonight. (Valencia, 2040/29 to M. of W.T.)
- UPHOLDER. URSULA. Left 29/8. (V.A. Malta 2053B/29 to Admty.) Steer 180° with all despatch. (S.O.S. Malta 2155B/29 to UPHOLDER, URSULA). UPHOLDER patrolling in 032° 53'N. 013° 50'E. URSULA in 032° 57'N. 014° 00'E. Convoy passes 033° 08' 016° 25' at 2230/30 either for Tripoli (Libya) direct or via Khoms to arrive 0730/31 speed 17½ knots, times quoted thought to be minus 2 hours but may be G.M.T. Tripoli (Libya) is providing air and surface escort. Leave positions 1000B/31 and do not come into periscope depth for routines after diving on 31st. (S.O.S. Malta, 2301B/29 to UPHOLDER, URSULA)
- RORQUAL. THUNDERBOLT. My 0340C/29. Keep north of 034° 05' until 1200C/31. THUNDERBOLT routed from 032° 23' 029° 28' to 033° 40' 026° 00' thence to (2222°) passing through latter position about 2300C/31. Vichy repatriate Convoy passing through position 180° Gavdo 10 as follows: Westbound 3 ships 10 knots at 1400C/31. Eastbound 2 ships at 1100C/1. Do not molest. (Capt. S.I. 2237C/29 to RORQUAL).
- Situation report 132. Operation "Guillotine" completed. French repatriation convoy C. has left Beirut. (2) Central Mediterranean, see A.O.C. Med. 1755/28. 2 merchant ships west of Crete apparently bound for Benghazi attacked and hit by Blenheims from Malta. Motor ship probably REMO class steering N.E. in same vicinity sunk by RORQUAL 28th. RORQUAL has also laid minefield off Cape Skinardent, (?Skinaroo, in cable copy) (?Skinari). (C. in C. Med., 2359C/29)

MOST SECRET

619A

M E S S A G E 1719/29th August.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

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

Date. 29.8.41.

Recd. 2234.

C Y P H E R

Addressed Air Ministry, Whitehall.

IMMEDIATE.

WX.2564. A.207 29/8 MOST SECRET.

The following for Chiefs of Staff from Commanders in Chief:

Reference C O S 163 27/8 para. 1. Appreciate need for C.R. Squadron to operate (?) Aegean and possible Black Sea. Do not however consider possible divert 1 of our Squadrons from present role in Mediterranean G.R. Squadron for Turkey should be additional to Force of 1½ land based Squadrons estimated available in early 1942.

Para. 2. C. in C., Mediterranean considers that no F.A.A. T/B Squadron could be moved to Turkey unless Beaufort T/B Squadrons are available in Eastern Mediterranean.

Para. 3. Would like confirmation that additional commitment of fighter squadrons will definitely be provided for in Air Force reinforcements and again urge that fighter strength should be built up to that recommended in J P S paper 59 at the earliest possible date.

Para. 4. Agree remainder your proposals.

1719/29

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. to 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
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

Recd. by hand from Air Ministry
at 1535/30.

I.P. (2)

MOST SECRET

620

29.8.1941.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

HILDA
captured by
YARRA.

YARRA has Italian merchant ship HILDA in tow. Fire extinguished except in Nos. 1 and 5 holds. Some small leaks in stokehold due to exploded H.E. shell. YARRA states ship in good condition except superstructure. Tug with fire apparatus being sent to assist. Have ordered YARRA to tow HILDA towards Bahrein.

(S.N.O.P.G., 0114Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

My 0114/29. YARRA now reports all fires will be extinguished putting HILDA in tow astern by noon/29. Leakage stopped. Superstructure destroyed, main engine repairs plotted. Ship can be steered. Starboard anchor and cable slipped. Bulkhead intact. Speed of towing 6 knots. Have ordered YARRA to tow towards Karachi.

(S.N.O.P.G. 0907Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

BARPETA,
LAWRENCE.

Instruct BARPETA to call Bushire in normal manner and then proceed on normal itinerary. LAWRENCE proceed Bandarshahpur after completing with oil fuel from FRIESLAND. (S.N.O.P.G., 0141Z/29 to LAWRENCE.)

Iran
Armistice.

I have just returned from operations up Karun River. You will probably have heard that an armistice has been signed with Iran. No details yet available. (S.N.O.P.G., 0152Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

ATREUS.

Ref. ATREUS letter 513 of 25/-/41 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow concerning condition of ATREUS. Understood that possible service of ATREUS precludes her disembarking her cargo and being taken in hand for necessary hull repairs. Suggested that consideration be given to the provision of another ship before next April. (C. in C. E.I., 0624Z/29 to Admty).

S.S.CASCADE.

Your 1027/28 CASCADE due to fire in cargo sunk by gun fire on 22nd as ship was unsalvable and dangerous to navigation. All confidential books burnt in ship. Crew saved and landed in Calcutta 23rd. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 1159Z/29 to S.O.(I) Bombay).

/Troop.....

29.8.1941.
Friday.

621

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Troop
Transport.

War Office have requested movement of 4172 troops of Gold Coast Brigade from Berbera to West Africa. Earliest possible date of embarkation 12/10. (D.O.D. (F) 1228A/29 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)

EL MADINA,
loss of speed
in B.M.8.

Your 1316/28 and my 0803/27. In future ship will be included in slow convoy only till such time as normal performance can be guaranteed. (S.S.T.O., India, 1250Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

Diego
Garcia.

D. of L.D. 1639A/29. See Operations Volume.

Iran,
Armistice
terms.

Terms which it is suggested should be included in any treaty or Armistice with Persia. (C. in C. India, 1656/29, 1701/29,) See Lion Copy.

Fairmiles.

Re maintenance facilities for Fairmiles, 72 ft. M.L.s and other small craft in event of Far East war. (Head of M., 1727A/29 to C. in C. E.I. C. in C. China).

Iran.

Situation and policy. (1st. S.L., 2313A/29, 2318A/29 to C. in C. E.I., S.N.O.P.G.) See Lion Copy.

Ex-Enemy
Vessels
Iran.

Your 1720/28. In order to bring enemy vessels into service as soon as possible and to minimise risk of political difficulties arising out of capture in Persian territorial waters, it is desired to sail them as soon as possible to a British port. Make every endeavour to provide steaming parties consisting of naval or other personnel, and sail all vessels as soon as they become ready to Karachi, where crews will be provided as soon as possible to take them on to Bombay for any necessary repairs. Please report detailed arrangements. (V.C.N.S. 2344A/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

Press
Communiques.

Your 0620/28. Presumed that Naval news released in Simla Communiques must have reached Simla through Military channels. Concur that Simla are not necessarily fully informed and also with your proposal to signal communiques of Naval operations to Admty., for release here. No Naval Communique has so far been issued by Admty., on Persian operations. (D.P.D., 2342A/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET

621A

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E IN 1656/29/August
From C. in C. India. Date 29.8.41.
Recd. 1610.

CYPHER.

Addressed War Office, Repeated Iraq.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

39094 12087/G cipher 29/8.

Following are general terms which we suggest should be included in any treaty or Armistice with Persia. These terms will only remain in force for duration of war with Axis and general peace negotiations.

1. All enemy subjects to be handed over immediately for internment to Allies. These will include Mufti and other Palestinian Syrian and Iraqi refugees. The latter should be handed over to us.
2. We should reserve the right to station force anywhere necessary for military purposes or to take any other measures necessary to ensure safety of (1) the A.I.O.C. installations and fields. (2) The L. of C. via the Shatt-el-Arab. (3) The trans-Persian railway and other communication facilities with Russia.
3. We should reserve the right to utilize control and improve all communications and facilities.
4. We should insist on break off of diplomatic relations with Axis powers, the departure of their diplomatic and Consular missions and withdrawal of cipher facilities from all non-Allied foreign diplomatic missions except those of the U.S.A. and Turkey.
5. All commercial and civil relations with Axis powers to cease forthwith.
6. Reason for recommendations in regard to above are contained in immediate succeeding telegram.

1656/29.

Recd. from War Office 1120/31.

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

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1701/29/August
From C. in C. India. ~~MOST SECRET~~ Date 29.8.41.6 21B

Recd. 1610.

CYPHER.

Addressed War Office, Repeated Iraq.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

39097. 12088/G. cipher 29/8. In continuation our
12087/29/8.

1. The corollary is that any Allied person imprisoned should be immediately released. Full compensation for any loss of life and property will be secured. We should reserve the right to control entry and transit non Allied foreigners other than citizens of U.S.A. and Turkey but should agree to allow transit facilities under surveillance to Axis nationals wishing to leave Afghanistan. Persian prisoners of war will not be released until Allied terms have been fully complied with.

2. This will include free access and use all aerodromes and landing grounds and control and demilitarisation of Persian armed forces as considered necessary. Personnel Allied consulates to have complete freedom of movement and contact within their areas. Additional consulates may be established and staffs of existing ones may be increased. Additional service attaches may be appointed and observers stationed any point to carry out reconnaissance.

3. Under these headings we include the following. Hospital facilities to be placed at our disposal. Full postal and telegraphic facilities and such means of control as is considered necessary for such of our forces as may be located in Persia. The institution of an Allied censorship including press. Control of all wireless stations including broadcasting stations to be placed in Allied hands. All service wireless sets to be handed over. Complete control of oilfields refineries existing supplies and first call output. The control and free use all ports and facilities at these ports and development as necessary. Control of Persian bank of the Shatt-el-Arab and both banks of the Karun and of navigational and river service connected therewith. Control of all Persian sea and river craft. Supplies to Allied Forces or personnel not to be subject to Persian customs Octroi or similar imposts. To take over for maintenance our force any workshop or factory required. Details of equipment of armed forces to be provided and to include reserves.

(Received from 1701/29
War Office 1120/31)

1st Lord.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of L.D.
1st S.L.	P.A.S. (S)	D. A/S W.
2nd S.L.	D. of P. (2)	D.M.S.
3rd S.L.	D.P.D.	I.P. (2)
4th S.L.	D.O.D. (F)	W.D.
5th S.L.	D.T.D. (2)	Luty Capt. (2)
C.N.S.	N.I.D. 10	Head of M. (20)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.O.D. (F)	D.T.S.D.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.N.I. (4)	D.D.I.C.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.S.D.	E.P.S.
	D.N.A.D.	Admiral Palliser.

6210

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2313A/29 August
OUT

MOST SECRET

To. C. in C. East Indies. S.S.
S.N.O. P.G.

Date. 29.8.41.

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE. AIDAC.

Following telegram from War Office to C. in C. India, repeated General, Iraq, C. in C. Middle East, M.A. Tehran (for H.M. Minister Tehran) passed for information. Begins.

Chiefs of Staff with Prime Minister in the Chair and Foreign Secretary present, have been considering position in Persia on the assumption that report that Shah has ordered cessation of hostilities is correct.

2. We think you should push out detachments as quickly as possible along Hamadan-Kazvin road with a view to making friendly contact with Russians at whatever point may be mutually agreed between you.

3. Our view is that neither we nor Russians should establish military forces in Tehran. You should try to fix this with Russian Commander.

4. We are sure you will agree that it is of paramount importance to establish the friendliest possible relations with the Persians. If this can be done the rest should be easy. If our reports are correct, provision of food for the population seems essential.

5. Please telegraph your views as to how to handle present situation and your plans.

6. Prime Minister has telegraphed to Stalin dated 28th August. Following is extract. Begins.

The news that the Persians have decided to cease resistance is most welcome. Even more than safeguarding the oilfields, our object in entering Persia has been to get another through route to you which cannot be cut. For this purpose we must develop the railway from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian and make sure it runs smoothly with reinforced railway material from India. The Foreign Secretary has cabled the kind of terms we should like to make with Persian Government so as to have a friendly people and not be compelled to waste a number of divisions merely guarding the railway line. Food is being sent from India, and if the Persians submit, we shall resume payment of the oil royalties now due to the Shah. We are instructing our advance guards to push on and join hands with your forces at a point to be fixed by the Military Commanders somewhere between Hamadan and Kasvin. It would be a good thing to let the world know that British and Russian forces had actually joined hands. In our view it would be better at this moment for neither of us to enter Teheran in force as all we want is the through route. We are making a large scale base at Basra,

and/...

2.

and we hope to make this a well-equipped warm water reception port for American supplies, which can thus surely reach the Caspian and the Volga region. Ends.

2313A/29

for Secretary to 1st Sea Lord.

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

RN

6218 E

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT
2318A/29 August

Addressed C.in C. East Indies 893.
S.N.O., P.G.

Date 29.8.41.

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE. AIDAC.

Following from Chiefs of Staff to C.in C. India, Repeated General, Iraq, C.in C. Middle East.

Minister, Tehran, has been instructed to inform Persian Government as follows:-

Begins.

1.. As already stated, His Majesty's Government and the Soviet Government have no designs against the independence of Persia or her territorial integrity. They have been forced to take military measures by fact that the Persian Government have paid no heed to their friendly representations, but these measures are not directed against Persia herself, only against the menace arising from the potential activities of the Germans established in key posts throughout the country. If now the Persian Government are prepared to co-operate, there is no reason why hostilities should continue.

2. His Majesty's Government and the Soviet Government will however require certain guarantees that the Persian Government are in fact now willing to meet their reasonable wishes.

These requirements are as follows:-

(a) The Persian Government should give orders to their troops to withdraw without offering further resistance North and East of a line running through Khaniqin, Kermanshah, Khurramabad, Masjid-I-Suleiman, Haft Kel, Gach Seran and thence to Bander Dilam on the Persian Gulf. In the North the Persians should withdraw from the area Ushnie, Heiderabad, Miandoab, Zinjan, Kasvin, Horremabad, Babolje, Zirab, Semnan; Shahrud, Ali-Abad, all inclusive. The places specified above will be occupied temporarily by British and Russian forces.

(b) The Persian Government should send away from Persia within one week all the German community except the bona fide staff of the German Legation, and a few technicians not employed on communications, and should furnish lists of the Germans in question to be agreed with the British and Soviet Missions at Tehran.

MOST SECRET

-2-

(c) The Persian Government should undertake to admit no other Germans to Persian territory.

(d) The Persian Government should undertake to place no obstacle in the way of the despatch of supplies, including war material, across Persian territory between the British and Russian forces; and should undertake to facilitate the despatch of such supplies by road, railway or air.

3. In return the British and Soviet Governments will agree -

- (a) To continue payments due to Persia on account of oil royalties, etc., as in the past.
- (b) To continue to facilitate the supply to Persia of her economic requirements, and
- (c) To halt their further advance as soon as the military situation permits to withdraw their forces from Persian territory.

4. The Persian Government will further undertake to maintain a policy of neutrality and to do nothing which could in any way prejudice British or Soviet interests in the conflict which has been forced upon them by German aggression.

5. Soviet Government have agreed to above terms which have been repeated to India, Moscow, Cairo, Baghdad and Angora.

2318A/29.
for Secretary to 1st Sea Lord.

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. LO Pay Cdr. Wilson.

622

War Diary.29.8.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Port T.
Depot Ship.

Your 1152/25 (? 1122/25 intended) and my 0745/25. Can only take up one ship at present without jeopardising trade on China Coast. Regret cannot (?allocate) this ship to you as it is (? required for) Port W. (? in view of) Admty 1939/(?21) para C. Would not one of ships recently captured at Iran be suitable?
(C. in C. China, 0321Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

ERITREA.

Shanghai arrival 29/8 Italian Sloop ERITREA.
(C.O.S. Singapore, 0407Z/29).

Annamites
Repatriation.

LIEUTENANT of
Re., repatriation to Indo-China/Annamites removed from the ^{L/P} ST. LOUBERT BIE and now detained at Durban. (Head of M., 2008A/29 to C. in C. China)

America & West Indies.DIOMEDE.

Is returning to Bermuda with defects.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0002Q/29 to Admty).

U.S. Task
Group.

Following received from Opnav for D.C. Task Group 2.6 discontinuing prescribed patrol and operating at discretion to regain contact, air search Bermuda to San Juan under consideration. (Spenavo, 0437/29 to Admty).

ARICA.

Owing to legal difficulties sail ARICA Halifax instead of New York. If she has already sailed divert her if possible. (D.T.D. 1033A/29 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).

DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL.

Your 1848A/18 and subsequent signals re DUCHESS OF ATHOLL request amended programme of onward passage from Halifax may be communicated as early as possible in order that arrangements for escort may be made. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1222Q/29 to Admty).

/TULIP.....

623

29.8.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

TULIP and
CLARKIA.

C. in C. W.A.'s 1703B/6/8.
Complete 15/9. B.A.R.M. requests sailing instructions. (D.O.D. (H) 1310A/29 to C.C.N.F.)

AURANIA.

Due to complete 12/9 ex trials. B.A.R.M. requests sailing instructions. (D.O.D. (H) 1317A/29 to R.A. 3).

Enemy
Intelligence.

Following are results of P.R.U. Brest at 0830Z/29. PRINZ EUGEN. Good photographs clearly show vessel still camouflaged and in dry dock. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. Faint photographs show both battlecruisers indistinctly still camouflaged and in usual dry docks. (D.D.I.C., 1410A/29 to Opanav). *See p. 612.*

Reports from
U.S. Forces.

Your 2152Q/28. Orders for enemy reports in P/L on 500 k/cs. are still in force. On this occasion it is possible broadcast was not made because identification rests on one report by aircraft. (B.A.D. 1445R/29 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

RIPLEY.

Your 2305A/26 and C.C.N.F. 1237Z/28. Request early decision whether RIPLEY is to be cancelled or delayed or whether some other vessel is coming in her place. Ship is expected on 16/9 and Navy Dept. must be informed soon of any change. (B.A.R.M., 1458A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

M/S GVAS II.

Fell on her side whilst being slipped on Meyer and Co's. slip at St. Georges due to side block ratchet teeth stripping. Hull flooded through funnel and deck openings, but apparently not damaged. Further report on salvage follows. (Cdre. I/C Bermuda, 1523Q/29 to Admty).

U.S. Forces
and Enemy
Warship.

5 submarines en route New London 28/8 in 39° 55' N., 69° 05' W. Task Force 2.6 discontinuing prescribed patrol and operating at discretion to regain contact with enemy warship reported in 26° 13' N., 57° 47' W., at 1330 G.M.T./28 course 160° speed 20 - 25 knots. (D.O.D. (F) 1555A/29 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A., etc).

/Galapagos.....

624

War Diary.

29.8.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Galapagos,
Raider
search.

Following received from Opnav for D.C. 2 of our destroyers have searched the Galapagos Area except Albemarle for Raider evidence. Search unproductive. Ships are returning to Port because of low fuel. This has been passed to C.N.S. by A.L.U.S.N.A. Ottawa. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 1613/29 to Admty).

M/Vs.

Your 1622Q/28. Following are particulars of merchant ships southbound in vicinity. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A., 1650A/29) See Lion Copy.

RESOLUTION
A/C.

My 1056R/24. (Permission to fly aircraft of RESOLUTION to Philadelphia) Permission has been given. (B.A.R.M., 1702R/29 to Admty).

S/Ms.

Re assignment of American S/Ms for oversea operations. (B.A.D., 1807R/29 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

Task Force.

Task Group 2.5 YORKTOWN, BROOKLYN, ROE, GRAYSON, EBERLE, departed Bermuda 1200/29 course 161°, speed 17, pending further developments. (Opnav, Washington, 1828/29 to Admty, C.N.S.Ottawa)

S/Ms after
refit.

Requested you will investigate possibility of working up submarines after refit in U.S. ports from an American Naval Base. If agreed to, scheme would involve provision of a target and torpedo recovery vessel by U.S. Authorities and maintenance by us of some torpedo personnel and stores at the base. Latter would be landed from FORTH before her return to U.K. (V.C.N.S. 1908A/29 to B.A.D.)

St. John's
N.F.

My 1511Z/26 now being repeated F.O.I.C. Greenock and A.C.I.C. Red flashing light of outer Baffle St. John's N.F. is extinguished. A temporary fixed Red Light is established in its place but is unreliable. (C.C.N.F., 1947Z/29 to Admty).

T.C. 14
-T.C.15.

Requirements (numbers). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2013Z/29) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET

~~FILE~~
624A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1650A/29 August. OUT

To. C in C America & West Indies. 960. Datw 29.8.41.
C in C South Atlantic 602.

Repeated

H.M.S. DIOMEDE
H.M.S. RODNEY
H.M.S. ASCANIA
H.M.S. PRINCE DAVID
H.M.S. EAGLE
H.M.S. DORSETSHIRE.
H.M.S. NEWCASTLE

NAVAL CYPHER (C)

From Admiralty.
IMPORTANT

Your 1622Q/28 not to all addressees. Following are particulars of Merchant Ships southbound in vicinity.

Read in 4 columns (1) Name of ship, (2) Speed in knots, (3) Estimated Position at 1800 G.M.T. 29th August, (4) Subsequent course and Destination. All positions North and West.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Speed.</u>	<u>Position.</u>		<u>Course and destination</u>
SEPIA	10½	19°30'	56°15'	Direct to Trinidad.
ST.MARGARET	9	23°30'	54°00'	Direct to Trinidad.
OSCILLA	9½	21°00'	61°00'	Direct to Sombrero Passage.
SANDAR	9½	28°30'	62°45'	218° to 26.N. 65.W. then to Mona Passage.
MIRALDA	10½	25°30'	60°30'	193° to Sombrero Passage
THORSHAVET	11½	23°15'	60°30'	Doubtful Curacao
MARCELLA	9½	27°30'	57°00'	189° to Trinidad

Following two ships bound for Buenos Aires.

BEECHWOOD	9½	27°00'	48°30'	165° to 12° North.
BRONNOY	9	27°15'	45°15'	161° to 12° North.

1650A/29.

for D.T.D. (2029)

Approved D.O.D. (F) for A.C.N.S. (F)

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.A./S.W.
D.D.I.C.
Duty Captain (2)
I.P. (2)
E.P.S.
Hd of M.
W.D.

MOST SECRET

624 B

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E IN
1807R/29th August
FROM:- B.A.D. Washington DATE:- 30.8.41.
RECD:- 0810

NAVAL CYPHER I.T.T. BY CABLE

ADDRESSED:- Admiralty

Secret. Following from British Naval Staff. B A S R
concur.

A letter, serial 096812 on assignment of U.S. S/Ms for overseas operations in Eastern Atlantic has been sent to special Naval Observer London containing instructions for negotiations with United Kingdom Naval Staff.

(2) Reference para. 7 of that document. A better solution from our point of view would be to accept now the 16 Holland S Class S/Ms, leaving R class to U.S.A. and relieving the U.S.A. of A C - One commitment to send 10 S class to Gibraltar.

(3) I am informed unofficially however that this proposal would not be acceptable to the Navy Department who consider they must in any event retain at least 10 Holland S Class manned by U.S.A. I Believe principal reason of this decision is to have these Subs. clear in case the U.S.A. suffering very heavy losses in anti invasion operations.

1807R/29

Advance copy sent 1st Lord N.A. 1st. S.L.
A.C.N.S.(F) Duty Captain D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord	Hd. of M. for action
1st S.L.	Duty Captain
3rd S.L.	Admiral Bailly
V.C.N.S.	I.P.(2)
A.C.N.S.(H)	N.I.D.10. (Pay Cdr. Wilson)
A.C.N.S.(F)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	
D.O.D.(H)	
D.D.O.D.(H)	
D.O.D.(F)	
D.D.O.D.(F)	
D.D.I.C.	
D.N.I.(4)	
D. of P.(2)	

MOST SECRET

625

29.8.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

O.S.4.
→ TREMODA,
SEGUNDO,
SAUGOR and
→ OTAIO.
(torpedoed
27/8.)

Your 2055A/28. Received and understood, my wireless receiver is out of order. Am proceeding as instructed. (ST. OLAVES 0006/29 to F.O.I.C.Greenock.) My 0006/29 visual signal. W/T aerial now in order. Am proceeding daylight in company of SUPERMAN. Consider dangerous to move before owing to amount of ships in Lough and poor visibility. (ST. OLAVES, 0145/29 to F.O.I.C.Greenock.) My 2055/28 and 2103/28. Tugs have been delayed, amend R/V to 055° 00' N., 014° 06' W., at 0400/30. (N.O.I.C.Greenock, 0733/29, to NORWICH CITY, etc.) Westerly gale yesterday, weather moderate now, P.C. and S., at 0845A, 054° 26' N., 013° 08' W., 234° ten knots, searching since dawn without results. Have you any further information otherwise could aeroplane be sent to assist? (ZWARTE ZEE, 1159A/29, to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) My 2103/28, tugs delayed by weather, proceed forthwith to position of derelict and search. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1255A/29, to NORWICH CITY, ST.LOMAN. WALKER and VOLUNTEER lost touch with convoy in fog last night in approx., 051° 24' N., 019° 20' W., and are now proceeding towards Londonderry in company. VANOC escorting ARIGUANI and s.s.PERTH. Contact will be made when clear weather is reached.

→ OTAIO
(O.S.4.)
(torpedoed
28/8.)

No contact was made with U-Boat which sank OTAIO. Several U-Boats were heard using homing procedure near convoy last night but no attack developed probably owing to fog. Weather report (WALKER, 1304A/29 to C. in C.W.A.) Your 1015A to me only. As soon as weather permits proceed direct to position of derelict report time you expect to pass Tory Island with your P.C. and S. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1317A/29, to ST.OLAVES.) Your 1159A/29. Continue search. Aircraft and BLANKNEY are assisting. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1523A/29, to ZWARTE ZEE.)

/ A/C report...

War Diary.29.8.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.OTAIO.
(O.S.4.)
(torpedoed
28/8.)
Contd.

A/C report 6000 tons ship in 054° 13' N., 014° 40' W., at 0937A/27 and ARAB reports TREMODA abandoned in 054° 08' N., 015° 28' W., at 1016A/28. Sweep through these positions with your force and endeavour to locate. Tug ZWARTE ZEE escorted by AYRSHIRE has been sent first position and ST.OLAVES and SUPERMAN escorted by ST.LOMAN and NORWICH CITY have been sent to TREMODA.

(C. in C.W.A., 1724A/29 to WALKER.)

My 1304 A/29. Survivors of ships sunk were picked up as follows: from SEGUNDO, 7 officers and 20 ratings by LULWORTH. From SAUGOR, 2 officers and 3 Lascars by PERTH. From OTAIO 23 officers and 34 ratings by VANOC, 1 rating by WALKER.

(WALKER, 2039A/29 to C. in C.W.A.)

SUPERMAN E.T.A. Tory Island 2345 B.S.T.

Course 254° speed 7 knots, hope to increase speed appreciably.

(ST. OLAVES, 2120A/29 to N.O.I.C.Greenock.)
Join me position 053° 51'N., 013° 00' W., at 0600A/30.

(BELMONT(?))2358A/29 to ST.LOMAN, NORWICH CITY.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B. dispositions.
(D.D.I.C.1421A/29.)

2043 G.M.T. Bearings at 2043 G.M.T. of Italian U. Boat 96 V.
(D.D.I.C. 2223/A/29 to Admty.)

2212. Following received from B.T.N.I. 110 W/T. (Begins). From Cork addressed Dublin. Submarine of unknown nationality in our territorial waters at 2212/29. (Ends.)
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2355A/29, to C. in C.W.A.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. 2 Blenheims attacked U/B in Mediterranean. (See H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1057/29 under Mediterranean.)

By BLANKNEY. Derelict not yet sighted. Attacked doubtful contact. 53.53 N., 14.24 W.
(BLANKNEY 1130A/29 to C. in C.W.A.)

/By A/C.....

War Diary.29.8.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked. Contd.By A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 62.02 N., 19.14 W.
(A/C call sign BZ7, 1450/29, to R.A.F. call sign W.9.R.)

My 1450, Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge, when first sighted was on course 300° speed 4 knots, have attacked S/M with depth charges, hits Nil, and no explosions.

(A/C call sign B.Z.7, 1453/29, to W.9.R.)

Hudson A/C (D.S.723.)

Aircraft's 1450. 4 motor launches from Vestmann proceeding to A/S sweep.

(A.C.I.C., 1734/29 to C. in C.W.A.)

Hudson A/C Y.269 attacked U/B with D/C's in 62° N., 22° 22' W., 115' S., Reykjanes.

No observed result. (D.S.723.)

By CHEVREUIL.

S/M Contact 050° 32' N., 026° 53' W., at 1840Z/29.
Contact lost after second attack.
(CHEVREUIL, 2359Z/29 to Admty.)

General.A/C Attacks on U/B's.

Following is copy of signal sent Iceland 29/8.
The only information now required on form blue of U/Boat attack is:-

- A. Aircraft Number and Squadron.
 - B. Position of attack, date and time.
 - C. Was U/Boat on surface, periscope depth, or below when attacked?
 - D. Bombs or depth charges dropped.
 - E. Estimate of damage.
- (H.Q. 15 Group, 1710/29 to H.Q.C.C.)

628

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operations
"Dervish" and
"Strength".

Force L. (SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS, SOMALI, MATABELE and PUNJABI) left Scapa at 0803A today to R/V with Force M.

Operation
"Iliad".

The forces detailed for Operation "Iliad" sailed from Portsmouth at 2017A.

Enemy
Intelligence.

A convoy of 4 Transports escorted by 2 Destroyers was reported to have passed Helsingborg steaming North at noon today.

SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU and PRINZ EUGEN were still in their respective dry docks at Brest at 1850 today.

The Enemy Force reported by A/C yesterday off Stavanger has not yet been identified, and an air R/C of the Skagerrak and Norwegian Coast has been arranged.

Convoy
W.S.11.

Convoy W.S.11 left the Clyde and Liverpool today with troops and stores for the Middle East, etc.

British Air Operations.

A minor attack was made on Le Havre docks last night. 4 Hudson aircraft of a Dutch squadron attacked shipping at Kristiansand today and claim a hit on a 3000 ton ship.

A Hurricane squadron claims to have damaged 2 Flak ships off Dunkirk today.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

3 bombs were dropped at 2240 yesterday in the Outer Harbour at Ramsgate, doing no serious damage and causing only one slight civilian casualty; and one enemy A/C was driven off at 1900 today in the Iceland Faroes Passage by gunfire from CAPE PALLISER.

Mining.

The laying of an Observation Minefield off Newhaven was begun today.

Kola Peninsula.

One moored mine was cut today, and several others reported, by Russian forces off the Kola Peninsula, and S.O. Force A. has been so informed.

Humber area.

A parachute mine fell and exploded during last night close to Spurn Point Lighthouse, wrecking the accommodation buildings but only breaking glass in the lighthouse and causing no casualties. 2 Mines were exploded by Sweepers at Yarmouth today, and 6 off the Humber. The Humber was reopened at 0916A.

Thames Estuary.

During a searching sweep today by 4 Drifters in the Thames Estuary, 11 Acoustic and 8 Magnetic Mines were detonated. H.M.D. VERNAL was slightly damaged by the detonation of one of the magnetic mines.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Raider Search.

Operations continued today in search of the possible HIPPER class cruiser reported by an A/C from U.S. Task Force at 1330Z/28 in 26.13 N., 57.47 W.

DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE (Force F.) are to be disposed to intercept the raider on the assumption that he is proceeding to South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE is to be detached to join QUEEN OF BERMUDA by 2/9 as additional escort for S.S. DURBAN CASTLE to Trinidad and onwards, unless prior intelligence of the supposed raider is received. (NEWCASTLE ceased to form part of Force F. on 31/8.)

GAZCON.

ALBATROSS is to intercept Vichy French GAZCON which is due to sail at 2100/30 for Lobito.

from DEP.642

Mediterranean.

Nine naval Swordfish attacked last night a 8000 ton ship with destroyer escort off the East Coast of Sicily. It is believed that a hit with torpedo was obtained on the ship.

4 Blenheims last night bombed Benghazi town and shipping in harbour. Bombs fell near a vessel at Juliana Mole.

Operation "Treacle" is completed. The destroyer supply service to Tobruk is suspended temporarily, to give fighter escorts a rest.

Egypt and Canal Area.

About 5 enemy A/C attacked the Canal area last night without causing any Service damage or casualties.

CARLISLE has sailed to reinforce COVENTRY in the Gulf of Suez.

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30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Arrival of
F.W.aircraft.

F.W. aircraft have been sighted on Greek aerodromes. (The problem of protection of shipping in the Red Sea consequent on the arrival of F.W. aircraft is discussed in a message from C. in C. Med. 1/9.)

East Indies.

Iran Policy.

A Chiefs of Staff telegram defines British aims in Persia as :-

- (a) To secure the oil fields.
- (b) To secure certain strategic positions to meet a possible German attack.
- (c) To join hands with Russia and secure her communications with the Gulf.
- (d) To secure essential naval interests in the Persian Gulf.

Persian
Sloops.

As regards the sinking of the gunboats PALANG and BABR on 25/8, C. in C. East Indies, after considering the report of S.N.O. Persian Gulf, is satisfied that the situation existing at the time necessitated fire being opened on these sloops.

Defences.

Local defence arrangements for certain new anchorages on E.I. Station are dealt with in an Admty. signal. A further message deals with mine watching arrangements at various ports.

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30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Raider
Search.

If in company with U.S.S. WASP, aircraft carrier, RODNEY was ordered tonight to remain in touch with her until further orders. It is understood that at 0400Z/31 WASP will resume her original patrol to eastwards.

Fuelling
in U.S.A.

U.S. State Dept. is considering the question of fuelling H.M. ships under conditions not normally permitted by U.S. neutrality regulations. Meanwhile, special application must be made on each occasion.

U.S. Force
for Balboa.

C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet is to send 2 light cruisers of 7,500 tons to Balboa to constitute a Southeast Pacific Force. Their orders are in Adty. 1902A/30, DESPATCH is to operate to the northward of the Southeast Pacific Force.

U-Boat Campaign.

A total of 30 or more U-boats are known to be operating.

O.G.71.

Capt. D. Greenock reports a successful ruse by GURKHA on the night of 21/8 whereby O.G.71 escaped from 5 or 6 U-boats about 15 miles distant. A corvette staged a mock battle for 10 minutes which had the desired effect of drawing off the enemy.

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War Diary.30.8.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia.Russian
ships
building.Instructions as to.
(1st S.L. 1511A/30 to Ad. Miles, Moscow.)
See Operations Volume.Movements.D.S.11.
(Clyde -
Iceland
Ferry)Admiralty's 1944/28 and WELLS 1945/29.
Unless NEWARK or CHARLESTOWN can be released
only one of 17th Division, WELLS, will be
available for D.S.11.
(R.A.M. 0941/30 to Admty.) See p 637PARTHIANYour 1125/30. 107° Start Point 11.5 miles,
course 285°, speed 2.5 knots, diving. No escort
in sight.
(PARTHIAN, 1253A/30.)
PARTHIAN will be exercising in Dartmouth S/M
sanctuary tomorrow.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1706/30.) See 1/30 p 636.LONDONOn completion of practices today proceed to
Akureyri, passing east of Faroes and north of
Iceland.
II. Sail from Akureyri p.m./1st for Hvalfjord.
(V.A.2, 1358A/30 to LONDON.)WELLSArrival.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 1943/30.)MINSTERYour 1117A/29. Request MINSTER be sailed as
convenient to Rosyth for loading and further
laying work in Northern Waters.
(D.B.D., 2020A/30 to V.A. Dover.)INDOMITABLEMovements.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2211/30.)
See Operations Volume.Operations.Operation
"Dervish".Your 2236A/28 to V.A.2. Expect Russian Destroyers
to meet you at position Z.
(D.C. 0222A/30 to C.S.1.)
Scapa departure SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS, SOMALI,
MATABELE, PUNJABI.
(A.C.O.S. 0803A/30.)
My 1358A/30. E.T.A. Akureyri 1100A/1.
(V.A.2., 1954A/30.)

/Force.....

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30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Force off
Stavanger
on 29/8.

Your 2337/29. Force not identified.
Air R/C of Skagerrak and Norwegian coast has
been arranged.
(D.C. 0339A/30 to F.O.2.H.F.)

Operation
"Iliad".
(Destroyer Sweep
along French coast.)

Preparative operation "Iliad".
(V.A. Dover, 1700A/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth,
BERKELEY, M.G.B.43.)
Your 1700/30. Sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2017A/30 to V.A. Dover.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

^{"Stand"} ^{"Bert"}
~~STAND~~ and ~~BERT~~ in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0754/30.)

Escort.

Expect escort by one Catalina from 0900Z/31,
weather permitting.
(A.C.I.C., 2349/30 to Force L.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Working of
Myggenaes
Beacon.

Request you reply to N.O.i/c Faeroes 1016/28.
(A.C.O.C., 1121/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

Spurn Point
Lighthouse.

Damaged.
(F.O. Humber, 1032/30.)
See Mining.

Ramsgate
bombed.

3 Bombs dropped in the outer harbour close to
the Cross Wall at 2240. No serious damage.
One civilian watchman slightly injured.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 1155A/30.)

Iceland
- Faroes
passage.

Aeroplane apparently enemy passed over 270°
62° N. 13° W. 13 miles. Failed to reply to
challenge. Opened fire. Enemy driven off.
(CAPE PALLISER, 1900/30.)

Mining.

MANXMAN

Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA., 0631/30.)

/SCOTT.....

War Diary.

30.8.1941. 635
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

SCOTT

Departure.

(N.O.I.C. Port ZA., 0803/30.)

Route to Reykjavik and Denmark Strait for survey.
S. of A. 12 knots.

(R.A.M. 1733/30.)

Humber.

Humber is open to navigation.

(F.O. Humber, 0916A/30.)

Spurn
Point
Lighthouse.

During last night's mine laying a parachute mine fell and exploded within 80 feet of Spurn Point Lighthouse. Except for glass lighthouse undamaged but all naval accommodation buildings wrecked. Temporary alternative accommodation has been found. No casualties except scratches and bruises. P W S S undamaged.
(F.O. Humber, 1032/30.)

Clearance
Sweep off
Portland.

Clearance completed between $2^{\circ} 33.6'$ and $2^{\circ} 9' W.$ and $50^{\circ} 20'$ and $50^{\circ} 25' N.$ 1 type T mine swept, dragged, and sunk. 1 type T mine swept and sunk. Positions. Second mine had canister 2 feet long by 6" diameter attached by short line.
(M/S.13 1700/30)

My 1700/30. Cancel reference to position first mine was sunk. This mine was detonated by gunfire.

(M/S.9., 2200/30.)

Thames
Estuary
Sweep.

S.A. LL searching sweep carried out by 4 drifters, today off the Warp and West Swin Channel from South Shoebury buoy to West Mouse buoy. Eleven acoustic and 8 magnetic mines detonated. Details will be signalled.

(Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1805/30.)

Off Kola
Peninsula.

Soviet destroyer cut moored mine in about $068^{\circ} 45' N.$ $039^{\circ} 50' E.$ today.

Admiralty pass to S.O. Force A.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1815C/30.)

My 1815C/30. Further mines reported $067^{\circ} 55' N.$ $041^{\circ} 30' E.$ Admiralty pass to S.O. Force "A".

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 2026C/30 to S.O. Force A.)

Mines reported in $68^{\circ} 45' N.$ $39^{\circ} 50' E.$ and $67^{\circ} 55' N.$ $41^{\circ} 30' E.$ S.O. Force A has been informed.

(A.C.N.S. H., 2122A/30, to C.S.1. and ELECTRA.)

30.8.1941. 636
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Newhaven.

O.M. laying operation Newhaven commenced.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1945/30.)

Yarmouth.

My 1456A/30. Mine exploded inside middle.
Area searched.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1954A/30.)
My 1456A/30 and 1954A/30. L L Trawler exploded
Red Magnetic mine as follows. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 2115A/30.)

Spurn
Point.

The following six mines were detonated today.
Details.
(F.O. Humber, 2124A/30.)

Enemy Intelligence.

The
Sound.

Convoy of 4 transports escorted by 2 destroyers
passed Halsingborg steaming north at 1200 today.
Graded B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1736/30.)

Brest.

At 1850/30 both Battle-cruisers and Hipper
Cruiser in their respective dry docks.
Camouflage on SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU appears
unchanged since 29/8. Some netting visible
round PRINZ EUGEN. Seven probably eight S/Ms
visible in Port Militaire.
(PRU. St. Eval, 2235/30.)

Casualties and Defects.

CURLEW

(Motor Boat) will be delayed here for at least
10 days by defect.
(N.C.S.O. Weymouth, 1030/30.)

PARTHIAN

Your 1444A/27. Arrived. Reports various
defects.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1508/30.) See p. 633.

ADVENTURE.

Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1653/30.)

Derelict
ship.

Derelict ship dangerous to navigation was
reported in about 054° 20' N. 015° 30' W. at
1000/28.
(C. in C. W.A., 2204A/30 to HAVELOCK.)

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30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

D.S.11.
(Clyde - Iceland
Ferry.)

Intend using LEOPOLDVILLE for D.S.11 sailing Clyde 5/9. Total numbers to embark will probably only be about 700.
(D. of S.T., 0439A/30 to P.S.T.O. W. Scotland.)
Unless NEWARK or CHARLESTOWN can be released, only 1 of 17th Div., WELLS, will be available.
(R.A.M. 0941/30 to Admty., etc.)
NEWARK and CHARLESTOWN detailed for D.S.11.
(R.A.M. 1914/30 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

See p. 633

DUCHESS
OF ATHOLL

Should be prepared to sail with PASTEUR on 5/9.
(D. of S.T., 0440A/30 to P.S.T.O., W. Scotland.)

T.C.12B.

My 0304/29. U.S. technicians are to proceed from Clyde to Londonderry.
(D. of S.T. 0441A/30 to P.S.T.O., W. Scotland.)

Convoy
W.S.11

My 1915A/28. (I) LEGION is to sail as early as possible to overtake Convoy before reaching position (X).
→ (II) ISAAC SWEERS is not to accompany FURIOUS to Gibraltar.
(III) NESTOR and ENCOUNTER will join Convoy in position (X). See p. 639
→ (IV) HIGHLANDER S.O. NESTOR, ENCOUNTER will be special A/S Escort for REPULSE and fast portion.
(V) CAIRO, WINCHELSEA, PIORUN, GARLAND, ISAAC
→ SWEERS will return to U.K. when ordered to leave Convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1021A/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
Admty. 1818/18. KOSCIUSZKO will not sail.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1021A/30 to Admty., etc.)
Sailed Liverpool Section W.S.11 escorted by
→ HIGHLANDER, GARLAND, and LIVELY... Codeword "Miracle 1".
~~MIRACLE II~~. Cancel codeword ~~FUNNEL~~: ORMONDE sailed and will part company in accordance with my 0916/29.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1701/30 to Admty., etc.)
W.S.11 Clyde portion sailed 2334/30.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2359/30 to D. of S.T.)

Convoys to
N. Russia.

Standardised procedure to reduce signalling.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 1859A/30 to Adm. Miles.)
See Lion Copy.

/Finnish.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 1859A/30th August.
 Admiral Miles. OUT.
 To:- S.B.N.O. Murmansk, Date. 30.8.41.
 C. in C. Home Fleet 712.
 V.A.2. 173.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (38) &
 NAVAL CYPHER (D.O.T.)

From Admiralty,

In order to reduce signalling it is desired to standardise procedure for convoys and ships proceeding between U.K. and North Russia.

2. When such a sailing is arranged Admiralty will make a signal under following headings:-

- (a) Code word of convoy
- (b) Names of ships in convoy
- (c) Names of escort
- (d) Geographical position of end of route and approach course to this position.
- (e) Anticipated time of arrival at position in (d) above.
- (f) Speed of advance.
- (g) Anticipated duration of stay in harbour.
- (h) Any stores or fuel required.
- (i) Any other requirements.

3. On receipt of this signal Admiral Miles is requested to arrange

- (a) Russian ship to meet at position in para. 2 (d) above.
- (b) W/T beacons for necessary period to cover arrival and departure.
- (c) Navigation lights for similar periods.
- (d) Minesweeping of approaches.

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(2).

(e) Air protection including period in harbours.

(f) Restriction of Russian forces and British submarines to the area West of 37 degrees East South of 73 degrees North.

4. Admiral Miles is requested to signal when arrangements in para. 3. have been made.

1859A/30.

for D.O.D. (H).

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (T) (2).
A.C.N.S. (F).
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2).
D.O.D. (F).
D.D.O.D. (F).
D.C.D. (H).
D.D.O.D. (H).
D.N.I. (4).
D.S.D.
D. of L.D.
D.N.A.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P. (2).
W.D.
Duty Capt.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2).
N.I.D. 10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson).
D.D.O.D. (M).
H.W.R.
F.O.S. by courier.
D.M.S. Basemont.

MB).

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War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Finnish
ships.

ROLFSBORG, SOLBRITT, WINHA, and MODESTA now in Kirkwall are to be sent to Clyde under Naval Control for discharge of seized cargo and disposal of ships to useful employment. A.C.O.S. reports no escort is available from Scapa. Can you arrange for these ships to be brought to Clyde to be handed into custody of Collector of Customs representing Admiralty Marshal? (D.T.D., 2154A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

SOUTHERN
EMPRESS

Due to leave Liverpool about 8/9 with Service Personnel on board. She should be routed to Halifax to disembark personnel. (D.T.D., 1841A/30 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ATLAS.
E.H. FISSER.
(German).

ATLAS may have left Valencia last night northbound. E.H. FISSER may have left Barcelona for Genoa p.m./29. (F.O.C.N.A., 0836A/30 to 0.24.)

NESTOR.
ENCOUNTER.

Request permission of Portuguese Authorities be obtained and fuel arranged for NESTOR a.m./2 and ENCOUNTER a.m./5 at Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1154A/30 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.) 1751A/29. Intend to sail NESTOR a.m./31. ENCOUNTER delayed by defect will be sailed a.m./3 to fuel at Ponta Delgada thence direct to (?N) A.M. 1910A/28 refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1156A/30 to Admty. etc.) My 1246A/30. (N.T. in W.D). Add new para. (ix) NESTOR sails from Gibraltar 0001/31 routed through 036° 00' N. 006° 00' W. 036° 14' 007° 05' 035° 30' 010° 00' thence Ponta Delgada. Speed 17 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1902A/30 to N.A. Stn.)

See p. 637

CLYDE.

Situation report No. 2 at 2000A/30. CLYDE on patrol in area bounded by latitudes 40° and 34° and longitudes 23° and 31°. (F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/30 to N.A. Stn.)

French and German Ships.

Arrivals 29/8 LE VIOLENT French, 30/8 PRESIDENT DE LAVIT French, 30/8 COURDANNES, French. Departures 28/8 JEUNE DENISE French, 28/8 * THRIANTHA German, 29/8 LE VIOLENT French. (Bilbao 1359/30 to M. of W.T.)

* *Not identified*
(p. 616A)

DEUCALION.

My 2128/29... Portions of mine mooring recovered on remains of port P.V. of DEUCALION after explosion indicate mine Antenna type. (details). (F.O.C.N.A. 1704A/30 to V.A. Malta.) Now known that DEUCALION shot down one of the Italian torpedo bombers which attacked her on 27/8. (D.S., 724, 31/8). (D.O.R. 31/8).

CANADA.

French Hospital Ship, from Dakar will make passage of Straits afternoon 6/9. (N.A. Madrid, 1913/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Suspect.....

30.8.1941. **640**
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

Suspect
Spanish
Ships.

Spanish auxiliary sailing vessel MARIA BELMATTI believed will load aviation spirit at Rio de Oro for Sal, Cape Verde Is., into 400 drums supplied by German Coal Company Las Palmas. Owner-ship of ship is local agent of Spanish Refinery Tenerife. Following sailing vessels same owner-ship: ICIAR, FERMINA CONCEPCION, ENRIQUETA. (F.O.C.N.A. 2003A/30 to N.A. Stn.)

TAKU.

My P.C. and S. at 1930A, 037° 10' (7002°) 19' E. 260° 9½ knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300A/1. (TAKU, 2203B/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

Cable
Operation.

Your 1705/27. No code word allocated for operation involving the cutting of cable by LADY DENISON PENDER unless intended by Admiralty. In my 2311/28 same phraseology was used as in A.M. 2354/19. Presume word "of" before "cutting" was omitted in both cases for brevity. (C. in C. S.A. 0317N/30 to Admty.)

SOLI.

Overdue Shipping. SOLI (Nor) due Beira 26/8 from Basra not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1016B/30 to Admty. etc.)

JUPITER.

Simonstown arrival 30/8 JUPITER. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1149Z/30) W.D. Note:- From U.K. after escorting W.S.10.

BIRMINGHAM.

R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM left 1230Z/30. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1256Z/30 to Admty.)

/Force.....

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30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

Force F.,
search for
raider.

Admty. 2340/28 and my 0953/29. Request information if Admty. intend to give further instructions regarding Force F. EAGLE endurance at 15 knots, taking consideration time out of dock, about 9 days. Oiler ECHODALE 10 knots available to leave Freetown 0800/31 for either St. Paul's Rock position same longitude about 008° N. in calm area arriving during 8/9 or R/V nearer Freetown. Unless otherwise ordered intend to sail ECHODALE with corvette escort to 007° N. 025° W. (C. in C. S.A. 1319N/30 to Admty.)

My 2340/28. Request you will (a) Detach NEWCASTLE to join QUEEN OF BERMUDA by 2/9 as additional escort for S.S. DURBAN CASTLE to Trinidad and onwards unless prior intelligence of supposed raider is received.

(b) Dispose DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE (as Force "F") to intercept raider on the assumption that he is proceeding to South Atlantic.

(c) Thereafter employ Force "F" as you require.
2. American Naval Forces have been instructed to destroy enemy if located inside Neutrality zone.

3. There is no likelihood of raider being larger than a cruiser. (1st S.L. 1638A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

My 1319/30. Intend CALENDULA and ECHODALE shall sail 0800/1 to "Zeal" 007° 00' N. 025° 00' W.

E.T.A. 1200/4. Ships then steer 060° till 2000, 180° till 0400 and 300° until 1200 daily. (C. in C. S.A. 2117N/30 to Admty.)

Gambia.

Re French Glenn Martin A/C flying over. (Comdr. Gambia Area, 1505/30 to W.O.)

BUENOS AIRES
MARU
Japanese.

Left Buenos Aires 1000 G.M.T. for Kobe direct. She apparently took no fuel at Buenos Aires. A.2. Secret source reports 28 naval experts on board as passengers under leadership Kawagata, ex secretary military attache in Berlin. (S.O.I., Montevideo 1641Z/30 to S.O.I. Kingston).

/GAZCON.....

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30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

GAZCON
(French)

Vice Consul Lobito reports GAZCON sails 2100/30 course 315° 9 knots. Ship request interception just outside 3-mile limit. Interception to appear genuine and warning shots fired. One rifle on board, no resistance anticipated. Chief Officer pro German. When vessel weighs signal will be made by motor car head light near green light at harbour entrance. (C. in C. S.A. 1809N/30 to ALBATROSS, BULOLO). My 1809/30 and other signals. There has obviously been much discussion on subject and possibility that Vichy French know of arrangement must exist. Possible therefore that Vichy forces including S/M might be in neighbourhood. Do not intercept inside 3 mile and preferable good deal further out, if in daylight out of sight of land. (C. in C. S.A., 2115N/30 to ALBATROSS).

REVENGE.
VANSITTART.
VELOX.

Have despatched VANSITTART to search 008° 55' N. 015° W. REVENGE and VELOX E.T.A. (corrupt group) 10 boom 0800 (corrupt group), request berth. (REVENGE 1813Z/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

REPULSE.
DUNEDIN.
RAPIDOL.
SHEFFIELD.

Your 1017N/29. At present S. of A. 10½ knots estimate DUNEDIN and Oiler RAPIDOL will be 15 hours late at R/V with REPULSE. After fuelling on 5/9 propose therefore DUNEDIN part company with RAPIDOL in order to relieve SHEFFIELD at R/V already arranged and that a fresh R/V be signalled for REPULSE with RAPIDOL. (DUNEDIN 2259Z/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

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30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Convoy.

6 merchant ships 5 destroyers, speed 9 knots, off Kerkenah steering northward at 0900B/30.
(S.O.S.Malta, 1013B/30, to UPRIGHT, TRIUMPH.)

See next page

Port Said Raid.

Night 29/30. About 5 enemy A/C attacked Port Said. Three Hurricane sorties, no interceptions.

Bardia bombed.

Night 28/29. 8 Albacores bombed stores dumps near Bardia starting fires.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1109/30.)

FARNDALE.

Request you will sail FARNDALE by Cape route for Alexandria at earliest possible date.
(C. in C. Med., 1245C/30, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Free French Shipping.

Letter received from Free French from which it appears that miniature French Mercantile Marine Ministry is about to come into being at Port Tewfik. Request full particulars and instructions.
(P.S.T.O.Egypt 1248/30 to D.of S.T.)

Suez Raid.

Ref. C.A.F.O.587 (A) 30/8 calm clear. (B) High level attack by 5 E/A, 2231-0009, many flares, bright moon. (C) H/E and incendiary. (D) 4 bombs 12 incendiary. (E) No service damage or casualties slight civilian damage.
(F) No fighters. (G) Balloons up.
(S.B.N.O.Suez 1255C/30 to Admty etc.) Enemy A/C, crashed near Port Said, see 1111C/31.

Gozo Defence.

Proposed reply sent to C. in C. and A.O.C. in C. M.E. and which awaits their concurrence, re defence of Gozo and security of Malta.
(Govr., Malta, 1435/30, to W.O.)

Vichy Convoys.

Following Vichy Convoy Routes are established.
(Toulon-Beirut)
(C. in C. Med., 1626C/30 to Med. Fleet.)

Movements.

Summary 215.
(C. in C. Med., 1604C/30, 1608C/30, to Med.Fleet.)

/Vichy

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. Contd.

Vichy
Convoy B.1.

Leaves Toulon 1200/3.
Route. (C. in C. Med., 1622C/30 to Med. Fleet.)

UPRIGHT.
enemy convoy.

My 1013B/30 and my 1711B/28. Proceed to 038°
09' 012° 36' forthwith.
(S.O.S.Malta, 1629B/30, to UPRIGHT.) *See previous page.*

Tripoli
Convoys.

Air offensive against enemy convoys, need for
improved aircraft.
(C. in C. Med., 1652C/30, 1656C/30, to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

A/C attack
on Enemy
Shipping,
Tripoli
bombed.

Night 29-30/8 2 Fulmars patrolled Sicilian
aerodromes 1845-2130 hours. No activity seen.
9 Swordfish shipping sweep East Sicilian coast.
Located convoy 1 M.V. 8, 000 tons and destroyers.
1 torpedo believed hit M.V. column of smoke seen
later. No other torpedoes released owing
effective smoke screen by destroyers. 15
Wellingtons attacked shipping and other targets
Tripoli. Over Target from 1905-2240 hours.
Fire on Spanish quay before arrival first air-
craft. Bombs drove off fire fighters and by
end of attack whole end of quay on fire with
billowing black smoke probably oil. First
attack hit and set on fire 2 ships anchored in
stream 1 of 8,000 tons, and 1 of 5,000 tons
smaller ship seen to explode an hour later.
At 2240 hrs. 1 ship blazing stem to stern.
A third medium ship hit and later on fire.
Several hits Karamanli Mole. Flames later spread
along Mole to petrol depot where enormous
explosion and fire. Other small fires quayside,
and unloading wharves. Confirmation by R/C
30/8. This was the most successful raid on
Tripoli carried out at low altitude.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1700/30.)

E.H.FISSER.
ST.BRIEUX.

Departure 29/8. August ELISABETH HENDRIK
FISSER-Genoa. Arrival 29/8. SAINT BRIEUX
French. (Barcelona 1734/30/8.)

TAMPICO.
Italian
Tanker.

From Aegean passed Istanbul for Black Sea 30/8.
(S.O.I., Istanbul, 1750/30.)

/SULLBERG.....

MOST SECRET

644A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1652C/30th Aug. IN
From: C. in C. Mediterranean. Date 2.9.41.
Recd: 1947

Naval Cypher 'D' (Old) by W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty repeated V.A. Malta,
145.

While recent air attacks on Tripoli convoys by Swordfish at night and Blenheims by day have proved very successful, the following factors are likely to reduce success of these operations:

(a) The convoys may be routed via Ionian sea and hence out of range of night attack by Swordfish.

(b) Improvements in the anti aircraft defences of convoys renders low flying day attack by Blenheims increasingly hazardous. Part two follows.

1652C/30

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

Note:- Parts 2 & 3 already
circulated under
T.O.O.1656C/30. Aug.

435

644B.

MOST SECRET

MOST ~~SECRET~~ ~~M E S S A G E~~ 16560/30 August

IN

From. C. in C. Mediterranean. Date. 31.8.41.
Time. 2305.
NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty.

(II) The only remedy for (a) is longer range torpedo aircraft. Unless the Beaufort is likely to prove satisfactory for night torpedo attacks, the Albacore with internal auxiliary tank appears to be the only solution.

(III) For (B) there appears to be an (?immediate) requirement for a squadron of high speed dive bombers aircraft such as the American Curtis S B 2 C. One.

(IV) The vital importance of keeping steady pressure on Libya lines of communication is self evident. Bad weather and longer nights are going to make this increasingly difficult and therefore it is most necessary to take any further possible steps to keep up our air effort. Request immediate steps be taken to do everything possible to meet the situation.

16560/30

Note. Part 1 of this message not received, but has been called for.

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D.N.A.D. for action.
D. of L.D.
I.F. (2)
W.D.
D.C.

Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.I.S.
N.I.D.10.

IN

645

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

SULLBERG
ATLAS.
(German.)

Arrival from Sagunto 29/8. Departure 29/8
ATLAS. Genoa via Barcelona loaded with Iron
ore and pyrites 0035.
(Consul, Valencia, 2050/30 to M. of W.T.)

Situation
report 133.

Western Desert. Operation ^{"Treachle"}~~TRACLE~~ completed.
Destroyer supply service to Tobruk suspended
temporarily to give fighter escorts a rest.
2. F.W. 200 A/C have been sighted on Greek
aerodromes. CARLISLE has been sailed to
reinforce COVENTRY in Gulf of Suez.
(C. in C. Med., 2208C/30.)

30.8.1941
Saturday

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Iran

Policy of H.M.G. and Soviet Govt. From Chiefs of Staff (W.O. 0015/30 to C. in C. India)
See Lion Copy.

Iran
Armistice

Recommend that clause be included in Armistice Terms that there should be no victimisation of pro-British nationals.
(S.N.O.P.G., 0335Z/30 to C. in C. E.I.)

Military
Convoys

Following are anticipated dates of arrival personnel convoys (C.M. 18, C.M. 17, W.S. 10X) for Middle East.
(C. in C. E.I., 0614Z/30 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal)

HONG SIANG

Naval store issuing ship HONG SIANG will leave Colombo on 1/9 for service (?in) Persian Gulf.
(ii) Ship will call Bombay to embark stores for Persian Gulf ships and for quick docking.
(iii) Request you will report intended programmes of Persian Gulf ports to be visited.
(iv) Ship only carries bunkers for 15 days sea steaming.
(C. in C. E.I., 0642Z/30 to S.N.O.P.G.)

C.M. 18.

Escort arrangements, route, etc. See Operations Volume.(C. in C. E.I. 0700Z/30)

Fuel
Seychelles.

Request tanker be diverted to Seychelles to replenish BRITISH GENIUS with furnace oil. Stock 30/8, 4110 tons. (C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/31 to Admty.)

Persian
Sloops.

My 2306/25. I have received S.N.O. P.G.'s report on this matter and am satisfied that situation existing at the time necessitated fire being opened on these sloops.
(C. in C. E.I., 0720Z/30 to Admty.)

Port T
Depot Ship

C. in C. China 0321/29. Any (? troop) ships captured at Bandar Shahpur which can be salvaged will become most (? valuable) cargo carriers. They would be wasted as accommodation ships. I had read Admty. decision in 1329/23 as giving first priority of preparation to Port T, and I wish to commence fitting out accommodation ship as soon as possible. A suitable ship could not be found on my station without causing immediate and serious dislocation to Indian trade.
(C. in C. E.I., 0730Z/30 to Admty.)

/SCARAB.....

MOST SECRET

646A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0015/30 August ^{IN}

From The War Office.

Date 31.8.41.

CIPHER.

Addressed C.in C. India Repeated General Iraq,
C.in C. Middle East.

IMMEDIATE.

87092

Cipher (M.O.12) 29/8.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

Minister Tehran has been instructed to inform Persian Government as follows:- Begins

1. As already stated, His Majesty's Government and the Soviet Government have no designs against the independence of Persia or her territorial integrity. They have been forced to take military measures by fact that the Persian Government have paid no heed to their friendly representations, but these measures are not directed against Persia herself, only against the menace arising from the potential activities of the Germans established in key posts throughout the country. If now the Persian Government are prepared to co-operate, there is no reason why hostilities should continue.

2. His Majesty's Government and the Soviet Government will however require certain guarantees that the Persian Government are in fact now willing to meet their reasonable wishes.

These requirements are as follow:-

/(a)

(a) The Persian Government should give orders to their troops to withdraw without offering further resistance north and east of a line running through Khaniqin, Kermanshah, Khurramabad, Masjid-I-Suleiman, Haft Kel, Gach Seran and thence to Bandar Dilam on the Persian Gulf. In the North the Persians should withdraw from the area Ushnie, Heiderbad, Miandoab, Zinjan, Kasvin, Horremabad, Babolje, Zirab, Semnan, Shahrud, Ali-abad, all inclusive. The places specified above will be occupied temporarily by British and Russian forces.

(b) The Persian Government should send away from Persia within one week all the German community except the bona fide staff of the German Legations, and a few technicians not employed on communications, and should furnish lists of the Germans in question to be agreed with the British and Soviet Missions at Tehran.

(c) The Persian Government should undertake to admit no other Germans to Persian territory.

(d) The Persian Government should undertake to place no obstacle in the way of the despatch of supplies, including war material, across Persian territory between the British and Russian forces; and should undertake to facilitate the despatch of such supplies by road, railway or air.

3. In return the British and Soviet Governments will agree

(a) to continue payments due to Persia on account of oil royalties etc., as in the past:

(b)/.....

6408

MOST SECRET

-3-

(b) To continue to facilitate the supply to Persia of her economic requirements, and

(c) To halt their further advance and as soon as the military situation permits to withdraw their forces from Persian territory.

4. The Persian Government will further undertake to maintain a policy of neutrality and to do nothing which could in any way prejudice British or Soviet interests in the conflict which has been forced upon them by German aggression (Ends.)

5. Soviet Government have agreed to above terms which have been repeated to India, Moscow, Cairo, Baghdad and Angora.

C. in C. Middle East please pass to A.O.C. in C.
G.O.C. Iraq pass to A.O.C. Iraq.

0015/30.

Recd. from War Office A.M. 31st August

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
5th 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.
P.A.S. (S)
E.P.S.
Hd. of M. (8)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson
D.D.I.C.
D.N.A.D.
Admiral Palliser.

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30.8.1941.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

SCARAB
SEAMEW

In view of Admty 1825/27 please cancel my 1218/26. Request preparations of these ships may be continued. (C. in C. E.I., 0746Z/30 to C. in C. China)

Port T.
Port W.
Diego Garcia.

Re defences, and employment of GUARDIAN (D.B.D., 1502A/30 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

CORFU

Your 1434/27 Approved. If operationally convenient to you suggested CORFU should transport her former crew to Durban for onward passage. D. of S.T's 1844A/30 refers. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1901A/30 to C. in C. E.I.)

Mine
Watching.

Your 1246Z/2/8. Plans and policy. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1931A/30 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

Iran.

Policy. Chiefs of Staff No 164 (V.C.N.S., 2340A/30 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion and Tiger Copies.

China

Japanese
Intelligence

Soviet N.A. informs me:
(a) Convoy of 50 ships comprising light cruisers destroyers and transports arrived Port Arthur mid-August. Source Soviet Consul Dairen.
(b) 2 light cruisers and 4 destroyers arrived Hakodate 24/8. Source Soviet Consul Hakodate.
(c) Normal traffic from America to Vladivostok passes through Soya Straits except December and January when ice conditions necessitate Tsugaru Straits being used. Source Soviet N.A.Tokyo. (N.A. Tokyo, 1041/30) N.I.D. Comment. Hakodate is on Northern Shore of Tsugaru Strait. A destroyer flotilla is normally maintained in these waters for Fishery Protection. A visit by Cruisers is not abnormal but on this occasion may be connected with the U.S. - Vladivostok traffic question.

A.D.B.
Conversations.

From Chiefs of Staff F.E. No. 31. (W.O. to C. in C. Far East, 1830/30) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

647A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

1502A/30th August

TO:- C. in C. East Indies 905

repeated C. in C. Mediterranean 958

C. in C. China 714

DATE:- 30.8.41.

F.O.C. Royal India Navy 804

Commanding Officer in H.M.S. GUARDIAN

Naval Officer in Charge Ceylon 779

NAVAL CYPHER (X)

FROM:- Admiralty
BASEGRAM

Admiralty Telegram 1538A/18 not to all addressees
GUARDIAN is leaving United Kingdom with B 1 indicator net
for Diego Gracia and Baffles C and D for Port T.

On arrival at Trincomalee nets for Diego Garcia should be
landed pending completion of laying programme for Ports T and
W. There are 6 miles of B 1 indicator nets consigned to
Trincomalee in S.S. FORTHBANK which can be used and GUARDIAN
has equipment for Baffles C. and D, for Port T on board.
Baffles should be laid in the following order and as
indicated subject to minor local adjustments which may be
required.

Port T - Chart Z14. Baffle C. Eastern Leg. From a
position 3.8 cables 165 degrees from Triangulation mark on
Islet S.W. of Wilingili Island in a direction 245 degrees
for 2.5 cables and Western Leg from a position 5.7 cables
205 degrees from same triangulation mark in direction 237 degs.
for about 4.6 cables to end as close to shore as practicable.
Baffle D. From a position 14.5 cables 050 degrees from
same triangulation mark in a direction 040 degrees for about
6 cables to end as close to shore as practicable.

Details of Baffles A and B will be signalled later.

Port W. - Chart Z 12.

Baffle Y. From a position 14.8 cables 287 degrees from
Summit 414 (bearing approx. S.E. from Indian Point) for
a distance of 4.4 cables in direction 159 degrees thence
in a direction 125 degs. to end as close to shore as
practicable.

Baffle X. From a position 8 cables 013 degs. from
Summit 385 (bearing approx. W from Tapong Village) for
5 cables in a direction 046 degrees and from a position
13.5 cables 027 degs. from same Summit in a direction 046 degs.
for 10 cables.

Diego Garcia - Chart 920.

Baffle. A. - From a position 1.91 miles 253 degs. from
triangulation mark on Observatory Point in a direction 237
degrees for 5 cables. Baffle B. - From a position 2.5 miles
249 1/2 degs. from triangulation mark on observatory Point
in a direction 236 degs. for 6.5 cables.

1502A/30

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D. of P.(2)
D. of N.

D. of L.D
D.B.D. (Room 29 for Director of Boom Defences
Arch N II) (132)
(B.D.01418/41)(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Duty Captain

MOST SECRET

647B

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1931A/30 August. OUT.

To: C. in C. East Indies 913. Date: 30.8.41.

Naval Cypher One Time Table.

From: Admiralty.

Your 1246Z/2/8.

Ref. Paragraph 2. C.H.L. sets are being sent to C. in C. Middle East now to form a pool which he will allocate as desired. It is improbable that any sets will be available for purely mine watching duties. See Admiralty 0034B/26/7 and H.Q.R.A.F.M.E's 0728/8/8.

Ref. paragraph 4. Confirmed cost of organisation in O.E.T. will be borne by Imperial Government. Question of Bahrain will need to be negotiated. Elsewhere probably cost will be borne by local Governments, but Colonial Office will have to be consulted. This will be taken up when scope of proposed organisations is more fully reported. It seems that for Mombasa, Zanzibar, Dar Es Salaam, Tanga and Mauritius, it should be sufficient to have a scheme ready to be put into effect when necessary, and a nucleus organisation should suffice for Colombo and Trincomalee. Aden, Port Sudan Massawa, Assab, Basrah and Bahrain should, however, build up and exercise their organisations now.

1931A/30
for Hd. of Military Branch (671)
Approved by A.C.N.S. (F)

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C.
Hd. of M. (3) (M.012161/41)
D.M.I. (4)
D.H.S.
D. of P. (2)
D. of L.D.
D.T.H.
D.D.T.M.
D.S.D.
D.A/S.M.
H.P.S.
W.D.
I.P. (2)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2340A/30th Aug.

OUT

MOST SECRET

To C. in C. East Indies. 915 Date 30.8.41
Repeated. S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

Naval Cypher (A2)

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE AIDAC

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 164. Addressed C. in C. India, C. in C. East Indies, A.O.C. in C. Middle East, repeated G.O.C. Iraq, S.N.O., Persian Gulf, C. in C. Middle East, A.O.C. Iraq.

1. It is the policy of H.M. Government to obtain the goodwill of the Persians and to see a stable and friendly Government established at Tehran, but we should not lose sight of our military requirements.
2. Our aims in Persia are:-
 - (a) To secure the oil fields.
 - (b) To secure certain strategic positions (including aerodromes) necessary to meet a possible German attack.
 - (c) To join hands with Russia and secure her line of communication with the Persian Gulf.
 - (d) To secure essential naval interests in the Persian Gulf.
3. To achieve these aims, our immediate military requirements will be met if we obtain the right to make such naval, military and air dispositions as may be necessary to ensure the security of Persia against external attack. These dispositions will include control and development of Persian communications, particularly the railways, and facilities at ports and aerodromes.
4. General Wavell might consider going to Tehran himself to assist Bullard in the difficult negotiations in which he is engaged.

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)

273
Duty Captain.

E.P.S.

Hd. of M. (8)

I.P. (2)

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

W.D.

P.A.S. (S)

2340A/30

Secretary to V.C.N.S.

MOST SECRET

647D

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET.

1830/30 August

From: The War Office

Date: 30.8.41.

CIPHER

Addressed: C. in C. Far East.

87212 cipher (M.010) 30/8

IMPORTANT.

Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. F.E. No. 31.

Our 78349 of 16/7.

Opportunity was taken at the recent meeting between the British and United States Chiefs of Staff to discuss certain points in the Report of the American-Dutch-British Conversations at Singapore to which the United States Chiefs of Staff had objected.

2. It was clear that the majority of these objections were due more to misinterpretation of the Report than to any fundamental difference in strategical thought. Apart, however, from changes in the situation which have occurred since the Conversations were held, there were certain points to meet which the United States Chiefs of Staff requested a re-draft by the British Chiefs of Staff, in order that agreement might be reached without delay.

3. A re-draft of the Report has accordingly been made in the form of an agreement for approval by the American, Dutch and British Chiefs of Staff. This agreement is being sent simultaneously to the United States, Dutch, Australian and New Zealand Defence Authorities. It is hoped that the very early approval of these authorities may be given.

4. The following are the major changes made in converting the Report of the Military Commanders in the Far East into an agreement between the Chiefs of Staff of the Associated Powers.

(a) All political matter has been extracted, as unsuitable

to/

647^E

to a military agreement, and placed in the Appendix as recommendations by the Military Authorities for submission to, and for discussion between, their respective Governments.

(b) Reference to the whole Eastern theatre has been retained as essential in any consideration of British strategy or command in the Far East. On the other hand, it is now made clear in the agreement that no thought is entertained of employing U.S. ships beyond the southern or westward units of the Far East area, except in exceptional military circumstances.

(c) It is confirmed in the agreement that the provisional allocation of British naval forces to the Far East and Australian areas agreed upon at the British-United States Staff Conversations in Washington (ABC-1) will still be possible as will their re-inforcement in due course. The detailed disposition of these initial forces is for agreement by the naval commanders in the Far East in conformity with the outline plan contained in the agreement. The subsequent disposition of reinforcements to the Far East area, including forces already in the remainder of the Eastern theatre which it may prove practicable to concentrate in the Far East area, must depend on circumstances, but will doubtless also be discussed by the naval commanders. The importance of providing as much naval strength in the Far East area as can be spared from trade protection is stressed in the agreement.

5. It is stated in the agreement to be the intention to call a meeting of the naval commanders in the Far East,

under/

MOST SECRET

F
647A

- 3 -

under C. in C. China, at an early date to draw up detailed plans and dispositions. For your own information the terms of reference and agenda for this meeting will be initiated by the British Chiefs of Staff.

6. Copies of the draft agreement follow by air bag.

1830/30

Received from War Office 1120/31 Aug.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
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. (8)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson
Adm. Palliser
Adm. Bellairs
Adm. Bailey
D.D.I.C.

McC

War Diary.

30.8.1941. 648
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

EMPRESS OF JAPAN.

Your 1432/28. Does readiness to sail last week September mean from Esquimalt or from Halifax. (D.S.T., 0355A/30 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

FIREDRAKE.

Arrangements should be made in FIREDRAKE to remove No. 4 gun and T.S.D.'s and fit 2 D/C throwers, additional rails and stowage for at least 70 D/Cs., to enable 10 D/C pattern to be fired. (D. of D. 1237A/30 to B.A.R.M.)

Fuelling in U.S.A.

Your 1042Q/23 to Admty. Matter is under study by State Dept. Meanwhile on each occasion that one of H.M. Ships wishes to refuel under conditions not normally permitted by U.S. neutrality regulations, special application must be made through Navy Dept. B.A.D. Washington will handle this question and requests earliest possible information. (B.A.D., Washington, 1311R/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Dutch Guiana raider threat.

Governor of Dutch Guiana, much concerned at report that German Raider is in vicinity with object of interfering with Bauxite Trade, requests planes from Trinidad. Have replied no immediate threat is indicated. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1323Q/30 to Admty).
Your 1430R/30 (N.T. in W.D.) British Naval Authorities have stated no such thing. Report originated in Dutch Guiana and was probably derived from G.B.M.S. I have cabled to Governor of Dutch Guiana through S.N.O. Curacao that no immediate danger is indicated. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1813Q/30 to B.A.D. Washington).

SHEHERAZADE.

U.S. Authorities inform me WASP's A/C sighted empty French tanker SHEHERAZADE at 1626Z/29 in 18° N., 053° W., course 240° 8 knots. Have no information about this ships movements since she arrived Casablanca from Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1423Q/30 to Admty).

CATHAY.

Request report whether CATHAY can be taken in hand in U.S.A. for docking and refit, including repairs to leaking fuel tanks. Ship will be available about early October. (D. of D. 1454A/30 to B.A.R.M.)
My 1606/9, refit of CATHAY in U.S.A. in early October is under consideration. Pending further instructions work on ship at Belfast is to be limited to essentials. (D. of D. 1455A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Martinique.....

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Martinique
Intelligence.
JEANNE D'ARC,
EMILE BERTIN,
LIMOUSIN.

JEANNE D'ARC returned Guadeloupe 22/8 and EMILE BERTIN re-entered Martinique 28/8. French tanker LIMOUSIN left Fort de France 28/8 in ballast for St. Thomas to fuel for trip to Caripito, Venezuela; after taking 7,000 tons fuel oil will return St. Thomas to unload 5,000 tons and return to Fort de France with quotas for July and August. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 1630/30 to Admty).

TULIP.
CLARKIA.

Admty 1310A/29. Unless otherwise ordered request TULIP and CLARKIA be sailed to St. John's N.F. when ready. (C.C.N.F., 1657Z/30 to B.A.R.M.)

TRUANT.

My 1748R/26. TRUANT further delayed, has had to re-dock. Now probably leaves Portsmouth New Hampshire 1/9 or 3/9. (B.A.R.M., 1810R/30 to Admty etc). Cancelled, see 0950/31.

U.S.N.
Dispositions.

Constitution of South East Pacific Force. (1st S.L., 1902A/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.) See Operations Volume.

Pacific
Liaison.

Liaison between C. in C. China and C. in C., U.S. Pacific Fleet. (V.C.N.S., 1952A/30 to B.A.D. Washington) See Lion Copy.

FORT DE
FRANCE.
French.

Departure 30/8, Guadeloupe 1/9.
(St. Thomas, 2020/30 to D. of S.T.).

RODNEY.

If in company with WASP, remain in touch with her until further orders. Understand at 0400Z/31 WASP will resume original patrol to eastwards. If not in company and unable to regain touch during 31/8 report your position by W/T.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2242Q/30 to RODNEY).

Australia & New Zealand.

AORANGI.

Your 1725A/22. Para 1 (C) Anticipate AORANGI will sail from Sydney 2/9 and arrive Halifax 2/10. Accommodation available will be signalled on departure. (A.C.N.B., 0906Z/30 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET

649A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1952A/30th August

OUT

To. B.A.D. Washington 407.

Repeated. C. in C. China 721.

Date 30.8.41.

Australian Commonwealth Naval Board 714.

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty.

My 1335/17 (Boxes 43) para. 9. C. in C. China has proposed that liaison between him and C. in C. Pacific Fleet should be carried out by present U.S. Naval Observer at Singapore. This would be similar to arrangements already made for liaison at Honolulu to be carried out by Commander Parry. Request you will obtain agreement of C.N.O. Question whether observer should take up liaison duties before entry of U.S. into war presumably depends on outcome of consultations referred to in para. 3 of N.A. Washington's 1213/28/7. Liaison Officer will not repetition not be member of combined staff referred to in para. 9 of Boxes 43 as U.S. have objected to this. C. in C. China and Australian Commonwealth Naval Board will be informed on this point separately.

1952A/30
for Head of M. (671)

Approved by V.C.N.S.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

Sec.

Nav. Soc.

P.A.S. (S)

D. of P (P.D.0363/41) (2)

N.I. 2nd S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

Head of M. (38) (3)

D.N.I. (4)

D.D.I.C.

Admiral Bailey

Admiral Palliser

I.P. (2)

W.D.

VP

Duty Captain.

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War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

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FORIEGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

U.S.12 B.
U.S.13
U.S.14.

Your 1841A/25. Prospective dates and requirements (A.C.N.B., 1209Z/30 to D. of S.T.) See Operations Volume.

LE TRIOMPHANT.

My 1234/17. Arrangements now made for fuel. (details) to be shipped to Tahiti in Union S.S. Co. ship due sail from San Francisco on 26/8. Request probable date of arrival of S.S. HAURAKI at Tahiti. LE TRIOMPHANT now expected to arrive Tahiti about 19/9. (D. of S. 1241A/30 to N.Z.N.B.)

War Diary

30.8.1941. 651
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

O.S. 4.
TREMODA, etc.
(torpedoed
27/8.)

Still searching area indicated by A/C in compliance with your 1523A/29. Approx. position at 0710A, 053° 48' N., 013° 26' W. Course and speed 040° 10, visibility excellent (?) escort informed further aircraft assistance coming. (ZWARTE ZEE, 0825A/30 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Continue search, aircraft are co-operating. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0953A/30 to ZWARTE ZEE, SUPERMAN, ST. OLAVES.)

My position 1000, 154° 16' N., 012° 37' W. Tug not in sight. Altering 180° speed 10 knots. (ST. LOMAN, 1015A/30 to BELMONT.)

Have today 30th thoroughly searched area around 053° 51' N., 012° 36' W. given by AYRSHIRE's 1710A/29 and amended by AYRSHIRES 0020A/30. Nothing sighted. No report by aircraft. Can AYRSHIRE state 2 disabled ships definitely sighted in this position? Tugs expected 2000 this evening. Visibility extreme, sea calm. Area 25 miles deep was searched yesterday around position given in your 2031/28. BLANKNEY, AYRSHIRE and flying boats were met during afternoon but had nothing to report. Have sufficient fuel for further 48 hours. (BELMONT, 1346A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

ST. OLAVES 1215/30. Both tugs also ST. LOMAN and NORWICH CITY to R/V 053° 51' N., 012° 36' W. at 2000/30. (BELMONT, 1454A/30 to ST. LOMAN etc.) If nothing sighted by dark proceed to Loch Ewe. After refuelling BELMONT is to rejoin 3rd Escort Group from Loch Ewe and escort O.N. 12. (C. in C. W.A., 1539A/30 to BELMONT.)

At 1600/29 reported wrecks 40 miles south of AYRSHIRE. Have searched all round position without result. (AYRSHIRE, 1549A/30 to BELMONT.) Still searching area in compliance with your 0953A. Nothing to report than position at 1735A, 053° (52' ?) N., 013° 29' W. course various speed 10 knots until further directions. (ZWARTE ZEE, 2016A/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Commence sweep at daylight/31 from area seaward today 30 in a direction 120° to the Irish Coast then as large an area as possible to N.E. whilst returning to Londonderry. Aircraft will co-operate. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2357A/30 to ST. LOMAN, ZWARTE ZEE, etc.)

/O.G. 71.....

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked - contd.

O.G.71
tactics to
mislead
enemy, 21/8.

Following abridged report of ruse which appears to have been successful is forwarded after receipt of advance copy of C.O. GURKHA report of proceedings with O.G.71 and after consulting my signal officer who was present in GURKHA. Situation on night 21/8 was that convoy was on southerly course in approx. position 043° N. 015° W. H/F D/F bearings from GURKHA and LANCE indicated 5 or 6 U-boats were approx. 15 miles distant between bearings 200° and 270°. At 2200 Corvette was detached to N.W. with orders to stage a mock battle approx. 40 miles distant from convoy. This included firing star shells, dropping depth charges and transmission by R/T and W/T on H/F and took place shortly after midnight for 10 minutes. At approx. 0040 H/F D/F bearings and E. bar signals obtained by GURKHA indicated at least 4 U-Boats were moving to Northward to investigate. The convoy had a peaceful night. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1120/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

2334 G.M.T./29 Bearings at 2334 G.M.T. of Italian U-Boat 67 G. (D.D.I.C. 0055A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0313 G.M.T. Bearings at 0313 G.M.T. of Italian U-Boat 87 L. (D.D.I.C. 0448A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

29/8. Cape Verde Authorities report a U-boat off Praia St. Jago Island 29/8. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, Cape Verde 1122/30 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. A total of 30 or more U/B's are known to be operating. (D.D.I.C. 1449A/30.)

2043/29. By D/F fix reliable 035° 00' 009° 00' at 2043A/29. (F.O.C.N.A. 1508A/30 to SEVERN.)

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.

G.1450 Enemy Submarine was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted submarine was on course 300° estimated speed 4 knots. Have attacked with depth charges, no explosion. (A/C P.Z. L.X. Kaldatyes, No T.O.O./30 to Kaldadarnes H/F D/F.)

By A/C.

Form Orange ICE/O1 30/8. 12 Sorties carried out A/S sweep 29/8 - 11 Hudson - 1 Northrop Hudson A/C sighted U-boat on surface in 61° 53' N. 21° 32' W., which he immediately attacked with 42 D/C (ICE/BS 1/30/8). One other Hudson sighted U-boat in position 62° 09' N. 19° 11' W. this was also attacked. (ICE/BS 3/29/8.) (C. in C. W.A., 0430/30 to Admty.)

War Diary

31.8.41.
Sunday

654

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"Iliad"

V.A. Dover reports that this operation was carried out this morning uneventfully, by surface forces. No air battle ensued.

Operation
"Acid Drop"

This operation was carried out last night, landings were effected at both places. There were no casualties.

Convoy
"Dervish"

Convoy "Dervish" has arrived at its destination. After fuel and short rest the escorts (3 destroyers, 3 minesweepers, 4 trawlers) are to be employed on A/S and M/S operations until departure of return convoy.

Enemy
shipping.

Two M.T.B's left Dover at dusk to intercept shipping leaving Boulogne southwestwards; but they developed engine defects.

British Air Operations

5 aircraft attacked Cherbourg last night.

6 Blenheims escorted by fighters attacked the shipbuilding yards at Le Trait today. Bombs burst on the western shipbuilding slips amongst ships and submarines under construction. There was no A/A or A/C opposition.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy "Wheel" was bombed at 2315 in ? 50° 49' N., 4° 43' W.

MOST SECRETWar Diary31.8.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORTMining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected from Fable Islands to the Humber. The ports of Tyne, Middlesborough, Hartlepool Sunderland, and Blyth were closed at 0320. Tyne Blyth and Sunderland were reopened during the forenoon.

Mines were detonated off the Nab and Falmouth, and further mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary.

South Atlantic

R.A.S.A.D. (BIRMINGHAM) who left Rio de Janeiro on 30/8 is to patrol to the north eastward of Pernambuco.

U.S. Forces are patrolling from Recife to Cape Verde Is.

Mediterranean

5 Swordfish on anti shipping search in the Lampedusa area last night secured one or probably two hits with torpedo on a 1200 ton merchant ship which was left with a heavy list.

/Libya. ...

War Diary31.8.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean-Contd.Libya and
Western
Desert.

9 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 2123/30 to 0040/31. One ship alongside Spanish Quay was hit and set on fire. Shipping at Tripoli was attacked again from 1905 to 2300 today. One medium size merchant vessel was hit and is believed to have been sunk, and a second merchant vessel was left on fire from stem to stern.

Five Naval Albacores attacked supply dumps near Bardia last night.

Rhodes

Sixteen Wellingtons bombed Maritza and Calato aerodromes last night.

TASHKEND
damaged,

Russian destroyer TASHKEND arrived at Sevastopol today with hull damage caused by air attack at Odessa.

America & West Indies

PRESCOTT whilst on patrol of the grand Banks area intercepted French Auxiliary fishing schooner ANGELUS and is sending her to Sydney C.B. with a prize crew.

U.S. naval forces are proceeding towards Dutch Guiana, in view of rumours of possible attack on the Surinam bauxite mines.

RODNEY discontinued at dusk today the search for the enemy cruiser sighted by a U.S. aircraft on 28/8.

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M.A/S B.
Flotilla
at
Holyhead.

A.L. M/PD 0249/41 of 15/8. As no operational value can be envisaged for a Flotilla of M.A/S B's at Holyhead, and the difficulty of berthing an additional Flotilla of Coastal craft cannot be overcome, suggest that M.A/S B. Flotilla referred to may be reallocated to another command. (C. in C. W.A., 1437A/31).

11th M.L.
Flotilla.

Consisting of M.L.'s 187, 189, 190, 191, 193, 194, 214, 230, will be transferred from Lowestoft to Humber on 7/9/41. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 2101A/31).

Movements.

H.33.

My 1204A/28. ^{N.T. W.D.} Name of escort WARRIOR. (Capt. S.7. 1019A/31 to H.33).

P.31.

S/M P.31 will be exercising as follows. (A.C.O.S., 1033A/31 to Admty).

Finnish Ships.
LOBELIA.

Request you will arrange for LOBELIA to provide escort from Shiant Islands to Clyde in accordance with Admiralty's 2154A/30 and A.C.O.S. 1835/30. (C. in C. W.A., 1123A/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

SEAWOLF.

F.O.S. 1332A/30. Leave Patrol after dark 1/9 routed as follows to R/V in 050° 31' N., 000° 41' W., at 0600A/5. S.B.R. as follows. (Capt. S.5 1133A/31 to SEAWOLF).

IBIS.

Admty. 1208/15. Intend sailing IBIS for Scapa 1100 tomorrow. Request fighter protection in view of being new commission. (N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough, 1230/31).

FURIOUS.
LIVELY,
ISAAC SWEERS.

Require 12 hours in harbour to make good urgent defect. (See Casualties). Am proceeding to Bangor E.T.A. 1715A. Propose LEGION and another destroyer be detailed to escort me to follow on W.3.11 as soon as I am ready. REPULSE concurs. (FURIOUS, 1249 A/31). Detach LIVELY to accompany FURIOUS. (C. in C. W.A., 1512A/31 to REPULSE). Arrived FURIOUS. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1715A/31).

/FURIOUS.....

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

FURIOUS.
LIVELY.
ISAAC SWEERS.
Contd.

FURIOUS escorted by LIVELY from Belfast and LEGION from Greenock to sail as soon as ready to rejoin W.S.11. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail LEGION to R/V with FURIOUS in North Channel. (C. in C. W.A., 1749A/31). Hope to be ready to sail 0001/1 at best speed up to 24 knots which endurance of Destroyers will permit. (FURIOUS, 2000A/31). LEGION not available to escort FURIOUS. Detach ISAAC SWEERS forthwith to proceed towards North Channel to meet FURIOUS escorted by LIVELY. (C. in C. W.A., 2206A/31 to REPULSE). LEGION is not available. ISAAC SWEERS has been ordered to R/V with you in 000° Innistrathull 10 miles at 1000A/1. Proceed with LIVELY in company adjusting time of sailing and speed as necessary. You are not to proceed to westward of R/V until ISAAC SWEERS has joined. (C. in C. W.A., 2245/31 to FURIOUS).

PARTHIAN.

Will be exercising in swept position submarine Sanctuary on 1 and 2/9 during daylight hours. (C. in C. Plymouth 1808/31).

PROTEUS.

Intend to sail PROTEUS escorted by WHITE BEAR at 0900A/2. Route to 43° N., 10° 40' W. E.T.A. 1700A/6. Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (S.3. 1849A/31 1851A/31 0106A/1/9 and 0108A/1/9).

GREER.

U.S. destroyer GREER E.T.A. Reykjavik 1800 (corrupt group) 5/9. (Commander D.W. 61. 1939/13 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

TEVIOT
BANK.

Intend sailing TEVIOT BANK to comply with A.M. 1928/25 on 2/9 in O.S.5. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2101/31).

BLANKNEY.

Proceed to Merville at best speed and fuel immediately on arrival. (C. in C. W.A. 2330A/31 to BLANKNEY).

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War Diary.31.8.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation
"Iliad."

Carry out Operation "Iliad". Aircraft fully co-operating. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 0020A/31).
Have ordered BERKELEY to return to Portsmouth. (V.A. Dover, 0909 A/31).
"Iliad" carried out a.m. today uneventfully by surface forces. No air battle ensued. (V.A. Dover, 1147A/31).
Your 1147/31. Arrived.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1507A/31 to V.A. Dover).

Biscay Patrol.
TUNA.

Several U-boats are expected to make Biscay Ports during the next few days.
Leave Patrol position after dark 1/9 and proceed to Patrol near 120° D.D. 81 miles, keeping clear of SEAWOLF to Southward. You may withdraw to S.W. at your discretion.
T.B.R. indicated in My 1856A/27 and 0001A/28 will be cancelled at 2200A/2. (F.O.S. 1049A/31 to TUNA).

Patrol
off Ostend.

Weather permitting M.T.B.'s of unit 3 are to carry out a patrol tonight through following positions. Care is to be taken to route unit clear of M.T.B.'s on P.W. 18. Surface vessels met east of 2° 35' E. may be attacked without challenge.
(C. in C. Nore, 1132A/31 to BEEHIVE).
Harwich departure M.T.B.'s 44, 47, 43.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2104A/31). *See p 662*

Operation
"Acid Drop".

Was carried out on night 30/31. Landings were effected at both places. All craft engaged in operation returned, arrived Dover between 1015 and 1115. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1146/31)

Operation
"Dervish".

My 1147C/20, to which I have had no answer. I have just heard from Archangel for the first time the expected arrival there to-day of three Destroyers, three Minesweepers, and four Trawlers. Request I may be informed at once of proposed future movements of (a) LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE; as the name of the personnel ship and hence her draught was not known until to-day provisional arrangements for embarking Polish personnel in her were being made for 15/9.
(b) Destroyers. (c) Minesweepers (d) Trawlers.
(Ad. Miles, 1156/31 to Admty).

/Your 1156/31.....

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War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation
"Dervish".
Contd.

Your 1156/31. Ships mentioned are all part of convoy "Dervish" and escort of whose arrival you were informed. *Sup 609*

2. A.M. 0954A/29, 1758A/20, 1723A/16 and your 1308C/12 refers.

3. Merchant ships of "Dervish" including LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE will remain at Archangel until all are reloaded and ready to return and cover can be provided.

4. Your remarks on LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE are not understood. Is there any difficulty in using her for Polish personnel.

5. It is intended that escorts should remain until departure of return convoy.

6. After fuel and short rest C. in C. H.F. would like escorts employed on A/S and M/S Operations. Request you will arrange this with Russian Naval Authorities. (A.C.N.S. H., 1903A/31 to Ad. Miles). Soviet Naval Authorities report that "Dervish" has arrived Archangel. (Ad. Miles 2222C/31).

*Reply
1/9/41 P.L.*

Straits of
Dover Patrol.

M.G.B.'s 46, 86, and 52 will patrol between South Varne and East Varne Buoys during dark hours tonight to cover C.W. 48 and act on R.D.F. reports from Dover W/T. The only other Patrol will be two trawlers on O.D. One. (V.A. Dover 1235A/31 to FERNIE.) Cancel my 1235A. (V.A. Dover, 1817/31 to FERNIE).

British Air Activity.

Dartmouth
S/M
Sanctuary.

My 1509/29 cancelled for 31/8 and postponed to 1 and 2/9. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0038/31 to H.Q.C.C).

Patrols.

**741*
FATE 3" in operation until last light. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0636/31). Patrol of Orkneys exercise area is being flown by 18 Group from 0700 till 1500. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0716/31). P.R.U. reccos of Norwegian coast Bergen to Oslo and also of Aalborg now in operation. -(C. in C. Rosyth, 1140/31).

Escort.

Expect one Catalina A/S Escort and one Hudson A/A escort from dawn/1. (C. in C. W.A., 1813A/31 to REPULSE.)

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War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.144.

Capt. W.E.B. Magee, R.N. as Commodore, has arrived complete. 40 British, 16 Allied, 3 neutral ships. Cargoes. (D.S. 724, 31/8).

W.S.11.

Sailed TOTLAND, SENNEN and WINCHELSEA, for W.S.11 (Capt. D. Londonderry. 0815/31 to C. in C. W.A.) S/M report in vicinity. (C. in C. W.A., 1550A/31) See U-Boat Campaign.

S.L.83

Congratulations on again bringing to safety to U.K. all ships of convoy S.L.83. (C. in C. W.A. 1001A/31 to Cdre. Rees.)

DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL.

Your 12220/29. S.S. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL is now expected to arrive Halifax about 12/9. If ship is unable to overtake W.S.11 at Capetown C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.I. are requested to make the best arrangements for escort and onward passage to Suez. (D.O.D. (F) 1555/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

East Coast.

For N.C.S.O.'s Ships bound for intermediate ports in East Coast Convoys are to be warned not to leave the convoy until arrival at departure buoy for their port. Shearing off to westward in anticipation is a dangerous practice. (D.T.D. 1754A/31 to C. in C. Nore., C. in C. Rosyth).

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ^{-Wheel-} ~~WHEEL~~, position
? 50° 49' N., 4° 43' W. (KRAKOWIAK, 2315/31).

Mining.

Northern
Ports.

Ports of Tyne, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Blyth to remain closed until further notice. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0320/31).
My 0320/31. Sweeping completed at Tyne and Blyth and ports open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0926/31)
Port of Sunderland now open.
(N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 1050/31).

Operations
Q.L.1
P.W.18.

(1) My 1446A/19. Carry out operation Q.L. (1) tonight. Covering force 4 M.G.B.'s from BEEHIVE.
(2) Should weather prove unsuitable operation is to be broken off in time for M.L.'s to return to Aldeburgh Buoy by Daylight. (3) M.G.Bs. should be prepared to shift patrol if E-boats are reported elsewhere. (C. in C. Nore, 0940A/31 to BEEHIVE).
Weather permitting intend carrying out operations Q.L. (1) and P.W. (18) tonight.
(C. in C. Nore, 1432A/31).
Departure M.G.B.'s 64, 63, 58, 61 at 1924. M.T.B.'s 18, 100, 44, 45, 47. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1930A/31).

See p. 459

Thames
Estuary.
VERNAL
(LL Drifter)
damaged.

Eleven S.A. Mines detonated on 30/8 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1211/31).
8 magnetic mines detonated on 30/8 as follows. Details. Slight damage in engine room of VERNAL due to detonation of mine No.7.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1227/31).

Off B.5.

Following received from D.21 begins. At 0730A/31 two Green Mines exploded in 48° B.5. 2 miles. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1709A/31).

Cardigan
Bay.

3 mines have been sunk at 1600, 1630, and 1937/30 respectively by M.L.'s 255 and 236 in following posn. Mines were spherical, compact, and believed British. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1716/31).

Nab.

During clearance of QZX 84 today magnetic mine detonated in 071° 2.5 miles from Nab. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1747A/31).

Port in
QZS 211.

Port included in QZS 211 will open 0700 first. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1806A/31 to WALKER).

Falmouth.

At 0850/31 S.A. Trawler detonated one Acoustic Mine and at 1335/31 one Magnetic Mine. Details. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2200/31).

/Portland.....

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War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Portland
Clearance
Sweep.

Anticipate 13th M/S F. will complete clearance of QZY 247 and 250 by 1500/1. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 2243A/31).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.
La Pallice.

At 1850/30. Photographic R/C shows both Battle Cruisers and PRINZ EUGEN are in usual dry docks. (D.D.I.C. 0001A/31).

R/C Brest
and La
Pallice.

P.R.U. St. Eval 1500/31.

Kiel.

P.R.U. Kiel at 0935Z/31 shows TIRPITZ in Wik Commerical Harbour. ADMIRAL SCHEER in Strander Bucht. Nos 5 and 6 Docks are occupied but shadow prevents definite identification of HIPPER and LUTZOW. (D.D.I.C., 1735A/31).

Casualties and Defects.

IRIS
(Train Ferry).
grounded.

IRIS reports grounded Liath Eilean and beached Otter Spit, Loch Fyne. Making water in numbers 2 and 3 holds. Assistance is not at present required. (V.A.C.T.C., 0758A/31).
IRIS beached in 56° N., 5° 20' W. No immediate danger. Nos. 2 and 3 holds full of water. Appears badly holed and unlikely can be moved until temporary repairs carried out. Local diver being sought. (V.A.C.T.C., 1303A/31).

FURIOUS.

My 1249A. Condenseritis starboard inner engine. Cannot trail whole way Gibraltar owing to loss feed water due to leaky valves and discharge to bilge. Leak apparently under test but cannot be identified due to overheating of condenser. (FURIOUS, 1317A/31).

Svt MARY'S.

A.M. 2343A/29. Can be taken in hand for damage repairs and essential defects only by Manchester Dry Dock Company. (D.O.D. (H), 1820A/31 to R.A.M).

War Diary

31.8.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French
Convoys.

Passing Gibraltar 29/8 and 30/8. (D.O.R., 31/8)

Enemy
Ships.

For convenience in coding number the ships mentioned in my 2210A/29, 1 to 7. (F.O.C.N.A., 0938A/31 to S/M O.24) W.D. Note:- Ships were (1) SULLBERG, (2) HANS SCHMIDT, (3) ATLAS, (4) E.H.FISSER, (5) OTTO LEONHARDT, (6) MAURO CROCE, (7) SPEZIA.

Dispositions.

Situation report No.2. at 2000A/31. All positions N. and W.
(1) CLYDE on patrol in Area bounded by latitudes 040° and 034° longitudes 023° and 031° avoiding convoy routes.
(2) NESTOR 35.50 12.10, 280° 17, to Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A., 1310A/31 to N.A. Stn.)
Situation report No.3 at 2000A/31. All positions N. and W. (i) CAVINA patrol H.Z. 1. (ii) MARON on patrol H.X. 3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1316A/31 to N.A. Station.)
Situation 2000A/31. STELLA CARINA 034° 20' 008° 40' through 035° 50' 006° 45' 9 knots to Gibraltar. (iv) No change in U-Boats. (F.O.C.N.A. 1808A/31 to SEVERN, CLYDE)

TAKU

Alter course forthwith to pass N. of Alboran Island thence keeping N. of 036° 10' until 005° W. A/S sweep in progress East of Almina Pt. Adhere to your E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A., 1610A/31 to TAKU)

ATLAS

My 2210A/29 No.3. (ATLAS) left for Genoa via Barcelona 29th. (F.O.C.N.A., 1736A/31 to O.24.)

PROTEUS
TRUSTY

Intend PROTEUS and TRUSTY (?pass through) 43° 00' N., 10° 40' W. at 1700A/7 and 0900A/7 respectively proceeding thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar. PROTEUS is painted Mediterranean blue. TRUSTY is painted Grey with white letters and numbers on conning tower. (S.3. 1851A/31 to F.O.C.N.A. amended 0846A/3/9.)

E.H.FISSER
(German)

No. 4. left Barcelona 29th for Genoa. (F.O.C.N.A., 2336A/31 to S/M O.24.)

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SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS

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South AtlanticNEWCASTLE
QUEEN OF
BERMUDA

NEWCASTLE is to cease to form part of Force F and is to R/V with QUEEN OF BERMUDA and DURBAN CASTLE in 008° 55' S., 017° 45' W. at 1100Z/2 and escort them to Trinidad and onwards. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is routed through 015° 20' S., 005° 10' W. and 002° 20' S., 031° 10' W. (C. in C. S.A., 0213N/31 to Force F.)

GAZCON
(French)

Reported off Novoredondo 0730 this morning and off Port Ambiom 1100, steaming slowly., (Consul-General, Loanda, 1115/31 to ALBATROSS, BULOLO)
Consul Lobito's 0444 (N.T. in W.R.) is as follows. (Begins) GAZCON sailed 2045/30. Course and speed 315° 9 knots. Please advise if interception successful. (Ends)
(C. in C. S.A., 1327N/31 to ALBATROSS, BULOLO)

Glenn Martin
over Gambia.

1404 G.M.T. Single French Glenn Martin aircraft appeared flying East to West. Flew over barracks at Cape St. Mary twice and circled aerodrome at Jeswang 1000 to 3000 ft. was engaged by light military A/A and by warships in harbour climbed to 9,000 feet. Flew off South East. Duration flight 35 minutes. (Comdr. Gambia Area, 1503/31)

REPULSE
DUNEDIN
RAPIDOL
SHEFFIELD

A.T. 1828A/28 and DUNEDIN's 2239Z/30. Amend R/V for REPULSE and R.F.A. RAPIDOL to read 29° 50' N., 28° 15' W. at 1000Z/7. DUNEDIN is to remain with RAPIDOL until REPULSE is met, the delay to SHEFFIELD's return being accepted. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1616A/31 to C. in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM

Admty. 1638/30. Move to I 33 D and patrol neighbourhood of lines between 008° S., 031° 30' W., and 004° 30' S., 028° W. provided your fuelling arrangements will allow. Suggest you consider possibility of Oiler ABBEYDALE proceeding "Eustace" or "Cat". Arrive southern end of line about p.m./2 if possible. (C. in C. S.A., 1845N/31 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Force F.

A.M. 1638/30. Patrol neighbourhood of line extending (?300) miles N.E. and 200 miles S.W. of S. Paul's Rocks. When required fuel from ECHODALE in neighbourhood of position "Zeal" my 2117/30 (C. in C. S.A., 1901N/31 to S.O. Force F.)

O.S. and S.L.
Convoys.

Your 2350/29 Concur with C. in C. W.A.'s 1656/28 (C. in C., S.A., 2012N/32 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Convoy.

Convoy of 7 Merchant ships (?4) (?Destroyers)
095° Tripoli (Libya) 35, course 95° at 2319C/31.
(S.1., 0139C/31 to TALISMAN).

TALISMAN.

You were sighted and reported at 1847C/30.
(Capt. S.1., 0145C/31 to TALISMAN).

TRIUMPH.
URGE.

If in Q.B.B. 65 today 31st attempt to communicate
by S.S.T. with URGE who is in that area and due
Malta P.M./1. (S.O.S. Malta, 0942B/31 to
TRIUMPH).

Port Said
Raid.

My Q.856, 30/8, para. 1, no damage or
casualties Port Said in raid night 29/30. Western
Desert, Night 29/30, 4 Blenheims despatched
to attack shipping in Benghazi Harbour. 1
Blenheim bombed town as diversion while
remaining 3 flew through harbour defences at 50
feet and bombed vessel at Juliana Mole. Bombs
fell near vessel.

Benghazi
bombed.

Bardia
bombed.

F.A.A. Albacores bombed stores dumps North of
Bardia, starting several fires.
(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1018/31 to Air. Min.)

Italian
Cruiser
Damaged.

Lieut. Winter R.N. who returned to Beyrout in
French Convoy reports having seen an Italian
Cruiser of POLA Class down by stern and listing
to starboard being beached at Messina at 0900
on 26/8. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 1020C/31 to
N.O.I.C. Malta.)

REGENT.
UNBEATEN.

Proceed through 035° 51', 015° 15' and 036° 00'
014° 55' to arrive Grand Harbour at 0700B/3.
UNBEATEN will approach 1st position from Northward
to arrive Malta next day. (S.O. (S) Malta,
1105B/31 to REGENT).

Suez Raid
30/8.

My 1255C/30 one enemy A/C crashed in flames
at 2310 near Port Said. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 1111C/31
to Admty. etc.)

UNBEATEN.
REGENT.

Vichy convoy passes South through Messina at
1000/2. Leave patrol P.M. by reverse of outward
route to arrive at Malta 0700/4. REGENT
approaches 035° 51' 015° 15' from S.E. to arrive
at Malta 0700/3. (S.O.S. Malta, 1113B/31 to
UNBEATEN).

/Vichy.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Vichy
Convoys.

Route to Toulon and Marseilles.
(C. in C. Med., 11370/31 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

AGHIOS.
PANTELEIMON.

N.O.I.C. Alexandria reports AGHIOS PANTLEIMON left Alexandria 28/5 and lost touch with escort on 30/5. She is presumed lost 30/5 (ends). (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1231/31 to D. of S.T.)

M.V's
attacked.

Ref. 1.63, 26/8. Now known that ship attacked and claimed sunk by Blenheims was already badly damaged and abandoned (ARTA or TRTA). Night 30/31. 5 Swordfish anti shipping search Lampedusa area one hit with torpedo on M.V. approx. 1200 tons causing large explosion. Ship stopped with heavy list, probable second torpedo hit same ship. No opposition. All aircraft returned. 9 Wellingtons 38 Sqdn. attacked Tripoli between 2123 and 0040 hours, Spanish Quay and ships unloading plastered, 3 large fires started. 1 ship alongside Quay hit and set on fire. 3 fires still burning from attack night 29/30. Also 2 M/V inside harbour still smouldering. (H.Q. Malta, 1730/31).

Tripoli
bombed.

TALISMAN.
THUNDERBOLT.

Return to Alexandria leaving your area P.M./2 routed S. and E. of 032° 45' 020° 00' to carry out daylight reconnaissance of (? DERNA). Thence proceed through 033° 10' 025° 30' to enter sanctuary 0600C/7. THUNDERBOLT steering 270° to 033° 40' 019° 30' then west of 019° 30' due area C, 3/9. (S.l., 1920/31 to TALISMAN).

Black Sea
situation.

Following is personal opinion of N.L.O., Black Sea. Fleet morale high owing chiefly to lack of any opposition and local air superiority, but senior officers apprehensive of future. Thought that Military were rather bewildered at speed of enemy and that there was apparently no reserve of men and an acute shortage of Soviet tanks, in this area. Odessa, at present besieged, mainly by Roumanian troops, is short of water and considered unlikely to hold out much longer if Germans assist. Sevastopol calm, no shortage of food, population unaware of situation but surprised at non-invincibility of Red Army. Air raids expected shortly. (Adm. Miles, 1935/31 to Admty.)

/Reply.....

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Reply to
F.W. A/C
attack.

Your 1226C/30. Reinforcement of long range fighters is under consideration. Lessons learnt from dealing with Focke Wulf in Atlantic show that this menace can be met if all merchant ships realise paramount importance of meeting attack with effective fire. This necessitates gunb crew being constantly on the alert and holding their fire until A/C reach point blank range. Single ships are more liable to attack than those in Convoy. Attacks are usually delivered from very low altitudes, A/C approaching from ahead.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1953A/31 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy
Convoy.

4 destroyers and 7 merchant ships in 053° 28' N. 015° 22' E. at 2219B/31 course 85°. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2310B/31 to TALISMAN).
My 2310/31. Amend position and course to read 052° 52' N. 015° 52' E. 095°. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2355B/31 to TALISMAN).

East Indies.

Persian
Vessels.

Your 2344/29, does this also apply to capture of Persian Warships and Floating Dock?
(C. in C. E.I., 0614Z/31 to Admty.)

CASCADE.
wrecked
22/8.

N.O.I.C. Calcutta in a Signal dated 29/8 reported that U.S.A. Ship CASCADE had fire in cargo, became unsalvable and dangerous to navigation and was sunk by gunfire on 22/8. All C.Bs. burned in Ship. Further information is being sought and if important will be passed on. (C. in C. E.I. 0618Z/31 to Admty.)

BRITANNIC.
STRATHALLAN.

My 1150/21. Understand that BRITANNIC and STRATHALLAN will load at Bombay for U.K. Intend embarking following, Navy 40, Army 90, Mercantile Marine Seamen 248, Norwegian Volunteers 36. May these be embarked in one of the ships or should they divide between the 2?
(S.S.T.O. India 0621Z/31 to Admty.)

/REVENGE.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

REVENGE
W.S.10X.
CERES.

A.M. 1548/21. Intend REVENGE to escort W.S.10X. from Capetown to vicinity of Mombasa where CERES will provide relief escort to Aden. (C. in C. E.I. 1150Z/31 to Admty.)

Enemy
Ships
ex-Iran.

Your 2344/29. WILDENFELS, MARIENFELS, STURMFELS, CABOTO, BARBARA and BRONTE should be clear of territorial waters by about 4/9. First 3 ships under own power, last 3 in tow of SHOREHAM, SNAPDRAGON and KANIMBIA respectively. Ex Italian HILDA is clear and is being towed towards Karachi by YARRA. Doubtful local resources will be successful in salvaging HOHENFELS. Definite information should be available by 3/9. (C. in C. E.I., 1500Z/31 to Admty.)

China.

Miri
precautions.

Your 1630/29 (N.T. in W.D) Plugging Miri Well not considered necessary as average capacity less than one ton per day. 2. Intend to immobilise inclined heavy plant such as boilers that cannot readily be removed. (C. in C. China 0439/31 to Admty.)

War Plans.

My 0411/26. CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA, JAVA, proposals. (C. in C. China, 0441Z/31 to Admty) See Operations Volume. p.221.

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

AUSTRALIND.

British, 5020 tons, left Adelaide 8/7 for Balboa, overdue there since 22/8. Thought possible she may have been the unknown ship which made a raider distress signal on 19/8 in 05.50 S., 91.20 W. (D.S. 724, 31/8).

LAFONIA.

Has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0029Z/31 to S.O.I. Freetown).

RODNEY.
search
for raider.

RODNEY in company Com. Task Force 2 exclusive of 20% reserve estimate that Com Task Group 2.6 can operate 11 days at 15 knots or 9½ at 17 knots, present speed 17 knots, have altered course and search axis to 16 zero to cover shipping routes X, intend to search tomorrow S.E. along commerce lanes. (Spenavo, 0045/31 to Admty. for D.C).

U.S. Task
Forces,
Movements.

Both of following movements to commence on 30/8 at 2400Z+4. Unless further contacts are reported today it is my intention to direct Task Group 2.6 resume scheduled patrols with such modifications as fuel availability may require, and Task Group 2.5 proceed to Hampton Roads to arrive afternoon of 3/9 Ottawa deliver to C.N.S. (Spenavo, from Opnav 0050/31 to Admty. for D.C.)

Your 2242Q/30. At 0230Z/31, P.C.S. of Task Force 2.6, 014° 40' N. 049° 45' W. 210° 23 knots, apparently proceeding towards Dutch Guiana in accordance with C. in C. Lant's 0207/31 (N.T. in W.R) Passed to Spenavo. (B.A.D. 0351R/31 to C. in C. A.W.I).

At 0600Q/31 P.C. and S. of Task Force 2.5, 019° 47' N. 049° 50' W., 161° 17 knots. Passed to Spenavo. (B.A.D. 0939R/31 to C. in C. A.W.I). B.A.D. Washington 0341R/31 (?0351R/31).

Conform movements Task Force 2.6 as much as possible. If no further report received by dusk 31/8 return to Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1002Q/31 to RODNEY).

Task group 2.6 proceed towards Dutch Guiana. Coordinate operations with Com Task Force 3 bound for same area from vicinity of Martinique (A.L.U.S.N.A., 1012/31 to D.C., Operations). Estimated situation of Task Forces 2 and 3 at 0001/31.

1. Task Force 2.6 16° N. 49° W. course 215° 17 knots, RODNEY in company.

2. Task Force 2.7., 26° N. 50° W. course 115° 15 knots.

3. Task Force 2.5 21° N. 61° W. course 161° 17 knots.

4. Task Force 3, MILWAUKEE and WARRINGTON 11° N. 60° W. course 120° 17 knots, remainder 14° N. 60° W. course 140° 17 knots. (D.O.D. F. 1406A/31 to C. in C.A.W.I. C. in C. S.A. etc amended 2328A/31).

/Following.....

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War Diary.31.8.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. cont:U.S. Task
Forces,
Movements
-Contd.

Following are intended movements of U.S. Task Force 3. 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers will arrive 100 miles 310° Paramaribo light at 0600 zone +4, 1/9, course 130° speed 17 knots. Early forenoon 1/9 U.S. cruiser MEMPHIS and U.S. destroyer SOMERS must return to Trinidad to refuel. If no longer required U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE and U.S. destroyer WARRINGTON will continue regular patrol Recife Cape Verde Is., and reverse. (B.A.D. 1945R/31 to C. in C. A.W.I. amended 1527R/1 and 2259R/2).

Task Group 2.5 in 19.47 N. 59.50 W. at 0600 Z+4/31 speed 17 knots, course 161° true, 1600/31. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 2005/31 to Admty. for D.C).

U.S. Authorities inform me Task Force 2.5 is returning to Hampton Roads arriving 3/9.

Task Force 2.6 is resuming prescribed patrol modified to conform with endurance remaining (C. in C. A.W.I., 2302Q/31 to Admty.)

Following received via War Dept. from Army Observer Paramaribo, dated 0930/30.

"British Naval Authorities state that German Cruiser in Guiana waters with possible intention of attacking Bauxite Mines in Surinam. Govr. of Surinam has requested Govt. of Trinidad to send air aid". This information not confirmed. War. Dept. has directed Caribbean Defense Commander to support Navy necessary operations that area. Sent to C. in C. Lant for action, Comdr. Carib. Navcoast front, Com Task Force 2, Com Task Force 3, Com. Task Group 2.6, Com. Task Group 2.7 for information. Opanav. (A.L.U.S.N.A. No T.O.O./31 to D.C.)

Martinique
Intelligence.

Following received - Spenavo to Admiralty (repeats Alusna 1630/30). (D.D.I.C. 0133A/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ASCANIA.

Leave Bermuda on completion of practice P.M./31 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax, so as to arrive A.M. on 3/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/31 to ASCANIA).

TRUANT.

Cancel my 1810R/30. TRUANT will adhere to original programme given in my 1748R/26. C.C.N.F. pass to FORTH. (B.A.R.M. 0950R/31 to Admty. etc.)

/BURNHAM.....

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War Diary.31.8.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.-Contd.BURNHAM.

My 1803Z/30. In view of Admty. 1211A/30 BURNHAM will arrive Boston 16/9 in place of RIPLEY unless earlier acceptance can be arranged. (C.C.N.F., 1209Z/31 to B.A.R.M).

FORT DE
FRANCE.
(Fr.)

St. Thomas departure 30/8 Point a Pierre 1/9. Bunkered St. Thomas. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1508R/31 to Admty. etc.)

LIVERPOOL

Your 1654R/27. Ratings ex ORION are to be used to complete LIVERPOOL to full complement. Present intention is for LIVERPOOL to return to U.K. after refit to recommission. (D.P.S., 1530A/31 to B.A.R.M).

SHEHERAZADE.

Your 1423/30. French tanker SHEHERAZADE is returning to U. S.A. according to terms of agreement and is to be treated as if holding ship navicert. Port of destination not known but presumably Gulf port possibly calling first at Martinique. Actual departure from Casablanca not reported. (D.E.W.D. 1653A/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MONTCLARE.
RESOLUTION.

Intend sailing MONTCLARE for Bermuda P.M./2 with ground crew and A/C stores for RESOLUTION and for gunnery practices. Arrangements are being made for A/C to be flown as landplane to Philadelphia on 4/9. (R.A.3., 1743P/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ANGELUS
intercepted.

^TPRESCOTT has returned from Patrol of Grand Banks area having boarded French auxiliary fishing schooner ANGELUS. She is being sent into Sydney with prize crew. (C.C.N.F. 1901Z/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

CHESTERFIELD.

Became entangled in A/T baffle P.M./24 under circumstances in which C.O. is absolved of all blame. Examination in drydock shows no damage. (C.C.N.F., 1908Z/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Surinam.....

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

Surinam
L.V.

Following received from Opanv.
Informed by State Dept. that Lightship stationed
outside the Surinam River has been temporarily
withdrawn because of danger of attacks. This
has been sent to C. in C., Lant for action.
(Spenavo 2008/31 to Admty. for D.C).

EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.

My 1423Z/28. Now estimated EMPRESS OF JAPAN
will be ready to sail 27/9.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2124Z/31 to D. of S.T.)

S.E.
Pacific
Force.

Admty. inform me C. in C., U.S. Pacific Fleet
is sending 2 cruisers to Balboa to constitute
South East Pacific Force. Request earliest
information as to when these cruisers are
expected to arrive. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2151Q/31 to
B.A.D.)

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Sunday.

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War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

OTAIO
(torpedoed
28/8).

Has now sunk. (D.S. 724, 31/8).

O.S.4.
(attacked
27/8)

Weather permitting will carry out your 2557A/30 instructions. Now heavy mist and refloating in the event of lifting at daylight. Have not secret call sign nor recognition signal for after midnight tonight. (ZWARTE ZEE, 0454A/31 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Your 0315A/31. (N.T. in W.D).

GLENER is S.O. Understand from BELMONT and AYRSHIRE that position of wreck reported by Wellington A/C has been thoroughly searched by them. BELMONT considers derelict has sunk.

A/C report 2 wrecks in same position indicating to us that ship had broken in two at No. 3 Hold and not being a tanker would sink quickly.

Suggest you turn north at 1000 and sweep to -parallel of 055° N., assume AYRSHIRE who is south of us will cover small area

unswept from southern position northwards.

My P.C. and S., expect tug at 0400, 054° 50' N. 010° 06' W. 053° 10.

In absence of definite instructions or accurate position of derelict suggest that on completion of sweep P.M.

today we return to Clyde as there will be no time to spare in preparing next convoy (satisfactorily?). We have no major defects.

(ST. LOMAN, 0501A/31 to NORWICH CITY.)

N.O.I.C. Greenock's 2357/30. Return to Clyde on completion unless it is necessary to call at Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 1628A/31 to ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY.)

E.T.A. 0930/1. A.F.O. 2901/41.

(A) WALKER, VANOC, VOLUNTEER (B) S.S. (G.C.W.T.)

OTAIO (D) 3 (E) 22 (F) 31 (H) 1 (N) 57 (P)

2 of (F) (Q) 1 of (E) 2 of (F).

(WALKER, 2010A/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

29/8.

Cape Verde Authorities report a U-boat off Praia St. Jago Island 29/8. (D.D.I.C. 0015A/31 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. Large numbers are operating between 53° and 62° and 15° - 23°. (D.D.I.C. 1418A/31).

/1500.....

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Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1500.

Following has been read from Rosyth. Am over enemy S/M in position TVUH (Remainder wrong). (11 Sqn., 1500/31 to 18R. Group). Am over enemy S/M in 59.50 N., 9.20 W. (71 Sqn., 1500/31 to 15 Group H.Q.) (C. in C. W.A., 1540A/31 to LONDON). My 1500. Have lost touch with Enemy S/M. Last seen in position (as 1500) S/M was sighted on surface and observed to dive. When first sighted was on course of 140° (71 Sqn., 1515/31 to 18 Group H.Q.)

2355.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 60° 20' N. 9° 52' W., probably a S/M based on a fix obtained with half hour of 2000. (J/612, 2355/31 to 18 Group.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.
1510.

The following has been read from Liverpool W/T. Am over enemy S/M in 55.08 N., 10.05 W. (R. Sqn., 1510/31 to 15 R Group). W.D. Note Whitley A/C., R/502., see H.Q. 15 Group 0025/1. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface when first sighted on Course 140° at 1505. Have attacked Enemy Submarine with bombs dive estimate 1 hit. (61 Sqn., 1520/31 to 15 Group). Detach WESTCOTT and ST. ALBANS to hunt U-Boat attacked by A/C 055° 08' N. 010° 05' W. at 1500/31, aircraft co-operating. (C. in C. W.A., 1530A/31 to WANDERER). My 1530/31 to WANDERER. U/Boat was sighted on surface and dived. A/C estimates one hit. (C. in C. W.A., 1535A/31 to WESTCOTT, ST. ALBANS). S/M sighted and attacked by A/C in 055° 08' N. 010° 05' W. estimate one hit. (C. in C. W.A. 1550A/31 to Escort of W.S.11, REPULSE). U-Boat sighted and attacked by aircraft (as 1550A/31). Pass as far due South of this position as conditions permit thence to North Channel. (C. in C. W.A., 1601A/31 to Escort of T.C.12B.) Enemy previously reported was on surface. When first sighted was on course 245° speed 6 knots. (R Sqn., 1657/31 to 15 Group H.Q.) My 1530A/31. U/Boat when first sighted was on course 245° speed 6 knots. (C. in C. W.A., 1718A/31 to WESTCOTT, ST. ALBANS). Your 1832A/31. (N.T. in W.D) Unless in contact abandon search in time to join O.G. 73 at economical speed by 1159/1. (C. in C. W.A. 2019A/31 to WESTCOTT).