

16.9.1941.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

22°
Commencing with H.X.150, leaving Halifax today U.S.A Naval Forces assumed responsibilities for the protection of Trans-Atlantic trade convoys between Western Atlantic ports and the mid-ocean meeting points. Canadian groups, augmented as necessary by R.N. escort vessels, will escort the S.C. convoys. R.N. escort groups will take over the convoys at the meeting points between 30° W., and 26° W., and U.S. escorts will take back the O.N. convoys from these points.

Home Commands.

Owing to air attacks on shipping near the Faeroes all merchant vessels over 500 tons sailing from Kirkwall to Faeroes or Faeroes to U.K. are to be escorted. Northern Patrol trawlers which sail from Kirkwall for patrol 2 or 3 times a week will provide the escorts.

An American Army convoy consisting of approx. 5,000 troops arrived at Iceland (C) today.

German batteries on the French coast fired a few rounds towards Dover between 2111 and 2236, whilst convoy C.W. 50 was passing. No damage or casualties are reported.

British Air Operations.

110 Bomber Command aircraft attacked targets at Hamburg and 43 attacked docks at Le Havre last night. Minor attacks were made on Bremen, Wilhelmshaven, Bremerhaven, Cuxhaven, and Kiel.

Blenheims today sank a small reporting vessel 120 miles north of Den Helder.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

At 2035 today enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs near Dover whilst convoy C.W. 50 was in the South Downs.

Mining.

Operation
S.N.23 B.

PORT QUEBEC escorted by NEWARK laid mines today N.W. of the Butt of Lewis.

N.L.2

Two M.L.'s from Dover laid mines last night off the French coast.

A/C mining.

2 Hampdens laid mines last night off Warnemünde and 2 in the Fehmarn Channel.

Thames
Estuary.

S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness reports that there was a moderate amount of enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary last night, but that there is no positive indication of any minelaying. Air Ministry however report that enemy aircraft minelaying was carried out in the Estuary last night.

S.S. BIRTLEY was mined at Sheringham Buoy about midnight and sank in 55° 3' N., 1° 18' E.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool were re-opened at 1200 today. (See 6/9).

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

10 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night and report hits on ships alongside Spanish Quay. Two aircraft laid mines in the harbour.

5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night setting on fire a storage tanker, which was still blazing furiously 24 hours later.

Bardia harbour and enemy gun positions near Tobruk were bombed by Naval aircraft.

The enemy have advanced in the area south of Sidi Barrani but withdrew today and the position was re-established. The 7th C.S. and destroyers operated last night off Mersa Matruh.

East Indies.

Red Sea.

NAIAD and GALATEA are proceeding to reinforce COVENTRY, CARLISLE, FLAMINGO and PARNAMATTA in the Red Sea owing to enemy air attacks during the flow of vitally important ships. These ships are under the command of C.S.15 who is in charge of protection of shipping in the Gulf of Suez.

China.

A typhoon struck Hong Kong today. Damage to shipping was negligible. Some damage was caused to the mine and indicator loops.

America & West Indies.

Task
Group 2.5

A U.S.A. cruiser, aircraft carrier and 3 destroyers have left U.S.A. for raider patrol in the Atlantic.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-boat Campaign.

U-boats were located today by D/F in 70° 41' N., 41° 41' E., and 70° 3' N., 41° 8' E.

Convoy
S.C.42.

DOUGLAS reported one ship torpedoed at 2114 in 59° 42' N., 10° W. This was apparently S.S. JEDMOOR which had already once been reported unsuccessfully attacked on 9/9.

Ships Attacked by U/B in Convoy S.C.42, 9/9/41 to 16/9/41.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Tonnage.</u>
BARON PENTLAND.	British	10/9	Sunk	3410
BERURY.	British	?11/9	Sunk	4924
BESTUM.	Norwegian	11/9	Arrived Iceland.	2215
BULYSSSES.	British	11/9	Sunk	7519
EMPIRE CROSSBILL.	British	11/9	Sunk	5463
EMPIRE HUDSON.	British	?10/9	Sunk	7465
GARM.	Swedish	11/9	Sunk	1231
GYP SUM QUEEN.	British	11/9	Sunk	3915
JEDMOOR.	British	Attacked 9/9, escaped, torpedoed 16/9.	Sunk	4392
MUNERIC.	British	11/9	Sunk	5229
REGIN *	Norwegian	?11/9	Arrived Loch Ewe.	1386
SALLY MAERSK.	British	10/9	Sunk	3252
SCANIA.	Swedish	11/9	Sunk	<u>1980</u>
			Carried fwd.	<u>52381</u>

/STARGARD.....

16.9.1941. ³⁷⁷
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Ships Attacked by U/B in Convoy S.C. 42. 9/9/41 to 16/9/41. Contd

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Tonnage.</u>
			Brought Forward	52381
STARGARD.	Norwegian	10/9	Sunk	1114
STONEPOOL.	British	11/9	Sunk	4815
TAHCHEE	British tanker.	10/9	Arrived Iceland.	6508
THISTLEGLLEN.	British	10/9	Sunk	4748
VESTLAND *	Norwegian	10/9	Arrived in port.	1934
WINTERSWIJK.	Dutch	10/9	Sunk	3205
				<hr/>
				74705
			Tonnage saved.	<u>12043</u>
			Tonnage lost.	<u>62662</u>

* Uncertain whether these ships were actually torpedoed.

EMPIRE SPRINGBUCK straggler on 6/9 was still missing on 24/9.

19 Ships attacked, of which 15 were sunk.

45 Ships of S.C.42 arrived safely. (D.S.746, 20/9).

Convoy
O.G.74.

DEPTFORD reports that at 2230A today two torpedoes were fired at the starboard bow escort; ship was not hit. Sweep was carried out without result. Owing to visibility it was considered that the convoy was not sighted.

PEGASUS
(Greek)
HJELMAREN
(Swedish)
sunk.

At 2057A today Swedish S.S. HJELMAREN reported sighting two life boats pulling away from Greek S.S. PEGASUS which was sinking in 54° 31' N., 29° 52' W. PEGASUS had been in O.N.14. It is reported that PEGASUS was torpedoed and subsequently sank. A survivor stated that the U-boat boarded the HJELMAREN and that the latter sank shortly afterwards as the result of an explosion;
This latter statement is in correct, HJELMAREN arrived safely at her destination, Tampa.

War Diary

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Archangel.

Requesting certain information. (C. in C. H.F. 0036A/16) and Reply (Miles, Moscow 1736A/16.) See Operations Volume.

BALBOA,
BORELAND,
GULLMAREN.

(Swedish ships) Sailing 16/9 Faeroes for South American Ports are all Class C. (D.E.W.D. 1059A/16 to A.I.G. 23, 38.)

Minesweepers.

Your 1340A/12, para.(B). Request remaining 3 ships 6th M.S. Flotilla and STAR OF FREEDOM may be sent to Scapa as soon as practicable.
(ii) My 2155A/9, para.2. Request a 4th M.S. may be transferred to my command to complete escort for convoy PQ 1.
(iii) Your 1629A/14. Request an additional 4 M/S may be taken in hand for conversion.
(C. in C. H.F. 1934A/16 to Adty.)

PRINCE
BADOUIN.

Admty. 2133A/12, paras.1 and 3. Delete reference to S.S. PRINCE BADOUIN who is being included in the next suitable W.S. convoy for Freetown. She is to be sailed from Freetown independently, her onward passage being expedited as far as possible. (D.O.D.(F) 2343A/16 to C. in C. W.A. etc.)

Russian Co-operation.

Soviet Naval Authorities report:-
Evacuation of Tallinn was carried out under exceedingly difficult circumstances; 200 ships of all descriptions had to be got away. Total losses incurred consisted of two old destroyers and twelve transports which included various auxiliary vessels. A very large proportion of the crews were saved. In all about 1500 to 2000 men were lost. The islands of Dago, Oesel and Port of Hango are still held by the Russians.
On the 13/9 the Germans attempted to make a landing in force on island of Oesel. Attack was successfully beaten off by coast artillery and units of the Soviet Navy. German attacking force consisted of 6 transports laden with troops, 8 destroyers and 11 M.T.B's, of this number 3 transports each of 8000 tons and one of 4000 tons together with one enemy destroyer were all sunk. (Miles 1911C/16.)

1119A/16 September.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

CUT.

To Admiral Miles, Moscow.

Date 16.9.41. 378A

NAVAL CYPHER (X) RUSSIAN SETTING.

From Admiralty.

The Admiralty do not consider it necessary to include a special Naval member in Lord Beaverbrook's Mission, and they have asked Lord Beaverbrook to regard you as the Admiralty representative for the purpose of Naval demands and to consult you when any questions of Naval supplies arise.

2. It will of course be necessary for all important questions of supply to be referred to the Admiralty for consideration, but you will be able to judge whether demands are such as should be recommended by the Mission.

3. You will be kept informed of results of discussions in U.K. on naval supply.

1119A/16.

M.F.(L)

1st.Lord.
1st.S.L.
2nd.S.L.
Controller.
Vice Controller.
4th.S.L.
5th.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
A.C.N.S.(W)
K. Parl.Sec.
Civil Lord.
Controller (M.S.R.)(London)
Sec.
Nav.Sec.
N.A.1st.S.L.
P.A.S.(S)

Deputy Secretary.
P.A.S.(F)
P.A.S.(P.R.)
Admiral Herman Hodge.
D.of P.(3)
D.N.I.(4)
M.(2)
M.F.(L)(M.F.(L)01447)(4)
O.D.(5)
I.P.(3)
W.D.

MOST SECRET

378B

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1915/16th Sept

IN

From: No.30 Military Mission Moscow.

Date. 17.9.41

Recd. 2245

CYPHER.

ADDRESSED: The War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

44031.

MIL 819 (or 813) cipher 16/9.

Chiefs of Staff from Macfarlane.

In absence of Panfilov I saw Col. Ivstigneev head of the Otdel today. I again pointed out strongly the stupidity of the present Russian policy which is to withhold information required to help the forthcoming Moscow Conference in its work until the conference actually meets. He implied that this was now realised and said that a meeting would shortly be arranged between Golikov, Panfilov and myself at which I would be given much information not hitherto made available. I pointed out that if this information was to be of any practical help to the Overseas conference delegates in their preliminary work it would have to be provided at once.

Comment. I shall be very surprised if I get much of value.

1915/16

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

Recd by Hand from War Office at 0902/17

Circulated by W.O.

To:-M.O.1.(for action)

Copies to S. C. S.

1st Lord	C.I.G.S.
1st S.L	V.C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	D.M.O & P.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.M.O (O)
A.C.N.S. (F)	H.O.1.5.12
N.A. 1st S.L	D.M.I.
F.A.S. (S)	D.D.M.I (I)
D.O.D. (F)	M.I.3.3c.14 (3 copies) 6.
D.D.O.D. (F)	M.I. (J.I.C.) (3copies).
D.O.D. (H)	Col. Shoosmith, Cabinet Offices (2)
D.D.O.D. (H)	Col. Jacob (Cabinet Offices (5)
D. of P (2)	Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck, Foreign Office (2)
D.C.	War Registry, Admiralty.
H.P.S.	A.I.3A(1) S/L Williams, Air Ministry.
Hd. of H	Col. Firebrace (Room 019)
I.P. (2)	Maj. Woolley, N.I.D.16, Admiralty.
N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr Wilson	Plans 1, Air Ministry.
W.D.	C.N.S. Admiralty.
D.N.I (4)	C.A.S. Air Ministry.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

379

U.S. Co-operation.

American Army convoy approx. 5000 troops arrived 0300/16. (G.O.C. Iceland (C) 1726/16.)

Movements.

A.M.C's.

My 1630A/9. Forecast of movements corrected to 15/9. (S.O.W.P. 0930A/16.)

→ EREBUS.

Adty. 0014A/14. Intend sailing EREBUS escorted by INGLEFIELD a.m./18 to join F.S598 off May Island for onward passage to Chatham. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1145A/16.)

GRAPH.

Adty. 1054A/15. (N.T. in W.D.) HECLA reports :- No wireless available. Chart navigation book (s) and instruments special book (s) and recognition signals included. Pyrotechnic will be required. GRAPH should be able to maintain 12 to 14 knots on passage. Destroyer escort essential, ends. Chart signal book (s) recognition signals can be supplied. (A.C.I.C. 1600/16 to Adty.)

TRIDENT.

TRIDENT arrives Zone 2A 18/9 routed 72° 12' N. and through 72° 12' N. 25° E. *See also p 381*
2. Pages from S.P. 02319 (23) should be retained and are not to be destroyed.
Admiralty pass to TIGRIS in S.P. 02319 (23).
(Br. S.N.O. Murmansk 1831C/16 to TIGRIS.)

4th M.L.F.

ESCAPADE escorting 4 minelaying Flotilla left Vestmann Islands 2048A. (Route) Speed 10 knots.
(A.C.I.C. 2152A/16 to A.C.O.S.)

→ EREBUS.

Your 1145A/16/9 and Adty. 1105B/24/7. In view of EREBUS low speed it is not considered desirable for her to pass through area south of Sheringham in dark hours. Request therefore that EREBUS may be sailed to arrive off May Island at 0600/19. 2 destroyers fitted S A from this command will be sailed to R/V with EREBUS off May Island at this time whence they will form escort to Sheerness. Request you arrange fighter protection for whole passage. (C. in C. Nore 2250A/16 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

380

Operations.

Task Unit
4.1.2

Opnav. reports. Task Unit 4.1.2 of HUGHES, LANSDALE, MADISON, SIMPSON and GLEAVES ordered to operate as submarine hunting group aided by patrol planes in area bounded by parallels of latitude 61 to 64 and meridians 23 to 28 from 15 to 20 September. Upon return Iceland, make ready to escort Westbound convoy. 1521Z/15 ends. (D.C. 0229A/16 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)

S/M's in
Far North.

Your 2241C/14. F.S.H. part III refers to initial passage of S/M from U.K. to Polyarno and should now be cancelled. (F.O.S. 1129A/16 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

ESKIMO

Proceed with dispatch to vicinity of Butt of Lewis. Further orders follow report E.T.A. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1350A/16 to ESKIMO.) My 1455A/16. Join Capt. (D) 6. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1856A/16 to ESKIMO.)

D.6 to cover
O.N. 16.

R.A.(D) H.F. 1455/16. Owing to uncertain position of S.C.42 and ST. CROIX's report of U-boat in 059° 15' N. 010° 40' W. you should proceed from Butt of Lewis to provide as close cover as circumstances permit to O.N.16 estimated P.C. and S. 2000, 058° 57' N. 008° 00' W. 293° 7 knots. Most likely U-boat threat is from Southward. You should remain with O.N.16 as long as possible returning to Butt of Lewis by 1600 17th. Expect two Hudsons from daylight. (C. in C. W.A. 1803A/16 to Capt. (D) 6.)

A/S patrol.

2 Motor Launches are carrying out A/S patrol between 058° 30' N. 059° 00' N. and 008° 30' W. and 009° 30' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1947A/16 to Capt.(D) 6, Escorts O.N.16.)

M.T.B.
patrol.

Weather permitting one unit of M.T.B.'s is to carry out a patrol tonight Tuesday between Oost Dyck and Kwintebank Buoys. Surface vessels met East of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. Report M.T.B.'s detailed and time of sailing. (C. in C. Nore, 1412A/16 to BEEHIVE.)

/M.G.B.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

381

Operations - contd.

M.G.B.
patrol.

Patrol tonight Tuesday. Three M.G.B's patrol 10 miles 310° from number 60 Buoy three M.T.B. return Harwich from Eastward daylight Wednesday. (C. in C. Nore, 1443A/16 to Ships employed on East Coast Convoy duties.)

A/S patrol.

Available A/S Trawlers are to patrol QZS 271 in company leaving QZS 169 by dark and returning at daylight. Patrol is not to go to Eastward of long. 00° and is to turn to westward before 0400. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1533A/16 to X.D.O.(E))

Murmansk.

B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1817C/16. See Operations Volume.

TRIDENT.

My 1801C/15. TRIDENT sailed. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1829C/16.) *See p. 379*

73rd A.S.
Group.

Signal brief report on endurance of 73rd A.S. Group in light of experience gained in passage of "Dervish". Admiralty pass to S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (C. in C. H.F. 1931A/16 to ELECTRA.)

Soviet
operations.

S/M MOLODKI 172 Lieut. Commander Fescluvich returned Polyarno today with further success. Escorted (?3000) ton loaded transport torpedoed between Kirkenes and Petsamo 1730/14 and sank in 3 minutes. Soviet M.T.B's claim to have torpedoed and (corrupt group) 2 transports off Petsamo night September 14th, 15th. No details to date. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk 2225C/15.)

Operation
J.R.

Request you will cancel operation J.R. Destroyers to revert to normal duties and boiler cleaning as requisite. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2235A/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Convoy
P.Q.1.

Arrangements for sailing to Archangel. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2238A/16) See Operations Volume. Repeating Miles 1528C/15 and asking him to answer this signal through Admiralty. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2241A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

382

British Air Operations.

Patrols.

"Cast" "Stab" "Hornli" in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1030/16.)

P.R.U.

P.R.U. Kristiansand South Oslo and Aalborg
now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1204/16.)

Bomber
Command
Operations.

Day 15/9. Blenheims located Eastbound convoy of 7 M/Vs escorted by four Flak ships and one Destroyer five miles N.W. of Juist. Attacked M/V of about 3,000 tons with the letters "NORDO SVENSKA" painted on the side. Vessel was later reported in sinking condition. Attacked 2,000 ton M/V claimed as a total loss. Attacked a passenger cargo type ship of 3,500 tons saw 2 x 500 lbs. bombs hit ship is also claimed as total loss. Blenheims bombed a ship of about 1,000 tons lying alongside the Jetty at Haugesund. Much debris was thrown into the air but it was not possible to say whether this was from the ship or the jetty. Four A/C attacked a large factory on the Western side of Karm Sund from 50 feet. Several direct hits seen. One of these four A/C dropped half its load on the ship and half on the factory. Night 15/16 Sept. Hamburg and Le Havre Docks were the objectives for a good force of A/C. No cloud and clear starlight over Hamburg but with slight ground haze and excellent visibility at Le Havre enabled very successful attacks to be made. Other targets attacked Bremen by 5 Wellingtons, Wilhelmshaven by 4 A/C and Bremerhaven by 3 A/C. (H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 1546/16.)

U.S. A/C
in Iceland.

Request you will ascertain from G.O.C. Iceland whether U.S. Aircraft now in Iceland have been supplied with British pyrotechnic cartridges and pistols. (D.S.D. 1804A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Air Operations.

VINGA
(bombed
15/9.)

Have been relieved by HEATHER. 4 volunteers of VINGA's crew remain to handle tug rope. I am proceeding to Londonderry. (CAMPBELTOWN 0800A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)
Details of survivors. (CAMPBELTOWN 1130/16.)

/Thames

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity - contd.

383

Thames Estuary.

There was a moderate amount of enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary between 2020 and 0008 on the night 15th/16th September. This was chiefly over the Southern ends of Black and Barrow Deepes. Several planes were engaged but owing to darkness were only visible for short periods. There was no positive indication of any minelaying. (S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1503/16.)

DARU.

PHILANTE reports:-
Convoy H.G.72 attacked by one aircraft at 2047. DARU hit and sank slowly. All saved. BOREAS has Master and 41. LA MALOUINE has 14. Ends. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1522A/16.)
Particulars of survivors. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1521A/16.)

Mining.

BIRTLEY.

BIRTLEY mined position Sheringham buoy embarked survivors. Possibility of salvage request tug SHEARWATER standing by. (SHEARWATER 0015/16 to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth.)
Details of survivors. (SHEARWATER 0045A/16.)
Have sent TANGO back to assist you. (SOUTHDOWN 0140A/16 to SHEARWATER.)
Tug SABINE proceeded from Humber 0150 to assist. Fighter protection arranged code word "Hurdle". (C. in C. Nore 0145A/16 to SHEARWATER, F.O.Humber 0154A/16.)
BIRTLEY broke back and sank in 053° 03' N. 001° 18' E. Am proceeding Humber with survivors tug not required. (SHEARWATER 0630A/16.)

Tees and Hartlepool.

Negative my 1050/6 Ports of Tees and Hartlepool are open from 1200 today. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0952/16.)

Operation N.L.10 B.

Intend to carry out operation N.L.10 (B) tonight 16/9. (V.A. Dover 1205A/16.)

/Clyde

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

384

Mining - contd.

Clyde,
mine
watching.

Ref. My 2256A/15. This regrettable incident draws attention to the paramount importance of accurate mine-watching. I am informed by the Scottish Command that the Home Guard who are at present carrying out this duty with zeal are to be withdrawn on 1/10. It is understood that Naval Ratings will be sent to the Clyde by the Admiralty as and when available. It is urged that the strongest representation be made to retain the services of the Home Guard until Naval ratings are sufficient in number and adequately trained to give a reasonable measure of security. The majority of the Home Guardsmen concerned have expressed their willingness to continue to mine-watch. F.O.I.C. Greenock is of the same opinion and wishes to be associated with this signal. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1254A/16 to Adty.)

Operation H.F.

Operation orders. (C. in C. Plymouth 1308/16.)
See Operations Volume.

PONTFIELD
(Mined
15/9.)

Arrival in roads Tugs DIVERSION, KROOMAN with PONTFIELD in tow escorted by Trawler TURQUOISE. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1315A/16.)

Navigation.

B.3 buoy.

It is reported that Light on B.3 buoy is now only visible for 5 cables and that visibility is decreasing. Request this may be increased to one and a half miles as originally asked for in my 2311B/24/6. (C. in C. Nore 2305A/16.)

Casualties and Defects.

S.S. ANDREW
THOME.

Beached South of Britannia Pier Yarmouth, collision damage. (F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1115A/16.)

CLAESJE.

Your 2150/12. Owing to engine room defects vessel will not be ready to sail 20th September. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1131A/16 to Adty.)

AFON GWILI.

Damaged in collision at 0300 and requires repairs. She is proceeding to Southend. (VORTIGERN 1215A/16, 1325/16.)

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

385

S.C.42

See U-Boat Campaign. 0924A/16.

W.S.11 X.

2325A/15, my 1151A/14 and 1745/14 (N.T. of any) LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, ORIBI and ISAAC SWEERS are to top up with fuel at Moville. Capt.(D) Londonderry is to ensure that destroyers can refuel without delay. (C. in C. W.A. 0952A/16 to V.A.2., N.O.1/c Londonderry.)

Escorts to
and from
Faroes.

In view air attacks on shipping in vicinity of Faroos I have given orders that all M/Vs sailing from Kirkwall to Faroos or from Faroos to U.K. are to be escorted. Northern Patrol Trawlers sailing from Kirkwall for Patrol 2 or 3 times a week provide opportunity for escort without undue delay, and I suggest less M/Vs from East Coast Ports for Faroos should call at Kirkwall for onward routeing to enable escort to be arranged. Foregoing does not apply to Fishing Vessels and does not affect existing arrangements for escort of important vessels. (A.C.O.S. 1206A/16 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Your 1206A/16. Concur. Authorities in Rosyth command are being ordered to comply. (C. in C. Rosyth 1740/16 to A.C.O.S.) Orders (C. in C. Rosyth 1832/16.)

Signalling.

H/F communication from merchant ships to shore not satisfactory. Proposals. (D.S.D. 1233A/16) See Lion Copy.

H.X.147.

Met as arranged, one straggler. All ships arrived. Escort and Commodore report exceptionally good convoy with regard to station keeping and lack of smoke. Calm weather with much fog. (D.T.D. 1407A/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Numbers and cargoes (D.S.741)

O.N.16.

Normal night alteration of course is not to be carried tonight owing to proximity of S.C.42. (C. in C. W.A. 1716A/16 to Escort O.N.16 for Commodore.)

S.C.44

After landing survivors refuel and proceed to meet S.C.44. Meet signal following. Report time of sailing. (C. in C. W.A., 1747A/16 to CAMPBELTOWN) W.D. Note: Survivors from Norwegian VINGA, bombed 0920/15.

P.Q.1

Admty. 2238/16. (See Operations)

To, C. in C. America & West Indies, 252.
 P.O.C.N.A. 855.
 C. in C. South Atlantic. 947.
 Repeated, C. in C. East Indies, 796.
 C. in C. China. 848
 Navy Board, Melbourne, 787.
 New Zealand Navy Board, 525.
 F.O.C.R.I.N. 888.
 H.B.H.C. Ottawa, 916.
 F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 323.
 C. in C. Mediterranean, 396.
 C. in C. Western Approaches, 445.

Date. 16.9.41.

385A

NAVAL CODE (X)

RECIRCULATION.

From Admiralty.

Results of tests carried out with Portishead in accordance with Admiralty message 1142/29/3 not to all addressees show that the position as regards H/F communication from merchant ships to the shore is not satisfactory. At least fifty percent of failures to establish communication have been reported.

2. The only practicable way to improve results is to increase the number of stations keeping receiving watch on the ship shore waves.

3. It is therefore proposed to amalgamate the Mercantile and Naval Ship Shore H/F waves in the 6,8,12 and 16 Mc/s band in the North and South Atlantic.

4. To avoid extensive retuning, actual calling frequencies proposed are 6300 kc/s, 8290 kc/s, 12685 kc/s and 16845 kc/s.

5. The essence of the scheme is that any station hearing a call addressed to any British or Dominion W/T Station Naval or Commercial should at once answer and accept the message.

6. Naval Shore W/T stations receiving a message are responsible for taking all passing action.

7. Commercial Shore Stations should pass messages received to their nearest Naval Authority for onward transmission.

8. It is desirable that shore stations should answer on the calling frequency (para.4 above) but this may not be practicable in certain cases without extensive modifications to transmitters.

9. Request you will report -

- (a) Names of Naval and Commercial Stations which can conform and hours of watch.
- (b) Waves which will be used by stations which will be unable to answer on the exact calling frequencies.
- (c) Date this organisation can be implemented.

1233A/16

for D.S.D.

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

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

386

O.N.16.

My 1824A/16 not to Capt.(D). As positions of R.C.N. ships which have been escorting S.C.42 are not accurately known request you will detail 2 R.C.N. Destroyers and 4 R.C.N. Corvettes to escort O.N.16 to Westward. Further signal will be made regarding O.N.17. Report names of ships detailed. (C. in C. W.A. 2321A/16 to A.C.I.C.) D.16 to give close cover, see Home Commands, Operations.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

387

Raiders.

Intelligence.

My 1923A/9. Not to Alusna or Spenavo.
1. On 25/8 U.S. LONE STAR sighted suspicious tanker in 25° 53' S, 04° 19' W. This area used by NORDMARK, SCHEER, 33 and 10 for R/V's in Jan. and Feb., 1941. My 1825A/26/8 para. 2 may refer.
2. No raider incidents in Indian Ocean since end of June.
3. SILVAPLANA made QQQQ at 0800/11 in 26° 16' S. 164° 25' W. Cancelled in P/L at 1055 but did not reply when instructed to cancel in M.N.C. May have been attacked by Galapagos Raider. DEVON overdue at Auckland from Panama. Bearing of 328° from Singapore at 1658/15 on 12,700 kc/s may have been from this raider.
4. RIO BRANCO arrived safely.
(D.D.I.C. 1801A/16 to C's in C. etc.)

North Atlantic.

CAMPANULA collision.

CAMPANULA sustained following damage after collision Portuguese Trawler in fog 0011A/4⁹ 14 in 035° 40' N. 009° 40' W. Ship seaworthy. (FARNDALE 0948/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

O.24.
Report.

Netherlands S/M O (?24) reports (a) sinking 1200 ton sailing vessel and probably sinking escorted 6000 ton ship details follow in paragraph (C) and (D). (B) Sighting of another convoy and single ships indicate possibility of traffic route from Genoa run close east of Capraia Island thence between Elba and Pianosa. (C) Admty. "A" 529 (i) Italian barque (ii) laden (iii) 043° 35' 009° 21' course-degrees crossing (iv) sunk by gunfire 6/9. (D) (i) Italian ship 6000 tons (ii) laden (iii) 042° 48' 009° 58' course-degrees 80 (iv) attacked 9/9 one torpedo heard to hit ship, seen heavily listed (? and) sink by stern, not seen 3 hours later. (F.O.C.N.A. 1536A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

/LE TRAIT.....

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

388

North Atlantic-Contd.

LE TRAIT
(French)

Arrival 15th at Viana French S.S. LE TRAIT from Lisbon in ballast to load timber for Casablanca under French Portuguese barter agreement. Ship understood to have brought phosphates from Casablanca to Setubal. (R.O. Oporto, 1219/16, 1649/16).

HIGHLANDER.
Op: "Halbard."

Your 1734A/15. Regret HIGHLANDER cannot be retained as Western Approaches are being taxed to their limit. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1529A/16 to S.O. Force H.)

Destroyers.

Your 1842A/15. Either VIMY or WILD SWAN may be retained until completion of VIDETTE. 2. A.M. 1453A/10. Route to Freetown is to be arranged so that it cannot be construed as a menace to French West Africa. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1530A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

GERMANIA.
German.

Strong indications may sail very shortly. Vessel is in ballast and has approx. 400 tons fuel oil as bunkers. (Teneriffe, 1635/16 to Admty.)

MARON.

Owing to main engine defects MARON will not be ready to sail until about 25/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1922A/16 to Admty.)

French
Ships.

Gibraltar 16/9 1230, Eastbound 1651, French Destroyer TEMPETE, French ships MAROC, PARAME PONTET-CANET, all laden, ST. MARCEL, light, Eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1955A/16).

H.G. 74.

Estimated 1300A/26 (as received) DEPTFORD, ROCKINGHAM, AUDACITY and 36th Group of Corvettes will bring back H.G. 74. Detailed orders will be issued by F.O.C.N.A. (C. in C. W.A. 2016A/16 to DEPTFORD).

Request you will issue necessary orders for DEPTFORD, ROCKINGHAM, AUDACITY and 36th Group corvettes to bring back H.G. 74. (C. in C. W.A., 2021A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

389

"Q" Report.

Following has been read. QQQQ De GTGG (MARTAND)
32.32. S. 15.24 E. suspicious vessel.
(Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 0847Z/16).

WINDSOR
CASTLE.

Your 1507/19. Following summary of collision
damage WINDSOR CASTLE. My 1126/15 refers.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 0922B/16 to S.S.T.O.
Bombay) W.D. Note:- WINDSOR CASTLE in collision
with WARWICK CASTLE at 0025B/7/8 when in convoy
W.S.10, but continued with convoy.

Spanish
Schooner.

Following is repeated for information:-
(? Addressed S.O. (I) Freetown) From British
Consul (? Cape Verde Is.). Ref. my 1017/15.
Spanish sailing ship mentioned, now at Santa
Maria Sal Island, stated detained owing to the
manifest irregular, cargo about 60 tons aviation
petrol, 20 other cases, contents unknown.
(? S.O.I. Freetown, 1026/16 to Admty.)

A/C over
Ascension.

Presume Swordfish over Ascension 15/9 was from
EAGLE. This caused some stir and should not
be done unless good reason. Must ask exactly
what package dropped contained as this is now
in dispute in the Island and to whom addressed.
Report on arrival. (C. in C. S.A., 1117N/16
to EAGLE).

TOMBOUCTOU
explosion.

My 1637/15. Survivors and Master agree that
cause of explosion was spontaneous combustion.
Damage to cargo small.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1657/16 to S.O.I. Freetown.)

EASTERN
PRINCE.
C.M.19.

My 1402/10, para. 2, EASTERN PRINCE defects
cannot be completed in time and W.S.10X is
proceeding without her. Your 1816/9, request
permission to retain EASTERN PRINCE to augment
C.M. 19. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1745B/16 to
D. of S.T.) No objection (D.S.T. 0159A/18).

SANDAR.
VANJA.

A.M. 1654A/25 and 1752A/28. Should either
SANDAR or VANJA arrive Freetown too late to
sail in S.L. 88 two cutters are to escort both
tankers either to catch up S.L. 88 or direct
to Gibraltar. Report E.T.A. Gibraltar to Admiralty
as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2048A/16
to C. in C. S.A.)

/U/B.....

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

390

South Atlantic.-Contd.

U/B Threat,
EAGLE.
DORSETSHIRE.

It appears probable that U-boats now operating in area neighbourhood of 5° N. to 8° S. and 30° W, if they remain any length of time, will fuel from supply ship at sea either in relatively calm area about 007° N. 048° W. or about latitude 8° N. further to eastward. Suggest former more likely. If there is any indication of this could recall EAGLE and DORSETSHIRE from St. Helena and provide 2 Destroyers and Oiler or an A.M.C. with 2 Corvettes for Eastern Part. Request early information if such requirements considered likely. DORSETSHIRE reports took 4 days in weather prevailing before completing with fuel from Oiler ECHODALE in the Area about 007° N. 025° W. Cannot provide more than 2 Corvettes under present circumstances. (C. in C. S.A., 2123A/16 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

DERNA
(Italian).

Probably left Barcelona night of 10/9 or 11/9 for Genoa. (D.S. 742, 16/9).

Italian M/V's
Salonika.

Press report of 15/9 states one Italian transport sunk and another seriously damaged by fire within last 3 days by Greek irregulars in Salonika Harbour. (D.S. 742).

Situation
report 149.

Western Desert. Enemy have advanced in the area South of Sidi Barrani and Army preparing to withdraw. Position not yet clear and latest report indicates advance was limited to R/C in force. 7th C.S. and (?2) Destroyers operating in vicinity of Mersa Matruh tonight 15/16.
2. Palestine (? Coast). Light forces continue A/S sweeps.
3. Alexandria. Air raid night of 14/15, no important damage. (C. in C. Med., 0040B/16 to Admty.)

/Tobruk.....

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

391

Tobruk
mines.

Mine-sweeping Summary week-ending 15/9. One minelaying raid, two mines spotted in harbour, one detonated ashore landings, one type C buried in sand. One type C countermined ashore, one C countermined off No. 4 jetty. (B.N.O. Tobruk 0914B/16 to Admty.)

Roumania.

Intelligence from U.S. Asst. N.A. German objective. Result of Allied air raids. Roumanian morale. Oil transport facilities. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1005/16) See Lion and Tiger Copies.

Enemy
Minefields.

Your 2010C/15 and your 2030C/15 (N.T. in W.R). It is of great importance to be able to distinguish between known and suspected mine fields. Report whether (a) mines were actually seen to be laid (b) existence of field was later confirmed by M.D.U. or other means. (c) Any other relevant information. (Capt. S.1, 1115B/16 to THUNDERBOLT).

Benghazi,
Gambut,
bombed.

Night 14/15. 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour and shipping starting fires on the Outer Mole. Further bombs fell on quays between Cathedral and Central Moles. 4 F.A.A. Albacores and 2 Wellingtons bombed enemy aircraft on Gambut landing ground destroying 8 and probably destroying further 8. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1119/16)

Vichy
Ships,
Turkey.

Convoy of 5 interned Vichy ships escorted by Turkish auxiliary SUS expect to leave Iskanderun for Istanbul a.m./16. T.O.O. 1131B/16. (C. in C. Med., 1137B/16 to Med. Fleet).

Italian
Destroyers
for Bulgaria.

1. Your 1542/14, not to Admty. Intelligence Officer Black Sea informs me Turkish Govt. expect shortly to give permission to Italian Destroyers flying Bulgarian flag to pass into Black Sea two at a time but 24 hours notice will be given. 2. Enemy advance party near Perekop and Nova-Exieffka. Considerable increase to aircraft Black Sea Area. (L.O. Black Sea, 1209C/16 to Adm. Miles.)

/S/M.....

lion

SECRET

MESSAGE

1005/16th Sept.

391A

IN

From: S.O. (I) Istanbul

Date 16.9.41
Recd. 2019

Interdepartmental Cypher V. by Cable. RECIRCULATION by N.I.D.III.

Addressed: S.O. (I) Mediterranean, repeated D.N.I. British Mission
Moscow, please pass to N.L.O. Black Sea.

IMPORTANT

X
My 1815/15 (not to Moscow). U.S. Asst.N.A. returned

Sept. 15th from Roumania where had reliable contacts states:

(a) German objective in Black Sea is not the capture of ports but destruction of Black Sea Fleet by dive bombing which will become intensive.

(b) Air raids on Ploesti futile repeat futile. Production at no time affected. Heavy air raids urged, while walling up of tanks still incomplete and German A/A defence has grown slack. Very few fighters.

(c) Constantza tower damaged, port also but facilities usable.

(d) Bucharest no military damage.

(e) Czernavoda Bridge damaged both ends. Cannot be used for another six weeks.

(f) Roumanian morale low and no desire to fight on. Antonescu's popularity falling. Friction reported between German and Roumanian H.Q. staffs. Casualties up to early September 140,000 of which 40,000 killed. (This is a very reliable estimate). Medical arrangements Roumanian army deplorable, gangrene and typhus rife.

(g) This confirmed that oil transport facilities to Germany now exceed repeat exceed Roumanian supply. Production very reliable stated 470,000 tons monthly.

~~Above was previously
circulated as Most Secret.~~

1005/16

Advance copy D.N.I., D.D.I.C.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.

Ops (4)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (4)
O.I.S. (3)
D of R. (3)
M (8) for F.O., W.O.,
A.M., M.E.W.

D.N.A.D.
E.P.S.
D.S.D.9.
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.E.W.D. (5)

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

S/M
operations.

V.A. Malta 1521B/16. See Operations Volume.

Tripoli
bombed
and mined.

Night 15/16. 10 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli. 6 aircraft scored hits on ships against Spanish Quay causing explosions, 2 aircraft successfully laid mines in harbour from 1500 ft., opposition usual, all aircraft returned. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/16).

French
Fleet,
Alexandria.

No. 1715 - for Jacquet. I understand that Adm. Godfroy wishes to repatriate crew of SUFFREN and others who have been absent from France for a long time. His object may be to create an opportunity to send back to France Officers and men of Free French sympathies. In any event, experience has shown that once the principle of repatriation of large numbers is admitted, recruiting for Free French Forces comes to an end. Mere rumours that repatriation is being discussed may already be doing us harm in Alexandria. I now know that British Govt. have no intention whatever of agreeing to Adm. Godfroy's -proposal. Useful if you can find an opportunity of making this discreetly known. (Vice Adm. F.N.F.L. 1707A/16 to N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports.)

DERNA.
FRONSSAC.

Departure 15th, DERNA, Italian, Sasebo, FRONSSAC, French, Marseilles. (Barcelona, 1719/16 to M. of W.T.)

Turkey.

J.I.C. appreciation, possible German attack on Turkey. (W.O. 1920/16 to C. in C. M.E.) See Lion Copy.

Soviet
Troops.

Request following information:- A. Number and identity of Soviet divisions in Crimea; B. Particulars of any other troops. (D.N.I. -1930A/16 to B.N.L.O. Black Sea).

Greek
Seamen.

Greek Minister asks if spare Greek naval personnel, -including crews of small torpedo boats now at Port Sudan which are considered too old to be useful, could be used to man British warships in the same way as Poles, Norwegians and French. He expressed wish that their future employment should be in Mediterranean. Before making any decision request your views, particularly as to their efficiency and what type of ships would be suitable. (1st S.L., 1950A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

/LISBOA.....

MOST SECRET

392A

~~MOST SECRET~~

~~MESSAGE~~

IN

1920/16th September.
FROM: M.I.(J.I.C.)War Office.

Date: 16.9.41.

CYHER.

ADDRESSED: C. in C.Middle East.

IMPORTANT

90335 (M.I. (J.I.C.))

Following appreciation from J.I.C.

Diplomatic sources in Berne have reported "Germans hope to establish line in Russia before winter and to get through Turkey to Caucasus. They expect Turkey to resist."

German has following choices:-

(A) Attack through Turkey. Estimated that at least repeat at least 15 German divisions would be required in addition to Bulgarians. There are maximum 4 German divisions at present in Bulgaria and balance which must be withdrawn from Russian front could not be ready before 1st November. Anatolia virtually impossible for operations from end of November to end of March. Axis operation through a hostile Turkey therefore most unlikely this winter.

(B) Sea-borne operation against Eastern Anatolia.

So long as Russian fleet is in being a sea-borne operation against Trebizond is most unlikely.

(C) An attack on Turkey with the limited objective of securing a bridgehead between the Bosphorous and Izmir

Advantages are:-

- (i) Italian Fleet might be sailed into the Black Sea.
- (ii) An Axis advance base would be established for operations in the Spring against Syria, Iraq or the Caucasus.
- (iii) The Bosphorous and Izmir are within Axis air cover from existing bases.

The disadvantages are:-

- (i) Same initial effort required as for full scale operation into Turkey and could not repeat not therefore be started before 1st November.
- (ii) Value of Italian Fleet might not be sufficient compensation for new and heavy military commitment.
- (iii) We would be free to make joint defensive preparations with Turks.
- (iv) We could establish advanced air bases within range of Roumanian oilfields and the Caucasus.

The disadvantages appear to outweigh advantages in view of German strategic practice to avoid

limited/.....

limited objective when attacking a neutral country
we consider Germany would not adopt this course.

Please pass to C. in C. Mediterranean and
A.O.C. in C.

DIRMILINT

1920/16

Advance copy sent Duty Captain D.D.I.C.

Recd. from War Office at 0900/17

Copies Circulated by War Office to:

1st Lord	C.I.G.S.
1st S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	D.M.O. & P.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.D.M.O(O)
N.A. 1st S.L.	M.O.1.5
D. of F.(2)	D.M.I.
D.O.D.(F)	D.D.M.I(I)
D.D.O.D.(F)	N.I.3.14. (J.I.C.)
D.N.I.(4)	War Registry, Admiralty.
I.P.(2)	A.I.(J.I.C.) Air Ministry.
W.D.	Col. Shoosmith, Cabinet
Duty Captain	Offices.
Hd. of M.	
D.D.I.C.	
E.I.S.	
N.I.D. 10. (Pay Cdr. Wilson)	

393

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

LISBOA
(German).

Seriously damaged LISBOA will be leaving Sagunto for Palermo tonight with iron ore and iron bars also carrying 180 bags Lavender. Previously reported for Savona. (Valencia, 2045/16 to M. of W.T.)

Situation
report 150.

Western Desert. Enemy have withdrawn and position re-established. Supply to Tobruk continuing by destroyers a lighter and schooner.
2. Red Sea, Canal Area. NAIAD and GALATEA proceeding to reinforce COVENTRY, CARLISLE, FLAMINGO and PARRAMATTA in Red Sea.
3. KIMBERLEY has brought (?a) Caique into Alexandria with soldiers and civilians from Crete. (C. in C. Med., 2320B/16 to Admty.)

East Indies.

JUPITER.

Arrived Mombasa 0735/16 G.M.T.
(N.O.I.C. E.A. and Zanzibar, 0737Z/16 to C. in C. E.I.). W.D. Note. JUPITER left U.K. 2/8 with W.S.10, is on passage to Mediterranean.

SYGNA.

^{M. in W.D.}
Cancel my 0732/15 Norwegian SYGNA arrived.
(S.O.I. Colombo 0740Z/16 to S.O.I. Bombay.)
SYGNA due 8/9. Have you any news?
(D.T.D. 1951A/16).

Harbour
Defence
Craft.

A.M. 1543/1. Regret no craft left on the station which I can improvise for this service. If it is not possible to obtain these from other sources it will be necessary for the two motor launches referred to in A.M. 2342/14 to be assisted by power boats from the Fleet.
(C. in C. E.I., 0756Z/16 to Admty.)

/FELIX.....

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

30 394

East Indies-Contd.

FELIX,
ROUSSEL.
CITY OF
LONDON.

H.T. FELIX ROUSSEL is to leave Bombay for Aden 19/9 routed 809 N.C.S.O. Bombay's 0521/15 (?0525Z/15 intended). (ii) HECTOR (AMC) is to escort FELIX ROUSSEL to Aden and will then be required to escort CITY OF LONDON to Bombay as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. (iii) S.N.O. Red Sea is requested to arrange onward programme for FELIX ROUSSEL to Port Sudan and Suez. (C. in C. E.I. 0816Z/16 to Cdre. R.I.N., HECTOR).

U.S. ships,
lights,
Red Sea.

Opnav has ordered Alusna Capetown to instruct all U.S. Flag ships en route to Red Sea touching at Capetown while in Red Sea areas to darken ship. (Spenavo, 1500/16 to Admty.)

GLENROY.
CLAN FORBES.

Instructions, Port T and Port W. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1748A/16 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. China, etc. C. in C. E.I. 1846Z/16 to C. in C. Med.) See Operations Volume.

Iran
Operations,
publication.

Director Public Relations Defence Dept., India, desires to pass to Indian press background? material for operations against Persia from Second in Command and particularly R.I.N. aspect. I have approved this and asked F.O.C.R.I.N. to assume responsibility for censorship. (C. in C. E.I. 1814Z/16 to Admty.)

China.

m/v
S.S. JERSEY.

Your 1225A/15 JERSEY sailed 15/9 for Samarang. (N.C.S.O. Singapore 0229Z/16 to Admty.)

ANHUI.

Japanese having raised last minute difficulties ANHUI is not to proceed to Yokohama until further instructions. (Head of M. 1729A/16 to C. in C. China.)

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

395

America and West Indies.

Ships
Refitting.
U.S.A.
publication
of names.

Your 2140/2. No Admiralty objection to proposed relaxation subject to additional restriction no speculation allowed of expected date of departure of any H.M. ships. (D.P.D., 0154A/16 to B.A.R.M.) See also 1003/16.

U.S. Navy
and Convoys.

W/T organisation commencing with H.X. 150, S.C.45, O.N.18. C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet will assume authority corresponding to that previously held by C. in C. W.A. as regards Trans-Atlantic trade convoy operations in Western Atlantic. (C.C.N.F., 0305Z/16, to N.E.F.) See Lion Copy.
Amended 1821/8/10.

FORTH.

Your 1925A/15. Propose FORTH leave St. Johns as arranged proceeding direct to Halifax to embark stores, and propellers for which 3 days have been allocated. FORTH will then be within 24 hours steaming of Portsmouth N.H. when the approval referred to in B.A.R.M. 1400R/12 is received. Departure may have to be delayed by 24 hours while accommodation is being arranged for ship's company of AVALON. (C.C.N.F. 0306Z/16 to Admty.) Approved. (A.C.N. S.(H) 1840A/16).

Task
Group 2.5.

BROOKLYN, STACK, departed New York 15/9. YORKTOWN, WAINRIGHT, ROWAN, leaving Norfolk 16/9 1300 for R/V off Bermuda whence these ships form Task Group 2.5 and patrol over route previously reported. Arrive Bermuda (date) speed about 13 knots. (Opnav, 0330Z/16 to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE
A/C.

Your 0116Z/16. The 2 flying crews and maintenance personnel should disembark at Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/16 to NEWCASTLE).

Ships in
U.S.A.

B.A. R.M.'s 2140R/2. U. S. press acting under influence of Col. Knox have behaved very loyally concerning keeping confidential movements of H.M. Ships refitting in U.S. ports and have concealed all information on this subject up to present. Owing to length of time during which refits have been going on, with consequent visits of ships and personnel, the whole question has inevitably become known to the public and to continue the present policy only irritates the press and appears to serve no useful purpose. For these reasons Colonel Knox now proposes a relaxation of secrecy of rules imposed on press as set out in message from B.A.R.M. quoted. U.S. press is now growing extremely impatient and matter has become very urgent and for this reason it appears very desirable for T.L. to agree to Col. Knox's proposals and that we /should.....

MOST SECRET

395A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 0305Z/16th September IN

From C.C.N.F.

Date 16.9.41.
Recd. 1255.

NAVAL CYPHER 'X' BY CABLE

Addressed Newfoundland Escort Force Repeated Admiralty
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C.O.A.C. Halifax C. in C. Western
Approaches C. in C. America and West Indies A.C.I.O.
R.A. 3 B.A.D. Washington C. in C. Home Fleet.

My 1835Z/14 not to all addressees and Admiralty message 208AJ
September 13th commencing with convoys H X 150 S C 45 and
O N 18 convoy escorts assume following W/T organisation.

(A) All ships constant watch on broadcast from
Washington (call sign N A A) simultaneous on 17.8 and 8090
kc/s, also constant watch on convoy R/T wave 2410 kc/s.
Senior Officer to detail following W/T guards in order of
precedence.

(i) Broadcast L or BN according to whether West or East
of latitude 35 degs. 00' West. This W/T guard to be kept
by Senior Officer of Escort.

(ii) 500 kc/s.

(iii) 4400 kc/s when within 24 hours of Eastern rendezvous.

(iv) Convoy H/F wave 6666 kc/s by day 3525 kc/s by night.

(B) On Washington broadcast last ten minutes of each
hour are reserved for messages to Escorts but such traffic
can also be transmitted at other times.

(C) On Washington broadcast messages which concern N E F
will normally be in S P 02331 recyphered in S P 02380 (1).
Left and right procedure not used with this table. The
second group will be the true indicator vide Admiralty
message 478A August 23rd. Delivery instructions will be
in call signs taken from SP 02378.

(D)/.....

- 2 -

(D) Messages referred to in (B) above will be retransmitted on broadcast L, and on broadcast BN if necessary, but these retransmissions should only be used by W/T guard as a check.

If however Washington broadcast becomes unreadable ships may shift to broadcast L or BN according to whether West or East of 35 degs. West, but Senior Officer must always keep Washington broadcast in addition to L or BN.

(E) Messages from ship to shore are to be transmitted on British station H/F waves as usual but should be encyphered in SP 02331 and SP 02330 (1) if U.S. Authorities are concerned in which case W/T procedure and delivery instructions must be in joint U.S. British terms.

(F) It must be appreciated that C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet will assume the authority corresponding to that previously held by C. in C. Western Approaches as regards Trans Atlantic trade convoy operations in Western Atlantic.

(G) In SP 02378 the call sign for Senior Naval Officer St. Johns may be used as delivery instructions for C.C.N.F. and Capt. (D) Newfoundland.

(H) The above instructions do not repetition not apply to ships on local patrol or Escort of troop convoy who conform to A F O S1/41 and S 2/41.

0305Z/16.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H) D.S.D.

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

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

396

America and West Indies.

Ships in
U.S.A.
-Contd.

should be able to convey this to Navy. Dept. without delay. Ref. Admty. 2202/2 and B.A.R.M. 1152R/8 interview has been held up at request of U.S. Naval Authorities at Bremerton owing to delicate situation with Seattle Press. (B.A.D. 1003R/16 to Admty.)

AUSONIA.

Intend sailing AUSONIA on 18/9 for Bermuda with personnel and stores and for gunnery practices. E.T.A. 1530Q/20. (R.A.3., 1026/16 to Admty. etc.)

S.C.45.

Intend RANPURA to escort S.C.45 to Western R/V thence returning to Halifax. A/S escorts SHERBROOKE, MATAPEDIA, CHICOUTIMI to Western R/V thence returning to Sydney. SPIKENARD to Eastern R/V. (R.A.3., 1054P/16 to Admty. etc.)

AURANIA.
DIOMEDE.

Bermuda arrivals AURANIA, DIOMEDE wearing flag of C. in C. A. and W.I. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1253Q/16).

U.S. Escort
Groups.

Am informed by Sopa Argentinia that U.S. Escort groups will be designated 4.1.1. to 4.1.9. Our groups will be designated 4.1.11. to 4.1.16. These designations to be permanent for use in convoy operations. (C.C.N.F. 1414Z/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc.)

F.O.C. 3rd B.S.
SEABORN.
SAMBRO.

Flag F.O.C. 3rd B.S. will be hauled down and H.M.S. SEABORN paid off on 30/9. All correspondence to F.O.C. 3rd B.S. should reach SEABORN before that date. On 1/10 C.O.A.C. Halifax will take all operational and administrative Volunteer duties at present carried by F.O.C. 3rd B.S. SEABORN is to be commissioned as H.M.C.S. SAMBRO A.M./1/10. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1455Z/16).

S.S. ROUERQUE.

Your 1138/11. Algiers 15/9 A.1. S.S. ROUERQUE formerly JOHN KNUDSEN has left in ballast for Marseilles. According to reports in Oran, she is to be turned over to the Italians. (B.A.D. 1605R/16 to Admty.)

W.H.X.
W.S.C.

W.H.X. and W.S.C. convoy sections. Declared speeds should in future be included in sailing telegram Part II. These figures should be shown as a prefix before each ships name in column 9. (D.T.D. 1747A/16 to N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F.)

/CAP.....

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

397

America and West Indies-Contd.

CAP DES
PALMES.
CHEVREUIL.

Admty. 1810A/28. Kingston Jamaica arrival French Ship CAP DES PALMES. Minor defects to Auxiliary machinery will be completed p.m./20 when ship will sail in company with French ship CHEVREUIL for Colon arriving 0700R/22 for passage of canal. Request Admiralty inform A.C.F.N.F.L. and French High Commissioner in LE TRIOMPHANT. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1820R/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Japanese
Shipping.

Following positions noon/12 intercepted in NYK code: HEIYO MARU 05.14 N. 99.03 W. AKAGI MARU 09.04 N. 99.03 W. NOTO MARU 21.00 N. 106.30 W. Noon/13 RAKUYO MARU 26.26 N. 140.13 W. Special intelligence indicates BUENOS AIRES MARU, KIYOKAWA MARU and YAMABUKI MARU are on westerly course. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2004Z/16 to Capt. O.S. Singapore).

Task
Groups
2.5,
2.6,
2.7.

Movements (Opnav 2245/16).
See Operations Volume.

ERATO
(torpedoed
26/7).

Spanish MOTOMAR arrived New York 12/9 reporting at 0600 G.M.T. 1/9 in 039° 29' N. 018° 27' W. picked up empty lifeboat ex Br. ship ERATO. New York office Ellerman Wilson line informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2311Z/16 to Admty.)

U.S. Forces.

Movement report supplement. (Opnav 2315/16 to Admty.)

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

398

Australia and New Zealand.

LE TRIOMPHANT

My 1400 W.X./11. Ship delayed in Honolulu by small defect until 16/A.M. Intend programme to read Tahiti and surrounding Islands 23/9 - 9/10. (LE TRIOMPHANT 0105WX/16 to A.C.F.N.F.L.) A stock of furnace oil has been laid down at Tahiti in addition to the stock of gas oil which was already there. (D.O.D. (F) 1932A/16 to LE TRIOMPHANT).

Free French Signals.

Your 1146/15. Arrangements will be made to allocate British Signal Letters to all Free French Merchant Ships trading in British Interests. (3) Recognition procedure between Warships and Merchant ships is not to be imparted to any Free French ship unless she is wearing the Red Ensign. (D.N.I., 1933A/16 to A.C.N.B.)

Rabaul.

Re defences. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2140A/16 to A.C.N.B.)
See Operations Volume.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

399

General.

German
Signals.

U-boats attacking at night are known to employ pyrotechnic signals to indicate to each other the course, disposition etc., of the convoy. Attention is called to C.B.04102, Report No. 4. (D.S.D. 1803A/16 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Firing of
Rockets.

Attention of Masters is to be drawn to the fact that U-boats have on several occasions recently been sighted between the columns of Convoy. It is of vital importance that in such cases 2 white rockets are fired immediately and a W/T report, giving position in convoy, is made. (C. in C. W.A. 1924A/16 to N.C.S.O's.)

Ships Attacked.

S.C.42.
(attacked
11/9 etc.)

Following ships are to return to Iceland forthwith at best speed:- SKEENA, COLUMBIA, SAINT CROIX, MIMOSA, GLADIOLUS, MOOSEJAW, WETASKIWIN. SKEENA to report convoy position to SALISBURY when well clear. (C. in C. W.A. 0924A/16 to DOUGLAS). ST. CROIX and MOOSEJAW detached Loch Ewe 0930A/16 for fuel. MOOSEJAW requires medical assistance and has 38 survivors and 29 prisoners on board. SALISBURY, ALBERNI, KENOGAMI and 4th Escort Group Corvettes have not yet joined but have received Convoy's position by R/T. Fog for last 24 hours. Remaining escorts in company as expected. My P.C. and S. are 59.47 N. 12.40 W. 6½ at 0800Z/16. Weather report. (DOUGLAS, 0917Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 1124A/16. (Requesting information of ORILLIA and MOOSEJAW - not circulated in Admiralty) ORILLIA arrived 1845/15. MOOSEJAW not yet arrived from S.C.42. (A.C.I.C., 1237/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

PEGASUS

S.O.S. Following received from Swedish Steamer HJELMAREN begins. Position 54.31 N., 29.52 W. -sighted two lifeboats crews rowing away from sinking Greek steamer PEGASUS. Please send rescue ship as own attempt failed. Look out for floating barges and pontoons same position. (Liverpool W/T, Burnham W/T, T.O.R. 2015/16) PEGASUS, 5762 tons, from Leith for Trinidad and Alexandria, had been in O.N. 14. (D.S. 743.)

/Proceed.....

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

400

Ships Attacked.

PEGASUS
-Contd.

Proceed forthwith to search for survivors from Greek PEGASUS reported sinking in 54° 31' N. 29° 52' W. Look out for floating barges and pontoons in this position. Trawlers should continue search for survivors from NEWBURY. (C. in C. W.A., 2057A/16 to ALISMA, DIANELLA).

1 ship
S.C.42.
? JEDMOOR
(See p. 376)

One Ship torpedoed 059° 42' N. 010° W. (DOUGLAS, 2114/16 to C. in C. W.A.) Position about 140 miles N.W. by W. of Butt of Lewis. (D.S. 743).

Submarines Reported.

Threat to
O.N. 16.

D.16 to give close cover. Various signals see Home Commands, Operations.

South
Atlantic.

U/B's in 3° N. to 8° S., and 30° W. Proposals. (C. in C. S.A. 2123A/16) See South Atlantic.

1516Z.

One enemy S/M submerged bearing 037° course unknown my position 334° from 59° N., 10° W. 23 miles. (ST. CROIX, 1516Z/16).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1555A/16).

1002/16.

By D/F, U-boats in following positions.

1129/16.

(1) At 1002/16, 1 in 70° 41' N. 41° 41' E. course northerly. (2) At 1129/16, 1 in 70° 03' N. 41° 08' E., course south. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 2202C/16 to Admty.)

Submarines Attacked.

By KINGSTON
AMBER.

One Sub. submerged bearing 045° distance 1 mile my position 61.48 N., 15.25 W. (KINGSTON AMBER 0825 /16 to Scapa W/T). Contact with submarine confirmed, my position (as 0825/16) dead reckoning. (KINGSTON AMBER, 0840A/16 to S.O.T.N.P.) Still in contact, 2 depth charges left. My position is 061° 58' N. 015° 33' W. dead reckoning. (KINGSTON AMBER 0938A/16 to S.O.T.N.P.) My position 062° 04' N. 015° 50' W. estimated. Course 171°. Lost contact 0950, 061° 51' N. 015° 44' W. No oil (?or) wreckage seen. (KINGSTON AMBER 1200A/16 to S.O.T.N.P.)

/By.....

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

401

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

By Wellington
A/C.

Following has been read. Am over enemy Submarine in 49.40 N., 12.10 W. Submarine was sighted on surface and observed to submerge on a course 180° speed 5 knots. (A/C using call sign 6FWQ 1245/16) Wellington, 221 Sqn. (D.S. 745). Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges, estimate one hit. (A/C 6FWQ 1300/16 to 19 Group).

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E.C.74
attacked
by E-boats.

Convoy E.C.74 was attacked by E-boats in the early hours of today near Sheringham Buoy, and S.S. TETELA and TEDDINGTON were torpedoed in 53° 4' N. 1° 35' E., the latter being set on fire. TETELA was towed to the Humber. WALPOLE placed a naval party on board TEDDINGTON, which raised steam and fought the fire, but the ship eventually became a total loss.

Fleet
fog-bound.

Units of the Fleet at Scapa were fog-bound from 2236A today to 0542A/18.

British Air Operations.

A minor attack was made on docks and shipping at Le Havre last night.

Mining.

Further mines were exploded today in the Humber area.

Further minelaying by enemy aircraft occurred in the Thames Estuary last night.

South Atlantic.

Mine.

S.O.(I) Capetown reports a drifting mine 5 miles 255° from Robben Island on 16/9.

NESTOR.

Admiralty consider that defects in NESTOR (on her way to join Mediterranean Fleet) can be more quickly repaired in U.K., and she is therefore to sail for home independently at best speed, fuelling at Gibraltar.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.

5 Blenheims successfully attacked two munition factories at Licata (75 miles West of Syracuse, Sicily) today.

4 Blenheims attacked 4 enemy small ships near Cduara today and destroyed one schooner and claimed a second as a total loss. 1 Blenheim was blown up with the explosion of the first schooner, another was shot down into the sea by M/G fire.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

Wellingtons bombed Tripoli harbour last night, creating a diversion for Swordfish and Wellingtons laying mines.

5 Wellingtons bombed shipping and harbour installations at Benghazi last night.

9 Marylands bombed stores dumps at Bardia today.

Single enemy aircraft twice dropped bombs near Tobruk today and possibly some mines near the harbour.

East Indies.

Survivors tug TAI KOO have arrived at Massawa in a dhow. According to evidence so far taken the vessel foundered in approx. 16° 45' N. 40° 5' E. as the result of an explosion considered to have been caused by a mine. TAI KOO was engaged in salving enemy merchant ships scuttled at Massawa, and her loss will entail a setback to the salvage of several valuable prizes.

Operation
"Snip".

Operation "Ration" is to be carried out against 4 French ships which it was reported on 15/9 would leave Diego Suarez shortly for Indo-China, escorted by a French sloop. The westbound convoy remains the main object, however.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Task
Group
2.7.

A U.S.A. cruiser and 2 destroyers left Bermuda today to patrol in the Atlantic.

DIOMEDE.

DIOMEDE leaves Bermuda on 19/9 for Esquimalt, and will later establish a patrol westward of Galapagos Islands outside the U.S. operating area.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy
O.S.4.

Norwegian S.S. SEGUNDO was sunk by a torpedo ^{ca 27/8} whilst in Convoy O.S.4., in 47° 30' N. 87°(?)0' W. 27 survivors were landed at Freetown.

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Minesweepers. My 1934A/16th paras. 1 and 2. The 4 Minesweepers are not now required at Scapa. Request they may be sailed for Hvalfiord with O.N.19. (C. in C.H.F. 1455A/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

PRINCE
BAUDOIN.

Your 2343A/16. PRINCE BAUDOIN has not sufficient endurance to reach Freetown. Observing that the work on this ship has been from first priority and that work on other ship(s) has been very much delayed thereby, it is most important that she should leave Avonmouth on 21/9 on completion of refit. Information is requested as to port to which she should be sailed. (N.O.I/C Cardiff 1759A/17 to Adty.)

Atlantic
Convoy
escorts.

Cancel para. 1 of my 1145A/13 and substitute:-
"Commencing with HX 150 leaving Halifax on 16/9 the U.S.A. Naval Authorities will arrange for the protection of Trans-Atlantic trade convoys between Western Atlantic Ports and Mid-Ocean Meeting Points referred to in following paragraph."
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2031A/17.)

Movements.

P.34. Cancel my 1017A/16. My 1633A/10. Amend as follows. P.34 acknowledge. (Capt.(S) 3 1703A/17.)

Fleet
fogbound.

Units of the Fleet at Scapa are Fogbound. (C. in C.H.F. 2236A/17. to Adty.)

Operations.E.boat
attack on
E.C.74.
TETELA,
TEDDINGTON
torpedoed.

E Boats have sighted Convoy O.61, C.M.R.24. (LIDDESDALE 0122/17 to S.O.4th M.S.F.)
My 0122 E boat attacking "Pattern" 061 C.M.R.14. (LIDDESDALE 0125/17.)
Have abandoned chase of E Boat at Owers Bank. No result.(WORCESTER 0201A/17 to LIDDESDALE.)
Am screening damaged ship in rear of convoy. (WALPOLE 0245A/17 to LIDDESDALE.)
TETELA and TEDDINGTON of E.C.74 torpedoed. Tugs required. Both afloat SAPHIRE and WIDGEON standing by position 53° 04' N., 1° 35' E. (WIDGEON 0257A/17 to C. in C. Nore, LIDDESDALE, N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)
2 E. Boats bearing 303. 353. C.M.R.8. (LIDDESDALE 0300A/17 to Yarmouth W/T.)

/My 0257A.....

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.E.Boat
attack on
E.C.74.
TETELA,
TEDDINGTON
torpedoed.
Contd.

My 0257A have TETELA in tow am proceeding into Humber. SAPHIRE standing by TEDDINGTON have 58 crew on board none injured and remainder on motor launch.

(WIDGEON 0405A/17 to C. in C. Nore.)
Despatch of tugs etc. (F.O.Humber 0440A/17, 0533A/17, 0750A/17, F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 0515A/17, 0745A/17, WALPOLE 0546A/17, 1325A/17, WIDGEON 0646A/17, 0752/17. C. in C. Nore 0817A/17, 1751A/17, N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1132A/17.)

From reports received to date following is brief account of E-boats attacks early today. About 0125 LIDDESDALE reported E.C.74 being attacked near 57A buoy. Merchant ships TETELA and TEDDINGTON torpedoed, latter being set on fire. WORCESTER chased E-boats to vicinity of Ower Bank and believes hits were scored. M.G.B's tried to gain contact but were unable to intercept. About 0300 LIDDESDALE reported E-boats near Sheringham buoy. Apparently these were driven off as no attack on convoy developed. WIDGEON took TETELA in tow expected time of arrival Humber 1830/17. WALPOLE placed Naval party on board TEDDINGTON. This party raised steam and got fire under control. Vessel now being taken to anchorage off Cromer. Salvage Officer and Yarmouth tugs in attendance. Crews of both merchant ships arriving Yarmouth and Humber in M.L's and WIDGEON.

(C. in C. Nore 1721A/17.)

C.W.50.
shelled.

At 2035/16 while C.W.50 was in the South Downs enemy aircraft dropped three bombs of which one fell off South Foreland, and two to the Westward of Dover Harbour. Between 2111 and 2236 Calais Battery fired 9 rounds and Gris Nez Battery 7 rounds. Six fell about two miles to seaward of Dover Harbour and remainder believed to have burst in the air or fallen inland to the Westward. C.W.50 was passing Dover between 2130 and 2230. No damage or casualties reported.
-(V.A. Dover 0944A/17.)

Force M
oiling at
sea.

Your 0919/14. Oiler ALDERSDALE reports everything went very well. Oiler OLIGARCH all went well until SUFFOLK parted tow and hose due to yawing. Has spare tow wire and hopes to replace hose by borrowing locally.
(A.C.I.C. 1031/17 to C. in C.H.F.)

/Operation J.R..

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Operations.P.R.U.P.R.U. Kristiansand in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1108/17.)Bomber
Command
Operations.

Day 16/9. An 80 ton reporting vessel 120 miles north of Den Helder, was attacked by 4 aircraft 2 of them registered direct hits which caused the vessel to blow up and sink. Night 16/17 Sept., Le Havre. 7 Wellingtons attacked the docks and shipping. (H.Q.B.C., 1348/17.)

Enemy Air Operations.Convoy
C.W.50.

See V.A.Dover 0944A/17. (Operations.)

VINGA.

Contacted and made fast at 1205A/17th. Commenced towing at 1225A, position, course and speed 058° 13' North, 013° 15' West, 125° 6 knots, bound Rothesay Bay unless otherwise ordered. No assistance required.

Convoy E.C.73.
→ LOCHGARRY.

My 1522/16 and my 1235A/17 to A.C.O.S. only. LOCHGARRY was attacked by aircraft at 1315 and has returned to Thorshavn with CAVA. LOCHGARRY received (?minor) damage and has one U.X.B. on board. No Casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1606A/17.)

→ LOCHGARRY.

S.S.LOCHGARRY with leave and duty personnel bombed 1300/17, shortly after leaving Thorshavn. Slight damage to ship caused by U.X.B.'s necessitating return to port. No casualties. Anticipated sail evening 18/9. (O.C.Troops Faroe Is., 2115/17.)

SIBIR.

Russian hospital ship SIBERIA (? SIBIR) is reported to have been dive bombed, set on fire and sunk on the way from Tallinn to Leningrad with 1300 persons, mostly women and children, whilst distinctly marked as a hospital ship. Four hundred people are reported to have lost their lives. (D.S.N.E.743.)

War Diary17.9.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperations-ContdOperation
J.R.

Operation J.R. is cancelled. Request all copies may be destroyed forthwith and destruction certificates forwarded to C. in C. Portsmouth. Reference paragraph 18 books are to be re-embarked. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1043A/17 to Admty N.O.I.C., Dover, N.O.I.C., Newhaven, Capt. (D) BERKELEY, ATHERSTONE, FERNIE, PUCKERIDGE H.Q., No. 2. Group, H.Q. No. 11 Group, H.Q. No. 16 Group. H.Q.B.C., H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., M.G.B's 312, 314, 316.)

TRIDENT
in Northern
Waters.

S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1142C/3 para 5 and D.S.N.E. No 734 para XII Northern Waters. The vessels now believed to have been sunk by TRIDENT were far larger than was at first supposed and carried troops of which nearly 2000 were drowned. Consider this news will add materially to prestige of our S/M's in these waters and be of great encouragement to the crews. If S.B.N.O. Murmansk is not aware of the extent of TRIDENT's success request he may be informed by signal.
(F.O. (S) 1122A/17 to Admty. D.N.I.1903A/17 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

A/S Patrol

My 1904A/15 if not in contact by 2000A/17 M.L's are to return to harbour.
(C. in C. W.A. 1126A/17 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway)

?

F.S.H. dated 23.7.41. part III is cancelled.
(F.O.S. 1126A/17 to S. 3.)

Oilers

C. in C. H.F. 1310A/17 See Operations Volume.

M.T.B. Patrol

Weather permitting repeat patrol ordered in my 1412/16/9 with one unit of M.T.B's tonight Wednesday. Report M.T.B's detailed and time of sailing.
(C. in C. Nore, 1422A/17 to BEEHIVE)

A/S Patrol
along Q.Z.S.
271.

My 1803A/9 Patrol is to be carried out each night until further orders.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1513A/17 to X.D.O. (E))

War Diary

17.9.1941
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

? Q.L. (2)

Harwich 17/9 arrivals M.T.B.'s 45,47,48.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0707A/17.)

Thames Estuary

There was some enemy aircraft activity over the Thames Estuary between 2035/16 and 0230/17 but chiefly during the first half hour of that period. At 2043 a plane at about 2,000 feet height, after being fired at by GOLDEN EAGLE dropped two parachute mines in positions approx. 017° two and five cables respectively from East Knock John Buoy. About the same time a splash thought to be a mine was reported in approx. 090° 5 cables from North East Shingles Buoy. At 2230 an aircraft was shot down in flames.
(S.O.T.L.D.F., Sheerness 1303/17.)

Clyde Tugs required.

My 2256/15. Tugs FLYING KITE and ATLANTIC COCK were seriously damaged by mine on 15/9. Both vessels are largely submerged at high water and will be under repair for many months after salvage. Gradual increase in the supply of tugs has been much appreciated locally but loss of services of above mentioned vessels is a serious matter and their replacement now apart from 1 tug expected shortly is urgently requested. Port Regional Director concurs.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1606/17 to Admty.)

Irish Sea

About 10 mines detected by Asdic in 53° 42' N., 04° 19' W. (spaced?) on line about 010° - 190°
(BOREAS 2105A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Humber Area

The following magnetic and acoustic mines exploded today Wednesday near Sheringham Buoy, Inner Dowsing and Humber L.V. Details.
(F.O.Humber 2120/17.)

Enemy Intelligence

Cruiser

German cruiser observed moving south at Helsingborg 15 hours to-day.
(B.C. Goteborg 1630/17.)

Miscellaneous

Explosions in Swedish destroyers.

GOTEBORG, ~~K~~LAS HORN and ~~K~~LAS UGGLA^{damaged} by internal explosion and fire early today.
(A.N.A. Stockholm 1727/17)

War Diary17.9.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSCasualties & Defects.MOOSEJAW

MOOSEJAW is being sailed to Clyde with 29 prisoners on board and she will require repairs to bows and diver to examine for any underwater damage. Asdic is entirely out of action. Main bearing of H.M. cylinder requires attention. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1225A/17)

Shipping & ConvoysW.S. 12.

Proposed embarkation arrangements. (D.S.T., 0350A/17 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland.)

H.G. 72.
S.L. 85.

Arrived together under Cdre. Gill R.N.R., H.G. 72 17 ships, arrived complete, 3 ships were neutral and 2 Allied. 10 ships of S.L. 85 arrived, 1 casualty, *DARU, bombed and sunk 2047/15. 5 ships were allied. Cargoes. (D.S. 743, 17/9)

*HG 72-

S.C. 44.

Sailed CAMPBELTOWN in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1747A/16. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0605A/17)

W.S. 11 X

Admty. 1011A/6 and 2317A/10. Sailed. Latest Q.K.A. 45. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0708A/17.) Capt. (D) 19 has requested Admty. he (?be) informed LAFOREY, LIGHTNING and ORIBI do not hold charts folios beyond next port of call. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1004A/17.)

P.Q. 1.

Your 22(?)4/A/16. Escort for P.Q. 1 will consist of 2 destroyers and 4 Fleet minesweepers. Present intention is that the 3 Fleet minesweepers now at Archangel should remain until relieved by 3 from escort of P.Q. 1. It is not intended that the remainder of the escort should remain at Archangel during the turnover period. If reply to my 0036A/6 is satisfactory, intend to maintain 3 Fleet minesweepers in North Russia. (C. in C. H.F., 1217A/17 to Admty.)

/Request....

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.P.Q.1.
(Contd.)

Request all signals concerning movements of convoy may be repeated to ELECTRA and passed direct in order to avoid delays experienced in communicating via (?B.N.A.Moscow.) and Archangel. (ELECTRA, 1605C/17, to Admty.)
Your 1528C/15 passed to C. in C.H.F., as my 2241/16. Escort of P.Q.1. will consist of 2 destroyers and 4 Fleet minesweepers. Of this escort 3 minesweepers only will remain at Archangel during turnover period. C. in C.H.F.'s present intention is that the 3 Fleet Sweepers now at Archangel shall remain until relieved by the 3 sweepers from P.Q.1. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1909A/17 to Adm. Miles.)

Signalling.

Admty., 472A of 22/8, para. 7. S.P. 02404 (1) is also to be distributed to Masters of Allied tankers sailing independently between West Indies and Freetown or Gibraltar. (D.T.D. 1325A/17, Admty., Gen. Message Home 531A.Z. etc.)

LOCHNAGAR

Required to transport 250 workmen from Reykjavik to Thorshavn.. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail her with convoy S.D.12, and A.C.O.S. to arrange return sailing as soon as escort can be provided by a Northern Patrol Trawler. (D.O.D.(H) 1326A/17 to C. in C.W.A. etc.)

Liverpool Escorts.

My 1639A/14. Para. 1 (A) and 2 (A). Owing to unforeseen commitments, arrangements are in abeyance whereby F.O.I.C. Liverpool details special escorts for outward and inward Liverpool portions of convoys. For the present, escorts are to be detailed as hitherto. (C. in C.W.A. 1812A/17 to F.O.I.C.Liverpool,etc.)

S.C.41.

Met as arranged with 62 ships. Gale and much fog. All now arrived except straggler EINVIK (Nor) torpedoed. This ship did not carry out diversion of standard route broadcasted to stragglers. (D.T.D. 1837A/17 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

S.C.43.

4 hours ahead of your 1547A/17, course and speed 104°, 7 knots (weather report). (KEPPEL 1905A/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

H.X.149.

24 hours late based on speed made good of 8 knots. (ASCANIA, 1925Z/17, to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

→ French Shipping.

Passings 16/9 (several Spanish ships). French Eastward: IB, MAROC, PARAME, PONTET CANET, full, SAINTE MARCEL in Ballast. (V.A.C.N.A., 0911A/17 to Admty for M.E.W.)

GERMANIA.

Your 1635/16. How has vessel disposed of her cargo 13000 tons aviation spirit?
(S.O.(I) Gib., 1137/17 to Consul Teneriffe)
Reply: 1133/18.

EDINBURGH.

Request high-angle firing may be arranged for EDINBURGH West of Gibraltar. Date and details.
(C.S.18, 1155N/17 to V.A.C.N.A.)

→ French Shipping.

Gibraltar 0852 French Minesweeper ENGAGEANTE French Ships BRESTOIS laden OUED TIFLET light with deck cargo Westbound.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 1713A/17 to Admty).

Enemy Ships
Las Palmas.

SLESVIG and THYRA S., today removed from buoy inner harbour moored at breakwater and tankers CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and CORRIENTES now moored at buoys inner harbour.
(Las Palmas, 1730/17 to Admty).

N.I.D. Comment.

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and CORRIENTES have not been moved since outbreak of war. CORRIENTES has long been under suspicion in connection with fuelling of enemy S/Ms. She has been moored in a position which apparently prevented end of the breakwater from being seen from shore. Access to breakwater from land side was stopped at night and no boats were allowed in outer harbour. Consul, Las Palmas reported 29/5 that CORRIENTES, a coal burner, was being supplied after nightfall with oil fuel by barge ex CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN; barge was a water boat, owned by Woermann & Co., a German Company.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Ex. W.S.10.

Your 2015/4 and P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1100/15, as stated in my 0349/5 para 8, it is proposed to use INDRAPOERA, NEA HELLAS, and VOLENDAM. Request your views from point of view of handling at Takoradi. (D. of S.T., 0349A/17 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 0235/23.

TYNDAREUS.

Overdue shipping. TYNDAREUS due Capetown 14th from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, * 1205B/17). * *Cancelled p. 44!*

Mine.

Q G A 56. Drifting mine reported five miles 255° from Robben Island on 16/9. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1555B/17 to S.A. Stn).

NESTOR defects.

NESTOR's 1830Z/11 and C. in C. S.A.'s 1743N/16.
2. As turbine rotor lifting gear is not available at Simonstown and replacements of turbine bearing blocks will probably be necessary, it will be far quicker to bring NESTOR home than to send her on to Simonstown.
3. Ship should therefore be sailed for U.K. independently at best speed, fuelling at Gibraltar.
4. Approx. date of arrival should be signalled as soon as possible so that yard may be allocated. (D.O.D. (F) 1824A/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

GLENROY,
CLAN FORBES.

Instructions. (C. in C. Med., 1127B/17, 1201B/17, to C. in C. E.I. and S.B.N.O. Suez Canal)
See Operations Volume. 17/9 - p.p. 255 & 256.

CHIPKA
(Bulgarian).

Rome broadcast 16/9 news from Sofia that CHIPKA, 2304 tons, left Varna 15/9 and struck a mine and sunk. Crew stated to have been saved. (D.S., 743, 17/9).

ALBA JULIA
(Roumanian).

Reported now at Trieste, not expected to return to Black Sea, but will run between Italy and Greece only. (D.S. 743, 17/9).

/Benghazi.....

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Benghazi
bombed.
Bardia
bombed.

Night 15/16. 5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour starting fire on storage tanker at Juliana Mole which was still burning on 16/9. Fire also started on outer Mole near small ships. 2 F.A.A. Albacores bombed enemy gun position near Tobruk. Third Albacore despatched to attack submarine reported in Bardia Harbour did not locate it and bombed Harbour starting small fires. Day 16/9. A Blenheim attacked S/M 50 miles north of Sollum with 1 A/S bomb. Damage unknown. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1152/17).

U/B
attacked.

Suez Raid.

Further details enemy raid night 15/16. 4 enemy aircraft attacked Abbassia and military camp south of Helwan. Service casualties 4 soldiers killed 9 injured. Several civilian casualties. 2 enemy aircraft operated over canal and 2 over Alexandria but no bombs were dropped in either area. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1156/17).

UTMOST,
PROTEUS,
UNIQUE.

UTMOST leaves Malta p.m./18 to make passage Q BB 65 daylight 19th and anticipated that PROTEUS makes passage to S.E. on 20th and has been informed you arrive 038° 00' 024° 40' about 0530B/18, passing through 036° 30' 013° 30' before making N.W. searched channel. Any Merchant ship encountered within 100 miles of Malta is not to be attacked. (Capt. S.10., 1215B/17 to UNIQUE).

TETRARCH.

On completion of special operations proceed through Antikithera Channel to establish patrol in area S 035° 20' 023° 45' 000° 65 48 until p.m./22. Further orders will then be given. Concentrate your patrol off Suda Bay. (Capt. S.1. 1311B/17 to TETRARCH).

Tripoli
bombed and
mined.

Night 16/17. 7 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli Harbour 5 aircraft carried bombs 2 aircraft carried mines. 4 mines laid 500 yards west of entrance to Harbour inside. Bombs dropped N.W. centre S.W. of Town, also on small camp South Benito Gate. Results not observed owing to cloud. Weather bad. 7 Swordfish laid mines outside Tripoli Harbour around North Mole and one fell inside Harbour. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1622/17).

/COLOMBIE.....

801 P.414A

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E 1107/17th Sept. IN

From N.A. Angora. Date 18.9.41.
Recd 0830.

I.D.C. Special by Cable. Recirculation at Request of N.I.D.3.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean, H.M. Ambassador Angora (?12)

AIDAC.

My 1107/17 part one.

Following from Admiral Kelly.

Discussed situation with General Asim Gunduz September 16th.

General Staff consider Germans will be forced to continue their Russian offensive during the winter to prevent Russians from re-establishing their position with British and American aid. Russians have only equipment for one of five Polish divisions. He spoke again of relations between British and Turkish Attaches in Moscow hoping they would exchange information.

He said confidentially that Germans want to get British involved in Caucasus and begged we would give fullest consideration before advancing. In case of retreat as in Greece we should have an unfriendly Persia acting against us.

My 1107 September 17th part two.

They are not disturbed about the position in Bulgaria. Bulgarian frontier forces have only been lightly increased to protect that flank of Germans from Turkish attack.

There is no risk of Bulgarians attacking Russians as army would refuse. The Naval (? Authorities) at Varna are expected to be concerned with an (?independent) move in Black Sea to menace (? Crimea).

Questioned about the repeated rumours of transfer of Italian destroyers to Bulgaria, he agreed Italy has none to spare and no tentative proposal has been made. He agreed the Tarvisio was a try-on and that it was General Staff who defeated it. The Staff would never consent to passage of these destroyers which would put Turkey in an unfavourable position to Bulgaria. They would ask what they were wanted for as Bulgaria is not threatened.

Reported movements South from Larissa are only (decisive?) For one German division in Salonica and one in South Greece and Crete. There is also one German air division in Greece and islands, and one in Sicily and Libya.

He is.....

He is very satisfied with present talks with Attaches but is convinced Vichy have given Germans full particulars of all previous conferences, and proposed (? operations) which accounts for German aircraft in Rhodes. There is one Italian division in Samos, and 2 others in islands to prevent Turkish attack.

He had no news of Doctor Clodius' mission which was for Turks & means of gaining time. There had been no pressure of any kind.

He hinted it was British propaganda that was responsible for rumours of rebuff Turkey, repeating they will resist any aggression, otherwise maintain their strategic policy which is best for England.

Perhaps as result of talks he seemed very confident in Turkish strength. He had evidently had to uphold his right to choose his advisers.

I asked his intentions about ships now ready in England. He said neither the Government nor Parliament nor President would allow further crews to be sent to England and begged me to do what I could, pointing out as have many others the immense effect on public opinion if we could help them over this, and importance of reinforcing their Black Sea Forces.

Could we not send even 2 of the submarines to Suez but I pointed out the difficulties. He was now very confidential so I made a tentative suggestion on lines of Admiralty proposal. He asked me if I would write it for him in French, giving me his word of honour nobody but he and I and the Marshal would know about it, and that if they could not agree to it we would tear the letter up. If they thought it possible, on confirmation by Admiralty the Governments could be approached, but until then they should not be told anything. I am acting accordingly.

1107/17.

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

Hd. of M (8) for F.O., W.O.,
and A.M.

D.N.A.D.

I.P. (2)

E.P.S.

W.D.

D.E.W.D.

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

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.COLOMBIE,
CANADA.

Programme, Vichy Troop Ship COLOMBIE and Hospital Ship CANADA. (C. in C. Med., 1741B/17).

LL Sweepers.

Your 1719A/15. From information available here, following is position regarding LL Sweepers on passage to Mediterranean.

1. 158 M/S Group of 3 vessels arrived Capetown 10/9.
2. KOS 7, KOS 12 due Durban 10/9.
3. KOS 10, and 11 at Capetown. Delayed indefinitely due to sickness of crews.
4. KOS 7 and 9 sailed U.K. 2/9.
5. PRIMULA arrived Suez 15/9.
6. LORINDA sunk on passage. KOS 8 no information.
7. 167 M/S Group still fitting out in South Africa from this it does not appear that more than 5 LL S.A. Sweepers i.e. those in 1, 2 and 5 above will arrive during the next 30 days and one of them is a Corvette which will be required for A/S and escort duties. (C. in C. Med., 1911B/17 to Admty).

Libyan
Convoys.For Chiefs of Staff from Cs. in C. Question of interception of Libyan Convoys, analysis of success achieved by S/M, torpedo bombers, medium bombers, heavy bombers. Recommendations for increased attack. (C. in C. Med. 1933/17 to Admty) See Lion Copy)
Reply: 2242/21. P415A3OTUS.

OTUS leaves vicinity of Alexandria about 1800B/18 for 032° 08' 029° 06' thence on course 300°. (Capt. S.L. 2103B/17, to THUNDERBOLT.)

Malta Supplies

Following telegram is agreed by V.A.M. I have addressed several requests to the S. of S. for Colonies asking that essential commercial orders from firms in England should now be shipped to Egypt to await onward convoy to Malta. We anticipate convoys from the East will be resumed during winter months. Although these orders are commercial they are essential to the defence of the fortress for they cover such items as motor tyres spare parts etc. (Gov. Malta 2357B/17 to Admty).

/Cyprus.....

R 415 A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E IN 1933 /17/September.

From G. in G. Mediterranean. Date 18.9.41.

Recd. 1224.

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME TABLE BY W/T.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

433. Following for Chiefs of Staff from G. in Cs: Reference submission 168.

Para. 1. The interception of Libyan convoys can evidently never (?be) fully guaranteed and with forces at present available to us, all we can assure is that a toll of from (?10) to 20 per cent will be taken. We are fully alive to the great importance of interrupting enemy supplies to North Africa (?harbours), and our present resources are being used to their utmost.

Para. 2. 22 ships were sunk on this route during August excluding those classified as probable sinkings or damaged. Of these submarines sank 10, T.Bs. 5, Medium bombers 4, 3 were sunk in harbour by heavy bombers. Expressed in terms of tonnages submarine 44.5%, T.Bs. 37.8% Medium bombers 11.9% and heavy bombers 5.8%. Total tonnage sunk estimated at 83780 tons out of estimated (?total of) 339800 tons.

Para. 3. We are most anxious to increase these losses and have repeatedly suggested means of doing so but a number of these requirements still remain unfulfilled. These proposals and comments are summarised below.

Para. 4. Reconnaissance. The success of air and (?submarine) attack has been very largely due to special (?intelligence). This has enabled us to utilize our (?small) resources in reconnaissance aircraft to maximum effect. If present plans for building up air resources of Malta to maximum capacity are implemented (including sufficient maintenance personnel) reconnaissance requirements will still be inadequately met unless Maryland bombers are diverted from attacks on enemy land communications in Tripolitania (which attacks A.O.C. Malta considers should have great effect) or unless further assistance is sent from home. A.O.C. considers additional 4 G R aircraft (Maryland type) would meet immediate needs reconnaissance Libyan sea routes. Total G R aircraft in Middle East, however, of (?type) that (?can be sent) on missions over ports and routes where enemy fighter opposition must be expected are still insufficient for all requirements. Problem further complicated by present occupation of Cyrenaica by enemy which restricts efficacy of reconnaissance of shipping route between Greece and Cyrenaica.

Contd/.....

(v) Submarines. Every submarine that can be spared is worth its weight in gold. They are doing extremely well and Admiralty has been most generous in supplying them but our present force of 18 allows only about 6 to be at sea at once except for great emergency if crews and ships are to remain efficient. Recent increase in importance of Dardanelles commitments (see Admiralty message 1028 1st) adds to call on these craft.

(vi) Torpedo/bombing a/c. Longer range torpedo bombing aircraft are urgent necessity as convoys tend to go outside Swordfish range and scale of defence escort is now such that hitherto successful Blenheim attacks are becoming too dangerous to be justified.

Preliminary investigation indicates range of Beaufort to be disappointing. C. in C. Mediterranean has suggested long range Albacores for this purpose.

(vii) Bombing. Much more could be done by increasing scale of attacks on Italian ports. U.K. could materially assist in this, particularly in view of importance of conserving Malta fuel supplies. Such attacks will have double and invaluable effect of not only discouraging Italian sailors both at sea and in harbour, but of bringing home to Italian nation that the sooner they get out this war the better. At present disadvantages of fighting us are not being brought home to them. Such action might very directly affect Libyan supply.

(viii) Surface craft. C. in C. Mediterranean is anxious to try surface attack once again and is prepared to sail 2 cruisers. He cannot repeat not spare destroyers of which 4 are desirable, and is awaiting Admiralty reply to C. in C. Mediterranean 2035 23rd August on this subject.

(ix) Mining. Attack on Italian coastal traffic will have great effect and H.M.S. MANXMAN's recent operation is a good start. It is not considered justifiable to take submarines off more active attack in order to minelay.

(x) Summary. Increased interception and sinking (2 corrupt groups) east (?Mediterranean) by adding to our resources in air reconnaissance submarine and Torpedo Bombing aircraft. Fitting of A/S V where possible to aircraft searching for ships gives greater chance of interception especially in weather conditions during winter likely to increase difficulty of location. Increased scale of bombing of supplementary ports should achieve good results but Middle East resources can do no more than at present. Please pass to War Office and Air Ministry as from C. in C. Mediterranean and A.O.C. in C. Middle East.

1933/17.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.
 1st Lord. D.O.D. (F) I.P. (2)
 1st S.L. D.D.O.D. (F) N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson
 V.C.N.S. D. of P. (2) W.D.
 A.C.N.S. (F) Duty Capt. D.N.I. (4)
 N.A. 1st S.L. E.P.S. D.D.I.C.
 P.A.S. (S) Hd. of M. (8) to pass to other Departments.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cyprus.

Report for period 31/8 - 13/9. In 3 moonlight raids, the first on Cyprus, no damage or casualties were caused. First, 5-6/9 3 aircraft dropped bombs near Kythera and Strongylos villages, Italian communique announcing Nicosia aerodrome attacked. Second, 8-9/9, 4 bombs dropped on coast 16 miles east of Kyrenia, others all in the sea at Famagusta. Third, 10-11/9 10 bombs dropped at new Kimasol aerodrome and 12 at Larnaca aerodrome. Second and third raids evidently carried out in conjunction with attacks on Haifa on the same nights. (Officer Administering Govt. (Cyprus) No. T.O.O./17 to S. of S. Colonies).

War Diary.

17.9.1941
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Seychelles.

Flying Boat left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0001Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

Base Defences.

Your 1812/12. Gear cannot be ready in Bombay before 30/9; details of gear being supplied by India will be given to Major Newling before he leaves Simla. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1140Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

WINDSOR CASTLE.

P.S.T.O. Simonstown 1126/13 and 0922/16. Bombay now working full capacity, regret present commitments do not permit undertaking repairs WINDSOR CASTLE. Detailed report stating time required and whether materials available India will be made on ship's arrival. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1221Z/17 to D.S.T.)

HOHENFELS
(German)

My 1500/31/8 para 3. S.N.O.P.G. reports HOHENFELS easily salvable by a properly equipped salvage Company but work is beyond capacity of local resources. A.I.O.C. are prepared to give all assistance but have not suitable appliances. Ship is a fine modern vessel and it is suggested that a salvage firm E.G. Van Deldem should be offered the job as soon as possible. (C. in C. E.I. 1252Z/17 to Admty.)

U.S. Ships,
Red Sea.

Americans have directed their shipping to darken ship in the Red Sea areas. Any U.S.A. ships bound for the Red Sea calling at British ports are to be given this information. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1331A/17 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I. etc.)

TAIKOO
sunk.

Survivors from TAI KOO have arrived Massawa in dhow. According to evidence so far taken vessel foundered in approx. 016° 45' N. 040° 05' E. following explosion on port side just before funnel. Vessel at time of explosion was steering course N. 078° W. for Kavet. Master drowned and Commander Stenhouse R.N.R. missing presumed drowned. Consider possible still 3 Chinese survivors on Harmil Island and there are possibly still 2 rafts unaccounted for. (N.O.I.C. Massawa 1658Z/17 to S.N.O. Red Sea.) My 1658/17. Consider cause of explosion was a mine. (N.O.I.C. Massawa, 1904Z/17) TAI KOO, salvage tug, 688 tons. (D.S.744)

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.Operation
"Ration".

My 0057/13. If Eastbound convoy referred to in S.O.(I) Capetown's 1043/15 is encountered within limits of East Indies Station, Operation "Ration" is to be carried out against this convoy also, but Westbound convoy remains main object. (Hd. of M. App.1 S.L. 1753A/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

Persian Gulf.

Port developments approved. (C. in C. India 1810/17 to General, Iraq.) See Lion Copy.

JUPITER.

Mombasa left 17/9 2031 G.M.T. JUPITER.
(N.O.I.C. E. Africa 2036Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)
W.D. Note: En route U.K. to Mediterranean.

China.Manila and
Subic Bays.

The American Naval Authorities have notified entrance to Manila and Subic Bays are dangerous as on account of minefields. Details.
(Cdre. Hong Kong 0437Z/17.)

Belgians
in China.

From Baron for Gen. De Gaulle No. 378 dated 16/9 re active Anti-free French attitude of Belgian authorities in China. (C. in C. China, 0511Z/17 to Admty.)

Shipping
casualties
Hong Kong.
Loops damaged.

During typhoon which struck Hong Kong yesterday 16th EMPIRE ALMOND grounded but no apparent damage. ULYSSES under refit grounded and holed. Now on even keel in five fathoms. * Salvage proceeding. Small river steamer MANNE-DONG LING now ashore south coast Lantau after apparently drifting over West Lamma minefield. Damage to loops, one mine loop and 2 indicator loops out of action. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong 0657Z/17 to C. in C. China

**not identified*

/Australian

MOST SECRET

418 A 214

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1810/17th September

IN

From C. in C. India.

Date 17.9.41.

Recd. 2010.

CIPHER

Addressed General Iraq Repeated the War Office.

IMMEDIATE

44502. 13-18/a cipher 17/9 your 88558 (M.O.5.) 6/9 and 89940 (Q(Ops))+13/9.

The following projects have now received formal sanction from H.M. Government and you should proceed with their execution with greatest possible speed

(a) Development of Port Bandar Shahpur to take 21,000 tons per day. Your requirements and rough estimates of cost are urgently needed here

(b) In connection with development of Trans Persian railway. Locomotives rolling stock some personnel and coal are en route see War Office telegram 88689 (D.Th.) dated September 7th. Immediate requirements are administrative arrangements for reception and accommodation of British troops and Indian telegraph service

(c) Development of port Basra to extent of 3 extra berths extra lighterage wharf and repair of existing berths in R.A.F. area. Your requirements and rough costs are awaited.

(d) Development of Um Qasr to take two berths and lighterage wharf. Total cost to be submitted. Your requirements awaited. Duplication of metre gauge railway Basra Baghdad. Second line to be laid with heavy rails and standard gauge sleepers. Rough estimate required.

(e) Development of Tigris River including your requirements in craft dock repair facility depots etc. for discharge 2500 tons daily to Kut or 1500 tons through to Baghdad.

(g) Expansion of bases at Shaibah and Um Qasr to take 10 divisions. Requirements and rough costs required.

(h) Necessary additions to advanced base Baghdad. Rough costs required.

(j) Development of roads Basra to Turkish frontier as already sanctioned. Development from Turkish frontier to Diarbekir will be done by Turks.

The following projects have been given low priority which we accept for the time being

(a) Railway Kut-Baquba submit requirements and rough estimate of costs.

(b) Karbala-Rutba railway submit requirements and estimates. In estimating rough costs full use of services of director of Iraq State Railways and port director etc. should be used.

We/.....

We estimate that following units will be ready for sailing on dates shown.

September Railway construction Company one Railway W/S Company one,

October Railway Operating Coy. R.E. one Hd. Qrs. Railway W/S group one Railway W/S Company one.

November Railway Construction Company one Railway Maintenance Coy. one.

December. Hd. Qrs. Railway C and M group one Railway Construction Company one Railway maintenance companies two Railway W/S Company one Hd. Qrs. T.N. Store group one Hd. Qrs. dock operating group one Dock Operating Companies 4 dock Maintenance Company one Port Construction Company one Hd. Qrs. I.W.T. operating group one I.W.T. operating companies two Hd. Qrs. I.W.T. W/S Group one I.W.T. W/S Company one (? river) service group one.

January Railway maintenance companies 3 Railway Construction Companies 2 Hd. Qrs. Railway Operating group 1 Railway Operating Companies 2 Hd. Qrs. I.W.T. Operating group 1 I.W.T. Operating Companies 3.

February. Hd. Qrs. Railway G. and M. group 1 Railway Maintenance (? Companies omitted) 2 Railway Operating Companies 2 Hd. Qrs. Transportation stores group 1 Transportation Store Company 1 Hd. Qrs. dock Operating group 1 Dock operating companies 2 Dock Maintenance Company 1 Port construction Company 1 Hd. Qrs. I.W.T. Operating group 1 I.W.T. Operating Companies 3 I.W.T. W/S Company 1 Railway W/S Company 1.

March Hd. Qrs. Railway G. & M Group 1 Hd. Qrs. Operating group 1 Railway Operating Companies 2 Transportation Store Company 1 I.W.T. Operating Companies 3 I.W.T. W/S Company 1.

April Railway Operating Companies 3 Transportation store Company 1 I.W.T. Operating Companies 3 I.W.T. W/S Company 1. Essential that you call for these units as you require them so as to enable shipment priority to be given.

Above confirms your OM/109 dated 15th September. Work should on no account be held up pending calculation of costs.

1810/17.

+ 0400/14.

Received from War Office 1159/19.

To Q(Ops). (for action)

1st Lord	<u>W.O. Distribution</u>	D.M.O. & P.	G.S. (P)
1st S.L.		D.U.S..	Q (Ops)
4th S.L.		Q.M.G.	S.D. 2
V.C.N.S.		D.Q.M.G.	Q (M) 2, 3.
A.C.N.S. (F)		D.M.I.	Q (O.S.)
N.A. 1st S.L.		D.S.D.	D.D.Tn. (0)
D.C.D. (F)		D.A.R.	Tn.1.2.
D.D.O.D. (F)		D. Mov.	S.T. 2, 3, 6.
D.N.I. (4)		D.G.A.E.	A.R. 2.
D. of L.D.		D.Tn.	F.W. 1.
D. of P. (2)		D.S.T.	W.F.
Duty Capt.		E. in C.	D.Plans (Admiralty)
E.P.S.		D.F.W.	D. Plans (Air. Min)
Head of M.		D.F. (C)	Foreign Office
I.P. (2)		D.D.M.O.(0)	Dixton)
W.D.		D.P.	Foreign Office Mr.
N.I.D. 10		M.O.1,5,12.	Crossthwaite).
D.D.I.C.			P.S. to Min. of War
			Transport
		India Office	P.S. to Min. of Sup
		(Brig. Drummond)	P.S. to Pay. Genera
		Treasury (Mr. Wilcox).	India Office (War
			Staff

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Australian
Minesweepers.

A.M.1409/16/4 para.(a) and your 1127/15/7. I am counting on Australian-built "BATHURSTS" to provide not only M/S facilities but also A/S escort for Singapore convoy. Would very much appreciate early arrival of BENDIGO and any other of class that may be available together with an estimate of future arrivals. (C. in C. China 0709Z/17 to A.C.N.B.)

MARECHAL
JOFFRE.
(French)

Arrived 16/9. (Saigon, 1057Z/17 to M. of W.T.)

ANHUI.

Ambassador Tokyo 727 to F.O. ANHUI can sail 0300 G.M.T./18 arriving Yokohama daylight/24. Request immediate instructions. (Cdre. Hong Kong 1435Z/17 to C. in C. China.)

CHEVREUIL.

My 1059A/18. Instructions for employment in Pacific. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1744A/17 to C. in C. China). See Operations Volume. *17/9 - p 156*

Russian
Minesweeping.

Your 1722C/13 and A.M.1927/19. In view of possibility of Japan entering the war it is most important that Russian minesweeping and A/S arrangements in Far East should receive such benefit as we can give them. Therefore proposed to send you an additional minesweeping specialist officer and an interpreter (A/S officer) with Powell. On arrival of this party at Moscow request you will arrange for Powell and interpreter to proceed to Vladivostok. (A.C.N.S.(H) & (F) 1847A/17 to Adm. Miles, Moscow.)

America and West Indies.

Task Group
2.5.

Further to Opnav Boston's 1758Z/12. Following from Opnav Washington. YORKTOWN, WAINWRIGHT, ROWAN leaving Norfolk 16/9 1300 for R/V off Bermuda whence these ships form Task Group 2.5 and patrol over route previously reported. Arrive Bermuda 2/10, speed about 13 knots. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0258Z/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

See also next page

/LE TRIOMPHANT

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

- LE TRIOMPHANT. Endeavours are being made to obtain in U.S.A. submerged mechanism for Chernikeef log for LE TRIOMPHANT. Before proceeding further request information how long ship will remain at Tahiti. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0953Q/17 to Admty.)
- VAN KINSBERGEN. Leave Bermuda on completion of practice p.m./18 and carry out following programme. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1002Q/17 to VAN KINSBERGEN.)
- Georgetown. All Naval Shore establishments and craft permanently employed at Georgetown will in future be under administrative control of N.O.I.C. Trinidad. N.C.S.O. Georgetown to inform Governor, British Guiana. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1034Q/17 to Capt. i/c Trinidad.)
- Japanese Ships. S.O.(I) Callao reports (A.3) 3 NYK and one KKK en route Japan Peru. Former may include NOTO MARU, see my 1304R/15. Can you name others? (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1158R/17 to Capt. O.S. Singapore.)
see P. 470
- U.S. Group 2.5. A.T. 1811A/14 Para.I. Composition Group 2.5 BROOKLYN, STACK, left New York 15/9. YORKTOWN, WAINWRIGHT, ROWAN left Norfolk 16/9. All ships R/V off Bermuda and proceed along route previously given to arrive Bermuda 2/10. S. of A. 13 knots. (D.O.D.(F) 1201A/17 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.) *See previous page.*
- FORTH. S/M's working up in U.S.A. Your 1925A/15. U.S. Authorities have agreed to personnel and gear being landed in anticipation of definite approval for submarines to work up, which is expected within a few days. In view of necessity for FORTH to collect spare gear for American submarines from New London for transport to U.K., (see B.A.D.1905R/25), propose FORTH proceeds to Portsmouth New Hampshire when ready to leave Halifax. FORTH to communicate revised programme. (B.A.R.M. 1206R/17 to Admty.) Approved. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1609A/18.)

/U.S.

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.U.S. Tugs
for U.K.

My 1556/5/8. Understand that in view of lateness of season and difficulty experienced by these tugs in convoy, M. of W.T. intend to abandon idea of despatching the smaller tugs *SPEDDEN, *SOCONY, AMERICAN and *HARRAHAM. Propose that NANCY MORAN, expected ready Sydney in three weeks time, BARWICK repairing same port, and such of the remaining three tugs *GALLAGHER, *HUGHES and BATTLEBORO as may be available, be sailed as a group from Sydney via Belle Island, Greenland and Iceland (C) taking advantage of weather. Request you arrange sailing accordingly and discuss question of escort with U.S. Authorities. (D.T.D. 1214A/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) * Not identified.

S.C.
Convoys.

- (1) Are orders with reference to S.C. Convoys singly issued direct to C.C.N.F. by C. in C. Lant?
 - (2) If so, request they be repeated for information to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax.
 - (3) If not, request this be done.
- (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1310Z/17 to Opnav.)

NEWCASTLE.

Leave Bermuda when ready p.m./17 and proceed direct Boston, adjust speed to arrive Finns Ledge Buoy at 2000 zone plus 3 on 19/9.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1333Q/17 to NEWCASTLE.)

U.S. Navy
and Convoys.

My 0305Z/16. Add para. (1) If R/T is used for intercommunication between Canadian and U.S. Ships, Call Sign from S.P. 02378 should be used.
(C.C.N.F., 1403Z/17 to Newfoundland Force.)

TULIP,
CLARKIA.

My 0948/12. CLARKIA and TULIP delayed. They will now sail Sunday 21/9. (B.A.R.M. 1424R/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Wreckage.

RAMSKY reports at 1400Z/15 in 051° 40' N. 045° W. quantity of thick oil. Attempted to salvage upturned lifeboat with oars and life jackets floating around. Sea too rough. Boat and life jackets were apparently in water a short time. Sample of oil taken. (C.C.N.F., 1435Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

DIOMEDE.

To leave Bermuda a.m./19. Programme. To establish patrol westward of Galapagos Islands outside U.S. operating area. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1552Q/17 to DIOMEDE.) See Operations Volume.

17/9 P. 257

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.AURANIA.

Intend sailing AURANIA from Bermuda for Halifax on completion of practices p.m./20 arriving a.m./23. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1542Q/17 to B.S.3.)

A.M.C's.

Your 1248A/6. Request information of Admiralty policy regarding remaining A.M.C's of N.A.E. Force and whether and for what function it is intended that any should remain based at Halifax. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1551Q/17 to Admty.)

French Ships.
Casablanca.

Casablanca 15/9 A.1. ^{? ADELFOI CHANDRIS intended (see below)} *ALPHEI (?) sailed for Bordeaux with 4 other ships, names unknown, but possibly PARME and PONTET CANET were 2 of them. A sloop is escorting as far as Berlingas Island whence German ships or planes will take over escort. Speed of convoy 7 - 8 knots. (B.A.D., 1617R/17 to F.O.C.N.A.) Comment. ALPHEI is possibly the Greek *ADELFOI CHANDRIS which has been requisitioned by the French. PARAME and PONTET CANET passed Gibraltar eastbound on 16/9 with MAROC and STE MARCELLE; these are probably the four ships referred to.

HEIYO MARU.

Following noon position 14/9 HEIYO MARU intercepted in NYK code 12.31 N., 96.39 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1631Z/17 to C.O.S. Singapore.)

S O S

At 1324Z/17 Q.R.T., S O S heard Camperdown Radio, strength three, no call sign and no position given. Also heard by a ship in 37.52 N., 52.38 W. strength four. (Ottawa, 1633Z/17 to Admty., amended 1823Z/22.)

Task Group
2.7.

Schedule Task Group 2.7 modified as follows. NASHVILLE, LANG, WILSON leave Bermuda 17/9. Proceed along Axis of patrol area outlined in my 2245/16, making good 14 knots, returning same route and arriving Bermuda 1200 G.C.T./24. Thence Hampton Roads arriving 26. Classify this as confidential. (Opnav 1715Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

Eastbound
Convoy
Escorts.

Admiralty give to Spensavo. Concur in proposal contained in your 141355. It is our understanding that augmentation of Canadian Escort Forces by British Escort ships will suffice for adequate escort of all Eastbound sail cast convoys. Request that locus of mid-ocean meeting points be defined as within panel

/between

War Diary.17.9.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Eastbound
Convoy
Escorts
contd.

between 22nd and 26th meridians West, where said panel lies wholly within Western Atlantic area as now prescribed and preferably Northward of 58th parallel. This cancels my 171700. (Opnav, 1721Z/17 to Admty.)

W.I. Force.
DIOMEDE.

My 1222Q/2. After leaving Manzanillo proceed so as to arrive Balboa 25/9 and turn over to DIOMEDE on her arrival. Transit Canal 26/9 proceed to Jamaica to refuel and thence to Bermuda. Acknowledge by L/T. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1722Q/17 to S.O., West Indies Force.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Owing to adverse weather having been encountered it may be necessary for QUEEN OF BERMUDA to proceed to Newfoundland after leaving convoy C.F.2 to fuel before proceeding to Bermuda. Request you will inform her where to fuel should this be necessary. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1732Q/17 to C.C.N.F.)

PHOEBE
damage.

My 1343A/5. Damage to PHOEBE involves extensive structural repair (details). PHOEBE will be ready to leave Mediterranean about mid-October. Request U.S. Authorities be asked to state if PHOEBE can be accepted and to nominate a Repair Yard. C. in C. Med. is being informed re his 0909/15 that repairs at Durban are not considered practicable. (D. of D., 1813A/17 to B.A.R.M.)

Greek Ships,
crew trouble.

Pass to N.C.S.O's. Following message has been sent from M.O.W.T. to their representatives in America and South Africa (begins). There is a risk of crew trouble developing at U.S.A. Ports on Greek ships calling at such ports for coal bunkers. Greek ships are to omit this call in future and should bunker sufficiently at Brazil or West Indies ports so as to limit their requirements at Halifax to 5/600 tons. Those Greek ships under ten knots which without shutting out cargo can so bunker at Brazil or West Indies that their requirements in Canada can be limited to 300 tons should be routed to Sydney C.B. for bunkers. (Ends). (D.T.D.1858A/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Ships Refitting
U.S.A
publication.

Your 1003R/16. My 0134A/16 to B.A.R.M. Washington, stated there was no objection to proposed relaxation subject to additional restriction no speculation should be allowed of the expected date of departure of any of H.M. Ships. (D.P.D. 1906A/17 to B.A.D.)

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - contd.

Atlantic
convoy
escorts.

note

"Cinclant" has informed C.C.N.F.

1. That instructions for Westbound escorts will be conveyed to them by S.O.P.A. Iceland but by A.C.I.C.
2. That oil fuel will be available from U.S. Naval Tankers.
3. That C.C.N.F. is expected to conduct all other matters relating to maintenance and readiness for operations. With regard to (3) will HECLA or other R.N. Repair ship continue to be available in Iceland?
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1950Z/17 to Admty.)

U.S. Groups.

A.M. 1811/14. Group 2.6 now leaves Bermuda 26/9 and passes vicinity of Bermuda on return journey to Hampton Roads arriving 10/10. (2) Group 2.7 passes vicinity of Bermuda on return journey and route is now adjusted so as to arrive Hampton Roads 26/9. (D.O.D.(F) 2250A/17 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.General.German
Signals.Repeating D.S.D. 1803A/16.
(C. in C. W.A., 1832A/17 W.A. Gen. Message 193N.)Ships Attacked.S.C.42
(attacked
11/9 etc.)

Following is a repetition of my 1231Z/16.
C. in C. W.A. Repeated A.C.O.S. N.O.1/c Aultbea
from ST. CROIX. Expect to arrive Loch Ewe
0800Z tomorrow 17th (ends) MOOSEJAW in company.
(ST. CROIX, 0031Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
When fog cleared sighted much wreckage and very
large oil patch. Life raft, cabin furniture,
etc., badly smashed as though by violent explosion.
Consider ship blew up and sank. No sign of life.
Am rejoining S.C.42 NARCISSUS in company.
(ALBERNI, 0907Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Q.G.74.

2230A/16 in 056° 30' N. 019° 25' W., 2 torpedoes
fired at starboard bow escort. No hit. Sweep
was carried out without result. Owing to
visibility it is considered Convoy was not
sighted. COWSLIP's 1621A/14, COWSLIP has not
joined.
(DEPTFORD, 0925A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Wreckage.

Reported by RAMSAY at 1400Z/15 in 051° 40' N.
045° W.
(C.C.N.F., 1435Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
See America and West Indies, 1435/17.

SEGUNDO
(torpedoed
17/8.)

Ref. N.C.S.I. 296 ^{27/8 intended}
(A) SEGUNDO (B) 17/8 47.30 N. 87.00 W. (C)
sunk with ship (G) Chief Officer. Norwegian,
proceeding in convoy O.S.4. In ballast, sunk
by one torpedo. 27 survivors landed Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1716N/17 to Admty.)

EINVIK
(torpedoed
5/9.)

My 1558/13. Further boat with 11 survivors
arrived Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C., 1725/17.)
Did not carry out diversion of Standard route
broadcast to stragglers.
(D.T.D., 1837A/17.) See Shipping.

War Diary.17.9.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Biscay.

Several U-boats expected to arrive North Bay of Biscay ports during next 2 days. Proceed patrol in vicinity position 120° D D 81 miles. (F.O.S., 1022A/17 to SEALION.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1434A/17.)

1530C.

By D/F at 1530C/17 U-boat in 68.58 N. 42.36 E. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1559C/17 to Admty.)

1558Z.

By D/F at 1558Z/17, German U-boat probably homeward bound, was in approx. 47° 30' N. 10° 40' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1752A/17 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Submarines Attacked.By
RENONCULE.

Have established S/M contact and dropped depth charges in 058° 53' N., 006° 24' W., contact lost, observed no oil or wreckage.
(RENONCULE, 0745A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 0745A/17 am again in contact and am carrying out attack. Probably 2 submarines.
(RENONCULE, 1135A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
Re RENONCULE's 0745/17 and 1135A/17, sailed M/L 227 to assist.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1420A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

By
Hudson A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 48.40 N., 10.30 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge course 030° speed 6 knots. Have attacked with bombs (level) and depth charges. Result unknown.
(A/C Q/233, 0935/17 to 19 Group, T.O.R. 0957/17)
(D.S. 743.)

18.9.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B.
Operation

3 M.T.B's with 2 M.G.B's in support were despatched from Dover early this morning, to attack a convoy plotted leaving Boulogne. Just before making contact M.T.B's 55 and 70 collided and were seriously damaged, and the entire force had to retire. All vessels returned safely.

Russian
Operations.

Soviet submarine K.2. returned to Murmansk from patrol off Vardo today and reports that she sank a laden 3000 to 4000 ton merchant vessel by gunfire on 12/9 in 70° 40' N., 30° 30' E. This was the only vessel sighted during an 8 day patrol.

British Air Operations

Coastal Command aircraft attacked St. Nazaire Submarine Base last night.

11 Blenheims escorted by fighters attacked the Grand Queville Power Station at Ronen today. Shipping off the Dutch coast was also attacked, a 1000 ton ship apparently being hit off Ijmuiden. A merchant vessel of 5000 tons was hit by Blenheims of Bankenberghe, and the Blenheims' fighter escort report that at least 2 of the escorting Flak ships were sunk and that on the return journey an R boat was set on fire.

During the afternoon 4 Hurricanes attacked 4 minesweepers off Ostend and so damaged them that all four were either sunk or left sinking.

War Diary

18.9.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Convoy
F.N. 520.

WESTMINSTER escorting F.N.520 engaged with 4 inch and apparently destroyed a Junkers 88 early this afternoon in 54° 0' N., 0° 12' E. The convoy was bombed at 2003 in 54° 14' N., 0° 48' W. but there were no hits except SS LEIKANGER who had a U.X.B. on deck.

Mining

Operation
H.F.

MANXMAN laid mines in the early hours of today off the French north west coast.

A/C
Minelaying

10 aircraft laid mines last night in the Heligoland Bight and 2 off Brest.

Thames
Estuary.

Aircraft minelaying apparently took place again last night in the Thames Estuary. One mine was detonated today.

Shipping and Convoys

East Coast portions of H.X. and S.C. convoys are to proceed to Loch Ewe whether they arrive North or South of the Minches.

War Diary18.9.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTNorth Atlantic

A Fulmar aircraft was catapulted from SPRINGBANK at 1400 today to attack a Focke Wolfe A/C approaching H.G. 73 in 35.57 N., 08.30 W. Fulmar fired one gun continuously, but remainder jammed after firing a short burst at 150 yards. Enemy A/C evaded action and jettisoned his bombs.

South AtlanticRaider search

Force F. (DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE) left St. Helena at 1900 today to patrol in K. 35 A and B until necessary to return to St. Helena for fuel.

DORSETSHIRE is to join South Atlantic Station instead of LONDON and to be employed as required by C. in C. S.A.

Vichy French convoy.

Capetown reports (A.1.) that a Vichy convoy of 3 merchant ships from Saigon is expected at Madagascar on 25/9.

MediterraneanConcerted Operations by 4 S/M's.

UPHOLDER, operating with UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT and URSULA reported that she secured one hit on each of two large liners at 0406 today in 33.01 N., 14.51 E. (N.E. of Tripoli). At 0705 URSULA torpedoed a liner of the *VULCANIA class. At 0851 UPHOLDER again attacked and sank one of the two damaged liners with two torpedoes; *from later intelligence it appears that this was the DUKL 10, 23,626 tons. (pp 493-4)*

* Lloyd's 13/9/48 via Cmdr. W.E. Warner. /Enemy units....

18.9.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy
units.

D/F bearings at 1100 G.M.T. placed an Italian warship (call sign 4 A.Q.) in 33.00 N., 14.30 E. going eastwards. Other bearings indicated considerable activity off the Tripolitanian Coast.

Naval
aircraft
attacks.

5 Swordfish attacked a convoy, sighted off West Sicily by R/C Swordfish, at 0145 today off Trapani. A possible torpedo hit was scored on a 6000 ton ship.

7 Swordfish attacked a convoy at 2105 in 35° 17' N., 12° 15' E, but no results were seen.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

5 Wellingtons bombed and mined Tripoli last night. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour.

Egypt and
Suez Canal.

Alexandria was raided by 6 aircraft shortly before midnight last night; no Service damage or casualties resulted.

Beirut

The cable cutting operation proposed by C. in C. Med. on 31/7 is not to be carried out until Admiralty instructions are received.

East Indies

Persian Gulf

Bandar Shahpur and Bandar Shah are to be known for all British official purposes as Bandar Gulf and Bandar Caspian.

18.9.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

S.C. Escorts

C.N.S., Ottawa, has been asked if the destroyers and corvettes allocated to local duties can be reduced, to increase those available to Commodore, Newfoundland, for S.C. convoys, if possible in sufficient numbers to release all R.N. ships at present in Newfoundland Force.

CAP DES PALMES, which is proceeding to Tahiti with Free French personnel, will return to U.S.A. to be fitted as an armed merchant cruiser for service in the Pacific under the Free French.

Date for the return of RESOLUTION to home waters was notified by the Admiralty today.

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Cruiser
requirements.A.M.1342A/9. Cancel para 2.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 0049A/18 to C. in C. H.F.)PRINCE
BAUDOIN.

Will be included in W.S.12. and she should be prepared to sail accordingly. No personnel will be embarked. (D. of S.T., 0138A/18 to D.S.T. Avonmouth).
A.T.2343A/16, N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1759A/17 and D. of S.T., 0138A/18. PRINCE BAUDOIN is to break off from convoy W.S.12 to fuel at Ponta Delgada subsequently rejoining convoy if possible. If this is not possible ship is to proceed independently to Freetown at best speed.
(D.O.D. (F) 1057A/18).
Your 1759A/17. On completion of refit PRINCE BAUDOIN should be sailed to Clyde to await convoy.
(D.O.D. (H) 1321A/18 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

Dover
M.T.B's.

As recent experience has shown that Hall Scott engined boats can operate successfully from Dover suggest that 5th Flotilla be temporarily transferred from Felixstowe to re-inforce F.O.C. Dover's force. (R.A.C.F., 0950/18 to Admty).
As a result of this morning's operation there are now no boats remaining in 11th M.T.B. Flotilla fit for service. Four boats of 6th Flotilla are available. To take advantage of situation created by sailing of enemy shipping in the Strait by night and present spell of fine weather, request that the number of available M.T.B's at Dover may be brought up to eight, by the loan of four boats of another fully trained flotilla under their S.O. Recommend that 11th Flotilla should be reformed elsewhere as boats become available and sent to Dover when worked up as a flotilla. (V.A. Dover, 1019A/18 to Admty).
V.A. Dover's 1019/18, not to all addressees, request you will transfer 5th M.T.B. Flotilla to Dover Command temporarily.
(D.D.O.D. (C) 1535A/18 to C. in C. Nore).
Admty 1535A/18. M.T.B's 44, 45, 47, 48 are to be sailed for Dover as soon as practicable.
(C. in C. Nore, 2114A/18 to BEEHIVE).

Destroyers.

R.A.D. 1600A/18 See Operations Volume.

Signals.Changes to be made at 0001 G.M.T. 7/10.
(D.S.D., 1811A/18 "A" Message) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

OUT.

1811A/18.Sept.

Date: 18.9.41.

To: "A" Message Home and Abroad.
Repeated Air Ministry.

H.Q.B.C.

H.Q.F.C.

H.Q.C.C.

War Office.

ho 563A

NAVAL CODE (J)

NOTPRINT.

From Admiralty.

1. At 0001 G.M.T. on 7th October, recommence S.P. 02291k, S.P. 02292k, S.P. 02293k, S.P. 02294k, S.P. 02295k, and S.P. 02297k, on all stations repeat all stations with October as first month.

2. Following emergency Recognition Procedure to be employed:- Delete all figures in columns headed "Day of Month" and substitute following in order shown:-
21, 2, 30, 9, 16, 23, 6, 29, 15, 22, 14, 3, 20, 1, 26,
19, 5, 31, 7, 28, 17, 10, 25, 8, 13, 24, 11, 18, 12, 27,
4, repeat 21, 2, 30, 9, 16, 23, 6, 29, 15, 22, 14, 3, 20,
1, 26, 19, 5, 31, 7, 28, 17, 10, 25, 8, 13, 24, 11, 18, 12,
27, 4.

3. Signals change at the following times daily:
(a) 0000 to 0500; (b) 0500 to 1000; (c) 1000 to 1500;
(d) 1500 to 2000; (e) 2000 to 2400.

4. Ships are reminded that:-

(a) U.S. warships in North and South Atlantic are in possession of whole of K Series of Key Memoranda and are therefore able to understand all recognition signals. Owing to limitation of equipment U.S. warships cannot use VC/VP. U.S. submarines cannot use British pyrotechnic signals. U.S. aircraft cannot use 2-star cartridge.

(b) U.S. Emergency Identification signals are contained in S.P. 02414 now in course of distribution.

(c) Details of Anglo-Soviet Recognition Signals in Arctic Ocean area between 15 degs. E. and 100 degs. E. are contained in Admiralty 514 AZ/6th September.

(d) Reference S.P. 02292k. T.S. signal not yet in force.

(e) Reference S.P. 02293k. page 6, col. 6, 29 (o). Correct colour to read Green not Blue.

(f) French feux de melee lights not in force unless specially ordered locally.

(g) Reference S.P. 02295k, Minor War Vessel display signals

/change

change at 1500 and 2400 daily.

(h) S.P. 02296k continues in force with August as first month on Home and North Atlantic Stations.

(j) S.P. 02298 continues in force on Home Station.

(k) Only one copy of this signal is to be made.

5. Admiralty 427A/8 August is cancelled from 7th October.

1811A/18.
for D.S.D.(284)

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(F)
- D.O.D.(H)
- D.D.O.D.(F)
- D.D.O.D.(H)
- D.N.I.
- D.S.D.
- D. of P.
- N.I.D. 10.
- D.D.I.C.
- Duty Capt.
- I.P.
- W.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- H.W.R.
- M. Books.

Hd. of M.(11) and pass to:- War Office (Capt. Jones, A.A.4. (and Air Ministry (F.O.6 and Sigs. S. & P.) and Air Ministry to pass to H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C., H.Q.F.C., by safe hand.

- S.P.02291K.
- S.P. 02292K.
- S.P. 02293K.
- S.P. 02294K.
- S.P. 02295K.
- S.P. 02296K.
- S.P. 02297K.

} Key Memorandum.

DATE:- 19.9.41.

432

FROM:- War Registry

A Message Home and Abroad Most Secret

1811A/18 is number 563A.

for H.W.R.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.QD. (F)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.N.I.
D.S.D.
D. of P.
N.I.D.10.
D.D.I.C.
Duty Captain
I.P.
W.D.
D.N.A.D.
H.W.R.
M. Books
Hd. of M.

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Russian Co-operation.

Russian
S/M
operations.

S.B.N.O. Murmansk 2217C/18, 2219C/18. See Operations Volume.

Movements.

Home
Fleet.

Visibility improved cancel my 2236A/17.
(C. in C. H.F., 0542A/18).

CANTON.

My 0930A/16/9 CANTON delayed and will not sail from Clyde until 7/10 approx.
(S.O.W.P., 1030A/18 to Admty).

BURRA.

Intend sailing A/S Tr. BURRA as additional escort convoy O.3.7 on 22/9 for Freetown in accordance A.M. 1402/15/5 for onward routing to Mediterranean via the Cape breaking off to coal at Fayal and at Bathurst if necessary. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1258/18 to Admty).

TIGRIS.

Rendezvous as previously arranged. Your escort will be motor patrol boats or STHORM class destroyers depending on weather conditions. Admty pass to H.M.S. TIGRIS in S.P. 02319 (23)
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1851C/18).

ETHIOPIAN
WALLFLOWER
NIGELLA.

WALLFLOWER and NIGELLA are to arrive Oban A.M./27
2. N.O.I.C. Oban is to sail ETHIOPIAN escorted by WALLFLOWER, NIGELLA to Freetown when ready.
3. Route will be signalled.
4. Arrangements will be made for fuelling at Ponta Delgada (C. in C. W.A. 1932A/18)

Operations.

TRIDENT.

My 1903A/17. ^{N.T.N.W.D} This information is for Russian staff and/or S/M crews. Not for general publication. (D.D.I.C., 0013A/18 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

E-boat.

Possible indication of E-boat vicinity of 54. G buoy at 0030. (C. in C. Nore, 0103A/18 to Ships on E.coast convoy duties).

/M.T.Bs.....

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.M.T.Bs.
55 and 70
damaged.

M.T.Bs. 55 and 70 and 218 were despatched at 0415 to attack convoy plotted leaving Boulogne North Eastward at 0330. M.G.Bs. 8 and 10 were sailed in support. At about 0510 just before making contact with the enemy M.T.B's 55 and 70 collided and whole force had to retire. All vessels now returned safely. Both M.T.Bs seriously damaged. (V.A. Dover, 0715A/18).
My 0715A/18. Enemy ship with escorts which passed through Dover Strait to-day proceeded between the Outer Ruytingen and Le Dyck, through the Ruytingen Pass and outside the Inner Ruytingen. These vessels were attacked and damaged by aircraft west of Knocke about 1020. Proposals for mining the channel between the Ruytingen and Dyck Banks are being forwarded. (V.A. Dover, 1317A/18 to Admty, C. in C. Nore).

73rd A/S
group.

Your 1931A/16. Anticipate that endurance of 73rd A/S group will be improved on return passage by better bunkering and two days deck cargo, so that it may be possible for them to reach Scapa without coaling. Endurance 17 days at 8½ knots is hoped. Admiralty pass to S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (ELECTRA, 1243C/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

M.T.B.
Patrol.

Following received from BEEHIVE. Your 1422/17. Nothing to report.
(C. in C. Nore, 1244A/18 to Admty).

German
Units.

2 German transports and one cruiser observed 1230 hours at Helsingborg going North.
(Goteborg, 1300/18 to Admty).
Following reports received:-
(A) Visual long cruiser like ship 25 to 30 miles from Saxa Vord at 1600/18.
(B) R.D.F. contact bearing 289° 23 miles from Saxa Vord course 240° at 1755/18.
(2) Two destroyers are to proceed with all despatch to intercept enemy to Westward of N Rona Faeroes minefield.
(3) Four destroyers are to patrol between Orkneys and Sule Skerry in view of possibility of minelaying
(4) Remaining destroyers keep steam at 15 minutes notice. (C. in C. H.F., 1940A/18 to R.A.D.)
My 1940/18. Proceed when ready to westwards pending further information. Keep area A W/T organisation. (C. in C. H.F., 1944A/18 to LONDON)
Cancelled, see 2239A/18. (next page)

/A.E.S.....

War Diary

18.9.1941.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

German Units
-Contd.

A.E.S. Saxa-Vord reports (A) visual sighting long Cruiser-like ship 25 to 30 miles at 1600/18 (b) R.D.F. contact bearing 289° 23 miles, from Saxa-Ford course 240° at 1755/18. Aircraft are investigating. (A.C.O.S. 2024/18 to Admty.) My 1940/18. Aircraft now reports two merchant vessels (800 tons) in 60.50 N., 01.25 W., at 1930/18. Course 210° speed 5 knots.
(2) Two destroyers are to investigate these ships, remaining destroyers return to harbour.
(3) My 1944/18 is cancelled.
(C. in C., H.F. 2239A/18)
C. in C. H.F. 2239A/18. MATABELE, PUNJABI proceed to investigate. Remainder return to harbour.
(R.A.D. 2310A/18 to MATABELE, PUNJABI, ASHANTI, IMPULSIVE, VIVACIOUS.)

Nore
Patrols.

Patrol tonight. 3 M.L's. 3 M.G's. proceeding to eastwards from Aldeburgh Buoy at 1945 returning daylight. 3 M.T.B's return Eriboll from Eastwards, at daylight. (C. in C. Nore, 1447A/18 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

KINGSTON
BERYL

Your 0255A/18 ^{N.T. in W.D.} immediately weather clears proceed with all despatch. If not met Port Patrick R/V proceed to R/V Altacarr 8 miles. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0555A/18 to KINGSTON BERYL)

TETELA
(E/B attack
17/9).

My 0440A/17 and 0750A/17. SABINE returned Immingham at 0850/18. United Towing Co's tug IRISHMAN remaining in attendance on TETELA. (F.O. Humber, 1929A/18)

British Air Activity

Attack on F/W
by MAPLIN
A/C, 14/9.

Hurricane W. 9215 Pilot Sub.Lt.(A) C. Walker R.N.V.R. catapulted from MAPLIN 1200/14 app.100 miles S.W. of Ireland. Attacks delivered on Focke Wolfe from ahead astern, and abeam over a period of about one hour. Enemy A/C eventually jettisoned bombs from above cloud and left Convoy. Pilot abandoned A/C by parachute when petrol exhausted. Picked up by ROCHESTER, L.F. Wilson, Lieut. R.N. (804 Sqdn. Sydenham, 1009A/18 to Admty.)

/Recognition....

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. - Contd.

Recognition
Signalling.

Your 1804A/16. U.S. aircraft now in Iceland have been supplied with British pyrotechnic cartridges and pistols.
(A.C.I.C., 1337/18 to Admt).

Patrols.

"Stab", "Bert", "Hornli", in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1406/18 to C. in C. H.F. etc).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
F.N.520.

500 ft

1 A/C Shadowing me approx. course 050° my position 54.00 N., 00.12 E. (WESTMINSTER, 1335/18).
My 1335. Junkers 88 at 50 feet engaged with 4 inch and thought to have hit water. Am investigating. (WESTMINSTER, 1345/18).
My 1345. Aircraft apparently sunk, can find no trace of wreckage in approx. position. (WESTMINSTER, 1415/18).
Request fighters may be sent to assistance of convoy "Prize" (F.N.520). (VORTIGERN, 1947/18).
Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Prize" my position 54.14 N., 00.48 W. (WESTMINSTER, 2003/18).
My 2003, several bombs, no hits except S.S. LEIKANGER who has U.X.B. on deck. (WESTMINSTER, 2015/18).
Fighters have been sent to assistance of convoy "Prize". (Rosyth, 2017/18).

Incendiary
discs.

Re. incendiary discs washed up on Cromer Beach.
(F.O. Humber, 2115A/18 to F.O. Yarmouth).

Mining.

Operation
H.F.

Arrived 0720 MANXMAN. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0737A/18)

Operation
Q.L. 2.

My 1508A/15. Carry out operation Q.L. (2) tonight Thursday. (C. in C. Nore, 0944A/18 to BEEHIVE).

/Mine.....

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.- Contd.Mine
Warning.

0850 G.M.T. to all stations. Mine warning. Yesterday 1700 G.M.T. a horn mine (?mine) observed 6 dist. minutes S.W. Morups Taonge light. (Cullercoats Radio, 0950/18 to Adm. Rosyth).

Operation
N.L.25.
N.L.24.

Intend to carry out tonight 18/9 operation N.L. 25 from position 50° 57' 36" N., 01° 37' 12" E. If conditions permit. Alternatively operation will be N.L.24 from position 51° 01' 48" N., 01° 56' 12" E. (V.A. Dover, 1145A/18 to Admty).

Mine-Watching
Clyde.

Following received after two tugs had been sunk by mine in Clyde. "Admiralty from F.O.I.C. Glasgow. This regrettable incident draws attention to paramount importance of accurate mine-watching. I am informed by the Scottish Command that Home Guard who are at present carrying out this duty with zeal are to be withdrawn on 1/10. It is understood that naval ratings will be sent to the Clyde by Admty., as and when available. Urged that strongest representation be made to retain the services of Home Guard until naval ratings are sufficient in number and adequately trained to give a reasonable measure of security. 1254A/10. " Very much appreciated if above could be arranged or that a proportion could remain until training of naval ratings is completed, as a great deal of importance is attached to this organisation. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1356A/18 to W.O. G.O.C. Home Forces.)

Mines,
Thames
Estuary.

Enemy air activity over Thames Estuary during night 17/18 was confined to first half of the middle watch. Following evidence of enemy minelaying (details). (S.O.T.L.D.F., 1429/18 to C. in C. Nore).

9th M.S.F.

^{N.T. & W.D.}
Your 1235/18. (requesting information of 9th M.S.F.) Following ships of 9th M.S.F. will arrive Portland this evening. BANGOR, BRIDLINGTON, BUDE, BLACKPOOL. All available ships of 9th M.S.F. are at present employed sweeping W.P. and P.W. convoys. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1813A/18 to M.S.9 in SIDMOUTH).

BORDE.

Your 1144A/11. Request you will sail BORDE to Bristol Channel as convenient. On arrival she will operate under orders of F.O.I.C. Cardiff. (D.M.S., 1839A/18 to C. in C. Nore).

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German
Ships.

At Helsingborg. (Goteborg, 1300/18) See Operations.

Norwegian
Coast.

Ship movements. (N.A. Stockholm, 1925/18).
Disposition of M.Vs. (A.N.A., Stockholm 2137/18)
See Lion Copy.

Navigation.

Wreck.
Sheringham.

Wreck located 247° Sheringham buoy 1.4 miles.
Staff with red flag lashed to mast and dan Buoy
with blue flag moored alongside.
(F.O. Humber, 1510A/18).
Request report whether this is an additional
wreck or whether wreck of BIRTLEY has moved to
this position. (C. in C. Nore, 2112A/18 to
F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

Casualties & Defects.

TEDDINGTON
aground.

TEDDINGTON now ashore position 080° 4,800 yards
from Cromer Pier shore end. Vessel gutted out
from stern to forward of engine room and fire
still raging, No. 3 hold amidships. Have requested
Admty Salvage Dept. to send small coaster in
readiness if fire put out. FORDE now alongside
and mail bags have been salvaged into Trawler
CHARLES DORAN. Master and 12 men now assisting
on board. Request crew now Yarmouth wait further
orders. Cannot state if possible salvage wreck at
present. Request air protection, position very
exposed. Vessel is foul of boom defence making
approach to wreck difficult. (F.O. Humber, 0927A/
18 F.O. Gt. Yarmouth 1545A/18, 1547A/18, 1605A/18
1729A/18 1759A/18 to Admty).

MOOSEJAW.

N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1225/17. MOOSEJAW can be taken
in hand by Fairfield, Govan, for damage repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1146A/18)

KIRKPOOL.

O.N.16. KIRKPOOL returned with holed bow having
been in collision. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1236A/18).
My 1142A/17 re KIRKPOOL in collision. No other
ship in convoy being in collision and no sign of
any damage. At 0600A/17 in position 299° Butt
of Lewis 118 miles strong smell of oil fuel as
from torpedoed tanker. Wind force 1 South. D.6
informed about oil fuel. Fresh wreckage also
seen. O.N.16 4 hours late on 2000/17 situation.
(S.O. 8th Escort Group, 1742/18 to Admty).

438A

SECRET

MESSAGE .. 1925/18. Sept. IN

From N.A. Stockholm.

Date. 19.9.41.

TC
TV

INTER DEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (I.T.T.) (BY CABLE).
Recd. 0905.

Addressed Admiralty.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

Following are ship movements on Norwegian coast

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Left.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Destination.</u>
DIONE	Olesund	Sept. 16th	Mossjoenn, Bodo.
FELIX	Bergen	Sept. 16th	Rotterdam.
GUDRID	Finneid	Sept. 12th	Stettin
HALLINGDAL	Bergen	Sept. 15th	Hamburg or Antwerp.
X? HEDVIG I			
X HEDVIG II	Bergen	Sept. 15th	
German HEKTOR	Kiel	Sept. 15th	Bergen
HERTHA	Kristiansand	Sept. 15th	
NORW. German ARNA	(? Rotterdam)	Sept. 14th	Horten
BYGDOY	Kiel	Sept. 15th	Horten
GRANA	Bergen	Sept. 15th	Unknown.
INGERSEKS	Malmo	Sept. 15th	Rotterdam.
KAPRINO	Brunsbittel	Sept. 11th	Rotterdam
KARMA	Sandefjord	Sept. 15th	North Norway.
KIS	Bergen	Sept. 15th	North Norway.
KLOVEREN	Fagererstrand	Sept. 13th	Stamsund and Harstad (carrying 500 tons Solar oil).
LISTD	Larvik	Sept. 15th	Sandnessjoen. and Narvik.
LOVAAS	Rorvik	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
MIMONA	Honnuag	Sept. 13th	Kirkenes.
NERVA	Finneid	Sept. 14th	Stettin.
RYGJA	Bergen	Sept. 15th	Hommelvik.
SARPFOSSE BODO	Bodo	Sept. 15th	Drag.
SAMEV	Harstad	Sept. 12th	North Norway.
STANDARD	Kristiansand	Sept. 15th	Stavanger, Sandnes and Bergen.
TAIWAN	Alessund	Sept. 16th	Loping and Tromso.
TOPEKA	Herfol	Sept. 15th	Unknown.
TERFIRE TORAFIRE	Fredrikstad	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
KNUTENELSON	Oslo	Sept. 16th	Rotterdam.
GRAZIELLA	Kiel	Sept. 15th	Horten.
HAFNIA	Harstad	Sept. 15th	North Norway.
* TEUROSING	Drammen	Sept. 17th	Oslo.
TORRIDAL	Bergen	Sept. 15th	Unknown.
VORMA	Rotterdam	Sept. 15th	Horten.
TUGELA	Petsamo	Sept. 17th	Kirkenes.

* ?TOURCOING.

/VILMA....

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Left.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Destination.</u>
VILMA	Alesund	Sept. 12th	Bronnoysund
VIM	Kristiansand	Sept. 15th	Unknown.
WILLIAM BLUMER	Herfol	Sept. 15th	Odda.

A two repeat A two.

(2). Full details of cargo and ports of departure
by bag. 1925/18.

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

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

C

A3878

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2137/13th September.
IN.

From. Assistant N.A.
Stockholm.

Date. 19. 9. 41.

Recd. 0845.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CYPHER ONE TIME TABLE BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

Reference my 1925/18th.

Following is disposition of M/Vs on Norwegian
Coast.

Name.	Port	Date	Destination.
ALMORA	Bergen	Sept. 13th	Trondhjem
ANNASOFIE	Stavanger	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
BERA	Trondhjem	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
BIRK	Christiansand	Sept. 14th	Haugesund.
BJONN	Narvik	Sept. 14th	Unknown.
BERGA N.T.	Stavanger	Sept. 12th	Unknown.
ELSMARIE	Frederikstad	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
ERLINGLINDO	Larvik	Sept. 10th	Unknown.
EROS	Talvik	Sept. 10th	Unknown.
FERNDAL	Tromso	Aug. 23th	Narvik
FINJE N.T.	Sandefjord	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
FULTON	Sandnes	Sept. 16th	Vignes
FJELD	Trondhjem	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
(? REGINA)	Bergen	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
HAARFAGRE	Bergen	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
HALSE	Tromso	Sept. 1st	Unknown.
HAUKEFJELD	Narvik	Sept. 15th	Ballangen and Germany.
HAVBRIS	Tromso	Sept. 14th	Unknown.
HEILO	Bergen	Sept. 13th	Unknown.
HARFINN N.T.	Tromso	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
KAUPANGER	Tromso	Sept. 16th	Aalesund and Petsamo.
KARROY N.T.	Aukra	Sept. 6th	Unknown.
KORSNES	Christiansand	Sept. 16th	Denmark.
KRON PRINS OLAV	Kirkenes	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
(? STAVANGER) I	Hamburg	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
LYSAKER	Stettin	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
MAURITA	Bergen	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
MITRA	Trondhjem	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
MOLLA	Thamshavn	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
P G HALVORSEN	Trondhjem	Sept. 4th	Unknown.
RINGAR	Sandefjord	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
RENA	Stavanger	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
SOLVIKEN	Sauda	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
STANJA	Sarpsborg	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
STEN	Trondhjem	Sept. 13th	Unknown.
STENSAAS	Trondhjem	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
STORFJELD N.T.	Oslo	Sept. 16th	Petsamo and Kirkenes (to leave Sept. 17th)
SVANEFJELD	Trondhjem	Sept. 13th	Unknown.

SVELDEN.....

438^D

- 2 -

Name	Port	Date	Destination.
SVELDEN N.T.	Drammen	Aug. 19th.	Unknown.
TAMPA	Oslo	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
TENTO	Trondjem	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
THEMIS	Fredrikstad	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
TORAFIRE	Fredrikstad	Sept. 13th	Unknown.
TRANSPORT	Oslo	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
TRIANON	Harstad	Sept. 15th	Unknown.
TRONDJHEM SFJORD	Rotterdam	Sept. 11th	Horten
TYRIFJORD	Stavanger	Sept. 9th	Unknown.
ULA	Oslo	Sept. 16th	Unknown.
VALOR	Hambukt	Sept. 5th	Balangen and Germany.
VESLA	Sorreis	Sept. 12th	Balangen and Germany.
VESTRA	Lubeck	Sept. 15th	Svolvær.

(2) Other details by bag.

A 2 (repeat A 2)

2137/13.

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

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

EC.

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.12

Amendments to composition and embarkation programme. (D.S.T., 0142A/18 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland).

In addition to destroyer escort required for D.S.12 B you are requested to detail 2 destroyers for convoy duty with W.S.12 (date).

If BRIGHTON can be made available by this date she also will be required. (A.C.N.S. (H)1930A/18 to R.A.(M)).

DURBAN
CASTLE.

Is due Liverpool 21/9. Personnel on board, R.N.238, Army 456, M.M. 207, R.A.F. 100. King of Greece and Suite, and Adm. Leatham, late C. in C. E..I., also on board. Cargo. Further signal will be sent as to her future service. Request report sea speed vessel will be able to maintain when ready to sail U.K. (D.S.T., 0143A/18 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

PRINCE
DAVID.

Forced to heave to 2300Z/17. Convoy proceeded towards rendezvous. PRINCE DAVID now proceeding Halifax. (PRINCE DAVID, 1130Z/18).

H.X.148.

Congratulations on bringing in your convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1710A/18 to Rear Adm. O.H. Dawson). Arrived except one ship sunk in collision. 34 British, 1 neutral, 12 allied ships. (D.S. 746, 20/9).

H.G.72.

Congratulations on bringing all ships safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1751A/18 to Commodore Gill R.N.R.) 17 ships including 3 neutral and 2 allied. Cargoes. (D.S., 743, 17/9).

Use of
Loch Ewe.

East Coast portion of H.X. and S.C. Convoys should normally proceed to L. Ewe whether they arrive North or south of the Minches. (D.T.D., 1810A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.French
Convoys.Passing Gibraltar 16/9, 17/9.
(D.O.R., 18/9.)CLYDE.

Admty. 1813A/27, intend to sail CLYDE for Freetown p.m./22 spending two days in Canary Islands area. CLYDE will pass through 020° 47' N. 019° 00' W. at 1200A/28 S. of A. 13 knots request you arrange onward route. It would be appreciated if accommodation for CLYDE could be arranged in EDINBURGH CASTLE or ashore. CLYDE is painted light grey.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0910A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

French
Ships.

Passings 17/9 French westward BRESTOIS full OUED TIFLET in ballast.
(V.A.C.N.A., 0919A/18 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

GERMANIA
(German)

Your 1137/17, cargo of petrol was discharged to local refinery.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 1133/18 to S.O.I. Gib.)

PORTSEA
aground.

Depth of water at San Juan de Aznalfarache steadily falling. PORTSEA drawing 13 feet has been aground since 11/9 and will probably not float before 23/9.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1511/18 to Admty.)

German
Ships.

Following German ships expected to be in Sagunto Area en route Genoa with Ore at approx. same time within next 48 hours. (1) OTTO LEONHARDT (2) ELISABETH HENRIK FISSER.
(D.N.I., 1724A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SPRINGBANK,
A/C attack
on F/W.

SPRINGBANK catapulted Fulmar 1400/18 to attack Focke Wolfe approaching H.G.73 in 035° 57' N. 008° 30' W. A/C landed Gibraltar at 1600. Fulmar fired one gun continuously, remainder jammed after firing short burst at 150 yards. Enemy A/C took evasive action and jettisoned bombs. Failure of guns being investigated.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1822A/18 to Admty.)

A/C for
Gibraltar.

Three long-range Hudsons of 233 Sqn. required to leave St. Eval for Gibraltar p.m./20/9. 200 Group's A 170 of 17/9 to H.Q.C.C. only refers. My ASD/102 of 5/9 and ASD/108 of 16/9 repeated to Admty. refer.
(H.Q.C.C., 1830/18 to 19 Group.)

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- C.M.19. Your 1743/16, no objection to use of EASTERN PRINCE for C.M.19. (D.S.T., 0139A/18 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)
- REPULSE. Departure 1555/18 REPULSE, ocean escort W.S.11. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0301N/18.)
W.S.11.
- BULOLO. Proceed to arrive Simonstown in accordance with my 1055/7 unless within 400 miles when proceed direct. (C. in C. S.A., 0607N/18 to BULOLO.)
- Force F. On completion of fuelling proceed to patrol in (DORSETSHIRE (?K) 35 A and B with particular reference to calm area shown on chart 7 189 until necessary to return St. Helena for fuel. (EAGLE.) (C. in C. S.A., 0609N/18 to S.O. Force F.) See 2015/18. *See next page -*
- TYNDAREUS. Overdue shipping. Cancel my ^{* p. 413} 1205/17 TYNDAREUS arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1015B/18.)
- ~~SIN~~ DALHEM Overdue shipping. Swedish ^{DALHEM.} ~~SIN~~ due Capetown 13th from Trinidad not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, *1041B/18 to Admty.)
See p. 491
**Cancelled see p. 491*
- Vichy Convoy. B.A.D. Washington 1751/10 (1757/10 intended ?) Report A.1. that Convoy consisting of 3 merchant ships from Saigon is E.T.A. Madagascar on 25/9. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1123/18 to Admty., etc.)
- Suspicious W/T. At ? 0035Z/15 Simonstown W/T read call G 2 U from N N 5 break P. This was repeated several times until 0851. It was made on all waves but nothing else was received. Investigation proves these calls were not made by PRETORIA CASTLE. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1136B/18 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

/SOBIESKY.....

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.SOBIESKI,
DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD.

S.S.T.O. Freetown 2157/15. Request you will sail SOBIESKI, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, and A.M.C. escort to arrive in approx. 49° N. (date) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for inward A/S escort amending R/V as necessary. (D.O.D.(F) 1257A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

WILDWOOD.

Have you any news of American WILDWOOD from Lisbon due 12/9 ? (D.T.D., 1357A/18 to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

ALCANTARA.
CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Your 2025N/11. Concur. Request CARNARVON CASTLE on leaving Tristan da Cunha may adjust speed so as to arrive anchorage F O at daylight 7/10. (R.A.S.A.D., 1501Z/18 to C. in C. S.A., N.O.i/c Simonstown, CARNARVON CASTLE.)

NESTOR.

Admty. 1824/17. NESTOR is to leave Freetown at 1600/19 and proceed to Gibraltar at S. of A. 15 knots. (route) to Gibraltar, to be adjusted to arrive 12 noon 25/9. (C. in C. S.A., 1631N/18 to NESTOR.)

DORSETSHIRE.

Admty. 1532/20/6. DORSETSHIRE is to join South Atlantic Station instead of LONDON, to be employed as required by C. in C. S.A. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1942A/18 to C's in C.)

Force F.

St. Helena departures EAGLE, DORSETSHIRE, 1900/18 on operations. (General, St. Helena, 2015/18 to Admty., etc.)

*See previous page*Corvettes.

Policy re employment. (C. in C. S.A., 2057N/18, 2316N/18 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Cruisers.

A.C.N.S.(F) 2311A/18. See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET

SA
442B

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 2316N/18th September IN

From. C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 19.9.41
Time 2347.

Naval Code (X) by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty repeated C. in C. Western Approaches.

311. My ⁴2053N/18 should be prefixed 'Your
1835/17/9.

2316^N/18
~~2313N/18.~~

4 ? 2057/18 intended re transfer of
Corvettes and formation of new
3rd M.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)
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.D.I.C.
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Capt. (2)
Hd. of M.
E.P.S.
N.I.D.10.

Zion

f.

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.PROTEUS. E.T.A. 009° E. 2000/18. Request onward route. (PROTEUS, 0025B/18 to V.A. Malta.)PROTEUS,
UNIQUE,
UTMOST. Following positions established (F) 036° 07' 014° 16' (G) 036° 30' 013° 30' (H) 037° 15' 012° 55' (J) 038° 00' 011° 40'. Adjust speed to make passage (J) to (H) submerged during daylight 20/9 thence through (G) and (F) and via searched channel to arrive Marsaxlokk (Marsa Scirocco) 0700B/22. Anticipate UNIQUE arrives (J) from N.E. 0530B/18 proceeding (H) same day. UTMOST leave (F) 1830B/18 direct for (H) proceed (J) during daylight/19 and thence N.E. at about 2000B same day. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0238B/18 to PROTEUS.)Service Personnel.

Up to 150 Army personnel of whom not more than 60 officers and 150 R.A.F. personnel may be carried in unescorted ships. Further signal will be made imposing limitation on number of R.A.F. who may be air crews. This at present 25. Agreed Air Ministry and Sea Transport. (W.O., 0250/18 to C. in C. M.E.)

Enemy Ships.

2 Merchant ships damaged in 033° 01' 014° 51'. (UPHOLDER, 0419B/18 to V.A. Malta.)

TRIUMPH, Adriatic.

TRIUMPH assumes everything floating in Adriatic is fair game. If this is not so, please inform him. Recent information re route of Bauxite traffic would assist. (Capt. S.10., 0955B/18 to Capt. S.1.)

Alexandria air raid.

2230 to 2350/17. 6 planes attacked Aboukir using flares. Civilian casualties only. 3 fighters, no interception. (R.A. Alexandria, 1015B/18 to Admty., H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1156/18 to Air Min.)

PHOEBE.

Your 0909C/15. Permanent repairs to PHOEBE are considered beyond Durban's capacity. Repair yard will be signalled as soon as known. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1053A/18 to C. in C. Med.)

/SHOREHAM.....

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.SHOREHAM,
FALMOUTH.

Your 0758Z/9. Request SHOREHAM and FALMOUTH may be placed under the orders of C.S.15 on arrival in northern part of Red Sea about 1/10. C.S.15 is in charge of protection of shipping in Gulf of Suez having NAIAD, GALATEA, COVENTRY, CARLISLE, FLAMINGO, PARRAMATTA at present under his orders. 2 Hunts will be under his orders on arrival.
(C. in C. Med., 1118B/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

Benghazi
bombed.
Bardia
bombed.

Night 16/17, 5 Wellingtons bombed shipping and harbour installations Benghazi.
Day 17/9, 9 Marylands bombed stores dumps at Bardia starting 4 large fires.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1153/18.)

C.M.18.

Convoy C.M.18 arrived 0900Z/18.
(N.C.S.O. Suez, 1257/18.)

GLENROY,
CLAN FORBES,
Port W.

C. in C. China 0351/13. Intend to sail GLENROY and CLAN FORBES on 20/9, loaded with personnel and stores indicated in my 1325/11. Request you will arrange storage of equipment and accommodation of personnel for Port W. until port is ready to receive them.
(C. in C. Med., 1332B/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

Beirut
Cable.

Your 1911C/31/7, and Admty. 1716/28/8 (N.T. in W.D.) Has Gen. Catroux been consulted about the cutting of cable, if so what were his reactions? If not, delay this consultation pending further instructions which will reach you. Cable should not be cut till instructions received.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1623A/18 to C. in C. Med.)

2 schooners
sunk.

17/9. 4 Blenheims on Shipping Sweep attacked M/V 1000 tons, Tug, and 2 laden Schooners 800 tons near Cduara (my 1130, 17/9, Blenheims to attack ships southbound E. of Zarzis.) 4 x 500 lb. bombs hit 1 schooner. Mass of flames, crew 25 all jumped into sea, ship still burning when aircraft far away, claimed total loss. Second schooner hit and blew up with aircraft whose bombs hit it. Opposition heavy, M/G. fire from 1 schooner. 2 aircraft returned.

/1 aircraft.....

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.2 Schooners
sunk - Contd.
Tripoli
bombed
and mined.

1 aircraft blown up with the explosion of schooner, the other shot down into sea by M/G. fire. Night 17/18, 5 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli 2 mines dropped in Harbour bombs dropped 11,750 lbs. Hits on Native Quarter centre and southern part of town and vicinity of power house no fire or explosion seen. Opposition less than usual, all aircraft returned, weather very bad.

5 Swordfish attacked Convoy sighted by R/C Swordfish off West Sicily. Attacked at 0145 hours off Trapani, 3 torpedoes dropped 1 explosion seen, possible hit 1 M/V 6000 tons, dense smoke screen obscured observation results. A.A. from Convoy and shore batteries. All returned. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1630/18.)

Italian
Unit.

From D/F bearings Italian Warship Call Sign 4 A.Q. was in 033° 00' N. 014° 30' E., at 1100 G.M.T./18 going Eastwards. Other bearings indicate considerable activity off the Triotanian (? Tripolitanian) Coast. (C.O.S. Alexandria, 1632B/18 to V.A. Malta.)

ST. BRIEUC.
(French)

Arrived 17/9.
(Barcelona, 1846/18.)

L. S/M's.
Concerted ops.
N.E. of Tripoli.

Congratulations. Return to Malta forthwith making E.T.A. when safe to do so. Any lone merchant ship encountered within 50 miles Malta is not to be molested. (Capt. S.10, 2140B/18 to UPHOLDER, UPRIGHT, etc.)

See p. 429.

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.HOHENFELS.
(German.)

My 1252/17⁴¹⁷. Request action be postponed for a few days. KANIMBLA hopes to be able to float the ship.
(C. in C.E.I., 0516Z/18, to Admty.)

SYGNA.

Your 1951/16 arrived 15/9. Delay due to engine trouble, see S.O.(1) Colombo 0740/16.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 1024Z/18, to Adty.)

CARTHAGE.

Sailed in accordance with C. in C.E.I., 0742Z/17.
(N.T. in W.D.) N.O.I.C. Mauritius pass to Rodriguez.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1152Z/18, to C. in C.E.I.)

Tugs.

My 1412/6. Request immediate steps may be taken to increase the number of tugs on East Indies Station. Details.
(C. in C.E.I., 1352Z/18, to Admty.)

Bandar Gulf.
Bandar Caspian.

Bandar Shahpur and Bandar Shah are to be known for all British Official purposes as Bandar Gulf and Bandar Caspian.
(Head of M. 1747A/18 to C. in C.E.I.)

Supplies for
Jibuti.

Aden reports supplies are reported to be reaching Jibuti in substantial quantities across land Frontier from Assab etc., and occupied enemy territory. Administration are anxious encourage dhow traffic with Assab. Ends.
2. I have no other evidence of leakages but encouragement of dhow traffic with Assab would seem to conflict with policy of stricter blockade.
3. Unless there are reasons of which I am not aware, it is not desirable to encourage traffic at present.
(C. in C.M.E. 2250/18.)

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Dutch Forces. My 0327C/29/6. Can proposed system now be accepted as in force between British and Dutch Forces? Dutch Naval C. in C. is assuming this is so pending final British U.S.A. Dutch agreement.
(C. in C. China, 0809Z/18, to Admty.)

China. Re question of supplies for China, at forthcoming Conference.
(30 M.M. Moscow, 1309/18, to W.O.)

CAP DES PALMES. Admty., 1744A/17. French Ship CAP DES PALMES will reach Panama Canal in company with F.F.S.CHEVREUIL on 22/9 thereafter proceeding to Tahiti with Free French personnel. 2. CAP DES PALMES will subsequently return to U.S.A., to be fitted as an A.M.C. for service in Pacific under Free French.
3. F.F.S.LE TRIOMPHANT is requested to inform Free French High Commissioner.
(D.O.D.(F) 1711A/18 to C. in C. China.)

KINDIA. Departure for Yokohama.
(French.) (Shanghai 2350Z/18.)

America & West Indies.

LIVERPOOL. Your 1530A/31. As ORION has only a reduced complement on board it will not be possible to complete LIVERPOOL from her except as regards officers. Is it acceptable for LIVERPOOL to sail with a reduced complement? Only alternative is to draw on WARSPITE or MANCHESTER. Number available in latter is not known and men are required from her for guard in CATLIN at Philadelphia (my 1328R/9) and for 4 fast merchant vessels being manned.
(B.A.R.M. 0850R/18, to Admty.)

/S.C.46.....

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.S.C.46,
S.C.45.BURWELL defective but will be ready to escort S.C.46. PICTOU will replace BURWELL as escort S.C.45. O.P.N.A.V. pass to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.)
(C.C.N.F., 1219Z/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)GVAS II,
damaged while
leaving slip.My 1523/29/8. GVAS II was refloated on 16/9 and towed to Yard. Damage underwater is confined to area abreast boiler room but ship is not leaking. Docking will be carried out at first opportunity.
(Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 1231Q/18 to Admty.)QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.C. in C. A. & W.I. 1732Q/17. If necessary fuel St. Johns, N.F.
(C.C.N.F., 1314Z/18 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)S/M's in
U.S.A.Your 1206/17 approved.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1609A/18 to B.A.R.M.)
B.A.R.M. 1206R/17, para.2. Request confirmation that one of these submarines will be required for A/S training at St. Johns, N.F. Minutes of 17th meeting of Battle of Atlantic Committee refers. If confirmed, request B.A.R.M. may be so informed and that spare gear for one submarine only will be required in U.K.
(F.O.(S) 1807A/18 to Admty.)MEROPE.(French Tanker) Arrived Vera Cruz.
(Tampico, 1616/18.)Escorts,
H.X.151,
H.X.150.
O.N.18.U.S. Ocean Escorts for H.X.151 DECATUR, KEARNEY, LEARY, BABBITT, LIVERMORE; H.X.150, ERICSSON, DALLAS, UPSHUR, ELLIS, EBERLE. O.N.18, HUGHES, LANSDALE, MADISON, SIMPSON, ?ANT, GLEAVES, from "Cinclant".
(Opnav, 1710/18 to Admty.) *see also next page.*LE
TRIOMPHANT.Your 0953Q/17. Anticipate F.F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT will be in vicinity of Tahiti from 21/9 till 7/10.
(D.O.D.(F) 1729A/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/RESOLUTION.....

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.RESOLUTION.

Admty. 1905A/3. Instructions for passage to U.K.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1910A/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.,
C. in C. W.A.) See Operational Pages. Vol. 15/9-p.258

Catalinas.

Reply to Admty. 1131A/7.
(Govt. of Canada 1954/18.)
See Lion Copy.

H.X.150.
O.N.18.
H.X.151.
S.C.45.
S.C.46.

Ocean escorts H.X.150, ERICSSON, DALLAS, UPSHUR, ELLIS, EBERLE; O.N.18 HUGHES, LANSDALE, MADISON, SIMPSON, GLEAVES; H.X.151 DECATUR, KEARNEY, LEARY, BABBITT, LIVERMORE; S.C.45 ST. LAURENT, *BURWELL, BITTERSWEET, COLLINGWOOD, CHILLIWACK, SPIKENARD, DIANTHUS, SNOWBERRY; S.C.46 OTTAWA, RAMSLEY, BROADWAY, POLYANTHUS, COBALT, BUCTOUCHE, GALT, *PICTOU, RIMOUSKI.
(Opnav, 2045/18 to Admty.) *See previous page*
** See p.448.*

S.C.
Convoys.

Re escorts and routes, policy. Admty. 1638/12 and C.N.S. Ottawa 1403Z/13.
(1st S.L., 2141A/18 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)
See Lion Copy.
Reply of C.N.S. Canada, 1407A/22.

BADALONA.

Gibraltar's 1511/6/8. Spanish BADALONA which sailed from Gibraltar 6/8 for Port Arthur has not arrived.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2128Z/18 to Admty. etc.)
See 1316/20.

Task Force
3.

MILWAUKEE, WARRINGTON, due Recife 20/9 from direction Cape Verde. OMAHA, SOMERS, due Recife 23/9 from St. Thomas. MEMPHIS, DAVIS, in St. Thomas until 20/9.
(Opnav, 2357/18.)

MOST SECRET

449A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: The Government of
Canada.

1954 / 18th September.

Date: 19.9.41.
Recd: 0450.

CYPIER.

ADDRESSED: Dominions Office.

IMMEDIATE.

No.187 Most Secret.

Your telegram No.153 of 6th September Catalina flying boats.

Canadian Government have given very serious consideration to this matter and propose the following arrangement:-

1. Of the fifty Catalina aircraft for delivery to Canada during the balance of 1941 fourteen are required here the balance (36) to be made available for operations in the Western Approaches.

2. If desired and feasible these aircraft be manned by the R.C.A.F. personnel and organised as R.C.A.F. squadrons.

3. Squadrons formed as above should be available for return to Canadian operations should the situation in the opinion of Canadian Chiefs of Staff warrant it.

1954/18.

4 See Admiralty Telegram 1131A/7.
to C.N.S.Ottawa.

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.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C.
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
D.N.A.D.
D.T.D. (2)
D.A/S.W.
E.P.S.
Hd. of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)

Recd by Hand from Dominions
Office at 1600/20.

MOST SECRET

1149B.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

2141A/18 Sopt.

OUT.

To. C.N.S.Ottawa. 959.

Date. 18/9/41.

NAVAL CYPHER D.L.T.T.

From Admiralty. Personal from First Sea Lord.

AIDAC.

My 1638/12 and your 1403Z/13.

We had expected that when Plan 4 came into force we would be able to withdraw all R.N. escort vessels from Newfoundland and use them to augment the escorts in Western Approaches area and also for the Sierra Leone convoys, which are very thinly escorted at present.

2. It came as rather a blow when we heard that the Canadian forces were to provide the escorts for all the S.C. Convoys with the consequential weakening of the groups to six ships in each as given to C.C.N.F.'s 1807Z/9. In view of the relative strength of the forces allocated we had expected the U.S.A. to escort a larger proportion and that the Canadians would have been allocated possibly every other S.C. convoy.

3. Would it be practicable for you to reduce the destroyers and corvettes at present allocated to local duties and thereby increase those immediately available to C.C.N.F. for the S.C. convoys, if possible in sufficient numbers to release all the R.N. ships at present in Newfoundland Force. It is realised that the short-legged destroyers may have to break off early and proceed straight to Iceland. Under these circumstances we would not expect any Canadian corvettes to be allocated to British waters other than those working up at Tobermory as desired by you.

4. I would welcome any help you can give in this way.

5. We will also have to ask you to assist with the T.C. convoys as Western Approaches has been so denuded of long-legged destroyers capable of coming straight across. This will of course reduce the number of destroyers you can put on to S.C. convoys, but we will have to accept that.

2141A/18.

Secretary to first Sea Lord.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

A.C.N.S. (W)

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.

D.T.S.D.

D.G.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

H.I.D. 10 Payr. Cdr. Wilson.

War Diary.18.9.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.PEGASUS.
NEWBURY.

Sighted derelict, presumably Greek steamer PEGASUS, still afloat in 054° 54' N., 030° 32' W., at 0845A/17, but failed to sink it owing to very rough sea. Conducted intensive search 39 miles to leeward. NORTHERN DAWN has 13 survivors including Master all well from one boat. 2nd boat which had contained 16 persons has been sighted overturned with no survivors. LADY ELSA has searched the area in vicinity of NEWBURY Noon to 1330A/17 without success. Am in 055° 28' N., 030° 17' W., and am returning to Londonderry, speed and course 090° 8½ knots, with DIANELLA, MAN-O-WAR, NORTHERN DAWN, LADY ELSA in company, A.M./19.
(ALISMA, 0100A/18 to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C. 42.
(attacked
11/9 etc.)

Commodore Mackenzie proposes to report 1000/20 request reply to Caldervan Gartocharn 207.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1330A/18, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

2128Z/17.

By D/F at 2128Z/17, position of German U-Boat was possibly within 100 miles of 10° 00' N., 34° 00' W. Message was repeated at 2208Z/17. (D.D.I.C. 0616A/18) Your 0616/18, request very early information if any indication is obtained whether this submarine moving North or South.
(C. in C. S.A., 1056N/18 to Admty.)
Reply: Probably southbound. (D.D.I.C., 0142A/19.)

1304.

Enemy Submarine in 58.01N., 14.10 W., when sighted was on surface and observed to dive.
(A/C M., 1304/18 to ? 15 Group.)
Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in position (as 1304). Enemy course is 178° Vis. 2 No. (A/C M., 1330/18.)

18/9.

U.S. DELRIO on arrival Jacksonville reported sighting submarine submerged (outline of hull seen) in Northern part of Windward Passage on 18/9.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1434Z/18, to Admty., etc.)

Estimated dispositions of German U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1529A/18.)

Following has been read: Enemy Submarine in 59.53 N., 10.10 W. (A/C U., 1600/18.)

1650C.

By D/F U-boat in 068° 03' N., 040° 14' E., at 1650C/18. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1744C/18.)

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.T.B.
Operation.

3 M.T.Bs supported by 2 M.G.Bs were despatched from Dover at 2030/18 to intercept several vessels of unknown size plotted leaving Boulogne. M.G.Bs made contact at midnight when opposite Dieppe, and had a brief engagement on opposite courses with several small vessels and their escorts. Visibility was low and touch was lost; the M.T.Bs did not make contact. M.G.B.8 was slightly damaged by gunfire and M.T.B.38 developed engine trouble, but all craft returned to base by 0800 today. There were no casualties.

British Air Operations.

A small force attacked the inner docks at Le Havre last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S.598 escorted by VALOROUS was bombed at 1937 in 53° 46' N., 0° 35' E. CITY OF DURBAN (A.M.C.) was hit by a 500 lb. bomb which did not explode and was removed later. One enemy aircraft was seen to crash into the sea; Air Ministry report that it was shot down by a naval unit.

Convoy E.C.75 was bombed early this afternoon in 52° 55' N., 1° 39' E., by about 8 enemy aircraft. S.S. PRESTATYN ROSE was damaged. Tug KENIA assisted by A/S Tr. GREENFLY got her into Harwich.

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation
Q.L.2.

Two motor launches laid mines last night off the French coast.

Mining of
Thames
Estuary.

There was no enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary last night but several mines detonated in the Estuary during the night and this morning. S.S. BRADGLEN was mined and sunk in 23° 2 miles B Buoy at 1039 today and Fishing boat GLEN ALVA L.O. 15 was sunk off Jenkins Buoy at 0946A.

Milford
Haven
area mined.

A mine laying attack was made in the Milford Haven area last night. Several mines self-detonated after being laid and others were detonated today. Milford Haven was re-opened subject to local restrictions at 1814.

South Atlantic.

Two corvettes from Freetown are to be sailed to join R.A.S.A.D. A force of this size is to be maintained on the east coast of South America as long as a possible threat from submarines exists in that area. (Dutch S.S. MARKEN was reported torpedoed and sunk in 1° 36' N., 36° 55' W., at 1753 zone time on 10/9 by a S/M)

Panamanian S.S. STANVAC^{MANILA sep 465} reports that at 1130/14 in 4° 21' S., 34° 45' W., and again on 15/9 she sighted a suspicious vessel.

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

10th S/M F.
operations.

C. in C. Med., reports that the ships reported on 13/9 as having been sunk by S/M O.24 were a 6,000 ton laden ship in 42° 48' N., 9° 58' E., on 9/9 and on 6/9 a 1200 ton schooner by gunfire in 43° 35' N., 9° 21' E.

Malta.

Every effort will be made to keep the fortress supplied, but present policy is that no convoy should be considered for some months.

Gozo.

It has been decided not to undertake further reinforcement of Gozo at present.

Operation
"Propeller".

EMPIRE GUILLEMOT arrived at Malta at 1625B today.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Last night, 6 Wellingtons attacked shipping and quays at Benghazi.
8 Wellingtons last night attacked 24,000 ton liner at Tripoli and report probable hits on it and on other shipping in the harbour. At 0300 3 Blenheims attacked the liner and an 8,000 ton merchant vessel and report 3 hits on the liner and 2 on the merchant ship. Two Blenheims were despatched to attack the liner this evening but failed to find her. One of the Blenheims attacked and claims to have badly damaged a Flotilla leader which was stationary outside Tripoli with light on.

Operation "Supercharge" has commenced, to relieve a further portion of Tobruk garrison by part of 6th Division from Syria. Minelayers and destroyers will take the troops to and from Tobruk during the present dark period, in addition to continuing the supply programme.

An enemy battery which had been shelling Tobruk harbour was bombarded by APHIS on the night 13/14 Sept. and has not since opened fire.

/Egypt.....

War Diary.19.9.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Contd.Egypt,
Syria
and
Palestine.

There were air raids on Port Said and Suez in the early hours of today. No service damage or casualties were caused. Mines are suspected at Suez.

7th C.S. are transporting troops from Syria to Alexandria.

Two Syrian schooners were sunk by air attack on 13/9 whilst on passage from Beirut to Haifa .

Greek
Navy.

C. in C. Med., reports that for the present the Greek naval personnel are suitable only to man local defence craft and port mine sweepers.

America & West Indies.

U.S.A. Task Groups 2.5 and 2.7 are returning to Bermuda. The Task Force is being reorganised the major part to operate in the North. A/C carrier LONG ISLAND and one cruiser only are expected to operate from Bermuda.

In order to provide more effective A/S protection to shipping near Cape Farewell the U.S. hope to operate 4 to 6 patrol planes from South Greenland during periods when ice and weather conditions permit. The planes will probably operate from the army aerodrome site at Narsarssnak where some facilities exist.

U-Boat Campaign.Convoy
S.C.44.

(U.74)

LEVIS, corvette escorting S.C.44 was torpedoed at 0410Z today in 60° 7' N., 38° 37' W., and sank later. This leaves only one destroyer and 3 corvettes as escort for the convoy, and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa has been asked whether there are any American units in the neighbourhood who could assist to escort the convoy.

An aircraft on A/S patrol claims a hit on a U-boat west of the Bay of Biscay. Another A/C on A/S patrol claims two near misses on a S/M north of Rockall.

War Diary

19.9.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Depot Ship
for Atlantic
Convoy Escorts.

Your 1950Z/17 para 3. An R.N. Depot ship will continue to be available in Iceland. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1833A/19 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

U.S.A. Co-operation

U.S. Task
Forces.

"Cinclant's" 1904/17 to "Comtask" Forces one. (Spenavo, 0425/19 to Admty.)
Note. For translation of this signal see Admty. 1115A/20.

Movements

WINDSOR
VIVACIOUS

-Orders for escorting EREBUS. (C. in C. Nore, 1030A/19 to WINDSOR)

LADY
MADELINE
AYRSHIRE

On reaching 060° 00' N. 008° 32' W. steer to pass through 058° 30' N., 008° 00' W. thence 000° Butt of Lewis four miles. (C. in C. W.A. 1721A/19)

INDOMITABLE

Due to sail from Liverpool on 1/10 for sea trials in the Clyde area.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to take the ship under his orders and to make the necessary arrangements during the period of the trials. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1903A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

LONDON to convey
Q.P. one
British & American
delegates to Russia
Q.P.1.

A.M. 1342/9 and 1917/9 and C.in C. H.F. 1155/12 and 1435/15. Mission will arrive Thurso 0850/22
2. Request you will arrange transport to Scapa and sail LONDON as convenient after embarkation of mission.
3. Request you will also inform Admiral Miles:-
(a) In accordance with relevant headings of para 2. of A.M. 1859/30 August, quoting that signal in order that Admiral Miles may make arrangements laid down in para 3.
(b) Intentions for sailing Q.P. one and LONDON movements after arrival at Archangel.
4. Admiral Miles has requested that signals concerning movements of Q.P. one may be repeated to ELECTRA.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2220A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

LONDON cont: - - - -
/British....

War Diary19.9.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSMovementsLONDON-
Contd.

British and American delegates to Moscow expect to arrive Archangel in LONDON 27/9.
2. C. in C. H.F. has been requested to signal to you his intentions concerning movements of LONDON and sailing of Q.P. one.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2239A/19 to Ad, Miles.)

OperationsInvestigation
of merchant
ships (see
18/9)

If nothing has been sighted return to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1002A/19 to MATABELE A.C.O.S., PUNJABI)

M.T.B. and
M.G.B.
Operation.

M.T.B's 38, 219 and 220 supported by M.G.B's 8 and 10 were despatched at 2030/18 to intercept several vessels of unknown size plotted leaving Boulogne. M.G.B's made contact at midnight when opposite Dieppe sighting and having a brief engagement on opposite course with several small vessels and escorts afterwards losing touch. Visibility was poor being as low as one cable at times and M.T.B's did not make contact. M.T.B. 38 developed engine trouble but all craft returned to base by 0800. M.G.B. 8. received slight damage from gun fire. No casualties.
(V.A. Dover, 1035A/19.)

Patrols

Patrol tonight. Three M.G.B's patrol ten miles 130° from 61 D. buoy. Two M.G.B's patrol ten miles 310° from South Leman. One M.G.B. operation Q.E. with patrol F.Y. (C. in C. Nore, 1233A/19, 2127A/19)

ARGUS

My 1847/15.
1. ARGUS is to embark 14 operational Albacores of 828 Squadron by lighter from Abbotsinch starting loading 26/9.
4. ARGUS is to embark seven Mark XIII torpedoes.
(D.N.A.D. 1402A/19)

"Saffron"
SAFFRON

Signification (Ship who is allocated R/T call sign SAFFRON is to take independent action to intercept enemy in message T.O.O.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2037A/19) See Summaries Folder.

War Diary

19.9.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Operations

Patrols
and P.R.U's.

Patrol "Cast" in operation until 1700.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0908/19)
P.R.U. of Coast from Stavanger to Bergen and
another from Stavanger to Oslo, including
Horten Fjord now flying. Patrol "Hornli"
takes off 1115.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1048/19)

Bomber Command
Operations.

Day 18/9. 11 Blenheims escorted by fighters
attacked the Grand Quevilly Power Station at
Rouen. Bursts were seen on and near the target.
A further 6 Blenheims, accompanied by long
range fighter escort were detailed to attack
shipping expected off the Dutch coast.
Two M/V's of about 1,200 tons were observed
two miles off Ijmuiden, and 3 of the Blenheims
attacked one of these.
The first A/C scored direct hits and the ship
is claimed as a total loss.
The second section attacked the other M/V and
the first A/C saw one bomb hit the deck and then
bounce off, whilst another bomb undershot by
10 yards.
Three further Blenheims attacked a tanker of
about 5,000 tons escorted by 9 Flak ships,
11 miles North of Blenkenberghe. 4 hits were
scored and this tanker is claimed as a total
loss.
Night 18/19 Sept. Le Havre Docks. Owing to
unfavourable weather operations were all
cancelled except for a small force of 10 A/C's
which attacked Docks at Le Havre.
(H.Q.B.C., T.H.I. 1435/19)

Mosquito
aircraft.

May be seen flying. Description.
(Air Min. 1615/19)

Beaufighter
Aircraft

With twin rudders may be seen flying.
Description. (Air Min. 1655/19)

War Diary19.9.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air OperationsConvoy
E.C. 75
PRESTATYN ROSE
damaged.

Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Usage" in 52° 55' N., 1° 39' E. (WINCHESTER 1311/19)
 PRESTATYN ROSE in ballast direct hit U.X.B's through deck and No. 2 double bottom also near misses. Not necessary to beach.
 Tug KENIA with assistance of A/S Trawler GREENFLY brought ship into harbour anchorage with great skill. We have taken over operations pumping out forward ballast while ship steam lasts and divers will make survey in morning with view to patching and pumping out.
 (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1930/19, F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1741A/19)

Faeroes

2 enemy aircraft reconnoitring Faeroes at 1030 today. 1 bomb dropped in Skaale Fiord
 No damage. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1330A/19)

Convoy
F.S.598.

Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Merit" whose position is 53° 46' N., 0° 35' E.
 (VALOROUS 1937/19)
 Enemy still dropping bombs.
 (VALOROUS 1956/19)
 VALOROUS 1937/19. Coastguard Donna Nook reported aircraft crashed into sea at 1950/19 before air sea rescue boat could reach position
 Coastguard Donna Nook reported 4 German airmen landed and taken prisoner.
 (F.O. Humber, 2140A/19)

MiningThames
Estuary
BRADGLEN
GLENALVA
Mined

Mines detonated. Details. (HOLDERNESS 0830A/19 Capt. M/S Sheerness 1832/19, 1834/19, 1836/19.)
 SS BRADGLEN mined and sunk in position 230° 2 miles B.3. buoy. Have 26 survivors and one body on board, 2 badly injured remainder un- wounded. 22 survivors in M.L. 1020 E.T.A. 1230.
 (VIVIAN 1158/19)
 Lee fishing boat GLENALVA L.O. 15 mined and sunk off Jenkins Buoy 0946A/19. 2 hands aboard both missing.
 (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1316A/19)

/During the.....

War Diary

19.9.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Thames
Estuary
-Contd.

During the night of 18/19 September there was no enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary. About 15 mines detonated during the night and early morning. 8 in Barrow Deep, 5 in Tongue area and 2 in Edinburgh Area, one mine near Shingles Patch appears to have detonated spontaneously at 2115 without any sweepers near it and without countermining effect from another explosion. All other explosions can be traced to sweepers or else to another explosion immediately preceding them- often, however at a great distance. This apparent countermining effect was most noticeable. Positions of mines compared roughly to positions of reported air activity on the night of 12/13 September in Edinburgh Channels and on the 13/14 September in South Barrow and Oaze area.

(S.O.T. L.D.F. Sheerness, 1650/19)

SS BRADGLEN was mined and sunk today in position 286° 4.75 miles from Girdler Beacon.

(C. in C. Nore, 1659A/19, Capt. M/S Sheerness 1758/19) C.A.F.O. 1968/40.

(1) 1039/19

(2) BRADGLEN

(4) 230° 2 miles off B. 3 Buoy

(5) 226° 6 knots

(6) 280 feet from stem inclining starboard side

(7) Ordinary mine explosion

(Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1756/19)

Falmouth

0715/18/9/41 M.M.S. 24 and INVERCAULD detonated red magnetic mine 1 second after commencement of pulse in 50° 5' 20" N., 5° 0' 30" W.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1000/19)

S.N. 23 C.

Intend laying deep minefield S.N. 23 C with WELSHMAN unescorted sailing p.m./21 and laying a.m./22 from 058° 40' 48" N., 007° 00' W. to 058° 37' 24" N., 007° 06' W.
(R.A. (M) 1003/19)

Dover Area

Sweeping carried out to 0800/19. By LL trawlers in Q.Z.S. 269 and 190 between Dover and Dumpton. Negative results.
By S.A. trawlers Q.Z.S. 191 and in Q.Z.S. 269 and 190. One acoustic mine detonated at 0700/19 in 51° 09' 28" N., 1° 26' 08" E.
(V.A. Dover, 1208A/19)

/N.L. 15.....

War Diary19.9.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSMining-Contd.N.L. 15.

Intend to carry out tonight 19/9 operation N.L. 15 from 50° 59' 30" N., 01° 47' 00" E. if conditions permit. Alternatively operation will be N.L. 24 from 51° 01' 48" N., 01° 56' 12" E. (V.A. Dover 1256A/19)

Operation J.T.

(i) Object. To lay mines between 049° 37' N., 000° 01' E. and 049° 33' N., 000° 03' W.
 (iv) Execution. MANXMAN is to leave Portsmouth 1900/19 and proceed to carry out the lay ordered. On completion of lay return to Portsmouth by Needles Channel at daylight 20/9.
 (v) Re Lights.
 (vi) Cancellation MANXMAN has full discretion to cancel operation ~~of~~ jettison mines if circumstances so require.
 (vii) Communications.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1417A/19 to MANXMAN)

Milford Haven.

Milford Haven shallow D.G. range closed. Area compromised by enemy action. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1045/19)
 Our (?Four) Ground Mines self-detonated each approx. 20 minutes after being laid in following positions during minelaying attack last night, off Great Castle Head and St. Annes Head. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1637A/19, 1857/19)
 Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1814/19)

Enemy Intelligence

SEGUNDO
ENRIQUE
PRIMER
ENRIQUE

Suspected of reporting and other activities for enemy Spanish steam fishing vessels SEGUNDO ENRIQUE 113 tons believed painted white with number 5300 on bows and PRIMER ENRIQUE 101 tons are probably operating off Straits of Gibraltar Canary Islands and southwards. If sighted they are to be brought in for examination. (S.O.W.P. 1130A/19 to W.P.)

2 Transports

Observed at Helsingborg two German transports going north at 11 hours. One large cruiser and two armed trawlers going south at 10 hours. (B.C. Goteborg 1200/19 to Admty.)

EMDEN

EMDEN left Oslo 1210/17 B.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 1541/19)

War Diary19.9.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSMiscellaneousFuel in
North Russia

Your 1103/10. It is considered that 5,000 tons oil fuel and 500 tons coal should always be available in North Russia for H.M. Ships on convoy duties. These stocks to be maintained at Archangel so long as that port is open otherwise at Murmansk. Request you will arrange accordingly.
(4th S.L. 1147A/19 to Ad, Miles.)

Fog Signal
at Inchkeith

Q.Z.H. Rosyth Area. The fog signal at Inchkeith will be inoperative from 0900/22 for 48 hours.
(Hydrog. 1801A/19 to Q.Z.H. Distribution.)

Casualties & DefectsCITY OF
WATERFORD

In 052° 06' N., 021° 36' W. Tug THAMES sank CITY OF WATERFORD in collision. Crew transferred H.M.S. PENSTEMON standing by tug THAMES who hopes to proceed with Convoy in one hours time.
(DEPTFORD 0830A/19)

SS PONTFIELD
Mined 15/9.

Cancel my 1840A/18/9. Intend sailing SS PONTFIELD in tow of tugs KROOMAN and STALWART at 0500A/20 proceeding via Cockle to No.8. Buoy and thence by swept channels to Humber. Estimated noon position No. 57. C. Buoy. Trawlers STRATHMAREE and STRATHGARRY escorts. Estimated S. of A. 6 knots. Request fighter protection.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1236A/19 to C. in C. Nore.)

TEDDINGTON
(Torpedoed by
E-Boat 17/9)

Prospect of salving TEDDINGTON very poor owing to extensive damage enemy action and fire. We are working cargo from after hold into Coaster BORNRIFF, NESSUS being unable to return owing to damaged stern.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1450A/19)
No hope of salving ship.
(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1911A/19)

TETELA
(Torpedoed by
E-Boat 17/9.)

Arrivals SS TETELA in tow of YORKSHIREMAN and IRISHMAN at 1615.
(F.O. Humber 1635A/19.)

War Diary

19.9.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

SOUDAN

Ref. N.C.S.O. Humber 1100A/17, E.C. 74, SOUDAN, Govt. stores for Curacao, Panama, Honolulu and Singapore. Should this ship be sailed independently, if so route? Due to sail 0300A/21.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 0950A/19 to Admty.)

Call Signs

Pass to N.C.S.O.'s War W/T call signs from S.P. 02182 (2) are to be given to all merchant ships fitted with W/T to whom British Signal letters have been allocated except those of Dutch nationality.
2. Dutch merchant vessels fitted with W/T are to be given War W/T call signs from S.P. 02437 using their Dutch Signal letters for this purpose.
3. Particulars of recognition procedure should, however, only be communicated to Masters of ocean-going merchant ships of over 500 tons fitted with W/T, who either wear the red ensign or are of Dutch nationality.
3. N.C.S.I. 371 will be amended accordingly.
(D.T.D. 1103A/19 to A.I.G. 19, 26, A.C.I.C.)

C.T. 3.
CATHAY
AGAMEMNON
W.S. 12.

Convoy C.T. 3. composed of HIGHLAND PRINCESS carrying R.A.F. and military personnel will leave Liverpool for Halifax (date)
2. She will be accompanied by CATHAY and AGAMEMNON who will proceed to Halifax to disembark personnel prior to refitting in U.S.A.
3. Ships will leave U.K. in company with W.S. 12 and will break off as ordered and proceed to Halifax.
4. Through escort will be provided by ASSINIBOINE and SAGUENAY.
5. CATHAY and AGAMEMNON will sail from Clyde.
6. C. in C. W.A. is requested to (a) arrange for destroyers to complete with fuel at Londonderry and (b) sail ships as requisite.
7. C.O.A.C. is requested to arrange for local escort on arrival.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1151A/19)

S.D. 12.

Your 1748A/18 and 1326A/17 from Admty. E.T.D. S.D. 12, 22/9. Speed of LOCHNAGAR 12 knots. Must proceed direct (? route to) Faeroes owing to small water supply for personnel. LOCHNAGAR required to proceed to Akureyri from Faeroes.
(A.C.I.C., 1240/19 to A.C.O.S.)

/H.X. 150.....

War Diary19.9.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSShipping & Convoys-Contd.H.X. 150
Changes of
Route.

Following has been broadcasted. (Begins) To all stragglers from "Port Alma" convoy. Cancel route ordered and proceed direct to new position P which bears 320° 120 miles from "Lupin". LUPIN. Thence steer 90° (Ends.) Until now, whenever a convoy route has had to be changed Admty. has issued through the G.B.M.S. broadcast system a new route for possible stragglers. Request your concurrence to continue this practice. The new route will be repeated to you. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1821A/19, to Opnav.)

O.G. 74.

O.G. 74 not met. Have investigated all positions. My P. C and S. at 2300/19 049° 34' N 021° 26' W. 188° 6. Endurance 8 days at 10 knots in moderate weather conditions. Request instructions. ? Weather report. (COWSLIP, 2231A/19 to ? C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.19.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Western
Patrol,
fuelling
base.

As Bermuda is considerably nearer present patrol areas and the route there is safer from U-boat attacks, suggest (?ships) leaving westerly patrol should fuel and water there instead of Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1046A/19 to Admty).

SPRINGBANK
A/C attack
on F/W
18/9.

My A.180, 18/9. Fulmar from F.C.S. SPRINGBANK unsuccessfully attacked W.J. Condor at 1400 position 36.12 N., 08.40 W. All guns except one jammed. Bombs jettisoned. Fulmar landed Gibraltar. (200 Group, 1050/19) W.D. Note, Position differs from that given in F.O.C.N.A., 1822A/18.

My 1822A/18/9 Para (4). All stoppages were caused by separated cases of B. Mk.VI Z 1941 K ammunition. Guns have been examined and found to be correctly breeched up and serviceable. It would appear that failures are due to faulty manufacture. (F.O.C.N.A., 1322A/19 to Admty).

SAN ZEFERINO.

Your 1222/23/8. Have you further instructions regarding SAN ZEFERINO? (V.A.C.N.A., 1235A/19 to Admty).

COREOPSIS,
cable
operation.

Single enemy aircraft in vicinity of operation C from 1230 to 1330, no attack made. MIRROR is now in territorial waters off Cascaes. Buoys are still in position at place of operation. (COREOPSIS, 1437A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B.

Daily Summary Ops., 202 Sqn. 1 Catalina escort H.G.73. Dawn to dusk. Unsuccessful U-boat attack on surface at 1048 hours, 35.35 N., 11.12 W. Aircraft still airborne. (200 Group, 1730/19).

Western
Patrol.
MARON.

Lack of movement of enemy shipping from South American ports reduces the likelihood of suitable targets for Western Patrol in areas recently occupied.

2. In view of possibility of GERMANIA's early departure from Teneriffe (S.O.(I) Gibraltar's 1635/16) and recent increasing suspicion that Spanish ships are acting as supply ships to the enemy (your 2003/30/8 and C. in C. A.W.I. 0944/23/8) MARON is at your disposal for her next patrol. She should return to U.K. on completion. (D.O.D. (F) 1842A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

WALNEY
defect.

WALNEY reports cooling (?blower) to main motor of turbo electric drive burnt out and ship can only make 10 knots without over heating. Not possible to repair at Freetown or Bathurst. Intend to sail ship for U.K. with convoy S.L.88 with instructions not to exceed convoy speed unless absolutely necessary.
(C. in C. S.A., 1317N/19 to Admty 1331N/19 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

ALCANTARA.

Your 2025N/11. Request you will arrange for ALCANTARA to call at Tristan da Cunha on her way to Simonstown, (D.O.D. (F) 1847A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

STANVAC MANILA
suspicious
vessel.

Panamanian STANVAC, **MANILA** reports on 14/9 1130 a.m. in 004° 21' S., 034° 45' W., was approached and followed by suspicious vessel steaming more than 20 knots. (Description) No officers or crew visible. Possible accommodation for 30 or 40 passengers amidships. Tonnage about 7000 15/9 p.m. identical ship sighted about 5 miles distant, but funnel painted buff end.
(N.C.S.O. Santos, 1945Z/19 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).

GAZCON.

Following is repetition of my 0601N/18:-
My 2025/7. Governor Nigeria reports that cargo of GAZCON totalling about 5400 tons loaded Madagascar. Starch, coffee all for Marseilles conserves and Meat for Dakar.
(2) Complacent or pro-ally attitude of crew (details) No passengers. But see ALBATROSS's 1201/10. Crew now ashore in Nigeria (3) Governor, Nigeria has asked Secretary of State for Colonies for instructions concerning disposal of vessel and cargo. Ends. (C. in C. S.A., 2021N/19 to Admty).
Following is repetition of my 0605N/18. My 2025N/7 GAZCON sailed from Lobito about 2100 as indicated and apparently steered approximately the course given 315°. Ship was sighted by ALBATROSS and shadowed. ALBATROSS intended to board at daylight when out of sight of land. Ship during night sighted ALBATROSS and steered off towards the N.W. subsequently proceeding north in territorial waters. ALBATROSS had to leave at approx. 0145A/2/9 for fuel. Chief Officer chiefly responsible for original avoiding action. ALBATROSS subsequently intercepted 1930/19/9 as reported ends. (C. in C. S.A., 2111N/19 to Admty).

/OUED.....

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

OUED GROU.

My 2209/18/8. Am informed that Elder Dempster, Freetown, have been directed by Elder Dempster, Liverpool, to employ OUED GROU on run Sherboro, Freetown, Bathurst. Consider for reason given previously that employment of this ship to Bathurst undesirable. Thought French would look out for her and recapture. (C. in C. S.A., 2135N/19 to Admty)

Corvettes,
S. America.

Two corvettes from Freetown are to be sailed to join R.A.S.A.D. as soon as practicable. It is intended that a Force of this size should be maintained on East Coast of South America so long as a possible threat from submarines exists in that area. (1st S.L., 2219A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

W.S.10 X.

Disposal instructions. (D.S.T., 0217A/19 to P.S.T.O. Egypt) See Lion Copy.

LISBOA
German.

Barcelona arrived 18/9. (Adm. Gibraltar, 0802/19).

COVENTRY.

Intend following programme for COVENTRY. 3/10 transit canal Northward. 4/10 at Alexandria to embark construction material for new bow. 5th or 6/10 transit canal Southward and sail for Aden and Bombay to refit. (C. in C. Med., 1043C/19 to F.O.15 C.S.)

Benghazi
Bardia bombed.

Night 17/18. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour bombs bursting on central mole.

Day 18/19. 15 Marylands bombed supply dumps N.W. of Bardia and M.T. vehicles near Mersa.

Suez Canal
Raid.

Night 18/19. Enemy aircraft attacked Suez Canal zone. No damage or casualties reported from Suez. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1131/19).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET

466A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 0217A/19 September 1941

To P.S.T.O. Egypt
Repeated P.S.T.O. India
C. in C. East Indies
C. in C. South Atlantic DATE 19.9 41.
P.S.T.O. Simonstown
S.T.O. Durban
S.T.O. Capetown
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal

Naval Cypher (C)

From Director of Sea Transport.

Following are disposal instructions for troopships of Convoy W S 10 X. STRATHNAVER STRATHMORE and ORION after disembarkation at Suez will proceed to Bombay.

2. ORION will carry out in Bombay repairs estimated to require seven weeks in drydock. Further instructions as to her return voyage to U.K. will be given nearer her date of completion. P.S.T.O. India is requested to report from time to time as to progress of repairs.
3. STRATHMORE and STRATHNAVER will carry out exchange of native crews at Bombay. They will load mainly in India and complete in Capetown.
4. STRATHMORE should be drydocked in Bombay and P.S.T.O. India should confirm that this can be arranged.
5. P.S.T.O. India should report whether it is desired to embark any personnel in Bombay in STRATHMORE and STRATHNAVER.

6. Anticipated dates.....

6. Anticipated dates of sailing from Bombay of STRATHMORE and STRATHNAVER should be reported in due course by P.S.T.O. India.

0217A/19

Director of Sea Transport

Ministry of War Transport

(Extension 2187)

1st Lord
 1st Lord
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 A.C.N.S. (W)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D. of P.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.A/S.W.
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 Duty Captain (2)
 Head of M.
 D. of S.T.

D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D. (2)
 N.I.D.10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)
 D.G.D.

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta
Supplies.

Your Cosup 1228. Impossible at present to decide how and when further convoys can be sent to Malta, and even discussion of this prejudices the secrecy of future Military strategy, whether offensive or defensive, and we ask that it be avoided at all costs. Every effort possible will be made to keep the Fortress supplied, though present policy is that no convoy should be considered for some months. (4th S.L., 1146A/19 to Govr., Malta.)

Suez Canal
Raid.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 287. 1st Raid (a) Night 18/19, calm clear (b) High level attack by 6 - 8 enemy aircraft on Port Said 0209 - 0412, some flares, no moon (c) H/E, incendiaries, mines. (d) 5 H/E, few incendiaries 1 mine exploded mid-air. Parachute found. (e) No service damage or casualties, slight civilian damage. (f) A/A active. (g) Balloon up. 2nd raid. (a) As above. (b) High level attack by 4 enemy aircraft on Suez 0240 - 0403, no moon. (c) H/E, incendiaries, suspect mine. (d) 4 H/E, few incendiaries, 2 suspect exploding mines on mountain. (e) Service or civilian damage & casualties negative. (f) A/A active. (g) Balloon up. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 1305B/19).

Greek
naval
personnel.

I am not very greatly impressed by Greek efficiency, though as their destroyers have neither Asdics nor effective A.A. it is difficult to assess whether they would adopt more resolute attitude if their ships were supplied with these weapons. Their submarines have really performed nothing at all since they have worked for us. Greek destroyers if properly fitted are not suitable for Fleet work or convoys likely to have to face really serious attack. Greek Naval personnel is definitely improving largely due to example and energy of Admiral (? Sakellariou) but for the present I think they are suitable to man local defence craft and port minesweepers only. (C. in C. Med. 1421B/19 to Admty;)

THUNDERBOLT.

Remain west of 029° until 0500B/20. 7th C.S. and escorting destroyer E.T.A. Alexandria 0515B from Eastward. (Capt. S.1, 1431B/19 to THUNDERBOLT).

BALCIC.

My 1714/11 and my 1131/14. BALCIC loading slowly. Will telegraph probable sailing date, but unlikely before 25/9 for Trieste. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1538/19).

/Operation.....

War Diary.19.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Operation
"Propeller".

Arrived EMPIRE GUILLEMOT. (V.A. Malta, 1625B/19 to Admty.) See 0221/20.

TETRARCH
operation.

OTUS is unable to take part in special operation ordered in my operation orders dated 13/9 and ^{NT. WD} you will be required to take her place carrying out her programme in full as laid down in those orders. Leave area S on 21st and proceed through Antikithera Channel to comply. Acknowledge from a position in N.E. corner of area S. (Capt. S.1., 1627B/19 to TETRARCH).

My 1629B/19. On completion of operation or at the latest 0600B/24 proceed through 036° 30' 022° 44' thence east 022° 44' to return to Alexandria on reverse of your outward route as ordered in S.O. 36. OSIRIS routed direct to 034° 43' 022° 57' then to 180° Cape Matapan 8, thence to West of 022° 39' keeping south of 036° 30' until 0600B/24. Your 0035B/19 understood. (Capt. S.1., 1935B/19 to TETRARCH).

My 1935B/19. No S/M is to be attacked when west of 23° 30' unless definitely established as hostile. Report immediately it is safe to do so if you consider operation compromised. Repeat signal to OSIRIS and try to communicate direct with her if circumstances necessitate. If yellow flag not seen on either day and yet (no?) ground for suspicion, endeavour to inform OSIRIS as above as soon as safe to do so. Report time of arrival 36 hours before entering sanctuary and state number embarked. OSIRIS has my 1129B/19. (Capt. S.1., 1957B/19 to TETRARCH).

A/C attack
on enemy
convoy.

Night 18/19. 7 Swordfish attacked convoy 2 medium M/Vs, 1 medium tanker, 1 smaller tanker, 5 escorts at 2105 hrs, 35° 17' N. 12° 15' E. course East. 3 torpedoes 1000 lbs bombs dropped, no results observed, except one flash. 1 M/V appeared stopped. Visibility bad, effective smoke screen.

Liners
bombed,
Tripoli.

8 Wellingtons attacked 24,000 ton liner reported Karamanli Mole. First aircraft found no smoke screen, liner moved to new position, smoke screen then covered harbour, visibility bad. Probable hits on liner and hits on other shipping in harbour also on Spanish Mole and Karamanli Mole. Duration of attack 0120 to 0300 hrs. 3 Blenheims attacked 24,000 ton liner and 8000 ton M/V Tripoli Harbour at dawn. 3 hits on liner and 2 on M/V, subsequent results unobserved owing to half light. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1630/19).

/Force.....

War Diary.19.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Force H.
intelligence.

To ensure S.O. Force H receiving all information which may affect him and to fulfil para 5 of Admty. 1521A/12, most satisfactory arrangement would be for him to see Malta Combined Intelligence Report issued daily with priority immediate by H.Q. R.A.F. Understood this report is now passed to you. As S.O. Force H does not hold X Cypher he cannot be included in address. Suggest you should assume responsibility for passing this signal to S.O. Force H when in harbour and recyphering and passing relevant part of message to S.O. Force H when at sea. (V.A. Malta, 1643B/19 to F.O.C.N.A.) Concur (F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/21).

CANADA.
COLOMBIE.

Vichy Hospital Ship CANADA and Troop Ship COLOMBIE proceeding from 041° 35' W, 010° 00' E at 1500B/18 and 19th respectively and passes Messina 1200B/20 and 21st. These ships if encountered are not to be molested. (Capt. S.10, 1703B/19 to UTMOST).

French
Tankers.

Your 1131B/17 (N.T. in W.R.) Two French Tankers entered Dardanelles today. Name of one VENDEMIAIRE. (Istanbul, 1749C/19 to S.O.I. Med.)

U/B.

Morning 19th position 032° 07' 020° 04' arrived one U-boat. (Capt. S.1., 1757B/19 to THRASHER).

Situation
report
No. 151.

Western Desert. Operation "Supercharge" has commenced to relieve a further portion of Tobruk garrison by part of 6th Div. from Syria. 7th C.S. are transporting troops Syria to Alexandria. Minelayers and Destroyers will take troops to and from Tobruk during present dark period in addition continuing supply programme. Enemy Battery which has been shelling Tobruk Harbour was bombarded by APHIS night 13/14 and has not since opened fire.

2. Eastern Mediterranean Shipping Routes. A/S Sweep by destroyers and light craft continues but no further report of U-boats. 2 Syria Schooners sunk by bombs 13/9 while on passage Beirut to Haifa.

3. Red Sea. 15 C.S. A.A. Cruisers and sloops operating in Red Sea. No more enemy air activity reported.

/4.....

War Diary.19.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Situation
report
No. 151.
-Contd.

4. Submarines. 10th S.F. intercepted Troop convoy off Khoms on 18/9 and has apparently obtained hit. Dutch O.24 sank 6000 ton laden ship^s on 9/9 in 042° 48' N. 009° 58' E. and 1200-ton Schooner by gunfire on 6/9, in 045° 35' N. 009° 21' E.

5. Aircraft. Oil tanker reported on fire between Benghazi and Appolonia after raid night 15/16. 826 Squadron continue good work against enemy forward aerodromes in Western Desert. (C. in C. Med., 2003B/19).

UPHOLDER
etc.All S/Ms should arrive about 0629/20.
(UPHOLDER, 2014B/19 to V.A.M.)UTMOST,
enemy
liner.

Patrol in 038° 10' N. 011° 46' E. One liner escorted by one cruiser and 2 destroyers expected 1000B/20, course 038°, speed 22 knots. Leave position in execution of previous orders at 1800B/20. Primary object liner. (Capt. S.10, 2052B/19 to UTMOST).

East Indies.TAI KOO₁₂
(sunk 27/9).
BR/1337 P.36.

S.N.O. Red Sea Force 2515/15. Tug TAI KOO has been lost in Red Sea with heavy casualties. Probable cause was mine. Request Admiralty will say when news may be released to those concerned. (C. in C. E.I., 0756Z/19 to Cdre, Hong Kong etc.)

China.Japanese
Ships.Your 1158/17 VENICE MARU, TERUKAWA MARU. Only news of N.Y.K. ships is of those on South American Coast. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0353Z/19 to S.O.I. Jamaica) *see p. 420*

/U.S.....

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

U.S.
Asiatic
Fleet.

Personal C.N.S. Admiral Hart informs me he has received following instructions from Navy Dept. "Pending further instructions you will be guided by following. U.S. Naval Forces will operate under strategic direction of C. in C. Asiatic Fleet and in general they will not be sent outside Far East area. The co-ordination of their Force will be arranged by method of mutual co-operation". This change in regard to strategic direction was not indicated in C. O.S. telegram Far East 31, and I trust every effort will be made to obtain a revision as new arrangements will considerably reduce effectiveness of combined force in Far East area. I have not informed Australia, New Zealand, or N.E.I. of this development. (C. in C. China, 0755Z/19 to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

STRATHEDEN.

Sailed U.K. 16/9 with 1484 Personnel for Halifax and 1770 for Middle East. STRATHEDEN should bunker at Halifax only sufficiently to reach Trinidad where she will bunker to capacity. (D.S.T. 0218A/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

CALIFORNIA.

My 1702R/15. Refitting yard of CALIFORNIA altered to Navy Yard Brooklyn. Request ship may arrive Ambrose L/V and meet Pilot at 2100Z/22. (B.A.R.M. 1114R/19 to R.A.3) Cancelled, see 1056R/20.

S/M for
A/S Training.

Your 1206R/17. It is intended that one ex-American S/M should be based at St. John's N.F. for A/S training. Spare gear for one S/M only should therefore be brought back to U.K. in FORTH. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1203A/19 to B.A.R.M.)

/RESOLUTION.....

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

RESOLUTION.

Intend to sail RESOLUTION for U.K. on completion of working up 27/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1242Q/19 to Admty.)

PHOEBE.

Your 1813A/17. PHOEBE can be accepted at U.S. Navy Yard Brooklyn, Job No. 221. Request approx. date of arrival be given as soon as practicable. (B.A.R.M., 1442R/19 to Admty.)

MARET.

Estonian ship MARET at St. Thomas requisitioned by U.S. Authorities. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1508R/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

A/S
protection
C. Farewell.

Following from Opnav. to C. in C. Lant., for action. In order to provide more effective A/S protection to shipping in vicinity of Cape Farewell, desired if practicable to operate four to six patrol planes from South Greenland during periods when ice and weather conditions permit. Following facilities are available at Army airdrome site Narsarssuak. (list). Information on ice conditions of Narsarssuak has been requested from Army and this will be furnished when received. (Spenavo, 1550/19 to Admty.)

DIOMEDE.

Bermuda departures. DIOMEDE in accordance with my 1552Q/17. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1733Q/19).

A.M.C.'s
N.A.E.F.

Your 1248Z/6. Am not clear what the duties assigned to A.M.C.'s remaining with the N.A.E.F. will be. Is it desired that they should continue to escort S.C. convoys to Western R/V? Some are usefully employed transporting personnel stores and fresh water to Bermuda, there carrying out practices, but others are not at present employed. Meantime quantities of naval victualling and canteen stores etc. are accumulating for transport to Iceland and a large amount of timber and constructional material urgently required is expected to be available for shipment in about a week. Request also instructions whether provision of increased accommodation vide A.M. 2146B/21/5 should be proceeded with. (R.A.3. 1759P/19 to Admty.)

/Newfoundland.....

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

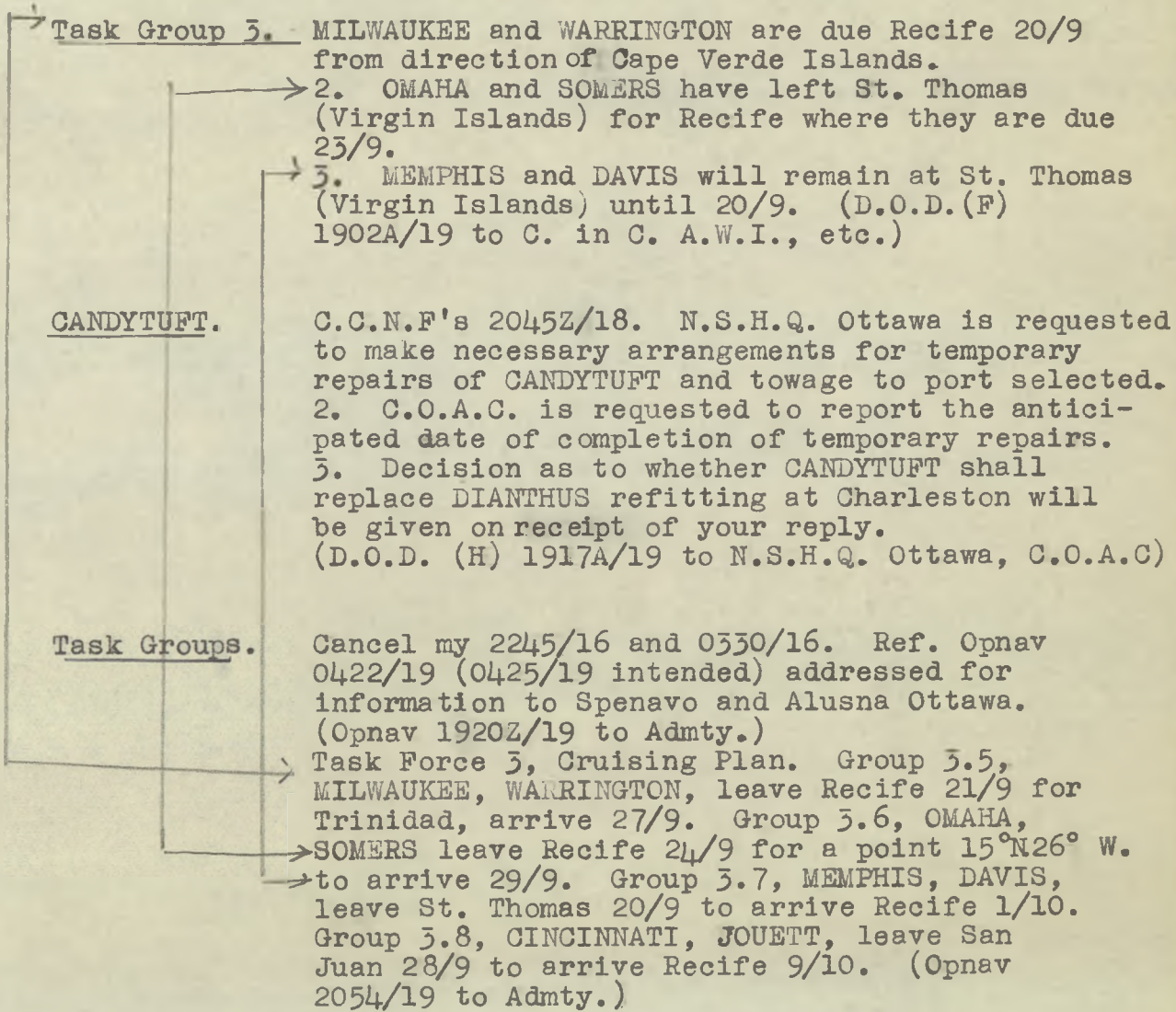
America and West Indies-Contd.

Newfoundland
Escort
Groups.

A.M. 1638A/12. Grateful for very early indication of policy regarding size of each escort group of Newfoundland Escort Groups.

2. My 0131Z/13. Propose Escort of S.C. 46 consists of OTTAWA, BROADWAY, BURWELL, POLYANTHUS, COBALT, BUCTOUCHE, GALT. *See 15/9 - p 449 -*

3. On assumption Newfoundland Escort Force ships now in Iceland including R.N., (except those detailed for H.X. 150), return to St. John's N.F. with as little delay as possible, it is anticipated reorganization of N.F.E.F. into 6 groups of about 7 ships each can be made. Early return of N.F.E.F. Escort of H.X. 150 would greatly assist. (C.C.N.F. 1819Z/19 to C. in C. W.A.)



/Following....

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Task Groups
-Contd.

Following information from local U.S. authorities. Task groups 2.5 and 2.7 returning to Bermuda now. Task force is being reorganised, major part to operate in the North. A/C carrier LONG ISLAND and one cruiser only expected to operate from Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152Q/19 to Admty.)

My 1920/19. WASP and two destroyers directed proceed Bermuda to Iceland. When off Cape Race HAMMAN and GRAYSON will relieve GWIN and MEREDITH who then proceed Argentia. YORKTOWN, BROOKLYN, ROWAN 30° 40', Long. 59° 10' at 1014/19 directed proceed immediately best speed to Argentia. SAVANNAH, MONSSEN when available about 22/9 proceed Argentia. (Opnav, 2330/19 to Admty.)

Georgetown,
Exam.
Service.

Your 1334A/9. In view of urgent need for efficient examination service Georgetown, British Guiana, early purchase of a suitable examination vessel essential. In anticipation of approval I have approved purchase of minesweeper HELENE. Request covering approval. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2136Q/19 to Admty.)

Australia.

Minesweepers.

Your 0709Z/17. Intend to sail Australian minesweepers for Singapore as follows: from Darwin, BENDIGO now. From Sydney, MARYBOROUGH early October, BALLARAT November. Completion dates of next Admiralty vessels are WODLONGONG and TOOWOOMBA in October, WYALLA and ~~AL~~ALGOORLIE in December. Ships should be ready to sail about one month after completion. (A.C.N.B., 0709Z/19 to C. in C. China).

War Diary.19.9.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.LEVIS
S.C.44.

LEVIS torpedoed at 0410Z/19 in 060° 07' N. 038° 37' W. Not sinking. MAYFLOWER standing by to take in tow to Iceland. Request tug may be sent. (CHESTERFIELD, 0739/19 to Admty. etc.)
1600Z Position. 060° 21' N. 037° 49' W. MAYFLOWER towing LEVIS stern first, course 060°, speed 4 knots, LEVIS sustained heavy damage forward, many killed and injured, survivors about 42 on board AGASSIZ and MAYFLOWER. Have placed doctor on board MAYFLOWER. Weather report. My 0739Z/19, add to addressees N.S.H.Q. Ottawa F.O.C. N.A. (CHESTERFIELD 1605Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

3 ships.

S.C. 44 being attacked in 61° 36' N. 35° 207' W. 3 ships torpedoed. (CHESTERFIELD, 2350Z/19 to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

S.C.42
(attacked
11/9 etc.).

WASTWATER, RESTIVE, CAROLINE MOLLER, SEALYHAM, returned from search for ship torpedoed in S.C. 42. Nothing found. Presume RESTIVE, CAROLINE MOLLER should be sailed first opportunity to Campbeltown. (A.C.I.C. 1132/19 to Admty. etc.)

Submarines Reported.

2128Z/17.

Your 1056N/18. U/B probably southbound. (D.D.I.C. 0142A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

1045 G.M.T.

Bearings of Italian U/boat 33G at 1045/19 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1220A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

1305.

Am over enemy submarine in 47.12 N., 7.04 W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge, course 090° speed 7 knots. (A/C using call sign BZ91 1305/19 to 19 Group H.Q.)

1127 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1127/19 G.M.T. a U-boat in approx. 52° 30' N. 17° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1320A/19 to SAMPHIRE, CONVULVULUS).

Estimated U-boat dispositions.
(D. D. I. C. 1516A/19).

/1848Z.....

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

- 1848Z. Probable that Convoys S.C.44 or O.N. 16 were sighted by U-boat at 1848Z/19. (D.D.I.C. 2151A/19 to CHESTERFIELD, Escorts of O.N. 16, AGASSIZ, MAYFLOWER etc.).
S.C.44 attacked. See previous page.
- 1930Z. Bearings of Italian U/Boat 13 U at 1930Z/19 indicate that FURIOUS or Convoy H.G. 73 has been sighted, (D.D.I.C. 2141A/19 to FURIOUS, FOWEY, F.O.C.N.A.)
1917. Sighting report from Italian U/B at 1917/19 may refer to H.G. 73. (F.O.C.N.A. 2204A/19 to H.G. 73 Escorts.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.

Have attacked enemy Submarine with depth charges ? Position 65. 52 N., 12.54 W. (A/C call sign MPZG 1640/19 to 15 Group).

By A/C.

Catalina of 202 Sqdn. attacked U/B (unsuccessful) at 1048, 55.35 N., 11.12 W. (200 Group, 1730/19) See North Atlantic.

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U.S.A. Dispositions.

U.S.A. naval surface and air forces have been assigned the following duties:-
Iceland, Watch on Denmark Strait and its northerly approaches.
Argentina. Ready to cover the line
Newfoundland - Azores and northward thereof.
Bermuda. Ready to proceed northeastward.
All groups are ready to coordinate their movements with each other and with British heavy units.

Home Commands.

Labour
Troubles.

F.O.I.C. London reports that labour troubles which C. in C. Nore states do not reflect credit on the labour concerned, are hindering refits and repairs of destroyers at Harland and Wolff.

S/MS in
Far North.

F.O.S. considers that we should maintain two British submarines at Polyarnoe throughout the winter. The Russians intend to continue S/M operations in this area. He strongly urges that our surface forces should carry out vigorous attacks on enemy A/S vessels in northern waters as the nights lengthen. (Adty. concurred generally, see 22/9).

E-boat
attack
on F.N.521.

E-boats, probably 6 in number attacked with torpedoes Convoy F.N.521 near 57A Buoy between 2310 and 2330 today. The destroyers drove off the E-boats, one of which was probably damaged. Our ships suffered no damage or casualties.

MARCONI
sunk.

M/S Trawler MARCONI was sunk today in 51° 54.6' N. 1° 30.8' E. in collision with M/S Trawler LORD BEACONSFIELD. The latter was apparently little damaged.

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

53 aircraft attacked Stettin last night, and report that bursts were observed "within a mile or so" of the aiming point.

24 Blenheims with fighter escort set out to attack shipping off the Dutch coast today. Two convoys were attacked; a 5,000 ton merchant ship was set fiercely on fire, hits were made on a 2,000 - 3,000 ton tanker and it is believed that 4 other merchant ships were set on fire. An 800 ton flak ship was hit.

6 Blenheims with fighter escort today attacked the shipyard at Grand Queville near Rouen.

2 Blenheims bombed the fish oil factory at Floro, north of Bergen.

6 Aircraft with fighter escort attacked the docks at Cherbourg.

One Fortress attacked Emden.

Enemy Air Operations.

Ratray Head Lighthouse was attacked this morning. The light was damaged and is out of action.

Convoy F.S.599 was bombed at 2018A today in 53° 26' N?

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Several more acoustic mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary today.

S.R. Steamer PORTSDOWN (I. of W. ferry) was sunk at about 0415 today by explosion in Swashway Channel.

Further mines were detonated in the Milford Haven area today, and another mine was detonated in the Portsmouth area. A German mine, apparently very new and moored was sunk in 60° 4' 30" N., 1° 27' W. today.

X. Greek SS OROPOS, awaiting convoy, was slightly damaged by mines

North Atlantic.

S/M attack
at Gibraltar.

About 0800 today explosions apparently the result of submarine attacks synchronised with attacks by one or two man submarines, occurred in DENBYDALE, DURHAM and FIONA SHELL anchored in Gibraltar Bay. FIONA SHELL sank and DURHAM was beached.

South Atlantic.

EAGLE.

A fire occurred on board the EAGLE today. Several aircraft were damaged beyond repair by ship's facilities, and only 4 remain completely serviceable.

Mediterranean.

4 Blenheims on a shipping sweep today claim to have sunk a 3000 ton heavily laden merchant ship northbound off Kerkenah. This may have been French S.S. MONSELET, reported by Vichy French news agency bombed and sunk today in Gulf of Gabes. 7 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Attack on
S.C.44.
4 ships
torpedoed.

Convoy S.C.44 was attacked last night by a concentration of U-boats in approx. 61° 36' N. 35° 7' W. Tanker T.J. WILLIAMS, S.S. EMPIRE BURTON, PINK STAR (Panamanian flag, owned by U.S. Govt) and Norwegian Tanker BARBRO were torpedoed. The second and third of these ships were sunk, and the fourth probably sunk.

U.S. Destroyer division 62 sailed at 0900 today to protect the convoy.

Attack on
O.G.74.

Convoy O.G.74 was attacked at 2225A today in approx. 48° 10' N. 22° 20' W. BALTALLINN and EMPIRE MOAT were torpedoed.

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.British
S/M's at
Polyarno.

S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1817C/16. In my opinion it is clear from second sentence of para. C that we should maintain two British S/M's at Polyarno through the winter, withdrawing them to U.K. if Polyarno falls into enemy hands. Observations and proposals.
(F.O.S. 1211A/20.) See Lion Copy.

TEWARA for
Freetown.

My 1933A/26 August. Add M/S Trawler TEWARA.
(D.O.D. F. 1440A/20) (D.M.S. 1526A/20.)

Clyde
tugs.

Your 1606/17. (See Mining.)
The loss of these Tugs can only be made good from new construction which should complete end of November. In order to alleviate the position meanwhile following action is being taken.
(Admty., 2117A/20 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

U.S. Co-operation.Task
Forces.

1. Following is C. in C. Lant's instruction 1904 of 19/9 to "Comtask" Forces 1, 2, 4 and 15, and to Force 9 for information. Begins:-
2. Special situation requires following dispositions which make at once. "Comtask" 1 is to concentrate and maintain in Iceland bases 2 Battleships 3 - 8" Cruisers, and 1 Destroyer Squadron. Concentrate and maintain at Argentia four Battleships, 1 - 8" Cruiser and 1 Destroyer Division.
3. "Comtask" 2 is to make available:-
(a) For Iceland Group - 1 Carrier.
(b) For Argentia Group - 2 Cruisers and 1 Destroyer Division and 1 Carrier.
Hold remaining ships in readiness at Bermuda under training.
4. "Comtask" 4 is to increase planes in Iceland by one Patrol Division (three planes)
5. These dispositions are expected to hold until mid-October. All Task Force 1 ships, detached with Task Force 15, are available for assignment by "Comtask" 1.
6. Task Force 15 when unloaded will be escorted as then directed. Ends.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1115A/20, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A. & W.I., C.C.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, R.A.3., A.C.I.C.)
(D.O.D. H., 1459A/20.)

/Opnav.....

MOST SECRET

825 101
481A

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

1211A/20 Sept. IN.

From: F.O.S.

Date: 20.9.41.

Recd: 1448

Naval Cypher (D) by T/P

Addressed: Admiralty repeated C. in C. Home Fleet.

20. S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1817C 16 (1) in my opinion it is clear from second sentence of paragraph C that we should maintain 2 British submarines at Polyarnoe through the winter. This is borne out by the fact that Russians intend to continue submarine operations in this area and that enemy sea borne traffic is likely to continue

(2) In the event of Polyarnoe falling into enemy hands it would of course be necessary to withdraw our submarines to United Kingdom. This would also apply to Russian submarines based on that port.

(3) The winter conditions in northern waters will however considerably reduce effectiveness of submarines unless they can work very close inshore with reasonable impunity. It is therefore strongly urged that vigorous attacks should be carried out by our own surface force on enemy A/S vessels in northern waters as nights lengthen.

(4) If it is decided to keep 2 submarines in Northern Waters during winter I would probably send 2 S class from Portsmouth to relieve H.M.S. TIGRIS and H.M.S. TRIDENT early in November as by that time the latter would have been 3 months away from a depot ship which is long enough if full efficiency is to be maintained. If necessary H.M.S. TIGRIS and H.M.S. TRIDENT could

GO ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

go north again in January or February 1942 to relieve the S class which are of course not such suitable submarines for operation away from a British Base.

1211A/20

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

- 1st Lord
- 1st 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. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Duty Capt. (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- Head of M.
- D.D.I.C.
- D.T.S.D.
- E.P.S.
- N.I.D. 10.

/MC

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U.S. Co-operation.

Task
Forces.
Contd.

Opnav Washington reports:-
WASP and 2 Destroyers directed proceed Bermuda to Iceland (C). When off Cape Race, HAMMAN and GRAYSON will relieve GWIN and MEREDITH who then proceed Argentina. YORKTOWN, BROOKLYN, ROWAN 30° 40' N. 59° 10' W. at 1014/19, directed proceed immediately best speed to Argentina. SAVANNAH and MONSSEN when available about 22/9 proceed Argentina 2330/19. Ends.
(D.O.D.(H) 1154A/20 and 2231A/20 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Task
Groups.
Allocation
of Areas.

A.M. 1115A/20. Opnav reports groups mentioned, assisted by available patrol planes, assigned following tasks.
2. Iceland observe Denmark Strait and Northernly approaches thereto.
3. Argentina ready cover line Newfoundland - Azores and Northward thereof.
4. Bermuda ready proceed North-eastward.
5. All groups ready co-ordinate movements with each other and British heavy units.
(D.O.D.(H.), 1458A/20.)

Signalling
arrangements.

Admiralty 563A/18 September. Delete para. 4 A and substitute following.
(D.S.D. 1752A/20.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Beacons.

It is important that ships operating off North Russian coast should be able to apply direct for shore lights and beacons at reasonably short notice in case of emergency.
(2) Can reliable arrangements be made for this through Murmansk or through other local authorities and thus save the time required to pass through Admiralty to you.
(3) Request also information maximum draught and length which can proceed up Dvina river.
(C. in C. H.F., 1225A/20 to Ad. Miles.)

Movements.

SEAWOLF.

Intend to sail SEAWOLF at 1630/22 (route) to patrol in Bay of Biscay as ordered by F.O. Subs.
(Capt. S.5., 1101A/20.)

/LONDON.....

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.LONDON.
Delegates
to Russian
Conference.No information concerning my 2239A/19 should be communicated to any Russian authorities pending further instructions.
(V.C.N.S., 1237A/20 to Admiral Miles.)THORN.

(1) Intend to sail THORN escorted by WHITE BEAR at 0900A/22 for 290° Bishop Rock 5 miles E.T.A. 2200A/23.

(2) Thence THORN diving by day to 046° N. 009° W. thence on the surface at C.O.'s discretion to 043° N. 010° 40' W E.T.A in last position 1700A/26 thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.

(5) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation as follows.

(7) Description of THORN.
(Capt. S.3, 1433A/20.) *See also p. 491.*

Operations.Operation
"Pilgrim".

Following troopships are allocated to operation "Pilgrim" until further notice.
BATORY, ETTRICK, ORBITA, WINCHESTER CASTLE, and *BERGENSFORD. ** Amended to SOBIESKI w/d 20/11/41 P.573*

2. A further troopship will be nominated as soon as possible.

3. They will be at the disposal of C.O. QUEBEC II who will employ them for training etc. as desired. From time to time they may be employed for short trooping voyages such as in D.S. Convoys.
(D. of S.T. 0556A/20 to P.S.T.O. West of Scotland.)

SEALION.

My 1022A/17. Movement now believed completed. Patrol Biscay North Zone East of 06° 30' W. and leave Zone for Portsmouth after dark 22/9 as ordered by S.5.
(F.O.S., 1238A/20, 1534A/20 to SEALION.)

NORTHERN
SPRAY.

Leave ships off Reykjanes and rejoin MALCOLM.
(A.C.I.C., 1704/20 to NORTHERN SPRAY.)

S.E.E.C.C.D.

Proceed to vicinity of Leman Bank to intercept E-Boats.
(C. in C. Nore, 2333A/20 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Flares.

Arrangements to illuminate E-boats if attack occurs tonight.
(Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1212/20.)

S.I.
filters.

It is understood at least 50 per cent of Coastal Command aircraft operating in Western Approaches are still not fitted with S.I filters and are therefore incapable of receiving R/T whilst A.S.V. is working. In view of the vital importance of immediate R/T communication between escorts and aircraft in emergencies, and the long delay already experienced in obtaining S.I. filters, it is requested that Air Ministry may be asked to give utmost priority to ensure the very early provision of this equipment.
(C. in C. W.A., 1220A/20 to Admty.)

Patrols.

"Hornli" in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1302/20.)

P.R.U.

P.R.U. of Stavanger Bergen Haugesund and another of Oslo Horten and Kristiansand in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1410/20.)

Shipping
R/C Patrol.

One Sunderland, filled to 2000 galls. and armed with 2 x 250 lbs. D/C's and 2 x 250 lbs. G.P. bombs, is to carry out a shipping R/C on 21/9, through following positions.
2. A/C is to be airborne at 0500.
3. Detailed report is required on all shipping sighted.
4. Suitable shipping targets within free bombing area may be attacked, and any S/M's sighted are (subject to existing S.B.R. areas) to be attacked and reported.
(Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1530/20.)

Stettin
bombed.

During day 19/9 there were no operations owing to weather. On Night 19/20 fifty A/C bombed the Main Railway Station and industrial quarter of Stettin.
(H.Q.B.C., 1600/20.)

/ A/S.....

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Operations - Contd.A/S protection
off Cape
Farewell.

"Cinclant" has been instructed to provide if practicable for more effective A/S protection for shipping in the vicinity Cape Farewell. This it is intended will be effected by the operation of four or six planes from South Greenland during the periods when Ice and weather conditions permit.

2. These aircraft would operate from Narsarssuak Army Aerodrome, position 60° N. 45° 30' W., where limited facilities are available.

(D.O.D.(H.) 1853A/20.)

A/C for
ARGUS.

My 1402/19. Only 12 Albacore and air crews of 828 Squadron are to be embarked in ARGUS. Two operational Swordfish of 818 Squadron with air crews are to be lent to ARGUS for the round trip to embark by air as arranged between ARGUS and N.A.S. Macrihanish.

(D.N.A.D. 1951A/20.)

Enemy Air Operations.Rattray
Head
Lighthouse.

Rattray Head Lighthouse was bombed and machine-gunned at 1135/20 light damaged and out of action so far as known at present fog signals undamaged no casualties.

(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1150/20, 1630/20, Northern Lighthouse Board, Edinburgh 1324/20.)

Convoy
F.S.99.

Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Parallel". My position 53° 26' N. (? longitude). Course 145°, speed 8 knots.

(VIMIERA, 2018A/20.)

Mining.Humber
area.

My 2120/17. (D) at 0811. LL Drifters BEN TARBERT and GEORGE D. IRVINE exploded a Magnetic mine in position 083° SPP 7.2 miles.

(F.O. Humber, 1030A/20.)

/Operation....

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.Operation
S.N. 23 C.

Intend to carry out operation S.N.23 C. as follows:

- (a) Deep minefield.
 - (d) WELSHMAN.
 - (f) from 058° 37'24" N. 007° 06' W. to 058° 40'24" N. 007° 00'55" W., 2000 on 21/9.
 - (j) through 058° 20' N. 005° 46' W. and 360° Butt of Lewis 5 miles.
 - (l) 0430/22.
 - (n) through 180° Sulisker 3 miles direct.
 - (o) Port ZA 1030/22.
- (R.A.M., 1056A/20.)

Operation
N.L.15.

Intend to carry out operation N.L.15 tonight Saturday returning to harbour before 0030/21. (V.A. Dover, 1058A/20.)

Operation
P.W.19.

Prepare to carry out operation P.W.19 with 4th M.T.B. Flotilla on first night weather is suitable. (C. in C. Nore, 1436A/20 to BEEHIVE.)

S.S.
PORTSDOWN
Sunk.

At about 0415/20 S.R. Steamer PORTSDOWN was sunk by explosion in Swashway Channel when on passage from Portsmouth to Ryde. Survivors' statements are being obtained but no witness who was on deck at the time has so far been found. Estimate 20 to 25 persons are dead or missing. C. in C. Portsmouth, 1544A/20.)

Milford
Haven area.

Two mines detonated 20/9. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1845A/20.)

GLEN ALVA
(mined 19/9)

N.C.S.O. Thames 1316A/19. Fishing boat LIBERTY with petrol engine was 150 yards astern of Cackle boat GLEN ALVA with Diesel engine, both boats trawling to westward. Engines dead slow. Mine exploded directly under GLEN ALVA. Two other fishing boats had recently passed close to position. (C. in C. Nore, 2123A/20.)

Thames
Estuary.

My 1559 (N.T. in W.D.) Amendment. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 2152/20.)

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.E-Boats.

Suspected E-Boat activity.
(C. in C. Nore, 2223A/20.)
E-Boats are using the following frequency.
(Harwich W/T 2312A/20.)
E-Boats bear approximately 024° from T by D/F.
(Harwich W/T 2315A/20.)
3 E-Boats in position 53° 3' N. 1° 38' E.
(VIVIEN, 2318A/20.)
E-Boats bear approximately 025° from T by D/F.
(Harwich W/T 2355A/20.)

Casualties and Defects.PONTFIELD.

Departure in tow of tugs STALWART and KROOMAN
escorted by H.M.T's STRATHGARRY and STRATHMAREE.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0638A/20.)

^T
PENSTEMON

DEPTFORD's 0830A/19. Tug THAMES escorted by
PENSTEMON. The latter reports she was unable
to establish communications with Shore by W/T.
(DEPTFORD, 1210/20.)

TEDDINGTON.

Half of tanker in tow of two tugs escorted by
two trawlers on passage to Humber by Q Z S 287
and Swept Channels is due 58A Buoy about 2000/20
estimated S. of A. 4½ knots.
(C. in C. Nore, 1635A/20.)
My 1635. Reported anchored 194° 2 miles from
58 buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 2145A/20.)

CITY OF
DURBAN.

Intend sailing for Gravesend, thence to London
Graving Dock Co., at 0900A/21. D.G. repaired and
bomb removed.
(CITY OF DURBAN, 1929A/20.)

CAPE BAULD.

NOT IDENTIFIED

Following received CAPE BAULD in tow. E.T.A.
Greenock 1000A/21.
(ST. OLAVES, 2015A/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/LINCOLN.....

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.LINCOLN.
Labour
difficulties.

Re Admty. 1343A/4.
Owing to difficulties with labour at Harland and Wolff working party of E.R.A's lent to LINCOLN have had to be withdrawn. It is probable that difficulties as to employment of E.R.A's will be resolved in the near future. 1321/19. Ends.

In accordance with Admty. 1343A/4/9. Arrangements were made to draft as many E.R.A's as possible to Destroyers refitting in various London repair yards in order to expedite refits. It is very regrettable that difficulties of this sort should occur. It does not reflect credit on the labour concerned and must inevitably hinder our efforts to expedite refits and repairs.
(C. in C. Nore, 2054A/20 to Admty.)

RUDILAIS.

Cancel my 1531/20 ^{NT. in W.D.} RUDILAIS developed defects.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2109A/20.)

MARCONI.(M/S Tr.)

Sunk in collision
with LORD BEACONS.
-FIELD (See p. 477)

Sunk in approx. position S. 35 E. Rough Buoy 8 cables. KENIA picked up survivors.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2139A/20, 2257A/20, 2359A/20.)
Arrival KENIA with survivors.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2359A/20.)

Shipping and Convoys.Route
Signals.

Increasing number of Route Signals received in which E.T.A. and S. of A. are inconsistent. This increases difficulty of plotting ship's position at Admiralty and may endanger the safety of the ship. In addition this necessitates an increasing volume of explanatory signals. N.C.S.O's are to make every endeavour to ensure that information required by Admty. 1954/7/7 and Amendments especially para. 8 is accurately complied with.
(D.T.D. 0014A/20 to C's. in C.)

Convoy
P.Q.1.

Comply with Admty. 2238A/16. Request names.
(C. in C. W.A., 1122A/20 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

See next page.

/Coasters.....

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.Coasters.

Coasting vessels whose bona fides are well known, when proceeding to a port where there is no N.C.S.O., should be issued with Secret Identification Signals for minimum number of periods necessary to cover their time at sea until they expect to call at a port where there is a N.C.S.O. S.P. Form R.S.4 must be sealed and bear the date stamp of the issuing office. (D.T.D. 1134A/20 to A.I.G. 26.)

P.Q.1.

A.M. 1859A/30/8 and 1849A/6.

Request you will sail Convoy P.Q.1 from Iceland and signal information required by A.M. 1859A/30/8.

Convoy will be ready to sail from Hvalfiord on 27/9; consists of following:-

LORCA. CAPIRA, NORTH KING, VILLE D'ANVERS, ELNA II,
LORCA. LORCA, BLAIRNEVIS, ATLANTIC, HARMONIC, RIVER
AFTON, GEMSTONE.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1157A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

W.S.12.

Composition and date.

(A.C.N.S.(H) and (F) 1245A/20.)

See Lion Copy.

S.C.42.

45 ships arrived with Rear-Adm. W.B. Mackenzie as Cdre., including 17 Allied and 1 Neutral. Cargoes.

(D.S. 746, 20/9.)

O.S.7.

Sailing of O.S.7 is to be postponed one day in order to include ships in E.C.75.

(D.T.D., 2139A/20 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

MOST SECRET

489A

M E S S A G E. 1245A/20th Sept.

MOST SECRET.

C U T.

To C. in C., Western Approaches, 614. Date, 20.9.41.

- Repeated F.O.I.C. Cardiff.
 F.O.I.C. Liverpool.
 F.O.I.C. Greenock.
 F.O.I.C. Belfast.
 N.O.I.C. Avonmouth.
 N.C.S.O. Milford Haven.
 N.C.S.O. Avonmouth.
 N.C.S.O. Mersey.
 N.C.S.O. Clyde.
 C. in C., Home Fleet, 111.
 R.A. (D) Home Fleet, 945.
 R.A. (M)
 S.O.W.P.
 C. in C., South Atlantic, 44.
 C. in C., Mediterranean, 499.
 C. in C., East Indies, 865.
 C. in C., America & West Indies 337.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 982.
 C.O.A.C. Halifax.
 R.A. (3) 851.
 F.O.C.N.A. 932.
 S.O. Force H, 683.
 ARGUS
 ROYAL ULSTERMAN.
 AGEMEMNON.
 C.T.H.A.Y.

Naval Cypher "C"

From Admiralty.

1. Convoy W.S.12 carrying military personnel and stores for the Near East and Convoy C.T. 3 vide A.M.1151A/19 not to all addressees, will be ready to leave the U.K. in company on September 30th. -462

2. Ships of W.S.12 will load at the following ports:-

Avonmouth	Personnel	HIGHLAND BRIGADE
Liverpool	Personnel	DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.
	Personnel	MEEDOZA.
	Personnel	SAMARIA.
	Personnel	FRANCONIA.
	Personnel	DOMINION MONARCH.
	Stores	CLAN LAMONT.
	Stores	PERTKESHIRE.
Clyde	Personnel	ALMANZORA.
	Personnel	CITY OF PARIS.
	Personnel	EMPIRE PRIDE.
	Personnel	EMPERESS OF CANADA.
	Personnel	EMPERESS OF RUSSIA.
	Personnel	LEOPOLDVILLE.
	Personnel	STRATHAIRD.
	Personnel	NARKUNDA.
	Personnel	ORMONDE.

/Stores.....

MOST SECRET

724
H89B

-2-

Clyde (Continued)	Stores	CLAN CAMPBELL.
	Stores	EMPIRE TRUST.
	Stores	PERSEUS.
	Empty	PRINCE BAUDOIN.

3. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail HIGHLAND BRIGADE as requisite to Clyde to attend Convoy conference.
4. The speed of CITY OF PARIS, MENDOZA and PERSEUS is 14 knots and as they are the slowest ships in the convoy they should be placed as leaders of the centre columns.
5. H.M.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN, speed 16 knots carrying 100 military personnel for Freetown will sail in the convoy from the Clyde.
6. H.M.S. ARGUS will sail from Clyde in the convoy.
7. ROYAL ULSTERMAN and PRINCE BAUDOIN will leave convoy in the vicinity of the Azores, fuel at Ponta Delgada proceeding thence independently to rejoin convoy if possible before meeting local escort from Freetown.
8. Arrangements for Cruiser escort will be signalled later.
9. A/A Escort: One A/A cruiser.
10. A/S Escort: Convoy is to be accompanied by two destroyers for the entire voyage. In addition to the two destroyers accompanying C.T.3 there will be twelve destroyers of which one will be H.M.S. SIKH who will join Command of Force H.
11. R.A. (M) is requested to provide three destroyers in accordance with A.M.1930A/18 not to all addressees.
12. C. in C., Western Approaches is requested to:-
 - (a) Provide eight destroyers, two of which are to remain with convoy until relieved by two destroyers from Force H, when they will return to U.K. after fuelling at Ponta Delgada. Destroyers of Canadian Escort Force returning to U.K. with H X 150 may be used, and if returning to Halifax they should fuel at Ponta Delgada and return direct.
 - (b) Provide one A/A cruiser to the limit of her endurance.
 - (c) Sail the separate portions to R/V off Oversay Light.

13. Admiralty will promulgate route and arrange position in which C.T.3 should part company.

14. Main convoy conference will be held at Greenock on September 30th and arrangements should be made for C.O's of escorts to attend.

1245A/20

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

- 1st Lord.
- 1st 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. to 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.D.I.C.
- D.C. (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.M.S.
- D.G.D.
- D.T.S.D.
- E.P.S.
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- Hd. of M.
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.N.A.D.
- D. of S.T.
- W.D.
- I.P. (3)

MMC.

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SCOTTISH.

Your 0005A/20. (N.T. in W.R.) Am I to assume Y.1 patrol? (SCOTTISH 0120A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

H.G.73

Departure HIGHLANDER to join H.G.73. Part company limit endurance to fuel at Londonderry. (F.O.C.N.A. 0806A/20 to Admty. etc.)

DENBYDALE,
DURHAM,
FIONA SHELL,
1-man S/M
attack.

About 0800, explosions in DENBYDALE in harbour in 53 berth and DURHAM and FIONA SHELL anchored in Bay. Further signal follows. (F.O.C.N.A. 0910A/20 to Admty.)

DENBYDALE, R.F.A., tanker, 8145 tons.

DURHAM, British, 10,893 tons.

FIONA SHELL, oiling hulk. (D.O.R. 21/9.)

My 0910A. Apparently attack by one man S/M.

Breathing apparatus recovered near DURHAM in Bay.

Endeavouring to beach DURHAM, FIONA SHELL has sunk. (F.O.C.N.A. 1044A/20 to Admty.)

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1044A/20. DENBYDALE no casualties, serious damage to tanks, cannot be repaired at Gibraltar taking into consideration Fleet requirements and it may be necessary to consider her as hulk. FIONA SHELL sank with one casualty Spanish stoker. All stocks of marine Diesel lost except for 1,000 tons. (C.S. Gib., 1916A/20 to Admty.)

My 1044A/20. DURHAM beached in commercial anchorage, full extent of damage not yet ascertained. DENBYDALE serious damage but afloat. (2) Investigation to date appears to indicate probable direct attack by submarine was synchronized with attack by two men submarines. (F.O.C.N.A., 2302A/20 to Admty.)

OBSTINE
L'OBRIEN.
FRENCH

Departure 19th Port Au Prince tug L'^{OBSTINE}OBRIEN for Casablanca. (R.O. Oporto, 1059/20 to M.E.W.)

Operation "C".

My 1437A/19 (MIRROR), propose carrying on operation "C". (COREOPSIS, 1129A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

REMEDIOS.

Your 1432/28/8 not to Admiralty or N.A. Madrid. Spanish tanker REMEDIOS cleared Port Arthur for Barcelona 25/8 not yet passed Gibraltar. Noon position on 13/9 39° 35' N. 12.20 W. (S.O.I Gib., 1142A/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/THORN

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.THORN.

Intend that THORN pass through 043° N. 010° 40' W. at 1700A/26 proceeding thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar. THORN is painted grey with white numbers and letter on conning tower. (Capt. S.3. 1447A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.) See p. 483

A/C engaged by SCOTTISH.

One unidentified aircraft course unknown, bearing unknown, my bearing 359° from St. Vincent 230. (SCOTTISH 1535A/20 to Gib. W/T amended 1835A/20.)
My 1535A/20. Engaged enemy Focke-Wulfe who returned N.W. No apparent damage. (SCOTTISH, 1615A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SAN ZAFERINO.

Your 1235A/19. Owners have been informed that SAN ZAFERINO will be requisitioned as soon as they have provided a crew and reported vessel ready to sail. When requisitioned, steam trial will be carried out with a view to sailing her for Freetown in company with FARADAY. (D.T.D. 1856A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.DALHEM.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1041/18. DALHEM arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown 1028B/20.)

JOHN WILLIAMSON, EGELAND.

Consular Shipping Adviser, Lourenco Marques, reports Norwegian minesweepers JOHN WILLIAMSON and EGELAND arrived at that port 1000/19 for repairs to latter, estimated time 5 days. If there is any risk of internment Consul General is requested to sail JOHN WILLIAMSON for Beira immediately and EGELAND for Durban if possible. Alternatively both ships to Durban, latter in tow. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1052B/20 to Admty.) My 1052B/20. Governor-General has granted 5 days for repairs to EGELAND. JOHN WILLIAMSON has sailed for Beira. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 2114B/20 to Admty.)

/O.S.

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.O.S. and S.L.
Convoys.

Your 1656/28/8 and Admty. 2350/29/8. Nine days' notice of time of arrival of O.S. (?O.S.) convoys at 19° N. is required if possible in order to decide date of sailing of S.L. In order that this may be forecast as early^{and} as accurately as possible request (a) date of sailing and E.T.A. at R/V as soon as sailed. (b) Corrected E.T.A. when local escort in North-Western Approaches leaves. (c) Any further information that can be given on passage. (C. in C. S.A. 1403N/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Wearing flag of R.A.S.A.D. arrived Buenos Aires 1800 G.M.T./19 and intends to leave 1800 G.M.T./21. (R.A.S.A.D., 1431Z/20.)

LL.Sweepers.

Request expected date of arrival of following vessels in Mediterranean, and that their passage be expedited as much as possible. 156th group of LL whalers, 158th group of LL trawlers, 167th group of LL whalers, NOBLE NORA Group. (D.M.S. 1528A/20 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)

LAVENDER.
BERGAMOT
for S.A.D.

Admty. 2219A/19 LAVENDER and BERGAMOT will be ready to sail 23/9. Request port or R/V. Endurance is about 20 days at 10 knots, 15 days at 12 knots, and 10 days at 14 knots. (C. in C. S.A., 1809N/20 to R.A.S.A.D.)

STANVAC. MANILA
Suspicious
Vessel.

Following received from N.C.S.O. Santos. (repeats 1945Z/19) (C. in C. S.A. 2029N/20 to S.O. Force F., R.A.S.A.D.)

Tristan da
Cunha.

Your 1847A/19. Is it intended that both ALCANTARA and CARNARVON CASTLE shall call at Tristan Da Cunha? (C. in C. S.A. 2041N/20 to Admty.) Reply: Yes. (D.O.D.(F) 2241A/21.)

Cruisers.

Your 2311/18. The releasing of A.M.C's will be of great assistance and this has already been felt; but speed and armament of these will not always be sufficient to bring successfully to action enemy raiders. Implementation of Admty. 1532/20/6 will be of great value. (C. in C.S.A. 2143N/20 to Admty.)

War Diary.

20.9.1941
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Propeller"

Your 1625/19. (arrival of EMPIRE GUILLEMOT). Request you will convey Their Lordships' congratulations to all concerned in "Propeller". (V.C.N.S. 0221A/20 to V.A. Malta.)

Benghazi.
Bardia
bombed.

Night 18/19. 6 Wellingtons attacked shipping and quays at Benghazi. 1 bomb burst on or near ships at outer Mole. 3 F.A.A. Albacores bombed Gambut landing ground and 1 Albacore bombed Bardia. Day 19/9. 6 Marylands bombed supply dumps North East of Gambut nearly all bombs bursting among dumps. Egypt. My A854, 19/9. About 8 enemy aircraft attacked Suez and Port Said night 18/19, main effort concentrated on Suez. Bombs and magnetic mines dropped but no damage or casualties reported at either place. 3 Hurricanes up but did not intercept. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1119/20.)

Bulgarian
Ship sunk.
BALCIC crew
trouble.

Please inform N.L.O. Black Sea from N.S.O.(I) Istanbul. (A) Bulgarian steamer sunk about 17/9 between ~~BALCIC~~ and Bourgas with cargo of grain, believed torpedoed by Russian Submarine. B.I. (B) Crew of Roumanian S.S. (?BAL)CIC in Istanbul are refusing to sail for Aegean Sea. (Beyoglu, 1208/20 to S.O.I Med.)
x Balchic.

PHOEBE.

A.M. 1053A/18 and B.A.R.M. 1442/19. PHOEBE will be repaired at U.S. Navy Yard, Brooklyn. Request your proposed programme for passage may be signalled as soon as practicable. (D.O.D.(F) 1244A/20 to C. in C. Med.)

UTMOST.
Enemy Liner.

My 2052B/19. Speed may be as low as 13 knots. Remain in position until 2359B/20 unless sighted earlier. (Capt. S.10, 1257B/20 to UTMOST.) A/C R/C report one large liner close off Kelibia Roads at 0945B/20 proceeding northwards at 17 knots escorted by 3 destroyers. Ship already damaged starboard side. (Capt. S. 10, 1340B/20 to UTMOST.)

Concerted
Operations
by 4 S/M's.

1. S/M's were disposed UNBEATEN 032° 52' N. 015° 03' E. UPHOLDER 032° 57' N. 014° 53' E. UPRIGHT 033° 01' N. 014° 42' E. URSULA 032° 53' N. 013° 45' E. The first 3 sailed in company with orders to maintain distance and line of bearing from UPHOLDER by supersonic telegraphy and sighting to be reported in S E 609. Hope that 3 were sufficiently eastward for night attack and URSULA west for daylight. Torpedoes of all S/M's set to 18 feet all were mark (VIII) except UPRIGHT who had salvo of mark 4 S.

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Concerted
Operations
by 4 S/M's
contd.

2. Following occurred, UNBEATEN 2 miles 150° from Billet sighted convoy at 0307/18 distant 8 miles to northward and made enemy report by supersonic telegraphy and W/T, latter only received by UPHOLDER and UPRIGHT.
3. UPHOLDER sighted convoy at 0350 consisting of 3 very large liners with 4 or more destroyers, enemy apparently steering steady course 260°: passing to northwards, UPHOLDER closed full speed on the surface and at 0406 fired 4 torpedoes scoring one hit on two separate targets. UPHOLDER dived for 35 minutes but on surfacing saw one liner stopped in position of attack and one making westward at about 5 knots.
4. UPRIGHT on receiving UNBEATEN's enemy report moved south at full speed until considered in Grane and at 0500 turned towards position of 2 damaged ships just reported by UPHOLDER, 0508 sighted destroyers manoeuvring to eastward, no big ship sighted.
5. At 0625 URSULA 2 miles to eastward of Billet sighted destroyer stopped to southward with M A S alongside, at 0656 sighted liner escorted by one Navigatori approaching from eastward. At 0705 fired 4 torpedoes one hit, no counter attack, target identified as VULCANIA. At 0725 enemy observed continuing towards Tripoli at slightly reduced speed and definite list of about 5°.
6. With daylight UNBEATEN and UPHOLDER both closed stopped liner mentioned in paragraph 3 and at 0851 UPHOLDER fired 2 torpedoes both hits and ship sank in 8 minutes, at this time boats were turned out but not manned, 3 destroyers in company and 3 approaching.
7. Reference URSULA's attack considered hit was aft with first torpedo, speed allowed 18 knots but probably ship was doing full speed.
(V.A. Malta, 1421B/20.)

Malta Raid.

Night 19/20. About 6 Enemy aircraft approached Malta, 1 crossed Coast. Bombs in sea. Incendiaries on land. No damage or casualties.
Day 20/9. 3 Enemy fighters crossed Island 23,000 feet. Hurricanes up, no interceptions.

Flotilla
leader damaged.

Evening 19/9. 2 Blenheims despatched attack liner 24,000 tons off Tripoli in half light failed locate liner owing W T failure shadowing aircraft. 1 Blenheim attacked Flotilla leader, stationary with light on, outside Tripoli 4,250 lbs. direct hits amidships below funnel resulting masses of black smoke increasing and could be seen from a considerable distance, claimed badly damaged, no opposition from Flotilla leader and only moderate A.A from Newar by Torpedo boat. Other aircraft found target.

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Tripoli
bombed.

Night 19/20. 7 Swordfish offensive sweep area Kerkenah Lampion. 24,000 ton liner sighted leaving Tripoli, no ships found. 7 Wellingtons attacked MV Spanish Quay and moles Tripoli 2216 - 0018 hrs. Hits Spanish Mole and quay, Arab quarters, and central town areas.

M/V claimed
sunk.

Day 20/9. 4 Blenheims shipping sweep sighted 2 MV 3,000 ton off Kerkenah northbound 1452 hours. 1 MV heavily laden hit amidships on waterline. Crew took to the boats and ship left on fire and settling down, claimed sunk.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/20.)

TRIUMPH.

Probably little traffic in Bauxite but timber and lignite being shipped from Sibenik and Dubrovnik, routes not known. Everything fair game no questions need be asked.
(Capt. S.1, 1615B/20 to TRIUMPH.)

2 French
Tankers.

Cancel my 1749C/19. Ships not yet entered Straits. Expected tonight or tomorrow.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1636C/20 to S.O.I. Med.)

Italian
Fleet.

Admty. 1521/12. Following is believed disposition of effective Italian main units; latest date 12/9. Taranto; 2 battleship LITTORIO, one CONTE DE CAVOUR class, 6 6-inch cruisers. Messina; 2 8-inch cruisers, one 6-inch cruiser. Palermo; 2 6-inch cruisers (one possibly (?damaged)). Trapani; one 6-inch cruiser. Tyrrhenean Sea; 2 CONTE DE CAVOUR class battle-ships (no recent report). (G.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1710B/20 to S.O. Force H. etc.) See also Admty. 1040A/21.

Gozo defence.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No.170.
1. We have carefully considered your views on the defence of Gozo. We agree that its defence is desirable on both military and political grounds.
2. At the same time the defence of Gozo cannot be said to be vital to the security of Malta. For that reason and because of our liabilities in other theatres, we do not propose to undertake further reinforcement at present.
In coming to this decision we have been influenced primarily by the difficulties of transporting and subsequently maintaining additional troops. Should the transportation situation in either the Eastern or Western Mediterranean become appreciably easier later on, we should review this decision.
(1st S.L. 2346A/20 to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Sinking of
TAIKOO 17/9.

N.O.i/c Massawa's 1658/17. (1) This regrettable loss means a setback to salvage operations at Massawa where many valuable prizes still lie in shallow water. (2) Request a salvage officer be flown out as soon as possible to replace Stenhouse. (3) Presume C. in C. Med. cannot spare CONFEDERATE (ex PROTECTOR) until relieved by VALKYRIEN which is still at the Cape. Request therefore the latter may be hastened. (C. in C. E.I., 1402Z/20 to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

A.M.C's.

Add to my 1455Z/16. Administration of A.M.C.'s at present under orders of R.A.3.B.S. will be carried out by C. in C. A. and W.I. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0225Z/20.)

Task Forces.

Groups mentioned Opanv 0525/19 (?0425/19 intended) assisted by available patrol planes assigned following tasks. Iceland, observe Denmark Strait and Northerly Approaches thereto. Argentinia, ready cover line Newfoundland - Azores and northward thereof. Bermuda, ready proceed northeastward. All groups ready co-ordinate movements with each other and British heavy units. (Spenavo, 0845/20 to Admty.)

AURANIA.

My 1542Q/17. Practice cancelled owing to weather, and sailing postponed. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/20 to R.A.3 B.S.)

Western
Patrol
fuelling.

F.O.C.N.A's 1046A/19th. Suggest in view of small coal stock and shortage of water at Bermuda, only those ships which are oil fired and self supporting in water should go to Bermuda, and the remainder to Halifax. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1052Q/20 to Admty.)

CALIFORNIA.

My 1114R/19 is cancelled. CALIFORNIA is now to proceed to Boston as directed in my 1726R/11 arriving on 22/9. (B.A.R.M. 1056R/20 to R.A.3 B.S.)

/CAP DES PALMES

War Diary.

20.9.1941
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

CAP DES PALMES, My 1820R/16. Kingston departures Free French
CHEVREUIL. A.M.C. CAP DES PALMES in company with CHEVREUIL.
Former has on board B.N.L.O. and Commandant
Laporte of French High Commissioner's staff both
accompanied by wives. Request Admiralty inform
A.C.F.N.F.I. and French N.F.I. and French High
Commissioner LE TRIOMPHANT.
(Capt. i/c Jamaica, 1230R/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

S.C.44.

Following is recyphered version my 19/2113
which was cyphered in CSP 1139 begins -
Opanv repeated C. in C. Lant Admiralty 325
C.C.N.F. from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Corvette LEVIS
was torpedoed at 0410Z/19 in 60° 07' N. 38° 37' W.
and being towed by Corvette MAYFLOWER. This
leaves only one destroyer and three Corvettes as
escort for convoy S.C.44. Are there any
American Units in vicinity who could assist
escort of this convoy? (ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1234/20 to Admty.)

BADALONA.

Your 2128/18. BADALONA's voyage was cancelled
and she went to Teneriffe later with approval of
M.E.W. (D.E.W.D. 1316A/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

CANDYTUFT.

A.M. 1917A/19. CANDYTUFT now ready for towage.
(C.C.N.F., 1509Z/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
C.C.N.F. 2045/18, Admty. 1917/19. Request you
advise where permanent repairs can be made to
CANDYTUFT, also if ship should be towed direct
to that port or to Halifax for temporary repairs.
Could she be taken in hand at Boston now repairs
to NIAGARA cancelled at that port?
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1711Z/20 to B.A.R.M. amended
1441Z/21.)

CITY OF
WINDSOR.

Due St. Thomas V.I., 12/9 from Capetown not yet
arrived. (S.O.I., Jamaica 1553R/20 to C. in C.
A.W.I. etc.)

"R" Report.

Following from Philadelphia. Br. EASTGATE
position 01.22 S. 39.07 W. heard an RRRR message
accompanied by much jamming from us. KATAHDIN
estimated 200 miles distant at 0358 G.M.T.
(Ends) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1631Z/20 to C. in C.
A.W.I.)

/TRENTON

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

TRENTON
CONCORD
(U.S.N.)

For information. TRENTON with Commander S.E. Pacific Force embarked, and CONCORD left Balboa for sea 18/9. Details of cruising plan will be communicated later. (Opnav 1736Z/20 to Admty.)

U.S. Navy.

Movement Report Supplement. (Opnav. 1910Z/20 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Task Groups.

1. Area 2. A.T. 1201A/17, 1811A/14 (para 1) Route given for group 2.5 has been cancelled. Further information will follow.
2. Area 3. Group 3.5 (MILWAUKEE, WARRINGTON) leave Pernambuco 21/9 for Trinidad, arriving 27/9. Group 3.6 (OMAHA, SOMERS) leave Pernambuco 24/9 to arrive in 15° N. 26° W. on 29/9. Group 3.7 (MEMPHIS, DAVIS) leave St. Thomas (Virgin Is.) 20/9 for Pernambuco where they are due 1/10. Group 3.8 (CINCINNATI, JOUETT) leave San Juan 28/9 to arrive Pernambuco on 9/10. (D.O.D.F. 2309A/20 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

Australia.

KANIMBLA.
MANOORA.

Admty. 0001A/8 A.C.N.B. have been considering method of returning personnel of KANIMBLA to Australia for leave and suggest convenient opportunity would be provided by the temporary exchange of Stations between KANIMBLA and MANOORA. Ships are almost identical except that MANOORA carries Walrus aircraft. MANOORA could arrive at Colombo about end of November and KANIMBLA could then proceed to Sydney for leave and if desired, (? short) refit, returning to East Indies Station about end of February. If proposals are concurred in, arrangements will be made with C. in C. East Indies accordingly. (A.C.N.B. 0205Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET

498A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
1910Z/20 September

From OPNAV

Date 21.9.41.
Recd 0418.

U.S. NAVY X BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty Repeated C. C. A. C. Halifax N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa, C. in C. America and West Indies C.C.N.F.
Newfoundland.

Movement Report Supplement all dates
September. Washington, NORTH CAROLINA, LUDLOW,
EDISON, BUCK, WOOLSEY. Hampton Roads-Guantanamo. 14th
18th.

Washington, LUDLOW, EDISON, Guantanamo -
PORT AU PRINCE. 19th 20th.

Cincinnati ^{Norfolk} ~~NORFOLK~~ New York 17th. 17th.

DUPONT, Reykjavik-Boston 17th-25th

ROWAN, WAINRIGHT, Argentinia-Hampton Roads
10th-13th.

C.C. BABBITT, LEARY, CASCO BAY-Argentinia 15th-17th

GREER, Boston-Argentinia 16th-22nd

KEARNY, LIVERMORE, Bermuda-Argentinia 11th-14th.

LANG, WILSON, CASCO BAY-Bermuda 12th-13th

SWANSON, Bermuda, NORFOLK 18th 19th

Mississippi, RHIND, MAYRANT, CASCO BAY-
Argentinia 19th 21st. C.C.

T.U.1.1.8 (TARBELL, MOFFETT, MCCORMICK,
MCDUGAL) Argentinia-Iceland 11th 18th.

MACKREL, New London-Portsmouth 20th 21st

S.11, S.12, S.13, S.14, S.15, S.16, S.17,
New London - St. Thomas. 19th 27th.

1910Z/20.

Advance Copy Duty Capt.

D.O.D. (F))
D.D.I.C.

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

W.D. _____
I.P. (2)
Admiral Bailey.
E.P.S.
Hd. of M.
D.A./S.W.
A.E. (2).

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

S.C.42.
JEDMOOR,
EMPIRE
SPRINGBUCK.
VESTLAND,
GYP SUM QUEEN,
SALLY MAERSK.
THISTLE GLEN.

Now known that British JEDMOOR, 4392 tons, from Santos to Tyne, with iron ore, was among ships of S.C.42 torpedoed and sunk. Another ship, EMPIRE SPRINGBUCK, 5591 tons, Sydney to London with phosphates, is reported missing. VESTLAND 1934 tons, which was torpedoed in this convoy, has arrived in port with 26 survivors from GYP SUM QUEEN, 3915 tons, now presumed sunk. SALLY MAERSK, 3252 tons, and THISTLE GLEN, 4748 tons, also now presumed sunk. (D.S., 746, 20/9.)

S.C.44.
LEVIS
(corvette)
T.J.WILLIAMS.
EMPIRE BURTON.
PINK STAR.
BARBRO.

Attack is concentrated, numerous ships torpedoed and sunk. Convoy scattered. (CHESTERFIELD, 0200Z/20, to C. in C.W.A.) W.A.C.I. Part 102 (a) Escort counter attacked, no definite result and further details not available at present. (b) correctly signalled (c) Escort in N.E.4 (d) Tanker T.J.WILLIAMS holed engine room, possible salvage. EMPIRE BURTON, PINK STAR, and tanker name unknown at present, sunk (e) 2325Z/19 061° 36' N., 035° 07' W., (f) 025° 25' previous course 055° (g) fine weather, moderately light (h) nil. (CHESTERFIELD, 0347/20.) T.J.WILLIAMS, Brit. tanker, 8211 tons, Baltimore to Stanlow, Pool Spirit. EMPIRE BURTON, British, 6966 tons, Halifax to Liverpool, Wheat. PINK STAR (ex LUNDBY) Panamanian, 4150 tons, New York to Liverpool, General. BARBRO, Norwegian tanker, 6325 tons, New York to Stanlow, Gasoline. (D.S.747, 21/9.) U.S. State Dept., announced 22/9 that former Danish PINK STAR, now owned by U.S.Govt., sunk near Iceland on 19/9. She was flying the Panama flag. The vessel, which was requisitioned by the Maritime Commission on 12/7, sailed from New York on 3/9 with a general cargo. (The Times, 23/9/41.) C. in C.W.A.'s 1706A/?19 (N.T.in W.D.) HONEYSUCKLE has picked up over 100 survivors of ships torpedoed. Possibility of other boats and rafts with survivors in vicinity. MAYFLOWER has been instructed to pass through position of attack and make search. Not possible for ships to remain in vicinity any longer to search owing to further attack. Weather fine and settled. (CHESTERFIELD, 0430Z/20 to C. in C.W.A.) LEVIS sank 1915Z/19 MAYFLOWER rejoining convoy. (CHESTERFIELD, 0435Z/20 to C. in C.W.A., Admty.) S.C.44 attacked by concentration of U Boats in 061° 44' N., 034° 50' W., at 0200Z/20. Convoy scattered. Proceed to this position and then sweep along track of convoy. (C. in C.W.A., 0537A/20 to ARROWHEAD, EYEBRIGHT.)

/Situation.....

War Diary.20.9.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

S.C.44.
LEVIS
 (corvette.)
T.J.WILLIAMS.
EMPIRE BURTON.
PINK STAR.
BARBRO.
Contd.

Situation report. S.C.44 heavily attacked and is now probably separated into portions which should be proceeding along the general line of advance of the convoy. Some of these portions may endeavour to reform on their estimated noon positions of the 20 and 21st. The escort force of 1 destroyer and 6 corvettes are still in the vicinity of the convoy.

(D.T.D. 1316Z/20 to O.P.N.A.V.)
 1300Z/20, 062° (? 39') N., 034° 55' W., Course 070° speed 7 knots. 2 ships straggled from convoy. Tanker BARBRO torpedoed at 0130Z/20. There may be boats within the vicinity of attack. (CHESTERFIELD, 1502Z/20.) Weather.

MARKEN
 (torpedoed
 10/9.)

N.C.S.O. Santos reports Dutch MARKEN was torpedoed and sunk in 01° 36' N., 36° 55' W., at 1753Z on 10/9. Master thinks S/M was Italian of GALILEO FERRAMAI (?FERRARIS) class or GIOVANNI DA PROCIDA class fitted with two guns but was German manned. S/M painted light grey with red band around top of conning tower.

(S.O.I. Monte Video, 1754Z/20, to R.A.S.A.D.)
 Details of attack and disposal of C.B.'s.
 (N.C.S.O. Santos, 1250Z/20.)
 Cardiff to Capetown with a cargo of aircraft.
 (D.S.747.)

Submarines Reported.

0759Z.

By D/F at 0759Z/20. U Boat in area of 49°N., to 50° 30' N., 21° to 24° W. May have reported a convoy. Either SL.86 or OG.74 or WS.11X.
 (D.D.I.C. 1006A/20 to EGRET, HILLARY, DEPTFORD, V.A.2, H.Q.C.C. etc.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. Several attacking Convoy S.C.44 about 62° 30': 33° 30'.
 (D.D.I.C. 1432A/20.)

1349Z.

By D/F at 1349Z/20, position of German U/Boat, probably homeward bound, was approx., 46° 00' N., 47° 30' N., 5° 00' W. - 6° 00' W.
 (D.D.I.C. 1544A/20.)

1512C.

By D/F U-boat in 069° 27' N., 043° 52' E., at 1512C/20. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA.
 (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1610Z/20.)

/1730Z.....

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.Contd.

1730Z.

1 submarine bearing 290° distant 12 miles approx., course 190° my position 048° 34' N., 022° 15' W., submarine dived on approach of aircraft.
(DEPTFORD, 1730Z/20, to Admty., etc.)
BLANKNEY and WITCH have joined DEPTFORD in position 098°, 49° N., 23° W., 15, in hunt for U-Boats.
(WITCH, 2205A/20, to C. in C.W.A.)

1915.

Probable sighting report from Italian U Boat at 1915/20.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2032A/20 to Escorts of H.G.73.)

St. Nazaire.

A/C R/C reports 3 U-boats leaving St. Nazaire at 1630/20.
(D.D.I.C.2319A/20 to P.34, S/M.'s on Patrol Area A.)

By A/C.

Am over enemy submarine in 62.43 N., 31.02 W.
(A/C Duty O,1630/20, to Reykjavik A.O.C.)
Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface, when sighted was on course 07° estimated speed 6 knots.
(A/C, O,1645/20.)
Am over enemy submarine in 62.45 N., 30.15 W.
(A/C, O,1740/20.)
Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface, when sighted was on course 090° speed 5 knots.
(A/C, O, 1745/20.)
Have attacked enemy with level bombs and estimate one hit.
(A/C, O, 1748/20.)

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary21.9.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

Harwich, the Thames Estuary and Medway were closed on account of fog during the greater part of daylight today.

Russian
Submarines

The Russians report that a total of 10 of their S/M's have now passed through the Stalin Canal.

TIGRIS's
Operations.

S.N.O. Murmansk reports that on 13/9 TIGRIS sank the unescorted 2000 ton westbound vessel off Rolvsoy Sound and torpedoed a 3000 ton ship in convoy on 17/9.

E-Boats

At 0325 today MEYNELL with F.S.409 reported 5 E-Boats near Newarp Light Float. These were possibly the same boats which attacked F.N.521 earlier in the night. The destroyers drove off the enemy and report one E-Boat probably damaged, though thick weather prevented air search. None of our vessels suffered casualties or damage.

British Air Operations

30 aircraft attacked docks and shipping at Ostend last night.

Enemy Air Operations

SS WALMER CASTLE (Rescue Ship) in O.G. 74 was bombed and set on fire in 47° 16' N., 22° 15' W at 1204A today by a F.W. aircraft which was subsequently destroyed by a fighter. WALMER CASTLE was sunk by gunfire.

SS MALANCHA reported being attacked at 1101 today.

SS SITALA reported being attacked at 1102 today in 46° 57' N., 22° 2' W.

War Diary21.9.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTMining

V.A. Dover considers that our minelaying in the shipping channels off the French Coast since 15/9 in conjunction with his proposed minelaying policy will drive enemy traffic further from the coast and afford more favourable opportunities for air and surface attack.

Mining
Thames Estuary

SS VANCOUVER (tanker) in F.S.599 was mined at 1100 today whilst anchoring in Barrow Deep and sank later. Other mines were exploded in the Estuary.

Harwich was closed at 0050 today owing to suspected minelaying and remained closed until 1605A owing to fog in addition.

South Atlantic

U.S. ship ROBIN HOOD reports sighting at 1930 G.M.T./9 in 10° 4' S., 26° 58' W. a suspicious vessel resembling the German ATLANTIS.

Mediterranean

At 1753 today, at last light 2 Blenheims attacked a 24,000ton northbound liner escorted by 6 destroyers in the Gulf of Hammamet, and secured 8 hits with 250lb bombs and one on the waterline causing the vessel to stop. (A liner (apparently this one) was sighted stationary off Kuriat Island at 0950/22.)

Palestine schooner ANTAR was set on fire by U-Boat and sank later after being missed by torpedo at 2300 today whilst on passage from Beirut to Haifa. SOUTHERN SEA was unsuccessfully bombed whilst endeavouring to tow the hull of ANTAR to Beirut.

Dardanelles

The anti torpedo boom is now reported in complete operation.

War Diary21.9.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTEast Indies

French Launch REWAK carrying petrol from Jibuti to Obok has been intercepted and taken to Zeilah and is being retained in prize.

~~POSSE~~ America and West Indies.Raider Search

Positions of U.S. patrols at 1200 G.C.T. today
CONCORD (cruiser) south of Galapagos Is.
TRENTON (Cruiser) west of Galapagos Is.
ERIE (gunboat) and two destroyers east of Galapagos Is.

U-Boat CampaignAttack on O.G. 74.

RUNA was torpedoed at 2150 in 45° 57' N., 22° 13' W. LISSA, RHINELAND and one other ship are absent from the convoy since last night.
(later, presumed torpedoed)

ANTAR

See Mediterranean 23/9 9th ~~page~~

VIMY reported at 2115A that she had damaged a submarine in 37° 46' N., 19° 18' W. The S/M has dived and VIMY is searching.

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.D.C. unit
Target Boats
at Scapa.

Re. (C. in C. H.F. 2256A/21.)

Co-operation with Russia.Russian
S/M's.

Kuznetsov has told me that five more (making a total of ten) submarines have now been passed through Stalin Canal. (Ad. Miles 1809C/21.)

Movements.H.32

H.32 escorted by ST. KENAN left Londonderry at 2100A/20 for Rothesay and may be met during the night. (C. in C. W.A. 0141A/21 to BARBOUR etc.)

EREBUS.Following is a repetition of my 2236A begins. ^{NT. H. W. D.}
After passing May Island proceed your best speed and endeavour to arrive at Sheerness by 1900/22. Proceed by Q.Z.S. 287. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore, 0150A/21 to EREBUS.)H.28.Intended to sail H.28 escorted by ST. KENAN at 2000A/22 from Rothesay to Londonderry. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0800A/23. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection.
(Capt. S.7. 1019A/21.)SEALION.
SEAWOLF.SEALION leaves Bay of Biscay North zone after dark 22/9 routed as follows to R/V end of Q Z S 169 at 0630A/25. (Capt. S.5. 1421A/21.)
SEAWOLF leaves for patrol at 1630/22nd routed as follows. S.B.R. are arranged as follows.
(Capt. S.5. 1430A/21.)WITCH
BLANKNEY.Disregard my 1120A/21. ^{NT. H. W. D.} WITCH and BLANKNEY proceed to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A., 2249A/21 to WITCH, BLANKNEY.)Operations.E-Boats.Fast hydrophone effects indicate 3 motor boats heard in 053° 30' N. 000° 50' E. Cannot find anything with star shells. Have only 12 star shells left. (VIVIEN 0313A/21.)
Five E-Boats bearing 110° 25 miles from Cromer. (MEYNELL 0325/21.)
Damaged E-Boat somewhere in vicinity of 7 buoy. (Yarmouth 0352/21.)

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.Search for
damaged
E-boat.

Circumstances permitting leave patrol now and return via 60 Buoy Smith's Knoll and 55 Buoy to search for damaged E-boat.

(C. in C. Nore 0507A/21 to M.L.320.)

Fuel permitting proceed forthwith to 7 buoy and search on line 100° for 15 miles for damaged E-boat. (C. in C. Nore 0531A/21 to POPPY, M.L.187, M.L.191.)

Convoys
F.N521 and
F.S49 attacked
by E-boats.

Attacks were made by E-boats as follows:

(1) On F.N521 near 57A Buoy between 2310 and 2330/20 probably by 6 boats. VIVIEN reports tracks of 3 torpedoes seen and attack driven off by destroyers. 1 E-boat probably damaged.

(2) Later at 0325/21 MEYNELL with F.S49 reported 5 E-boats near Newarp Light Float. These boats had apparently approached from astern of the convoy and may have been the same craft that had previously attacked F.N521. This second attack was again driven off by destroyers the enemy retiring on course 100 degs. from No.7 buoy. MEYNELL reports 1 E-boat probably damaged. Search by destroyers M.L's and M.G.B's failed to locate damaged boats - air search not possible owing to thick weather. No casualties or damage in any of our vessels during either attack. (C. in C. Nore 1207A/21.)

TIGRIS
Report.
Two M/V's
sunk.

TIGRIS arrived. Reports one M.T.B., one Mine-sweeper, one Hospital Ship, and following 5 M/V's sighted from 10/9 to 17/9. Details.

Of the 5 M/V's sighted 2 were sunk as follows. At 1115C/13, one 2000 ton M/V attacked in Rolvsoy Sound. One hit. Vessel sank immediately and survivors from rafts seen rescued by fishing vessel.

At 1304C/17 one 3000 ton M/V attacked near 70° 14' N. 21° 8' E. One hit estimated and vessel seen stopped and large column of black (?smoke) observed from her for 20 minutes. One other vessel and M.T.B. subsequently observed proceeding and 14 explosions heard. Minesweeper observed sweeping area on 18/9.

(B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1231C/21.)

East Coast
Patrols.

Patrols tonight (1) 3 M.G.Bs Patrol 310° 10 miles from South Leman Buoy. (2) 2 M.G.Bs patrol 010° to 190° 5 miles from Smith's Knoll Buoy. (3) 1 M.G.B. on Q E with A/P patrolling F Y (4) 2 M.T.B's returning to Harwich from Eastward at daylight. (C. in C. Nore 1543A/21.)

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Search for
E. Boat.

Request aircraft search at dawn from Sarp Float in direction 100° for damaged E-boat. (MEYNELL 0327A/21 to C. in C. Nore.)
Your 0427. Aircraft grounded. (C. in C. Nore. 0537A/21 to MEYNELL.)

A/C for
ARGUS.

Your 1951A/20. Confirm 2 Fulmars of No.818 Squadron. (ARGUS 1335A/21.)
Your 1335A/21. My 1951A/20 received by F.O.i/c Greenock only, stated 2 Swordfish of 818 Sqdn. (D.N.A.D. 2008A/21 to ARGUS.)

Bombing
operations.
3 M/V's and
1 Flak Ship
sunk.
3 M/V's
damaged.

On 20/9 direct hits were obtained on 3 ships between 10,000 and 5,000 tons and a Flak ship of 800 tons off the Dutch coast, and these are claimed as total loss. 3 other M/V's were left on fire.
The Fish Oil Factory at Floro, north of Bergen, and the docks at Cherbourg were also bombed. During the night 20/21 Ostend, Kiel, Warnemunde, Sylt, Amrum and Borkum were attacked. (H.Q.B.C. 1540/21.)

Escort for
LONDON.

C. in C. H.F. 1359/21. Expect A/S escort by Hudson A/C until last light tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth 1648/21 to LONDON.)

Enemy Air Activity.Yarmouth
bombed.

Yarmouth bombed 0240/21. No naval damage. (F.O.I.C Yarmouth 0912A/21.)

Unknown
Ship.

De MALANCA AAAA De 35 attacked aircraft. Ends. (Valentia Radio 1101/21)

SITALA.

Attacked by aircraft 46° 57' N. 22° 02' W. de GLD. (SITALA via Lands End 1102/21.)

Convoy O.G.74.
WALMER CASTLE
(British, 906
Tons) sunk.

WALMER CASTLE bombed and set on fire in 047° 16' N. 022° 15' W. at 12047A/21 by F.W. aircraft subsequently destroyed by fighter. WALMER CASTLE sunk by gunfire. DEPTFORD 84 survivors, 20 seriously injured and 2 require immediate hospital treatment. MARIGOLD 15. Master of WALMER CASTLE missing. 29 not accounted for. DEPTFORD proceeding best speed direct Gibraltar unless orders to contrary are received. (DEPTFORD 1750A/21) (C. in C. W.A. 2219A/21.)

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Harwich.Port closed owing to suspected minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0050A/21.)S.N.23 C.My 1056/20. Request air A/S escort from first
light until 0900/22. (R.A.M. 1011A/21.)
Departure WELSHMAN. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A.2017/21.)N.L.27.Intend to carry out operation N.L.27 tonight
from 50° 58' 06" N. 01° 46' 12" E.
(V.A. Dover 1133A/21.)Operation
J.U.(i) Object. To lay mines between 50° N. 0° 50' E.
and 50° 7' N. 1° 1' E. mines being laid in groups
on a zigzag course.
(iii) Intelligence. As in my 1417/19.
(iv) Execution. MANXMAN is to leave Portsmouth,
passing gate at 1745/21 and proceed to carry out
lay ordered. At night lay MANXMAN is to return
to Milford Haven. MANXMAN has full discretion to
cancel operation or jettison mines if circum-
stances so require. (C. in C. Portsmouth
1203A/21.)Convoy F.S.599.
VANCOUVER
(British
Tanker, 5729
Tons) sunk.S.S. VANCOUVER mined and sinking on fire in about
263° 2 miles from Sunk. 3 survivors in WALLACE.
Tug not required. PUFFIN standing by.
(WALLACE 1214A/21.)
Departure tug KENIA to assist VANCOUVER.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1447A/21.)
VANCOUVER in two pieces. After part sunk. Fore
part anchored 263° 2.2 miles from Sunk. Fore
part blazing and sea round both parts on fire,
impossible to approach or do anything at present.
If fire in fore part dies out and it still floats,
salvage may be possible. (F.O.I.C. Harwich
1447A/21, 1819A/21, Salvage Officer, Harwich
1830A/21, Cdre i/c Sheerness 2202A/21.)Effect of
French Coast
Mining.Since 15th September 5 strings of magnetic mines
containing a percentage of the more sensitive
type have been laid across the shipping channels
off the French Coast in this area in addition to
3 permanent and 3 temporary strings laid in June
and July. Recent R D F plots have shown that
shipping now use a route to seaward of the former
swept channels and this has coincided with a
considerable increase of minesweeping activity
between Boulogne and Gravelines believed to be
anti-magnetic.

/The

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.Effect of
French Coast
Mining contd.

The connection between these facts is probably a real one and the existing and proposed mine-laying policy promises to drive traffic further from the coast and afford more favourable opportunities for air and surface attack and greatly increase the enemy's minesweeping commitments. It will also favour long range artillery attack. My 1317A/18 and A14/O/895/41 of 16/9/41 refer. (V.A. Dover 1215A/21.)

Off Foulness
on 19/9.

Two Type C Mines detonated by MEYNELL at 1458/19 and 1503/19 respectively. Details. (D.21 1457/21)

P.W.19.

My 1436A/20. Intend to carry out operation P.W. 19 with two M.T.B's tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1540A/21.)

Newhaven
Minefield.

N.O.I.C. Newhaven reports Newhaven minefield now in complete operation. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1543A/21.)
My 0050A/21/9 and 0801A/21. Port of Harwich now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1605A/21.)

Shetlands.

A German V. Type mine was sunk in 60° 4' 30" N. 1° 27' W. on 20/9 by our mine disposal party. This mine was seen just one foot below the surface and bobbed up occasionally. The mine was in good condition, appearing to be very new, and apparently moored. It was sunk in 58 fathoms. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1720A/21.)

Thames
Estuary.

One Magnetic Mine detonated at 0233/21 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1739/21.)

BLACKTHORN reports that at 0728A/21 when 1½ cables 144° from Hope Buoy and on steady course N 23° W speed 6 knots a mine exploded one cable astern. (C. in C. Nore 1830A/21.)

Off Bembridge
on 20/9.

One magnetic mine detonated by L L sweep at 1005/20. Details. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1835A/21.)

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Fog.

Port of Harwich closed owing to Fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0801A/21.)
Thames and Medway closed owing to fog.
(X.D.O. Sheerness 0955/21.)
Until fog clears traffic is not to proceed
further down river than Gravesend. (F.O.I.C.
London 1127/21.)
Thames and Medway are open. (X.D.O. Sheerness
1400/21, F.O.I.C. London 1519/21.)

Technical.

Convoys to
North Russia.
Signalling
Procedure.

Pass A.M.1859A/30/8 to ELECTRA and HARRIER.
(D.S.O. 0255A/21 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

Casualties and Defects.

CHURCHILL.

Have gyro and A/S defects. (CHURCHILL 0725Z/21.)

VERITY.

Owing to further defects VERITY will not be ready
for service until p.m./23. (F.O.I.C. Belfast
1111A/21.)

INCHGOWER
(Suspected
sabotage.)

Suspect sabotage of INCHGOWER's degaussing gear
while at Falmouth on 19/9. Ship is being sailed
to Falmouth with convoy P.W.38 for investigation
forthwith. (C. in C. Plymouth 1131/21 to N.O.I.C.
Falmouth.)

GRAPH.

Result of trials of GRAPH. Details. Heavy
weather may aggravate latent damage but it is
considered improbable that this would be
sufficient to endanger her. Anticipate ready
to sail 25/9. (A.C.I.C. 1211/21.)

TIGRIS.

Asdic oscillator flooded on 7/9 and out of
action for remainder of patrol. (B.S.N.O.
Murmansk 1231C/21.)

MARCONI
(Collision
on 20/9.)

My 2257A/20. Wreck is in 51° 54.6' N. 1° 30.8' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1229A/21.)

PONTFIELD.
(Mined 15/9)

Immingham departure Tug SABINE at 1255 to assist
Tug STALWART towing M/V PONTFIELD. (F.O. Humber
1300A/21.)

/CELANDINE

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.CELANDINE.Arrived. Urgent defects of boiler tubes.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1453/21.)Shipping and Convoys.W.S.12.Adm. 1245/20, para.11. BRIGHTON, LANCASTER,
and NEWARK detailed. (R.A.(M) 1121A/21 to
C. in C. W.A.)Request you will sail SIKH as convenient to
arrive Clyde not later than 28/9.2. SIKH will be required to form part of escort
for W.S.12 leaving Clyde on 30/9 subsequently
joining the command of Force H.

(D.O.D.H. 1810A/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

LOCHNAGAR.Your 1326A/17. Crew of LOCHNAGAR refuse to sail
until D.G. repaired, estimated time 5 days.She will therefore be unable to sail in S.D.12.
(A.C.I.C. 1223/21 to Admty.)CHARLES L.D.Can now proceed. (D.G.R.O. Clyde 1355/21 to
F.O.I.C. Greenock.)O.S.Convoys.Your 1403N/20. Daily position of O.S.Convoys
from our situation report will in future be
signalled while convoys are in Western Approaches
Command Area. E.T.A. at Southern R/V cannot
be estimated with any degree of accuracy nine
days in advance. If circumstances permit W/T
silence being broken, the procedure of reporting
as in W.A.C.I. part 132, para.15 is to be amended
to read 6 days in advance. (C. in C. W.A.
1601A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)E.C. and
F.N. Convoys.Programme to 1/10. (C. in C. Rosyth 1610/21,
D.T.D. 1844A/21) See Lion Copy.E.C.76.Sailing postponed 24 hours, necessitates post-
poning W.N.84 by one day. (D.T.D. 1830A/21 to
N.C.S.O. Oban.)

SECRET.MESSAGE.

From. C in C.Rosyth.

1610/21st September. IN.

Date. 21.9.41.

Recd. 1829.

P/L BY T/P.Addressed. Admiralty, C in C.Nore. H.Q.C.C.,
Not W/T. H.Q.F.C., 11, 12, 13 Groups.185. Convoy Message Less S.E.E.C.C.D.

Amend my 1140/10/9 as follows:-

After F.N.21 Sunday 21st. Convoy postponed.
 Monday 22nd. E.C.76 (Slow)
 Tuesday 23rd. E.C.77 (Fast)
 Wednesday 24th. F.N.23 (Slow)
 Thursday 25th. Blank Day
 Friday 26th. E.C.78 (Medium)
 Saturday 27th. F.N.24 (Fast)
 Sunday 28th. E.C.79 (Slow)
 Monday 29th. F.N.25 (Medium)
 Tuesday 30th. F.N.26 (Fast)
 Wednesday 1st October. E.C.80 (Slow).

After passing May Island E.C.79 will run as a Fast Convoy.

1610/21.

✓ Forecast of Northbound
 sailings from Southend.

Advance copies to Ops., Trade.

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

N.A.1st S.L.

Ops (4)

O.D.(5)

O.D.8.

D.N.I.(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.

C.C.L.S.

CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE.

OUT

1844A/21st September.

To C. in C. Nore 411.
 C. in C. Rosyth. 406.
 A.C.O.S. 824.
 C. in C. Western
 Approaches 664.

Date, 21.9.41.

 P/L BY T/P

From Admiralty.

Pass to N.C.S.O's.

Reference T.D. Memorandum Convoy Information

No. 51. Correct as follows :- OS 7 and ONS 21
 postponed one day.

Sept. 22nd EC 76 slow all the way (for OG 75)
 " 23rd EC 77 fast all the way (for ON 20 and OG 75)
 " 24th FN523 slow.
 " 25th Blank day.
 " 26th EC 78 medium all the way (for ONS 21)
 " 27th 28th and 29th as at present.
 " 30th FN526 fast.
 Oct. 1st EC 80 slow all the way (for ONS 23)

1844A/21.
 for D. T. D. (363)

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.

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

TRUANT.

On entering N.A. Station report P.C. and S. of A and weather.
(2) Wireless watch. (3) Only messages containing your delivery group need be decoded.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0906A/21 to TRUANT).

SEGUNDO
ENRIQUE.
PRIMER
ENRIQUE.
suspect.

My 2320/8 SEGUNDO ENRIQUE, 113 tons, believed painted white with number 5300 on set, also PRIMER ENRIQUE, 101 tons, creosoted, believed to be transmitting intelligence useful to enemy on short wave set. Likely to be met in Cadiz, Gibraltar, or Canary Is. area. If encountered prompt action must be taken to prevent destruction of incriminating documentary or other evidence and ship sent in under armed guard.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1155/21 to Gibraltar Force, Trawlers Western Patrol).

Convoy.

Convoy is $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours late. (F.O. Force H., 1234A/21 to ZULU, FORESIGHT).

Force H.,
Intelligence.

Your 1643/19, Concur. (F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/21 to V.A. Malta).

P.34.

(1) Carry out dive patrol in area within 30 miles $042^{\circ} 50'N 010^{\circ} 40'W$. Look out for U-boat.
(2) My 1410A/20 leave patrol so as to pass through (Q) at 1600A/25 and R/V escort at (R) 0800A/26. Report if unable to comply within 1 hour.
(3) Gibraltar broadcasting L/F frequency is now 44.8 kc/s. (F.O.C.N.A., 1306A/21 to P.34).

French
Convoy.

Gibraltar 0750, French armed Trawler TOURTERELLE, French ships CHELMA, MORON, AUGUSTE DENISE, all light with deck cargo, TOURS light deck cargo lorries steam and motor boats, VILLE DE HAVRE light deck cargo, life saving rafts, westbound. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1653A/21 to Admty etc).

VIMY.

Cancel my 1216A/21. ^{N.T.K.W.H.} VIMY return to Gibraltar on relief by HIGHLANDER. (F.O.C.N.A., 2014A/21 to VIMY).

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ROBIN HOOD
suspicious
ship.

U.S.S.ROBIN HOOD reports sighting at 1930 G.M.T./9 in 10° 04' S., 26° 58' W., large cargo vessel half laden steering 023° speed 14 knots. Master's suspicions aroused because of close resemblance of vessel to photograph of ATLANTIS (No. 16) recently published in American Journal "Life" (description) (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1055B/21 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Corvettes.

Your 2057/18. Distribution of available A/S forces is under constant review with object of allocating them in proportion to the volume of trade requiring protection and the degree of threat to that trade.

2. Redistribution ordered in Admty., 2122A/12 is a necessary preparation for the plan referred to in Admty., 0110/30/8 to C. in C. S.A. only.

3. Regretted that owing to available numbers still being far below our commitments there is no possibility at present of adding to A/S forces at your disposal; in fact, it has been found necessary to reduce them by Admty 2219/19.

(V.C.N.S. 1310A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM,
LAVENDER,
BERGAMOT.

Your 1809/20. Request corvettes be sailed so as to R/V with BIRMINGHAM at Northern end of sea R/V "Percival" at 1300 G.M.T./4.

(R.A.S.A.D., 1529Z/21 to C. in C. S.A.) This will be done. (C. in C. S.A., 1407N/22).

CARNARVON
CASTLE,
ALCANTARA,
Nightingale
Island.

Admty 1721/20 and my 1642/8. CARNARVON CASTLE has developed engine defect which probably cannot be completed before 1st week in October.

Propose on completion CARNARVON CASTLE sails Tristan Da Cunha and Nightingale Island with party referred to in Admty 1721/20 arrive Z plus 4 days.

CARLISLE reported in 1937 that Nightingale Island was visited and landing place inspected from seaward. There appeared to be no suitable beach and landing can only be effected in calm weather on rocks.

Technical party would require one clear day on island. Probability of calm weather negligible, swell and wind less than force 3 in that area in October estimated at one day in 6. Suggest ALCANTARA is delayed accordingly and calls at Nightingale Island about Z plus 5 days to embark technical party thence proceeding to Cape. Z day being date of departure of CARNARVON CASTLE from Capetown. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1715B/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

/STANVAC.....

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.STANVAC ^{MANILA}
suspicious
vessel.

My 2309/19 and my 1259/21. STANVAC ^{MANILA} first sighted identical vessel at 1600/15 in 10° 04' S., 34° 58' W., course 199° speed 13 knots, distance 7 miles, which she closed to 5 miles, maintaining this distance until night-fall. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1921Z/21 to S.A.D.)

CLYDE.

Your 0910/18. Request CLYDE after leaving Canary Island may be instructed to proceed through position (a) 024° 00' N., 021° (?40) W. and (b) 011° (?30) N., 021° 40' W., thence to Freetown. Escort will be provided into Freetown if available. Request E.T.A. at position (a) may be signalled. (C. in C. S.A., 2031A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Tristan Da
Cunha.

Your 2041/20. It is intended that both ships should call. A.M. 1721/20 and 2334/20 refer. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2241A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE.

Left Freetown 21/9 to patrol in area I. 34 B and D. (C. in C. S.A., 2353N/21 to Admty).

Mediterranean.Alexandria
Mines.

Alexandria M/Sweeping Summary week ending 13/9 blank. Week ending 20/9 2 raids, no M/laying. 3 Mines in Flying Boat Anchorage exploded as follows: 15/9 1 type D M blue by LL. 19/9 1 Type D probably by Fishing Boat followed immediately by Type 42. Former 2 laid 19/7, latter 7/6. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0021B/21 to Admty).

Taranto
Italian
Ships.

Your 1710B/20. V.A. Malta's 1606B/15 corrected hit 1816B/12 to read one LITTORIO class and two CAVOUR class battleships, and not two LITTORIO and one CAVOUR class at Taranto 12/9. (D.D.I.C., 1040A/21 to C.O. I.S. Alexandria).

/s/M.....

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

S/M
operations
18/9.

Congratulations to 10th Sub., Flot., on important successes achieved on morning of 18/9, UPHOLDER on so brilliantly taking advantage of her opportunities; URSULA on her fine success, and to all 4 submarines on co-operation which resulted in the enemy being so heavily hit. (F.O.S., 1109A/21 to Capt. S.10).

UTMOST.
UPRIGHT.

Ref. memorandum T.1. para 2 and 5 amend area W and V respectively to 038° 15' 015° 43' - 330° - (740) - 40. UPRIGHT arrive east end of area V, P.M./25. (Capt. S.10 1213B/21 to UTMOST).

LISBOA
(German)
→ FRONSAC.
ST. BRIEUQ.
(French).

Departures 20th LISBOA Genoa; FRONSAC, Sete; Arrival 20th ST. BRIEUQ. (Barcelona, 1215/21 to M. of W.T.)

→ MAURO CROCE.
(Italian)
→ FRONSAC
(French).

Arrivals 20th, MAURO CROCE, FRONSAC, (Barcelona, 1810/21 to M. of W.T.)

Libyan
Convoys,
forces to
attack.

Your 1933/17 para 8. *(para 41-A) 13*
1 To supply 4 Fleet destroyers would mean taking them from Commands in which destroyer situation is no less acute than it is in Mediterranean.
2. It is possible, however, to send you 4 Hunt Class for working with the two cruisers. It would not however be possible to fit them with torpedo tubes.
3. Request your early remarks.
(1st S.L. 2242A/21 to C. in C. Med).

Enemy
Convoy.

About 1800B/23 a small escorted convoy should reach position 032° 07' 020° 04' from Westward. (Capt. S.1., 2347B/21 to THRASHER).

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.SYGNA.

Norwegian, overdue, arrived Colombo on 16/9, ^{21/9}
eight days late. _{R.446}
(D.S., 748, 22/9.)

Finnish
Ships.

A.M.1553/22/6 re Finnish ships.
Sec. of State telegram dated 22/8 to Governor,
Ceylon, gives certain conditions in which
Finnish ships may be permitted to proceed. Is
this information being promulgated by Admiralty?
(C. in C.E.I., 0442Z/21 to Admty.)

Persia.

Re development of port capacities.
(W.O., 0500/21 to C. in C. India.)

GRANIKOS.

Overdue GRANIKOS left Aden 5th for Colombo.
(S.O.I., Colombo, 0544Z/21, to Admty., etc.)
Arrived Calcutta, see 0752/23.

REWAK
intercepted.

French Launch REWAK carrying petrol Djibouti
to Obok intercepted and taken to Zelah where
launch is being retained in prize. Two French
naval officers and four ratings from launch
landed near Obok.
(C. in C.E.I., 0714Z/21, to Admty.)

TAI KOO.
(mined 17/9.)

N.O.i/c Massawa's 1658/17.
If position of TAI KOO sinking as given is
correct she was within 100-fathom line and not
following course ordered. Probable an Italian
minefield still exists in this area and that
TAI KOO struck a moored mine. Inquiry has been
ordered.
(C. in C.E.I., 0744Z/21 to Admty.)

Bombay to
Basra and
Aden Convoys,
policy.

1. ARMININDIA's requirements for transport
73,000 troops during next 3 months will
necessitate Bombay to Basra convoys being run
at (?six) day intervals.
2. Escorts available will not admit of this
programme without considerable delay and many of
the ships now on this run are 16 and 18-knot
vessels which are slowed down by escorts' speed.

3. Under.....

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Bombay to
Basra and
Aden Convoys,
policy.
(Contd.)

3. Under existing circumstances with covering force operating between Seychelles and Colombo it is not considered that danger to the Bombay-Basra convoy justifies these delays.

4. As long as present conditions prevail, proposed policy would be:-

- (a) Basra ships to sail in unescorted convoys grouped to suit military requirements.
- (b) An occasional such convoy to be given close escort, otherwise close cover to be provided whenever possible.

Bombay-Aden Convoy.

5. Number of single ships coming under category requiring (?escort) is increasing particularly from Middle East and from Bombay to Far East. Some of these are 18 (?and) 21-knot ships which sometimes have to await return of (?an) escort and are then slowed down to (?14) knots by her maximum speed.

6. The speed up, turn-round and extra covering forces released by allowing these fast ships to go unescorted outweighs the value of close escort.

7. Recommended that ships of 15 knots and over on Aden-Bombay-Ceylon run should proceed unescorted, routed well north in Arabian Sea and close along Indian Coast, and that this policy should be adopted also and be maintained as long as there are no known raiders in this part of Indian Ocean.

8. Need for secrecy if such policies are to be adopted is fully realised and it is not the intention that they should be promulgated. To achieve this end normal embarkation forecast would be signalled to me but practice of asking for escort would be stopped.

9. India has not been consulted.
(C. in C.E.I., 1424Z/21, Amended 1038Z/22, to Admt.) Approved with 1 exception.
(1st. S.L., 2345A/22.)

KANIMBLA.
MANOORA,
exchange.

A.C.N.B'S 0205/20. Have you any objection?
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2243A/21, to C. in C.E.I.)

Red Sea.

Reply to C. in C.Med., 1615/15 re inclusion in Med. Command.
(C. in C.E.I., 0554Z/21 to C. in C. Med.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

1577A
10

0554/Z/21st September.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. East Indies.

Date 27.9.41.
Recd. 0252

Naval Cypher D. by W/T.

RECIRCULATION.

Addressed C. in C. Mediterranean.

Your 1615/15

(i) I fully agree that situation in Red Sea has now developed to point where a change in Command is called for.

(ii) I also agree that this command should be unified under S.N.O.Red Sea and that he should move his H.Q. from Aden to Suez. Hitherto our dispositions have been based on Med. for protection of shipping from surface, submarine and air attack, the threat of which has been concentrated chiefly in Southern part of Red Sea. Today the threat is from air attack in North and it has become essential S.N.O.Red Sea should maintain closest liaison with R.A.F. H.Q. Middle East. This cannot be done effectively while he remains at Aden.

(iii) A further reason why it is desirable he should move to Suez is that he will be in closer touch with Authorities concerned in development Red Sea Ports.

(iv) I regard Aden as an integral part of Red Sea observing it is the assembly port of Red Sea convoys and a base for Red Sea Escorts. I therefore suggest dividing line between the Red Sea and East Indies should be the longitude of Aden. This gives me control of Ocean passage to Eastward. Aden W/T Station is however essential to my station communications and I should retain control of it though it would of course be able to assist in Red Sea communications.

(v) I see (?no) advantage in making S.N.O.Red Sea an independent command.

(vi) Although I appreciate your reluctance in adding to your numerous commitments I am strongly of opinion Red Sea should now become part of Mediterranean Command. To get the best results from Army and R.A.F., one has to put one's feet under the same table. You can do that and I cannot. Middle East do their best to keep me in the picture but remoteness of Colombo from Cairo and delay to communications make it impossible for me to be kept informed to the extent that is necessary.

(vii) Unfortunately Aden inevitably brings with it the legacy of Jibuti. Continue to hope you succeed where I have failed in getting Military to clear up this

/tiresome

517^B

- 2 -

tiresome problem.

(viii) I would leave H.M. Ships SHOREHAM and FALMOUTH under S.N.O. Red Sea's orders for as long as I can but I fear this can only be on a loan basis while threat of a Far East War remains. H.M.S. INDUS and H.M.S. HINDUSTAN could remain on Jibuti blockade and I would hope to be able to leave them in Red Sea when Jibuti has been liquidated. If they are to be used as A.A. escort their short-range weapons would have to be increased. Naturally I make no claim to SUTLEJ and JUMNA, unless an air threat develops in Persian Gulf

05547/21.

Note:- Above signal has been repeated to Admiralty for information with reference to C. in C. Mediterranean's signal T.O.O.1355/23rd September - PERSONAL for 1st S.L.

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

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

WINDSOR
CASTLE.

Due Bombay 20/9. Requires extensive repairs estimated to take two months consequent upon collision.
2. F.O.C.R.I.N., has reported that as Bombay is working to full capacity, repairs cannot be undertaken there.
3. Request report whether you can accept her at Singapore.
(D.S.T., 0129A/21, to A.S., Singapore.)

America & West Indies.

ASTURIAS.

My 1142R/4 and C. in C.A. and W.I., 1832Q/6. ASTURIAS sails for Bermuda p.m./6, arriving a.m./8. Completes practices and fuelling p.m./12.
(B.A.R.M., 0956R/21, to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.)

FORTH.

B.A.R.M.'s 1206R/17. Intend FORTH to leave Halifax p.m./22 to arrive Portsmouth, New Hampshire, at 2200S/23. Request you will arrange programme for American Ports so that if practicable FORTH arrives at Halifax not later than p.m.1/10.
(R.A.3, 1137P/21, to B.A.D.)

RECCA
(ex-Italian.)

Cuban decree incorporates S.S.RECCA in Cuban Navy. No information as yet how will be employed. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1249R/21 to Admty., etc.) RECCA renamed LIBERTAD. Had been refuging at Havana since Italy entered the war and was seized by Cuban authorities on 1/4/41 when outbreak of sabotage occurred in Italian ships in American waters.
(D.S.748, 22/9.)

M.M.S.122
damaged.

M.M.S.122 returned from W.S.B.45 heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F., 1430Z/21 to Admty.)

/U.S.Patrols...

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

U.S. Patrols. My 1756/20, position of CONCORD at noon G.C.T. 21st, 4° 05' S., 91° 20' W. thence patrolling towards 17 35 S., 98 30 arriving there 27/9 return Balboa 5/10 position of TRENTON beginning 21st, 1° 20' S., 91° 09' W. patrol towards 6° 19' S., 84° 07' W., return Balboa 24th. Task Force consisting of the ERIE and two Destroyers patrolling on rectangle Cocos Island to vicinity of Wreck Bay to point 02 20 S., 87 - 50 W., to a point 03 - 40 N., 84 - 15 W., beginning 21/9. (O.P.N.A.V. 1522/21.)

KARMEN.

Your 1727/7 not to Admiralty. Yugo-Slav KARMEN has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1543Z/21, to S.O.I. Kingston.)

Suspicious Vessels, 7/9, 13/9.

Master ORDUNA reports 0610 G.M.T./7, position 21.52 S., 06.19 W., 2 suspicious vessels bearing 240° 6', steering 330°. ORDUNA turned bringing vessels astern and observed 3rd vessel well down signalling 1st. pair. In 15 minutes all vessels vanished, so must have turned. (Description) Master PORT HUNTER reports 1930 G.M.T./13 position 00. 12(?) S., 39.01 W., Suspicious vessel. (Description.) (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1600Q/21, to C. in C.A.W.I.)

? TAMESIS.

St. Lucia reports ST.USK sighted 1600/15 ship similar to TAMESIS in 009° 36' N., 055° 56' W. Course 304° distance 8 miles speed 11 knots. No suspicious actions. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1636R/21 to Admty., etc.)

DURAZZO (German.)

From: Puerto Cabello, Ven., 21st., DURAZZO (?arrived.) (Puerto Cabello, 1700/21 to M. of W.T.) W.R.Note. Telegram as received by M. of W.T. did not say whether ship had arrived or departed, but inference is, according to M. of W.T, that the ship has arrived.

CAP DES PALMES, CHEVREUIL.

A.T.1711A/18. Left Jamaica on 20/9. Former carries British N.L.O., and Commandant La Porte of High Commissioner's staff. Please inform High Commissioner. (D.O.D.(F) 1814A/21 to LE TRIOMPHANT.)

/ODERIN.....

War Diary.21.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.ODERIN
collision
25/8.

H.M.C.S. GALT reports collision with M.M.S. ODERIN in convoy W.S.C.41 on 25/8. Also reports action of ODERIN in this convoy was very unsatisfactory. Master refused to obey orders, would not form up with this convoy as instructed, and eventually proceeded individually to Iceland in company with S.S.SANTA CONCEPTA.
(C.C.N.F., 1847Z/21, to Admty.)

Task Groups.

Task groups 2.5 and 2.7 are returning to Bermuda. 2. All Task Groups in area 2 are being re-organised, major part to operate in the north. 3. A/C Carrier LONG ISLAND and one cruiser only are expected to operate from Bermuda.
(D.O.D.(F)1938A/21 to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.)

TRENTON
CONCORD.

U.S.S.TRENTON and U.S.S.CONCORD left Balboa for patrol 18/9. Commander S.E. Pacific force is on board TRENTON.
(D.O.D.(F)1952A/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

Australia.KAIKOURA.

Have you any news of KAIKOURA from Balboa due 14/9?
(D.T.D.1744A/21 to N.C.S.O., Sydney N.S.W.)
(See America & West Indies, 1507/22.)

War Diary.

21.9.1941.

Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.O.G. 74
BALTALLINN,
EMPIRE MOAT.

O.G. 74 attacked, BALTALLINN and EMPIRE MOAT torpedoes in approx. 048° 10' N., 022° 20' W., at 2225A/20. Weather.

(DEPTFORD, 0001Z/21 to Admty etc).

Both British, BALTALLINN, 1303 tons, Preston to Gibraltar with Govt. stores; EMPIRE MOAT, 2922 tons, in ballast London to Gibraltar.

(D.S., 747 21/9).

My 2055A/20 (2205/20?) Have searched for 5 hours without result. DEPTFORD proceeded to rejoin convoy at 2100A/20. ARBUTUS is searching towards convoy now. WITCH and BLANKNEY have not enough fuel and must return now, course 052° 14 knots.

(WITCH, 0115A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 0001Z/21. Possible number U-boat attacking, one. Crew EMPIRE MOAT rescued, 7 missing from BALTALLINN. Both ships afloat when last seen. Salvage considered unlikely.

(DEPTFORD, 0417Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

WALMER CASTLE
bombard & sunk.

WALMER CASTLE, rescue vessel, bombed, sunk.

(see Enemy air Operations). Following absent from convoy since last night, LISSA, RUNA, RHINE-LAND and (KMWK) (signal letters undecypherable in W.R.) DEPTFORD proceeding best speed direct Gibraltar unless orders to contrary received.

Weather. (DEPTFORD, 1750A/21 to Admty etc).

Your 1750A/21. Remain with convoy. Situation will be reviewed when ROCKINGHAM joins.

(C. in C. W.A., 2204A/21 to DEPTFORD).

Well done. (C. in C. W.A., 2206A/21 to EMPIRE AUDACITY, Repeated All Escorts O.G. 74).

PEGASUS
(derelict 17/
/9).

Request you will sail ZWARTE ZEE to arrive Londonderry daylight tomorrow Monday.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1332A/21 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown) Cancelled, see 1555A/21.

Request you will sail ZWARTE ZEE escorted by ST. CATHAN, to assistance of S.S. PEGASUS reported derelict in 54° 54' N., 30° 32' W., at 0845/17.

Aircraft assisting search. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1347A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry amended 1507A/21) Cancelled, see 1759A/21.

PEGASUS, Greek, 5762 tons was seen abandoned about 700 miles W. of Achill Head on 16/9. Is believed to have been torpedoed. NORTHERN DAWN has picked up 13 survivors. (D.S. 747, 21/9).

Cancel my 1332A/21. ZWARTE ZEE to revert to normal notice for steam. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1555A/21 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1332A/21. Intend to sail ZWARTE ZEE at 2350/21 E.T.A. 0500/22. (N.O.I.C. -Campbeltown, 1724A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry) Cancelled, see 1917A/21.

/Request.....

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

PEGASUS
(derelict
17/9) Contd.

Request you will send Tug PRUDENT with one A/S escort from local forces to salvage Greek ship PEGASUS torpedoed and derelict in 54° 54' N., 30° 32' W., at 0845A/17. She has important stores on board and should be towed to St. Johns. (C. in C. W.A., 1748A/21 to C.C.N.F.) Cancelled see 2301A/21.

Cancel my 1347/21 and 1507A/21. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1759A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Your 1748A/21. BRANDON and PRUDENT are being sent. (C.C.N.F., 1819Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

Cancelled (C.C.N.F., 2316Z/21).

Cancel my 1724A/21. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1917A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Cancel my 1748A/21. (C. in C. W.A., 2301A/21 to C.C.N.F.)

Submarines Reported.

0726Z.

Following bearings of U-boat obtained at 0726Z/21. T.O.O. 0807/21. (41 Groups) (D.D.I.C., 0920A/21 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

1915 G.M.T.
/20.

S/M on surface, 37° 42' N., 25° 02' W., 1915 G.M.T./20 steering N.E. A.I. Capt. of Port. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1009/21 to S.O.(I) Gib). (F.O.C.N.A., 1816A/21 to N.A. Stn).

Your 1226A/21 (N.T. in W.D.) Detail one Corvette to steer towards 055° 30' N., 009° 30' W. Aircraft are searching this area till dusk. At 2000A/21 Corvette detailed is to return to Londonderry if nothing has been sighted from the air. (C. in C. W.A., 1356A/21 to ALISMA).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1420A/21).

1712Z.

Convoy H.G. 73 was probably reported by an Italian U-boat at 1712Z/21. (D.D.I.C. 1852A/21 to VIMY, WILD SWAN, BEGONIA, JASMINE). Italian U-boat made enemy sighting report of H.G. 73 at 1811A/21. This has been repeated to other U-boats probably about 60 miles N. to N.E. of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A., 1916A/21 to Escort of H.G. 73).

/1454Z.....

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. - Contd.

1454Z. Following bearings at 1454Z/21 indicates a U-boat to westwards of Canary Is. possibly within 250' of 28° N., 21° W., T.O.O. 1604. 22 groups. 4 letter code. (D.D.I.C. 1930A/21 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A., GORLESTON, BIDEFORD).

2010Z. Immediate Submarine Warning. An enemy U-boat made a first sighting report at 2010Z/21 of a convoy of important unit, probably O.G.74 or O.S.6. (D.D.I.C., 2144A/21 to ROCKINGHAM, DEPTFORD, ARBUTUS, WELLINGTON, STORK, JASMINE).

2010. At 2010 G.M.T. German S/M bearing 302° made sighting report. Class 2. (F.O.C.N.A., 2226A/21 to N.A. Stn).

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy submarine in position 47.40 N., 9.09 W. Periscope only sighted and when first sighted on course 060°. (A/C P., 0845/21 to 19 Group).
Am over enemy S/M in 47.44 N., 9.05 W. Enemy S/M previously reported sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Course and speed 125° 6 knots. (A/C T., 1230/21 to 19 Group)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, and estimate no hits. (A/C T., 1230/21 to 19 Group).
One U-boat in 047° 44' N., 009° 05' W., course 125° attacked by aircraft and dived at 1230/21 Possibly the same U-boat was sighted in 047° 40' N., 009° 09' W., course 80° at 0845/21. (F.O.S., 1406A/21 to SEALION).

By VIMY. Have damaged S/M in 37° 46' N., 19° 18' W., submarine has dived and searching. (VIMY, 2115A/21, 0008Z/22 to Gibraltar W/T). My 2115A/21, attacked S/M contact 14 charge pattern followed by 5 charge pattern, doppler first attack only. Lost contact 500 and 700 yards respectively. Intend to continue search for 24 hours further (?14) pattern charge followed by 3 unidentified underwater explosions one minute later. (VIMY, 2310A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

*Station
ALESSANDRO
MALASPINA
probably sunk
in this attack
(Station info.
is Tilton)*

Station was going there.

Deck Log Book of VIMY shows sighted S/M at 2005.

2059 depth fire.

2120 14 charge pattern fired

2210 5 " " "

2248 14 " " "

Sweeping area 36 47 N 19 18 W

War Diary.

22.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

S/M's in
northern
waters.

It is intended that British submarines shall continue to operate in Northern Waters throughout the winter, provided ice-free bases remain available in Northern Russia.

A Russian CHUKA class S/M returned today from patrol off Tana Fiord and reports having sunk a 4,000 ton westbound unescorted loaded merchant vessel on 12/9.

British Air Operations.

A 5,000 ton merchant vessel was hit off Alsboen Light at 1340.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S.⁶⁰1. was attacked today, at 1921 in 55° 50' N. 0° 25' E. S.S. VECHSROOM, on her way to join the convoy was bombed and sunk.

War Diary.

22.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operations.
S.N.23C.

WELSHMAN laid a deep minefield last night north west of the Butt of Lewis.

JU.

MANXMAN laid mines last night off the French coast.

P.W. 19.
N.L. 27.

2 M.T.B's from Harwich and M.L's from Dover laid mines last night off the French coast.

The Clyde was opened at 2212A without restriction. (see 15/9).

Mining by enemy aircraft apparently took place in the Humber and Yarmouth Cromer area last night.

Harwich.

Harwich was closed on account of minelaying from 0501A to 1044A. Until further orders the port will be closed daily until the morning sweep of the approaches has been completed.

Thames Estuary.

There was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary last night; mines are reported as having fallen and heavy explosions were heard.

M.L. 144 was sunk by a floating mine while on patrol off Dungeness at 2020 today.

A mine was detonated today off Belfast Lough.

Mediterranean.

Libya and Western Desert.

4 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi last night. Bursts were reported on ships and the quays and Italian Mole.

Attack on Leros.

Blenheims from Cyprus to-day attacked the floating dock and other targets at Port Laki, Leros. Visual R/C subsequently reported the dock slightly damaged.

War Diary.22.9.1941.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

HOHENFELS (scuttled at Bandar Gulf 25/8/41) was refloated today by KANIMBLA and successfully beached on an even keel.

America and West Indies.Suspicious
Vessel reports.

The Admiralty consider that PRINCE DAVID's report of 27/8, USS WASP's of 28/8 and the unknown British merchant vessels report of a ship of FELS class 1,200 miles E.S.E. of Trinidad on 31/8, together with ROBIN HOOD's reports of 7/9 and 9/9 and STANVAC's reports of 14/9 and 15/9 might well refer to the same vessel. There have been previous indications that enemy surface vessels are used for reporting merchant ships to U-boats or surface warships, and it seems possible that this ship is so employed, keeping clear of enemy area of S/M activity whilst reporting all shipping sighted.

In case she moves south ~~DEVONSHIRE~~ ^{DORSETSHIRE} and EAGLE are searching further to the Southward, and particularly in the calm refuelling area S.E. of Trinidad Island.

U-Boat Campaign.Attack
on S.L.87.

Convoy S.L. 87 was attacked at about 0228Z today in 25° 24' N. 23° 47' W. SILVERBELLE was torpedoed.

The convoy was attacked again about 2200Z in 27° 32' N. 24° 26' W. and EDWARD BLYDEN and NICETO DE LARRINAGA was torpedoed and sunk.

Convoy
S.C.44.

CHESTERFIELD reported at 1750 Z today that in addition to four ships in S.C. 44 torpedoed on 20/9 CETUS, CROMARTY, M.M/S MARTICOT and yacht UNITAS are missing.

MARTICOT arrived safely.

War Diary.22.9.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.SHEFFIELD.

From correspondence received from SHEFFIELD it is evident C.O. considers his ship forms part of 18th C.S. Request confirmation that this is so. (C.S.18., 1545/22 to Adty.)

ATHENE.

ATHENE is due to complete as an aircraft transport on the Clyde on 27/9 ex trials. Trials are expected to finish on 1/10.
2. It is intended that ATHENE should in the first place be employed as an aircraft transport for conveying naval aircraft and spare engines to Gibraltar and Freetown. The return voyage could be used for collecting aircraft requiring overhaul in U.K.
3. C. in C. W.A. will operate ATHENE and, subject to his concurrence, it is proposed she should be administered by F.O.I.C. Greenock. (A.C.N.S.H. 1713A/22).

British
S/M's in
Northern
Waters.

It is intended that British submarines shall continue to operate in Northern waters throughout the winter provided ice-free bases remain available in Northern Russia.
2. The proposals contained in F.O. (S) 1211A/20 are generally concurred in. (V.C.N.S. 1828A/22 to Ad. Miles).

Movements.THORN.

Sailed THORN escorted by WHITE BEAR in accordance with S.3's 1455A/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0958A/22)

SEAWOLF.

S.5's 1101A/20. SEAWOLF sailed 1630. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1635A/22).

CANTON.
CATHAY.

Following forecast of movements of A.M.C's corrected to 22/9. CANTON leaves Clyde about 7/10 for Freetown. CATHAY leaves Clyde for U.S.A. via Halifax about 30/9. (S.O.W.P. 1646A/22).

LANCASTER.

Sailed to Port ZA. E.T.A. 0600/23. (R.A.D. 1900A/22 to R.A.M.)

H.28.

My 1019A/21. Sailed. (S.7. 2002A/22).

/C. in C.....

War Diary.22.9.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.→ C. in C.H.F.

Intend to proceed in KING GEORGE V, with VICTORIOUS, SOMALI, MATABELE, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, ESKIMO and ASHANTI passing Hoxa boom at 1800A/23 to Hvalfjord routed through 058° 45' N. 008° 00' W. and thence direct to Reykjanes passage. E.T.A. 0930A/25. A.C.I.C. acknowledge. (C. in C. H.F. 2207A/22)

Operations.East Coast Patrols.

Patrol tonight Monday. (1) Two M.G.B's in the vicinity of 61B Buoy. (2) Two M.G.B's in vicinity South Leman Buoy. (3) Three M.L's in the vicinity R.N.W.E. 52 18. (4) One M.G.B. operation Q.E. with A.P. patrolling F.Y. (C. in C. Nore 1131A/22 and 1201A/22).

A/S Sweep off Hebrides.

Sailed LAMERTON and BADSWORTH for Liverpool carrying out A/S sweep to Westward of Hebrides on passage. E.T.A. Bar L.V. 0830/24. (R.A.D. 1730A/22).

→ Operation E.J.
(Air Attacks on shipping, Norway.) 8/10.

Communications.
(C. in C. H.F. 1808A/22 to VICTORIOUS, KING GEORGE V, AURORA, PENELOPE, R.A. (D) (and for destroyers).

British Air Activity.Patrols.

P.R.U. of Stavanger, Kristiansand, Horten now in operation. "Hornli" will be flown P.M. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1120/22).

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy probably sighted.

It is probable that either convoy H.G. 73 or W.S.11X was sighted by F.W. aircraft at 1315. (D.D.I.C. 1609A/22).

Convoy F.S. attacked.

Even numbered F.S. convoy S. of Tyne being attacked by enemy aircraft in 53° 50' N. 0° 25' E. (WESTMINSTER 1921/22).

S.S. T VEHSSROOM.

Departure H.M. Tug SABINE to assist at 2025. (F.O. Humber 2235A/22).

War Diary.22.9.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Harwich.

Port of Harwich closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0501A/22).
Port of Harwich now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1044A/22)
Until further orders the port of Harwich will be closed each day until morning sweep of Approaches has been completed at approx 1000. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1710A/22).

N.L. 24.

Intend to carry out operation N.L. 24 to-night Monday from 51° 01' 48" N. 01° 56' 12" E. (V.A. Dover 1014A/22).

MANXMAN.
WELSHMAN.

On return to Port Z.A. MANXMAN may be regarded as available for operations in the East Coast Barrage in company with WELSHMAN, being considered as at 48 hours notice for other service. (A.C.N.S.H. 1125A/22 to R.A.M.)

Thames
Estuary.

9 S.A. Mines detonated on 20/9 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1145/22).
During night 21/22 there was considerable enemy activity over the Thames Estuary. Between 2000 and 2320 a number of hostile plots were obtained, chiefly in Black Deep and Swin areas. Foreness reported mines as having fallen in both these areas. Only one plane actually seen and fired at. Heavy unlocated explosions were heard at 2143 and 2315. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1453/22).

Belfast.

At 1207A/22 one magnetic Mine detonated 206°, 5.5 cables from Pile Lt., Belfast Lough. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1540A/22).

Rosyth.

Additional search of suspected area for moored mines being carried out p.m. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1625/22 to Admty.)

Clyde.

My 1756/15. River Clyde now open to traffic without restriction. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2212A/22).

M.L. 144
sunk.

M.L. 144, when on patrol off Dungeness with M.L. 143, struck a floating mine at 2020 today Vessel broke in two. Survivors picked up by M.L. 132. Four ratings missing, 3 seriously injured. (V.A. Dover 2530A/22).

War Diary.22.9.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.German
Main Units.

Latest known positions. (D.D.I.C. 1031A/22)

Warships
off
Helsingborg.

Observed at Helsingborg 1250 hours, one German cruiser and one transport going north. (British Consul, Goteborg 1300/22 to Adty.)
 Note By N.I.D. 10:- In view of recent similar reports which have proved inaccurate from this source, no reliance can be placed on this report.

M/V off
Stadtland.

One Merchant Ship of 2,500 tons sighted by A/C in 061° 46' N. 004° 49' E. at 1410, course 180°, speed 7 knots. (F.O.S. 1527A/22 to MINERVE).

Technical.Camouflage of
ESKIMO & BEDOUIN.

Two separate aircraft report sighting 7 destroyers at about 1750/17 and state that rear destroyer of port column was very well camouflaged and almost invisible at any angle at 10 mile range and height of 1500 ft. Remaining destroyers clearly visible. (C. in C. W.A. 1904A/22 to R.A.D.)

Your 1904A/22. The destroyer in question was ESKIMO camouflaged on Peter Scott's scheme of white with basic colour duck egg green. BEDOUIN was also present and camouflaged on same scheme but basic colour sky blue. (R.A.D. 2153/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

Use of
Smoke
Screens.

Adty. 1706/23/1 and my 1117/8/2. Can information now be given together with any later experience which would be applicable for the fleet or the base. (C. in C. H.F. 2156A/22 to Adty.).

Casualties and Defects.MARCONI.
(Collision
on 20/9).

Survey of MARCONI indicates salvage only possible with aid of lifting craft which it is understood are not available. Intend proceeding with salvage of guns. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1034A/22).

HELMOND.

(British) In F.S.⁶⁰1, arrived Tees Bay. Was in collision with unknown vessel in convoy at 0150/22. Only superstructure damaged. (N.C.S.O. Middlesbrough 1410/22);

/CITY.....

War Diary.22.9.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects-Contd.CITY OF
DURBAN.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. London 1430/22).

PONTFIELD
(Mined 15/9)

Arrival PONTFIELD Tugs STALWART, SABINE, KROOMAN, PRIZEMAN, PINKY and Salvage Vessel GALLIONS REACH assisting, at 1550. (F.O. Humber 1556A/22).

Shipping and Convoys.W/T.

A.M. 1954/7/7 add to para 11.

If a ship is incapable of receiving or making a wireless message either through lack of equipment or operators this fact is to be indicated by use of the following phrases:

(a) "No wireless". or (b) "No wireless (Transmitting)"
(D.T.D. 1113A/22 to C in C.).Outward
Convoys.

Following are sailing dates of outward bound Convoys from Liverpool:-

O.N. 21 (S) 28/9, O.N. 22 2/10, O.S.8 3/10,
O.N. 23 (S) 4/10, O.N. 24 8/10, O.N.25 10/10,
(C. in C. W.A. 1138A/22 to F.O.I.C's etc.)H.G.72.

As considerable difficulty was experienced by the air escort in locating H.G. 72 on 13/9 and 14/9, request route followed by the convoy may be signalled. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1216/22 to Adty.)

ANDRÉ THOMÉ.

Your 1158A/22 to C. in C. Nore. In view of existing mining situation it is considered inadvisable to sail ANDRÉ THOMÉ in F.S.1 for London with D/G out of action. Vessel should be sailed with trawler escort by inshore route to Harwich where D/G repairs should be effected and thence sailed to London. (C. in C. Nore, 1802A/22 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

Your 1802A/22, temporary D.G. generator arrived from Harwich, expect vessel complete 14/10. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1846A/22).

Your 1802A/22 and my 1846A/22. D.G. Generator will be fitted at Yarmouth and report will be made when vessel is ready to sail.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2225A/22 to C. in C. Nore).

/O.N. 16.....

War Diary.

22.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

O.N.16.

To keep clear of H.X. 150, O.N. 16 is to keep 20 miles to port of route ordered during daylight 23rd. (C. in C. W.A., 1855A/22 to Escorts of O.N. 16.)

F.N. and
F.S.

Additional escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1856A/22)
See Lion Copy.

H.X. 150.

Request U.S.A. escort may be arranged for ships in H.X. 150 proceeding Iceland (C).
(C. in C. W.A., 2508A/22 to Admty.) Reply: 1245/25.

SECRET.

MESSAGE. 1836A/22 September. IN 532A.

From: F.O.I.C. Harwich.

Date. 22.9.41.

Recd. 1858.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed: C. in C. Nore, 1st Div Corvettes, Repeated
Admiralty. C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.I.C. Humber,
N.C.S.O. Southend.

1st Div. Corvettes Acknowledge.

<u>FN</u>	<u>EC</u>	<u>FS</u>	<u>Harwich.</u>	<u>Additional Escorts.</u>
-	78	605	WIDGEON	
524	-	606	GUILLEMOT	SHEARWATER
-	79	607	SHEARWATER	MALLARD
525	-	608	MALLARD	SHELDRAKE
526	-	608	SHELDRAKE	PUFFIN
-	80	609	PUFFIN	WIDGEON
-	80	610	WIDGEON	SHEARWATER

See amended list p. 597

MALLARD leaves F N525 off H 3 buoy enters Humber and sails on Wednesday 1st October to join F S68 off 62 D buoy at 1645 Wednesday 1st October. WIDGEON leaves E C 80 off H 3 buoy enters Humber and sails on Friday 3rd October to join F S610 off Humber at 1700/3 October. Names of A/S trawlers detailed will be signalled at 1000 on the day before sailing.

1836A/22.

Advance Copy sent. Ops., O.D.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- N...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.
- Mails.
- Mevts.
- M. (2)
- D.E.D. (4)
- D.E.D. (M)
- D.E.D. (C)

V.S.

SECRET.

P O S T A G R A M

1746/22nd September.

532B

IN

From C. in C. Plymouth.

Date 25.9.41.

Reed 1900

Addressed C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, N.C.S.O. Plymouth.
 Repeated Admiralty, C. in C. Western Approaches, Headquarters, Fighter Command, Headquarters, Coastal Command, No 10 Group, R.A.F. No. 19 Group, R.A.F. 15th D.F. ATHERSTONE, S.T.O. i/c Devonport
 Captain (D) Plymouth Commander A/P Plymouth.

480 P. D.C.I. 28. Non stop cycle will be brought into force on 26th September 1941.

2. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail PW 41 from Portsmouth on 26th September direct to Bristol Channel ports.

3. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven and F.O.I.C. Cardiff are requested to sail WP 43 through to Portsmouth on 29th.

4. Thereafter sailings are to be every other day e.g. PW on 28th and 30th September and WP on 1st and 3rd October

5. WP 42 is to be sailed to Falmouth. Ships for ports east of Falmouth are to continue the next day 30th September with WP 43 to Portsmouth, except those in paragraph 6 (c) below.

6. ESCORTS.

(a) Group A is to escort WP 39 to Portsmouth, returning on 26th September with PW 41.

(b) Group B is to escort WP 40 to Portsmouth sailing from Dartmouth on 27th September, returning on 28th September with PW 42.

(c) Group C is to be sailed from Dartmouth on 29th September escorting WP 41 and returning with P.W.43.

(d) Group D is to be sailed from Plymouth to Falmouth on 2nd October.

(e) Group E is to escort any ships for Plymouth or Dartmouth ex WP 42 to those ports on 30th September.

(f) Group F. ATHERSTONE, LA NANTAISE, HERTFORDSHIRE and LORD ESSENDEN are to be sailed from Plymouth on 26th September to Falmouth to escort PW 41 from Falmouth on 27th September.

7. Code Words.

C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange fighter protection for PW convoys to Falmouth.

Code word for PW 41 WATCH and for PW 42 WARRANT.

code word for WP 43 SERVICE and for WP 44 STENCIL.

Code word for GROUP E as in paragraph 6 (e) SLAVE.

WP 40 from Falmouth to Dartmouth on 26th.

September is to use code word NOMINAL and NOT repeat NOT, WATCH.

1746/22.

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D Trade.

/ Pass to all N.C.S.O's.

A.C.N.S.(H).
 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.(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).
 Mails.
 Movts.
 D. of L.D.(2).
 D.S.D.(2).

War Diary22.9.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticTRUANT

Your 0906A/21. My P. C. and S. are 041° 30' N.,
040° 00' W. 100° 11. Weather.
(TRUANT, 0930Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE

My 0910A/18, Departure CLYDE.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1002A/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

~~GEORGE~~GEORGETTE(M/S Trawler)

Adjust course so as to pass 5 miles south of Cape
St. Vincent then through 36° 40' N., 07° 00' W.
thence to Gibraltar keeping to north side of
Straits. Fuel permitting, motor launches and
escorts are not to be between 7° W. and Gibraltar
during dark hours.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1940A/22 to ~~GEORGE~~ GEORGETTE)

M.T. Ships

As neither F.O.C. 18th C.S. nor I had opportunity
to obtain from M.T. ships details of their experi-
ences, suggest V.A. Malta be asked to furnish
list based on information at his disposal.
F.O.C.N.A. has furnished list based on return
voyage of DURHAM.
(S.O. Force H., 2030A/22 to Admty.)

South AtlanticConvoy
congestion
Freetown.

Convoy O.S. 4. arrived 14/9 W.S. 11 fast 13/9,
W.S. 11 slow 15/9, the latter 2 were originally
expected to arrive 14/9. Important that if
possible O.S. and W.S. convoys shall arrive at
least 4 days apart as otherwise the watering
and fuelling of so many ships at the same time,
causes delay.
(C. in C. S.A., 0031N/22 to Admty.)

French Ships
for
Indo-China.

My 1043/15. Same source reports ships
scheduled to leave 10/10, and will be escorted
by escort accompanying convoy 25/9. (My 1123/18
refers)
(S.O.I., Capetown, 1023B/22 to Admty.)

/Suspicious.....

War Diary22.9.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.Suspicious
Ship.

(?Large) cargo vessel half laden closely resembling ATLANTIS (No. 16) reported by U.S.A. ship ROBIN HOOD in 010° 04' S., 026° 58' W. at 1930Z/9. (Description)
(C. in C. S.A. 1313N/22 to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, Force F., R.A.S.A.D.)

BIRMINGHAM
Corvettes.

Your 1529/21. This will be done.
(C. in C. S.A. 1407N/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

S.L. Convoys
fuelling.

Escorts approaching S.L. convoys sailing from Bathurst are to report to C. in C. S.A. in good time before sailing.
(a) If it will be necessary to fuel at Ponta Delgada on the homeward passage.
(b) Quantity of oil required.
(c) Anticipated date on which fuelling will take place.
Necessary arrangements will then be made by C. in C., S.A. and it should be unnecessary for the convoy escort to break W/T silence whilst on passage for this purpose. This will be included in S.A.C.I's.
(C. in C. S.A., 1841N/22 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

KOS 10
KOS 11

My 1905A/4, no reply yet received. Question of manning KOS 10 and KOS 11 from local resources should be considered. Vessels are urgently required on Mediterranean Station.
(D.M.S. 1858A/22 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

MediterraneanRADINA
(Bulgarian)

Press message for Sofia dated 22/9 states RADINA, 4159 tons, sank after striking a mine off Burgas on 19/9. 4 of the crew killed.
(D.S., 749, 23/9.)

/TORBAY.....

War Diary22.9.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.TORBAY
TALISMAN

Return to Alexandria, leave patrol p.m./23 to arrive Sanctuary 0530B/27 pass North of Naxos, East Stampalia and through the Scarpanto Channel to $032^{\circ} 20' 029^{\circ} 36'$ thence direct.

TALISMAN expects to pass through Kaso Straits p.m./22 thence East and North Anaphi then to Westward to pass between Ananes and Melos to arrive your area 24th.

(Capt. S. 1., 0037B/22 to TORBAY)

THRASHER

You were sighted and reported off Benghazi at 0630 today 22nd.

(Capt. S. 1. 1007B/22 to THRASHER)

UTMOST

My 1213B/21. Area V is S. of $038^{\circ} 40'$ between bearing 330° from $038^{\circ} 00' 014^{\circ} 20'$ and Scilla. Reference advise patrol in area W., for 000° from Scilla read 020° .

(Capt. S. 10., 1020B/22 to UTMOST)

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 20/21. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour bombs bursting at base of Central Mole.
(H. Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1121/22)

Enemy
Convoy.

My 2347B/21. Convoy now due position given at 0500B/23 passing through $255^{\circ} 30$ miles from there at 0200B/23 on course 105° . Another small escorted convoy arriving $032^{\circ} 05' 020^{\circ} 05'$ 0545B/25 using 311° swept channel approaching that from North, 9 to 10 knots.

(S. 1. 1141B/22 to THRASHER)

Situation
Reports.

Cancel my 1823B/16 (N.T. in W.D.) My 0047/15/4. Intend to discontinue daily situation reports and make them twice weekly in future. Additional reports will be made when situation requires them.
(C. in C. Med., 1203B/22 to Admty.)

Concerted
operation by
4 S/M's
18/9.

V.A. Malta 1421B/20. In view of important results achieved by 10th S.F., already admitted by the Italians, it appears desirable to publish communique of sinking of these troopships. Presume you will issue suitable communique. It appears important to emphasize that result was (?achieved) in course of normal patrol operation
(C. in C. Med., 1210B/22 to Admty.)

/MAURO CROCE.....

War Diary22.9.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.MAURO CROCE
ST. BRIEUC
COETLOGONDeparture 21st. MAURO CROCE, Italian, Genoa;
ST BRIEUC, French, Sche; arrival 21st. COETLOGON,
French.
(Barcelona, 1301/22)TRUSTY
SOKOL
URGE
UPRIGHT
UTMOST
UPHOLDERProceed direct from last position given to
establish patrol in vicinity of following: TRUSTY
038° 33'N.012° 44'E, and SOKOL 038° 18'N.012° 44'E in
area S. South of 038° 40' between bearing 330°
from Cape Vito and Cape Gallo. TRUSTY to keep
North and SOKOL South of 038° 25' in this area.
URGE operating in area T. eastward 330° from
Gallo. UPRIGHT Eastward from same bearing from
038° 00' 014° 20' both South of 038° 40', and
UTMOST North of Messina. UPHOLDER proceed N.E.
from 038° 00' 011° 40' about 2030B/24 to operate
in area R., South of 038° 40' between bearings
330° from Marritimo and Vito. SOKOL is not to
operate Eastward of 013° 15' during nights 30/9
to 4/10 inclusive. Ref. B.S. para 19 condition
A to be in force from 0001B/25. Submarines
encountered at night are not to be attacked.
You will be recalled by signal and kept informed
of movements of other submarines.
(Capt. S. 10, 1335B/22 to TRUSTY, SOKOL)7th C.S.Leaves Alexandria 1900B/22, proceeding towards
Tobruk. Informed of your route.
(Capt. S. 1. 1605B/22 to PERSEUS.)Bulgarian
Warships.Ref. F.O. Telegram No 2057 to Ankara, repeated
to you. Should any warships be met wearing
Bulgarian colours they are to be sunk.
(1st Lord. 1803A/22 to C. in C. Med.)CANADA
COLOMBIEFollowing known return route of Vichy hospital
ship CANADA and troop ship COLOMBIE.
(C. in C. Med. 1842B/22 to Med. Fleet.)German
Ship.German steamer arrived Mazarron 19/9 to load
iron ore probably leaving 28/9.
(Cartagena, 1900/22 to M. of W.T.) Mazarron,
S.W. of Cartagena. (D.S. 750)

/Liner....

War Diary

22.9.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Liner Bombed
Convoy attacked.

DUILIO
24,000 tons
damaged
G.I.

Evening 21/9. 3 Blenheims despatched attack liner off Kuriat Island. Liner Northbound attacked at last light 1753 hours by 2 aircraft then escorted by six destroyers. 8 direct hits on liner with 250 lb bombs amidships, resulting in large clouds of steam. 1 waterline hit aft of amidships. Attack succeeded in stopping liner.

(H.Q., Malta, T.O.O. 1900/22)

Night 21/22. Five Swordfish sent attack same convoy. Liner not located. 1935 hours, torpedo attack made on convoy three M/V's tonnage unknown, five destroyers, 15 miles Lampion 170° No hits seen. One M/V machine-gunned.

(H.Q., Malta, 1940/22)

Suspected
Minelayer.

Believed that merchant ship converted to mine-layer, possibly the BULGARIA, may have been operating in rectangle 20 miles N. and S. 60 miles E. and W., S.W. corner in 039° 50' 023° 50'. (Capt. S. 1. 2011B/22 to TORBAY, TALISMAN)

East Indies

BANDRA
ex-Shah

BANDRA now at (?Basra) has been ordered to sail for Bandar Abbas to arrive a.m./25, to embark ex-Shah of Persia and party of approx. 25. After embarking party BANDRA is to be sailed for Bombay direct. Final destination of Shah not yet known. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0532Z/22 to C. in C. E.I.)

Bombay
Convoys.

Your 1424Z/21. Proposals approved with exception that under existing circumstances ships on Bombay/Basra route may be sailed singly without escort in preference to sailing in unescorted convoys.
2. You should inform C. in C. India that under the existing circumstances Admty. have approved this policy. (1st S.L. 2345A/22 to C. in C. E.I.)

War Diary

22.9.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Policy for
Singapore
Conference,
Eastern
Fleet.

Request you will discuss with U.S. Authorities following proposed instructions for guidance of Naval Planning Conference to be held at Singapore when ADB-2 has been generally approved.

- (1) General principles for employment of forces of Associated Powers within Eastern Theatre have been agreed upon between respective Chiefs of Staff and are recorded in ADB-2.
- (ii) U.S. and Dutch Forces available for disposition within Far East are recorded in ABC-1 and in ADB-1.
- (iii) Minimum British forces which it may be assumed will be available for disposition within Eastern Theatre, and their probable disposition before the outbreak of hostilities, are:-
- (a) Far East Area. 3.6-inch cruisers (old), 5 destroyers (old)
- (b) Australian and New Zealand Stations. 2.8-inch cruisers, 5.6-inch cruisers (one old) 3 A.M.C's.
- (c) Remainder of Eastern Theatre. 1 R Class Battleship, 1 carrier, 2.8-inch cruisers, 8 6-inch cruisers (two modern), 5 A.M.C's.
- (iv) British forces forecast at (iii) (a) and (b) above correspond to those shown in ABC-1, Annex III, para 35, Col. II.
- (v) In addition to existing British forces given in (iii) above, it is probable that following movements will take place:
- (a) ROYAL SOVEREIGN, RAMILLIES and RESOLUTION to arrive on East Indies Station by late December.
- (b) REPULSE to remain on East Indies Station until relieved by RENOWN about January, 1942.
- (c) A reinforcement of one or two modern capital ships to arrive East Indies Station early in the New Year.
- (vi) Remaining movements to bring Eastern Fleet up to the strength agreed upon in ABC-1 cannot yet be accurately forecast since this reinforcement must largely depend on when any destroyers can be made available.
- (vii) Detailed plans and dispositions referred to in (viii) below should be sufficiently flexible to allow for the above intended movements. It will of course be clear that the shortage of destroyers at this stage will govern the use of heavy ships.
- (viii) The objects of the Naval Planning Conference at Singapore are:-

/(a).....

War Diary22.9.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West IndiesPolicy for
Singapore
Conference
Eastern
Fleet.
-Contd.

(a) To consider initial dispositions and plans after the outbreak of war for Naval forces which can be made available for the Far Eastern Area and to draw up plans for their operation on the outbreak of hostilities.

(b) To examine the possible development of hostilities in the Eastern Theatre and to consider any redistribution of Naval forces, including the British reinforcements, which may become desirable.

2. Conference to be presided over by C. in C. China, and attended by naval representatives of C. in C. East Indies, Australia, New Zealand and Netherlands East Indies, and of C. in C., Asiatic Fleet. Although Conference will not consider his area, the presence of a representative of C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, would be useful if U.S. Authorities would agree. (Hd. of M. approved 1st S.L. 0337A/22 to B.A.D. Washington.)

TULIP
CLARKIA

Left Charleston, South Carolina, due Bermuda 0300 G.M.T./25. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0500Z/22 to Admty.)

AURANIA

My 0932Q/20, intend to sail AURANIA from Bermuda p.m./23 arriving Halifax a.m./26. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1043Q/22 to F.O. 3 B.S.)

CANDYTUFT

Your 1711Z/20. Boston Yard cannot take ship. CANDYTUFT will be accepted at Navy Yard Brooklyn. Job. No. S. 154. (B.A.R.M., 1226R/22 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

*See a/50 next page*FORTH

R.A. 3. 1137P/21. U.S. Authorities require that you should not arrive Portsmouth during dark hours. Pilot will meet you at buoy 2 K.R. at daylight/24. On arrival Portsmouth N.H. you will receive instructions from Commander 1st U.S. Naval District, Boston, regarding programme for Boston, Newport, and New London. He has been asked to arrange you leave New London for Halifax not later p.m./29. (B.A.D. 1305R/1431R/22 to FORTH)

/BUXTON.....

War Diary22.9.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies-Contd.BUXTON

My 1646R/19. BUXTON will leave Boston after dark on 25/9 R.A. 3rd B.S. pass to C.O.A.C. (B.A.R.M., 1328R/22 to Admty.)

S.C. Convoys

Reply to Admty. 2141/18. (C.N.S., Canada, 1407A/22 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

KAIKOURA

Your 1744A/21. No knowledge or information here. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1507Z/22 to Admty.)

U.S. Forces

Your 1116Z/20 (N.T. in W.D.) Concur. U.S. Forces concerned informed. (Opnav, 1515/22 to Admty.)

Convoy Route for stragglers

Your 1821A/19, concur in continuance this practice for the time being until other arrangements can be made. (Opnav, 1535/22 to Admty.)

ROUDE ZEE
SANDBOY

Important that ROUDE ZEE be released for duty with C. in C. East Indies as soon as possible. Request repairs to SANDBOY may be hastened and anticipated date of completion reported. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1627A/22 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DAUPHIN,
BARRIE
D/C
outfits.

Information received from WESTERN ISLES that DAUPHIN and BARRIE arrived with only 50 light depth charges. 60 should be carried of which 40% should be heavy. Ships carried only 50 rounds of ammunition and were short of essential stores. WESTERN ISLES do not consider they can replenish ships coming from Canada to work up and suggest that all Corvettes in future be stored to maximum of operational requirements, or if this is impossible should call at Greenock to complete storing before proceeding to WESTERN ISLES. (C.C.C.S., 1630A/22 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa) Reply 1900/23.

GLADIOLUS
CANDYTUFT

*See previous
page.*

Reference arrangements for refit of GLADIOLUS at Charleston and CANDYTUFT at New York. Navy Dept. is anxious not to break existing policy of refitting two Corvettes at Charleston simultaneously and if operational requirements admit it is asked that another vessel should accompany GLADIOLUS to Charleston. See N.S.H.Q. 1711Z/20 and my 1226R/22. (B.A.R.M. 1636R/22 to Admty.)

/Task Unit....

MOST SECRET

540A.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE 1407Z/22nd September. IN

FROM C.N.S. Canada.

Date 23.9.41.
Recd. 2334.

Naval Cypher X by Cable.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty (Personal for 1st S.L.)
IMPORTANT.

. 354. Your 2141/18 Personal for 1st S.L.

1. Suggest S.C. Convoys use a Southerly route meeting O.N.S. Convoys about 27(27) deg. West. Destroyers could join S.C. Convoys in about 45(45) deg West and remain with O.N.S. Convoys until dispersal. Corvettes could provide full escort for S.C. and O.N.S. Convoys. This route has the advantages of wider diversity of routeing increased hours of daylight and escort could be arranged on a five group 30 day cycle.

2. The above would require 13 destroyers and 38 corvettes. T.C. convoys would require at least 5 destroyers allowing one for refit.

3. I consider shortlegged TOWNS are impractical for ocean escort especially in winter therefore propose that 2 be retained at Halifax and 3 released for service in British waters if you can employ them profitably.

4. As many corvettes as possible will be released from Halifax and Sydney local forces but it is pointed out that these forces are really used for working up new corvettes.

5. If the above proposals are adopted the R.N. will provide 5 destroyers for S.C. and 5 for T.C. convoys the R.C.N. providing 8 destroyers and 38 corvettes for S.C. Convoys and 3 short legged destroyers for British Waters,

1407A/22.

Advance copy 1st S.L. at 0400 with note.

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

War Diary

22.9.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Task Unit
4.1.3.

Following received from Navy Dept. Commander Destroyer Division 62 in BAINBRIDGE, with REUBEN, JAMES, TRUXTON, WINSLOW, OVERTON, are designated as Task Unit 4.1.3. and sailed for convoy S.C. 44 at 0900/20.
(Spenavo, 1642 G.M.T./22 to Admty.)

U.S. Forces

Your 1603Z/20 (N.T. in W.D.) concurs. U.S. Forces concerned informed.
(Opnav, 1705/22 to Admty.)

SHAFTESBURY
M.M.S. 122

SHAFTESBURY returned from WSC 45 2300Z/21. Steering gear carried away unable to repair at sea. M.M.S. 122 Admty Trawler returned from same convoy p.m./20 steering gear broken, quadrant jammed. One fuel oil tank leaking. Master brought her through narrows with rubber (?rudder) jammed solely with engine.
(N.C.S.O., St. John's N.F. 1750Z/22 to Admty.)

S.O.S. heard
Camperdown
17/9.

Your 0203/18. W.R. message asking for repetition of a position given in 1633/17 from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Heard by a ship in position 37.52 N., 52.38 W. strength 4.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1823Z/22 to Admty.)

H.X. 151.

My 2045/18 amended as follows. Ocean escorts for H.X. 151 DECATUR, LIVERMORE, KEARNEY, PLUNKET and GREER. (Opnav, 1950/22 to Admty. etc.) See 2123/23. p. 554 -

S.C. Convoy
Escorts.

C.O.A.C. Halifax 0101Z/22 (N.T. in W.D.) Commencing with S.C. 47, 2 Corvettes from Sydney force are to accompany next 5 S.C. Convoys. These Corvettes are to relieve R.N. Corvettes in Newfoundland escorts. C.C. Newfoundland is to inform necessary authorities of dates on which R.N. Corvettes can be released. Continuation of Tobermory training is not to be interfered with.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2050Z/22 to C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

KARMEN

Cancel my 1543Z/21. KARMEN arrived Port Alfred 21/9. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2103Z/22)-

/LORRAINE.....

War Diary22.9.1941.
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies-Contd.LORRAINE

Arrival 22nd Port Isabel French Tanker, LORRAINE.
(Galveston, 2215Z/22 to D.N.I.) Put to sea again
(see 1845/23)

U.S. Warships

U.S.S. WASHINGTON, EDISON, LUDLOW left Port au
Prince, Haiti, 22/9 for destination which is not
known. (D.O.D.F. 2222A/22 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

BETH

C. in C. A.W.I. 2152Q/14. Has BETH arrived and
been rerouted by you?
(D.T.D. 2223A/22 to N.C.S.O. Trinidad)
Your 2223A/22 BETH not arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 1921Q/22 to Admty.)

Suspicious
Vessel Reports.

Please pass following to C.N.O. from C.N.S.:-
PRINCE DAVID's report of 27/8, U.S.S. WASP's of
28/8, and the unknown British M/V's report of a
vessel of the FELS Class 1,200 miles E.S.E. of
Trinidad on 31/8, together with ROBIN HOOD's
reports of 7/9 and 9/9 and STANVAC's reports of
14/9 and 15/9 might well, we consider, all be of
the same vessel.

2. We have had previous indications that enemy
surface vessels are used for reporting Merchant
Ships to U-Boats or surface warships, and it seems
possible that this ship is so employed, keeping
clear of enemy area of S/M activity while report-
ing all shipping sighted.

3. We consider it likely that she will remain
in the same area for a time, but in case she
moves South DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE are searching
more to the Southward, and particularly in the
calm refuelling area S.E. of Trinidad Island.
(1st S.L., 2343A/22 to B.A.D.)

AustraliaBENDIGO

Departure Darwin 0715Z/22 BENDIGO for Singapore
via Roti and Sape Straits E.T.A. 0740Z/30,
entering China Station 010° 45' S., 124° 40' E.
at 2030Z/23.
(A.C.N.B., 1537Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary22.9.1941.
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedO.G. 74
RUNA

Position 045° 57' N., 022° 13' W. have picked up survivors of RUNA torpedoed 2150. MARIGOLD in company. Weather. (DEPTFORD, 0030A/22 to Admty.) RUNA, British, 1575 tons, bound from Barry to Lisbon with coal. Torpedoed about 585 miles W.N.W. Cape Finisterre. (D.S. 748, 22/9.) When ROCKINGHAM has joined, O.G. 74 proceed at best speed to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A., 1621A/22 to DEPTFORD)
Not met. Expect contact at daylight.
(ROCKINGHAM, 1901A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.L. 87.
SILVERBELLE
EDWARD BLYDEN
NICETO DE
LARRINAGA

attacked
Convoy S.L. 87/in 025° 31' N., 023° 47' W. at 0240Z/22, 1 ship torpedoed. (LULWORTH, 0300Z/22 to Admty.) LULWORTH's 0300Z. Torpedoed ship SILVERBELLE still salvable if weather holds. Am attempting to tow to Azores. Remainder of escort with convoy. White Very light sighted by GORLESTON in 026° 04' N., 023° 30' W. at 0115Z/ while passing my 2100Z/21, suggesting further U-Boat on convoy route. Can relief be expected (?for) (?towing). GORLESTON keeping Gibraltar routine (N.A. Station, H/F), shifting to read Rugby "G.A." 500 kc's on loudspeaker. (GORLESTON, 1111Z/22, to F.O.C.N.A.) SILVERBELLE, British, 5302 tons, Durban to Liverpool with West African produce. (D.S. 749) S.L. 87 attacked in 027° 32' N., 024° 26' W. 2 ships torpedoed. (LULWORTH, 2200/22 to Admty.) (W.D. Note: EDWARD BLYDEN and NICETO DE LARRINAGA see 0801/23)
S.L. 87 attacked. Several ships torpedoed. (BIDEFORD, 2200Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
If available send tug to meet SILVERBELLE in tow of GORLESTON. Estimated position at 0240Z/22 025° (? 31') N., 023° 41' W. steering towards Azores. (F.O.C.N.A., 2216A/22 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
Your 1111Z/22. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada has been asked to send tug if available. (F.O.C.N.A. 2218A/22 to GORLESTON)
Your 1111Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A. Rejoin S.L. 87 forthwith. (C. in C. W.A., 2342A/22 to GORLESTON)

S.C. 44
(Attacked
20/9.)

7 hours late at R/V. Please inform CHESTERFIELD I am short of fuel and am proceeding Reykjavik. (HONEYSUCKLE, 1001Z/22 to BULLDOG)
S.C. 44. On relief by U.K. escort group and when well clear of convoy report names of ships not present. (C. in C. W.A., 1116A/22 to CHESTERFIELD, HONEYSUCKLE, MAYFLOWER) (Amended 1426A/22)

/Your 1116A/22....

War Diary22.9.1941.
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedS.C. 44
(Attacked
20/9.)
-Contd.

Your 1116A/22 and 1426A/22. Cmdre reports ships not present numbers 13, CETUS; 112, CROMARTY; 35, Motor Minesweeper MARTICOT. UNITAS check being made today. Torpedoed ships numbers 91, EMPIRE BURTON; 92, PINK STAR; 93, BARBRO; 102, T.J. WILLIAMS.
(CHESTERFIELD, 1759Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
U.S. Escort for S.C. 44. See America & West Indies, 1642/22.

Submarines Reported

2245Z

An enemy U-Boat has made a first sighting report 2245Z/21 of a convoy or important unit, probably Convoy S.L. 87.
(D.D.I.C., 0032A/22 to GORLESTON, BIDEFORD)
My 0032A/22. Further sets of D/F bearings indicate that U-Boat may still be in contact with Convoy S.L. 87. Last transmission was at 0950Z/22 (D.D.I.C., 1135A/22 to GORLESTON, BIDEFORD)
My 1135A/22. Two further sets of D/F bearings indicate that U-Boat may still be in contact with Convoy S.L. 87. Last transmission was at 1501Z/22. (D.D.I.C. 1703A/22 to GORLESTON, BIDEFORD.)

0100C
0300C

By D/F U-Boats in positions (1) at 0100C/22 070° 02' N., 037° 10' E. (2) at 0300C/22 068° 19' N. 040° 06' E. Admty. pass to ELECTRA, LONDON.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0941C/22 to Admty.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1437A/22.)

1615/21

Unidentified submarine sighted 1 mile off shore Vianna Do Castelo 1615/21.
(R.O.Oporto, 1516/22 to S.O.I. Gib.)

0010

S/M reported by H.M.D. ROMANY ROSE vicinity of T. 1. buoy, course S.E. about 8 knots at 0010/22. Interrogation of skipper shows evidence inconclusive. No evidence that object dived. Report graded C.4. Additional search of suspected area for moored mines is being carried out p.m. today.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1625/22 to Admty.)

/1741A.....

War Diary

22.9.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

- 1741A Intercepted signal indicates an Italian U-Boat is probably shadowing H.G. 73. (F.O.C.N.A., 1741A/22 to Escorts H.G. 73.)
- 1710A 2 U-Boats reported by A/C in 36° 05' N., 16° 00' W. at 1710A/22 course southerly. (F.O.C.N.A., 2241A/22 to N.A. Station)

Submarines Attacked

By VIMY
21/9.

My 2115A/21. Amend position to read 037° 46' N., 019° 18' W. Strong smell of shale oil. (VIMY, 0008Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
VIMY reports attacking S/M in 037° 46' N., 019° 18' W. at 2115A/21. VIMY continuing search for 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A., 0817A/22 to Admty.)

(Station

*ALESSANDRO
MALASPINA)*

*(Station information
& Cor. Title/ton)*

Doubtful.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

PENELOPE is to patrol the Iceland Faeroes passage to westward of the minefields, with the object of intercepting enemy surface craft.

TIRPITZ was reported S.W. of Oland at 1745 today steering 60° in company with 14 unspecified warships believed to be cruisers and torpedo boats.

Operation
E. J.

KING GEORGE V, VICTORIOUS^{AURORA.} and 6 destroyers sailed from Scapa this evening. ^

Early this afternoon an aircraft 20 miles north west of Bergen sighted 3 merchant ships escorted by a cruiser, thought possibly to be a new minelaying cruiser. Another aircraft sighted a 6,000 ton tanker escorted by two trawlers north of Alesund. Air striking forces were detailed to attack these units, but fog prevented them from taking off.

British Air Operations.

Air Activity was restricted by unfavourable weather. A minor attack was made on the docks at Boulogne last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy air activity was on a small scale today.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Naval aircraft last night attacked merchant vessels reported off Kuriat and sank by torpedo an 8,000 ton ship and hit a small ship Wellingtons attacked at the same time and hit the smaller vessel.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

THUNDERBOLT has returned from patrol off Benghazi and reports having carried out shore bombardments and successful operations against shipping, including a hit on 13/9 on a CROTONE class minelayer laying mines off Benghazi.

6 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi last night. Targets at Tripoli were also attacked.

There were 3 air raids on Tobruk today, but no damage is reported.

Piraeus.

It is reported that naval patrols at Piraeus have been intensified and the sailing of motor caiques is prohibited.

Black Sea.

It is reported that a submarine patrol from 18/9 to 23/9 has been curtailed by depth charge damage, this being the first occasion of depth charging in the Black Sea. A convoy was attacked close to Constanza and one ship was probably hit.

Varna has been closed to traffic, probably for 7 days.

New Zealand.

DENBIGH^HSHIRE reported sighting a suspicious motor vessel at 1400 G.M.T. today in 14° 52' S., 129° 11' W.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.L.87

S.L.87 was reported attacked again at 2229Z in 30° 25' N., 23° 35' W. S.S. ST. CLAIR II was torpedoed and sank immediately.

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Flag of
R.A.1st C.S.
to NORFOLK.

Flag of R.A.1st C.S. will be transferred from DEVONSHIRE to NORFOLK a.m. 25th. (C.S.1. 0938A/23).

SHEFFIELD..

Your 1543/22. It is confirmed that SHEFFIELD forms part of 18th C.S. in accordance with A.M. 1326A/21/8, which address include C.S.18. (D.O.D. (H.), 1106A/23 to C.S.18).

Fleet
Minesweepers
with H.F.

Propose that you should continue to administer Fleet Minesweepers for the present while they are operating with Home Fleet. (C. in C. H.F., 1419A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

Survivors
in Iceland.

Have 96 merchant service survivors for passage U.K. No transport available before about 7/10. Could a rescue ship be diverted to Iceland to embark them? (A.C.I.C., 1621/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

Nore
Destroyers
with convoys.

As from 1/10 intend to endeavour to maintain a total of 6 Destroyers from Nore Command at sea for Convoy protection on all nights when both North and Southbound convoys are in area South of Outer Dowsing. Allocation arrangements, and dispositions with convoy. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 2358A/23) See Lion Copy.

Co-Operation With Russia.Communications
with
Archangel.

C. in C. H.F. 1225A/20, para 2. Suggest direct W/T from U.K. or H.M.Ship to Soviet W/T station at Archangel. Reasons. (Ad. Miles 1138C/23 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

Baltic.
(?6) Russian
Vessels sunk
or damaged
on Night
20/21.

Two Soviet Minesweeping tugs which arrived off Stockholm Archipelago A.M./21 brought about 60 Russian Naval personnel including 15 officers. The vessels had left Dagkun during the dark hours of the previous evening together with about (?6) other vessels but a German attack by torpedo craft disposed of the remainder. Tugs were in poor state but good condition of officers and men both in bearing and way they were clothed surprised Swedish Naval Authorities. No details of Naval action or dispositions could be obtained, though Swedes are still expecting Soviet warships for internment. Graded A.2. (N.A.Stockholm 1605/23).

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

IN.

From C in C Nore.

2358A/23rd Sept.

549A

Date. 24.9.41.

Recd. 0110.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed C in C Rosyth. D 16. D 21. Repeated F.O.S I/C Harwich. Humber, Yarmouth, Admiralty.

110. As from 1st October it is intended to endeavour to maintain a total of 6 Destroyers from Nore Command at Sea for convoy protection on all nights when both North and Southbound convoys are in the area South of outer Dowsing.
2. These Destroyers will be allocated either
- (A) 3 to Northbound convoy and 3 to Southbound convoy or
- (B) 2 to Northbound 2 to Southbound and 2 on Patrol
- The decision as to whether alternative (A) or (B) is adopted will be made each morning in the light of size of convoys and probable conditions during the forthcoming night.
3. Three Destroyers from each Flotilla will be detailed daily by Capt's D 16 and 21 in accordance with the forecast of convoy sailings issued by C in C Nore.
4. It has been decided that during the winter months Destroyers accompanying the Northbound convoy will proceed to the Humber for one night before joining a Southbound convoy. They will either proceed into Humber or anchor off Humber Light Vessel, as arranged by F.O.I/C Humber.
5. Dispositions of Nore Destroyers with convoys will be as follows:-
- (1) On joining convoy until about 2 hours after dark as in my 1610B/26/6/41.
- (2) When ordered by S O of Nore Destroyers they will take up anti E-Boat screen as follows:-
- 1 Destroyer in position V for vinegar.
- 1 Destroyer in position B for beer or P for pudding whichever is the seaward side.
- 3rd Destroyer when present position D for duff or R for Robert whichever is the landward side.
- N.O.M. 44 refers. All these Destroyers will carry out a broad Zig-Zag when navigational and other conditions permit.
- The Destroyers on the Flanks must adjust their distance from the convoy according to circumstances.
6. When conditions are suitable one or more M G B'S will work in conjunction with the Destroyer occupying position V for vinegar.

2358A/23.

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

Trade.

V.C.N.S.	O.D. (5)	D.A/S.W.	D.T.D. (4)
A.C.N.S. (H)	O.D. 8.	W.D.	D.T.D. (C)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	O.I.C. (3)	A.H.Q.H.F.	D.T.D. (M)
N.A. 1st S.L.	I.P. (3)	D of P. (3)	D.D.O.D. (C) (2)
Ops. (4)	D.S.D. 9.	E.P.S.	D.G.D. (2)

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

4,000 ton
M/V sunk
on 12/9.

CHUKA-class submarine 422 returned from patrol off Tana Fjord 22/9. One 4,000 tons westbound unescorted loaded M/V torpedoed and sunk 12/9. 3 other unsuccessful (?attacks) carried out firing radiation torpedoes. No ships sighted between 12/9. and 20/9.

C. in C. Northern Fleet has issued orders to Soviet submarines to adopt salvo firing and firing intervals in accordance with British practice. All shore lights showing normal characteristics between 28° east and 30° east except Sletnes Makkauk which were not lit.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1829C/23).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Sea
Platforms
for A/A
guns.

Consideration is being given to provision of Sea Platforms for Heavy and Light A/A Guns to extend existing gun-defended areas to seaward, for defence against minelaying and torpedo-carrying A/C and against E-boats. Following 3 types of platform are being considered. Details. Request you indicate areas for which A/A cover is required to A/A Command representatives who will shortly discuss matter with you. (D. of L.D., 1929A/23 to C. in C. Rosyth, Portsmouth Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Harwich, Tyne, Immingham, Milford Haven, Liverpool, Belfast, Londonderry). See Lion Copy.

Movements.

SUFFOLK.
IMPULSIVE.
ECLIPSE.
HARRIER.
HALCYON.
SALAMANDER.

Following are intended dispositions of the escort of P.Q. One after Convoy has arrived Archangel.
(a) SUFFOLK refuel and return to Scapa.
(b) 3 Minesweepers detailed by LEDA to remain at Archangel for local minesweeping duties.
(c) IMPULSIVE, ECLIPSE, and the remaining M/Ss with HARRIER, HALCYON, and SALAMANDER return to Scapa after refuelling and resting. Fuel is available at Seidis Fiord, if required on return passage. (C. in C. H.F., 0019A/23).

MALCOLM.

When Convoy has entered Minches. MALCOLM is to proceed to Belfast to Dock. (C. in C. W.A., -0042A/23 to MALCOLM.)

/AURORA.....

022
220
A 0.5
550A

1929A/23rd Sept.

SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

Date 23.9.41.

To: C in C Rosyth. 418.
C in C Portsmouth 462
C in C Plymouth 308.
F.O.i/c Harwich
F.O.i/c Tyne
F.O.i/c Inningham
F.O.i/c Milford Haven
F.O.i/c Liverpool
F.O.i/c Belfast
N.C.i/c Londonderry.
Repeated
Air Ministry
A.A. Command
Fighter Command
War Office
C in C Western Approaches 726.

P/L BY T/P.

From : Admiralty.

Consideration is being given to provision of sea platforms for Heavy and Light A.A. Guns for the extension of existing gun defended areas to seaward, for defence against minelaying and torpedo carrying aircraft, These gun positions may also combine anti E-boat role. Representatives of A.A. Command will shortly be discussing requirement with you.

2. Platforms under consideration are:-

(a) Maunsell 4 Tower Forts. Concrete structure built ashore and floated out and sunk on site in about 5-6 fathoms. Armament 2- 3.7" A.A., 2 Bofors, 2 searchlights, with predictors and R.D.F. gun control of Army type.

(b) Phillips Floating Units. Moored concrete floating "tubs" specially designed and stabilised for this purpose. Armament 1 Bofors gun, possibly with predictor if trials show this to be possible. Draught about 14 feet. Units which are under trial appear to stand up to conditions of weather and sea in sheltered waters.

(c) Dumb barges. Armament Bofors guns without predictors

3. Technical suitability and and detailed layout of devices is responsibility of A.A. Command, Stanmore.

4/.....

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>→ <u>AURORA.</u></p> | <p>My 2207A/22. Add AURORA.
(C. in C. H.F., 0042A/23).</p> |
| <p><u>GRAF VON
VLANDEREN.
CONSERA.</u></p> | <p>Admiralty's 2355A/9 and your 1809A/22. Request you sail vessel as soon as ready, routed as follows, to Azores to complete with fuel. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue onward routeing instructions.
(C. in C. W.A., 0946A/23 to Capt. D. Londonderry).</p> |
| <p><u>INDOMITABLE.</u>
<u>JACOB VAN HEEMSKERK.</u></p> | <p>HEEMSKERK is to provide A/A protection to INDOMITABLE during trials in accordance with Admty's 1903A/23. (C. in C. W.A., 1701A/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).</p> |
| <p><u>KING GEORGE V,
VICTORIOUS,
AURORA.</u>
(Op. E.J.)</p> | <p>Scapa departure C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, with VICTORIOUS, AURORA, SOMALI, MATABELE, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, ESKIMO, and ASHANTI. (for Iceland)
(A.C.O.S., 1801A/23).</p> |
| <p><u>BERKELEY,
PUCKERIDGE,
MEYNELL.</u></p> | <p>Unless visibility is extreme proceed as soon as conditions allow, notwithstanding passage of Dover Straits in daylight. Weather report will be made at 0400. If visibility is likely to exceed 15 miles return to Southend.
(C. in C. Nore, 2245A/23 to BERKELEY, PUCKERIDGE, MEYNELL).</p> |
| <p><u>Operations.</u></p> | |
| <p><u>Iceland -
Faeroes
Patrol.</u>
<u>PENELOPE.</u></p> | <p>Proceed Hvalfjord today and carry out patrol of Iceland - Faeroes passage to westward of minefields. Object to intercept enemy surface craft, particularly westbound. Probable duration of patrol 5 days. (C. in C. H.F., 0035A/23 to PENELOPE).</p> |
| <p><u>Patrol off
Schelde.</u></p> | <p>Weather permitting M.T.B's of unit (3) are to carry out a patrol to-night between Thornton Ridge and Hook of Holland. Surface vessels met east of 2° 30' may be attacked without challenge.
(C. in C. Nore, 1520A/23 to BEEHIVE).</p> |
| <p><u>Dover
Patrol.</u></p> | <p>Patrols tonight. 2 Trawlers leave Dover at 1800 for O.D.1. 2 Motor launches in Dungeness East roads. 3 Motor gunboats patrolling between South and East Varne buoys.
(V.A. Dover 1712A/23).</p> |
| <p><u>Patrol
F.B.</u></p> | <p>Auxiliary patrol F.B. is to be adjusted to patrol one mile westward of Channel between Sheringham Bell buoy and 57C as from 25/9.
(C. in C. Nore, 1801A/23).</p> |

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

"Trost" in operation. "Stab" and "Hornli" taking off shortly. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1050/23).

Portsmouth
Command.
Requests for
Fighter
Escorts.

As from 30/9 "Intend to sail" signals for convoys sailing to Dartmouth or Falmouth (PW) will be made by N.C.S.O. Portsmouth, in the form of a signal combining the information now signalled by C. in C. and N.C.S.O. Request that 10th Group will accept this signal as a request for Fighter escort for those convoys as is done in the Plymouth Command.. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1127A/23).

Proposed
Attacks.

(1) Strike of three Beauforts to attack force of 1 Cr. 3 M.V.s. in Hjelte Fiord, 60° 34' N., 4° 54' E., course 160°, reported by H/235 at 1320. Aircraft to carry bombs.
(2) Three Hudson to attack 6,000 ton tanker in 62° 53' N., 6° 40' E., reported by K/235 at 1410.
(3) Weather conditions indicate strikes at about last light and return to Wick or Lossiemouth. (Pitreavie A.C.H.Q., 1517/23 to Leuchars, Wick).

Escort for
KING GEORGE V.

Expect one Catalina as A/S escort from 0800A/24 until 1630. Re Recognition. W/T silence not to be broken unless called on. (C. in C. W.A., 2301A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

VECHSTROOM
(Dutch
845 tons)
sunk.

At 0753 today S.S. VECHSTROOM sank in 53° 43' 12" N., 00° 35' 24" E. (F.O. Humber, 1012A/23). 19 survivors including 2 gunners from VECHSTROOM landed Grimsby. Ship damaged by near misses from two aircraft near 62 D buoy 1920/22. No casualties. (F.O. Humber, 1307A/23).

Mining.N.L.8

Intend to carry out operation N.L.8 tonight, from 51° 00' 54" N., 01° 52' 30" E. (V.A. Dover, 1309A/23).

Cork
Harbour
and Shannon
minelaying.

Secret. My 1635/24/7. Laying of single line of controlled mines in entrance to Cork Harbour between Camden and Carlisle Forts now taking place. Operation expected to be complete about 4/10. Shannon scheme indefinitely postponed as minelayer requires extensive refit. Proposed approx. position for this field is as follows. T.O.O. 1620/23/9. Grading A.1. (Dublin, 1715/23 to Admty).

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.P.W.20.

Prepare to carry out operation P.W.20 with M.T.B.'s on first night weather is suitable.
(C. in C. Nore, 2232A/23 to BEEHIVE).

Enemy Intelligence.Damaged
Warship off
Flores.

It has been reported that at 1600A/22 a damaged Destroyer or Torpedo Boat passed through 061° 36' N., 004° 58' E., Course South, speed 6 knots, towed by 2 Tugs and escorted by 2 Patrol Boats. Grade B.3. (F.O.S. 0024A/23 to MINERVE).

Cruiser
and Convoy
off Bergen.

Aircraft reports 1 Cruiser and 3 M/Vs in 60° 34' N., 04° 46' E. Co. 160° at 1320/23. (D.D.I.C., 1520A/23 to MINERVE).
Details. (Pitreavie, 1550/23).
My 1520A/23. Possible that this may be one of the New German Cruiser Minelayers. See W.I.R. No. 22 of 9/8/40. (D.D.I.C., 1800A/23).

Technical.KOS 8.
Endurance.

It is understood that KOS VIII is required to complete a journey of over 2,000 miles. Trial has been carried out at sea and it is found that the vessel's range is approx. 1400 miles using all oil. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1800/23).

Casualties & Defects..

GUNVOR MAERSK.
(British
1984 tons)
WAR PINDARI
(British
R.F.A Tanker,
5559 tons)
collision.

(C. in C. Nore, 0825A/23 to MALLARD).
GUNVOR MAERSK and WAR PINDARI in collision. Former damaged, arrived Humber with tugs SABINE and IRISHMAN in attendance 1730/23. WAR PINDARI sustained slight damage to stem and is proceeding in convoy to destination. (VORTIGERN, 0950A/23 C. in C. Nore, 0825A/23, 1121A/23 WESTMINSTER, 0907A/23, 0940A/23 MALLARD, 0914A/23 F.O. Humber 1743A/23).

ANTWERP.

Admiralty's 2133A/12 to C. in C. W.A. ANTWERP on trial showed defective steering qualities. Ship will require docking. Date of sailing ex Tyne cannot be given at present.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1835/23).

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.W.S.12
P.Q.1.

Request you will:-

(a) Detail one ship of 1st C.S. as ocean escort for convoy W.S.12 sailing from Clyde on 30/9. Ship should be sailed to Greenock in time for C.O. to attend conference.

(b) Accordingly SUFFOLK and Destroyers required for escort of P.Q.1. and BLACK RANGER, to arrive Hvalfjord A.M./27.

(c) Sailed SHROPSHIRE in accordance with my 2356A/22. (C. in C. H.F., 0014A/23 to S.O. 1 C.S.) C. in C. Home Fleet 0014A/23 para (a).

The cruiser escort of W.S.12 after passing Azores will depend upon availability of 6" Cruisers on the conclusion of "Halberd".

2. It is intended that

(a) If all 6" Cruisers are available for immediate service, the 8" Cruiser will continue to escort W.S.12 to the Cape.

(b) If these conditions do not apply, question of escort beyond Azores will be reconsidered.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 1924A/23 to C. in C. H.F., C.S.1).

S.D.12.

My 1548/22 S.D. 12, CASTLETON, CHARLESTOWN sailed 2000 (?Z/22). (A.C.I.C., 0051/23 to Admty etc).

Escorts.

Sailed WITCH and BLANKNEY in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1945/22 (N.T. in W.D.) (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0907A/23 to C. in C. W.A.).

H.X. 151.

Escort for H.X. 151 has been amended by Opnav to read DECATUR, LIVERMORE, KEARNEY, PLUNKET, and GREER. (D.T.D., 1102A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
See 1950/22 - P. 541

Escorts to and from Faeroes.

Your 1832/16. It was not intended that fishing vessels carrying cargo or very small Merchant vessels should be routed to Kirkwall for onward escort. A number of the former class for Faeroes have however recently been sent to Kirkwall from Aberdeen for this purpose. Request my 1206A/16 may be read as applying to Merchant Vessels of 500 tons and over only, and if you have no objection your 1832/16 amended to conform. (A.C.O.S., 1208A/23 to C. in C. Rosyth).

H.X.150.

Your 2308A/22. This is provided for in the general plan for all convoys. (D.T.D.1243A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

/O.G.75.....

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

O.G.75.

ARIGUANI will be sailed to R/V with O.G.75.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1458A/23 to C, in C. W.A.).

W/T.

Repeats Admtty 1113A/22. (D.T.D., 1648A/23 to
N.C.S.O.s).

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Raiders.

My 1801A/16. Ships were sighted by ROBIN HOOD on 7/9 in 10° 04' S. 26° 58' W, by STANVAC^{MARILA} on 14/9 in 04° 21' S. 34° 45' W, and by STANVAC on 15/9 in 10° 04' S. 34° 58' W. Possibly all the same ship previously sighted by PRINCE DAVID, WASP and unknown British ship on 31/8. Apparently vessel of FELS class closely resembling Raider 16 but with speed greater than 16's present maximum. Poor Bearings at 1957/22 indicated presence of unit S. of Ascension. My 1801A/16 may refer. (D.D.I.C. 1427A/23 to Spenavo, C's in C. etc.)

North AtlanticFrench Shipping.

SURVILLE, laden, escorted by French minelayer, sloop P.C. and S. 036° 32' N. 007° 35' W. 290°, 9 knots. (ALOUETTE, 0545/23 to F.O.C.N.A.) Convoys passing 21/9, 22/9, see D.O.R. 23/9.

SHEFFIELD.

Your 1543/22. It is confirmed that SHEFFIELD forms part of 18th C.S. in accordance with A.M. 1326A/21/8. (D.O.D.(H) 1106A/23 to C.S.18.)

Suspect Ships.

Your telegram 104 30/8, my 281 and my 1630/29/8 to Admiralty. Have now ascertained Julio Gonzalez Martin own only sailing vessels DELFIN and MARIA BONMATTI. Although I have no definite proof, all information confirms that these sailing vessels have been trading with enemy. (Las Palmas, 1745/23 to Admty.)

PRINCE OF WALES.

Daily Summary Ops. No flying, adverse sea conditions. 233 Squadron, 3 Hudsons escort PRINCE OF WALES, Dawn till dusk, area covered 35.30 N. 09.25 W. to 35.50 N. 07.10 W. (200 Group, 1815/23.)

P.34.

My P.C. and S. 042° 20' (?10°) 40', 180° 10. (Weather). (P.34 2300A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Ships ex
W.S. 10.

Your 0349/17 para. (2) Ships can be handled provided draughts can be kept down so that they can be berthed safely in following depths; NEA HELLAS 28 feet; INDRAPOERA and VOLENDAM 26 feet. (C. in C. S.A. 0235N/23 to D. of S.T.)

French Convoy.

Report A1, my 1123/18, convoy will arrive at Diego Suarez. (S.O.I. Capetown 1003B/23 to Admty., C. in C. E.I.)

My 1043/15. Same source reports that ship scheduled to leave 10/10 and will be escort accompanying convoy arriving 25/9 (my 1123/18 refers). (S.O.I Capetown 1023Z/23 to Admty.)

Raider
Search,
Force F.

Search should be (?extended) to westward as far as possible to cover calm area shown on chart Y 190 in case already extending in this direction. (C. in C. S.A., 1047N/23 to S.O. Force F.)

O.S.6
JUMNA.

On U.K. escort breaking off from O.S.6 request permission JUMNA to proceed direct to Freetown for fuel and provisions there after proceed Capetown for boiler cleaning. Detailed programme will be submitted on arrival Freetown. (JUMNA 1201N/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

BALTAVIA.

Is to proceed Freetown after landing essential items at Falkland Islands. (C. in C. S.A., 1439N/23 to N.O.I.C. Falklands.)

NEWBROUGH.

Have you any news of NEWBROUGH from Trinidad due Buenos Aires 17/9? (D.T.D. 1747A/23 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

Your 1747/23 NEWBROUGH arrived Buenos Aires today 23rd. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2223Z/23.)

L.L.Whalers.

Request you will reply to Admiralty's 1528A/20 (date of arrival of 156th group of L.L.Whalers etc. in Mediterranean.) (C. in C. S.A. 1844N/23 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

THRASHER.
PERSEUS.

From 0500B/26 patrol in area C. keeping to westwards of 018° E. Leave patrol a.m./29 to arrive Malta 1/10 route as ordered by S.10. PERSEUS expects to arrive area C. from 033° 00' 021° 55' a.m./26 and keeps to eastwards of 018° until 0200B/29. (S.1. 1847B/23 to THRASHER.)

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.OUED GROU.

Your 2135N/19. Employment of OUED GROU not yet decided but ship will not be sailed North of Freetown. Elder Dempster, Freetown, are being informed. (D. of S.T. 2255A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.Enemy M/V.

Anticipate small enemy merchant ship on S.E. course will pass through Marsden Square Gavdo 40 about 0500B/23. (Capt.S., 0215B/23 to OSIRIS.)

Leros bombed.

Dodecanese. 22/9. Five Blenheims left Cyprus at dawn to attack Portolago Bay, Leros Island, three aircraft being detailed to attack floating dock and remainder to provide diversionary attack on other objectives in the bay. Attack miscarried and three Blenheims returned with bombs. Diversionary aircraft dropped bombs near barracks and 500 ton supply ship. One Blenheim repeated attack in afternoon bombs dropping from low height straddling floating dock, damage unobserved. Maryland R/C of Stampalia Leros and Kalimnos reported 9 ships 2000 tons and one small ship in Stampalia. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1108/23.)

Benghazi bombed.

Western Desert, night 21/22. 4 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi Harbour, bombs bursting on ships at Italian Mole and on quays. Further 1 Wellington unable to reach Benghazi attacked barge, results unobserved. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1111/23.)

Turkey.

Chiefs of Staff No.171 to C's in C. M.E. and C. in C. Med. Ref. Mideast GR/00425 of 6/9 and 00491 of 7/9. 1. No objection to increasing dump at Therapia if Ambassador is informed and agrees.
2. We appreciate handicaps under which S.O.E. Organisation established only in Syria will labour but consider this the best policy at present. At the same time, in view of information given to M.A. Ankara that Turks have complete demolition plan, you may consider it opportune for M.A. Ankara to suggest to Turks infiltration of demolition experts to assist their plan.

/In

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Turkey contd.

In this connection you will no doubt consider plan for dealing with Turkish railway centre at Eskisehir and Turkish chrome mines in addition to other objectives mentioned by you.
3. F.O. do not agree at present to increase to consulate staffs or commercial cover.
(1st S.L. 1231A/23 to C. in C. Med.)

Salvage Ships.

Your 1402/20. CONFEDERATE now employed on salvage of GEORGIC in Suez Bay. Ship can be spared for Massawa if urgently required with consequent delay to GEORGIC. It would be necessary to ask for her back immediately if salvage of wreck in canal becomes necessary.
(C. in C. Med., 1245B/23 to C. in C. E.I.)

Libyan
Convoys,
forces to
attack.

Your 2242/21. Situation has changed somewhat since my 2035/23/8. Air attack in Red Sea has obliged me to send 2 cruisers and 2 A/A ships South of Suez and in consequence I cannot spare cruisers for Malta. Should it be found attacks in South do not assume serious proportions, and when present flow of vitally important ships is over, it may become possible to reconsider Malta project.

(ii) I consider it would be useless to send any Hunts to Malta. In view of delay as regards cruisers referred to in para.1, a solution might be to send the 4 Hunts here now via Cape and when they are within measurable distance of arrival it may be possible to release necessary fleet destroyers for Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 1339/23 to Admty.)

Red Sea.

Request for inclusion in Mediterranean Command.
(C. in C. Med. 1355B/23 to Admty. for 1 S.L. personal). See Lion Copy.

Piraeus
Intelligence.

6 merchant ships (corrupt group) over 5000 tons and 3 smaller reported in Piraeus 20/9 and that naval patrols intensified and sailing of motor caiques forbidden. (Capt. S.1 1407B/23 to TALISMAN, TORBAY.)

ATLAS
(German)

Arrived 20th. (Valencia 1515/23 to M. of W.T.)

CELENO
(Italian)

Was expected at Istanbul from Aegean on passage to Black Sea on 23/9 or 24/9. (D.S. 750, 24/9.)

/Varna

MOST SECRET

559A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1355B/23rd September.

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 25.9.41.

Recd. 1829

Naval Cypher F. by W/T.

RECIRCULATION

Addressed:-

Admiralty (for 1st S.L.) PERSONAL.

Repeated C. in C. East Indies.

AIDAC.

X
X My 1615/15 and C. in C. East Indies' 0554/21 are passed to your for information.

(ii) It will be observed that C. in C. East Indies and myself are in substantial agreement.

(iii) I request therefore that consideration may be given to the following proposals.

(a) That Red Sea up to longitude of Aden should be included in Mediterranean Command.

(b) That S.N.O.Red Sea should move his Headquarters to Suez and that he should come within command of Mediterranean Station.

(c) That S.N.O.Red Sea should be responsible to C. in C. Mediterranean for organization and administration of all ports in Red Sea and for Aden and Suez.

(d) That as proposed in para (c) my 1615/15 N.C.I.C.Suez should have his appointment extended to cover all anchorages in Gulf of Suez and should act as link between S.B.N.O.Suez and S.N.O.Red Sea. The latter would be responsible for calling up ships as requisite to ports in Gulf of Suez.

(iv) I have given problem much thought for some time and am reluctant to assume these extra responsibilities but it is evident to me that this readjustment is necessary in present circumstances.

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

N. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D.(H)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(H)
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.H.S.
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)
D.G.D.
N.I.D.10
(Pay Cdr.Wilson)
As Palliser

1355B/23

X Being circulated to 1st S.L. only.
Advance copy 1st S.L.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Varna.

Port closed to traffic and Turkish Caiques proceeding there diverted. Port probably closed for 7 days from 23/9. Fact. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 1635/23.)

COETLOGON
(French)

Left 22/9. (Barcelona 1641/23.)

S/M
Instructions.

Limits imposed in my 1433/11/2 and my 1151/10/4 for S/Ms proceeding on surface by day are cancelled. S/Ms are normally to proceed submerged by day when to Eastwards 7° E. but if operation or other circumstances demand they are at liberty to proceed on surface as requisite. Weather conditions, locality and chance of counter attack or sighting will be deciding factors. An efficient zigzagging carried out when on the surface both by day and by night and utmost alertness is required of look out to guard against surprise by enemy A/C, light surface forces, or S/Ms, all of which have been encountered on various occasions by day and by night. (Capt S.l., 1735B/23 to 1st S.M. Flot.)

MAURO CROCE
(Italian)
ATLAS
(German)

Extract from a Fairmiss telegram, 22nd arrival MAURO CROCE. ATLAS expected sailing 24th. (Valencia, T.H.I. 1950/23 to D. of S.T.)

Situation
Report 152.

Western Desert. Operation "Supercharge" continues enemy air opposition not at present severe. 7th C/S at sea night of 22/23 in support of destroyers. Intensive armed air R/C being maintained between Libya and Crete.
2. Eastern Med. Shipping Route. Palestine schooner ANTAR set on fire by U-Boat after being missed by torpedo at 2300/21 whilst on passage Beirut - Haifa crew landed Tyre. SOUTHERN SEA unsuccessfully bombed whilst endeavouring to tow (? hull) of ANTAR to Beirut. A/S activity is being maintained in area.
3. Red Sea. Cruiser and Sloop are escorting ship through Gulf of Suez. No further enemy air activity reported.
4. Turkey. (? anti Torpedo) boom now reported complete operation "Gate" successful.
5. Submarines. Details of 10th S/M Flotilla attack see N.O.i/c Malta 1421/20. THUNDERBOLT returned from patrol off Benghazi and reports (A) 7/9 1500 ton merchant ship torpedoed believed to be sunk. (B) 9/9 bombarded Fortina Beroli, Sirte and 10/9 damaged by gunfire and probably sank large schooner at El Auegia in face of

/opposition

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Situation
Report 152
contd.

opposition from shore batteries. (C) 11/9 torpedoed camouflaged merchant ship off Volga seen on fire later. (D) 13/9 attacked CROTONE class Minelayer laying mines off Benghazi and scored one hit. (E) 14/9 launched attack on 5000 tons merchant ship 30 miles North of Benghazi result uncertain. (C. in C. Med. 2031B/23.)

Malta Raid.

Night 22/23. Short alert 0139 to 0153. 1 raider crossed coast. Few bombs dropped. Negligible damage. 2 civilians slight casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2230/23.)

M/Vs attacked
off Kuriat.

Night 22/23, Swordfish attacked M/Vs reported off Kuriat 2015 hrs. Torpedo attack on ships sighted 0622 23/9. 1 Torpedo struck larger vessel amidships resulting in large patch of oil on water. Second torpedo struck small ship forward, seen later down by bows. Same time 3 Wellingtons attacked larger vessel, 1 near miss large merchant vessel and 1 hit on smaller vessel confirmed by Swordfish.

Tripoli
bombed.

5 Wellingtons attacked barracks Tripoli 2105 to 2140 hrs. (H.Q. Malta, 2236/23.)

Benghazi
mines.

THRASHER reports mines observed in area between following positions all from Benghazi Light (A) 321° 12.9 (B) 326° 17.2 (C) 347° 16.4 (D) 340° 11.2. Also mine detected by asdic in circle radius 1.5 miles about position 344° 5.2 miles from Benghazi light. (Capt. S.1 2325B/23 to PERSEUS.)

TETRARCH
OSIRIS

No soldiers embarked in TETRARCH but 40 will be ready for OSIRIS on 25th. If MacNab cannot embark in OSIRIS, Lawrence requests submarine may be sent to evacuate them both in about 3 weeks, date to be signalled to OSIRIS. Am ready to proceed on patrol. (TETRARCH 2335B/23 to S.1.)

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

→ KANIMBLA and
MANOORA
exchange.

Your 2243/21. Re KANIMBLA and MANOORA, no objection. (C. in C. E.I., 0448Z/23 to Admty.)

Defences,
Ports T and W.

1330X/23/8 para.(b). Commander 1st R.M. Group M N B D O recommends that 2 DELS be sighted to cover each entrance. Intend therefore to use 2 additional DELS from M N B D O equipment for this purpose. (C. in C. E.I., 0548Z/23 to Admty.)

→ HOHENFELS
(German)

My 1456/8/9. HOHENFELS was refloated by KANIMBLA 22/9 and successfully beached again on an even keel and trim. It is hoped to have her ready for towing by about 28/9, my 0516/18/9 also refers. (C. in C. E.I., 0724Z/23 to Admty.)

GRANIKOS.

Cancel my 0544/21 GRANIKOS arrived Calcutta. (S.O.I Colombo 0752Z/23 to Admty. etc.)

SHOREHAM,
FALMOUTH.

C. in C. Med. 1118/18.
(1) Following is programme for SHOREHAM. Bombay leave p.m./24, Aden arrive 1/10 leave 2/10. FALMOUTH, 2 days later. Request you will say if you wish ships to go direct to Suez. Both ships will have been depermed and ranged. On arrival preferably end of Red Sea SHOREHAM and FALMOUTH will come under your orders. (C. in C. E.I., 1358Z/23 to F.O.15 C.S.)

China.

Repatriations.

My 0217/12. Have Annamite troops sailed? If so what is E.T.A. at Singapore? (C. in C. China 0631Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown) Reply: 1205/24.

VOLGA.

^{M/V}
Russian S.S. VOLGA sailed from Singapore 7/9 due Hong Kong ?13/9. Ship still not arrived nor reported from elsewhere. Typhoon weather here 13th to 16th. (Comdre Hong Kong 1214I/23 to Admty. amended 1523I/23.)

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.PRINCESS
MARGUERITE.
PRINCESS
KATHLEEN.

When ready request you will sail PRINCESS MARGUERITE and PRINCESS KATHLEEN for Suez calling at Honolulu, Suva, Port Darwin, Singapore, Colombo and Aden for fuel. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested to report anticipated date of sailing and intended programme to Suez.
(D.S.T. 1142A/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

DIOMEDE.

Your 1552Q/17 DIOMEDE will depart 1600 due 0600R/25. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1200R/23 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MANCHESTER.

Arrived Philadelphia. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1305Z/23 to Admty.)

GLADIOLUS.
DIANTHUS.

B.A.R.M.'s 1636R/22. GLADIOLUS will arrive St. Johns about 28/9 and is immediately available for refit. Only other R.N. Corvette in N.E.F. due for refit is DIANTHUS which normally will not arrive St. Johns before about 16/10 vide my 1319Z/14. To avoid undue delay to GLADIOLUS request whether ships should be sailed singly to Charleston. (C.C.N.F. 1348Z/23 to Admty., B.A.R.M.)

B.A.R.M.'s 1636R/22. Observing the importance of making full use of U.S. docking facilities request you will detail an R.N. Corvette to accompany GLADIOLUS to Charleston. If a relief is necessary it is hoped that this might be afforded by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa in continuation of policy outlined in his 2050Z/22.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1815/23 to C.C.N.F.)

MENESTHEUS.

Anticipate date of sailing from Baltimore 30/9. MENESTHEUS, 1430/23 to Admty.)
Your 0942R/17 to R.A.3 only. Would like 300 tons of cargo space in MENESTHEUS for N.A.A.F.I. stores for U.K. Suggest remainder be utilised locally by you. Request vessel may be sailed for Halifax accordingly on completion of refit subject to any over-riding orders from Admiralty.
(R.A.3., 1601/23 to B.A.R.M.)

Corvettes.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2050Z/22. R.N. Corvettes in Newfoundland Escort Force can be released as follows:-
(A) HONEYSUCKLE, CELANDINE, NASTURTIUM, CANDYTUFT, CAMELIA, PRIMROSE, GLADIOLUS forthwith.
(B) DIANTHUS on arrival Iceland 28/9 and POLYANTHUS Iceland 4/10.

Corvettes cont:

/2

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Corvettes
contd.

2. (A) PRIMROSE, NASTURTIUM complete refit
Charleston about 30/9.
(B) DIANTHUS and GLADIOLUS due for refit
Charleston vide my 1348Z/23.
(C) CANDYTUFT awaiting towage to New York for
repair vide B.A.R.M's 1636R/22.
(C.C.N.F. 1437Z/23 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. etc.)

Policy for
Singapore
Conference.

Your 0337A/22 para.3 (c). Should one battle
cruiser be included in this force in addition
to one 'R' class battleship?
(B.A.D., 1459R/23 to Admty.)

HARBOE JENSEN.

Norwegian HARBOE JENSEN will be ready to leave
New York about 30/9 for Suez where she will
be required for service in Eastern Mediterranean.
Request her firm date of sailing from New York
and intended ports and dates of call en route.
Passage should be expedited as much as possible.
(D.S.T., 1515A/23 to N.C.S.O. New York.)

Rumours.

Dissemination to deceive enemy. (1st S.L.
1532A/23 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A., etc.)
See Lion Copy.)

ROUERGUE.

Meter. My 1605/16. Marseilles 20/9 B.1
ROUERGUE arrived for repairs and cleaning which
are expected to take approx. 90 days.
(B.A.D., 1705R/23 to Admty.)

LORRAINE
(French)

My 2215Z/22. Ship arrived at bar Port Isabel
but returned to sea account of severe hurricane.
Shall report arrival later.
(Galveston 1845Z/23 to Admty.)

DAUPHIN,
BARRIE.

Your 1630/22. Re depth charge outfit for
corvettes 16/9. All heavy D/Cs available in
Canada have been issued. Owing to deliveries
of (?weights) by Admiralty being far behind
requirements it has been necessary for some time
to issue reduced outfits to corvettes.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1900Z/23 to C.C.C.S.)

U.S. Forces

Movement Report supplement. (Opnav 2027Z/23)
See Lion Copy.

H.X.150.

Your 1856A/22. Our 1600/21 to "Comtask" unit.
4. 1. 1. reads in accordance with your 1830/20.
(Opnav 2100Z/23 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

364A

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1532A/23.Sept.

OUT.

To: C. in C. America and West Indies, 389. Date: 25.9.41.
C. in C. South Atlantic, 115.
C. in C. Mediterranean, 575.
C. in C. China, 896.
C. in C. East Indies, 906.
F.O.C.N.A. 992.
S.O. Force H. 697.
Vice-Admiral, Malta, 775.
Repeated R.A.S.A.D. 422.
F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 401.
Commodore Hong Kong, 145.
S.N.C. Red Sea.
S.N.O.P.C.,
C. in C. Home Fleet, 165.
S.B.N.C. Murmansk.

NAVAL CYPHER C & I.D.C.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

1. Machinery exists here for the dissemination of rumours to deceive the enemy and we are confident that, with your assistance, we shall be able to make greatly increased use of rumour as a strategical weapon. We wish, however, to improve machinery for co-ordination of rumours issued at home with those issued by Commanders in oversea theatres. In this country there are better facilities for the wide dissemination of rumours than can be at the disposal of Commanders abroad.

2. In future you will be informed from time to time of the general impression which we wish produced in the mind of the enemy to assist:-

- (a) our broad strategy,
- (b) our operations in theatres other than those under Commanders in Chief abroad.

and you will be requested to co-operate through such / channels

- 2 -

channels as you may devise.

3. It would also assist Commanders in conducting rumour campaigns if they kept the home organisation informed of their broad requirements. This would have the double advantage of avoiding a clash between the more widespread home organisation and that of the Commander abroad and also of enabling the home organisation to support the Commander's campaign.

4. You should therefore keep Admiralty regularly informed with regard to the broad schemes of deception which you are employing. It is intended that rumours of the tactical category, such as method of conduct of a battle, should remain a matter for a local Commander only, unless he specifically asks the home authorities to assist in their dissemination.

5. Your recommendations will be welcomed as to method by which we can help you in any particular scheme of deception.

1532A/23.
Secretary to First 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. of P.(2)
Duty Capt.
E.P.S.
Hd. of M.(8)
I.P.(2)
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
W.D.
D.N.I.(4)

SECRET.

M E S S A G E.

2027Z/23rd Sept.

IN. ^c

564#

From : OPNAV.

Date : 24.9.41.

Recd : 0714.

U.S. Navy X by Cable.

Addressed : Admiralty for action and C.O.A.C. Halifax
N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C. in C. America & West Indies,
C.C.N.F., Newfoundland for I.N.F.O.

Movement Report supplement all dates September.

Broome. Boston. Casco Bay. 21st. 21st.

Washington, Ludlow, Edison. Port Au Prince W.G. -

Guantanamo. 21st. 22nd.

Grampus, Grayback. St. Thomas. - New London. 21st.

27th.

North Carolina, Woolsey, Buck. Guantanamo. - Kingsbon.

19th. 20th.

21st New London. Princetown. 21st.

These reports will follow daily except Sunday.

2027Z/23.

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

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

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

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

N.A.1st S.L.

O.I.C.(3).

D.N.I.(4).

Ops.(4).

O.D.(5).

I.P.(3).

W.D.

D. of P.(3).

D.A./S.W.

Admiral Bailey.

(56 p. 4-7-41)

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.T.C.14.

D. of S.T. 1725A/22/8 and 1614A/9. Subject to arrival of AORANGI at Halifax by 4/10. T.C.14 should be ready to sail on 5/10. Convoy will be composed of 7 ships of which slowest is AORANGI, 16 knots. Ref. C.N.S. Canada 1407Z/22, request early decision as to provision of escorts.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2121Z/23 to Admty.)
Cancelled, see 1514/24.

H.X.151.

My 1950/22. Senior Officer Comdesron 27 is in PLUNKET instead of DECATUR.
(Opnav 2123Z/23.)

Australia and New Zealand.P.W.S.S.
Torres
Strait.

A P.W.S.S. has been established on Goods Island, Torres Strait, in 010° 34' S. 142° 09' E. C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet. C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, and C.Z.M. Batavia have been notified.
(A.C.N.B., 0139Z/23 to Admty.)

Nukualofa
defences.

W.M.6. All lights, marks, buoys and beacons for Lahi Egeria and Marinao, entrance Nukualofa Harbour, are being removed. Only entrance buoyed and beacons will be Biha (Eastern).
(S.O.I. Wellington 1502M/23 to all W.M. addressees.)

Suspicious
ship.

23/9 1400 G.M.T. 014° 52' S. 129° 11' W. sighted motor vessel suspicious, DENBIGHSHIRE.
(CHANCELLOR, 1600/23 to Admty.)

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.C.42.
(attacked
11/9.)

As no further news received of British ships EMPIRE CROSSBILL, 5463 tons, MUNERIC, 5229 tons, and BULYSESSES, 7519 tons, they are now presumed sunk. 15 ships in all are now believed to have been lost in this convoy.
(D.S., 749, 23/9.) (For list, see Situation Report, 16/9.)

ANTAR.

Palestine schooner, set on fire by U/B 2300/21.
(C. in C. Med. 2031B/23.) See Mediterranean.

S.L.87.
SILVERBELLE.
(torpedoed
22/9.)

Your 2357A/22. (?2342A/22.) Have turned over tow to COMMANDANT DUBOC, P.C. and S., 026° 00' N., 023° 40' W., 000° 5 knots, and am rejoining convoy at 15½ knots. SILVERBELLE in critical condition but collision mats and hand pumps placed aboard have stopped water gaining.
(GORLESTON, 0101Z/23, to C. in C.W.A.)
My 2200Z/22. 2 torpedoed ships were EDWARD BLYDEN, entire crew and passengers safe; NICETO DE LARRINAGA, 48 men safe, one man believed missing, 2 men died after rescue. Both ships sank.
(LULWORTH, 0801Z/23 to Admty.)
EDWARD BLYDEN, 5003 tons, British, Takoradi for Liverpool with general and W.A. produce.
NICETO DE LARRINAGA, 5591 tons, British, Lagos for London with W.A. produce and manganese.
(D.S., 750, 24/9.)
My 2218A/22. No tug available Ponta Delgada, Admiralty requested to recode in S.P. 02281 vide C. in C. South Atlantic 1730/15 and pass to French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT DUBOC. Recoding table not held at Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1042A/23 to GORLESTON.)
(Passed by War Registry.)
My 1703A/22. Further sets of D/F bearings indicate that at least one German U/Boat is still in the vicinity of Convoy S.L.87. Last transmission was at 1345Z/23.
(D.D.I.C. 1549A/23 to GORLESTON, BIDEFORD.)
Proceeded in accordance with C. in C.W.A's., 1616A/22. My P.C. and S. at 1600, 041° 50' N., 019° 11' W., 123° 13.5. (Weather.)
(DEPTFORD, 1640A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)
S.L.87 attacked in 030° 25' N., 023° 35' W.
At least one ship torpedoed starboard side.
(GORLESTON, 2235Z/23, to Admty., amended 0130/24.)
ST. CLAIR II, see GORLESTON, 0130/24.

MARKEN
(torpedoed
10/9.)

A cable from Reuter London quoting Italian Official News Agency, Rome, states that 37 survivors of Dutch ship MARKEN have been landed at Santos. This report originated from Santos and states ship was torpedoed 1400 miles from Trinidad. Ship due Capetown tomorrow 24/9 from Trinidad. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1014B/23 to Admty.)

War Diary.23.9.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

1040 G.M.T.

S.S.DIALA reports sighted submarine in 010° 20' N., 054° 50' W., at 1040 G.M.T./23.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0933Q/23 to VAN KINSBERGEN.)
(D.O.D.(F), 2357A/23 to Spenavo, message stopped by D.S.O., re-sent at 0040/24.)

Governor Dutch Guiana reports 2 ships sighted unidentified submarine 240 miles northward. Paramaribo sighted at 1040 G.M.T./23 010° 20' N., 054° 50' W., by DIALA.
(N.C.S.O. Curacao, 1020R/23 1500QR/23 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

1615/21.

Oporto reports an unidentified submarine sighted 1615/21 one mile off shore at Viana Do Reaso. Was this Spanish or Portuguese?
(S.O.I. Gib., 1048/23 to N.A.'s, Madrid, Lisbon.)
Your 1048/23. Submarine was not Portuguese.
(N.A.Lisbon 1851/23 to S.O.(I)Gib.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C.1436A/23.)

1619A.

Italian U. Boat call sign 86A made first sight report O.G.74 or H.G.73 at 1619A/23.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1643A/23 to HIGHLANDER, H.G.73, ROCKINGHAM, O.G.74.)

2028Z.

D/F Bearings indicate that Convoy H.G.73 was reported by an Italian U-Boat at 2028Z/23.
(D.D.I.C.2208A/23 to HIGHLANDER, FOWEY, BEGONIA.)

War Diary.

24.9.1941
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A coast watcher at Lowland Point near the Manacles reported that numbers of men landed and after being challenged returned to a ship which weighed at 0215. CLEVELAND was ordered to investigate.

Fog.

The Thames and Medway were closed owing to mines at 0625. Sweeping was delayed owing to fog which necessitated the rivers being closed at 0729 until 1310. Harwich was closed from 1014A to 1603, and was closed again at 1915A.

Enemy coastal batteries fired a few rounds this afternoon whilst C.W.51 was near Dover. No damage or casualties occurred.

German
Fleet in
Baltic.

It is reported that an enemy squadron consisting of TIRPITZ, ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER, 2 light cruisers (apparently KÖLN and NÜRNBERG), 4 large destroyers and 6 T.B.'s was near the Aaland Islands this evening, carrying out a demonstration with the object of enhancing morale rather than a strategic attempt to prevent the flight of the Russian fleet.

S.S. NIGARISTAN in H.X. 150 caught fire and was abandoned today about 550 miles S.W. of Iceland (C).

British Air Operations.

Operations were affected by bad weather today. A Hudson of Coastal Command attacked a 6000 ton merchant vessel off Alsboen Light today and reports two probable hits.

War Diary.

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

It is known that aircraft of long range bomber units based in Norway have recently operated from Trondheim.
Enemy activity was on a small scale today.

Mining.

S.S. DALTONHALL in O.N.M.20 was slightly damaged by a mine at 2030A today in position 006° Skokholm 3½ miles.

North Atlantic.

RODNEY relieved NELSON in Force H at Gibraltar today.

8 M.L's arrived at Gibraltar escorted by SAMPHIRE and CONVULVULUS today.

Mediterranean.

Any warships met wearing Bulgarian colours are to be sunk.

/Petrol.....

War Diary.24.9.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.- Contd.Petrol
in S/M's.

Petrol has been carried to Malta in certain internal oil fuel tanks of several S/M's proceeding from Gibraltar or Alexandria. F.O.S. considers this should only be carried out in emergency, in view of the risks entailed should any leakage inboard of petrol occur.

Operation
"Halberd"

RODNEY, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, and 8 destroyers sailed from Gibraltar at 2330 today for the operation of passing Convoy W.S.11.X. to Malta.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

There was an air attack on Tobruk in the early hours of this morning, during which it is reported that mines were laid in the harbour. The harbour was shelled today, but no damage was caused.

8 Wellingtons attacked shipping at Tripoli last night.

6 Wellingtons bombed shipping and the harbour at Benghazi last night, exploding by direct hits a ship moored at the outer mole.

Naval aircraft bombed targets near Bardia last night.

U-Boat Campaign.Attack on
S.L.87.

4 ships
torpedoed
in all, viz:
SILVERBELLE,
EDWARD BLYDEN,
NICEPO DE
LARRINAGA,
ST. CLAIR II.
JOHN HOLT,
LAFIAN,
DIXCOVE.
~~ARMY.~~

Convoy S.L.87 was attacked again (for the ^wfourth time) about 0441Z in 31° 12' N. 23° 32' ~~E~~ approx. ~~Four~~ ships are reported to have been torpedoed, viz. JOHN HOLT, LAFIAN, DIXCOVE and ~~ARMY~~; all four were sunk. GORLESTON reports that she was enabled through fuelling at the Azores to operate continuously at night and on extensive dusk sweeps, and was the only escort from whose direction no attack was developed.

War Diary24.9.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDSPolicy1st M/S
Flotilla.

Concur that Administration as at present should continue until M.S. 1. leaves this Command, when it is proposed Administration should be transferred to the Command under which he will be operating.

(C. in C. W.A., 1023A/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

SUNFISH
SEAWOLF

Admiralty 1828A/22. In order to maintain a force of British submarines in Northern waters while ice free bases remain available, it is intended to sail SUNFISH and SEAWOLF to Polyarno when ready about 1/11 to relieve TIGRIS and TRIDENT after their third patrols are completed about the same date. S.B.N.O. Murmansk is requested to sail TIGRIS and TRIDENT to Holy Loch accordingly. (F.O.S., 1433A/24)

ROYAL
ULSTERMAN

A.M. 1245A/20. Para 5. For 100 military personnel read 230 service personnel. (D.O.D. H. 1932A/24 to ROYAL ULSTERMAN)

Co-operation with U.S.A.U.S. Bases
in U.K.

Bases now being prepared by the U.S. in the U.K. will be used by British Forces if U.S. forces do not require them. Their completion is urgently necessary. Request you will investigate and if delay is being imposed, take the matter up with U.S. Authorities. It is understood that Admiral Ghormley is making similar representations to Navy Dept. (Civil Lord, 1559A/24 to B.A.D. Washington)

Co-operation with RussiaBritish
Mission
Personnel.

My 1847A/17. Officers mentioned have been embarked in LONDON. As you have not replied presume you have not experienced any difficulty in arranging for Powell to act as Naval Liaison Officer for Russian Fleet in the Far East. Please confirm. (N.I.D., 1415A/24 to Ad, Miles.)

War Diary

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Landing of
Men at
Lowland
Point.

Coast watcher at Lowland Point near Manacles reports numbers of men landed and after being challenged returned to ship which weighed at 0215. Investigate. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0242/24 to CLEVELAND)
C. in C. Plymouth 0242. On no account get out of swept channel. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0401/24 to CLEVELAND)

East Coast
navigational
aids.

With the approach of winter the following six alterations in navigational aids on the East Coast are considered desirable. Request they may be given effect to as soon as possible. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1202A/24.)

Movements

BROADWATER

C. in C. W.A. 1106A/23. BROADWATER can sail within 72 hours of receipt of Impellers. These Impellers have not yet been traced. (HECLA 0001Z/24 to A.C.I.C.)

SEAWOLF

Patrol in Bay of Biscay north zone. S.B.R. arranged in areas 54 and 55 East of 06° 30' W. until further notice. (F.O.S. 1144A/24 to SEAWOLF)

→ SUFFOLK

Scapa arrival. (A.C.O.S. 1513/24)

SEALION

A large Convoy arrives junction Q.Z.S. 169 and 271 for Eastward at dawn tomorrow. You are to remain South of 050° 20' N. until 1100 and then proceed R/V end of Q.Z.S. 169 with KINGSTON JACINTH and ARCTIC PIONEER at noon. S.B.R. arranged in Area 41 until 1100 and total in Sanctuary extends 20 miles to Eastwards and 10 miles to Southwards from 1100 until you are in contact with escort. (Capt. S. 5. 1605A/24 to SEALION)

→ SUFFOLK
IMPULSIVE
ANTELOPE
ANTHONY
ECLIPSE

SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY leave Scapa 2000A/25. E.T.A. Hvalfjord 0830A/27. Expect ECLIPSE will be ready to leave Scapa p.m./27 for Seidis Fiord where she will fuel and then relieve ANTELOPE in escort of P.Q.1. Expected time of arrival ECLIPSE at Seidis Fiord will be passed to you. It is requested you will then arrange her R/V with P.Q. 1. ANTHONY detailed for escort of BLACK RANGER. (C.S. 1. 2226A/24 to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary.

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Nore
Patrols.

Patrols tonight Wednesday (1) 2 M.G.B's vicinity 61 B Buoy shifting to Leman Bank at 0100/25. (2) 3 M.L.'s vicinity Smiths Knoll Buoy (3) 2 M.G.B's operations Q.E. with A/P patrol .FY. (C. in C. Nore 1435A/24 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

Dover Patrols.

Three M.Ls. leave Dover at 2130 and return at about 0100/25, route via N.E. Varne each way. Three M.T.Bs. leave Dover at 1945 to patrol between South and East Varne Buoys returning to Dover by 2300. (V.A. Dover, 1657A/24).

Convoy
C.W. 51
shelled.

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired six rounds between 1532 and 1534 today. All fell in the sea to the Westward of Dover. C.W.51 was in the vicinity at the time. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover, 1754A/24).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Two Hudsons, armed S.A.P. Bombs, to patrol as follows:-
Direct line Wick to 57° 40' N., 8° E., thence N. to make landfall, returning coastwise to Meridian of 6° 30' E., thence direct to Wick.
Coastwise patrol only to be carried out if cloud cover good and original approach to be made as low as possible. (Pitreavie A.C.H.Q. 0745/24).
"Hornli" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1100/24).
Two aircraft to carry out Rover Patrol in "Stab" area. (Pitreavie A.C.H.Q. 0755/24 to Wick).

M/V attacked
off
Stadtlandet.

My 1230 (see Enemy Intelligence). Have attacked one M/V 6,000 tons, level bombing. Estimate one probable hit. In fiord, 6 knots. (A/C K.220, 1237/24).

Channel
Convoy
Fighter
Escorts.

The Boundary between 10 and 11 Group fighter command areas lies about 10 miles east of Durlstone Head. Approximately on crossing this line convoy fighter escorts will be relieved by fighters from the command into whose area the convoy is proceeding. On this relief taking place destroyers fitted VH/F are to shift to the appropriate Group Guard frequency and establish communication. In order that Naval escorts may be aware of the time when the fighter escort will be relieved by fighters from the other Group, C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to pass this information to the Naval escort. (C. in C. Plymouth 1920/24).

War Diary.24.9.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Faeroes.

One enemy Twin-engined Monoplane passed over Faeroes between 1340 to 1412. One bomb dropped at Westmannhavn. No casualties or damage. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1455A/24).

Mining.S.N.16 A.

Intend laying surface field S.N.16 A with WELSHMAN and MANXMAN unescorted sailing P.M./27 and laying A.M./28 from 57° 13' 42" N., 000° 58' W., to 57° 06' 30" N., 001° 04' W., Fighter escort will be required from first light to 1200/28 until return to (?Pentland Firth) (R.A.M., 1031A/24).

N.L.16 B.

Intend to carry out operation N.L.16 (B) tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1134A/24).

Hartlepool.

At 1415/24 one red mine detonated by LL Sweeper. Details. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1500/24).

Thames Estuary.

1 S.A. mine detonated at 1315/23. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1545/24).

Unknown Ship.

Following received on 500 kc/s by Rosyth W/T. B.Z.O.T. anticipate mined. (Lands End 1832/24) (C. in C. Plymouth 1935/24 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.TIRPITZ.

(A) TIRPITZ sighted South West Oland at 1745/23, course 060°, speed 15 knots, in company with 14 unspecified Warships believed cruisers and torpedo boats. Graded B.2.
(B) TIRPITZ sighted A.M.21st between Sassnitz and Trelleborg, escorted by 3 torpedo craft steaming East. Graded C.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 1151/24) (D.D.I.C. 1705A/24 to Ad. Miles, and 1706A/24 to C. in C. H.F. and S.B.N.O. Murmansk). Your 1151/24 is probably correct. (D.D.I.C. 1707A/24 to N.A. Stockholm).

Off Stadlandet.

3 M/Vs and 4 Auxiliaries bearing 090° 2', course 160°. My position 62° 03' N., 5° 10' E. (A/C K/220., 1230/24 to 18 Group)
My 1230. Have attacked 1 M.V. 6,000 tons level bombing, estimate 1 probable hit. In fjord 6 knots. (K/220 1237/24).
My 1237. 1 M.V. 6,000 tons tanker unladen, with two M.V. 3000 tons 1500 tons, 3 trawlers, 1 submarine all auxiliaries. (K/220, 1245/24).

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

SCHEER observed carrying out exercises off Sassnitz p.m./20. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1531/24).

War Diary.

24.9.1941.

Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Miscellaneous.Thames and Medway.

Thames and Medway closed. Sweeping delayed owing to fog. (X.D.O. Sheerness, 0625/24) (F.O.I.C. London 0729/24).

Thames and Medway opened. (X.D.O. Sheerness, 1310/24).

Harwich.

Port closed owing to Fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1014A/24).

Port is open.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1603A/24).

Port closed owing to fog.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1915A/24).

Casualties & Defects.MERKUM.***MERKUR intended.*

(Danish Auxiliary Motor Schooner) Ashore Gansey Point, Port St. Mary Bay. Crew of seven taken ashore. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 0400/24). My 0400/24. Vessel refloated at 1430 and berthed at Port St. Mary Hull Slight damage. Can be repaired locally. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 1555/24).

S.S. BEREBY.

At 0125A/24 S.S. BEREBY 5248 tons, Liverpool for Istanbul, Army and air force stores, went ashore Ringford Point 54°-15'N., 005° 36' W., during fog. Salvage officer in tug ST. OLAVES proceeding from Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0609A/24 F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0641A/24). Sailed ST. OLAVES. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0715A/24)

MAKEFJELL
(Norwegian,
1567 tons).

MAKEFJELL position Rath ground buoy. Engine defect. KINGSTON ONYX ordered to assistance. (SLEIPNER, 1249/24).

RIPLEY
(Grounded
4/9).

RIPLEY in tow 2 tugs with Trawler escorts leave Humber 2200/24 for Middlesbrough. E.T.A. Flam-borough Head 0700/25. (C. in C. Nore, 1629A/24).

My 1134A/20. RIPLEY anchored in Humber in dense fog. (F.O. Humber, 2102A/24).

IRISH LARCH.

Following received at 1018. IRISH LARCH making for Reykjavik with trouble. No approach charts. Weather bad. Estimated position at ten hours 60 miles, from Cape Utskalar. (A.C.O.S Recd. 1759/24).

War Diary.24.9.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.PASTEUR.

(?Evening) position 055° 22'N. 025° 54'W. Heavy seas. If PASTEUR is sent on independently can escort (?be) provided near U.K.?
(ASSINIBOINE, 0155Z/24 to C. in C. W.A.)
PASTEUR is not to proceed without escort.
(C. in C. W.A., 0947A/24 to ASSINIBOINE).

S.L.86.

All now present. MANSFIELD E.T.A. Oban 0800/25. CHATEAUROUX has defective degaussing. Liverpool. BROKE relieved EGRET about 1600/24. E.T.A. position Q 0500/25. E.T.A. Bar 1000/26 CHELSEA not in Company. (BROKE, 1031/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.148

Met as arranged. SOCONY sunk in collision with TONGARIRO 9/9 all other ships arrived. Much fog. (D.T.D., 1516A/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
Numbers and cargoes. (D.S.746, 20/9).

S.C.42

Attacked by U-boat from p.m./9 to a.m./11 during which EMPIRE CROSSBILL, SALLY MAERSK, STARGARD, BARON PENTLAND, THISTLEGLLEN, EMPIRE HUDSON, WINTERSWIJK, MUNERIC, GARM, GYPSUM QUEEN, STONEPOOL, BULYSSES, SCANIA and BERURY were sunk and TAHCHEE and BESTUM damaged, and again on 16/9 when JEDMOOR was sunk. EMPIRE SPRINGBUCK straggler on 5/9 not reported. 5 days northerly gales and low visibility. U-boats were heavily counter-attacked with, it is hoped, successful results. (D.T.D., 1713A/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

D.S.12 B.

S.S. BERGENSFJORD will form convoy D.S.12B leaving Clyde 1/10.
(D.O.D. (H) 1916A/24 to C. in C. W.A. etc).

O.N.19

~~ALBERNI, ~~ALBERNI~~~~ **KENOGAMI**, are to proceed with O.N.19 to Canada. (C. in C. W.A., 2215A/24 to BEAGLE).

War Diary.24.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Operation
"Halberd".

Departure 2000 FLEUR-DE-LYS, BROWN RANGER, 2330 RODNEY, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, DUNCAN, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, LIVELY, ZULU, GURKHA, LEGION, LANCE.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2346A/24 to Admty., etc.)

South Atlantic.T.C.14.

My 1614/11, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1903/22, and your 1521/22. Report urgently dates on which ORCADES and MONARCH OF BERMUDA may be expected to arrive Halifax. If these two ships cannot arrive in time to embark and sail from Halifax with T.C.14 on 8/10, it may be necessary to order them to U.K. direct from Trinidad in order that they may sail in next W.S. Convoy. Presume ANDES and REINA DEL PACIFICO have ample time in hand to catch T.C.14. but their expected dates of arrival Halifax should also be reported.
(D.S.T., 0138/24 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)
Your 0138/24. Estimated date of arrival at Halifax, REINA DEL PACIFICO, 25/9; ANDES, 28/9; MONARCH OF BERMUDA 8/10, ORCADES 10/10. Last 2 ships arrive Trinidad 30/9 and 2/10 respectively. My 0956/11 my 1203/16 my 1610/22 refer.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1534B/24 to D. of S.T.)

Annamite
Repatriations.

Your 0631/23. No opportunity has yet occurred for repatriation and it is not known when a ship will be available.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0915B/24 to C. in C. China.)

S.L.88.

For consideration whether if endurance of escort allows route for S.L.88 would not be better if moved to 80 miles from Verde Island then through about 023° N. 030° W. and up longitude 030° W. as far as required to clear danger eastwards.
(C. in C. S.A., 1121N/24 to Admty.)
Departure 0800/24 VERVAIN, ASTER, BURDOCK, VANSITTART, MORRIS DANCE, FANDANGO with convoy S.L.88.
(S.O.I) Freetown, 1403N/24 to Admty., etc.)

/Exchange....

War Diary.

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Exchange of
Corvettes.

Admty. 1844/5/9 and 2122A/12/9. Exchange of 8 corvettes affects refitting programme which must now depend on whether C. in C. W.A. can accept the corvettes from S.A. Station that are next due for refit, the first two on arrival in U.K. and remainder in turn subsequently. Assuming this can be accepted following are intended movements. GARDENIA with S.L.87 arrives U.K. about 6/10. VERVAIN with S.L.88 arrives U.K. about 16/10. ASPHODEL and CALENDULA with S.L.89 U.K. about 26/10. ANCHUSA and CLEMATIS with S.L.90 U.K. about 6/11. CYCLAMEN and COLUMBINE with S.L.91 U.K. about 16/11. On arrival of last two named exchange of 8 corvettes will be complete.
(C. in C. S.A., 1407N/24 to Admty.)

R.O's.
Saldanha,
etc.

Following proposals received from S.N.O. Capetown in which I concur. Propose to close down Reporting Officers at Saldanha Bay, Port Nolloth and Luderitz (reasons).
2. Propose to retain these officers as coast watching officers.
4. Propose later to arrange similar coast watching officers in other small ports where there is no reporting officer.
5. No difficulty with South African Authorities over these proposals.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1418B/24 to Admty.)

→ REPULSE.

Departure St. Helena 24/9, 1500, REPULSE on operations.
(General, St. Helena, 1525/24 to Admty. etc.)

Nazi move,
Argentine.

Principal military air bases in Argentine were occupied by army yesterday evening 23/9 in view of reports of possible subversive move. Government are reported to have situation fully in hand.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1554Z/24 to D.N.I.)

→ REPULSE.
BULOLO.
ALCANTARA.

It was intended that REPULSE should escort Durban portion of W.S.11 to Durban and BULOLO escort Cape portion there when ready. Owing to defects in CARNARVON CASTLE it is desired that BULOLO shall take her place to visit Tristan da Cunha as arranged and relieve ALCANTARA with R.A.S.A.D. leaving Simonstown by 28/9. If this is done can you provide any escort to take Cape portion of W.S.11 to Durban, leaving Capetown about 4/10?
(C. in C. S.A., 1955N/24 to C. in C. E.I.)

see p 605

/Suspicious....

War Diary.24.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Suspicious
Ships.

Ships were sighted by ROBIN HOOD ? (on) 7/9 ? in 010° 04' S. 026° 58' W., by STANVAC^{MINILIN} on 14/9 in 004° ?(41') S. 034° 45' W. and by STANVAC on 15/9 in 010° 04' S. 034° 58' W. Possibly same ship previously sighted by PRINCE DAVID, WASP, and unknown British ship on 31/8. Apparently vessel of FELS class closely resembling Raider 16, but with speed greater than 16's present maximum.

Poor bearings at 1957/22 indicate presence of unit south of Ascension.

(C. in C. S.A. 2045N/24 to S.A. Stn.)

W.S.11.

My 1801/4, amended 0140/18, and my 0139/24. Revised proposals for transshipment of W.S.11. personnel in South Africa.

(D.S.T. 2302A/24 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.

→ TETRARCH,
TALISMAN.

Proceed forthwith to establish patrol as follows: TETRARCH through Antikithera Channel and West of Belo Pulo to area A between 037° and 038° 30' West of 025° 40'. TALISMAN from area A direct to area B off Dardanelles North of 039° 30' East of 025°.

(S.1, 0505B/24 to TETRARCH, TALISMAN.)

→ TETRARCH,
OSIRIS.

TETRARCH reports 40 soldiers will be ready embarkation 25th.

(Capt. S.1, 0931B/24 to OSIRIS.)

Bulgarian
Warships.

Should any Warships be met wearing Bulgarian Colours, they are to be sunk. T.O.O. 0921B/24. (C. in C. Med., 0947B/24 to Med. Fleet.)

/ S/M. Patrol,

579A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2302A/24 Sept. OUT

Repeated To P.S.T.O. Simonstown. } IMMEDIATE. Date : 24/9/41.
 N.O.I.C. Durban.
 F.O.C.R.I.N.
 C. in C. South Atlantic.
 C. in C. East Indies.
 S.N.O. Red Sea.
 C. in C. China.
 F.O.C. Malaya,
 C. in C. Mediterranean.

NAVAL CYPHER (C).

From Director of Sea Transport.

My 1801/4 as amended by my 0140/18 not to all addressess and my 0139/24.

1. Following are revised proposals for transshipment of W.S.11, Personnel in South Africa.

2. Numbers to be disembarked are -

<u>At</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Middle East</u>	<u>India</u>	<u>Far East</u>
Cape	DUCHESS OF YORK	101	--	--
Cape	ORONTES	75	--	--
Cape	NIEUW ZEELAND	32	411	204
Durban	EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA	2115	30	350
Durban	OTRANTO	299	--	--
Durban	SCYTHIA	1916	--	980
Durban	MOOLTAN	1773	--	--
TOTALS:		6311	441	1534

3. We suggest these be lifted as follows. 1534 for Malaya in suitable ship of 14/15 knots selected from C.M.19. e.g. DILWARA., to proceed with LARGS BAY.

4. Of 441 for India as many as possible in vacated space in DUCHESS OF YORK and ORONTES balance in OTRANTO. This involves some movement overland from Capetown to Durban. OTRANTO will retain 192 for Malaya for whom P.S.T.O. India has been requested to arrange on-conveyance from Bombay.

5. This plan leaves NIEUW ZEELAND free to be used in C.M. 19.

6. Reference your 0951/10 and Impeon Durban's 1261 cipher 16.9. neither to all addressess please report composition and expected sailing dates of C.M.19 and C.M.20 and whether these two convoys will clear all urgent commitments waiting on-conveyance from South Africa to Middle East including troops ex convoy W.S.11.

~~7. If necessary, Malaya personnel for India or Malaya being shut out merchant seaman ex~~

MOST SECRET

NIEUW/.....

579^B

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

NIEUW ZEELAND should remain in South Africa to await on-conveyance as opportunity offers. Request report in due course.

8. Throughout this signal numbers for East Africa and Aden have been included with those for Middle East and numbers for Iraq and Colombo have been included with those for India.

9. Addressees pass to S.T.Os. concerned.

10. Agreed.

2302A/24

Director of Sea Transport.
M.W.T. Extn. 2187.

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

MOST SECRET

War Diary.24.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.S/M Patrol,
Black Sea.

Following from Fawkes. S/M patrol 18/9 to 23/9 not without incident, unfortunately curtailed depth charge damage. Convoy attacked close Constanza, probably one hit. S/M depth charged with slight damage. First occasion depth charging in Black Sea, valuable lessons gained thereby. Local authorities seem unduly grateful my slight assistance and advice on this occasion. Propose visit you soon after arrival next 'English' mails.
(Adm. Miles, 1029C/24 to Admty.)

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 22-23/9, 6 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi harbour, bombs bursting on bases of Central and Cathedral moles, 9 Marylands made high level bombing attack on petrol dump South of Gambut.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1229/24.)

PHOEBE
repairs.

Your 0936B/23. Reply is contained in A.M. 1053A/18 and A.M. 1244A/20. Present arrangement is the most expeditious owing to extensive electrical repairs required.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1327A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Tobruk
Raid,
mines.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 587/40. (A) 24/9 cumulus. (B) between 0427 and 0517. 13 aircraft. No Moon (C) and (D) Parachute mines, 3 non-parachute mines sewn in harbour. (E) to 270, 731.
(B.N.O. Tobruk, 1331B/24 to Admty.)

Syrian Ports,
VIKINGS,
REINE DES
FLOTS.

My 0056A/19/8, 0106A/19/8 and related Signals. Request report whether there have been further developments in regard to control of Syrian Ports. Adm. Muselier has approached Admiralty again in regard to transfer to Syria of VIKINGS and REINE DES FLOTS. Would you welcome arrival of these ships, or would you prefer us to request their employment off West Africa where their services are needed? He also wishes to transfer 2nd. Bn. of Fusiliers Marins from Pointe Noire to Beirut. Have you any objection?
(V.C.N.S., 1413A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Turkey.

Discussion of possibility of German attack on Turkey, and probable air strength.
(W.O., 1615/24 to C. in C. M.E.)
See Lion Copy.

/Malta.....

580A

MOST SECRET

by/.....

1615/24th September.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
From The War Office Date 24.9.41.
CIPHER

Addressed C. in C. Middle East

IMPORTANT.

91811 cipher (M.I.14) dated 24th September, 1941.

Following from D.M.I. for Shearer. Begins.

Reference my 90374 cipher M.I.3(b) dated 16th September, 1941, para 2 latest calculations by Air Ministry as follows.

1. Having regard to the mobility of the German Air Force it is considered that it would be misleading to attempt to allocate specific forces to particular areas. Further, aircraft based on control positions could be directed against different targets. For example, aircraft based on Southern Greece, Crete and Rhodes could be switched against North Africa, shipping in the Mediterranean or Turkey as desired. It is thought, therefore, that the area from the Central Mediterranean to Trans-Caucasia must be regarded as a whole.

2. If the Germans decided to attack Turkey they would know that the Turks would receive air assistance from ourselves. They are only likely to do so, therefore, when they are in a position to make a drive southeastwards from their main theatre of operations. In these circumstances they are likely to allocate in support of these operations a force of some 1500 aircraft to cover the whole of the area referred to in paragraph 1. This force might subsequently be increased to a maximum of 2,000 aircraft according to the scale and intensity of the operations.

It follows therefore, that air forces required for protection of the Caucasian oilfields and for any diversionary operations in Libya or against our defensive positions in Persia would have to be provided out of this force, to that extent reducing the scale of attack directed against Turkey itself.

The scale of serviceability is likely to be about 50 per cent.

3. It is agreed that the existing German air forces in the Eastern Mediterranean could be reinforced

by/.....

- 2 -

by from 300 to 400 aircraft within four to six weeks after stabilisation of hostilities against Russia and that the balance of the aircraft required to bring the force up to the figure of 1,500 could be made available within a further period of four weeks. These periods represent the most favourable from the German point of view. Having regard to past experience and to the necessity for drastic reorganisation after the sustained effort on the Russian front, it is thought that in practice these times would be exceeded. In any event these estimates do not override the view of the J.I.C. that full scale operations by Germany against Turkey are unlikely during the winter. Ends.

1615/24.

Adv. copy D.C., D.O.D.(F). D.T.D.

Distribution in War Office :-

1st Lord.	D.M.O. & P.
1st S.L.	D.D.M.O.(O)
5th S.L.	M.O.5.
V.C.N.S.	D.M.I.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.D.M.I.(I)
A.C.N.S.(F)	M.I.3, 3(b), 14.
N.A. 1st S.L.	M.I.(J.I.C.)
D.O.D.(F)	Air Ministry (A.M.C.S.)
D.D.O.D.(F)	Admiralty (War Registry)
D.O.D.(H)	
D.D.O.D.(H)	
D. of (2)	
D.N.I.(4)	
D.C.	
E.P.S.	
Hd. of M.	
I.P.(2)	
W.D.	
N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson	
D.N.A.D.	

War Diary.

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Shanghai
cargoes,
interference.

F.O. telegram 1139/11/9 to Tokyo. In view of further interference with cargoes from Shanghai reported in Shanghai telegram 869, 23/9, to F.O. suggest we continue to hold cargo ex STAR OF EGYPT at Singapore pending report by air mail solution of all(?outstanding) difficulties regarding Government stores. (C. in C. China, 0853Z/24 to Admty).

Repatriations. Your 0631/23. Regret no accommodation for Annamite troops was available in NIEUW ZEALAND, the ship concerned. (Head of M., 1205A/24 to C. in C. China)

U.S. South
Pacific Force.

Your 0313Z/1. Dutch authorities are being informed by United States.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1532A/24 to C. in C. China).

Dutch
Co-operation.

Your 0327/29/6.
A. Provisions of ABC - 1 para 14 (e) have now been altered for operations in North Atlantic and following order is in force whenever it is necessary for ships to co-operate tactically. (Begins) The S.N.O. by rank or time in grade co-ordinates tactical action provided his identity is clear to C.O.s of the other units concerned. If identity of S.N.O. is not clear, the C.O. of the force first perceiving the need for joint tactical action will co-ordinate the action of all forces which are present or may later join. (ends).
B. In order to ensure uniformity request you will modify your arrangements with the Dutch to conform to above; no objection to method of identifying S.N.O. if desired.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2348A/24 to C. in C. China).

War Diary.

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ARAWAK
on fire,
abandoned.

Following report received at 2030Z/23 from U.S. Coast Guard. Ship on fire at sea approx. position 029° 42' N., 080° 46' W., crew abandoned ship which is probably ARAWAK and total loss. (N.C.S.O. Jacksonville, 0220Z/24 to Admty). My 0220Z/24. Confirming ARAWAK total loss, all passengers and crew saved uninjured. Loss due to fire in kerosene stove in galley spreading quickly and uncontrollable, owner insured in U.S.A. (Jacksonville (Flo). 1815Z/24 to Admty).

FURIOUS.

After fuelling at Bermuda proceed via Turks Island passage to Kingston, Jamaica, to arrive as early as possible 1/10 to disembark aircraft torpedoes, stores etc in accordance with Admty., 2224A/2. N.O.I.C. Kingston (Jam) is requested to inform FURIOUS direct of arrangements made for disembarking and is to sail FURIOUS for Philadelphia on completion, reporting E.T.A. at Overfalls L/V Delaware. River entrance, to BRITMAN Washington repeated C. in C. A.W.I. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1152Q/24 to FURIOUS amended 0932Q/25).

GLADIOLUS,
DIANTHUS.

B.A.R.M.'s 1636R/22. Regret no other R.N. corvette is available to accompany GLADIOLUS. Therefore approved for C.C.N.F. to sail GLADIOLUS and DIANTHUS singly to Charleston in accordance with his 1348Z/23. (D.O.D. (H) 1244A/24 to B.A.R.M., C.C.N.F.)
A.M.1815A/23. Intend sending DIANTHUS, but please see my 1348Z/23. Relief not required vide my 1437Z/23. (C.C.N.F., 1424Z/24 to Admty).

ALMIRANTE,
LATORRE.

My 1130B/6/6. Report whether any progress has been made in the negotiations, and what the prospects are. (N.I.D. 1343A/24 to N.A. Santiago)
Reply: 1736/24. (Negotiations proceeding).

R.C.N.
Corvettes.

A.C.I.C.'s 2236/23. Request ships of N.E.F. now in Iceland be sailed with O.N.19. In view of release of all R.N. Corvettes in N.E.F., every available R.C.N. Corvette is required in this force. (C.C.N.F. 1425Z/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

/T.C.14.....

War Diary.

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.C.14.

Cancel my 2121Z/23. Your 0138/24 and D.S.T.O. Simonstown 1501B/22. It is being assumed that ORCADES will not be available. Sailing date of T.C.14 will then be 8/10 or as soon after as MONARCH OF BERMUDA can be fuelled and embarked. Request approval. Do you wish ORDUNA, 14 knots, due Halifax 27/9 with accommodation still left for 1250 to be included in this convoy? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1514Z/24 to D. of S.T.)

S.C.46.
escort.

Escort for S.C.46 is to consist of at least 8 ships, if necessary using Corvettes in Newfoundland local force. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1533Z/24 to C.C.N.F.)
OTTAWA will be detached from escort of S.C.46 in order to return to St. John's N.F. arriving dawn/5/10. (C.C.N.F., 1541Z/24, to C. in C. Atlantic (U.S.) Admty).
Your 1533Z/24. ALGOMA is only remaining ship available at St. John's N.F. for escort S.C.46 and will be added group 4.1.12? This will bring total to 8 until detachment of OTTAWA, vide my 1541Z/24. (C.C.N.F., 1749Z/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

PRIMROSE,
NASTURTIUM.

My 1322R/6. Completion date of PRIMROSE and NASTURTIUM is 15/10. Ships ready to sail P.M. /18. To where should ships be sailed? (B.A.R.M., 1604R/24 to Admty).

FORTH

Portsmouth N.H. arrived FORTH 2130/23 sailed for Boston. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1730Z/24 to Admty).

CITY OF
WINDSOR.

Your 1553R/20. CITY OF WINDSOR arrived Halifax 16/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1907Z/24 to S.O.(I) Kingston)

KUNIKAWA MARU.

Sailed Zorritos 12/9 or 13/9 having loaded 500 tons Diesel. Called (XMAICJ) (as received) but no further report. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, T.H.I., 2115/24 to Capt. O.S. Singapore).

LORRAINE.

My 0845Z/23. (1845Z/23 from Galveston Texas intended Re French tanker LORRAINE) Ship arrived in Port named today. (Galveston, Texas, 2230/24 to Admty).

War Diary.24.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.STUART.
VOYAGER.
VAMPIRE.
VENDETTA.

4 Australian destroyers are at present disposed as follows: STUART and VOYAGER in Australia for refit, each estimated to be ready for service about end of January, 1942, VAMPIRE refitting Singapore and should be ready for service about the end of October. VENDETTA in Mediterranean. Request views on their future dispositions before matter is considered here, having regard to recommendations of Anglo-Dutch Australian conference at Singapore February, 1941. Unless situation in Far East shows further signs of deteriorating I would not propose they should remain here unless you think age of vessels makes retention here desirable.
(1st Naval Member, 1218Z/24 to Admty for I.S.L.)

MANOORA.
KANIMBLA.

Your 0205Z/20. Admiralty welcomes your proposal for exchange of MANOORA and KANIMBLA so that KANIMBLA may return to Australia and give leave after nearly two years' valuable service away from her home waters. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1331A/24 to A.C.N.B.)

Suspicious
Ship.

Following received in Merchant Navy Code (begins) 23/9 1400 G.M.T. 014° 52' S., 129° 11' W., sighted Motor Vessel suspicious, DENBIGHSHIRE. (ends). (D.D.I.C., 1341A/24 to N.Z.N.B.)

War Diary.24.9.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.HJELMAREN.
(sunk 16/9.)

A survivor of Greek PEGASUS, torpedoed and sunk 16/9, reports that U/boat crew boarded the Swedish HJELMAREN, 2467 tons, which was near by (approx. 54.31N., 29.52 W.), and that she sank shortly afterwards as result of an explosion. HJELMAREN bound from Aberdeen to Tampa, (D.S.750, 24/9.) *Above statement incorrect. Vessel arrived safely at Tampa. See 16/9/41 P.377*

NEWBURY
(torpedoed
15/9.)

Area searched unsuccessfully for survivors. Ship presumed to have sunk. (D.S.750.)

MONTANA
(torpedoed
11/9.)

Is presumed sunk. 2 boatloads of survivors were seen leaving ship about 1 hour after attack, but nothing since heard of them. (D.S.750.)

S.C.42.

List of sinkings 9/9 to 16/9. (D.T.D., 1713A/24.) See Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.87.
ST.CLAIR II,
4 other
ships.

Correct my 2235Z/23 to read 030° 25' N., 023° 35' W. ST.CLAIR II leading ship starboard column, sank immediately, only casualty. Master and 25 in GORLESTON, possibly 3 in LULWORTH. (GORLESTON, 0130/24, to Admty.) ST.CLAIR II, British, 3753 tons, bound from Lagos to Liverpool with palm kernels. (D.S.750, 24/9.) Incomplete signal received from GORLESTON at 0055A/24, T.O.O. 2235Z/23 indicating S.L.87 attacked in 30° 25' N., 20° 35' W. (D.C. 0145A/24, 0310A/24 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C.S.A., C. in C.W.A.) S.L.87 attacked, 4 ships torpedoed, my position at 0441Z, 031° 12' N., 023° 32' W. (BIDEFORD, 0500Z/24 to C. in C.W.A.)

Submarines Reported.1040 G.M.T./
23.

Your 0933/23 and N.C.S.O. Curacao's 1020/23. Request further details. (D.D.I.C. 0036A/24 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Your 0336A/23. (N.T. in W.D., 0036A/24 intended?) N.C.S.O. Curacao 1500QR/23 partially explains his 1020QR/23. It appears probable all sightings coming from DIALA which in her original report stated time of sailing on surface and dived immediately I grade DIALA's report A.3. DIALA will be investigated on arrival at Curacao. (C. in C.A.W.I., 0231Q/24 to Admty.)

War Diary.24.9.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Contd.S.L.87.

My 2136A. (N.T.in W.D.) Further bearings indicate that U-Boat was in vicinity of Convoy SL.87, in approx., 30° 00' N., 24° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0102A/24 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C.S.A.)

23/9.

My 2323A/23. (N.T.in W.D.). Further bearings place U-Boat within 150 miles of 12° 00' N., 27° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0437A/24 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C.S.A.)

→ 2232C/23.

At 2232C/23 by D/F U-Boat in 069° 37' N., 037° 50' E. Admiralty pass LONDON, ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 0841C/24, to Admty.)

0038Z.

Bearing indicated German U.Boat within 120 miles 035° 00' N., 024° 00' W., at 0038Z/24.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0945A/24 to N.A.Stn.)

→ 0256C.

Enemy Submarine sighted 0256C/24 off Cape Cherni, 068° 23'N., 038° 39'E.(B.2.) Admiralty pass to LONDON and ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 1244C/24, to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1430A/24.)

1325/23.

Intercept 23/9, 1325, San Juan, Porto Rico, reports "Two American Ships working on 468 Kcs. Hear them say position of SSS was 10.20 N., 54.50W!! Seems probable that SSS should be interpreted to mean Submarine and not Submarine Distress Signal.
(O.P.N.A.V. 1622/24, to Admty.)

1448Z.

D/F bearings at 1448Z/24 indicate that there may be a U-boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1647A/24 to HIGHLANDER, FOWEY, BEGONIA.)

→ 2010C.

By D/F, enemy submarine 2010 C./24 068° 16' N., 041° 38' E. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA and LONDON.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 2147C/24, to Admty.)

/1040 G.M.T./23....

War Diary.

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1040 G.M.T.
/23.

Your 0933Q/23. Presumed this information was passed to Navy Dept., Washington, in accordance with para.1 of A.M. 1150/13. (2) When such action is taken request you will so indicate in your signals.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2237A/24, to C. in C.A.W.I.)

0015/23.

S/M reported in 061° 04' N., 011° 20' W., at 0015/23 by Icelandic. Ship, course N.E., graded C.3.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2307/24, to S and A., Orkneys and Shetlands, etc.)

Submarines Attacked.

By MOOSEJAW,
CHAMBLY.
10/9.
(U.501)

Their Lordships congratulate you on the destruction of a German U-boat on 10/9/1941.
(1st. S.L., 2139A/24 to MOOSEJAW, CHAMBLY.)

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Fog delayed sweeping for mines, and the Thames and Medway were not opened until 1025 today, Harwich was opened at 1529A.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. T.P. TILLING reports slight damage from air attack at 0350 today off Barrels Rock (Liverpool area). The attacking A/C appeared to be hit by her Hotchkiss fire.

Convoy F.S.⁶⁰2 was bombed at 1919 in 52° 54' N., 1° 36' E., but no damage is reported.

Great Yarmouth was bombed at 2005A. No Naval damage was caused.

ST. EUMAN^N reports having shot down an enemy aircraft off the Smalls at 1950.

At 1956 today an unknown ship later established to be S.S. SCHELDT reported being attacked off the Smalls. The ship was slightly damaged. At 2022 PALOMARES, escorting B.B.80 near the Smalls heavily engaged and possibly shot down an aircraft.

Mining.

Operation
N.L.16 B.

3 M.L.'s from Dover laid mines last night off the French coast.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft this evening off the Suffolk coast and in Thames Estuary was suspected this evening.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.

Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Palermo
bombed.

6 Aircraft from Malta bombed Palermo harbour last night. Air R/C reported 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers and 2 T.B's in the harbour.

Blenheims at 1805 today obtained 3 hits on a 3,000 ton merchant ship 32 miles N. of Cotrone; the aircraft remained in the neighbourhood and saw the ship almost sunk.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night, obtaining 6 hits on barges or dredgers.

Mines were dropped in Tripoli harbour this evening by Naval aircraft, Wellingtons and a Swordfish providing a diversion by bombing.

Tobruk harbour was attacked by aircraft today and some military casualties were caused.

U-Boat Campaign.

The Admiralty appreciation is that some of the U-boats from St. Pauls Rocks area are now moving homewards, probably passing outside Cape Verde Islands.

CLYDE was ordered at 1004 to proceed towards the northwestern end of Cape Verde Islands.

Several Italian submarines have passed through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean since the end of August. There is no evidence of any traffic in the reverse direction.

/Attack.....

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

(encl. 567)

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign. - Contd.

Attack on
H.G. 73.

Convoy H.G. 73 was attacked at 0548 about 450 miles North of the Azores by one U-boat. EMPIRE STREAM was sunk. In view of bad visibility and possibility of daylight attack all escorts were ordered to rejoin at 0658.

The convoy was attacked again at 2233 today in 47° 40' N., 24° 7' W. There were two attacks at 2 hour intervals. In the first attack it is reported that two ships were hit and in the second three ships. Ships torpedoed were AVOCETA and VARANGBERG in the first attack, and CORTES, LAPWING and PETREL in the second attack (about 0030/26). It is reported that one of these is little damaged.

4603
24/41

also *Sore malm - 27th*
has Springback on 27th
(fighter-catapult)

Admiral Miles 10200/24 (submarine patrol report) has been passed to C. in C. Hdq. for information at D.M.I.'s request. (A.O.S.S.F. 2004/25 to A.O.I.O.)

Your 1415a/24. I had only visualized possible visit just as a temporary instructional one and not as D.L.O. at Vladivostok. Soviet naval authorities have only agreed in principle to exchange officers being sent to about San Francisco later with still after the forthcoming Economic Conference has finished before putting the question forward. Request your views particularly as to the nature of possible visit. (Ad. Miles 10120/24 as 1415.)

Reference of D.I.
D.O.I.O. Portland 10004/24.
One man standing in the line of the British
in camp near the Alaska Hill. This man
was seen to handle of military and police.
D.O.I.O. Portland 10004/24, 10004/24.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of
C.S.1

Flag of R.A.C. 1st C.S. was transferred to
NORFOLK a.m./25. (C.S.1 1714/25.)

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Some delay can be accepted in the completion date of R.D/F. installation for ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
2. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is however required as escort for convoy leaving U.K. about 1/11, and it is intended that she should carry out practices at Scapa before sailing.
3. She must therefore be ready to sail from the Clyde not later than 15/10.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1743A/25.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Communication
arrangements.

Your 2054/24 and 0711/25. Admiralty fully appreciate that in emergency it may be necessary to depart from the rule given in para.1 of A.M.1150A/13.
For the present however such departure should rarely be made.
Information intended for U.S. escorts must be passed to Admiralty who will take the necessary action to inform U.S. authorities.
(A.C.N.S.T. 2036A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Information
for C. in C.
Med.

Admiral Miles 1029C/24 (submarine patrol report) has been passed to C. in C. Med. for information at D.N.I's request. (H.W.R. 25/9)

Proposed
appointment
of B.N.L.O.
at Vladivo-
stock.

Your 1415A/24. I had only visualised Powell's visit East as a temporary instructional one and not as N.L.O. At Vladivostock, Soviet Naval Authorities have only agreed in principle to exchange officers being sent to Black Sea Fleet. Better wait until after the forthcoming Economic Conference has finished before putting request forward. Request your views particularly as to the nature of Powell's visit.
(Ad. Miles 1014C/24 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

One Man
landed.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 0850A/25.)
One man claiming to be Free Frenchman landed in canoe near St. Albans Hd. Thick fog. Both now in hands of Military and Police.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0850A/25, 1043A/25.)

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.MINERVE.

Is to be withdrawn from patrol after dark/27 and is to return to Dundee. (F.O.S.1101A/25.) Leave patrol passing through 061° 45' N. 003° 30' E. at 2200A/27 thence through following positions diving by day, arriving Bell Rock 0600A/1 Oct. T.B.Rs arranged. (Capt. S.9 1745A/25 to MINERVE.)

P.35.

P.35 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE Northbound in The Minches may be passed during the night. (C. in C. W.A. 2101A/25 to Escort E.C.76.)

State of
H.F.
Destroyers.

At 2000/25. (R.A.D.2258A/25) See Lion Copy.

Operations.

R-Boats off
Calais on
24/9.

R.D.F. plotted several vessels at 2011 yesterday off Calais proceeding westwards. M.T.Bs and M.G.Bs sent to intercept were withdrawn before contact was made, as there were indications that vessels were 6 R-boats who were aware of the presence of our forces in their vicinity. (V.A. Dover 0947A/25.)

Operation E.J.

Arrived C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, VICTORIOUS, AURORA and destroyers at 1400. (A.C.I.C. 1509/25.)

Operation
"Foremost".

SEALION reports Operation carried out satisfactorily. (F.O.S. 1932A/25.)

Convoy P.Q.1

Scapa departures SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY. (A.C.O.S. 1950/25 to A.C.I.C.)

British Air Activity.

Portsmouth
Command.
Fighter
protection
signals.

A.275 25/9. Your 1127A/23. The commitments for other Naval Commands are arranged on receipt of request for fighter protection signals and intend to sail signals are not being repeated to 10 Group. It is suggested that your Command also adopt this procedure. (H.Q. 10 Group 1420/25 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/A/C in ARGUS

M E S S A G E

2256A/25th September. 5-93A

SECRET.

IN.

From R.A. (D)

Date 25.9.41.
Time 2314

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

511. Destroyer State 2000/25.

1. Working up at Scapa. IBIS.
2. Not available at Scapa. ESCAPADE (In dock).
3. With SUFFOLK. IMPULSIVE, ANTHONY ANTELOPE.
4. Not available at Rosyth. ECLIPSE (Repairs).
5. Hvalfjord. SOMALI, BEDOUIN, ASHANTI, MATABELE,
PUNJABI, ESKIMO.
6. With W S IIX LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, ORIBI.
7. Archangel area: ELECTRA, ACTIVE.

2256A/25

Advance copies sent Ops. & O.D.

1st Lord.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
Ops. (4)
O.D.8.
O.D. (5)
O.I.C.
D.T.S.D.
D. of P.(3)
D.S.D. (2)
M. (2)
Mails.
Movts.
I.P. (3)
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D. A/S W.
A.H.Q.H.F.
D.G.D.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - contd.

A/C in
ARGUS.

Request report (1) whether you can transfer 12 Albatrosses by air to another carrier in one range, if necessary with reduced load.
(3) Whether all pilots of 828 are trained in deck landing. (D.N.A.D. 1901A/25 to ARGUS.)
Your 1901A/25. (1) Yes, but Albatross cannot be ranged without removing main and tail planes, and re-erection on flight deck is considered impracticable under ocean conditions. Suggest Albatrosses could be thus transferred if carried erect on flight deck but, under these conditions, no A/C can be operated during outward passage.
(3) Pilots unknown, further signal will be made. (ARGUS 2215A/25.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown Ship.

Received 1909 G.M.T. automatic AAAA bearing 294°, strength 2/3. Bearing unreliable.
(Burnham-on-Sea Radio 0810/25 and 2025/25.)

Rattray Head
Light (bombed
20/9.)

My 1524/20. Rattray Head Light has been repaired and is again available for exhibition.
(Northern Lighthouse Board 1230/25) (C. in C. Rosyth 1241/25.)

T.P. TILLING
damaged.

Reports being attacked with M/G by twin-engined German seaplane at 0350/25 off Barrels Rock, No casualties, slight damage. Ship fired twenty rounds Hotchkiss and appeared to hit.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1819A/25.)

Convoy
F.S.2.

Convoy F.S.⁶⁰2 being bombed in 52° 54' N. 1° 36' E.
(LIDDESDALE 1919/25.)

Iceland.

Enemy aircraft probably Heinkel 111 visited Iceland (C) today. Times of sighting from 0740 to 0937 as follows. Details.
Visibility generally bad. Considered value of enemy R/C slight. (G.O.C. Iceland 1923/23 to War Office.)

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Convoy
ON.M.20.
DALTONHALL
(British,
7253 Tons)
damaged
on 24/9.

A/S Trawler SPHENE reports DALTONHALL damaged by mine in 006° Skokholm 3½ miles at 2030A/24. Ship reached Holyhead under own steam escorted by SPHENE and passed S.G. 3 buoy at 2220A/24. Extent of damage and type of mine at present unknown. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0017/25, 0245/25, N.C.S.O. Holyhead 1541A/25.)

NL.12.Intend to carry out operation N.L.12 tonight. (V.A. Dover 1225A/25.)
Cancel my 1225 owing to fog. (V.A. Dover 2226A/25)Operation
"Tincture"
(Nymph Bank)

Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m./29th in the manner described in my 1207A/10/9. (V.C.N.S. 1257A/25 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Milford
Haven.

At 1523/25 one Green Mine detonated by Sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1729/25.)

P.W.20.

My 2232A/23. P.W.20 may be carried out by 2 M.Ls if available before M.T.Bs. (C. in C. Nore 1814/25 to BEEHIVE.)

Enemy Intelligence.SEALION
reports for
16,17,18
and 22/9.

SEALION reports that at 0905/16 naval craft of approx. 1000 tons passed close to Penmarch Point on a South Easterly course out of range. Night 17/18, A/S or M/S activity by trawlers in vicinity 46° 50' N. 03° 18' W. and in same position on night 21/22. At 1345/22 large M/V southbound passed out of range inside Glenans. (F.O.S. 1932A/25.)

E-Boats.

Indication of possible E-Boats Sheringham Buoy 2205 moving N.E. (C. in C. Nore 2245/25.)

Miscellaneous.Thames and
Medway.Thames and Medway are remaining closed owing to fog delaying sweeping operations. (X.D.O. Sheerness 0620/25.)
My 0620/25. Thames and Medway now open. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1050/25.)Harwich.

Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1529A/25.)

/Haisborough

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Miscellaneous - contd.Haisborough
South Middle
Buoy.

Haisborough South Middle Buoy and Hammond Knoll Light and Whistle Buoy both have the same Character light. In the Would, Hammond Knoll Buoy can sometimes be seen before Haisborough South Middle and could be mistaken for it, leading to disastrous consequences on the Haisborough Sands. Suggest that character of Haisborough South Middle Buoy should be altered. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1727A/25.)

Casualties and Defects.RIPLEY
(Grounded
4/9.)

My 2102A/24. RIPLEY sailed at 1120/25. E.T.A. Flamboro' 2300/25. 19 buoy 0600/26. 19 D Buoy 0930/26. (F.O. Humber 1134A/25) (C. in C. Nore 1459A/25.)

AMBUSCADE.

Captain D. Greenock's 1907/5.

1. AMBUSCADE can be taken in hand in Portsmouth dockyard.
 2. To reduce to C & M for period of repairs.
 3. 15/10.
- (D.O.D.H. 1519A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

AVRA
(Greek 4652
Tons) sunk.

S O S MARVIA off Duncansby Head. Collision. (MARVIA No T.O.O. Recd 2117/25.)
Cancel my distress. (MARVIA T.O.R 2122/25.)
Collided with unknown ship. Other ship sinking fast. MARVIA standing by. (MARVIA 2144/25.)
I have ordered MINUET to investigate MARVIA and unknown ship, possibly 1 of rear ships of E.C.77.
Request lights. (JASON 2205/25 to A.C.O.S.)
QUENTIN ROOSEVELT has picked up all survivors.
Sunken ship is AVRA. Lifeboat is searching round Duncansby Head. Propose resuming my course to join convoy. (MINUET 2340A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

BEREBY
(Grounded
24/9)

My 0641A/24. All crew from BEREBY landed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2215A/25.)

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.S.C.43

Arrived safely under Cdre. H.W. Poole, R.N.R., 55 ships, including 21 Allied and 2 Neutral. 9 tankers. Other cargoes. (D.S., 751 25/9) (C. in C. W.A. 1812/25.)

BARAM.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1125/24. In view of your 1206/16. I consider BARAM, 499 tons, which regularly arrives from Leith with essential military stores, should be escorted between Orkneys and Faroes especially when northbound and loaded. Request you arrange to divert her to Kirkwall accordingly. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1201/25 to A.C.O.S.)

F.N., F.S.,
E.C.

My 1836A/22/9. Throughout for GUILLEMOT read SHEARWATER for SHEARWATER read MALLARD. For MALLARD read SHELDRAKE. For SHELDRAKE read PUFFIN. For PUFFIN read WIDGEON. For WIDGEON read SHEARWATER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1226a/25.)

OG.M 75.
BURZA.

Request you will sail BURZA in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1150A/25. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1258A/25 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.) Your 1258A/25. BURZA has instructions to part company with OG.M 75 to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1150A/25^{WT} (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1831A/25 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

H.G.73
WOLVERINE.

WOLVERINE is to be sailed South of Ireland a.m./26 to meet H.G.73. Meet Signal follows. (C. in C. W.A. 2228A/25 to Capt. D. Liverpool) Ship sunk in H.G.73, see U-Boat Campaign. Intend to sail WOLVERINE at 1130/26 to meet H.G.73. Routed by route K. to position K. thence by Q.Z.F.18. Speed 18 knots. Fighter protection code word "Junction". (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2321/25.)

War Diary

25.9.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Conveyance
of Service
Personnel.

A.M. 1744B/16/7 para 2 is to be amended. Maximum for any one Service or Department or for Prisoners of War is as follows, the total number of passengers, government or otherwise in any ship being limited to the numbers allowed by her passenger certificate:- Navy, Army, R.A.F. and Merchant Seamen, 150 each. Colonial and other passengers, 100. Prisoners of War without limit except as set by limitations of numbers of guards (not less than 7%)
3. This supersedes Admty. 1935B/4/8 and 1848/22/8.
4. In A.M. 1743/21/8 to C. in C. East Indies and F.O.C.R.I.N. only, for 100 read 150. Agreed with services concerned.
(4th S.L. 1936A/25 to C's in C. etc.)

North Atlantic

Mines,
Sardinia

B. 2. report states:- (a) mines have been laid in the Gulf of Oristano, Sardinia, in 3 lines: first line magnetic mines, second and third lines contact mines laid from Cape Frasca in direction 348° and from Cape San Marco in direction 205° (b) between C. Pecora and C. Frasca and from C. Mannu to Alghero, the coast is fortified by earth works and concrete pill boxes. (c) Minefields, operated from the shore, have been laid along both banks of the river Tirso between Gulf of Oristano and Colle del Tirso and the Tirso Dam has been mined. Depots of mines, are established on the river banks.
(D.N.I. 0958A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE

Proceed immediately at best speed towards N.W. end of Cape Verde Islands. Further instructions follow. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1004A/25 to CLYDE) Report No 3. 1957A/25. (1) CORINTHIAN on patrol H.X. 3. (11) CLYDE proceeding from Canary Islands to (?Cape Verde Is.)
(F.O.C.N.A., 1222A/25 to S & A., N.A. Station.)

/MARON.....

War Diary

25.9.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

MARON

Departure MARON for areas R. 1. and S. 1. escorted by LADY SHIRLEY, ERIN. Escort part company at 0800/28 to R/V with tanker LA CARRIERE for Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1342A/25 to Admty. S.O.W.P.)

THORN
TRUANT

(1) THORN report P. C. and S. of A. after dark/26 thence through position (S) 038° 00' 010° 30' (T) 036° 35' 009° 00' (U) 350° Spartel 10 miles. T.B.R. arranged.
(11) TRUANT after passing 035° 52' 008° 08' to R/V with THORN and an escort in position (U) at 1800A/28.
(111) Both submarines are to report during the night of 27/28 if unable to reach R/V within one hour of time ordered.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1410A/25 to THORN, TRUANT)

B.D.V's.

BARSTOKE, BARONIA, BARBOUR, CONSBRO, GRAAF VAN VLANDEREN sailed 25th E.T.A. Fayal 5/10. Requirements. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1442A/25 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada)

H.G. 74.

C. in C. W.A. 0026A/11 para 5. Please confirm corvettes are to return with H.G. 74 in view of Admty. 1155A/24/8 para 2.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1446A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

MARIA BELMATTI
(Spanish)

My 1630/29/8. Understand sailing vessel mentioned would load petrol or gas oil fuel ex ISONZO lying at Rio de Oro.
(Las Palmas, 1550/25 to Admty.)

NESTOR

Admty. 1824A/17. NESTOR sails 0800A/26, S.O.A. 15½ knots. E.T.A. in position (C) 043° 00' N., 017° 00' W. is 0800A/28. Request Admty. communicate name of refitting Port and C. in C. W.A. onward route from position (C).
(F.O.C.N.A., 1714A/25)

Operation
"Halberd"

233 Squadron, 3 Hudsons escort Force "Halberd" dawn till dusk. Area covered 36.12 N., 04.00 N., to 36.45 N., 01.05 W.
(200 Group, 1745/25)

/IMPERIALIST....

War Diary25.9.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.IMPERIALIST

Ref. 1147A/25 from F.O.C.N.A. (N.T. in W.D.)
R/V 1800/26 position 036° 15' N., 007° 00' W.
(ALOUETTE, 2100A/25 to IMPERIALIST)

South Atlantic156 M/S
Group.

Your 1905/4. Movements of M/S Group 156 as follows since leaving Freetown GOS VII, KOS X, KOS XI proceeded to Lagos where they spent 12 days alongside Apapa Wharf, thence to Walvis Bay remaining there 24 hours. KOS XII proceeded from Freetown to St. Helena and Walvis Bay rejoining remainder of Group there. Thence all sailed in company to Capetown. First case of Malaria appeared 2 days after leaving Lagos. No cases of fever in KOS XII. Hem Fever apparently contracted at Apapa Wharf which is on West side of River and close to extensive Mangrove Swamp. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0858B/25 to Admty.)

M/S Groups
156, 157, 158.

Your 1528/20. Following is information available to me. Group 156. GOS VII and KOS XII sailed from Durban 21/9 for Kilindini. KOS X and XI in Capetown delayed (A) by Sickness of crew and (B) essential repairs. Both vessels will sail by 28/9. Group 157. GOS II and III on passage Kilindini to Karachi. *KOS VIII and IX. Nothing known beyond N.O.I.C. Greenock 2304/2. (P. 31)
Group 158. CORDELIA, NORSSE and LORD IRWIN in Capetown expected to sail end of Sept. and early October. Essential repairs in hand. LORINDA sunk vide C. in C. S.A. 1151/20/8. NOBLE NORA Group. NOBLE NORA, TRANSVALIA and JOHN WILLIAMSON sailed from Beira 22/9. EGELAND in hand for repairs at Lourenco Marques to be completed by 25th. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0945B/25 to Admty.)

* ? VII

/Force F.....

War Diary

25.9.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Force F.

Force F consisting DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE are operating in K. 35 A and B extending to Westward about this latitude as far as endurance allows. Expected to return to St. Helena shortly. (C. in C. S.A., 1037N/25, 1425N/25 to R.A.S.A.D.)

→ W.S. 11.

DERBYSHIRE is to continue with W.S. 11 for the present and may be required to escort Cape portion of convoy to Durban.

(C. in C. S.A. 1201N/25 to DERBYSHIRE)

see below

→ ALCANTARA
→ BIRMINGHAM
→ BULOLO

You are to enter Rio de Janeiro at 1230 G.M.T./1/10 for 24 hours (?and) embark 500 tons fuel. R/V with BIRMINGHAM at South end of "Percival" at 1300 G.M.T./3 to embark stores ex oiler ABBEYDALE and your mail. Oiler ARNDALE is due "Percival" 3/10 from Trinidad. You will subsequently proceed Tristan da Cunha and Simonstown. BIRMINGHAM leaves Plate 29/9 for K32 and return South to meet BULOLO at F.O. on her arrival from Cape. BULOLO reports E.T.A. when known.

(R.A.S.A.D., 1303Z/25 to ALCANTARA) Cancelled see 0013/26)

Lobito

Request arrangements may be made for 3 H.M. Trawlers to coal at Lobito about 7/10. Ships will require about 100 tons coal and 20 tons water each.

(C. in C. S.A., 1337N/25 to Consul-Gen., Loanda)

→ W.S. 11.

My 1955/24 and your 0810/25/9. I will arrange. DERBYSHIRE will continue with W.S. 11 instead of to patrol and will escort Capetown and to Durban. (C. in C. S.A., 1623N/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

see above
7b.605

→ DERBYSHIRE
→ BULOLO
→ ALCANTARA
CARNARVON
CASTLE

N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1715B/21 and other relevant signals. Following movements to take place: (a) DERBYSHIRE to accompany W.S. 11 to Capetown and subsequently escort Cape portion to Durban.

(b) BULOLO leave Simonstown 28/9, arriving Tristan da Cunha 3/10, visiting Nightingale Island, and sails as soon as possible after to join S.A.Div. and W.I. Sqdn.

(c) ALCANTARA to arrive Tristan da Cunha 4/10 or 5th latest, thence to Simonstown, my 1431/25 refers (d) CARNARVON CASTLE to relieve BULOLO when repairs are completed.

(C. in C. S.A., 1627N/25 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, etc.)

/S.L. 88.....

War Diary

25.9.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

S.L. 88.

Your 1121N/24. Admiralty appreciation is that some U-Boats from Saint Paul Rocks area are now moving homewards probably passing outside Cape Verde Islands. In view of this, considered preferable to divert S.L. 88 through 15° 00' N., 20° 00' W and 21° 00' N., 18° 30' W. and thence to position D.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1926A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mines
Mundahu

N.C.S.O. Para's 1505/25 is being passed to you. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2009Z/25 to Admty.)
W.R. Note. Re advise Royal Netherlands S.S. Line that mines are off Mundahu. (N.T. in W.D.)

Corvettes
refits

Your 1407N/24. Limited refitting arrangements available to your command are appreciated and it can be accepted that about half of the 8 corvettes returning to W. Approaches will require an early refit. Urgent need for escorts in W. Approaches at present time makes it necessary to request you to advance the arrangements for sailing these corvettes to U.K. C. in C. W.A. 1615A/13 provides for sailing of 8 corvettes by 15/10 and it is requested that, in addition to GARDENIA and VERVAIN, already sailed, you will consider sailing 3 corvettes with S.L. 89 leaving about 4/10, sailing 3 corvettes with S.L. 90 leaving about 14/10.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2351A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean

MONSELET
(French)

Vichy news agency states MONSELET, 3372 tons, with phosphates from Sfax, was bombed, caught fire, and sank in Gulf of Gabes, Tunis Coast, on 20/9. Crew rescued and taken to Sfax.
(D.S. 751, 25/9.)

MACEDONIA
HANS ARP
(German)

Arrived Trieste on 20/9 from Greece. Arrived Trieste 22/9 believed from Yugoslav port.
(D.S. 751, 25/9.)

/DACIA.....

War Diary25.9.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.DACIA
(Roumanian)

B. 2. report, in dock at Constanza after having been torpedoed. (D.S. 751, 22/9.)

Benghazi
Bardia
bombed.

Night 23/24, 6 Wellingtons bombed shipping and harbour at Benghazi. Direct hits exploded ship moored at outer Mole, debris being thrown 300 yards. Further bombs burst on outer Mole base of Central Mole and fell near ships moored to end of Central Mole. 4 F.A.A. Albacores bombed buildings near Bardia starting large fire. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1103/25)

U.S.A.
Ships for
M.E.

Military authorities, Middle East, have proposed to War Office that U.S.A. might be approached to provide shipping to replace British ships in Middle East, e.g. personnel ships, cargo ships, water boats, tugs, lighters, fast coasters, ferries, etc (D.S.T. 1451A/25 to P.S.T.O. Egypt)

Enemy
Supply Ship.One small supply ship may have left Athens dawn/25 passing through Kaso Strait or Scarpanto Channel thence S.W. course to $031^{\circ} 45' 025^{\circ} 05'$. (Capt. S. 1., 1501B/25 to TORBAY)Enemy
ConvoySmall escorted convoy from $032^{\circ} 53' 013^{\circ} 12'$ should arrive $032^{\circ} 06' 020^{\circ} 04'$ about 0600B/26. 2 supply ships leave latter position at 1900/25 course 294° for 4 hours thence northwards. Speed 9 knots. (Capt. S. 1. 1515B/25 to PERSEUS, THRASHER)Turkey

Re certain ships for Turkey. (N.A. Angora, 1824B/25 (amended 1934B/26) to Admty) See Lion Copy.

French Seamen
Alexandria

Your 2004/8. In view of possibility of a considerable number of French sailors at Alexandria rallying to Allied cause, none should be repatriated. It should also be made clear to Admiral Godfroy that this refusal is final. (Hd. of M. Approved by 1st Lord, 1841A/25 to C. in C. Med.)

/Hospital.....

MOST SECRET

603A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1824B/25 Sept.

LIV

Date, 26. 9. 41.

From:- N.A. . Angora

Recd. 0903

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (15) BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty repeated C. in C. Mediterranean,
H.M. Ambassador Angora Saving.

ATDAC.

Following from Admiral Kelly.

(1) Saw General Asim Gunduz to ask about a reply to my letter referred to in my 1107/17 part four. He said they had given it deep consideration and were grateful, but could we not (?go) a little further and make it two ships - (?I) think he wanted(?also), two destroyers and one submarine. I promised I would ask if it was possible to send one destroyer, and one submarine to be delivered at Iskanderun, (?the) three remaining destroyers to be delivered six months later, and the three (?remaining) submarines as and when we found it possible. The British Navy to have use of three of (?each) up to time of their delivery under similar conditions as first of each class.

(2) In the event (?Turkey) entering war before appointed time of delivery of second lot we would use our utmost endeavours to deliver remainder as soon as possible, or to assist Turkey with their equivalent.

(3) This is only a preliminary for Admiralty consideration. I hope to see the Marshal tomorrow and will (?then) send his final decision. I gather if we can come to terms the Marshal will put proposal to President who would decide on procedure.

(4) If we agree no doubt Admiralty will inform me of their proposals of action in the event of any of these vessels being lost before delivery.

1824B/25.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D. (F), D.D.I.C.

1st Lord	A.C.N.S. (F)	D. of P (2)	D.A./S.W.	Hd. of M. (8)
1st S.L.	A.C.N.S. (H)	D.O.D. (F)	I.P. (2)	for action
3rd S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.O.D. (F)	W.D.	D.D.I.C.
V.C.N.S.	P.A.S. (S)	D.N.I. (4)	D.C.	E.P.S.
				Ad. Horner Hodgo
				N.I.D. 10

MOST SECRET

964

603B

1934B/26th September

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

Date 27.9.41

From N.A. Angora

Recd. 0440

Interdepartmental Cypher "V"(15) by Cable

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

IMMEDIATE AIDAC

My 1824B/25 paragraphs (2) (3) and (4) should read as follows:-

(2) In the event of Turkey entering war before appointed time of delivery of second lot we would use our utmost endeavours to deliver remainder as soon as possible, or to assist Turkey with their equivalent.

(3) This is only a preliminary for Admiralty consideration. I hope to see the Marshal tomorrow and will then send his final decision. I gather that if we can come to terms the Marshal will put proposal to President, and General Staff would only inform Government just before arrival of first units, but it would be President who would decide on procedure.

(4) If we agree no doubt Admiralty will inform me as far as possible of proposals of action in the event of any of these vessels being (? lost) before delivery.

1934B/26

Advance copy to Duty Capt. D.D.I.C. Hd. of M.

1st Lord Hd. of M.(8) for action
1st S.L. E.P.S.
3rd S.L. Admiral Herman Hedges
V.C.N.S. N.I.D. 10 Paym.Cdr. Wilson
A.C.N.S.(F) D.D.I.C.
A.C.N.S.(H)
P.A.S.(S)
D. of P.(2)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.N.I.(4)
D.A/S.W.
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.C.
N.A. 1st S.L.

War Diary25.9.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Hospital
Ships.

Precautions to be taken for maintenance of order among prisoners of war.
(W.O., 1855/25 to C. in C. M.E., etc.)

TRITON

Leave patrol p.m./27 and pass through Kaso Straits thence, direct to arrive Alexandria S/M Sanctuary 0530B/1.
(Capt. S. 1. 1937B/25 to TRITON)

SAINT BRIEUX
FRONSAC
(French)

Arrival 23rd SAINT BRIEUX departure 23rd SAINT BRIEUX Site. Arrival 25th FRONSAC.
(Barcelona, 2030/25, to M. of W.T.)

MAURO CROCE
(Italian)

Left Cadiz evening 25th. (Valencia, 2100/25 to M. of W.T.)

Malta Raid

Night 24/15. Two alerts 2203-2236 and 2247-2255. Bombs dropped in sea, few on land. 2 Fighters up, no illuminations, no interceptions. No casualties or damage. (H.Q., Malta, 2230/25)

Tripoli
bombed and
mined.
Palermo
bombed.

Night 24/25. 6 Swordfish laid mines in Channel E. and N.E. Tripoli harbour 1905 to 1920 hours. 7 Swordfish and 2 Wellingtons provided lumination and diversion. Diversion very successful. Time over target 1840 to 1950 hours. 6 Wellingtons attacked harbour Palermo. Time over target 2010 to 2210 hours. Hits and large number fires started near dry docks North end harbour and shipbuilding yard.
(H.Q., Malta, 2245/25)

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.B.P.15.O430Z/25, LANCASHIRE, DEVONSHIRE, NEURALIA
(all Basra.)
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0438Z/25 to Admty., etc.)CONFEDERATE.Your 1245/23 (salvage of GEORGIC). Grateful
if CONFEDERATE could be sent to Massawa as soon
as possible.
(C. in C. E.I., 0458Z/25 to C. in C. Med.)EXETER.Request you will sail EXETER for Mombasa as soon
as convenient. EXETER is to report intended
programme.
(C. in C. E.I., 0734Z/25 to S.N.O.R.S.)
W.D. Note: EXETER escorting C.M.17 from Durban
since 11/9.ILEX.ILEX is unfit for sea until temporary repairs
have been effected at Mombasa. Hope to sail
ILEX for Durban about 2/10, in company with
COLOMBO until through Mozambique channel or
further if necessary.
(C. in C. E.I., 0736Z/25 to Admty.)W.S.11
Escort.

- p. 578

Your 1955/24. Only ship I could detail would
be AUSTRALIA. She is now escorting MAURETANIA
and NIEUW AMSTERDAM due Durban 2/10, and has to
escort them North again from p.m./7 which is
earliest date W.S.11 seems likely to arrive
Durban. By (? omitting) her call at Durban on
way South AUSTRALIA could fuel at Cape and be
ready to take W.S.11 to Durban. On her return
to Aden she will then have steamed some 8500
miles at high speed without any appreciable break
since leaving that port. This is most undesirable
if it can be avoided.
(C. in C. E.I., 0810Z/25 to C. in C. S.A.)
My 1955/24 and your 0810/25/9. I will arrange.
DERBYSHIRE will continue with W.S.11 instead of
to patrol and will escort Capetown and to Durban.
(C. in C. S.A., 1623N/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

See p. 601

Iran
Operations.My 1206Z/25. I hope to receive S.N.O.P.G's first
report on Iran operations next week. On receipt
intend to signal summary to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.,
A.C.N.B.* Request approval for publication in
India and Australia on receipt. Request whether
action against Persian Warships should be published
yet.
(C. in C. E.I., 1204Z/25 to Admty.)

* See 13102/8/10 page 198 October.

/Policy.....

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Iran
Operations.
Contd.Policy regarding release of naval news when ships are taking part in combined operations. (C. in C. E.I., 1206Z/25 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.Caspian.

Your 1720/15. Recommend Naval officer be appointed to join Army Mission already in Tiflis, would provide opportunity for appreciating naval situation in Caspian Sea. (C. in C. E.I., 1520Z/25 to Admty.)

WINDSOR
CASTLE.

F.O.C.R.I.N. 1221/17. Lloyd Surveyor reports WINDSOR CASTLE unseaworthy except for short voyages in fair weather, permanent repairs impracticable at Bombay. Semi-permanent repairs require minimum 2 months including 4 weeks dry dock. (S.S.T.O. India, 1645Z/25 to D. of S.T.)

NEA HELLAS,
VOLENDAM,
INDRAPOERA,
DUNERA.Convoy S.W. 10D.S.T. 0349/17, C. in C. S.A. 0235N/23.
(1) NEA HELLAS, VOLENDAM, INDRAPOERA expected dates available Berbera to embark (? 24th) Brigade former two 6/10, latter 9/10.
2. Middle East request they call Mombasa to embark details. 3. DUNERA is required to proceed Massawa, E.T.A. 5/10 to embark about 620 personnel calling Mombasa to embark further 500 all for Durban. After embarkation Massawa she is to be sailed to Aden subject to S.N.O. Red Sea concurrence to await (? convoy) with 24th Brigade vessels. 4. On completion embarkation Berbera NEA HELLAS, VOLENDAM to be sailed to Aden to await completion embarkation INDRAPOERA. 5. Request escort. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1821B/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

Reply: p. 657

China.French
Ships.Arrival 24/9 GOUVERNEUR GENERAL MAURICE LONG.
Departure 24/9 BOUGAINVILLE Haiphong.
(Saigon, 0929Z/25 to M. of W.T.)

SECRET

M E S S A G E. 1206Z/25th September, IN.

606A

From C.in C. East Indies.

Date 26.9.41.

Recd. 1224.

Interservice (X) by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated ARMINDIA, F.O.C.R.I.N. 114.
606. My 0620/28 August and your reply 2342/29/8. On further consideration I consider it essential for me to have authority to release Naval news when H.M. Ships are taking part in combined repeated combined operations. I know of no Admiralty communique issued regarding recent operation in Persian Gulf and I have been pressed for information by both India and Australia regarding the part played by H.M. Ships of those countries. G.H.Q. India and Australia point out the political necessity and urgency of keeping Indian public as fully informed as possible of operations in which Indian personnel are concerned and for which India is militarily and partly politically responsible. In these circumstances and observing that quickest possible release is most desirable I recommend that in future communiques (on combined operations only) be issued jointly in the names of G.H.Q. India and C.in C. East Indies and I would keep G.H.Q. India informed of what Naval news I considered suitable for publication repeating to Admiralty and Australian Commonwealth Naval Board if involved. On the propaganda side this system would keep Naval activities before the public mind and it would ensure that the Naval news was accurate G.H.Q. India and C.in C. East Indies concur with the foregoing.

1206Z/25.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

Nav. Sec.

Ops (4)

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (3)

D.N.I. (4)

M (2)

D.of P. (3)

E.P.S.

D.P.D. for action

I.P. (3)

W.D.

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.DIOMEDE.Entered Canal at 0800 (local time) 25/9.
(N.C.S.O. Colon, 1045/25 to Admty.)GLADIOLUS,
etc.Your 1348Z/23. Request ships may come independently as soon as available but that I may be given expected dates of arrival.
(B.A.R.M., 1120R/25 to C.C.N.F.) *See also p 608*Suspicious
Ship.N.C.S.O. Panama reports:- TEMERAIRE (Nor.) reports that at noon/12 in 027.57 S. 120.02 W. course 69° speed 13 knots heard unknown ship or station transmit series of V's strength 4, very strong D/F bearing due East. Transmitted for about 90? minutes with intervals on interrupted continuous wave 500 kc/s. medium modulation. At 2345 local time sighted unknown ship with full light steering 335-340. TEMERAIRE altered and vessel passed astern. 2107/24. (Ends.)
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1138Q/25 to Admty., etc.)FORMIDABLE,
ILLUSTRIOUS.Your 0300A/14. Completion dates and arrangements.
(B.A.R.M. 1144R/25 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.S.C.46
OTTAWA.My 1541Z/24. OTTAWA has now been ordered to continue with S.C.46 to prudent limit of endurance returning to St. John's, N.F. not later than 7/10.
(C.C.N.F., 1231Z/25 to C. in C. A.F.(U.S.))CLARKIA,
TULIP.Intend to sail CLARKIA and TULIP from Bermuda for Trinidad a.m./28.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1232Q/25 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad, etc.)RIMOUSKI.Your 1840/18. Request nature and extent of repairs required by RIMOUSKI. Ship urgently required for duty St. John's, N.F. by 8/10 and intend to divert ship to St. John's, N.F. if repairs are within scope of local facilities.
(C.C.N.F., 1232Z/25 to A.C.I.C.)

/AUSONIA.....

607A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1144R/25th Sept. IN

From B.A.R.M.

Date 26.9.41.
Recd. 0355

Naval Cypher X. by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty.

581, Your 0300A/14.

The completion of FORMIDABLE and ILLUSTRIOUS has been investigated in detail. The anticipated completion dates ex trials but which will however include basin trials of machinery are, ILLUSTRIOUS 15th November, FORMIDABLE 29th November. They are subject to outstanding essential material from U.K. arriving in time. A considerable number of items relating to the after lift ammunition conveyors steering gear motor of ILLUSTRIOUS and forward capstan gear of FORMIDABLE have not yet been received and no definite information is available as regards despatch.

ILLUSTRIOUS. The controlling factor is the after lift. The sailing date is governed by (A) Balancing trials of after lift which will require approximately three weeks but could be done after leaving us.

(B) Test of after fire control installation which will require approximately two weeks.

(C) Ammunitioning will extend over a period of three weeks allowing for fusing and interruptions due to tilt test deperming sea trials etc. This could be shortened by not embarking full outfit in U.S. FORMIDABLE. Controlling factor is the damage by bomb and weather. Sailing date will be governed by time required for ammunitioning approximately 14 days required if hull outfit taken.

In both ships period required for ammunitioning will be much reduced if ammunition to be supplied from U.K.

/arrives.....

607^B

arrives in time to permit fusing being carried out before completion of refit.

1.144R/25

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- D. of P. (2)
- D.C.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.G.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.
- D. of D.
- Dep. Contr.
- D. of D. for action) BATH.
- S.W.R.

MMC.

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.AUSONIA.

Intend to sail AUSONIA from Bermuda for Halifax on 29/9 to arrive 1/10.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1302Q/25 to R.A.3.)

Dakar,
Casablanca.

Movements of French Shipping.
(B.A.D., 1655R/25.)
See Lion Copy.

Atlantic
Convoy
Routes.
Escorts.

(1) Admty. 2141A/18. No comments.
(2) C.N.S. Canada 1407Z/22. (A) I have always felt the advantages of the southerly route in winter, assuming that wide diversion is employed. (B) Present intention is to meet both H.X. and S.C. Convoys by escorts sailed from Iceland. I shall normally have only short-leg destroyers available for the purpose and fuelling between convoys will therefore be essential in winter. (C) It would help me considerably if the "Meet" for S.C. convoys were in about 22° W. but if the "Meet" is below 56° N. in this longitude it becomes more economical to use Londonderry as a refuelling base. With a meet further West I could not guarantee covering the convoy with destroyers. (D) Any short-leg destroyers which can be spared from Canada could be usefully employed in Western Approaches, observing that I must base escort system for O.N., H.X., and S.C. Convoys on short-leg destroyers owing to other commitments for long-leg destroyers. (E) Propose that CHURCHILL, CHESTERFIELD, BUXTON, BROADWATER, RICHMOND should join my command and that after T.C.14, I should be responsible for providing escorts for all T.C. and C.T. Convoys. (C. in C. W.A., 1723A/25 to Admty.)

GLADIOLUS,
POLYANTHUS,
DIANTHUS.

From C.C.N.F.'s 1724Z/24 it seems that GLADIOLUS and POLYANTHUS could arrive Charleston about 3/10 and DIANTHUS 23/10. This would appear, from this side of the Atlantic, the most suitable arrangement. Request however that you will arrange direct with C.C.N.F. as necessary to solve the problems referred to in signal quoted. (D.O.D.(H) 1732A/25 to B.A.R.M.) *See p.607*

PRIMROSE,
NASTURTIIUM.

B.A.R.M.'s 1604/24. When they are ready for sea. B.A.R.M. is requested to sail PRIMROSE and NASTURTIIUM to St. Johns, N.F. (D.O.D.(H) 1734A/25 to B.A.R.M., C.C.N.F.)

/DESPATCH.....

SECRET

MESSAGE 1655R/25.Sept.

IN

608A

Date. 26.9.41.

From B.A.D.Washington.

Recd. 0620.

NAVAL CYPHER (C) by T/P

RECIRCULATION.

Addressed C. in C. South Atlantic, F.O.i/c Gibraltar, Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

558. MEET. Dakar Sept. 22nd A 1 (One) FNMS (LIPARI/TRES)
 FNED (DALNY) FPGM (CARTHAGE/FPGM) FNHO (MEDIE II) FINSQ (VILLE
 D'ORAN/FINSQ) left for Casablanca. Casablanca Sept. 24th A one
 following French vessels now in Port. First Port after vessel's
 name is previous port, Second is destination.

CAP BLANC	Marseilles	Dakar.
ALGERIE	"	Agadir.
CHELMA	"	Dakar.
CONDE	Dakar	"
TOURS	Marseilles	"

sailed night Sept. 23rd with 2 cases of planes various Army
 equipment 31 trucks included in cargo 1500 tons.

MORON	Marseilles	Dakar.
-------	------------	--------

Port manifest describes cargo as 200 tons wire and 5,600 tons
 coal but has been observed discharging packing cases of great
 size.

VILLE DU HAVRE	Marseilles	Dakar
----------------	------------	-------

bearing 2,200 tons cement and railway material but has been
 observed here loading large cases supervised by air officers.

FNHT (OUED TIFLET)	Marseilles	Port Lyautey.
FOXX (MONTAIGNE)	Dakar	Marseilles.
FOGG (CAPITAINE LE DIABAT)	Dakar	"
FOTU (PESCEGEL)	for Oran.	
FOUDROYANT	to Marseilles.	
FNHF (BAMKO)	Dakar	Marseilles.
FREQ (S. MAXIME)	for Marseilles.	
FOCE (CEVENNES)	Dakar	Marseilles.
FNDM (CAPITAINE ST. MARTIN)	from Marseilles.	
FPBU (BRETOIS)	from Marseilles.	
FOJF (CHEF MECANICIEN ARMAND BLANC)	from Dakar.	

Except those vessels for which destination not given
 all are due to sail within 48 hours. Cargoes where not mentioned
 are largely peanut oil and food northward bound military
 equipment and building material southward bound.

1655R/25.

Advance copy D.N.I.

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

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.DESPATCH.Arrival Balboa 1900Z + 5/25 DESPATCH.
(N.C.S.O. Panama, 2013/25.)T.C.14,
ORDUNA.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1514/24. Agree ORCADES is too late for T.C.14. N.O.I.C. Trinidad is requested to sail her direct to U.K. Most desirable that MONARCH OF BERMUDA should arrive Halifax at earliest possible date for inclusion in T.C.14 even if time will not allow for full embarkation. Latest date that can be accepted for sailing T.C.14 is 10/10 but it should be anticipated as far as possible. ORDUNA should be included in appropriate H.X. convoy and should not carry numbers in excess of those authorised for unescorted sailings.
(D.O.D.(H) 2035A/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

ORION,
LOCHMONAR.

Gun and mounting for ORION are being loaded in S.S. BRAMHILL at Devonport, for Liverpool where will be transhipped to S.S. LOCHMONAR for onward conveyance to San Francisco. N.C.S.O. Liverpool is requested to arrange for ship to be given safest place in Convoy on leaving U.K.
(D.O.D.(H) 2349A/25 to C's. in C. Plymouth, W.A., etc.)

LIVERPOOL.

Your 0850R/18. It must be accepted that LIVERPOOL sails with a reduced complement (details). Request report whether this can be met from ratings from ORION. Should circumstances change, Admty. will initiate action.)
(V.C.N.S. 2353A/25 to B.A.R.M.)

Australia.P.W.S.S.
Torres
Strait.

Your 0139Z/23, please advise us responsible Officer and standard time of Port.
(D. of L.D., 1143A/25 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.25.9.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.H.G.73.
EMPIRE STREAM.

Convoy H.G. 73 in 046° 03' N. (24° 40' W) (70240) 40' W. was attacked at 0548 by one U-Boat. ?EMPIRE BELL (?EMPIRE STREAM) sunk, probably by Browning shot. 28 survivors in BEGONIA, 8 lost. U-Boat escaped without being located. In view of bad visibility and possibility of daylight attack all escorts were ordered to rejoin 0658. HIGHLANDER will have to leave convoy about dawn/27. Weather report. (HIGHLANDER 1000Z/25 to C. in C. W.A.) EMPIRE STREAM, 2922 tons, bound ^{from} for Huelva to Oban with potash. (D.S. 752, 26/9.)

Submarines Reported.2100 G.M.T/
24.

Bearing at 2100 G.M.T. indicates Italian U-Boat call sign 13 N. within 100 miles of 039° 45' N. 014° 45' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0333A/25 to Escorts O.G.74.)

1025.

Am over enemy submarine in 60.22 N., 12.18 W. periscope only was sighted. (A/C B. 1025/25 to 15 Group H.Q.) Have lost touch with enemy submarine last seen position (as 1025/25). (A/C B. 1035/25 to Aldergrove.) Aircraft reports periscope sighted at 1025A/25 in 60° 22' N - 12° 18' W. (C. in C. W.A. 1102A/25 to Escorts of S.C.44.)

2234Z/2.

My 0045A/25 not to R.A. S.A.D. (N.T. in W.D.) Further bearings from Jamaica 125/3 and Aden 250/2 indicate U-Boat in very approx. position 15° S. 35° W. at 2234Z/24. (D.D.I.C. 1048A/25 to C. in C.S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

2135/24

D/F Bearings at 2135/24 indicate German unit probably U-Boat within 150 miles 015° S. 035° W. 75% reliable. (C. in C. S.A., 1235N/25 to S.A. Stn.) See also 1321N/26.

1101 G.M.T.

A/C reports U/B 47° 30' N. 09° W. Course E. by S. at 1101/25 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1317A/25 to S/Ms on Patrol Area A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1506A/25.)

/1408 G.M.T.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - contd.

- 1408 G.M.T. At 1408 G.M.T. German submarine bearing 300/2 made sighting report. (F.O.C.N.A. 1537A/25 to Escorts of O.G.74.)
- 1304A/25. A/C report large S/M on surface in 045° 58' N. 006° 32' W. at 1304A/25 course 270° 15 knots. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. (passed by W/R.) (F.O.C.N.A. 1741A/25 to Admty. etc. 2008A/25 to THORN.)
- 1942 G.M.T. D/F bearings at 1942 G.M.T. indicate that convoy is still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 2132A/25 to HIGHLANDER, FOWEY, BEGONIA.)

Submarines Attacked.

- By A/C. At 0935/25. A/C A/48 attacked U/B on surface 60.08 N., 13.30 W., 293° Butt of Lewis 250'. Co.340°. Dived when attacked with 3 D/Cs. (D.S. 752 26/9) (No signal in W.D.)

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

MOLODKI class S/M 174 reports that she penetrated into Petsamo harbour today and torpedoed two merchant ships which were discharging alongside.

Casualties.

KITTIWAKE (Corvette) was damaged in collision with SAPPHIRE tonight.
S.S. REYNOLDS was damaged by striking a submerged object, probably a wreck; and anchored in the Humber Examination Anchorage.
An explosion of ammunition, causing casualties, occurred on board S.S. FRANCONIA at Liverpool this forenoon.

British Air Operations.

Fog caused air operations last night and today to be curtailed.

Fighter Command aircraft damaged two A.A. ships and destroyed two minesweepers off Dunkirk today; others sank a small patrol vessel off Cherbourg.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S.⁶⁰4 was bombed at 1935 today in 53° 55' N. 0° 20' E. S.S. BRITISH PRINCE was sunk this evening in approx. 53° 52' N. 0° 25' E.

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft tonight was reported in the Thames Estuary. Mines were detonated today.

Mines were detonated today in the Milford Haven and Humber areas.

Mediterranean.

Mines were laid tonight by 5 Naval aircraft in the entrance to Palermo harbour, a Wellington providing a successful diversion by bombing the aerodrome.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

Wellingtons bombed Tripoli and laid mines in the harbour last night. Today Blenheims blew up a 1000 ton ship 10 miles N.W. of Tripoli and probably damaged a 2000 to 3000 ton vessel.

6 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi harbour last night. No damage was observed.

Current reports indicate that a certain amount of material for the Axis (lorries, spare parts &c.) is being transhipped from Marseilles via Tunisian ports. Owing to the damage to Tripoli Germany is reported to be pressing for the use of Tunisian ports for the transit of troops and war material.

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

EMPIRE SPRINGBUCK, missing after the attacks on S.C.42 about 11/9, has now been posted overdue. If her loss is confirmed this brings the total number of victims in this convoy to 16 ships of 68,253 tons.

There are indications that 2 enemy U-Boats are operating in the entrance to the White Sea.

Convoy
H.G.73.

At 0316Z today HIGHLANDER reported that the convoy was being attacked again. ^{at 1233} Owing to fuel shortage HIGHLANDER had to leave the convoy this morning. She reports that air escorts are urgently required.

War Diary.26.9.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U.S. Co-operation.U.S.
Movements.

This is corrected Opanav 2323/24.
 "Combatdiv" three in NEW MEXICO plus QUINCY and 8 destroyers plus 10 vessels of convoy constituting "Taskforce" 15 leave Iceland 1600 G.C.T/26. Destroyers are TRUXTON, HUGHES, OVERTON, MACLEISH, ANDERSON, SIMS, BAINBRIDGE, SIMPSON. Unless otherwise directed or information received indicates advisability of diversion this force will follow Great Circle route from 50 miles West of Skagi to Cape Race. Probable speed 12.
 "Comcrudiv" 7 in WICHITA, MISSISSIPPI, WASP, VULCAN and four destroyers left Argentia 2300Z/23 will proceed Reykjavik via Great Circle course from twenty miles East of Cape Race using best speed in submarine waters. Route will be changed as directed or as situation demands keeping Opanav informed of important changes. Estimated speed 15 knots.
 (Opanav 0535/26, 2340Z/26, D.O.D.(H) 1456A/26, 2313A/26 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., R.A.3)

Russian Co-operation.Movements.

2 URASKI Class Destroyers escorting one transport sailing Murmansk for Archangel 1500C/26 S. of A. 10 knots.
 (2) 3 transports with escort expected entrance White Sea from northward 26/9 Admiralty pass to ELECTRA and LONDON. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1616C/26.)

Murmansk.

In view of probable necessity to use Port of Murmansk in place of Archangel during the winter months following details of Murmansk for merchant vessels.
 Bunkers and oil facilities.
 (iv) In 13 weeks of war 18 air raids on Murmansk but only three of any intensity. Little damage total casualties two wounded.
 (v) Berthing of escort could be arranged Vaenga or Polyarno. No air attack latter since July.
 (vi) Consider Murmansk under present circumstances suitable to deal with convoy of up to 12 ships.
 (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1903C/26.)

S/M
Operations.

Soviet Union K One returned to Polyarno from patrolling Vestfiord 25/9, did not patrol north of Bodo. All traffic kept very close in shore and no attacks carried out.
 (?Liner) probably BERLIN sighted Northbound 2/9 vicinity 067° N. 013° 30' E. Northbound convoy vicinity of 067° N. 013° 45' E. 11/9. No (?shipping) sighted in Bodo 10/9.
 (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 2122C/26.)

MOST SECRET

969

1350/26th Sept.

615A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

Date 26.9.41

From No. 30 Mil. Mission,
Moscow.

Recd. 1700

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office

MOST IMMEDIATE

46595.
MIL.981 cipher. 26/9.

Your M.I.6/10 and 11 25/9.

Personal for D.M.I. from Macfarlane.

Most Secret. Propose to defer communicating this information in full detail to Russians until you let me know the result of your enquiry from source. In the meantime I intend to tell the Russians that we have it definitely from a very good source that German efforts all along the line are to be intensified during next month and that objectives include Murmansk, Leningrad, Moscow and a further big advance in the South. If you see any objection please wire me most immediate.

1350/26

Advance copy to Duty Capt. D.O.D. D.D.I.C.
Received from War Office 0108/27

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

War Office Distribution:-
Copies to:-
M.I.6 (for action, S. of S., C.I.G.S.,
V.C.I.G.S., D.M.O. & P., D.D.M.O.(O),
M.O.1.5.12., D.M.I., D.D.M.I.(I).,
M.I.3.3c.14(3 copies) 6, M.I.(J.I.C.)(3
copies)., Col.Shoosmith, Cabinet Offices.
Col.Jacob, Cabinet Offices;
Foreign Office (Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck)
War Registry Admiralty, Air Ministry
(A.I.3.A(1) for S/ldr.Williams).
Brig.Firebrace (Room 019), N.I.D.16
Admiralty, Plans 1, Admiralty.,
Plans 1, Air Ministry, C.N.S. Admiralty.
C.A.S. Air Ministry, Lt.Col.Thompson
(M.O.1(J.P.)).

APP

War Diary.26.9.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Operations.Patrols.

"Stand" now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1016/26.)

ARGUS.

Your 1901A/25 Para.(111) 9 of the 14 pilots are trained in deck landing. (ARGUS 2211/26 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Operations.Yarmouth bombed.

Great Yarmouth bombed at 2005A/25. 2 U.X.Bs fell just outside Naval Area. No naval damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0853A/26.)

PALOMARES Unknown ship off Smalls, 25/9.

Distress message received 1956/25 from unknown station reporting being attacked off Smalls. At 2022 enemy seaplane was heavily engaged by PALOMARES escorting B.B.80 near Smalls. This aircraft was suddenly lost on R.D.F by PALOMARES and by KETECHL about 5 miles 190 from Smalls, at 2026, and may possibly have crashed. Nothing found by searching trawler or by convoy. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1215/26.)

Convoy F.S.⁶⁰ 4 BRITISH PRINCE sunk.

Enemy Bombing Convoy Evidence. My position 53° 55' N. 0° 20' E. (VIVIEN 1935/26) BRITISH PRINCE sunk by bombing in position 53° 52' N. 0° 25' E. No casualties. KITTIWAKE intends landing survivors in Hospital Ship. (WINDSOR 2003A/26, 2145A/26.)

Mining.N.L.12.

My 2226A/25. Intend to carry out operation N.L.12 tonight Friday. (V.A. Dover 1006A/26.)

Thames Estuary and Aldeburgh.

At 1945/25. Patrol vessel reported very loud explosion S.E. of Sunk Buoy, low flying aircraft in vicinity. Plot of hostile A/C from 1925 to 2012 read as follows. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1114A/26.)

S.N.16 A.

Intend to carry out operation S.N.16 A as follows provided fighter escort is available.

- (a) Surface minefield.
- (d) WELSHMAN and MANXMAN.
- (e) Fighter escort as arranged by C. in C. Rosyth from first light until 1200/28.
- (f) From 057° 12' 4" N. 000° 57' W. to 057° 06' 30" N. 001° 05' 30" W.

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

S.N.16 A.
contd.

(g) 1930/27.
(l) 0910/28.
(R.A.(M) 1147A/26.)

Milford Haven.

Confirmation of Mine Laying by G.A.F.
A. Nil.
B. Off St. Anns Head Milford Haven. One night of 22nd/23rd Sept.
(D.M.S 1200/26 to Air Min., H.Q.F.C.)

Humber area.

Following Mines were detonated 26/9. One magnetic off Sheringham buoy and one off Flamborough Head. Probably acoustic.
(F.O. Humber 1905A/26.)

Milford Haven.

One red mine detonated off St. Anns Head Light.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1955/26.)

Thames Estuary.

Two Mines have been laid by Parachute 1 mile East, North East Nore at 2035. Position is marked by green drum. (S.S. KENTWOOD 2235/26.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Demonstration cruise in Baltic.

(1) My 1151/24 this squadron consisting of TIRPITZ, SCHEER, two light cruisers, 4 large destroyers and 6 T.Bs was located in vicinity of Aaland Island evening of 24/9 when it is believed to have turned southwards.
(2) Well informed naval opinion here has disclosed unwittingly its belief that purpose of this demonstration by German navy is directed more at enhancing morale than as a strategic attempt to prevent flight of Russian fleet.
B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 1041/26, Adty. 1638A/26 to C. in C. H.F., S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1655A/26 to Miles.)
My 1041/26 TIRPITZ squadron less 3 or 4 torpedo craft passed southward of 0600 a.m./26. Apparently had carried out exercises.
(2) Light cruisers now identified as KÖLN and NÜRNBERG.
(3) During both northward and southward passages squadron passed to westward of Gotland.
(4) No air escort has been reported nor has there been any trace of GRAF ZEPPELIN.
A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 1517/26, D.D.I.C. 2231A/26 to Miles, D.D.I.C. 2232A/26 to C. in C. H.F., S.B.N.O. Murmansk, latter two graded B.2 and omitting (4)).

/Unknown

War Diary.26.9.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - contd.Unknown
merchant ship.

One M.V. length 200 feet reported by A/C in 046° 53' N. 003° 42' W. course 170 speed 10 knots at 1022. 3 Beauforts are being sent to attack. (F.O.(S) 1219A/26 to SEAWOLF.)

Unidentified
Trawler.

Patrol vessel reports:- Unidentified trawler seen one mile off Gregory Sound, Kilronnan, ends. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1455A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

TIRPITZ.

It is reported (Graded B.1) that TIRPITZ is armed with torpedoes. Number carried, size of torpedo and whether discharged above water or submerged not known.

2. BISMARCK was not fitted for torpedoes. (D.N.I. 1514A/26 A.Mge.)

Technical.Training of
S/M Officers.

A.L.M.N. 12251/41 of the 19th Sept. It is considered of the highest importance that a Warship with speed of 20 knots if available, and certainly not less than 15 knots, should be available as target vessel for the training of submarine Commanding Officers.

(2) The Submarine experience of these Officers is becoming progressively less and it is considered essential that they be given every opportunity of practice on realistic targets.

(F.O.S. 2056A/26 to Adty.)

Casualties and Defects.AVRA sunk.
MARVIA
damaged on
25/9.

S.S. AVRA in E.C.77 and MARVIA in collision in fog East of Duncansby Head 2128/25. MARVIA bow badly buckled entered Aberdeen. AVRA sunk. Total crew 34 picked up. H.M.T. QUENTIN ROOSEVELT escort to MARVIA has 8 survivors who report remainder picked up by MARVIA. QUENTIN ROOSEVELT entered Aberdeen. (Scapa W/T 0010/26, A.C.O.S. 1058A/26, QUENTIN ROOSEVELT 1420/26, C. in C. Rosyth 1506/26, F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1730/26, N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 2040/26.)

S.S.
FRANCONIA.

Explosion of 2" U.P. ammunition with No.720 Fuze has occurred on board FRANCONIA six casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1234A/26, 1711/26) See Lion Copy.

/NESTOR

618A

SECRET

MESSAGE.

1711/26th Sept. IN

Date. 26/9/41

From:- F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

Recd. 1737

P/L BY T/P

Addressed:- Admiralty. London.

IMPORTANT.

My 1234A/26. Following further report from O.C.A.S.

Liverpool begins:-

Regret to report that serious explosion occurred at 1130 today on board S.E. FRANCONIA as a result skilled labourer D. Coyne of this department was killed and skilled labourer J. Odey was injured. Two military passengers on board were also killed and two D.E.M.S. ratings injured. Accident occurred during examination of fuzes No. 720 in accordance with Admiralty Signal 1842A/23. D.A.S.'S O.A. signal 2144A/23. and detailed instructions received unofficially from C.I.N.O. Bath per. A.I.N.O. Liverpool, examination was necessary as ship was proceeding to sea on special service and was carried out with the concurrence of D.E.M.S. Staff Officer and A.I.N.O. Liverpool, so far as can be judged, explosion occurred due to simultaneous explosion of a total of 19 rounds during examination, but details cannot be given at present as survivors are under medical attention and cannot yet be questioned. Further report will be forwarded as soon as possible, in the meantime all FRANCONIA'S lockers have been flooded and ship instructed to dump ammunition at the first opportunity after 6 days have elapsed. Ends.

1711/26.

1st Lord.	O.D. (5)	Salvage.	T/P for	} B
1st S.L.	D. OF S.T.	Hydrog.	Dep. Contr. (3)	
Cont.	D. T. D. (4)	W.D.	D.A.S. (3)	} A
Vice Cont.	D. T. D. (M)	D. of P. (3)	D.E.O. (4)	
Civil Lord.	D. T. D. (C)	D. M. W. D.	C. I. N. O.	} H
V. C. N. S.	M. (2)	D. G. D. (2)	L.	
A. C. N. S. (H)	N. L.	D. A. S.		(BA 3091)
A. C. N. S. (T) (2)	D. N. I. (4)	D. N. O.		
A. C. N. S. (W)	O. I. C. (3)			
N. A. 1st S. L.	Cdr. Holbrook.			
Ops. (4)	Press Divn.			

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

NESTOR.

A.M.1824A/17 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 1714A/25.
NESTOR left Gibraltar 26/LX on passage to U.K.
to effect repairs to turbine feet at Devonport.
Request you will route her to Plymouth.
(D.O.D.(F) 1315/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

See also next page.

S O S.

Intercept at 1437 G.M.T. 500 kc/s Bearing 083°
unknown station sounding automatic S O S signal
strength 4. (Lyness W/T 1541/26.)

KITTIWAKE.

Have been in collision with SAPPHIRE. Have
received damage and am making water in number 1
(one) and 2 boiler rooms which are under control
by fire and bilge pumps. Proceeding Humber at
6 knots with crew BRITISH PRINCE, sunk by bombing.
Request pilot and instructions. (KITTIWAKE 2213A/
26)
Immingham departure SABINE at 2350 to assist
KITTIWAKE. Grimsby departure tug YORKSHIREMAN at
2345 to assist S.S. REYNOLDS. (F.O. Humber,
2356A/26.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.86.

Arrived safely under Cdre. Boddam-Whetham R.N.R.
14 ships (12 British, 2 Allied) Cargoes.
(D.S. 752, 26/9.)

R-adm

3104
836.

Ship 3104 ready Mersey 28th.
Ship 836 ready Glasgow 30th.
Are required at Swansea and Newport respectively
to load very special cargo. Loading operation
requires about 10 days, after which essential
must catch O.S.9. Request the necessary
arrangements may be made. (D.T.D. 1724A/26.)

P.W. 42

Reference N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 1033/26 Par.1
escort.
Convoy P.W.42 will contain 2 and possibly 3
important ships. Request A/A escort. No des-
troyers will be available from Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1817A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth)

PACIFIC
PIONEER.

Carrying important stores for H.M. ships refitting
in America is at present loading at Manchester and
will sail for various destination in the U.S.A.
on 2/10. She should be given "Safest Place" in
the appropriate O.N. convoy. (D.O.D.(H) 2009A/
26 to N.C.S.O. and F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

S.C.46

Your 1656Z/26 diversion concur. Forces concerned
informed. (Opnav 2200Z/26 to Adty.)

War Diary.26.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.NESTOR.My 1714A/25. Departure NESTOR.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0834A/26 to Admty C. in C. W.A.)
*See previous page*GORLESTON.Arrived Ponta Delgada 0630 G.M.T./26.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0846C/26 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar).French
Shipping.Passing 25/9. French Eastward ST. MAXIME,
GEVENNES, BAMAKO, PESCAGEL, CAPITAINE LE DIABET,
all full. (F.O.C.N.A., 0919/26 to Admty for
M.E.W.) Gibraltar passings on 24/9 and 25/9
(D.O.R., 26/9).AURICULA,
VIOLET.Expected Ponta Delgada about 4/10 and will require
approx. 170 tons Oil Fuel and 30 tons water
respectively. (C. in C. W.A., 1156A/26 to
N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).LINDA.Negotiations have been concluded for Danish
LINDA now at Las Palmas to sail for New York in
our interests. She should not be interfered
with.
F.O.C.N.A., is requested to signal route
instructions to British Consul, Las Palmas.
(D.T.D., 1212A/26 to Consul, Las Palmas, F.O.C.N.A.)MARIA
BELMATTI.
ISONZO.Las Palmas reports auxiliary schooner* MARIA
BELMATTI expected shortly to load aviation or gas
oil fuel ex ISONZO (It) which is at Villa
Cisneros, Rio De Oro. Destination believed to
be Cape Verde Islands. (F.O.C.N.A., 1243A/26 to
MARON).
** not identified.*Italian
U-boats.Passing through Mediterranean. (F.O.C.N.A.,
1532A/26) See U-boat Campaign.H.G. 74.
26 M/L
Flotilla.Your 1446/25. Owing to necessity for maximum
escort of H.G. Convoys it is necessary for
corvettes to return with H.G. 74, consequent
delay to 26th M.L. Flotilla being accepted.
2. Request you will arrange to sail 26th M.L.
Flotilla to Freetown with escort as opportunity
offers, reporting your intentions. Suggested
Flotilla might be sailed with Section (B) of
ships mentioned in A.M. 1433/10 or with the
destroyer retained in accordance with A.M. 1330/16.
(V.C.N.S., 1656A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.26.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.Force
"Halberd".

202 Squadron 1 Catalina escort force "Halberd" to East. Dawn to dusk, area covered 38.15 N., 01.30 E., to 38.15 N., 05.10 E. (200 Group, 1730/26).

Italian
Fleet
dispositions.

(1) Messina, one 8 inch 2 6 inch cruisers, 2 destroyers, one T.B.3 submarines (11) Palermo, increase of 2 destroyers since 22/9. (111) Marsala empty (1V) Naples, 2 CAVOUR one "H" class, 6 destroyers, 2 T.B.(V) At 1113, in 040° 44' N., 014° 10' E., 2 cruisers, course 210° 10 knots. (VI) Castellamare, one cruiser surrounded by nets (VII) Taranto, one Italian Battleship LITTORIO, 2 CAVOUR, one damaged CAVOUR in dock, one cruiser TRENTO class, 3 6 inch cruisers, 12 large 2 small destroyers, 12 submarines. (VIII) Podichino Aerodrome, 60 twin engine aircraft.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2204A/26 to S.O. Force H) See 1207A/27.

THORN.

Your 1410A/25 (re position and S. of A. after dark/26,) 043° 33' N., 010° 30' W., 180° 10 kts. (THORN, 2329A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.ALCANTARA.

C. in C. S.A. 1627/25. Cancel my 1303Z/25. Report intended date leaving K.33. (R.A.S.A.D., 0013Z/26 to ALCANTARA). If possible to do so without prejudicing compliance with C. in C. S.A. 1627N/25 Para (C) R/V with BIRMINGHAM in 032° S., 045° W., at 1100Z Sunday 28/9. (R.A.S.A.D., 0130Z/26 to ALCANTARA). Your 0130/26. ALCANTARA can R/V with BIRMINGHAM as required and movements of BULOLO will be adjusted accordingly. Date of arrival of ALCANTARA at Tristan da Cunha to be reported. (C. in C. S.A., 1055N/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)

U/Bs
Tarrafal Bay.

2315/25. Request I may be informed for what purpose it is suggested U-boats may be using Tarrafal Bay. (C. in C. S.A., 1051N/26 to Admty).

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

S.L.88
BURDOCK,
VERVAIN.

Admty. 2351/25 and F.O.C.N.A., 0028/26.
BURDOCK is to fuel Ponta Delgada 6/10 and accompany S.L.88 to U.K. VERVAIN is to be detached to fuel (?Gibraltar) and F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail her thence to U.K. (C. in C. S.A., 1217N/26 to ENCHANTRESS, VERVAIN, BURDOCK, ASTER, VANSITTART.)

Force F.

Arrivals St. Helena 26/9, 1200 EAGLE, DORSETSHIRE for fuelling. (General, St. Helena, 1220/26).

EAGLE.
Force F.

A fire occurred in aircraft in hangar 20/9. Suggest if facilities exist that ship should proceed to Capetown for replacement and/or repairs to aircraft to be effected at Wynberg. Opportunity for docking ship at Durban might be taken. S.O. Force "F" concurs. (EAGLE, 1330Z/26 to C. in C. S.A.)
EAGLE's 1330/26. Proceed with EAGLE to Capetown when fuelled subject to N.O.I.C. Simonstown reporting work can be taken in hand. N.O.I.C. Simonstown requested to report as early as possible and if ships can be taken at Capetown or Simonstown and whether dock likely to be available Durban. (C. in C. S.A., 1951N/26 to S.O. Force F). W.D. Note:- Orders to sail EAGLE were cancelled by C. in C. S.A., 0031N/27.

C.M.19
W.S.11.

Arrangements. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1518B/26 to D. of S.T.) See Lion Copy.

DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD.
SOBIESKI.

Sailed 25/9. Details on board.
(S.S.T.O. Freetown, 1815N/26 to D. of S.T.)

VANJA
SANDAR.

Admty 2048/16. Anticipate VANJA and SANDAR escorted by SENNEN and TOTLAND will sail from Freetown 28 or 29/9. Propose to route East of Canaries, do you concur? Will you give route from 21° N? (C. in C. S.A., 2011N/26 to F.O.C.N.A.).

MOST SECRET

622A

958

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1513D/26th September IN

From P.S.T.O. Simonstown.

Date 26.9.41.
Recd. 2014.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (13) BY W/T

Addressed D. of S.T. Repeated Troopers C. in C. East Indies
Middle East P.S.T.O. Egypt and India DeChief
Pretoria N.O.I/C. Durban.

IMMEDIATE

Director of Sea Transport 2302 September 24th paragraph six. C M (? 19) will consist of CITY OF CANTERBURY capacity 1527, LLANDAFF CASTLE 840, PULASKI 1160, EASTERN PRINCE 1262, NIEUW HOLLAND 908 total 5700. JOHANN DE WITT may be possibly added. Convoy will sail with W S 11 from Durban probably Tuesday October 7th at the earliest. C M 20 consists of MAURETANIA only as NIEUW AMSTERDAM requires docking and repairs. Capacity 4000. Sailing date Thursday October 9th subject to C. in C. East Indies arrangements for escort.

(2) Troopers Q M (? 33) C 92 0 72/September 25th. Assuming MOCLIAN has 3000 personnel on board continue voyage the following is analysis of personnel going forward in ships C M 19.

Prisoners escort 200, 10 (? A) A P C and 2 group headquarters 3640, ex W S 11 1840, total 5700. C M 20. (? MAURETANIA) will take following. Ex W S 10 plus details 1950 prisoners escort 700 leave and reinforcements union defence force 1100 South African Air Force 250 total 4000.

(3) M.E. 1/07033 September 24th not to all addressees. Confirm that ships mentioned by name will not be available in near future except (? NIEUW AMSTERDAM) and NOVA SCOTIA

which/.....

which it is hoped will be ready towards end of October. Date when other ships will be available for a future convoy cannot be forecast safely present. Consideration will therefore now require to be given to urgency of conveying further 14,000 from South Africa to Middle East including 1800 ex W S 11 but excluding any possible W S 12 transhipment. If further transhipments are contemplated permission for SCYTHIA and EXPRESS OF AUSTRALIA to continue voyage with W S 11 would seem advisable.

(4) DILWARA will be allocated to accompany W S 11 with personnel for Malaya. NIEUW ZEELAND has to embark further number of Lascar and Chinese survivors in South Africa and will continue with W S 11. It is very difficult to accommodate these men at Union port and they have awaited repatriation for a long time.

(5) C. in C. East Indies 1454 24th September 5 not to all addressees, LARGS MAY has personnel for Burma and KINA (? (two)) has M T for Trincomalee.

(6) Agreed with Impeon and Dechief concur.

1518E/26.

Advance copy sent D. of S.T.

1st Lord	D. of P. (2)	W.D.
1st S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	Duty Capt. (2)
2nd S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)	Head of M. (15) for Air
4th S.L.	D.O.D. (F)	D.D.I.C. Ministry
V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D. (F)	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.N.I. (4)	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.S.D.	D.T.D. (M)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.A/S.W.	D. of S.T. for action.
N.A. 1st S.L.	I.P. (2)	

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

OTTO
LEONHARDT.
(German).

Arrived at Savona 23/9 with 6,000 tons Spanish iron ore. (D.S.752, 26/9).

OSIRIS.

Your 0931B/24 and 1927B/24 received and understood. No flag signal shown 25/9. E.T.A. Alexandria Sanctuary 0600B/30. (OSIRIS, 0557B/26 to Capt.S.1).

Enemy Units.

4 Merchant ships with 3 escorts leave Athens 1500B/26 for Candia passing between Melos and Ananes. (Capt. S.1. 0931B/26 to TETRARCH, Greek S/M TRITON).

CANADA,
COLOMBIE.

Vichy hospital ship CANADA passes 037° 03' 016° 03' at 0400B/29 Messina at 1200B/29 through 038° 20' 010° 00' 2000B/30 thence Bizerta. Troop ship COLOMBIE followed 24 hours but proceeded from Messina to 041° 35' 010° 00'. If encountered ships are not to be molested. (Capt. S.10 1005B/26 to 10 S/M Flot).

Tunisian
Ports.

French Officer returned from Vichy told American Military Attache that "Owing to damage to Tripoli Germany is pressing for use of Tunisian ports for transit of troops and war material. Passage of troops being strongly resisted but concession may be made for materials". (Graded B.2) (Tangier, 1032/26 to Admty).
N.I.D. Comment.

Current reports from secret sources indicate that a certain amount of material for the Axis (lorries spare parts, etc) is already being transhipped from Marseilles via Tunisian ports. (Graded B.3.)

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 24/25. 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour obtaining 6 hits on barges or dredgers. Fire also started at base of central Mole. Day 25/9. 5 Marylands bombed enemy dump and camp near Gambut. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1218/26).

Syrian
Ports.

Most satisfactory arrangements for administration of ports just concluded. Port commission consisting of M. Vaselet Jaquet and my-self (i) to control appointment of all ports personnel (ii) organise port facilities, leaving movements and berthing of ships to be under Naval Authorities. Movements control also concerned and are co-operating. (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1233C/26 to C. in C. Med).

/U/B.....

War Diary.26.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.- Contd.U/B
attacked.

Attacking submarine echo, in contact, 33.29 N., 34.45 E. (SOUTHERN SEA, 1245/26 to N.O.I.C. Haifa).
SOUTHERN SEA, reports attacking submarine echo in 033° 29' N., 034° 45' E., at 1245. DELPHINIUM despatched, ERICA follows (?shortly). (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1653C/26 to C. in C. Med).

Turkey.

Chiefs of Staff No. 172. (1st S.L., 1433A/26 to C. in C. Med) See Lion Copy.

OSIRIS.

Your 0447B/26th. (?0557 intended). Proceed through 034° 43' 022° 57' and 034° 37' 025° 32' thence direct to Alexandria. (Capt. S.l., 1505B/26 to OSIRIS).

Malta
Raid.

Night 25/26.
2 'Alerts' 21.58 - 23.22 and 22.35 - 22.53 hours. Bomber (?bombs) dropped in sea. Two fighters up. No illuminations or interceptions.
P.M./25/9. 1 Blenheim evening sweep attacked 4 M/Vs unescorted, at 1805 hours 32 miles North of Cotrone. 3 hits observed 1 M/V 3,000 tons, fire and sparks after attack up to 60 ft. Blenheim remained 1 hour last saw ship almost sunk.

M/Vs.
attacked.

Night 25/26. 9 Wellingtons attacked M.T. Park and Barracks. Tripoli.
(H.Q. Malta, 1600/26) (Continued 1601).
Tripoli. 2 A/C mine-laying. Attack lasted 18.50 - 19.48 hrs, 28000 lbs bombs 4 mines dropped in harbour. Considerable material damage.
On return to base formation saw 1 M/V heavily laden 1000 tons and 3 M/Vs 2-3000 tons 10 miles N.W. Tripoli course 270° 5 kts. 2 hits M/V 1000 tons. Exploded and sank in flames. Near miss 1 M/V 2-3000 tons. Probably damaged. All ships machine-gunned. All aircraft returned. (H.Q. Malta, 1601/26).

Convoys,
Syria.

Your 1410B/16. (N.T. in W.R.) To make most economic use of limited number of escorts and still leave small force available for offensive anti-submarine operations propose Convoy principle be adopted if consequent delay in sailing of some Merchant ships can be accepted. Request guidance as to limit of delay. Sufficient warning of intended sailings must be given in order to co-ordinate escort programme. (N.O.I.C. Syria, 1731C/26 to C. in C. Med).

Turkey.

Addition to his 1824B/25. (N.A. Angora, 1746B/26 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

/Black Sea.....

MOST SECRET

624A

MOST SECRET

OUT

1433A/26th September.

TO: C. in C. Mediterranean. 655B4. Date: 26.9.41.

----- Naval Cypher X. -----

FROM: Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 172 for Commandors-in-Chief, Middle East.

1. As a result of conference with Minister of State the War Cabinet considered it important to make the best possible offer now to the Turks of military assistance with a view to ensuring that they will resist German pressure. Cabinet therefore wishes offer of assistance to be reviewed in the light of possible course of events in the Middle East during the next six months.

2. Army. Present offer is four divisions and one armoured brigade. Please report

(i) Whether this offer could be increased.

(ii) What additions if any could be made in the event of capture of Cyrenaica.

(iii) What further additions if any could be made if we clear enemy from Tripolitania entirely.

You will of course take into account proposed reinforcements and programme of re-organisation and re-equipment of your present forces.

3. R.A.F. On assumption 62½ squadron programme completed and you have received additional 10 fighter squadrons by 1st March, to what extent might it be possible to increase size of air forces mentioned in C.O.S. telegrams 163 of 27/8 and 167 of 3/9 as force for which preparation should be made in Turkey.

(a) If Cyrenaica.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

2.

- (a) If Cyrenaica in our hands.
- (b) If enemy driven from Tripolitania.

4. Request your views urgently.

1433A/26.

Asst. Sec. to 1st S.L.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- P.A.S.(S)
- D.C.D.(F)
- D.D.O.D.(F)
- D. of P.(2)
- Duty Capt.
- E.P.S.
- Hd. of M.(8)
- I.P.(2)
- N.I.D. 10. Pay. Cdr. Wilson.
- W.D.
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.N.A.D.

MLC.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

C
624A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1746B/26th September IN

From N.A. Angora.

Date 27.9.41.
Recd. 0346.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER SPECIAL BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean H.M.
Ambassador Angora Saving.

IMMEDIATE LIDAC

Following from Admiral Kelly.

Reference my 1824B/25.

Following is translation of a note in French left by me today Friday with Marshal Cakmak which after discussion he is prepared to accept. Begins : "Proposal submitted by Admiral Kelly to Admiralty. Of the four destroyers at present building in England for Turkey, one will be delivered by Admiralty in Port Iskanderun as soon as possible; the three others will remain at disposal of Admiralty, and will be delivered under same conditions, and in same port six months later.

Of the four submarines also under construction, one will be delivered by Admiralty in Port Iskanderun as soon as possible; the three others will remain at disposal of Admiralty for a period of six months after delivery of first one, and then will be delivered under same conditions and in same port, the second at expiration of these six months, and the two others as soon as possible afterwards, taking into consideration the difficulty of absorbing the crews of these vessels in Mediterranean Fleet."

In order to avoid any misunderstanding "at the disposal of Admiralty" was given in note as "à la disposition de

l'Amirauté"/.....

"l'Amirauté" and in brackets "Au service de l'Amirauté".

It is requested I may receive Admiralty's decision on this at earliest possible moment. If Admiralty found it possible to accept, the Marshal would then discuss proposal with President who, if he approved, would settle procedure.

If submarine suggestion cannot be arranged, I think it would be necessary to offer two destroyers at once.

17462/26.

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

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 3rd S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 P.A.S. (S)
 D. of P. (2)
 D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.A/S.W.
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 Duty Capt.
 Hd. of M. (8) for action
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 Admiral Herman Hodge
 N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson.

EML

War Diary.26.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Black Sea.

Situation. (1) Comparative inactivity except for Submarines and old units convoying probably due to recent sinking of gunboat and destroyer by dive bombing. Witnessed attack on enemy convoy off Constantza 21/9, submarine slightly damaged depth charge. Hope submarine patrols in this fruitful area will be increased.

Naval A/C mainly employed in assisting Army Odessa Tendra Perikop Edytopol areas and bombing enemy aerodromes. (L.O. Black Sea, 1801C/26 to Adnty).

PROTEUS,
TRIUMPH.

Request you will sail PROTEUS p.m./28 for area 037° 08' 020° 05' 340 80 70. PROTEUS will be recalled to arrive Alexandria a.m./9 leaving her patrol area p.m./4. TRIUMPH will be routed clear to westward. (Capt. S.1., 1845B/26 to Capt. S.10).

French
Ships.

Dep. 25th FRONSAC, Sete. Arr. 26th COETLOGON. (Barcelona, 1926/26 to D. of S.T.)

Turkey.

Amending his 1824B/25. (N.A. Angora, 1934B/26)
See Lion Copy.

U/Bs.

U-boats reported off African coast between 017° and 025°. (Capt. S.1., 2035B/26 to PERSEUS, THRASHER).

Enemy A/C,
Black Sea.

Large increase of enemy aircraft in this area (details) (L.O. Black Sea, 2153C/26 to Adnty).

Palermo
minelaying.

Swordfish laying magnetic mines entrance Palermo tonight. (Capt. S.10 2315B/26 to URGE).

Pantellaria.

Air R/C Pantellaria area has been arranged at 1000/27. (V.A. Malta, 2320B/26 to S.O. Force H).

SULLBERG,
ATLAS,
(German).

Arrival 25th from Sagunto with iron ore. Departure 24th ATLAS for Genoa via Sagunto to complete load pyrites. (Valencia, Untimed /26, to M. of W.T.)

War Diary.26.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.CARTHAGE.
ISLAMI.CARTHAGE escorting ISLAMI arrived here.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0400Z/26 to Admty. etc.)Merchant
Navy.

Re welfare. Recommend that immediate steps be taken to improve shore facilities on all stations. (S.N.O.R.S. from Adm. Dreyer, 1101Z/26 to Admty. for 1 S.L.)

EXETER.
CERES.

Sailed EXETER 1040Z/26. Arrived CERES. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1200Z/26).

AVON VALE.
ERIDGE.

Proceed to Port Sudan where you will come under orders of S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area. (S.N.O. R.S., 16004Z/26 to AVON VALE, ERIDGE).

REWAK
(intercepted)

Your 0714/21. Request report. (a) whether launch was in French naval service. (b) position of interception. Statement that launch is being retained in prize is not understood, but it should be detained pending further instructions. (Head of M. 2114A/26 to C. in C. E.I.) Reply 0602/29.

China.Liaison
Officer,
Free French.

Growing importance of Free French Movement in Far East necessitates appointment of Senior British Liaison Officer at Singapore. Suggest Col. V.R. Burkhardt, late Military Attache China. Sir A. Clerk Kerr agrees. (C. in C. China, 0541Z/26 to Admty.)

Port W.

My 0352/13. Arrangements before arrival of base ship. (C. in C. China, 0543Z/26 to Admty. etc.) See Lion Copy.

/SPRINGDALE.....

MOST SECRET

626A

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

Z
0543/26 September.
IN.

From C. in C. China.

Date 27.9.41.

Reed. 1450.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T & T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. East Indies, F.O.C.R.I.N.,
repeated C. in C. Far East.

345. My 0352 13. Reconnaissance party reports personnel should not arrive port W until ship is continually available on account of

(a) lack of water

(b) Malaria.

They recommend personnel must be on board by 1700 daily until malaria measures can be instituted and mosquito-proof buildings provided ashore.

2. Final report of reconnaissance party will contain recommendations that anti malaria measures should be the responsibility of Far East and not India. Strong reasons are given. My 0064 of 24th August not to F.O.C.R.I.N.

Intend undertaking anti malaria measures forthwith in anticipation of concurrence of India .

3. Recently erected accommodation for Indian garrison intended to guard W/T station and aircraft (?moorings) and stores should , after mosquito proofing, prove useful during erection of defences. Propose therefore that garrison should be retained in India as their presence will not be essential while M.N.B.D.C. personnel are present. F.O.C.R.I.N. pass to G.H.Q. India.

4. A.M. 1748 16th if GPGB(CLAN FORBES) can supply water suggest vessel proceed to Port W and remain there until base ship arrive or until malaria measures including malaria proofing are in hand and water situation has improved. Expected date of sending base ship is now early in December C. in C. Far East concurs with foregoing. Will C. in C. East Indies please remark on paragraph 4.

05432/26

P.T.O.

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)
 A.C.N.S. (W)
 W. 1st S.L.
 L. 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. (LD 02733/41)
 D.A/S.W.
 D.M.S.
 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. (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)
 D.G.D.
 D.T.S.D. (C.O.)
 D.T.M.
 D.B.D.
 Admiral Bellairs.

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

SPRINGDALE.
DAUNTLESS.

Singapore arrival 26/9 SPRINGDALE. Departure DAUNTLESS on escort duty. (S.O.I. Singapore 1001Z/26).

VOLGA.

My 1214/23. Agents state Russian S.S. VOLGA has arrived in Vladivostock. (Comdre, Hong Kong, 1132I/26 to Admty.)

LECONTE DE LISLE.
(French).

Departure Haiphong. (Shanghai, 2352Z/26 to -M. of W.T.).

America and West Indies.

S/M Report.

Your 2237A/24. Report was passed to B.A.D. but not to Opnav. In future such information, if sufficiently reliable will be passed direct to Opnav, and indication given in signal to Admiralty. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1012Q/26 to Admty.)

PRINCE HENRY.
CAPETOWN
CASTLE.

Leave Bermuda with CAPETOWN CASTLE on 27/9 and act as Ocean Escort to Halifax proceeding by most direct route at best possible speed consistent with arriving during daylight on 29/9. (? C.O.A.C. Halifax) is requested to sail PRINCE HENRY for Bermuda on 2/10. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1032Q/26 to PRINCE HENRY).

Tankers.
D/G.

In view of present arrangements by which convoys go only from Halifax and Sydney C.B. is delay to Tankers (which are routed from Aruba to Halifax) due their diversion to Curacao to pass over D/G range justified, or should these Tankers wait until Halifax for ranging? (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1101QR/26 to Admty.)

/Suspected.....

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Suspected
Raider.

B.3. German raider supply vessel reported in vicinity of Guyanecas Archipelago mouth of Messier Channel. Vessel stated approx. 2500 tons, may have (?belonged) to Danish East Asiatic Line, painted black with green blue and white stripes. Said to be equipped with motor launch A/C and captive balloon. Same source reports purchase of sheep from Aysen for despatch to Guayaneco for possible supply to this vessel. Endeavouring to obtain confirmation. (N. A., Santiago de Chile, 1150/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Convoys,
U/B
Area.

Following sent to Opanav. Ref. your 0535/26 to Admty. (N.T. in W.D). the submarine area bounded approx. by Cape Farewell 53° 30' N. 53° 30' W. and 56° 00' N. 29° 00' W. will be passed through by Task Force 15 and Cruiser Division 7 with the vessels in company. If a diversion to S.E. of this area is made by Opanav I request that on account of east and west-bound convoys in that sector I be promptly informed. 1411/26. (Spenavo, 1455/26 to Admty.)

DIOMEDE.

Departure Balboa noon 2+5/26 DIOMEDE. (N.C.S.O. Panama, 1621/26 to Admty.)

ISEO.

Intercepted letter from Sicily states Italian Ship ISEO travels to and fro between Greece and Brindisi every 10 or 15 days. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1629Q/26 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

LIVERPOOL.

Your 2355A/25. Position is satisfactory. Ship will carry about 78 seamen and marines short of numbers required to man all armament available. (B.A.R.M. 1756R/26 to Admty.)

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Intend sailing WORCESTERSHIRE with personnel stores and fresh water for Bermuda 0200/29 arriving 1800Q on 1/10 and subsequently carrying out gunnery practices. (R.A.3, 1803P/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DESPATCH.

Colon departure 2030 G.M.T. today. (N.C.S.O. Colon, 1903/26 to Admty.)

CHLEBRA
ashore.

S.C. 46. W/T report stated CULEBRA ashore at Point Amour. (N.C.S.O. Sydney 1954Z/26 to Admty.)

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

EMPIRE KUDU
ashore.

Following from Master (Beacham) EMPIRE KUDU (S.C.46) aground Point Amour ship (? abandoned by her crew) 5 p.m. E.S.T. 2nd Engineer lost. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 2346Z/26 to C.O.A.C. Halifax) (D.O.R. 28/9).

GLADIOLUS.
MIMOSA.

Corvettes escorting O.N. 16 and O.N. 17 with exception of GLADIOLUS and MIMOSA detach forthwith and proceed to St. Johns N.F. at best prudent speed. GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA comply with C. in C. W.A. 1115A/26.^{W.D.} (C.C.N.F. 2151Z/26).

S.C.46.

Amending route, action "Comtask" Unit 4.1.12. (Washington 2211/26 to Admty.)

Australia.

Rumours.

Your 1532A/23. (Dissemination of rumours to deceive enemy). To avoid possible misapprehension on this station as to veracity of rumours A.C.N.B. Melbourne would be glad if they also could be kept advised of rumours disseminated. (A.C.N.B. 0906Z/26 to Admty.)

New Zealand.

Suspicious
Ship.

My 1341A/24. (re - suspicious ship reported by DENBIGHSHIRE) Have you any further information? (D.O.D. (F) 1215A/26 to N.Z.N.B) Reply: 1155/27.

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EMPIRE
SPRINGBUCK.
(S.C.42).

British, 5591 tons, which left Sydney N.S. on 30/8 for Leith, where she was due on 14/9, and was missing from Convoy S.C.42 after the attacks by U/B's, has now been posted overdue. (D.S. 752, 26/9).

H.G.73.
AVOCETA.
CORTES.
LAPWING.
PETREL.
VARANGBORG.

Convoy is being attacked. HIGHLANDER will now have insufficient fuel to remain with convoy after 0800/26. Further report will be sent. (HIGHLANDER, 0316Z/26 to C. in C. W.A. etc.)
At 2233/25 in 047° 40' N. 024° 07' W. H.G. 73 again attacked windward by 2 U-boats. Ships missing at dawn AVOCETA, CORTES, LAPWING, PETREL, VARANGBORG, one of which probably float. Number of survivors unknown but Commodore and 20 from AVOCETA in PERIWINKLE. PERIWINKLE, JASMINE and CERVANTES looking for survivors. 2 attacks developed at 2 hour interval. In first attack ships hit were 51 and 52. In second attack 11, 12 and 13. LARKSPUR carried out promising attack. Owing to fuel shortage have had leave convoy and am proceeding Londonderry at 16 knots course 51°. Air escorts for convoy urgently required. Weather report. (HIGHLANDER 0930Z/26 to C. in C. W.A.) (D.S. 753, 27/9).

1 pm 0.201 (H.G.73)

Sailed WOLVERINE in accordance with my 2321/25 (WOLVERINE to meet H.G.73) code word "Junction". (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1215A/26 to Admty. etc.) Your 0930Z/26. Report last known position of torpedoed ship still afloat and whether considered salveable. (C. in C. W.A., 1717A/26 to HIGHLANDER). Your 1717A/26. Latest information received shows ship was last seen by LARKSPUR at about 0100/26 apparently undamaged. Position 047° 52' N -023° 40' W. (HIGHLANDER, 1950Z/26 to C. in C.W.A.) On arrival of HIGHLANDER request following may be investigated. (A) Position of escorts prior to latest U/B attack on H.G. 73. (B) Reason for HIGHLANDER's apparent low endurance on this occasion. (C. in C. W.A. 1953A/26 to Capt. D. Londonderry).

Submarines Reported.

2322C/25.

By D/F at 2322C/25 U-boat in 068° 45' N. 040° 32' E. Admty. pass to LONDON, ELECTRA. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0043C/26 to Admty.)

2342.

Bearings obtained at 2342Z/25 probably U/Boat. 37 Groups, 4-letter code, T.O.O. 0114/26. (D.D.I.C. 0145A/26 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

2336Z/25. D/F bearing at 2336Z/25 suggests U-boat within 150 miles of (9005°) S. 028° W. reliability 75%. (C. in C. S.A. 1305N/26 to S.A. Stn.)

1235N/25. My 1235N/25. Position very approximate and more likely to be within 150 miles 001° 30' S. 031° W. (C. in C. S.A. 1321N/26 to S.A. Stn.)

1226Z)
1312Z) D/F bearings intercepted between 1226Z/26 and 1312Z/26, indicate that at least three U/boats are in the vicinity of Convoy H.G. 73. (D.D.I.C. 1458A/26 to FOWEY, BEGONIA, HIGHLANDER).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1459A/26).

Italian
S/M's
passing
Gibraltar.

Italian submarine passed through Straits on night 24/9 from Atlantic into Mediterranean. D/F fix placed him off Spanish Coast possibly in vicinity Cape De Gata at 1215Z/25 when he (?made) sighting report. One other left Bordeaux 13/9 passed through Straits about 20/9 and proceeded straight to Aegean. One other passed through into Mediterranean about 12/9 or 13/9. 5 others passed through into Mediterranean about end of August. No evidence of any traffic from east to west. (F.O.C.N.A., 1532A/26 to C.O.I.S. Alexandria amended 1554A/27).

returned head
Sep 41. Briw, Emo, Dandolo
⑤ Otaria, Berla
Aug 41 Mocenigo, Veniero
③ Vellella,
Oct 41 Argo, Guglielmotti
②

White Sea.

There are indications that 2 enemy U-boats are operating in entrance to White Sea. Admiralty pass to LONDON, ELECTRA. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1615C/26 to Admty.)

By DIALA
23/9.

Your 0231Q/24 Master of DIALA reports at 0700 local time 23/9 in 010° 20' N. 054° 50' W. his Chief Officer sighted whole of conning tower about 2½ miles two points abaft starboard beam. Naval Gunnery Rating also saw this but S/M had disappeared before Master came on bridge. He broadcast twice, first time 0718 and 0900, latter being acknowledged by Georgetown. As far as he knows, no other ship sighted this submarine. (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1635Q/R/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/1732C.....

War Diary.

26.9.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1732C/. At 1732C/26 U-boat in 068° 55' 038° 47' by D/F Admiralty pass to LONDON, ELECTRA. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1901C/26 to Admty.)

2035B. Off Africa Coast. (See Mediterranean).

Submarines Attacked.

By SOUTHERN
SEA. At 1245/26, 33.29 N., 34.45 E. (See Mediterranean 1245/26, 1653C/26).

By LARKSPUR. Night 25-26/9, about 47.40 N., 24.07 W.
(See HIGHLANDER, 0930/26, Ships attacked.)

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

East Coast convoys were delayed by fog today.

LONDON, with members of the British Mission on board, arrived at Archangel at 1605A today.

M.T.B.31 while operating off the Dutch coast at 2200A last night sighted a Convoy of 18 vessels off Haarlem steering S.W. at 6 knots and escorted by one small Destroyer.

S.B.N.O. Murmansk has been requested to visit Archangel at his earliest convenience and to report upon the facilities available there for berthing and repairing Merchant Ships.

H.D.M.L. 1022 was slightly damaged and her C.O. was wounded when SLEIPNER opened fire on her tonight owing to a misunderstanding.

British Air Activity.

Offensive operations were greatly curtailed by fog last night, but six A/C bombed the town and docks at Emden, when Genoa, Calais, Dunkirk and Ostend were also attacked. The weather caused operational flying to be severely curtailed today.

Enemy Air Activity.

An enemy A/C attacked Westmanhavn and Sorvaag in the Faroe Islands at 1330A and 1340A today, causing slight damage to civil property at Sorvaag and sinking the Faroes fishing vessel FRAM.

/MENDIP

War Diary.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity - contd.

MENDIP reports that four separate low level beam attacks on F.S. 5 were frustrated at about 2140 near 62 G Buoy by blind barrage. Flashless cordite was invaluable while it lasted.

Convoy P.W.41 was attacked by A/C three times between 1352 and 1450 today off Lands End, without result. The attacking A/C was hit and driven off by ATHERSTONE and when last seen was losing height, with engine on fire.

Mining.

Operation
P.W.20

M.Ls 100 and 106, with M.G.Bs 64, 58, 63 and 65 left Harwich at 2002A to lay mines off the French coast tonight.

S.N.16 A.

WELSHMAN and MANXMAN left Port Z.A. unescorted at 1945 to carry out the minelaying operation S.N.16 A off Aberdeen tomorrow.

Two Beauforts laid mines off Brest last night.

Thames Estuary.

There was considerable minelaying activity by A/C in the Thames Estuary last night from 2020 to 2210, when 10 or more Mines were seen to fall and 12 explosions probably due to Mines were heard. The Nore Light Vessel's light was burning during this time and 2 ships in a convoy were also showing lights. One or more A/C flashing the correct recognition letter were seen circling at a low height.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft is also suspected last night off the South West coast.

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

EAGLE is to return to U.K.

Mediterranean.Operation
"Halberd".(W.S. 11 x 16
Malta.)

At 1300 today S.O. Force H. in NELSON, with PRINCE OF WALES, RODNEY, ARK ROYAL, EURYALUS, KENYA, HERMIONE, EDINBURGH, SHEFFIELD and 18 destroyers escorting a convoy of 9 merchant ships carrying personnel and stores to Malta was about 75 miles South of Sardinia. Between 1300 and 1415 27 enemy torpedo bombers escorted by fighters attacked our force in 3 waves. At 1330 NELSON was hit and her speed was soon reduced to 14 or 15 knots.

At least 6 torpedo aircraft and one fighter were shot down by gunfire and 4 torpedo aircraft and one fighter by Fulmars, in addition to others damaged.

Further enemy air formations which approached the fleet during the afternoon were driven off by our fighters.

At 1404 R.A.F. reported 2 enemy battleships and 8 destroyers steering a southerly course 75 miles to the E.N.E ward of the convoy. By 1425 the total enemy forces sighted were 2 battleships, 4 cruisers and 16 destroyers. PRINCE OF WALES, RODNEY, EDINBURGH, SHEFFIELD and 6 destroyers were detached under V.A.2 to close the enemy, and ARK ROYAL flew off two shadows. The enemy, however, soon turned to the northward and ran for Naples. 12 Swordfish left at 1535 to attack. At 1700, as V.A.2 could not reach the enemy before dark he was recalled. The striking force was recalled an hour later and landed in the darkness having failed to find the enemy. TRUSTY and UPHOLDER were sent to the Southern Approach to Naples, to intercept the enemy.

/The

War Diary.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Halberd"
contd.

The force reached the entrance to Skerki Channel at 1855, and the battleships, ARK ROYAL and 9 destroyers withdrew to the westward.

At 2110 it was reported that S.S. IMPERIAL STAR was torpedoed in 37° 31 N. 10° 46' E. The damage caused the ship to be immobilised and she was scuttled.

The 1st B.S., 7th C.S. and destroyers which left Alexandria yesterday morning returned to Alexandria this morning after carrying out a diversion for the Operation. Apparently they were not sighted.

TRIUMPH.

TRIUMPH reports that whilst on patrol in the Adriatic she carried out a special operation, and left one tanker damaged in harbour C. on 18/9 and another damaged and on fire off Ortona on 24/9. On 23/9 she sank a ship off Sibenik.

Air
Operations.

5 Naval aircraft from Malta laid mines last night in the approach to Palermo; a Wellington bombed the aerodrome as a diversion. 2 Beaufighters attacked Marsula seaplane base at 0630 today, and damaged several seaplanes. Borizzo aerodrome was also attacked, and several aircraft were seriously damaged. Elmas seaplane base was also attacked and a large number of seaplanes are reported to have been damaged. S.O. Force H reports that these attacks undoubtedly secured the subsequent immunity of the "Halberd" convoy on 28/9 and return of escort on 6 Wellingtons attacked shipping and harbour installations at Benghazi last night. (29/9)

Libya and
Western
Desert.

A ship which succeeded in reaching Bardia was attacked today by 9 Marylands escorted by Tomahawks.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Force W. has now dispersed.

America and West Indies.

Atlantic
Convoy
escorts.

5 R.N. destroyers and 7 corvettes are to remain with the N.E.F. leaving the latter with 13 destroyers and 45 corvettes for the escort of S.C. Convoys. The remaining R.N. escort ships are to be withdrawn to the U.K.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy H.G.73
? 11 ships
in all
torpedoed.

FOWEY reported at 0327A today that auxiliary A.A. and fighter catapult ship SPRINGBANK was disabled by torpedo attack; the ship sank at 1915A. (Sunk by U. 201. - Dr. Reubellham)
It is estimated that 4 other ships were torpedoed amongst them apparently S.S. CERVANTES and Norwegian SIREMALM.

I.C. WHITE.
sunk.

It is reported that Panamanian (U.S.A.) Tanker I.C. WHITE bound from Curacao to Capetown was torpedoed today 450 miles East of Pernambuco. U.S.S. WEST NILUS picked up a boat with 17 or 18 survivors on 3/10; all but 4 members of the crew, are reported to be U.S. nationals, *are safe.*

War Diary

27.9.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Parachute
Troops.

In connection with forthcoming Army Manoeuvres Parachute Troops descending in daylight between 29/9 and 3/10 inclusive within the following counties are not to be fired on unless they are proved to be hostile. Norfolk, Suffolk, Hunts., Beds., Herts., Oxon., Northants, Warwick and Cambridge, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Sussex, Hampshire. (D. of L.D. 1106/A/27 and 1641A/27 to C's in C., F.O.I.C., N.O.I.C's.)

CONQUEROR.

Request you sail CONQUEROR for the Nore as soon as practicable.
2. C. in C. Nore is requested to operate her in such a manner that every opportunity is given to her to use her special armament against enemy aircraft.
(V.C.N.S. 1115A/27 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Your 1115/27. It is not practicable to release CONQUEROR until MONA'S ISLE is completed in approximately 10 days time.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1747/27 to Admty.)

Your 1115A/27. In view of F.O.I.C Tyne's 1747/27 it is possible to delay CONQUEROR sailing from Tyne until MONA'S ISLE has completed refit.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2355/27 to Admty.)

EREBUS

To be prepared for service in the Mediterranean forthwith.
The question of changing guns is being examined.
(1st S.L. 1658A/27)

Co-operation with Russia

Proposed
removal of
restriction.

Suggest the restriction laid down in Paragraph 3 F of Admty. 1859A/30/8 could now be permanently abolished. Reasons.
(Ad. Miles 0959C/27 to Admty.)

/Information....

War Diary27.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSCo-operation with Russia-Contd.Information
as to Russian
S/M Patrols.

Request you will signal now any Soviet submarines patrol which is established or intended to the Westward of 15° E.

2. Since it is probable that our forces will be operating in these areas, often at short notice, it is important that Admiralty should be kept informed as early as possible of any such Soviet submarine activity.

(A.C.N.S. H. 1157A/27 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk)

British
Mission.
LONDON.

Archangel. LONDON arrived. (LONDON, 1605A/27)

Communication
with Archangel

Your 1138C/23. One P.O. Tel. and 2 Tels. now en route, for Archangel W/T watch intended on arrival as follows all times G.M.T.

2. Above arrangements provide for ship shore communication at certain times which are increased when arrangements under (b) are in force.

3. Communication at routine periods to U.K. is also arranged.

(D.S.D. 1613/A/27 to Ad. Miles)

Appointment
of B.N.L.O. at
Vladivostock.

Your 1014C/24. Reply. Proposals. (D.N.I. 1813A/27 to Ad. Miles) See Lion Copy.

Archangel
Facilities
for M/V's

Your 1903C/26. Request you will visit Archangel and forward a similar report at your very earliest convenience.

(V.C.N.S. 2231A/27 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk)

MovementsTAKU

My 1034A/26. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange onward passage from Methil.

(Capt. S. 7. 0951A/27) *See also next page*BURZA
BEN-MY-CHREE

BURZA arrived.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1115A/27)

/Proceed.....

War Diary27.9.1941.
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSMovementsBURZA
BEN-MY-CHREE
-Contd.

Proceed in accordance with route supplied by N.C.S.O. to escort BEN-MY-CHREE to Thorshavn subsequently returning to Belfast in compliance with C. in C. W.A. 1150A/25. Codeword "Familiar" (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1244A/27 to BURZA)
Intend sailing BEN-MY-CHREE escorted by BURZA for Thorshavn at 1500 today. E.T.A. 1800/28. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1308A/27)
Sailed BEN-MY-CHREE escorted by BURZA in accordance with my 1308A/27. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1542A/27)

EXPRESS

Your 1452A/26. Request you will sail EXPRESS for Scapa on completion of refit and satisfactory D.G. ranging. (D.O.D. H. 1203A/27 to F.O. Humber)

ETHIOPIAN

Intend sailing ETHIOPIAN escorted by WALLFLOWER, NIGELLA in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1932A (A) /18 and 1535A/25 at 0500/28. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1256A/27)

S/M H. 32.
TAKU.

My 1034A/26. Intended to sail H.32 to Oban in company with Dutch T.B. Z.5. and TAKU. Arrangements. (Capt. (S) 7, 1614A/27.)

*See previous page*SAINT CROIX
EYE BRIGHT
PRESCOTT
AGASSIZ

Intend sailing H.M.C.S. SAINT CROIX, EYE BRIGHT, PRESCOTT and AGASSIZ about 1600Z/28 for St. Johns, Newfoundland, escorting Westbound Merchant Vessels. (A.C.I.C. 1642/27)

BADSWORTH

When convoy enters Minches BADSWORTH is to proceed to Londonderry independently. (C. in C. W.A. 2319A/27.)

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Iceland-
Faeroes
Patrol.

Leave patrol at 1600/28 and return Hvalfjord.
(C. in C. H.F., 0915Z/27 to PENELOPE)

Man picked up
by BROCKLESBY

BROCKLESBY reports:- Have picked up one man in
small boat in 050° 28' N. 002° 34' W. He states
he sailed from Jersey. T.O.O. 1900/26 ends.
(2) BROCKLESBY E.T.A. Dartmouth, 1230/27.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1058/27)

East Coast
Patrols.

Patrol tonight. (1) 2 M.G.B's vicinity South
Leman Buoy. (2) One M.G.B. operation Q.E. with
auxiliary patrol F.Y. (3) 2 M.L's and H.M.G.B's
proceed eastward to Harwich returning daylight.
(C. in C. Nore, 1616A/27)

Dover Patrols

Three M.L's leave Dover at 2200 returning at 0145/
28, route via No. One Buoy each way.
Two M.T.B's leave Dover at 1930 to patrol between
South and East Varne Buoys returning at 2300.
(V.A.Dover, 1726A/27)

British Air Activity

Bombing
Operations.

On day 24/9 and night 24/25 Sept., days 25/9 and
26/9 and night 25/26, no operations took place
owing to unsuitable weather.
On night 26/27 six A/C bombed the town and docks
at Emden, and Genoa, Calais, Dunkirk and
Ostend were also attacked. (H.Q.B.C. 1249/27)

ARK ROYAL A/C

Return to base.
(ARK ROYAL 1750/27 to her A/C)

*(Should be under her):
See 64635-9
(650-652)*

Enemy Air Activity

SCHELDT
(British,
497 tons)
Bombed 25/9.

SCHELDT attacked off Smalls at 1945A/25 now in
Barry Dock after being beached in Whitmore Bay.
No casualties. Ship damaged by near miss.
Attacking plane considered damaged by A/A fire.
(N.O.I.C. Barry 1050A/27)

Convoy P.W. 41.

Help "Watch" 130° LND8
(ATHERSTONE 1352/27
My 1349. One Ju. 88. dropped 2 delayed action
bombs. No ship hit.
(ATHERSTONE 1400/27)
Help "Watch" 160 LND5
(ATHERSTONE 1429/27)
Help "Watch" 180 LND3
(ATHERSTONE 1441/27)

/My 1429.....

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
P.W.41
contd.

My 1429. One J.U.88 attacked Tanker with two bombs. No damage. A/C hit by ATHERSTONE's short range armament disappeared losing height, port engine on fire. (ATHERSTONE 1438/27.)
3rd attack on Destroyer. 2 bombs no damage. (ATHERSTONE 1450/27.)

Faroes
bombed.
FRAM sunk.

1 enemy aircraft, believed Dornier 215, attacked Westmanhavn at 1330A/27. 2 bombs dropped. Faroes Fishing Vessel FRAM sunk by near miss. No other damage. No casualties. Same enemy aircraft attacked Sorvaag 1340/27. 2 bombs dropped. No casualties. Slight damage to civilian property. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1440A/27.)

BRITISH
PRINCE.
(Sunk 26/9.)

Total crew 38 including 6 gunners no casualties of BRITISH PRINCE landed Grimsby from KITTIWAKE at 1610. Vessel attacked by one plane and hit 1930/26 and sank at 2020/26 in 53° 52' N. 00° 25' E. (F.O. Humber 1849A/27.)

Mining.N.L.23.

Intend to carry out operation N.L.23 tonight from 51° 02' 18" N. 01° 53' 54" E. (V.A. Dover 1029A/27.)

Explosion.

Stokes Point reports explosion to South East at 1145 and 1150. Have you anything to report. (C. in C. Plymouth 1154/27 to BROCKLESBY, TREVO, TERCEIRO.)

Work of
M.M.S.1.

M.M.S.1. has now detonated 50 mines. Of these 40 were Acoustic and 10 Magnetic. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1235/27.)

P.W.20.

Your 1051A/27. Approved to carry out Operation P.W.20 tonight Saturday with two M.Ls. One Unit of M.G.Bs is to act as covering force, maintaining a patrol in vicinity of Thornton Ridge Buoy and returning to Galloper at daylight. Full recognition procedure must be carried out by both Units on return from Patrol and laying positions. (C. in C. Nore 1242A/27 to BEEHIVE.)
Departure M.G.Bs 64, 58, 63 and 65. M.Ls 106 and 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2002A/27.)

Thames
Estuary.

Two Magnetic Mines and 2 S.A. Mines detonated by Sweepers as follows, at 2103 and 2148/26 and at 0150 and 0205/27. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1527/27.)

War Diary.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames
Estuary
contd.

Enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary was marked between 2020 and 2210 on night 26/27. Ten or more Mines were seen to fall in following positions. Twelve explosions probably due to mines were observed in the following positions. Planes were not easily seen and appeared to be flying fairly low. One plane thought to have been hit. Nore Light Vessels light was burning and two ships in late F.S. convoy were showing lights when mines were dropped at 2035. One or more planes flashing correct recognition letter were circling at a low height near boom at about 2100 and 2200. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1543/27.)

Flamborough
Head.

My 1905/26. Reference mines exploded 170° Flamborough Head 6 miles. Fishing vessels were wooden motor boats. (F.O. Humber 1614A/27.)

S.N.16 A.

Departure WELSHMAN and MANXMAN. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1945/27.)

Enemy Intelligence.

One M/V.

One Merchant vessel position (indecipherable), course 150°, speed 14 knots. (Nore W/T 0957/27.)

TIRPITZ.

(1) TIRPITZ carried out gunnery exercises afternoon 20th, firing with her main armament at battle practice target in area northeast of Rugen. (2) On this occasion she was observed to be painted a light tint of blue grey. Graded A.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1004/27.) Your 1514A/26. It appears possible torpedoes may be for their aircraft. (C. in C. H.F. 1026Z/27 to Adty.)

Convoy off
Haarlem on
26/9.

M.T.B.31., on operation (A) ordered by your 1708A/19/9 reports following:-
"My 1456A/26. At 2200A/26 in 52° 18' N. 4° 12' E. sighted Convoy 18 Vessels, Course S.W., 6 knots. Leading ships had stern lights visible one mile. One small Destroyer passed ahead distance 400 yards. Patrol was then carried out. 1121A/29". Convoy was not attacked as M.T.B.31 was closing shore to carry out Operation which subsequently proved unsuccessful. (C. in C. Nore 1450A/27.)

Suspected E-Boat activity. E-Boats bear 040° from G. by D/F. (Nore W/T 2300A/27.)

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.REYNOLDS.

Now anchored in examination anchorage with tug YORKSHIREMAN in attendance. Reported to be in no immediate danger. (F.O. Humber 0124A/27.) REYNOLDS at Immingham, damaged by striking submerged object probably wreck of NAUTILUS three miles N.E. Humber L.V. 2236/26. No casualties. (F.O. Humber 1851A/27.)

NESTOR.

Admiralty 1315A/26. Route from position C. as follows.

C. in C. Plymouth is requested to issue onward route from E. to Plymouth. E.T.A. position E. is 2100A/29. Speed of advance $15\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (C. in C. W.A. 1035A/27 to NESTOR.)

Admiralty 1315/26. Circumstances permitting request you will route NESTOR through $049^{\circ} 30' N.$ $011^{\circ} 00' W.$ so as to arrive 180° Bishops Rock 10 miles at dawn, whence Fighter protection will be provided. (C. in C. Plymouth 1146/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 1035A/27 and C. in C. Plymouth 1146/27. Amend position (E) to read $049^{\circ} 30' N.$ $11^{\circ} W.$ (C. in C. W.A. 1630A/27 to NESTOR.)

NORSE LADY.

My 1644/27. NORSE LADY returned to Reykjavik after grounding. (N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 1113Z/27.)

M.G.B.18.M.G.B.19.

M.G.Bs 18 and 19 sustained damage through grounding while exercising early today. M.G.B. 19 now slipped at Portland. M.G.B.18 in harbour at Portland and may be slipped tomorrow. (ATTACK 1440A/27.)

WELWYN.

(Recovery wooden steam drifter) Split her stem when in collision with Anstruther Middle Pier at 0700/26. Vessel has been beached at Anstruther for inspection. (N.C.S.O Methil 1444/27.)

TEDDINGTON(Damaged15/9.)

17/9

Weather permitting it is proposed to resume salvage operations on TEDDINGTON on 29/9. NESSUS, RICHARD LEE BARBER and Coaster BORNRIFF will be leaving Yarmouth approximately 1430 tomorrow for casualty. Probable duration of operation 3 to 4 days. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1515A/27.)

/VANCOUVER

645

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.VANCOUVER.
(Mined 21/9)

VANCOUVER survey at 1400. Today fore part still burning. Ship as seen is not salvable. Fore part apparently still afloat and when fire has died out and gas disposed, salvage officer will be able to make complete survey and report on possibility of towing fore part nearer to shore. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1600/27.)

KITTIWAKE
(Collision
26/9.)

KITTIWAKE's 2213A/26. Arrangements can be made for KITTIWAKE to be taken in hand at Humber Graving Dock for docking and examination. (D.O.D.H. 1630A/27.)

NIGARISTAN.

In H.X.150, caught fire and abandoned in 057° 55' N. 027° 32' W. on 24/9. Crew all rescued by U.S. Destroyer EBERLE and landed in Iceland. Ship still afloat and burning. May be a danger to navigation. (A.C.I.C. 1830/27) (C. in C. W.A. 2247A/27.)

JESSIE
MAERSK.

Detach NORWICH CITY and ST. LOMAN to assist JESSIE MAERSK reported by A/C in 59° N. 20° W. at 1630Z/27, course North, speed 4 knots, requiring help. Engine trouble. (C. in C. W.A. 2142A/27 to BEAGLE.) Your 2142/27th received and understood. Our P.C.S. at 2315, 059° 24' N. 022° 50' W., 067°, 10 knots. Request aircraft co-operate at daylight. (ST. LOMAN 2317A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.S. TORY
ISLAND.

N.C.S.O. Leith 0912/27. S.S. TORY ISLAND is ashore 2 miles S.W. of Johnshaven. Crew of ten safe on shore. Salvage officer Aberdeen proceeding in IRON AXE to investigate. Present visibility nil. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2310/27.)

Shipping and Convoys.Convoy
Q.P.1.

Convoy Q.P.1 sails from Archangel 28/9. (D.O.D(H) 1200A/27 to R.A.D.)

Convoy P.Q.2.

BRAMBLE, SPEEDY, SEAGULL and NIGER will be required to arrive at Scapa on 5/10 prior to proceeding with P.Q.2 from Hvalfiord to Archangel about 10/10.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to issue instructions accordingly. (A.C.N.S(H) 1246A/27.)

MOST SECRET

645A

MOST SECRET.

0116A/27th. September.

MESSAGE

OUT.

Date. 27.9.41.

To. C.N.S. Canada. 85.
Repeated. C. in C. Western Approaches. 868.

Naval Cypher D. One time table.

From Admiralty -(Personal from First Sea Lord).

1. Your 1407A/22. I regret it is not practicable to adopt the suggestion in your paragraph 1, as this runs contrary to the arrangements with U.S. Authorities in Plan 4. The S.C. Convoys are an integral part of this plan.
2. I agree that the Admiralty shall arrange for the escorts for the T.C. Convoys; this is in accordance with the conversations leading up to Plan 4.
3. Your offer to make 38 Corvettes available for the S.C. Convoys, and also to release 3 short-legged Destroyers for service with Western Approaches, is much appreciated. Arrangements will be made for 5 R.N. Destroyers to remain with N.E.F. and also 7 R.N. Corvettes to bring you up to your original requirements of 45 Corvettes. It is hoped that as and when your forces are strengthened by additions from new construction, you will be able to release an equivalent number of these vessels for return to U.K.
4. On the above basis 13 Destroyers and 45 Corvettes will be available for the S.C. Convoys. This should allow for a normal escort strength of at least eight.
5. C. in C. Western Approaches, is requested to signal to C.C.N.F. and C.N.S., Ottawa the names of the five Destroyers and seven Corvettes to remain with N.E.F. The remaining R.N. escort ships are to be withdrawn to U.K. as arranged between C. in C., Western Approaches and C.C.N.F.

0116A/27.

Secretary to First Sea Lord

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)
A.C.N.S. (W)
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.U.
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)
J.G.D.
N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)
D.T.D. (M)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

E.C. 79.

Full cargo Government stores sailing in E.C.79
for Middle East via Capetown. (N.C.S.O. Humber
1400/27.)

647

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.O.G.74.

8 ships O.G.74 E.T.A. Europa Point 2200A/27.
(~~EMPIRE~~ AUDACITY, 0145A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Intend to leave convoy in time to arrive Europa Point at 1700A/27, MARIGOLD in company. Intend to disembark four aircraft to race course at 1700A. Have for examination following survivors: 20 officers and 66 ratings including 10 naval ratings, five army gunners, seven non-cot cases requiring admission to hospital and nine cases requiring out-patient treatment. Request arrangements for their disposal.
(~~EMPIRE~~ AUDACITY, 0150A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TRUANT.

Your 1410A/25. 1 engine defective. Delay of 12 hours.
(TRUANT, 0516A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)
TRUANT 0516A and THORN 2329A/26 received. My 1410A/25 para. 2, previous report of R/V is now 1200A/29.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0910A/27 to THORN, TRUANT.)

Sicily Aircraft.

Air Intelligence reports some M.E.110 believed operating from Sicily.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1044A/27 to Force H.)

Force H. Operation "Halberd".

At 1000 G.M.T. Italian R/C planes reported sighting 5 types of unit.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1216A/27 to S.O. Force H.)
W.D. Note: Other "Halberd" signals precised in Mediterranean.

Italian Fleet Dispositions.

Your 2204A/26. Inference from T.O.O. is that this movement and R/C took place on 26th whereas it is a summary of Malta R/C of 25th.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1207A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy R/C of Gibraltar.

Heinkel III with German markings 722, R/C of Gibraltar at 26,000 feet a.m. today.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1236A/27 to Admty., Force H.)

French Shipping.

Gibraltar 1130 French armed trawler L'AJACCIENNE French Ships CAPITAINNE ST.MARTIN, laden, deck cargo of cork, FOUDROYANT, MONTAIGNE, both laden Eastbound.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1830A/27 to Admty., etc.)

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.EAGLE,
DORSETSHIRE.
(Force F.)

Your 1951/26. EAGLE will probably be required to proceed to U.K.
(D.O.D.(F) 0054A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)
My 1951/26, do not sail EAGLE until further orders.
(C. in C. S.A., 0031N/27 to S.O. Force F.)
W.D. Note:- EAGLE arrived St. Helena for fuel 1200/26.

833. Your 1951N/26. 7 Serviceable Swordfish available Wynberg for exchange forthwith. Of remaining 7 damaged Swordfish repairs to three can be undertaken at Wynberg immediately, estimated time 12 days, and on other four when spares are obtained. Enquiries are being made from South African Air Force. These transfers should take place Capetown preferably after departure of convoy W.S.11 about 4-5/10. Supply of new Walrus aircraft to DORSETSHIRE should take place at Simonstown. Request information from EAGLE whether damaged Swordfish are capable of flying off or must be transported by road. Enquiries are being made whether dock at Durban will be available after completion of repairs to REVENGE approx. 12/10.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1043Z/27 to C. in C. S.A.)
EAGLE's 1330/16. EAGLE should be sent to U.K. 2. If endurance permits she should accompany CAMERONIA, but if not she should be sailed for Gibraltar so as to be ready to continue to U.K. in company with ARGUS who is expected to leave Gibraltar about 12/10.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1235A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)
My 0031/27. DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE are to proceed to Freetown passing through J 35 B and I 35 C thence to Freetown arriving a.m./3. EAGLE will leave Freetown for Gibraltar and U.K. 5/10.
(C. in C. S.A., 1607N/27 to S.O. Force F.)

BULOLO,
ALCANTARA.

Your 1627/25 and your 1055/26. Present intention is for BULOLO to arrive Tristan da Cunha a.m./3 and to house a landing party on Nightingale Island as necessary until relieved by ALCANTARA on 4th or 5/10. In view of possible delay due to weather conditions request ALCANTARA may be authorized to stand by party until work is completed, subsequently re-embarking party for passage to Cape.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1253Z/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

/U-Boats.....

War Diary.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

U-Boats.

Estimated dispositions 1426/27.
(C. in C. S.A., 1820N/27 to R.A.S.A.D.)

KOSCIUSZKO.

Sailed U.K. 23/9 in convoy O.S.7. (Details)
On arrival Durban ship will have vacant
accommodation for approx. 885. Suggest ship
be included in appropriate C.M. Convoy and
embarked to capacity. Intended to retain
vessel on service in Indian Ocean.
(D.O.D.(F) 1826A/27 to C. in C. S.A.,
C. in C. E.I.)

REPULSE,
W.S.11.

Your 1107B/26 (N.T. in W.R.) and C. in C. S.A.'s
1201N/25. Fuel (? 7500 alternative "3300")
tons. (i) (? apparently) even keel. (ii)
33 $\frac{1}{2}$ forward, 33 aft. E.T.A. Cape portion
0900B/30.
DERBYSHIRE detached 0800Z/25, has not yet
rejoined.
(REPULSE, 2114Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

M.L.C's.

Request you will arrange for shipment to
Gibraltar as soon as possible of two M.L.C.
(numbers 33 and 35), now at Freetown. 2.
Elder Dempsters and United Africa Company have
been requested by Ministry of War Transport to
arrange for the first homeward bound ship with
suitable deck space and derricks to call at
Freetown for this purpose. 3. C. in C. S.A.
is requested to sail this ship in appropriate
S.L. convoy, and F.O.C.N.A. to provide escort
from point of leaving convoy to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(F) 2132A/27 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy
Ships in
Uruguay.

My 2251Z/11. Uruguay has formally taken
possession of two Italian and two Danish ships
in Montevideo.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2140Z/27 to D.N.I.)

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Halberd" and Movement of Enemy Fleet.Air Operations.

(1) Elmas and Borizzo. Aircraft turned back owing to weather. Possibly try again later.
 (2) Marsala. Attacked seaplane damaged.
 (3) Correct par. (1) 2 only Beau-fighters attacked Borizzo with success.
 (V.A. Malta, 1015B/27 to S.O. Force H.)

M.T. Ships.

PORT CHALMERS and CITY OF PRETORIA sailed 1045B/27.
 (V.A. Malta, 1055B/27 to S.O. Force H.)

"Halberd" diversion.

Departure 26/9 C. in C. Med. in QUEEN ELIZABETH, HERO, HOTSPUR, JERVIS, JUPITER, KINGSTON, KIN?, KIPLING, DECOY, VENDETTA, VALIANT, BARHAM, AJAX, HOBART, NEPTUNE, OTUS, NAPIER,
 (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1109B/27.)

Air R/C.

Visual R/C (i) Taranto, three battleships (ii) Naples, visibility bad but no battleships seen (iii) Messina, no change (iv) Palermo, visibility bad (v) my 1015B/27 para. 1, six Blenheims to Elmas 1300B.
 (V.A. Malta, 1245B/27 to S.O. Force H.)

Battleships, Naples.

My 2245B/25. From enlargements Naples it appears battleships were LITTORIO class, not CAVOUR.
 (V.A. Malta, 1331B/27 to S.O. Force H.)

Enemy Fleet.

P.C. and S. of enemy, 2 battleships, 8 destroyers 38.20 N., 10.40 E - 190° - 20 knots.
 (A/C, B. Sqdn., 1340/26 (?27) to Hal Far.)
 Following received. Addressed Med. A/C from Med. A/C.
 The total enemy forces sighted up to the time indicated (1425) consist of 2 Battleships, 4 Cruisers, 16 Destroyers.
 (Nore W/T, T.O.R. 1341/27 to Whitehall W/T.)
 P.C. and S. of enemy, 4 cruisers 8 destroyers 38.15 N., 10.30 E., 190°, 20 knots.
 (A/C, B. Sqdn., 1350/27 to Hal Far.)
 Enemy has altered course to 360 approx.
 (A/C, B. Sqdn., 1445/27 to Hal Far.)

/2 Battleships...

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Halberd" and Movement of Enemy Fleet.Enemy
Fleet.
Contd.

2 Battleships, 4 Cruisers, 16 Destroyers in vicinity 038° 17' 010° 35' Course 190° 20 knots at 1345B/27.
(Capt. S.10, 1445B/27 to 10th S.F., 0.21.)
Position of enemy battle fleet is 38.25 N., 10.30 E., mean line of advance X14 060.
(A/C B, Sqdn., 1503/27 to Hal Far.)
Position of enemy battle fleet is 046 38° N., 10° E. 39, Mean line of advance is 060 20.
(Med. A/C, 1525/27 to Med. A/C.)
P.C. and S. of enemy (5 Cruisers, 2 destroyers and 1 enemy war motor boat) 090, 6 38.30 N., 9.59 E., 320.
(Med. A/C, 1530/27.)

NELSON
hit.

"Halberd" attacked by (? Torpedo bombing A/C).
NELSON hit by one torpedo.
(F.O. Force H., 1342B/27 to Admty.)
NELSON's speed reduced to 18 knots. Proceeding ahead with battleships and 6 destroyers to intercept enemy if possible.
(S.O. Force H., 1427B/27 to Adty.)
My 1427. NELSON speed 15 knots, remaining with convoy till Skerki.
PRINCE OF WALES, RODNEY, and some light forces proceeding ahead.
(S.O. Force H., 1517B/27 to Admty.)

Italian
dispositions.

Photographs confirm (1) 2 battleships have left Naples, 1 cruiser remaining. (2) Messina, Palermo, no change from my 2033B/26. (3) Taranto, 3 battleships and 5 cruisers.
(V.A. Malta, 1515B/27 to S.O. Force H.)

TRUSTY,
UPHOLDER.

At 2000/27 intend moving TRUSTY and UPHOLDER to Southern approach to Naples.
(Capt. S.10, 1541B/27 to C. in C. Med.)
At 2000B/27 unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean, TRUSTY and UPHOLDER proceed with despatch to patrol in vicinity of 040° 33' 013° 43' and 040° 33' 013° 59' respectively, TRUSTY keeping North and UPHOLDER South of line 060° thro' 040° 00' 012° 38' to intercept battle fleet returning to Naples. Both S/M's will be recalled by signal, TRUSTY disregarding my 1005B/27.
(Capt. S.10, 1715B/27 to 10 S.F.)

/Air R/C.....

652

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Halberd" & Movement of Enemy Fleet - Con.Air R/C.

My 2320B/26. Poor visibility, nothing seen. Being repeated this afternoon. (ii) Extra R/C Malta to Cape Colonne being carried out this afternoon.
(V.A. Malta, 1544/27 to S.O. Force H.)
Relief shadower is also defective, second relief should be over enemy by 1730B but must leave 1830B.
(V.A. Malta, 1633B/27 to S.O. Force H.)
(i) R/C tomorrow Sunday early.
(a) Malta channel in 2 halves north and south of track.
(b) Line patrol Malta to Cape Passero.
(c) Line patrol Sardinia to Sicily.
(d) Taranto Cagliari.
(e) Afternoon. Naples, Palermo and Messina.
(ii) Escort for "Halberd". 2 Fulmars collective call sign 6 M Q and R/T "Holborn" from 0615B. 6 Beaufighters from 0645B, relieved by second 6. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1906B/27 to S.O. Force H.)

IMPERIAL
STAR,
torpedoed.
(W.S. Flux.)

IMPERIAL STAR torpedoed position 37° 31' N. 10° 46' E. engine room flooded, making no more water, unable to steam. HEYTHROP removing passengers intend take in tow.
(ORIBI, 2110/27 to C.S.10.)
IMPERIAL STAR, British 12,427 tons. Not yet known whether attack was by A/C, S/M, or E/B. (D.O.R. 28/9.)

Air R/C.

R/C report 27th. No warships Naples, Palermo, Messina. Taranto, no change.
(Capt. S.10, 2122B/27 to 10 S/M Flot.)

Air
Operations.

Air attacks today.
(1) Borizzo. 10 aircraft damaged. (2) Elmas. 20 seaplanes and 2 S.79's later with torpedoes attached. Result unknown. (3) Marsala. 4 seaplanes damaged. (4) Anti M.A.S. patrols. No M.A.S. seen but 2 destroyers. 180° Marsala 2, course 135° 7 knots.
(V.A. Malta, 2215B/27 to S.O. Force H.)

Situation
Report
153.

1st B.S., 7th C.S., and destroyers have returned to Alexandria after diversion for operation "Halberd" in accordance with my 1050B/22.

/No enemy....

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Halberd" and Movement of Enemy Fleet.Situation
Report 153.
Contd.

No enemy aircraft were detected and Fleet was apparently not sighted. W/T silence was accordingly broken during night 26/27 to demonstrate presence of Fleet at sea.

2. Western Desert. Operation "Supercharge". Final movement in progress night 27/28 with one minelayer and three destroyers. Enemy air opposition has been slight throughout. R.A.F. report small ship arrived Bardia today, 27th, in spite of extensive air R/C. Ship is being attacked in harbour by R.A.F. and F.A.A.

3. Red Sea. Protection of important ships by cruisers and sloop continues. HUNT class destroyers expected Port Sudan 28th to assist.

4. Levant Shipping Routes. Some air attack but no damage reported. Contact reported by SOUTHERN SEA 33.29 N., 34.35 E. at 1245/26. Hunting continues, reinforced by two corvettes. My 2031/23. ANTAR sank before reaching harbour.

5. Aircraft. 830 Squadron have laid Cucumbers at Tripoli and attacked. Reported in H.Q. Med. 2236/23. Successful R.A.F. attacks on shipping in Benghazi, but Striking Force failed to find Brindisi - Benghazi convoy on 24th.

6. Submarines. Tenth S/M Flotilla being disposed to intercept return of enemy ships reported at sea North West of Sicily today 27th.
(C. in C. Med., 2217B/27.)

654

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.General.SULLBERG
(German)Departure 25th, Genoa.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 0030/27 to D. of S.T.)Palermo
mines.My 2315/26. 4 laid in semi-circle covering
S.E. approach. 250 yards approx. from South
end of Outer Mole.
(Capt. S.10, 0809B/27 to URGE.)
4 Cucumbers laid in South Eastern entrance to
Palermo.
(V.A. Malta, 0925B/27 to S.O. Force H.)Suez
Bay.Obstructions have been laid in following
positions.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0926/?, recd. 0745/28,
to Admty.)TRUSTY,
SOKOL.TRUSTY and Polish Sub. SOKOL leave patrol to
pass through 038° 24' 012° 38' at 2000B and
2300B/29 respectively thence through 038° 00'
011° 40' and 037° 15' 012° 55' and by N.W.
searched channel to arrive Marsamxett before
2000B/1. Any Submarines encountered are not
to be attacked.
(Capt. S.10, 1005B/27 to 10th S/M Flot.)Turkey.Continuing his 1824B/25, re delivery of warships
and attitude towards interned French ships.
(N.A. Angora, from Adm. Kelly 1104B/27 to
Admty.)
See Lion Copy.Buoys.Aircraft report red buoys 1½ miles apart in
line extending 20 miles 120° from 031° 10'
018° 15'. Purpose unknown.
(Capt. S.10, 1110B/27 to PERSEUS, THRASHER.)Benghazi
bombed.Night 25/26 Sept. 6 Wellingtons attacked
Benghazi Harbour, bombs bursting at base of
Central, Cathedral, and Juliana moles. No
damage observed.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1113/27.)

/PERSEUS.....

MOST SECRET

654A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
FROM: N.A. Angora. 1104B/27th September.
Date: 28.9.41.
Recd: 0118.

I.D.C.V. (15). by Cable.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty, Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.
H.M. Ambassador Agnora Saving.

Following from Admiral Kelly.

Continuing my 1824B/25:-

(a) Discussing (?rumours) that offers to purchase interned French ships might shortly be expected he stated that under no circumstances would they be disposed of as Turks have urgent need of these (?vessels) directly they enter the war.

(b) He does not consider it in accordance with their principles to purchase or to use the oiler ADOUR for their urgent needs. The vessels at Erdek are moored stern to shore, their guns and essential engine parts have been removed.

(c) The crews are interned, he was not very clear where; the French have asked for them to be released but this was not (?fulfilled.)

(d) His anxiety as to safety of new destroyers after delivery at Iskanderun gave opportunity for urging immediate action for defence of this (?important) port, about which he agreed.

(e) Turks (?telegraphed) protest to Italy about sinking of MUREPTE. Italy replied that she was flying British flag. No protest was lodged on sinking of PLANAH, about which Turks feel very guilty.

(f) Generally thinks Germans are uncomfortable as they are being very fraternal. Probable reason being German desire to make Bulgaria join against Russia, the success of which he thinks unlikely, and they wish to ensure Turkey does not attack Bulgaria in such an event.

(g) He repeated his statement that in Libya and not the Caucasus was the place to help Russia.

Delivery of warships to Turkey. 1104B/27.
D.C. Hd. of M. (8)
W.B. D.D.I.C.
P.A.S. (S) E.P.S.
D. of P. (2) Ad. Herman Hodge.
D.O.D. (F) N.I.D. 10.
D.D.O.D. (F) Admiral Chalmers.
D.N.I. (4) D.T.D. (2)
D.A/S.W. D.T.S.D.
D. of L.D. E.P.S.
I.P. (2)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.

655

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.- Contd.PERSEUS,
THRASHER.

Capt. (S) 1's 1847B/23. Proceed through 033° 40' 015° 00' and 035° 34' 014° 10' to arrive Marsamxett 0700B/1. SOKOL and TRUSTY due after daylight by North West Channel.
(Capt. S.10, 1115B/27 to THRASHER, PERSEUS.)

COETLOGON,
ST. BRIEUC,
MAURO CROCE.

Departure 26th, COETLOGON, French, Sete.
Arrivals 26th ST. BRIEUC, French, MAURO CROCE, Italian.
(Barcelona, 1321/27 to M. of W.T.)

M/V's.

2 Merchant ships 133° Belo Pulo 48, steering Northwest at 1104B/27.
(Capt. S.1, 1416B/27 to TETRARCH.)

→ DELPHINIUM,
ERICA.

If no result by 1600?C/27 return to Beirut.
(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1439C/27 to DELPHINIUM, ERICA.)
Join southbound Port Said convoy in position 7 miles West of Saida at 1900C/27. S.O.A. 6½ knots.
ERICA complies with my 1439C/27.
(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1547C/27 to DELPHINIUM.)

→ RADCOMBE,
DELPHINIUM.

My 1113C/27. RADCOMBE join convoy off Haifa.
DELPHINIUM join off Saida as additional escort.
(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1619C/27 to N.O.I.C. Port Said, etc.)

TETRARCH.

Leave (R) p.m./29 proceeding through Antikithera Channel and 035° 23' 023° 04' and 034° 14' 024° 00' thence direct to Alexandria to arrive sanctuary 0530B/3.
(Capt. S1., 1651B/27 to TETRARCH.)

CONFEDERATE.

C. in C. E.I.'s 0458/25 (CONFEDERATE to Massawa for salvage of GEORGIC.) Sail CONFEDERATE as convenient to comply.
(C. in C. Med., 1730B/27 to S.B.N.O. C.A.)

AVON VALE,
ERIDGE.

S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 0955Z/27 (N.T. in W.D.) Request you will sail AVON VALE (? and) ERIDGE to arrive Suez by 1500Z/29.
(S.O. Suez Escort Force, 1742/27 to N.O.I.C. Port Sudan.)

/Turkey....

War Diary.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Turkey.

Interview with Marshal Chekmak.
(N.A. Angora, from Adm. Kelly, 1801B/27 to
Admty.) See Lion Copy.

NAPIER.
JACKAL.

Request you sail NAPIER and JACKAL p.m./28 for
Port Said. Ships may be employed as escort if
requested by N.O.I.C. Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1823B/27 to F.O.C.(D) Med.)

TRIUMPH.

(Corrupt group) Adriatic. No torpedoes but
126 rounds of ammunition remain. Intend diving
position 038° 28' 019° 36' dawn/28, course 143°
request route.
Special operation completed (? night) (20th ?).
18th, left one tanker damaged in harbour C
(? G) one another damaged burning off Ortona
24th. 23rd sank one ship off Sibenik.
Considerable (unescorted) coastal traffic
Brindisi, Bari. Searched channel extends
070° from Bari. 7 ships in harbour 26th.
Did not attack in this area.
(TRIUMPH, 1852B/27 to Capt. S.1.)

656A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1801B/27th Sept IN

From N.A. Angora.

Date 28.9.41.

Recd 0225.

Interdepartmental Cypher V (15) by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C in C Mediterranean
H.M. Ambassador, Angora SAVING.

~~995~~

AIDAC.

Following from Admiral Kelly.

Discussing situation with Marshal Cakmak he spoke of unrest everywhere. He has clear evidence that in Germany there are two classes, the young still maintain their trust in the Fuehrer, the older men have lost half of their faith. In France the peasants and young are dissatisfied, the rich and merchants wish to make money, through the Germans or anywhere. This unrest is particularly noticeable in Sicily and might be exploited.

The Trade Agreement with Germany will soon be concluded. Germany refuses to return any of Turkish guns being relined, or to deliver those ordered before war. They will supply no A/A or anti tank guns, no aircraft, only some machine guns and rifles as war material. The remaining 10 of the original 20 locomotives will be supplied. Some old war material captured from the French, perhaps field guns may be supplied. He said that no decision about Chrome had yet been made, but volunteered that Germany has no need of Chrome and only asked for it in the hope of making a breach in Anglo Turkish alliance with the idea that if Turkey supplied Chrome Britain would then refuse to supply Turkey with war material, and thus render a Spring offensive against Turkey more easy. He suggested that U.S. should buy the next 10 years output of Chrome, and that we should ship away all that we have in stock so that there would be none for Germany in any case.

MOST SECRET Germany

Germany will supply machinery for work-shops. Turkey is much in their hands as most of their machines are German and if supply of spare parts is held up factories might have to close.

He is taking a personal interest in improvement in communications asked for by us, but he is very short of trucks, and Germany will give none, Motor Vehicles are also most unlikely.

Turkey will not demobilize but ten per cent of effectives will be given leave. Work of developing defences of Chatalja and Bulair in depth is always going on. He has sufficient troops on Black Sea Coast to resist any sea-borne attack during suitable seasons. He has personally satisfied himself of the efficiency of demolition arrangements. He wants from us enough modern weapons to hold first rush of an offensive until we can come to his aid. He does not anticipate an offensive before next Spring. He is ready and anxious to discuss proposals for defences of Iskanderun.

After Marshal I saw General Staff about French ships. One quarter of French crews remain on board the ships, in addition to a Turkish Guard, which I consider unnecessary and will be looked into; the remainder will be interned at Burdur Mal Ispata. Tanker "Adour" requires 3 months repair for damage by torpedo at Beirut, undecided whether to take this in hand. Second convoy was examined by two Italian planes who were driven off by fire from Escort ship, four German planes from Rhodes were then sent but did no harm.

This year harvest from more land is same as last year sufficient for country but none for export.

1801B/27

Advance Copy Duty Cpt. Hd of M., D.D.I.C

1st Lcd.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (T) (3)

A.C.H.S. (W)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D of P (2)

Ad. Chalmers.

Ad. Herman Hodge.

D.C.D. (F)

D.D.C.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

E.P.S.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Duty Capt. N.I.D. 10, Pay Cdr. Wilson

D.T.D. (2)

Hd of M.

D.D.I.C.

GJ.

MOST SECRET

C
6564

MOST SECRET

1801B/27/September.

From War Registry.

Reference N.A. Angora's 1801B/27 September re Admiral Kellys' discussions with Marshal Cakmak, for "This unrest is particularly noticeable in Sicily and might be exploited," please read "This unrest is particularly noticeable in the West and might be exploited."

1st Lord.
1st S.I.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
N.A. 1st S.I.
D. of P. (2)
Admiral Chalmers.
Admiral Herman Hodge.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.C.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson

HJ.

I.C

bn

MESSAGE.

1813A/27th September.

OUT.

SECRET.

Date. 27.9.41.

656D

To. Admiral Miles.

Special X.

From Admiralty.

Your 1014K/27.

Concur that Powell should be designated an Instructional Officer and not Naval Liaison Officer. Suggest it is unnecessary to specify duration of his visit to Vladivostok. No need to say that it is permanent but it is hoped that Russians will find his services there of value as they did at Sevastepol and that they will not be too anxious to hasten his return.

Powell has been selected for this duty as he has already had experience of working with Russians and gets on well with them. In offering him we clearly show our anxiety to help our Ally.

Reference your last paragraph see my 1847A/17. Powell will be an Instructional Minesweeping Officer.

Is any further definition of his duties needed?

In order to avoid further delay please put forward this request before the Economic Conference has finished.

1813A/27.

for D.N.I. (743).

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
A.C.N.S. (E) (2).
H.A. 1st S.L.
H.A. 2nd S.L.
D.O.P. (3).
O.D. (4).
O.D. (5).
D.N.I. (7) and for
Mr Cavendish Bentwick.
D.N.I.
D.N.I. (1).
D.N.I.
D.N.I.

F.P. (3).
W.D.
D.C.
M. (2).
D.D.I.C.
B.P.S.
D.T.M.
D.S.D. (2).
N.O.D. 10
Pay. Cdr. Wilson.

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies."R"
Report.

(1) Trincomalee W/T Station report what may have been set of R's were made at 1549Z/26. Transmission broken off before completion of third set. Signal strength very weak and report therefore unreliable. Any ship intercepting similar signal is to report it including Admty., Y in Address. (C. in C. E.I., 0246Z/27 to E. I. Sqdn.,)

Convoy
M.A. 1.

Convoy consisting of YOMA, SALWEEN, ASCANIUS A, MANCHESTER PORT, leaving Mombasa 5/10 for Gulf of Aden will be known as M.A.1. (C. in C. E.I., 0748Z/27 to D.S.T.O. Mombasa).

S.W.10

P.S.T.O. Egypt 1821/25 (1) Escort will be provided (2) Convoy will be known as S.W.10 (C. in C. E.I., 0822Z/27 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

KALO,
FISHPOOL,
collision.

S.S. KALO bound for Aden Suez sunk in collision with S.S. FISHPOOL bound for Suez Aden on 24/9, 0130Z. Position 19° 08' N., 39° 13' E. No casualties. Crew landed at Aden. Temporary repairs FISHPOOL required at Aden. KALO routed in accordance C. in C. E.I. 0614/19/8. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1012Z/27 to Admty etc).

CENTURION.

It would greatly facilitate work in H.M.I. Dockyard, Bombay, if earliest date CENTURION is likely to be required could be indicated. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 1207Z/27 to C. in C. E.I.) Reply: 1st November. (1st S.L. 0027A/29).

CARTHAGE,
ISLAMI.

CARTHAGE escorting ISLAMI sailed. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1315Z/27 to Admty etc).

Persian
operations.

Your 1204Z/25. No information of action against Persian warships should be published at present for following reasons:- (a) We were not at war with Persia (b) One of our best friends in Persia, the Admiral, was killed. (c) Desired to avoid anything which might prejudice situation in Persia. On receipt of summary to which you refer, Admiralty will signal whether or not publication is approved. (D.P.D. 1353A/27 to C. in C. E.I.)

/Jibuti.....

657A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1433/27 Sept.

IN

From:- G.O.C. in C. East Africa

Date. 28. 9. 41.

Recd. 0945

CYPHER

Addressed C. in C. Middle East, repeated The War Office.

IMMEDIATE

47003 2/27 cipher 27/9.

Part 1 - 2 - 3.

For Minister of State.

From Ops. Part one. Letter from Governor Jibuti received. " Government protests again in strongest possible terms against sea and land blockade. Two of his motor boats were intercepted 18 and 17 Sep. in territorial waters by **HINDUSTAN** one seized condition of seizure (bursts of short range M.G. fire on vessel stopped and held in searchlight) shows either complete wind up by officer concerned or a brutality unheard of to this day even between sailors at war with each other. Vichy Naval Officers Commanding motor boats were only released after being kept several hours on **HINDUSTAN**. During detention the Commander **HINDUSTAN** declared England did not wish occupy Jibuti she only desired use of fort and railway. This declaration is in contradiction Wavell's letter of 30 May and Cunningham's letters 12 July ? and 1 Sept. However if case of letter being lost Governor repeats offer made his letter Sept. 2nd." This letter referred to in para two my 5/4 of 4 Sept. not to Troopers. Commander **HINDUSTAN** not authorised make alleged statements.

Part Two. Satisfactory conference has taken place Sultan Yyou controlling productive area North Lake Abbe. Sultan agreed to cooperate blockade French Somaliland and accept military Liaison Officer his H.Q. Also agrees

MOST SECRET

SECRET

2-

cooperate scheme purchase (?herds) surplus cattle.

This agreement should materially assist blockade. But reference my 10/8 of 8 Sept. para. 4. not to Troopers am of opinion French have considerable reserves supplies European population in Jibuti, therefore estimate made in my telegram under reference that surrender unlikely be forced before early December stands.

Part Three. Reason to believe about to receive information from intelligence sources which may clarify Governor's attitude negotiations and state of feeling Jibuti also supplies situation. Will cable this information to you immediately received.

Part four. Follows.

1433/27.

Recd. by hand from War Office at 1535/29

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

Copies circulated by War Office to:-

S. of S. Lt. Col. Jacob
C.I.G.S. Lt. Col. Thompson.
V.C.I.G.S. M.O. 1. JP.
D.M.O. & P. D. of Plans: Admiralty.
D.D.M.O. (O) D. of Plans.
M.O. 1.5.11. Air Ministry.
D.M.I.
D.D.M.I. (I)
M.I.3.L.
D.D.I.P.
Mr. Somerville Smith.
20 Military Mission.
Major Morton, 10, Downing
Street.
Mr. Coulson, Cabinet Offices
Mr. Lloyd, Col. Office
Mr. Mack, F.O.
Mr. Mackereth, F.O.
Mr. Hopkins, Cabinet Offices
Mr. Caccia, F.O.
C.N.S. Admiralty.
C.A.S. Air Ministry.

SECRET

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.Jibuti
blockade.Protest by Governor. (G.O.C.in C. E.A. 1433/27)
See Lion Copy.Force W.My 0754/13 is cancelled, Force W has now
dispersed. (C. in C. E.I., 1512Z/27 to E.I.Sqdn).China.MARECHAL
JOFFRE,
(French).

Arrival 26th. (Manila, 0240Z/27 to M. of W.T.)

GOUVERNEUR GENERALE
G.PASQUIER.
(French).

Arrival 26th. (Singapore, 0417/27 to D. of S.T.)

America & West Indies.S.C. Convoy
Escorts.Your 1407A/22. Reply re strength of N.E.F.
escorts for S.C. Convoys. (1st S.L., 0116A/27
to C.N.S. Canada) See Lion Copy.U.S. Forces.Following received from Opanv in reply to
Spenavo despatch concerning Task Force 15 and
Crudiv 7. In view of the speed and composition
of Units and with no further information of
submarines, it is not anticipated to divert
either Unit to the Southeast. (A.L.U.S.N.A.,
London, 1015/27 to Admty).CLARKIA.
TULIP.Take TULIP under your orders and leave Bermuda
A.M./28. Proceed Trinidad via Sombrero Passage
so as to arrive 2/10. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1052Q/27
to CLARKIA).

/MIMOSA.....

War Diary.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

MIMOSA.

My 2151Z/26. MIMOSA detach forthwith and proceed St. John's Newfoundland at best prudent speed. (C.C.N.F., 1201Z/27 to MIMOSA).

Convoy
Escorts.

C. in C. W.A. 1236A/26. and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1932Z/26. (1) Request MOOSEJAW complete A/S training at Tobermory prior to her return. To be sailed for St. Johns N.F. with next O.N.S. after completion.

(11) Intend detailing two corvettes from escort of S.C. 47 to continue with that convoy to U.K. for A/S training.

(111) Request BARRIE, DAUPHIN, and ARVIDA be ordered to continue to Newfoundland with O.N.S. 25. (C.C.N.F., 1314Z/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

POTLATCH.

Have you any news of U.S. Ship POTLATCH from Lourenco Marques due Trinidad 23/9? (D.T.D., 1403A/27 to S.O. (I) Jamaica).

CATHAY.

CATHAY will now be refitted U.S. Navy Yard Brooklyn, not Boston. U.S. Authorities will cut mast to pass under bridges*if desired and later replace same. Ship should pick up pilot at Ambrose L/V 2100Z 5 time and fly red ensign until received in Navy Yard. Can expected date of arrival now be given?. (B.A.R.M., 1412R/27 to Admty).

* as - see 3/10 - p. 72 -

PRINCE HENRY.

Bermuda departure PRINCE HENRY, S.S. CAPETOWN CASTLE in accordance with my 1032Q/26/9. E.T.A. 1200Q/29/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1603Q/27 to Admty).

Balloons in
M/Vs.

Merchant ships are arriving in Canada equipped with balloons but with insufficient hydrogen to inflate for return voyages. Trade Division memorandum D.E.M.S. 166 intimates sufficient bottles will be issued at U.K. ports for voyages homeward. No facilities at present exist to take care of this in Canadian Ports. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1656Z/27 to Admty).

Tankers,
D/G.

Your 1101QR/26. Tankers should proceed direct to Halifax for ranging. (D.T.D., 1848A/27 to S.B.N.O. Curacao).

War Diary.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Thursday
Island.

Your 1143/25. N.O.I.C. Thursday Island ten
hours fast on G.M.T. (A.C.N.B., 0901Z/27 to Admty).

Suspicious
Ship.

Your 1215/26. M.V. ^{? TANIMBAR.} TANIMBO due Panama 4/10
was in the vicinity. (N.Z.N.B., 1155M/27 to Admty).

Reported by DENBIGHSHIRE.

War Diary.

27.9.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

H.G.73
(attacked
26/9)
SPRINGBANK,
CERVANTES,
SIREMALM.

LEITH is to part company from BB 81 and R/V with ZWARTE ZEE in position 270° Bardsey Island 7 miles at 1159A/27. LEITH is to take ZWARTE ZEE under her orders and proceed to the assistance of a ship name unknown torpedoed in H.G.73 in 47° 52' N., 23° 40' W., at about 0100A/26.

Ship appeared little damaged. Route South of Ireland by Q.Z.F. 18. Fighter protection arranged, code word "Shilling". (C. in C. W.A., 0046A/27 to LEITH, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0229A/27 to ZWARTE ZEE).

Further to attack on H.G.73, it is known that CERVANTES, British, 1810 tons, and SIREMALM, Norwegian, 2468 tons, were torpedoed during night of 26-27/9. Survivor situation is obscure, but it appears some 250 are accounted for, including it is presumed some from SPRINGBANK. (D.O.R., 28/9) (D.S., 754 28/9).

Acknowledging your 0229A. Please confirm destination. (ZWARTE ZEE, 0535A/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Your 0535A/27. R/V position 270° Bardsey Island 7 miles. Destination 47° 52' N., 23° 40' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0705A/27 to ZWARTE ZEE) Acknowledged (ZWARTE ZEE, 0845A/27).

Convoy arriving attacked twice and scattered 10 miles, believed four ships torpedoed. Further signal at daylight. SPRINGBANK is disabled. 49.05N.20.10W. 44.62-06.55.

(FOWEY, 0327A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
SPRINGBANK, Aux. A/A and fighter catapult ship, escorting H.G.73. (D.O.R., 28/9).

SPRINGBANK afloat and drifting in 049° 10' N., 020° 05' W., JASMINE standing by. Salvage possible but unlikely. (FOWEY, 0808A/27 to LEITH). SPRINGBANK still afloat. Consider JASMINE should be relieved as soon as possible tonight shortage fuel urgent surgical cases and main W/T out of action. Request instructions.

(Capt. SPRINGBANK, and FOWEY., 1830A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

SPRINGBANK sank at 1915A. Am rejoining convoy. (JASMINE, 1945A/27 to FOWEY).

Handwritten:
U-201 in
49-50N, 20 40W.

/S.L.....

War Diary.27.9.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. - Contd.

S.L. 87
SILVERBELLE.
EDWARD
BLYDEN.
NICETO DE
LARRINAGA.
ST. CLAIR II.
JOHN HOLT.
LAFIAN.
DIXCOVE.

Your 1209A/21, estimate 7.25 knots hereafter. Except for R.D.F. replacement, my 2100Z/21, local escort superfluous since Convoy 4 escort 4. Landed 104 civilians survivors Azores yesterday. (GORLESTON, 0915Z/27, to C. in C. W.A.) Report of attacks 22/9. (GORLESTON, 0930/27 to C. in C. W.A.) See Lion and Tiger Copies. Now known that 3 more ships in S.L. 87 were torpedoed and sunk during attacks on 22/9 and 23/9 - JOHN HOLT, British 4975 tons, LAFIAN, British 4876 tons, and DIXCOVE British 3790 tons. These bring to 7 the total number of ships lost from the Convoy (D.O.R., 28/9). D.S. 754, 28/9, states ships were torpedoed and probably sunk at 0541/24. Position about 400 miles S. by E of San Miguel, Azores.

Submarines Reported.

1700/26.

Reported three U-boats and a supply ship escorted by patrol boats and three aircraft passed Hellefjord 61° 36' N., 04° 58' E., at 1700/26. Course S. (D.D.I.C., 0056A/27 to MINERVE).

MAGGIORE FRANCESCA
BARACCA.

Their Lordships congratulate you on destruction of an Italian U-boat on 8/9/41. (1st S.L. 0117A/27 to CROOME).

Estimated dispositions of U-boats.
 (D.D.I.C. 1426A/27) (C. in C. S.A., 1820N/27 to R.A.S.A.D.)

1306Z.

By D/F at 1306Z/27. Position of enemy U-boat was 51° - 52° N., 14° - 15° W.
 (D.D.I.C., 1459A/27).

1739C.

By D/F U-boat in 068° 24' N., 042° 46' E.
 Admiralty pass to LONDON and ELECTRA.
 (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1739C/27 to Admty).

1556Z.

D/F Bearings indicate that Convoy H.G. 73 was reported by a U-boat at 1556Z/27.
 (D.D.I.C., 1746A/27 to FOWEY, BEGONIA, JASMINE, LARKSPUR, WOLVERINE).

Unidentified
S/M.

Your 1048/23 not Spanish. (N.A. Madrid, T.HI. 2215/27 to S.O.(I) Gib).

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE 0930/27th September IN

Date. 27. 9. 41

Recd. 2110.

From: H.M.S. GORLESTON.

662A

Naval Shore Code "N" by Cable.

Addressed: C. in C. Western Approaches. Repeated:
Admiralty. F.O.C.N.A. Capt. D. Londonderry.

IMMEDIATE

W.A.C. Part 102 S.L. 87. (A) (1) 0228Z
22nd 025° 24' North 023° 47' West (2) 22 00 Z 22nd
027° 32' 024° 23' (3) 2229 Z 23rd 030° 25' 023°
35' 030° 25' 023° 35' (4) 0441Z/24 031° 12'
023° 32' (b) (1) one (2) possibly 2 (3) one
(4) one. Joint offensive sweep as well frequent
and drastic evasion action indicates possible
team of 4 shadowing different sectors C (1) nil
GMVJ (SILVERBELLE) damaged all safe in GORLESTON,
GMVJ (SILVERBELLE) or F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC (2)
(CJXF) EDWARD BLYDEN all safe in H.M. Ships BIDEFORD,
GARDENIA or H.M.S. LULWORTH. GPWF (NICETO DE LARRINAGA)
2 died, 1 missing remainder in same ships (3)
British Merchant ship ST. CLAIR II 13 missing
remainder in GORLESTON (4) GMGY (JOHN HOIT)
only Private D. Hodges R.A. missing. British
Merchant ship LAFIAN all safe. GNJQ (DIXCOVE)
master (injured) and 24 in GNLR (ASHBY). boat
load in British ship FANA (D) (1) GMVJ
(SILVERBELLE) yes. All remainder seen to sink.
(e)(I) Hunt by LULWORTH, H.M. Ships BIDEFORD,
GARDENIA, F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC. GORLESTON closed
from 50 miles ahead, F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC towing GMVJ
(SILVERBELLE) passed through position ST. CLAIR sank
(2) H.M. Ships BIDEFORD, GARDENIA, LULWORTH. (3) H.M. Ships
BIDEFORD, LULWORTH, GORLESTON. H.M.S. GARDENIA leaves
about 5 miles ahead (4) H.M. Ships BIDEFORD, LULWORTH,
GORLESTON. Last 2 closed abreast 2 miles astern (F)
No submarine sighted by convoy or escort, no asdic
contact, all sets working well, weather mainly
calm and clear, maximum visibility almost throughout
GORLESTON whose decision to refuel at Azores my
2100Z 21st. made it possible for her to operate
continuously at night and on extensive dusk sweeps
"with all despatch" only escort from whose
direction no attack was developed. Had spares
for type 271, which picked up survivors boat at
3 miles in O.S.4, and/or type 286 which were asked
for at Azores in my 2100Z 21st. been available
Bathurst or on board confident that attack could
have been at least partially frustrated. Submit
above together, provisional small Moth type 272 to
be carried aft in cutters be given earnest

? Norwegian

/immediate...

immediate consideration 0659Z 26th.

Passed ^{by} N.C S.O. Ponta Delgada.

0930/27. Advance Copy Ops, O.D.

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

SECRET

MESSAGE

0930/27th September
DATE: 27.9.41.

C
6628

FROM War Registry

Reference H.M.S. GORLESTON's 0930/27th September
re attack by U-Boats on convoy, please read last two
sentences as "Submit above together with provision of
small Moth type 272 to be carried aft in cutters be given
earnest immediate consideration 0659Z/26th. Passed by
N.C.S.O. Pobta Delgada.

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

War Diary

28.9.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

The Russian S/M patrol of Vestfiord has been withdrawn for the present.

PENELOPE left Denmark Straits this morning.

Operation
"Chopper"

Small fighting patrols were landed last night at St. Vaast (East of Cherbourg peninsula) and St. Aubin (North of Caen)

Enemy Air Operations

A bomb was dropped in RALEIGH (Training Establishment, Cornwall) at about 2200 today, No casualties or damage resulted.

See p. 669

Mining

It is thought that enemy aircraft may have laid mines at the entrance to the White Sea, near Ponoï.

Operation
P.W. 20
S.N. 16 A

2 M.L's laid mines off the French coast last night.
WELSHMAN and MANXMAN laid mines off Aberdeen today.

Steam Trawler MURIELLE exploded a mine in her trawl about 8 miles S.W. by S. of Morecambe Bay and sank later whilst in tow.

/Mines were.....

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining - Contd.

Mines were detonated today in the Humber area and Thames Estuary.

Mines are suspected off Milford Haven. Ground mines were exploded today and on 26/9 off Strumbles Head.

South Atlantic.

S.S. MARCELLA reports that at 0330 G.M.T. 22nd. he sighted a German built vessel heading south in 20° S. 38° W., which he considered suspicious.

Mediterranean.Operation
"Halberd".

Early this morning HERMIONE ^{and destroyers} carried out a bombardment of Pantellaria as a diversion, which was effective. The shore batteries did not reply until the lapse of 4½ minutes.

The Convoy, less IMPERIAL STAR, escorted by the cruisers arrived at Malta safely at 1842B today. Hurricanes made 3 bombing attacks on Comiso Aerodrome to keep down fighters whilst convoy was arriving.

NELSON parted company at dusk, to return to Gibraltar screened by 3 destroyers: the remainder returned to R/V with the cruisers. It appeared from air R/C that the enemy battle-ships only were returning to Naples, whilst the cruisers were returning to Messina. URGE was ordered at 1820B to move towards the western entrance to the Straits of Messina.

The total losses of enemy aircraft were 14 certain, one probable, others damaged. We lost 3 Fulmars (2 crews saved), of which 2 were shot down accidentally by the fleet.

/12 Wellingtons...

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Contd.

12 Wellingtons attacked shipping at Palermo from 1932 to 2158 and 4 Beaufighters attacked the aerodrome and seaplane base.

Enemy aircraft approached Malta last night and dropped bombs in the sea off the Grand Harbour.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

The final movement of operation "Supercharge" took place last night with one minelayer and 3 destroyers. Enemy air opposition has been slight throughout.

Air attacks were continued throughout last night on an enemy ship which had succeeded in reaching Bardia. The ship was attacked again today. Enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk today and dropped a few mines.

Rhodes.

11 Wellingtons bombed Rhodes harbour last night.

KING
GEORGE I.

It is reported that the Greek destroyer KING GEORGE I which was sunk when Greece was evacuated and was salvaged in June, will be ready for service early in November and will be manned by Germans.

U-Boat Campaign.Convoy
H.G.73

^WFOXEY reports that the convoy was attacked again last night. S.S. MARGARETA was sunk. The convoy was probably sighted and shadowed by aircraft today.

Panamanian
M.S. TRINIDAD
sunk.

Ten survivors have been landed at Oporto from Panamanian M.S. TRINIDAD sunk by gunfire by a German S/M 380 miles N.W. of Cape Finisterre on, it is reported, 5/9.

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.A/S Drifters
for Iceland.

Your 1754/30th April. Request I may be informed whether these 4 drifters should still remain at 24 hours' notice for service at Iceland. (A.C.O.S. 1237A/28 to Admty.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.WICHITA,
MISSISSIPI,
WASP. VULCAN.

Your 1456A/26, para. 2. Arrived 1030. (A.C.I.C., 2230/28.)

Co-operation with Russia.Russian S/M
movements.

Admiralty's 1157A/27. There are no Soviet Union submarines now operating west of 015° East. (? Therefore) it is not intended for Soviet Union S/M's to proceed to patrol Vestfiord for the present. Notice will be given of any proposed S/M operation West of 015° East. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1324C/28.)

Two M/V's,
torpedoed.

MOLODKI class 174 arrived p.m./27th having penetrated Petsamo Harbour on 26/9 and torpedoed two M/V's estimated 8000 and 5000 tons respectively discharging alongside. Submarine broke surface after firing and was under fire from rifles and machine guns and subsequently heavily depth charged before reaching open water five hours later. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1326C/28.)

Defence of U.K.Sea
Platforms
for A/A
Guns.

Admiralty 1929A/23 not sent to above addressees. (Signal repeated)
2. A.A. Command have now instructed 1st and 3rd A.A. Corps. to extend examination to include -
Southend Convoy Anchorage.
Milford Haven Convoy Anchorage.
Scapa Fleet Anchorage.
Clyde Tail of Bank.
Oban Convoy Anchorage.
Loch Ewe Convoy Anchorage.
3. Reports in accordance with para. 5 above should quote Admiralty 1929A/23. (D. of L.D., 2013A/28 to A.C.O.S., C. in C. Nore, F.O.I.C.'s Milford Haven, Greenock.)

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K. - Contd.CONQUEROR.

Your 2355/27. CONQUEROR is to be sailed as in
A.M. 1115A/27.
(A.C.N.S. H., 2119A/28 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Movements.NIGER
(P.Q.2.)

In view of Admty. 1246A/27, my 1151A/26 is
cancelled. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to
sail NIGER as necessary.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1103A/28.)

P.31. P.35.
O.10, H.32.

(1) Intend to sail P.31 and P.35 escorted by
CUTTY SARK passing Bell Rock 2000A/30 for
Switha Boom where P.35 is to be diverted into
Scapa and O.10 to join CUTTY SARK and P.31.
E.T.A. Switha Boom 1100A/1.
(2) Ships are then to proceed through Minches
and Sound of Mull to Oban where O.10 is to be
diverted and H.32 to join P.31 and CUTTY SARK.
E.T.A. Oban 1430A/2.
(3) Thence CUTTY SARK to escort P.31 and H.32 to
290° Bishop Rock 5 miles. E.T.A. 0300A/5.
(4) Thence P.31 dive by day to 046° N. 009° W.
thence on surface at C.O's discretion to 043°
N. 10° 40' W. where E.T.A. 0200/8. Thence as
ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
CUTTY SARK on parting company with P.31 is to
escort H.32 to Plymouth. E.T.A. 1500A/5.
(8) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange for
fighter co-operation as follows.
(Capt. S.9., 1211A/28.)

Operations.Firth of
Lorne A/S
Patrol.

My 1309A/25. Patrol of two in number A/S Seine
Net vessels now established on a line direction
322° from Wilson Rock, Kerrara Island to S.E.
Shore of Lismore Island. Chart No.2476.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1214A/28.)

BULLDOG.
Fired on.

BULLDOG reported she was fired on by shore
batteries entering Hvalfiord at 2000/22. E.T.A.
was made four hours before arrival and
acknowledged three hours before arrival. Time
of E.T.A. was adhered to. Visibility low.
Marksmanship was good.
(C. in C. W.A., 1533A/28.)

/Operation....

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

2015/28th September.

From R. A. Scapa.

Date 29.9.41.
Recd. 0212.

P/L by Secret T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Home Fleet.
Repeated A.C.O.S.

Scapa Defences Weekly Report
28th September, 1941.

Heavy A.A.Guns. No change. Total in action 80.
Light A.A.Guns. Bofors in action F.A.S. at LM 2, LM 4.
LH 4 out of action for repairs to lock.
Total in action Mark VIII ... 1.
Bofors ... 33.
41.

U.P.Weapons. No change. Total in action 64.

Searchlights. Sites unoccupied MN 14, 23, NE 16, 23,
HY 31, 46.
Sites out of action MC 16, SR 26.
Total in action ... 100

Close Defence and Boom Defence Guns. No change.

Balloons. 53 deployed as follows :-
Trawlers 16, Flotta 15, Hoy 15,
Fara 5, Gava 2.
2 Balloons remain inflated at St. Mary's.
No casualties during the week.
Balloon from KB 16 deflated because of
low purity but immediately replaced.
Spare balloons in hand 55, spare valves
82.
Hydrogen. 2405 full bottles and 943
empty bottles held.

Booms.Hoxa. State of Boom. Harbour Line normal.
Seaward Line in course
of replacement.

U.P. Weapons. No change.
Switha. State of Boom. Normal A/S A/3 A/B Mk. III
Hoy. State of Boom. Harbour Line normal.
Seaward Line - Two
sections have been
replaced. Awaiting
further supply of nets
to complete replacement.
Bottom nets Nos. 1 - 8
now in place.

Nevi. State of Boom. Seaward and Harbour Lines
Skerry. in course of replacement.
Baulk A/B nets with hur-
dle and double line of
A/T nets placed in Galf
Sound.

A/T Baffles.....

A/T Baffles. All Baffles in normal condition with 'B' in course of replacement
 D K H and L fitted with Mk. III A/B nets.
 G fitted with Mk III A/B Nets from Nos. 1 - 14.
 F fitted with Mk. III A/B O Nets from Nos. 1 - 15.
 Curtain nets fitted to two sections southern end of 'F'.

Eastern Entrances. Additional obstruction wires placed over upperworks of blockship SORIANO in Kirk Sound.

Indicator Loops. Reserve Engine House at Stanger Head completed and plant ready for action.
 Nos. 8 and 9 Loops (Stronsay Firth) being laid (Operations delayed by weather).

Controlled Mining.) No change.

Harbour Defence Patrol Craft serviceable:-

4 - 72 ft. M.L.
 7 - Drifters
 11 - A/S Drafters
 9 - Motor Fishing Vessels
 2 - A/S Motor Fishing Vessels.

2015/28.

Advance Copy Ops., O.D.

1st Lord	D.A./S.W.
1st S.L.	D.B.D. (2)
3rd S.L.	D.M.W.D.
Vice Controller.	I.P. (3)
4th S.L.	W.D.
5th S.L.	D.T.M.
V.C.N.S.	D. of S.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.T.M.
Civil Lord	E.P.S.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.S.D.
Ops. (4)	D.D.O.D. (M)
O.D. (5)	D.D.O.D. (C)
O.I.C. (3)	A.H.Q.H.F.
D. of L.D. (2)	Dep. Contr. (3)
M. (2)	C.E. in C.) Bath by T/P
D.G.D. (2)	D. of S.) (BA 4222).
D.S.V.P. (2)	D.A./S.W. (2))

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Operation
"Chopper".All Forces have returned to Harbour.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1603A/28.)PENELOPE.
(Iceland
- Faroes
Patrol.)E.T.A. 0930Z/29. (Hvallfjord)
(PENELOPE, 2130Z/28.)British Air Activity.Bombing
operations.Night 27/28. All operations were cancelled
owing to unfavourable weather.
(H.Q.B.C., 0103/28.)Loch Ewe.From October 5th a very large number of
balloons will be continuously flying around
the perimeter and afloat in Loch Ewe. These
will make flying extremely dangerous for
aircraft.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1019A/28.)Patrols."Hornli" now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1206/28.)
One Hudson will be carrying out line patrol
from Pendeen 30 miles 315°, between 1930 and
2359.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1720/28.)Search
for
M.L.1071.One Blenheim leaves Bircham Newton 1515 today
searching for motor launch 1071 between
Sheringham and Aldeburgh light buoy(s).
(C. in C. Nore, 1433A/28.)Portland.
Protected
Area for
Shipping.My 1657B of 21/6. Amend code word for
Portland's protected area to read "Meadow".
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1543A/28.)Homing A/C
procedure.Carry out Homing Aircraft procedure in W.A.S.O.
Art. 213. Transmit at 1730A/28.
(C. in C. W.A., 1654A/28 to WOLVERINE.)Anti-shipping
Force in
Channel.Ops. 72, 28/9. From 29/9/41 to 3/10/41
inclusive when 2 Group will be co-operating
with the Army, their role in attacking shipping
in the Channel and southern North Sea will be
undertaken by 16 Group.
Striking force to include three aircraft of 22
Squadron to be detached to Manston.
(H.Q.C.C., 2120/28.)

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.ST. EUMAN^N
attacked.
Enemy A/C
destroyed.

Master of ST. EUMAN^N reports when 3 miles S.W. of Smalls at 1950/25 twin engine enemy float plane approached at 1000 feet and attacked using machine guns. ST. EUMAN engaged. Plane burst into flames, cleared funnel by 15 feet, and exploded on surface 300 yards on port beam. S.S. GLENCREE and MELITO in company. GLENCREE witnessed incident. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1055A/28.)

White Sea.

Number of Enemy Bombers reported to have flown over entrance to White Sea at 1600C/28. See Mining.

A/C off
Smalls.

S.S. GLAMORGAN COASTS reports enemy plane, thought to be Blohm and Voss seaplane, flew round ship at 1945/25 in position 5 miles South of Smalls and disappeared to Eastward. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1513A/28.)

Flares off
Line S.T.Op. "Chopper"
(Minor landings
on French coast.)

Reference "Chopper" para. 6 (h) FERNIE reports as follows:- While on night patrol a large number of red aircraft flares were dropped eastwards and westwards of line S.T. The nearest being about 3 miles. Each consisted of 3 - 4 red stars followed by a single red star at a short interval of up to a minute. One fast twin-engined aircraft was seen, possibly a Beaufighter or enemy of similar design. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2047A/28.) See p 663.

Plymouth
bombed.

One hostile aircraft dropped a bomb in RALEIGH at about 2200/28. No naval casualties. Slight damage to Trevol House. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2341/28.)

Mining.N.L.29.

Intend to carry out operation N.L.29 tonight from position 50° 58' N. 01° 43' 54" E. (V.A. Dover, 1141A/28),

/Thames.....

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Thames Estuary.

Two S.A. mines detonated on 27/9 and one on 28/9. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1145/28.)

White Sea.

Number of enemy bombers reported to have flown over entrance White Sea vicinity Ponoi 066° 57' N. 041° 20' E. at 1600C/28. Mines may have been laid. Admiralty pass to LONDON and ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1754C/28.)

Explosion.

A/P vessel reports deep underwater explosion 7 miles North of Strumble Head.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1839/28.)

Harwich.

One green mine detonated in about 51° 54' 56" N. 1° 29' 03" E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1911A/28.)

Humber.

The following mines detonated today at 1510 by L.L. Trawlers 315° 62A Buoy 0.9 miles. (No details.)
(F.O. Humber, 1945A/28.)

Milford Haven.

Mines suspected in following positions:-
051° 32' N. 005° 21' W. 051° 37' 30" N. 005° 31' W.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2155/28.)

MURIELLE.
(Steam Trawler.)
Sunk.

N.O.I.C. Fleetwood reports MURIELLE exploded mine in trawl 8 to 9 miles S.W. by S. of Morecambe Bay Light Vessel. Vessel was taken in tow but sank in position 3 to 4 miles W. by N. Blackpool Tower at 1620/28. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2212A/28.)

Enemy Intelligence.

ADMIRAL SCHEER.
HIPPER.
LUTZOW.

Photographs show:-
Kiel. At 1455A/27 ADMIRAL SCHEER in dock at Holtenau, HIPPER and LUTZOW in Nos. 5 and 6 dry docks.
Swinemunde. At 1400A/27. No major Naval Units.
(D.D.I.C. 0057A/28.)

/TIRPITZ.....

War Diary.

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

TIRPITZ.

My 1514A/26. It is possible that TIRPITZ is fitted with above water torpedo tubes. Graded B.2.
(N.I.D. I., 1229A/28.)

E-Boats.

Two submarines reported in Arnarfiord 1130/28th proceeding North, by Icelandic farmer. Graded C.3.
(A.C.I.C., 1234/28.)
Cancel my 1234. Now identified as Motor Boats.
(A.C.I.C., 1621/28.)

Ship off
Lands End.

There are indications of a ship in 050° 17' N. 005° 51' W. at 1855, proceeding south westerly.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2033/28.)

ADMIRAL
SCHEER,
SCHARNHORST,
GNEISENAU,
PRINZ EUGEN.

Photographs of Hamburg at 1110/28 show ADMIRAL SCHEER alongside S quay at Blohm and Voss Yard. At Brest 1750/28, all 3 main units present in usual dry docks.
(D.D.I.C. 2256A/28.)

Navigational.

Thames
Estuary.
Lighting
of Sea
Reach.

F.O.I.C. London 1727A/26. Para. 3.
It is not considered desirable to exhibit lights on Buoys in Sea Reach owing to the increased risk of minelaying in this area. It is generally desirable to reduce all lighting in the Thames and Thames Estuary to the absolute minimum to avoid the risk of accurate minelaying in the Channels as much as possible.
2. If the Sea Reach becomes heavily mined it may well entail closing the Port of London to traffic indefinitely.
(C. in C. Nore, 1006A/28.)

Casualties and Defects.

H.M.S. L. 1011.
(X M.L. 1022)
fired on.

(M.L. 1011 sunk 12
Dec: 10/5/40.
P. Branch list of
Casualties.)

In about 053° 03' N. 001° 30' E. at 2216/27 N.T.B. SLEIPNER challenged a small craft which failed to reply. At 2226 SLEIPNER fired. Ceased fire at 2228 when craft signalled M.L.1011. Went alongside found C.O. wounded and M.L. slightly damaged. Sent our Sick Berth Attendant on board and ordered M.L. to proceed to Yarmouth.
(SLEIPNER, 0059/28.)

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.SOUTHDOWN &
SHEARWATER
damaged.SOUTHDOWN was in collision with SHEARWATER at 2327/27 near Sheringham buoy. Damage sustained as follows. Details.
(SOUTHDOWN, 0345A/28.)TORY ISLAND
(Grounded
27/9.)My 2310/27. (IRON AXE) sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0924/28.)DELIUS.Master reports striking unknown object in 55° 44' N. 8° 10' W. at 2200A/26.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1015A/28.)TEDDINGTON.
(Damaged by
E-Boat 15/9.)Departure tugs NESSUS and RICHARD LEE BARBER at -1440A for TEDDINGTON.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1525A/28.)Four
T.L.C's.My 1625/28. Sailing cancelled owing to engine defects in all four T.L.C's.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1824/28.)Shipping and Convoys.O.G.75.Sailed minesweeping trawler BURKE as additional escort to convoy O.G.75 on 28/9 in accordance with A.M. 1823 July 17.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0714A/28.)S.L.86.Warmest congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. your convoy S.L.86. *rah*
(C. in C. W.A., 0958A/28 to Commodore Boddam-Whetham.)O.N.17.
STEAUA
ROMANA.
GRAINTON.Following from BULLDOG received 23/9. Begins: O.N.17. STEAUA ROMANA returned to U.K. with engine trouble on 19/9. GRAINTON on 20/9. 1905/22. Ends.
Have you any news of STEAUA ROMANA.
(D.T.D., 1431A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
Request any available information as to movements of STEAUA ROMANA. Sailed in O.N.17, reported returned with engine trouble.
(C. in C. W.A., 1532A/28 to N.C.S.O's.)

/D.S.12 B.

War Diary.

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

D.S. 12 B.

CASTLETON and CHARLESTON detailed.
(R.A.M., 1818/28.)

W.S.12.

~~S.H.5.~~

Orders for Escorts.
(C. in C. W.A., 1821A/27.)
See Lion Copy.

Convoy

Q.P.

LONDON, ELECTRA, ACTIVE, 73rd A/S group sail
1200C/28. Admiralty pass to Admiral Miles
and S.B.N.O. Murmansk.
(LONDON, 2315C/27.)

H.X.149.

Arrived complete. 55 ships of which 36 British,
18 Allied, 1 Neutral. 27 were Tankers and 15
general cargoes.
(D.S. 754 of 28/9.)

MOST SECRET

8214/27th Sept. 673A.

~~MOST SECRET~~

~~MESSAGE~~

IN

Date 28.9.41

From C. in C. Western Approaches

(H).D.O.D.
Recd.(H)4370.D.D.

Naval Cypher A.1 by T/P

~~994~~

Addressed N.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, N.O.I.C. Londonderry, H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE, R.A. (M) Repeated Admiralty, C. in Home Fleet, R.A. (D) Home Fleet, S.O. T.P., C.C.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. South Atlantic, C. in C. America and West Indies, R.A. 3rd B.S., F.O.C. North Atlantic, S.O. Force H., N.S.H.C. Ottawa, C.C.N.F., Captain (D) Liverpool, Capt. (D) Greenock, H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C., Group 15, H.M.S. CATHAY, H.M.S. CAIRO, H.M.S. ARGUS, H.M.S. AGAMEMNON, H.M.S. SIKH.

803.

Admiralty 1245A 20, 1755A 26 and 1420A 19 not to all addressees. Convoy W S 12 Senior Officer of escort H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE. A/A escort H.M.S. CAIRO to prudent limit of endurance.

H.M.S. CAIRO is also to escort Bristol Channel portion.

Two A/S escorts

(a) H.M.S. WITCH and WHITEHALL from Liverpool escorting Liverpool portion.

(b) H.M.S. SIKH, ASSINIBOINE, SAGUENAY, and BRIGHTON, from Clyde escorting Clyde portion.

(c) ~~VERITY~~ ^{VERITY} ~~BLANKNEY~~, BLANKNEY, H.M.S. ~~BRADFORD~~ ^{BEVERLEY} BRADFORD, LANCASTER, STANLEY, and NEWARK, from Londonderry join at R/V.

(j) At 0800 1st October.

(III) S.O. A/S Escort H.M.S. SIKH.

(IV) Destroyers from Liverpool and Clyde are to refuel at Londonderry as arranged by S.O. of escort.

/(V)....

MOST SECRET

See
1.10.41
P 11

See 2.10.41 p 36

673 B

(V) R. (M) is requested to sail H.M.S. LANCASTER and NEWARK to Londonderry

(VI) Orders for escorts leaving convoy

(a) H.M.S. CADRO MITCH GIFFELL are to remain with convoy until prudent limit of endurance and then return in company to North Channel subsequently proceeding to base

(b) H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE and SAGUENAY are to break off as ordered by S.O. of escort a.m. October 4th and escort C M 3 to Halifax refuelling St John's N.F. if required as arranged by C.C.N.F.

(c) H.M.S. STANLEY and BRADFORD are to remain with convoy until relieved in vicinity of Azores by two destroyers from Force H and subsequently return to Londonderry. They should not refuel at Azores unless necessary.

(d) H.M.S. BRIGHTON LANCASTER NEWARK BLANKNEY BADSWORTH will be ordered by signal to meet H.M.S. RESOLUTION and two transports and escort to U.K.

(VII) Request you sail ships accordingly.

(VIII) All available C.O.'s to attend convoy Conferences.

1821A/27

Advance copy to Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H) D.T.D.

AFP

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

War Diary.

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy W.S.
12.

STANLEY and BRADFORD are remaining with convoy until relieved in vicinity of Azores by 2 destroyers detailed by you in accordance with Admiralty's 1245A/20.
(C. in C. W.A., 1015A/28 to S.O. Force H).

TRUANT,
THORN.

Your escort will be COWSLIP. Trawler ALOUETTE on patrol off Cadiz will keep 20 miles North of THORN's track. (F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/28 to TRUANT, THORN)

ST. DAY.

Proceed position 037° 20' N., 003° 10' E.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1157A/28 to Fleet Tug ST. DAY).

P. 31

(1) Intend P.31 to pass position 043° 00' N., 010° 40' W., at 0200A/8/10 proceeding thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar. P.31 is painted dark blue with no letter or numbers on conning tower. (Capt. S.9. 1217A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Gibraltar,
1 - man
submarine
attack 20/9.

Your 0910A/20 and subsequent signals. It appears that the enemy attacking craft successfully penetrated the boom defences. Is this so?
2. The following additional information is also urgently required.
(1) How was the attack first detected?
(2) At what time do you consider the attacking craft actually entered the harbour?
(3) Is there no further evidence concerning the nature of the attacking craft?
(4) What was the state of the weather and light?
(5) What was the state of the gates during the hours of darkness preceding the attack?
(6) What precautions, including patrols, were in force at the time of the explosions and during the preceding night?
(7) Are there any further points of interest?
3. Your proposals are also requested on any immediate measures that could be taken to increase the security of the harbour.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1218A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.) *Reply: p.704.*

Balloons.

Request latest instructions as to when kites and balloons are to be flown by merchant ships (A) in convoy (B) independently.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1249A/28 to Admty).

DURHAM.

Request report by signal of extent of damage to DURHAM. (D.O.D. (F) 1800A/28 to A.S. Gibraltar).

MARON.

Remain in company with escort until receipt of signal for LADY SHIRLEY.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1857A/28 to MARON).

War Diary.

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

B.D.V.s

Departure 1200/27 B.D.V.'s BARMILL, TEAL, JAN DE WAELE, PRINCE DE LIEGE. E.T.A. Freetown A.M./30. Secret reference position "Daisy" 009° N., 016° W. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 0901N/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

DERBYSHIRE.

E.T.A. 0900B/30 draft 24 feet, requirements. (DERBYSHIRE, 0915B/28 to N.O.I.C. Capetown).

REVENGE.

Durban arrivals 28/9. 1. REVENGE escorting SELANDIA, 2. R.F.A. OLCADES. (N.L.O. Durban, 0954Z/28 to Admty).

DORSETSHIRE,
EAGLE.

Departure St. Helena 1000/28 DORSETSHIRE, EAGLE on operations. (General, St. Helena, 1005/28 to Admty etc).

ALCANTARA,
BIRMINGHAM,
BULOLO.

C. in C. S.A.'s 1055/26 ALCANTARA E.T.A. Tristan da Cunha 1200Z/5 with 30% fuel remaining. BIRMINGHAM fuels in Plate 30/9 then proceeds K.32 to meet corvette. Intends subsequently to sweep through calm area round Trinidada Island vide Chart Y 190 and return to F.O. to meet BULOLO on her arrival from Capetown. BULOLO to report E.T.A at F.O. when known. (R.A.S.A.D., 1521Z/28 to C. in C. S.A.) Concur. (C. in C. S.A., 1045N/29).

VANJA.
SANDAR.

Tankers VANJA, SANDAR escorted by SENNEN, TOTLAND sailed from Freetown A.M./28. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0630/10/(?)10). (C. in C. S.A., 1845N/28 to ? F.O.C.N.A.)

DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE.

Proceed through I 34 C to J 34 A and operate in Northern half of that Area. Supply ship and possible S/MS may be met. (C. in C. S.A., 2033N/28 to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE).

MARCELLA,
suspicious
ship.

Master of British MARCELLA reports at 0330 G.M.T./22 in 20° 38° W he sighted German built vessel heading south which he considered suspicious. (Description) MARCELLA altered two points to port and at daybreak other vessel was astern. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2128Z/28 to Admty).

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Halberd" and Movements of Enemy Fleet.IMPERIAL
STAR.

My 2110/27. IMPERIAL STAR in tow for 2 hours without making headway. After consulting Master and N.L.O. and in view of damage sustained nature of cargo and proximity to enemy coast remaining markings (corrupt grp) were removed and scuttle charge fired. Ship was then bombarded for 30 minutes and around 0445 heavily on fire in position 37° 31' N., 10° ? 46' E. In view of important cargo and liability of refrigerating hull to remain floating Master requests that her sinking may be confirmed. Am returning via convoy route, speed 32 knots, E.T.A. position X 0710. (ORIBI, 0530B/28 to C.S.10). *3-677*

Enemy
Forces.

No enemy surface forces to northward or southward of your track. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0755B/28 amended 0815B/28 to C.S. 10, C.S.18).

Arrival
at Malta.

Leading Warship sighted from Gozo Convoy 45 miles N.W. No news yet of IMPERIAL STAR.
(V.A. Malta, 0845B/28 to S.O. Force H).
Cruiser(s) entered Harbour 1120B.
(V.A. Malta, 1126B/28 to S.O. Force H).

Enemy Fleet.

P.C. and S. of enemy battlefleet, 2 battleships, 5 cruisers, 13 destroyers, 38.50 N., 10.42 E., 195° 15 knots. (A/C using call sign 8HSH, 0940B/28) (Capt. S.10 1005B/28 to 10th S/M F., 0.21)
My 0940. Enemy has altered course to approx. 120°. (A/C using call sign 8 HSH, 1000/28).
My 0940. Enemy has altered course to 050° approx. (A/C using call sign 8 HSH, 1015B/28).

NELSON,
(torpedoed
27/9).

Following from S.O. Force H. NELSON struck by torpedo starboard side, compartments 43 to 80 Flooded to waterline. Trim increased 6 feet. Speed 14 knots. Turret machinery not affected. (C.S.10 1043B/28 to Admty).
NELSON parts company at dusk and returns to Gibraltar screened by 3 destroyers E.T.A. 1000/30. Request Catalina A/S air patrol proceed direct, my P.C. and S. are at (?0800)B/29 037° 07' N., (? 027°) 35' E., 250° 13. Remainder of group A, under V.A.2, R/V with Force X, A.M./29. (S.O. Force H., 1737B/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/V.A. Malta's.....

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation "Halberd" and Movements of Enemy Fleet.NELSON
(torpedoed
27/9).
Contd.

V.A. Malta's 2230/28. (re:- NELSON returns to Gibraltar. Request Catalina A/S Patrol proceed to position given. N.T. in W.D.) Am interpreting this as 29th unless correction is made. (F.O.C.N.A. 2347A/28 to V.A. Malta).
W.R. Note:- This refers to "B.29" in message 1737/28.

Alexandria
arrivals.~~Diversions~~
~~arrivals.~~

Arrivals 27/9 C. in C. Med., QUEEN ELIZABETH, BARHAM, VALIANT, NEPTUNE, AJAX, LATONA, KIMBERLEY, HASTY, JACKAL, HOBART, NAPIER, KIPLING, JERVIS, VENDETTA, KINGSTON, HERO, DECOY, HOTSPUR. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1047/28).

ORIBI.

E.T.A. 1230. (ORIBI, 1100B/28 to V.A. Malta).

*see previous page*Air
Intelligence.

From R.A.F. Malta I.152, 27/9.
Cagliari Harbour 0745 (photographed), no important change. Elmas Aerodrome, 25 Bombers, 20 seaplanes. Taranto 0700 (photographed) 3 CAVOUR Battleships, 1 8 inch Cruiser and 7 Destroyers left since (group omitted) September. Lecce Aerodrome, 20 - 25 Aircraft. Naples, 0800, shows 2 LITTORIO Battleships and 7 Destroyers left since 26/9. Messina 0900, no significant change visible, 1 M.V. on fire 340° Point Del Fara 30 miles: continuous line of patrol (? in vicinity) and seagoing and A/S Patrols covering Convoy. Marsala, 11 seaplanes G.M. Borizzo 12 A.M.C.'s 1 Breda 88, 1 Fighter. (F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/28 to S.O. Force H).

Enemy
Fleet.

P.C. and S. of enemy, 2 Battleships, 5 Cruisers, 14 Destroyers, 39.04 N., 10.52 E., 30° 16, 1220 (A/C 8 HSB, 1120/28 to Med., Stn).
P.C. and S. of 2 enemy Battleships, 5 Cruisers, 14 Destroyers, 38.40 N., 10.50 E., Course 295° 18 knots. (A/C using call sign 8HSG 1240/28 to Med. Stn.) (Capt. S.10 1345B/28 to 10th S.F.)

Force X.

Force X and convoy clean run after T/B attack on IMPERIAL STAR. (V.A. Malta, 1311B/28 to S.O. Force H).
M.I.F. 44 Enemy course is 303.
(A/C 8 HSG 1320/28).

/2 Cruisers,.....

War Diary.

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Halberd" and Movements of Enemy Fleet.

→ Force X.
Contd.

2 Cruisers, 3 destroyers, my position 140°
30 miles from Cape Carbonaro course 090°.
(A/C 8 HSC 1350/28).
2 Battleships, 6 destroyers, my position 135°
4 miles from Cape Carbonaro course 075°
(A/C 8 HSC 1355/28).
3 Cruisers, 4 destroyers, bearing 135° 25 miles
from Cape Carbonaro steering 0° speed 10 knots.
(A/C 8HSC, 1355/28).
My Nr. one ENKU Nr. 3 2 battleships 6 destroyers
075, 2 cruisers 6 destroyers 075, 3 cruisers
4 destroyers 010.
(A/C 8 HSC, 1530/28).

Air
Shadowing.

Owing to defects of shadower line (Alternative
signification "carrying out") patrol aircraft
has been ordered to take over shadowing duty.
(V.A. Malta, 1622B/28 to S.O. Force H).

→ FARNDALE,
HEYTHROP.
→ Force X.

Pass through position "AA" at 0630B/29 S. of A
from "AA" to "BB" 20 knots. Remainder of force X
passes through position "AA" 0845B/29, S. of A
"AA" to "BB" 25 knots. All of force X shift to
Gibraltar broadcast at 0630B.
(C.S.10 1644B/28 to S.O. Force H).

See next page. (Movements)

Destroyers.

2 destroyers bearing 180° position 36.43 N.,
13.36 E. (A/C 9 F.T.P., 1707/28).

Convoy
"Major".

Following received from Malta W/T begins:-
Enemy A/C bombing "Major" 37.20 N., 7.30 E.,
(Nore W/T 1730/28 to Whitehall)
The following has been read.
From "Major". Now all right T.O.R. 1818.
(Malta, W/T 1728/28).

Enemy
Forces.

Enemy probably returning to harbour, battleships
to Naples cruisers to Messina. Enemy's approx.
P.C. and S. at 1530B/28 was 039° 07' N., 010°
18' E., 075° 20. URGE move to 038° 31' N.,
013° 25' E., remainder maintain present
dispositions. (Capt. S.10 1820B/28 to 10 S/M
Flot.)

Following has been read. 12 Tomahawks are being
sent to the assistance of "Wet" E.T.A. 0630/29
(M.S.G. via Malta W/T 1830/28).

War Diary.

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Halberd" & Movements of Enemy Fleet-Ctd.

O.21.

Admiralty 1504A/28. Dutch submarine O.21 can proceed at 15½ knots while charging. (Capt. S.8., 1833A/28 to Capt. S.10) W.R. Note. Reference apparently corrupt. Admiralty 1504/28 is Hush and does not refer. Your 1833A/28. All enemy reports have been passed to O.21 who was well placed. Consider interception now impossible. (Capt. S.10 2057B/28 to Capt. S.8). Proceed Northwards towards Maddalena with all despatch. Orders follow. (Capt. S.10 2158B/28 to O.21) Cancel my 2158B/28. Proceed with execution of previous orders. (Capt. S.10 2255B/28 to O.21)

IMPERIAL STAR.

"Halberd" convoy less IMPERIAL STAR arrived safely
2. Force X sailed 1830 as given in C.S.10's 1644B/28, not to C. in C. Med., or Admty.
3. IMPERIAL STAR immobilised by torpedo in 037° 31' N., 010° 46' E., at (?2100/27) Scuttling charges fired and ship left on fire. No casualties. (V.A. Malta, 1842B/28 to Admty).

Malta Air Report.

Day 28/9 Marylands Blenheims fighter Blenheim Beaufighters and Fulmars R/C on escort and anti-submarine duties for convoy between 0935 to 1055 hours. Enemy Fleet first sighted 39° 04' N., 10° 32' E., course 300° speed 16 knots at 1020 hours last sighted at 1153 hours on same course and same speed. 2 E-boats sighted at 1200 hours South Cape Marco steering East at 10 knots. Air escort to enemy fleet, 4 single engine seaplanes 500 feet.
2 Fighter Blenheims on E-boat patrol 0440 hrs. attacked 1 of 2 E. boats 1010 hrs 3 miles East of Pantellaria Harbour. 2 of crew believed killed and others wounded. Aircraft driven off by A.A. fire from shore. Night 27/28. Wellington operation cancelled due bad weather. (H.Q. Malta, 1945/28 amended 1509/29).
page 709.

Movements.

Arrived and departed 28/9. EURYALUS, KENYA, HERMIONE, EDINBURGH, SHEFFIELD, HEYTHROP, FARNDALE, ZULU, LIGHTNING, COSSACK, LAFOREY, ORIBI. Departed PROTEUS. (V.A. Malta, 2013B/28 to Admty)
My 2013B/28. Arrived 28/9. BRECONSHIRE. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0831B/29).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Halberd" & Movements of Enemy Fleet-Ctd.

Enemy
position.

Enemy mean position and speed at 1800, 095°
Carbonara Cape 72 miles, 15 knots, 2 Battleships
6 destroyers, Course 60° 3 Cruisers, 2 destroyers
Course 10°. Aircraft report on landing.
(V.A. Malta, 2052B/28 to S.O. Force H).
P.C. and S. enemy battle fleet 039° 03' 010° 17'
065° 15 knots at 1800B/28. (Capt. S.10 2054B/28
to 10 S/M Flot).

Air
Operations.

Air attacks today-.
(1) Comiso 3 times by Hurricanes. 2 Aircraft
set on fire. Office Buildings and other Aircraft
damaged. Opposition ineffective.
(2) 2 Torpedo Boats off San Marco Eastbound and
1 of 2 E-boats 3 miles N.E. Pantellaria Harbour
by Beaufighters. Probable casualties. No
damage seen. (V.A. Malta, 2210B/28 to S.O. Force H)

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.General.LE PROGRES.

Panamanian tanker, 511 tons, laid up at Istanbul, reported sold to a pro-German Swiss Company. (D.S. 784.)

Malta Raid.

Night 26/27. 1 enemy raider bombs in sea did not cross coast. 2 night fighters up, no illuminations or interceptions. (H.Q. Malta 0025/28.)

TRIUMPH.

Your 1852B/27 acknowledged. Well done. Proceed through 034° 38' 021° 44' thence direct arriving Alexandria Submarine Sanctuary 0530B/3. Capt. S.1. 0108/28 to TRIUMPH.)

Palermo bombed and mined.

Night 26/27 Sept. 1 Wellington attacked Palermo Aerodrome causing diversion for Swordfish. Time over target 1925 to 2000 hrs. 2284 lbs. bombs dropped. Opposition slight. 5 Swordfish laid mines S.E. approach Palermo Harbour. Bombs dropped on Railway track and warehouse Agrigento starting fire. Wellington diversion successful.

Marsala attacked.

Day 27/9. 2 Beaufighters 272 Squadron attacked Marsala seaplane base at 0630 hrs. 7 seaplanes and buildings damaged by cannon and M/G fire. 2 Beaufighters same Squadron attacked Borizzo Aerodrome. 10 Aircraft seriously damaged. (H.Q. Malta, 0131/28.)

Enemy A/C.

20 Enemy Aircraft position 000 32° N., 26° E. (ROMAN 0815/28 to Alexandria.)

PROTEUS.

Your 1845B/26 PROTEUS leaves 035° 51' 015° 15', about 2300B/28 direct for 038° 16' 020° 00' arriving p.m./30. Request you signal her direct any other information about her area than is given in S.W.I.M. (Capt. S.10, 0925B/28 to Capt. S.1.)

Enemy Convoy.

Slow convoy of small ships with one escort due in 032° 05' 020° 02' at 0600B/1 from Cape Misurata Area. 2 Merchant ships may arrive same day. (Capt. S.1, 1015B/28 to PERSEUS.) Date amended, see 1731/29.

/S/M Operations

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.S/M Operations,
Aegean.

Request any information as to recent if any, successes of our submarines in Aegean. I would like to pass this on to Russians to emphasize their apparent lack of success in their (?eastern) patrol. (Adm. Miles, 1051C/28 to Admty.)

Benghazi,
Bardia
bombed.

Night 26/27, 6 Wellingtons attacked shipping and harbour installations at Benghazi, results unobserved.

Day 27/9, morning, 9 Marylands bombed M.T. concentration and camp near Mersa Luka. 9 Marylands bombed dumps near Bardia. Afternoon 9 Marylands escorted by 20 Tomahawks attacked ship 250 feet long unloading in Bardia located by morning air R/C. 12 250 lb. bombs fell near ship, 24 bombs among warehouses and A.A. gun positions. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1141/28.)

COVENTRY.

S.O.S.E.F's 1646/27. (N.T. in W.R.) In view of delay and importance of cruising Indian Ocean as early as possible in October is there any need for COVENTRY to return to Alexandria provided parts of bow can be delivered to Suez for embarkation? (C. in C. Med. 1152B/28 to COVENTRY.)

Your 1152B/28. Not essential but number of administrative details accumulated during 2 months absence make return to Alexandria desirable. In view of tender conditions of COVENTRY bow which has again opened up, considered desirable to make passage as late in Oct. as possible when N.E. monsoon has set in and tropical cyclones are less frequent. (COVENTRY 2218B/28 to C. in C. Med.)

NAPIER.
JACKAL.

My 1823B/27. On arrival of NAPIER and JACKAL at Port Said request you arrange transit Canal to Suez. These ships will then be at your disposal for escort work in Red Sea. (C. in C. Med. 1154C/28 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.)

A/C attack.

Enemy aircraft bombing, my position 139, 32° N. 26° E. 28. (2 LKS (indecipherable) 1559/28 to HIBERNIA, S.O. Group 8, ALBERNI.)

/Corinth

War Diary.

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Corinth Canal.
KING GEORGE I.

(1) After raid on Corinth Canal 29/8 traffic recommenced 7/9.B.2.
(2) Greek destroyer KING GEORGE I now in dock in Greece will be ready for service early November. Will be manned by Germans. A.1. This time average of six Italian destroyers always berthed stern to Miaouli Quay South of timber and grain wharf. Plan 14 C.B.1806. A.1 (N.A. Angora 1246/28.)

Comment by N.I.D. Para.1 is believed to be correct although only comparatively shallow draught vessels were able to transit the Canal by 7/9.

Re. para.2, this destroyer was damaged by a bomb in April last and, as repairs were not completed when Greece was evacuated the ship was sunk. It was since reliably reported that the ship was salvaged in June and a further report in August stated that she would be commissioned in Sept. The report that she will be manned by the Germans seems very likely. The latter may be dissatisfied with the Italian Naval Escorts provided for the convoys to Tripoli. The singly sailing ships to Benghazi are frequently escorted by one destroyer or T/B only, and the Germans may well contemplate using this destroyer for such a purpose in future.

S/M
Procedure.

Cancel my 1445/10. Submarines normal proceedings submerge by day when east longitude 007° E. but if operational or other circumstances demand they are at liberty to proceed on the surface as required. This in no way alters instructions regarding safety route operational and base sanctuary as given in operation B.S. or instructions in Recognition Manual chapter 4. (Capt. S.1. 1831B/28 to Med. Fleet.)

TETRARCH.
TRIUMPH.

My 1651B/27. After passing position 034° 14' 024° 00' proceed through position 032° 16' 028° 34' thence direct to arrive Sanctuary 0530B/3. TRIUMPH is routed through position 034° 38' 021° 44' thence direct to Alexandria to arrive same time and date. (Capt. S.1. 1835B/28 to TETRARCH.)

OSIRIS.
GLAUCOS.

OSIRIS expected from North West and Gr. S/M GLAUCOS from Port Said a.m./30. (Capt. S.1. 1841B/28 to OSIRIS, GLAUCOS.)

/Crews

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Crews of
French Ships
at
Alexandria.

Since my 1004/8 Admiral Godefroy has written withdrawing his request consequent on my statement that I could not agree to (?sending) out reliefs. No further action therefore appears necessary. (C. in C. Med. 2054B/28 to Adty.)

Petrol in
S/MS.

In view of risks entailed in the case of leakage inboard, petrol should not be carried in internal oil fuel tanks of submarines on passage to Malta except in case of emergency. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2131A/28 to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A.)

PORPOISE.

PORPOISE expected to leave U.K. 2/10.
(F.O.S., 2311A/28 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

HYACINTH
U/B contact.

Attacking contact in 032° 19' 034° 17' E.
Previous to this evening 2 underwater detonations heard to the eastward. (HYACINTH 2205B/28 to C. in C. Med.)
Made 2 attacks. Contact lost am searching Area.
(HYACINTH 2358B/28.

War Diary.

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies

Persian Gulf Area.

Chiefs of Staff No.173. (1st S.L. 0118A/28, 0119A/28 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

REWAK
(interception)

Your 0658/20, my 0714/21 and Admty. 2114/26 are being passed to you. Request you will reply Admiralty repeated C. in C. E.I., M.E. Intelligence Centre. (C. in C. E.I., 0616Z/28 to S.N.O. R.S.)

Bandar Shapur, facilities.

S.N.O.P.G. 0702/3/9. Following additional information received from A.I.O.C. (C. in C. E.I., 1256Z/28 to Admty.)

HOHENFELS
(German)

HOHENFELS successfully floated and berthed on KANIMBLA. (KANIMBLA 1430Z/28 to S.N.O.P.G.)

China.

Russian Far Eastern Fleet.

C. in C. Far East 165/5 cypher 25/9 to W.O. At the instigation of the J.I.C., Admiral Miles has been invited to approach Russian C.N.S. with proposal that a British N.O. should be attached to the Russian Far Eastern Fleet as minesweeping instructional officer. Lt. Cdr. Powell, a minesweeping specialist, and an interpreter, are already on their way to Moscow to carry out this duty once the Soviet authorities have agreed. Decided that, until the Russians have agreed to this proposal no action should be taken by War Office and Air Ministry regarding a Mission in the Far East. No reply from the Russians has yet been received to our suggestion. (D.D.N.I.(F) 1150A/28 to C. in C. China.)

MOST SECRET

685^A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0118A/28 Sept. IN OUT

To C. in C. East Indies 967
Repeated S.N.O. Persian Gulf

DATE 28.9.41.

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 173 to C. in C. India, A.O.C. in C. Middle East, C. in C. East Indies, repeated C. in C. Middle East and S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

1. We have reviewed problem of defence of Persian and Persian Gulf area and take into consideration views of Commander in Chief India expressed in Telegram 12330/G addressed War Office repeated C. in C. Middle East and General Iraq which we are repeating for information to Commander in Chief, East Indies and S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

2. For general policy for whole strategic area see C.O.S. 147.

3. We consider Northern Iraq - Northern Persian next in importance to Anatolia - Caucasus and we estimate defence would be based general line Zakko - Ruwandiz - Pahlevi. Mountainous country in which continuous line unnecessary. We estimate about six divisions required. We may expect some Russian troops supplied through Caspian to take part but cannot estimate their strength.

4. We agree that in case of further withdrawal we should secure general area Baghdad - Hamadan - Tehran - Isfahan as security of this area essential to defence of Gulf.

5. If enemy should reach Turkmenistan all Russian and British forces in Persia would have to be maintained through Iraq - Persian communications capacity of which likely to be limiting factor.

6. We are already doing all possible to expand Middle East air forces and improve their mobility by laying down basis of administrative organisations in Iraq. Aerodrome development resources strictly limited but we must develop Persian aerodromes as fully as possible. Northern Persia, particularly Tehran area, first priority because of tactical advantages here for attacking Caucasian oil.

7. In event German penetration Northern Persian, important to deny Tehran aerodromes. Air strategy then based generally on striking forces from Iraq coupled with close defence of Gulf. Aerodromes Bushire and Bandar Abbas may eventually be required, but development of these of lower priority.

8. In view of your.....

8. In view of your widely separated headquarters we realise difficulty in formulating joint policy but request Commander in Chief India co-ordinate exchange of views on this telegram with A.O.C. in C. Middle East and Commander in Chief East Indies and forward combined services comments for consideration by Chiefs of Staff.

0118A/28

Secretary to First 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. of P. (2)
- Duty Captain
- E.P.S.
- Head of M. (10)
- I.P. (2)
- N.I.D. 10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)
- W.D.
- D.N.I. (4)

B

0118A/28

Secretary to First Sea Lord.

MOST SECRET

6855

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

CUT
0119A/28th Sept.

Addressed:- C. in C. East
Indies. 968.
S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

Date. 28.9.41.

Naval Cypher (D)

From:- Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

A.M. 0118A/28, paragraph 1.

Following from C. in C. India to The War Office,
repeated C. in C. Middle East and General Iraq. Telegram
12330/g cipher 2/9.

Your 83344 (M.O.12) of 10/8 Persian Gulf
reconnaissance and paragraphs 12 and 13 of your
84292 (M.O.12) of 15/8.

1. Following is summary of conclusions reached by Navy and Air Staff representatives based on appreciations sent to you under Arminia letter No.33692/1/MO4 dated 23/6.
2. Objects. First protection of sea communications secondly safeguarding of oil supplies from Bahrein.
3. Routeing of ships along Arabian coast impracticable and any defence conducted solely from Arabian coast likely to be ineffective.
4. Bushire flanks sea route and forms ideal potential base for operation dive bombers against shipping and against refinery Bahrein also threatens Basra Abadan and Shatt. If in our hands constitutes valuable base for interception enemy attacks from air bases south of Tehran against shipping and Bahrein also for our air counter offensive against German penetration south and east. Place is difficult to attack from sea or from land and any force once in possession whether own or German would be difficult to dislodge.
5. Situation Bandar Abbas similar to that Bushire and possession of former important in respect of protection shipping in Straits of Hormuz.
6. Conclusion therefore most satisfactory defence is one conducted from Persian Coast with main bases Bushire Bandar Abbas which should be occupied as precautionary measure before Germans penetrate into Iran.
7. At present no threat to sea communications. Possible sporadic bombing Bahrein refinery. Report recommends provision now at Bahrein of R.D.F. Heavy and light A.A. increased P.A.D. measures.

8.....

8. Possible next stage German advance into Northern Persia. When this foreseen report recommends precautionary occupation Bushire by one Inf. Bn. less one Coy. Increased A.A. protection Bahrein up to 8 hy, and 4 lt. A.A. guns plus one Coy. Inf.

9. If further German penetration southwards foreseen with object attack on sea communications in Gulf or Bahrein oil report recommends increase of garrison in first instance. Bushire up to two Bns. less two coys. one Lt. A.A. Bty. less one Tp. Bahrein as before 8 Hy. and 4 Lt. A.A. guns plus one Coy. Infantry. Bandar Abbas one Coy. Infantry. Strength Air Forces to be based on Bushire dependent on scale of attack developed by enemy no definite recommendation at this stage. Appear to be ample landing grounds but detailed recce. by R.A.F. rep. required.

10. If necessary to adopt unsatisfactory alternative of conducting defence from Arabian coast following are minimum requirements if foreseen that enemy likely gain Bushire Bandar Abbas in order to keep fighter escort one flt. only over convoys protect Bahrein refinery and secure against air landing. Bahrein two sqns., fighters, three Inf. Bns. less two coys. one Hy. A.A. Bty. 8 guns one Lt. A.A. Bty. 12 guns administrative troops. Sharjah Peninsula three sqns. fighters two coys. infantry. Report doubts efficacy of any defence based solely on Arabian coast.

11. Our views are as follows. The position has changed considerably since this report was made and the occupation of Northern Persia has secured the protection of the gulf at any rate temporarily. Full security for the gulf can only be obtained by our occupation of the area northern Iraq-Northern Persia. Should the Germans penetrate this area our defences would have to be withdrawn to the area Baghdad-Hanadan-Tehran-Isfahan in which case sporadic attacks on shipping in the gulf would be possible. In this event fighter aircraft would be necessary at Bushire. In the event of further German penetration southwards into the above area we should require an increase of fighter aircraft at Bushire and Bandar Abbas and should have to occupy Shiraz by land forces to protect these two aerodromes.

Finally we consider that facilities at Bushire and Bandar Abbas should be developed so as to enable these places to be used as operational landing grounds and that preparations for maintaining air forces at Bushire and Bandar Abbas from the Arabian shore should be put in hand.

0119A/28

1st Lord	Secretary to 1st S.L.		
1st S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of P. (2)	N.I.D. (10) Paym.
V.C.N.S.	P.A.S. (S)	Duty Capt.	Cdr. Wilson.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.O.D. (F)	E.P.S.	W.D.
	D.D.O.D. (F)	Hd. of M. (10)	D.N.I. (4)
		I.P. (2)	

War Diary.28.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.ORINOCO.

Press report of 26/9 states bomb discovered on 25/9 in German ORINOCO, 9660 tons, seized by Mexico on 1/4 and now in Mexican service under the name *PUEBLA FORTUNATUS.* Bomb was hidden in the machinery. (D.S., 754.)

X PUEBLA. (Lloyd's index)

AUSONIA.

Leave Bermuda a.m./29 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax, so as to arrive 1/10. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1012Q/28 to AUSONIA.)

Heavy U.S. Forces.

Our opinion now is that the immediate threat of a break-out into the Atlantic by enemy surface forces no longer exists.

2. We should, however, welcome the presence of heavy U.S. forces working as at present in close co-operation with our Home Fleet until 5/10. (1st S.L. 1136A/28 to Opanav.)

EVEROJA, EMPIRE MOON.

Returned from Convoy S.C.46 EVEROJA collision, EMPIRE MOON collision. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1556Z/28.)

HARBOE JENSEN.

Your 1515A/23 to N.C.S.O. New York. Under all possible pressure HARBOE JENSEN cannot finish drydocking before 9th or 10/10. Expected to leave New York about 14/10 degaussed, with 3 inch L.A. and 4 Oerlikon A.A. machine guns mounted in New York. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1631Z/28 to D. of S.T.)

CHEVREUIL, CAP DES PALMES

A.T. 1711A/18 and 1814A/21. F.F.S. CHEVREUIL and F.F.S. CAP DES PALMES left Balboa on 23/9 and 27/9 respectively. Please inform High Commissioner. (D.O.D.(F) 1743A/28 to LE TRIOMPHANT.)

WOLFE, MALOJA.

Your 1832Q/26 and R.A.3's 1244P/27. WOLFE and MALOJA are to be fitted as troop transports at Southampton. They should be sailed to U.K. at first opportunity. Request you will consider including them in T.C.14 if they can maintain 16 knots. (D.O.D.(H) 1820A/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Reply 0922/29.

N.E.F.

Admty. 0116A/27 and my 1723A/25. Intend following destroyers and corvettes should remain with N.E.F. :-

(a) Destroyers. BURWELL, BROADWAY, BURNHAM, RAMSEY, READING.

(b) Corvettes. DIANTHUS, GLADIOLUS, CANDYTUFT, PRIMROSE, NASTURTIUM, POLYANTHUS, CELANDINE.

(C. in C. W.A. 1858A/28 to C.N.S., Canada, C.C.N.F.)

687

28.9.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

H.X.152.

Halifax arrival ST. FRANCIS. Departure ANNAPOLIS, local escort H.X.152. (S.O.I. Halifax, 2325Z/28 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S.12 B.

SYDNEY escorting U.S.12 B. left Fremantle 0300/28. (D.O.R. 29/9.)

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings at 0518 G.M.T. indicate German surface vessel in area within 300 miles of 40° S. 155° W. (D.D.I.C. 1850A/28 to N.Z.N.B etc.)

War Diary28.9.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedLEVIS
(torpedoed
19/9)

Loss announced in Canada 28/9. 17 Canadian seamen and 1 R.N. lost. No officers lost. LEVIS is first corvette built in Canada and manned by Canadians to be sunk. (The Times, 29.9.1941.)

SILVERBELLE
(torpedoed
22/9)

SILVERBELLE can be saved if tug sent immediately. COMMANDANT DUBOC can tow slowly if protected by further escort provided, 026° 34' N., 024° 02' W. Reply urgently required or COMMANDANT DUBOC must leave Monday necessitating scuttling. (SILVERBELLE, 0200/28 to Admty.) Your 0200/28 SILVERBELLE is not to be scuttled on any account. Assistance being sent. (D.T.D. 1550Z/28 to G.B.M.S.I. SILVERBELLE) COMMANDANT DUBOC towing SILVERBELLE in 26° 34' N., 24° 02' W. at 0200/28 reports she will have to leave tow 29/9. Request you will detach LADY SHIRLEY or ERIN to take over tow and obtain tug from Las Palmas as soon as possible. If necessary as a first step ship should be towed to Canaries. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1701A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.) Arrangements are being made to send assistance to SS SILVERBELLE. She is not to be scuttled. Tow towards Las Palmas. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1702A/28 to COMMANDANT DUBOC) Following for LADY SHIRLEY (begins) Proceed independently to take over towing of SILVERBELLE from French Sloop COMMANDANT DUBOC reported in 026° 34' N., 024° 02' W. at 0200A/28 proceeding towards Las Palmas. Endeavour to tow SILVERBELLE towards Las Palmas. Tug is being asked for. Escort SILVERBELLE to Las Palmas and fuel there. SILVERBELLE is not to be scuttled. (Ends.) ERIN proceed in execution of previous orders. MARON acknowledge forthwith. (F.O.C.N.A. 1904A/28 to MARON)

H.G. 73
(attacked 26/9)

Am proceeding according your 0046A/27 ZWARTE ZEE in company. Have you further information of torpedoed ship and is an escort standing by? My position 0800A 051° 01' N., 010° 27' W. course 250°. S. of A. 11.5 knots. (LEITH, 0915A/28 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 0915A/28 No further information. No escort standing by. A/C will co-operate weather permitting. (C. in C. W.A., 1307A/28.)

/MARGARETA.....

War Diary28.9.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked-Contd.MARGARETA
SPRINGBANK
(H.G. 73.)

Convoy attacked once last night. MARARITA (?MARGARETA) sunk. Crew in HIBISCUS. In view of large number of survivors in corvettes intend unless otherwise ordered to send all ships for Oban, Clyde, and Belfast to Milford Haven for onward routing. W.A.C.I. 202, consider attack on SPRINGBANK deliberate and probably from short range, approximately 290 survivors accounted for. Weather. (FOWEY, 0959A/28 to C. in C. W.A.) MARGARETA, British, 3103 tons, Gibraltar to Glasgow with general cargo and scrap. (D.S. 755.)

Your 1953/26.

(A) Position of escorts during night of 25/26 N.E. 7. with GENTIAN and STONECROP in additional positions one mile on beam of rear ships of escort. HIGHLANDER having carried out sweep astern and investigated good D/F bearing of U-Boat was at time of attack passing up starboard side of convoy to regain position 3 miles ahead on R.D.F. screen.

(B) When she left Gibraltar HIGHLANDER considered that she could remain with the convoy until a.m./27. Higher expenditure of oil during attacks and re routing of convoy forced her to leave at 0800/26.

She reached Lough Foyle with 26 tons on board, 12 of which were unusable.

(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1801A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

TRINIDAD

Ten survivors landed Oporto from Panama motor vessel TRINIDAD sunk 380 miles N.W. Cape Finisterre by gun fire by German submarine. (N.A. Lisbon, 1229/28 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

2218Z/27

D/F bearing 2218Z/27 indicates raider in approx. 015° S., 088° W. or antipodal. Request Adty. remarks.

(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0454Z/28 to B.A.D.)

Your 0454Z/28. Transmission was from U-Boat in approx. 5° N. 35° W.

(D.D.I.C. 1240A/28 to C.O.I.S. Singapore)

0742A

D/F Bearings indicate that Convoy H.G. 73 was again reported by a U-Boat at 0742A/28.

(D.D.I.C. 0911A/28 to FOWEY, BEGONIA, JASMINE, LARKSPUR, WOLVERINE.) *see also next page*

/(?time).....

War Diary28.9.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.

- (? time) S/M sighted by aircraft crash diving in 50° 29' N.
34° 15' W.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1115Z/28 to Admty.)
- Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1406A/28)
- 1430C By D/F at 1430C/28 U-Boat in 069° 09' N., (7043°)
14' E. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA and LONDON.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1625C/28 to Admty.)
- 1615 reported
Proceed forthwith to attack U-Boat/5 miles west
of Trevoze Head at 1615/28.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1634/28 to BROCKLESBY,
KUJAWIAK)
My 1634. Available M/L's to proceed forthwith
to patrol between 10 and 30 miles 330° from
Sevenstones.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1640/28 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)
My 1634. U-Boat first sighted from shore was
steering S.W. Later reported to have dived in
position given.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1648/28 to BROCKLESBY, KUJAWIAK)
Detail one M.L. to carry anti-submarine sweep
alongside A.M. Q.Z.S. 292 from Hartland Point
to Trevoze Head and return. U-Boat sighted off
Trevoze Head at 1520.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1902/28 to N.O.I.C. Appledore)
- 1457 G.M.T. D/F bearings indicate that H.G. 73 was again
reported by a U-Boat at 1457 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1652A/28 to FOWEY, BEGONIA, JASMINE,
LARKSPUR, WOLVERINE, etc.) *See previous page*
- 0357A At 0357A/28 M.L. 168 sighted submarine on surface
Eastbound 7 miles south of Carnero Point.
Subsequent hunt by Patrol assisted by aircraft
during 28/9 has failed to establish contact.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1922A/28 to Admty.)
- 1945 G.M.T. By D/F at 1945 G.M.T. U-Boat in Area 58° 30' N., to
59° 20' N., 6° W. to 7° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 2157A/28)

War Diary

28.9.1941.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked.

By HYACINTH

See Mediterranean, 2205/28.

Am over enemy submarine in 50.45 N., 14.15 W.
Sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate
no hits.
(A/C call sign 6.G.P.W. 1740/28 to 15 Group)

692

29.9.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

In a communique issued at midnight 28/29 Sept. the Russians claim to have sunk in the Baltic a cruiser of the KOLN class and 2 torpedo boats.

British Air Operations.

30 aircraft of Bomber Command bombed Genoa last night.
A minor attack was made on Emden, Binnen, Hafen.

Enemy Air Operations.

A few bombs were dropped at Aberdeen this evening. No naval damage or casualties were caused.

Convoy F.N.525 reported being bombed at 1930 in 52° 39' N. 2° 9' E. No reports of any damage has been received.

Mining.

Enemy aircraft are believed to have laid mines off Milford Haven last night.

Convoy P.Q. 1 Sailed for Archangel.

693

29.9.1941.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Spanish
North
African
Trade.

M.E.W. is considering instituting ship Navicert system for all shipments from Spanish Morocco to the mainland unless guarantee against transshipment to the enemy is forthcoming. The Admiralty have asked F.O.C.N.A. whether he could intercept the ships with the forces at present at his disposition, should the trade continue without navicerts.

Cable
cut.

MIRROR cut the Brest Casablanca cable at 0200A today in 36° 52' N. 13° 24' W.

South Atlantic.

A Sunderland returning from convoy escort carried out an R/C over Dakar in error today and was attacked by 4 Vichy French fighters. Another Sunderland joined in and 1 French fighter was destroyed and the other 3 damaged.

Mediterranean.

30 aircraft of Bomber Command bombed Genoa last night.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

Aircraft continued the attack last night on the enemy ship at Bardia, and claim eventually to have obtained 2 hits and one further probable. 19 Marylands were despatched today with strong fighter escort, to make further attacks.

Operation
"Halberd".

U-boat attacks were made on the fleet at 0600 today in 37° 39' N. 6° 6' E. and at 1720 in 37° 38' N. 5° 35' E.

694

29.9.1941.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Four A/S
Drifters
for
Iceland.

Your 1237A/28. These drifters may revert to normal operational notice. (A.C.N.S.H. 1238A/29 to A.C.O.S.).

Re-fitting
period of
Auxiliary
A/S Craft.

Request consideration may be given to extend the period of refit of auxiliary A/S craft to two months under which time vessel will not be required to pay off. C.A.F.O. 1903/40 refers. There is at present an undesirable loss of operating time due to the requirement of a fresh working up period at Tobermory. (C. in C. W.A. 1551A/29).

BOURNEMOUTH
QUEEN.

Admiralty 1115A/27/9, 2119A/28/9 and C. in C. Rosyth 2355/27/9. If so desired BOURNEMOUTH QUEEN can be made available to relieve CONQUEROR at the Tyne. Her armament is as follows. (C. in C. Nore 1632A/29).

Finnish
Ships on
approved
voyages.

Finnish Ships engaged in voyages recommended by the U.S. Maritime Commission are not to be seized. They will fly the International Code Flag, 3rd substitute, as symbol of Commission's approval.

2. Approved voyages are in general.

(a) From any neutral country to the U.S.A.

(b) From the U.S.A. to a British Commonwealth port;

(c) In an exceptional case when specially requested by Maritime Commission from a U.S.A. port in a round voyage to another Western Hemisphere port and back.

3. C.A.F.O. is being issued. (Hd. of M., 1633A/29 to C's in C.)

ATHENE.

A.M. 1713A/22 para. 3. Concur.
(C. in C. W.A. 1909A/29).

SUPERMAN.
SEAMAN.
for
Gibraltar.

Tug SUPERMAN is to be sailed for Gibraltar as convenient in O.G. Convoy. Tug SEAMAN is to be similarly sailed for Gibraltar on completion of repairs and short shake down. These tugs will be based at Gibraltar for Ocean Rescue work in F.O.C.N.A.'s command. (A.C.N.S. F. 2321A/29).

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Destroyer
movements.

Hvalfjord 28th arrival 1000 EBERLE, DALLAS, ELLIS, UPSHUR, ERICSSON. Reykjavik 28 arrival 1630 ERICSSON, 29 arrival 1000 (?PENNELOPE or LAWRENCE). (A.C.I.C. 1031/29). REUBEN
? JONES, BENSON, WINSLOW, NIBLACK, JAMES (?left) 0900/29 for O.N.20. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1848/28).

Co-operation with Russia.

Murmansk.
Port
facilities.

Your 2231A/27. See M.E.W. Telegram 408 to Moscow and Ambassador's replies numbers 376 and 377. (Ad. Miles 0949C/29 to Adty.)

KÖLN-class
Cruiser
sunk.

Kivguetsov states that the cruiser they claim to have sunk was off Oesel Island and was one of the KÖLN Class. He was not hopeful of holding Oesel Island and when asked about Leningrad said "One should not be too optimistic". (Ad. Miles 1601C/29 to Adty.)

Movements.

PORPOISE.

(1) Intend to sail PORPOISE escorted by WHITE BEAR at 0900A/2. E.T. A. Wolf Rock 2359A/3. Thence diving by day to 044° N. 010° W. thence on the surface at C.O's discretion to 045° N., 010° 40' W. where E.T.A. 0500A/7. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation as follows. (Capt. S.3., 0931A/29 and 1654A/30)

INDOMITABLE.

Intend sailing INDOMITABLE escorted by JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK 1015/1st for trial and on completion to Clyde. E.T.A. Clyde 1500/2. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1014/29).
Route and programme. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1454/29) (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0755A/30).

CONQUEROR.

Admiralty's 2119A/28. CONQUEROR is to be sailed for the Nore as soon as ready. (C. in C. Rosyth 1244/29 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
C. in C. Rosyth's 1244/29. Intend to sail CONQUEROR in F.S.8 acting as additional escort. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1600/29).

/TRIBUNE.....

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

TRIBUNE.

Intend to sail TRIBUNE at 0830/1st by Q.Z.S. 198-179-124 to Tyne. E.T.A. 1030. (Capt. S.6., 1425A/29).

H.32.

Capt. S.9 1211A/28. S/M H.32 is to part company from CUTTY SARK at 0300A/5 in 290° Bishops Rock 5 miles. Thence independently diving by day through following positions, to R/V at 0700A/7 in 050° 30' N., 000° 39' W. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange escort and onward passage. It is desired that S/M H.32 arrives Sheerness not later than 10/10. (Capt. S.7 1551A/29 and 1552A/29).

RESOLUTION.
CHESHIRE.
Escorts.

My 1821A/27. ^{NT & WD} Para. 6 (A) delete WITCH. Para. 6 (D) cancel and substitute new paragraph 6 (D) BLANKNEY, BADSWORTH and WITCH will be required to meet RESOLUTION and escort to U.K. BRIGHTON, NEWARK, and LANCASTER will be required to meet CHESHIRE escorting transports and escort to U.K. (C. in C. W.A. 1720A/29).

NIGER.

NIGER is to be sailed for Scapa A.M./2nd to make passage in daylight. (C. in C. Rosyth 1723/29).

Operations.

Pursuit of E-Boats.

Two E-boats bearing 050° 12 miles from Cromer. (QUORN 2306/29).
Have lost touch with enemy E-Boats. (QUORN 2320/29).
Present course of E-boats 050° Cromer 24, 090° 35 knots (corrupt group) (?2335). (D.16 2345A/29).

British Air Activity.

Shipborne A/C and M/V's.
Recognition procedure.

Procedure between Warships and M/V's is to be extended for use by day between M/V's and shipborne A/C in Areas 6A, 6B, 3B, and 9. Details and orders. (D. S. D. 1112A/29).
See Lion Copy.

/Patrols.....

MOST SECRET

11.
MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E - 1112A/29, Sept.

OUT

Admiralty 'R' Message Home and
Abroad 266R.

Date: 29. 9. 41.

NAVAL CYPHER 'C'

From Admiralty.

NITE BASEGRAM

Pass to N.C.S.O's

1. The Recognition procedure now in use between warships and merchant vessels laid down in Art. 66(b) of S.P.02220(2) Recognition Manual, is to be extended for use by Day between merchant vessels and shipborne aircraft in Areas 6A, 6B, 3B and 9.
2. Flashing and not Flag signals are to be employed for this purpose.
3. The aircraft must first indicate its intention to challenge by firing one puff of white smoke. The merchant ship is then to flash her signal letters as soon as possible without waiting to receive group NNJ.
4. Aircraft are not to approach within 1500 yds. of merchant vessels or to contravene instructions contained in S.P.02312(2) until identification procedure has been completed successfully.
5. In order to facilitate signalling, aircraft should maintain position on the most suitable bow of merchant vessel and vary the bearing as little as possible.
6. Aircraft carriers to be supplied with up-to-date information regarding merchant ships in their vicinity.
7. S.P.02182(2) is not to be taken up in aircraft, but aircraft should be provided with extracts containing Secret War W/T Call Signs and Signal Letters of all merchant vessels likely to be met. These extracts are to be treated as Secret documents and are to be enclosed in Form S.1335.
8. If a merchant vessel is sighted which is not on the aircraft's list, the aircraft may communicate with the carrier by W/T, after reading the signal letters, in order to ascertain the merchant vessel's Secret Call Sign.
9. This should be done by aircraft transmitting signal letters sykoed and carrier replying with Secret Call Sign coded by simple letter-figure substitution table and sykoed. Such table to be changed at least weekly.
10. When closing the merchant vessel for this purpose the aircraft may inform the carrier by W/T of its position in case it should subsequently get into difficulties.
11. Instructions given in paras. 8, 9 and 10 necessitate breaking W/T silence and are subject to cancellation at the discretion of ~~the commanding officer~~ officer concerned.

MOST SECRET

12. N.C.S.O's are to inform Masters of Merchant vessels of the new Aircraft Merchant Vessel procedure and that:-

- (a) Procedure should not be expected within 200 miles of British territory.
- (b) Procedure at present confined to ship-borne aircraft and will therefore only be carried out by certain types of aircraft (which should be described).
- (c) Existing instructions regarding reporting of aircraft on the high seas will stand.

1112A/29.

D.S.D. (284)

5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 N.A.1st S.L.
 D.C.
 D.O.D. (H)
 D.D.O.D (H)
 D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.I.C.
 I.P. (2)
 D.A./S.W.
 W.D.
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.S.D.
 D.N.A.D.
 D.T.D. (2)
 D.T.D. (M)
 Hd. of M.
 D. of S.T.
 D.T.D. (C)
 D.S.D.9.
 D. of P. (2)

f.m.d.

697

War Diary.29.9.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity-Contd.Patrols.

P.R.U's of Trondheim, Stadlandet and of Bergen, Haugesund, Stavanger, Kristiansand South in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1116/29).

Operation "Roam".

Carry out operation "Roam" tonight with two A/C of 22 Squadron. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1155/29 to Thorney Island).

Operations "Hoden", "Rover".

(1) Carry out operation "Hoden" tonight with four A/C, as previously ordered.
(2) Carry out operation "Rover" during moonlight tonight with two A/C. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1200/29 to North Coates).
Carry out operation "Rover" this afternoon with two A/C. A/C are not to proceed unless cloud conditions are ideal. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1240/29 to North Coates).

Escort for H.G. 73.

There is indication that you may be attacked by torpedo bombers and Heinkels. Expect escort of 3 Beaufighters and 12 Blenheims between 1830 and 2015 29th. (C. in C. W.A. 1604A/29 to Escort H.G.73).

Genoa and Emden bombed.

On Night 28/29 thirty A/C bombed the docks and town at Genoa and five A/C bombed Emden. Fires were started at both places. (H.Q.B.C. 1658/29).

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy.

Enemy bombing convoy "Attempt" in 52° 39' N. 2° 9' E. (QUANTOCK 1930/29).

Aberdeen bombed.

At 2016 Hostile plane fired at by shore defences, result unknown. Afterwards attacked by fighter from Dyce. No damage, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2042/29).

Convoy F.S. 5.

D.21 reports following from MENDIP, F.S. 5. 4 separate low level beam attacks were definitely frustrated at about 2140 near 62 G. Buoy by blind barrage. Flashless cordite was invaluable while it lasted. 1800A/28 Ends. (C. in C. Nore 2200A/29).

/Peterhead.....

698

29.9.1941.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.-Contd.Peterhead
bombed.

At 2120 two planes passed over Peterhead, one showing navigation lights. One bomb dropped in north harbour, one bomb possibly at station, one bomb in St. James St. 100 yards from base. 3 casualties, more feared. No damage to naval personnel or property. Estimated height 3000. Fire opened with 12 pdrs. and Lewis guns before bombs were dropped. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 221/29).

Mining.→ S.N.16A.

Arrivals WELSHMAN and MANXMAN. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 0017A/29).

Operation
"Tincture".

Your 1257A/25. Vessel returned. Operation completed. Negative results. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1019A/29).
If possible repeat operation "Tincture" with single trawler. Sweep to start from western side of minefield at daylight tomorrow. (A.C.N.S. H. 1925A/29 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
Your 1925A/29. Operation will be carried out. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2101A/29).

Thames
Estuary.

Request two of your motor minesweepers be sent to Queenborough tomorrow to assist for two or three days in clearing up mines in Thames Estuary. They will be available to return at short notice if required. (C. in C. Nore 1049A/29 to F.O.I.C. London).

M.M.S.1.

M.M.S.1. are congratulated on their successful minesweeping operations. (C.N.S. 1902A/29).

→ S.N.16B.

Intend laying surface field S.N.16 B. with WELSHMAN and MANXMAN sailing 1930/2 and laying between 057° 22' 24" N. 000° 50' W. and 057° 16' N. 000° 58' 30" W. am./3rd. Fighter escort will be required from dawn until about 1600/3. (R.A.M. 1941/29).

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Ship off
Lands End

There are indications of a ship in 050° 18' N. 005° 42' W. at 2350, proceeding South Westerly at about 15 Knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 0020/29 to BROCKLESBY, M.L. 181).

U-Boats.

Estimate 3 German U-boats between 048° and 049° 30' N. and between 009° and 011° W. en route Bay of Biscay ports. (F.O.S. 1646A/29 to SEAWOLF).

U-boat(attacked by) aircraft in 49° 9' N. 8° 13' W -at 1630/29, course 120°. You may meet others bound for Biscay Ports. (C. in C. Plymouth 1732/29 to NESTOR.)

Casualties and Defects.

CORILLA.
SELENE.
collision.

CORILLA and SELENE have been in collision 2 miles West of 57B Buoy. Both able to proceed. SELENE with badly damaged steering gear and 3 feet water in hold. (VIMIERA 0302A/29, 0639A/29) SELENE in E.C.79 arrived Humber with damage to port quarter. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1443/29).

H.D. M.L. 1022
damaged by
SLEIPNER
on 27/9.

H.D.M.L.'s 1058, 1071 and 1022 left Lowestoft at 1455/27 to join F.N.524 at No. 5 Buoy. Shortly after 2100/27 with 57A Buoy abeam, while taking station astern of convoy, H.D.M.L. 1022 challenged by light by Norwegian Destroyer SLEIPNER. Light incorrectly trained and H.D.M.L. 1022 did not realise he was being challenged. Star shell fired, and subsequently SLEIPNER opened fire on H. D.M.L. 1022 with .5 and pom pom. C.O. wounded. Vessel slightly damaged, 7 days to repair. (F.O.I.C; Yarmouth 1017A/29).

BEVERLEY.

My 1231A/29. ^{NT 2WD} BEVERLEY returned Belfast with further condenser trouble. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1410A/29).

WOLFHOUND
(Bombed 3/9)

Rescue Tug KROOMAN will be available to tow WOLFHOUND from Hull to Sheerness, p.m. 1st. Second Tug will be provided by United Towing Co. Hull. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to make necessary arrangements for sailing and escort. (C.C.R.T. 1745A/29 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

/PONTFIELD.....

29.9.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

PONTFIELD.
(Mined 15/9).

Request arrangements be made to sail Tanker PONTFIELD from Humber to Tyne in tow of H.M. Tug SEA GIANT and Tug EMPIRE HENCHMAN. (C. C.R.T. 1747A/29).

BRIGHTON.

My 1004A/29. BRIGHTON developed defects. Probable delay 56 hours. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1850/29).

KINGSTON
ANDALUSITE.

Will require docking, due to propellor with one broken blade, others chipped. Intend sailing at 0900/30 for Plymouth. E.T.A. 1600. Maximum speed 7 knots, escorting W.D. Launch JENNIFER. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1951/29).

BRITISH
PRINCE.
(Bombed 26/9)

Wreck located in 260° 62.E Buoy 5 cables. Least depth over it is 12 fathoms. (F.O. Humber 2306A/29).

Shipping and Convoys.

→ E.C.79.
BIRGITTA.
KODUMAA
BRUNO.

E.C.79 became straggling during low visibility last night and following ships have not been sighted after search this morning. BIRGITTA bound for Tyne KODUMAA bound for Humber Tweed
* BRUNO bound for Blyth. (VIVIEN 0935A/29).
* *Not identified.*

H.G.73.

FOWEY's 0959A/28. Milford Haven Anchorage has no room for Convoy. If there are insufficient escorts (without survivors to land) to escort the Oban, Clyde, and Liverpool sections, extra escorts will be detailed by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven to R/V with you as signalled later. Report Situation. You are to inform F.O.I.C. Milford Haven as soon as possible details of survivors in Corvettes in order that arrangements may be made to receive them. (C. in C. W.A. 1048A/29 to WOLVERINE, FOWEY).

→ E.C.79.
W.N.87.
E.C.80.
W.N.88.
(CURAÇOA).

On unbasining at 1000/30 sail for D.G. range. Burtisland and on completion of D.G. trials proceed to escort E.C.79 due to pass May Island 1530/30.
2. Transfer with GLEANER to W.N. 87 and anchor in Largo Bay on arrival.
3. Sail with E.C.80 (Forth Section) at about noon/third October, transferring from that convoy to W.N.88, and providing escort to Forth.
4. On arrival in Forth, proceed to Rosyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1255/29 to CURAÇOA).

/Brodick.....

400A.

SECRET

MESSAGE

1200/29.Sept.

IN

Date. 29.9.41.

From C. in C. Rosyth.

Recd. 1415.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, S.E.E.C.C.D., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C.,
11, 12, 13 Groups.

NOTWT.

298. Convoy message.
Forecast of convoy sailings

F S611	(M)	OCEAN	1330	Friday 3rd	VERDUN, VANITY.
F S612	(S)	FLUMB	0830	Saturday 4th	VERSATILE, WHADDON.
F S613	(F)	EVIDENCE	2100	Sunday 5th	WALLACE, JASON.
F S614	(M)	ATTACHE	1330	Tuesday 7th	VALOROUS, QUANTOCK.
F S615	(S)	BREAST	0830	Wednesday 8th	LIDDESDALE, WOLSEY.
F S616	(F)	MERIT	2100	Thursday 9th	WESTMINSTER, VERDUN.
E C 81	(M)	USAGE	0700	Friday 3rd	WOLSEY, VALOROUS.
F N527	(F)	RADIO	0700	Saturday 4th	LIDDESDALE, WINCHESTER.
E C 82	(S)	PATTERN	0700	Sunday 5th	VIVIEN, VIMIERA.
F N528	(M)	PRIZE	0700	Monday 6th	VERDUN, VANITY.
E C 83	(F)	MIGHT	0700	Tuesday 7th	VERSATILE, WHADDON.
F N529	(S)	LUNCH	0700	Wednesday 8th	WALLACE, JASON.

After passing May Island E C 82 will run as a fast and E C 83
as a slow convoy.

Time table as in my 1100/8/9.

1200/29.

Advance copy Ops., Trade.

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

eeb

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.-Contd.

Brodick Bay.

Pass to N.C.S.O.s. Ships from overseas especially those from Canadian Ports continue to arrive at Rothesay when bound for Ayrshire Ports instead of proceeding to Brodick Bay for search. Attention is again drawn to My 1806B/8/6 and 1313B/7/7. (D.T.D. 1437A/29).

Homing Convoys.

Reference W.A.C.I. Part 110 para 19. As a trial measure the following additional instructions -are to be carried out:- Convoys homing by North Channel S/O Escort to signal E.T.A. Dubhartach of Oban portion on crossing 10° W. 2. Convoys homing by Minches S/O escort to signal E.T.A. Dubhartach when off Tiumpán Head. N.O.I.C. Oban to sail one A/S trawler as detailed in my 1511A/2 to meet and escort Oban portion S/O escort will still detail Oban escort in case of not met. On meeting ocean escort to proceed to her base. (C. in C. W.A. 1549A/29 to N.O.I.C. Oban).

H.X.149.

Warmest congratulations on bringing your convoy to the U.K. in safety. (C. in C. W.A. 1555A/29 to Vice Admiral Swabey.)

Iceland. Interstation Vescas.

As U.S. flag M/V's from Iceland are returning to U.S. ports without previous intimation to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, request that S.O.(I) Iceland will initiate Interstation Vescas between Iceland and adjoining Intelligence Centres vide C.B.3000/38, para. 139 as from 1st October. 2. Vesca and Interstation Vesca signals are to include movements of all British, Allied United States, Panamanian, and Icelandic M/V's and those under neutral flags controlled or operated by the foregoing. (D. T.D. 2043A/29 to A.C.I.C.)

American escorted convoys.

Meeting of C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., and Admiral Giffen today with A.C.I.C. and A.O.C. Iceland to discuss action to avoid danger. Details. (C. in C. H.F., 2357Z/29 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

701A

MOST SECRET

2357Z/29 September.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From: C. in C. Home Fleet

Date: 30.9.41.

Recd. 2006

NAVAL CYPHER (D) by T/P

Addressed: Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Western Approaches, A.C.I.(C).

IMPORTANT

724. C. in C. Western Approaches and I met Admiral Giffen today with A.C.I.C. and A.O.C. Iceland (C) to discuss methods of accelerating machinery to facilitate immediate action by an American escorted convoy to avoid danger or to allow surface forces and Patrols to give immediate information to forces of the other nations.

(ii) The problem of convoys was first examined because, if a satisfactory procedure can be evolved to meet their day to day difficulties, such an arrangement can quickly be adapted to the needs of the covering forces.

(iii) Following proposals were agreed to at the meeting but it was realized by all present, that the matter of policy and of communication of which they were not fully informed might affect issue.

Proposals concerning convoys.

A. When British Authority sees an immediate danger a preliminary signal should be sent by that Authority in British and American joint cypher which can be received by U.S. escort either through Washington or on a direct broadcast. This signal should be easy to identify as a danger warning so that it may be retransmitted without decyphering if passing through Washington.

B. It is understood U.S. Escort Commission already has discretion to avoid such a danger.

C. The British Authorities should follow preliminary signal with normal proposals to OPNAV for re-routeing the convoys or resuming original routes and suggesting a new meeting point if necessary.

(iv) The procedure outlined in paragraph (iii) (a) should be reciprocal and should also apply to covering and patrolling forces of either nation if it is necessary to pass immediate information affecting forces of the other nation.

MOST SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

(v) There are many local problems in Iceland particularly with regard to meeting convoys by escort forces and aircraft and concerning patrols in Denmark Strait. It was agreed that these could readily be solved by establishing U.S. Naval and Air Liaison Officers at Maritime Headquarters of British Admiral and A.O.C.'s in Iceland.

It must be recalled that communications between Reykjavik and Hvalfjord are still very unsatisfactory and that wireless transmission in latter is often bad: this emphasizes importance of having a Liaison Officer at Reykjavik (?representing the) S. N.O. at present at Hvalfjord.

(vi) The communication from Iceland to OPNAV is bad and a U.S. W/T Station on shore is essential. Local U.S. Authorities do not yet fully realize this but introduction of Liaison Officers should bring it to light.

(vii) C. in C. Western Approaches intends to report to Admiralty personally soon after he returns.

2359Z/29

Advance copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D. (H)
and D.T.D.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C.
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
D.A./S.W.
D.S.D.
Hd. of M.
D.T.D. (2)

E.P.S.
Admiral Bailey
Admiral Bellairs
W.D.
I.P. (2)
N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

SECRET

29.9.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H
reported
by A/C.

At 0626 G.M.T. an enemy aircraft reported 2 A/C one carrier, 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers on a westerly course. (F.O.C.N.A., 0816A/29 to Force H).

ST. DAY.

Return to vicinity Cape de Gata unless otherwise ordered by S.O. Force "H". (F.O.C.N.A., 0925A/29 to Fleet Tug ST. DAY.)

PORPOISE.

Intend that PORPOISE pass 043° N., 010° 40' W., at 0500A/7 proceeding thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar. PORPOISE is painted dark Blue. (Capt. (S) 3, 0941A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE.

Proceed through 025° 00' 021° 00' 029° 00', 019° 00'. Report P.C. and S. of A at your discretion during night 29/30. (F.O.C.N.A. 1210A/29 to CLYDE).

Your 1210A/29. My P.C. and S. of A. is 21.16 22.37 020° 14. Weather report. (CLYDE, 2205Z/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Allied and
Neutral
refugee ships
in French
North
African
ports.

Your 1807/7 para. 3 (See * below)
Casablanca 27/9 B.2.

Following allied ships have remained untouched by Naval Authorities; at Port Lyautey; Danish *CIRRL HILDE, Belgian STORAA, HEBE ~~H~~, Norwegian NYHORN, Batavia, Greek ELISE, POLEMIS, Dutch EXPORT, at Casablanca Danish?GEIHR, ELSE, ?GEIR. ✓ Belgian FREDERIC. * *not identified.*

(a) No plans are known for taking over Danish ships but Greek Consul suspects Greek ships may be seized soon. An attempt is being made to secure denial or confirmation of French Admiralty intention to seize above vessels indiscriminately.

(b) No information.

(c) Crews of previously seized ships have been forced to sail on French ship or to return home.

(d) Most ships have gone to Marseilles none have returned.

Fact that French are short of fuel and motor engineers may have prevented seizure of Norwegian ships. (Washington, 1127R/29 to Admty).

*We know that the French are bringing into service Allied and Neutral refugee ships in French North African ports.

Please endeavour to secure information of (a) French preparations to bring these ships into service; (b) probable dates of departure; (c) Axis interest (pressure from Armistice Commission, etc) and (d) the fate of these vessels on arrival in unoccupied ports.

/Your.....

War Diary.29.9.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Allied and
Neutral
refugee ships
in French
North
African
ports. - Con.

Your 1807/7 para. 3. Dakar 29/9 B.2.

(a) Naval Officials have been ordered to have all interned ships repaired and then to turn them over to French concerns who will act as agent of Vichy Government on instructions from Wiesbaden.

(b) Reference "Medal" Number 71 para. 5, Greek ships are due to sail at end of September. Belgian CARLIER (new name unknown) will sail for Bordeaux Brest and Antwerp on arrival of crew.

(c) All requisitions take place on instructions from Wiesbaden.

(d) No particulars.

In addition to the above, following ships are in port:-

(i) British TAKORADIAN, ARGYLL, GAMBIAN, repairs are nearly completed.

(ii) 4 Norwegian and 1 Yugoslavian. All oil burners. Captains and skeleton crews remain. No instructions issued for recommission due to shortage of oil.

(iii) 2 Danish 2 Greek 1 Italian. No plans yet announced. (Washington, 1419R/29 to Admty).

Escort for
NELSON.

Departure FLEUR DE LYS, ROCKINGHAM, JONQUIL, ARBUTUS, SAMPHIRE, eastward for escort duty. (F.O.C.N.A., 1250A/29 to NELSON).

P. 34.

Intend to sail P.34 p.m./1 for Malta, P.34 will pass through 038° 00' 009° 00' about 0400A/5 N.O.I.C. Malta is requested to signal onward route. P.34 supplied with position given in N.O.I.C. Malta's 0238B/18. (F.O.C.N.A., 1408A/29 to C. in C. Med).

LISBOA
(German)
Spanish
supplies.

Ref. S.O.(I) Letter RS 18/74/9 of 3.9.41 to D.N.I. Now learnt that German LISBOA at Sagunto on 14/9 loaded iron ore brought there on 11/9 from Melilla in Spanish FERNANDO L. DE YBARRA.

2. M.E.W. considering instituting ship Navicert system for all shipments from Spanish Morocco to mainland unless guarantee against transshipment to enemy forthcoming.

3. This would be empty threat unless we can intercept ships, should Consul Melilla report that the trade is continuing without ships navicerts. Request your views on possibility of such interceptions observing no additional forces from U.K. available.

F.O.C.N.A. pass to F.O. Force H., on arrival. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1814A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/ST. BRIEUX.....

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

ST. BRIEUX.
ATLAS.

Departure 28th ST. BRIEUX Sete. Arrival 28th ATLAS. (Barcelona, 1832/29).

Operation
"Halberd"
air escorts.

202 Squadron, 2 Catalinas escort NELSON from East, Dawn till dusk, areas covered 37.07 N., 00.05 W., to 36. 20 N., 03.00 W., 2 Hudsons 233 Squadron anti air escort NELSON. Same period. Same area. 1 Catalina escort Force M.G.2 from East. Dawn to dusk. Area covered 37.20 N., 03.10 E., to 36.43 N., 0032.W. (200 Group, 1835/29). All force withdrawn. No air attack. PRINCE OF WALES, KENYA, SHEFFIELD, LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, ORIBI, FORESIGHT, FURY, FORESTER, E.T.A. 1700A/30. Request Northern Gate. at 1800A. C.S.18 and remaining ships E.T.A. 1000A/1/10 (V.A. 2., 1915Z/29 to S.O. Force H).

Attack on
Gibraltar
by one
man S/Ms
20/9.

Your 1218A/28. One. Yes but presence of Italian(?) submarine in Gibraltar Bay now considered improbable.
2. (i) Small explosion in DENBYDALE at detached Mole at 0742 followed by explosion in DURHAM in commercial anchorage at 0817 and explosion in FIONA SHELL in commercial anchorage at 0813(?). (ii) probably about 0200/20 which was slack water (iii) No, but one Italian breathing apparatus (similar to those found after attack in October 1940) was found floating in commercial anchorage at 0920. (iv) Levanter condition at 0200/20 inside harbour. Wind E., force 2 B.C. very dark. (v) (vi) Description of A/S measures in force. (vii) Following facts established (a) four Italians landed on beach East of Campamento probably about 0500/20 wearing some form of diving dress were met by motor car waiting them. (c) Remarks on A/S measures. (d) Asdic conditions in Strait had been extremely bad for some weeks.
3. (a) Until improvement can be designed and made to net defences, security of harbour against miniature submarines depends on firing of explosive charge in entrance. This is now being done at both gates by separate boats at very short intervals.

/(b).....

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Attack on
Gibraltar
by one man
S/MS 20/9.
(Contd).

(b) Concertina barbed wire is being laid on sea bed in both entrances and also secured to side and bottom of net but this must still leave gaps. South Gate is practically finished. Further proposals being forwarded (? with) reports.

(d) Patrol of commercial anchorage has been strengthened.

4. Problem is being further considered but at present it appears beyond patrols little effective protection can be afforded ships in commercial anchorage. Undesirable therefore to leave valuable ships here longer than necessary as success of this attempt and proximity of Spanish Territory would appear to make repetition certain. Harbour too congested to berth them inside.

5. Request any information available as to effective (?lethal) range of 5 pound charges. (F.O.C.N.A., 1930A/29 to Admty).

LA CARRIERE.

If LA CARRIERE not already met return forthwith to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2117A/29 to ERIN).

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ENCOUNTER,
BULOLO,
KOS XI,
KOS X.

Simonstown arrival 28/9 ENCOUNTER, Departure 2116Z/28 BULOLO for Tristan Da Cunha, S. of A. 14.5 knots, E.T.A. 0800Z/3. Capetown departure 1050Z/28 KOS XI and X for Durban, S. of A. 8 knots, E.T.A. Durban a.m./2. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1030Z/29 to N.O.I.C. Durban etc).

BIRMINGHAM.

Your 1521/28, concur. Consider operation(s) round Trinidad Island important in view of my 2033/28 and other information from Admiralty. (C. in C. S.A., 1045N/29 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Greek
Ships
to be
operated by
French.

Meter My 1937 15 not to Admiralty and 2015/15 para 5 * to Admiralty only (see below).
Dakar 24/9 A.1. Ships in question have been renamed respectively ANDORRE, LIBREVILLE, SAHARA, MONROVIA, ST. MARTIN and will probably sail Northward bound at the end of September. (B.A.D. Washington 1157R/29 to S.O.'s (I) Freetown and Gib).
* (5) Dakar 12/9 A.1. Director of Maritime Transport has informed Greek consort that French Admiralty intended to operate following Greek ships under French flag:

<u>Old Name.</u>	<u>New Name.</u>
MOUNT PRIONAS,	ANDORRE.
CAPE CORSO,	LIBREVILLE. * LIBERIA
AFROESSA,	SAHARA.
MOUNT ITHOME,	MONROVIA.
ADELFOI CHANDRIS,	ST. MARTIN.

* *Lloyds index.*

EAGLE.

My 1235A/27. EAGLE will be taken in hand by Cammell Lairds, Liverpool. (D.O.D. (F) 1326A/29 to C. in C. S.A.) Admty., 1235A/27. Following are proposed arrangements for escort of EAGLE to Gibraltar. EAGLE to sail from Freetown p.m./4 escorted by DUNEDIN BRIDGEWATER, and 2 Corvettes. Escort will be taken over by VIMY and WILD SWAN off Bathurst a.m./6, other vessels returning to Freetown. EAGLE to be routed east of Canary Islands. VIMY to be detached in about 026° N., to return to Bathurst, WILD SWAN to continue escort to Gibraltar. Can you meet EAGLE with another destroyer when VIMY leaves? (C. in C. S.A., 1733N/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/STANVAC.....

707

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

STANVAC MANILA suspicious ship, 14/9. Ref. N.C.S.O. Santos 1945Z/19. Master STANVAC, MANILA, states suspicious ship sighted on 14/9 had many features similar to Norwegian THOR line vessel THORSTRAND. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1434Z/29 to Admty).

REVENGE.

Taken in hand 28/9 repairs to collision damage and docking. Ship at 24 hours' notice until docked on 1/10. F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0942Z/12 refers. (N.L.O. Durban, 1630B/29 to Admty).

Troop Transport Berbera to W. Africa.

A.M. 1228/29/8 and P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1821/25.
1. Request information whether your escort arrangements will permit delay of approx. four days at Cape to embark as much cargo for U.K. in troopships as draught limitations at Takoradi will permit.
2. Do you prefer them to call at Capetown or Durban? (D.O.D. (F) 1801A/29 to C. in C. S.A.)

Visit to Bissau.

Request Portuguese Govt. may be informed that it is proposed that one H.M. Motor Launch shall visit Bissau for 24 hours arriving about 7/10 and that I may be informed early if there is any objection to this visit.
(C. in C. S.A., 1801N/29 to N.A. Lisbon).

NEW NORTHLAND.

Defects. Imperative vessel remains Freetown (?10) days at least for repairs. Propose retaining here to connect with W.S. 12. (S.S.T.O. Freetown 2031N/29 to D. of S.T.)

WINDHUK.

Santos reports German Ship WINDHUK is embarking 300 drums of Diesel Oil.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2334Z/29 to Admty).

708

29.9.1941.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Halberd"
BRECONSHIRE.

My 2013B/28. Arrived 28/9 BRECONSHIRE.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0831B/29).

VENDETTA.

Request you sail VENDETTA for Haifa using her for escort (? as convenient).
(C. in C. Med., 0931B/29 to R.A.D. Med).
Leave Alexandria at 1800B/29 for Haifa E.T.A. 1600C/30. Attention is called to N.O.I.C. Port Said's 1216/27.
(R.A.D., Med., 1207B/29 to VENDETTA).

NAPIER,
JACKAL.

C. in C. Med., 1154C/28 not to Port Tewfik. NAPIER and JACKAL are at your disposal for escort duty. Report your intended employment for them. For information Capt. (D) 7, S.O. Suez escort force is in NAIAD. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0941B/29 to S.O. Suez Escort Force).

Enemy M/V.

P.C. and S. of 1 enemy merchant vessel 32.58 N., 25.40 E., 270° unknown. (Med., A/C "R" 0950/29 to Med., A/C Call Sign 6 F J).
Attacked M.V 1500 tons YPPD 3015, 310, 3 no hits. Chased by ME. 110. (Med., A/C 1040/29 amended 1130/29)WD. Note. Position indecypherable. If TPDD = 32.30 N., 25.15 E.
My 0845. Driven off, am returning to base. (Med., A/C "R", 1051/29).

REGENT.

My 0957B/19. Repairs to periscope top entirely satisfactory. REGENT will be ready for full patrol sailing P.M./3. (Capt. S.10, 1031B/29, to Capt. S.1)

Rhodes
bombed.

Dodecanese. Night 27/28. 11 Wellingtons bombed Rhodes Harbour, causing explosions and many fires 1 Wellington forced landed in Sea 30 miles S.E. of Rhodes. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1114/29).

Enemy M/V
attacked,
Bardia.

Night 27/28. Attacks were continued throughout the night on enemy ship in Bardia Harbour attacked previous day 37 Marylands. Bombs from 11 Albatrosses started large petrol fire on south side of harbour, 2 falling near ship. 2 torpedoes also fired by them were caught in nets across harbour mouth. 3 Wellingtons dropped bombs near ship and started 2 large fires. Day 28/9. 3 Blenheims attacked ship at first light, results being unobserved. 2 Blenheims missing at midday. Marylands escorted by 37 Hurricanes, Tomahawks,

/and Martlets

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy M/V
attacked,
Bardia.
Contd.

and Martlets bombed ship from 12000 feet, 1 bomb falling near vessel. Much oil seen on surface after attack. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1116/29)

AVON VALE,
ERIDGE.

On arrival at Suez AVON VALE and ERIDGE are to form part of 2nd D/F. (C. in C. Med., 1156B/29)

Operation
"Halberd"
IMPERIAL STAR.

Is it certain IMPERIAL STAR has sunk?
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1230A/29 to V.A. Malta).
Your 1230A/29. No, but A/C sent to provide escort for IMPERIAL STAR on 28th failed to find any trace. Naval Liaison officer reports she was left burning fiercely from stem to stern with heavy list after 3 depth charges had exploded internally. (V.A. Malta, 1745B/29 to Admty) Operation "Halberd", preliminary report. (S.O. Force H., 1730A/29 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

Russian
S/MS.

Repetition of Admiral Miles 1051C/28. Request you will reply. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1427A/29 to C. in C. Med).

Operation
"Halberd"
Air attack
on Comiso.

Correction to I 153, 28/9 (1945/28) Part 3. Hurricanes made 3 bombing attacks on Comiso Aerodrome to keep down fighters whilst convoy was arriving Grand Harbour. 90 per cent of 5140 lbs of bombs fell in target area. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1509/29).

Tobruk
mines.

Mine sweeping summary, week ending 29/9. Two minelaying raids, three parachute mines, four non-parachute mines laid in harbour three exploded ashore. Mines swept. In harbour, one "J" type red by L single pulsing laid 24/9. In swept channel one Acoustic by S.A., one magnetic by L. Outside channel one Acoustic by S.A. laid 13/9. One magnetic by L. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 1604B/29).

R/C Naples,
Messina,
Cagliari.

Visual R/C 29/9. Naples. 2 Battleships, 1 cruiser, 7 destroyers. Messina. 2 Cruisers and 1 cruiser being towed in by tug. Cagliari, 1 Destroyer, 1 torpedo boat, 1 submarine. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1607B/29 to S.O. Force H). My 1607B/29. Confirmed by photograph (i) Naples, battleships are LITTORIO class (ii) Messina no amplification can be made. (V.A. Malta, 2305B/29 to S.O. Force H).

/REGENT.....

MOST SECRET

409A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1730A/29th Sept. IN

From: S.O. Force H. Date 29.9.41.

Recd: -2051

Naval Cypher D by W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty repeated F.O.C. North Atlantic.,
V.A. Malta., C. in C. Mediterranean.

IMPORTANT.

192.

(i) HALBERD preliminary report. Force H sighted by shadowers twice on D 2, convoy and escort also sighted. Destroyers oiled at sea.

(ii) D 3²⁷⁹ All force in company by 0800 in position 37 38 North 7 20 East shadowed low 3 times forenoon. Fighter unable to intercept cloud and haze. Torpedo aircraft attack by 27 aircraft between 1300 and 1415 in groups of 9 with C R 42 escort. High level bombers passed over fleet but no bombs observed. 1330 H.M.S. NELSON hit end on whilst combing tracks. Certain 6 Torpedo aircraft and one C R 42 shot down by gunfire 4 Torpedo aircraft and one Cant by Fulmars. One probable and several damaged.

(iii) R.A.F. report 1404 2 battleships 8 destroyers course 190 20 knots 075 degs 75 miles from convoy. As H.M.S. NELSON speed reduced to 14 knots detached H.M.S. PRINCE OF WALES H.M.S. RODNEY H.M.S. EDINBURGH H.M.S. SHEFFIELD 6 destroyers under V.A.2 to close enemy. H.M.S. ARK ROYAL flew off 2 shadowers. 1445 one (?attacked by) 7 fighters returned badly damaged. At 1510 enemy reported steering north and later N.E. 12 Swordfish took departure 1535 to attack.

(iv) Other enemy air formations approached fleet driven off by (?fighters) during afternoon. At 1700 no further report of enemy Battle Fleet. As we could not reach before dark recalled V A 2. At 1800 striking Force recalled. V.A.2 rejoined 1840.

(v) Entrance Skerki reached 1855. Battleships H.M.S. ARK ROYAL and 9 destroyers withdrew westwards at 14 knots. Striking force returned in darkness and landed in darkness. Unable to locate enemy owing to visibility and lack of further shadow report. (28/9)

(vi) D 4 at 1040 Cant shot down by Fulmar at 20 miles from fleet 100 yards off shore vicinity Cape de Fer. Magnificent demonstration of interception and doctrine of hot (?pursuit). Battleship sighted by low shadower 1648 and 1740 but no interception. At 2100 H.M.S. NELSON and three destroyers proceeded to Gibraltar remainder returned to rendezvous with cruisers.

(vii) Total /

MOST SECRET

SECRET

(vii) Total bag 13 certain one probable others damaged. We lost 3 Fulmars 2 crew saved Lieutenant Watson and Sub. Lieut. Couch killed. One ran out of fuel 2 shot down by fleet when flying low during T B attack. Destroyer screen at 6 thousand yards appeared ~~unsatisfactory~~ ^(? short) range armaments somewhat disappointing.

(viii) (?Bad) manoeuvres and lack of enterprise of Italian Fleet most noticeable.

(ix) Guardian Angels reprimanded and admonished more careful in future.

1730A/29.

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

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)

A.C.N.S. (V)

N.A. 1st S.L.

N.A. 2nd 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. (10)

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (M)

N.I. D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson

D.G.D.

D.P.D.

SECRET

MOST SECRET

709^c

War Registry.

30.9.41.

Message 1730/29 from S.O. Force 'H' re HALBERD -
amend relevant portion as follows:-

"....Destroyer screen at 6 thousand yards appeared
satisfactory (? short) range armaments somewhat
disappointing."

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)
A.C.N.S. (W)
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 Captain
Head of M.
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.T.D. (M)
D.P.D.
N.A. 2nd S.L.

MFG

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

REGENT,
PERSEUS.

Request you will sail REGENT P.M./3 to spend one day on patrol in Khoms Bay, Cape Misurata area, thence area C southward south of 032° 45' East of 015° 00'. Patrol should be concentrated off Benghazi after PERSEUS leaves area P.M./6. REGENT will be recalled arriving Alexandria A.M. /24. (Capt. S.1. 1611B/29 to Capt. S.10).

TALISMAN.

Establish patrol in area A between 037° and 038° 30' West of 025° 40'. Concentrate patrol off Gulf of Athens. (Capt. S.1. 1615B/29 to TALISMAN)

SOKOL,
UTMOST,
TRUSTY,
UPHOLDER.

At 1930B/29 bring into force (corrupt group) B. SOKOL and UTMOST return to Malta in accordance with previous orders making passage through Q B B 65 during daylight 30/9 and 2/10 respectively. TRUSTY leaves patrol 1930B and UPHOLDER 2000B/29 for 037° 55' 011° 50' and 038° 00' 011° 40' to make passage through Q B B 65 on 1/10 as in my 1005B/27 para 2 but for SOKOL read UPHOLDER both arrive Malta 2/10.
(Capt. S10 1617B/29 to 10 S/M F.)

Palermo
Mines.

H.Q. R.A.F. Med, I. 152 dated 27/9. Position of 4 mines laid at Palermo by Swordfish night 26/27. In a semi circle approx. 250 yards south ends outer Mole covering. (V.A. Malta, 1619B/29)

Malta Raid.

Night 28/29. Alert 2038 to 2155 hours, 5 enemy aircraft approached island, 2 crossed coast all bombs dropped in sea off Grand Harbour.

Enemy Fleet.
28/9.

28/9. Enemy fleet sighted 1600 hours 72 miles Cape Carbonara 095° course Northerly, speed 15 knots. (H.Q. Malta, 1630/29).

Air attack
on T/Bs.

P.M. 28/9. 2 Beaufighters 272 Squadron attacked 2 torpedo boats probably ERNESTE GIOVANNI Class South East Cape San Marco. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1639/29).

/Palermo.....

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Palermo
bombed.

Night 28/29. 12 Wellingtons attacked Palermo shipping. 1932 to 2158 hours 8000lbs. bombs from average height 6000 feet scored majority hits in dry dock area. Hits observed on power station, also short Northern Mole and town area near harbour, small fire started near oil tanks. 2 probable hits M/Vs. 4 Beaufighters attacked aerodrome and seaplane base. (H.Q. Malta, 1645/29).

Schooner
attacked.

Night 28 - 29. 6 Blenheims carried out shipping sweep in Gulf of Sirte beginning Misurata. After long search no shipping seen except schooner attacked 3 miles N.W. Buerat, near misses. (H.Q. Malta, 1654/29).

Turkey.

My 1801B/27. Re interview with Gen. Asim Genduz concerning defence of Iskanderun, and Turkish proposals. (N.A. Angora, from Adm. Kelly, 1706B/29, to C. in C. Med) See Lion Copy.

Enemy
Convoy.

My 1015B/28, second sentence. These ships are now due 1030B/2/10, speed 11 knots. (Capt. S.I. 1731B/29 to PERSEUS)

Black Sea.

Enemy line is now about 7 miles south of Perekop. (L.O. Black, Sea. 1808/29 to Admty).

Black Sea.

Request general situation report covering following points, followed by amplified reports when additional information is obtainable:-

- (a) Numbers, identifications and dispositions of Soviet forces in Crimea.
- (b) Location and progress of military operations in Crimea.
- (c) Military and civilian morale.
- (d) Reserves of food and material.
- (e) Effect of bombing of towns, ports and fleet.
- (f) Activities of fleet.
- (g) Any other useful intelligence.

(D.N.I., 1826A/29 to B.N.L.O. Black Sea)

Your 2153/26. Request full information concerning Focke Wulf 190. Chief information required is description, estimated performance and armament, and numbers believed to be in operation. (D.N.I., 1934A/29 to L.O. Black Sea).

/TETRARCH.....

711^A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN 1706B/29/September

From N.A. Angora, Date 30.9.41.

Recd. 0741.

I.D.'V' (15) by Cable.

Addressed C. in C. Mediterranean, Repeated Admiralty,
H.M. Ambassador, Angora, (S.VING.)

IMMEDIATE. AIDAC.

Following from Admiral Kelly.

My 1801B/27 / General Asim Gunduz asked me to visit him to discuss defences of Iskanderun scheme for which Marshal had ordered to be prepared. They are anxious that these should be started as soon as possible in view of strategic importance of this port to Turkey and of its possible use by our fleet.

2. Meeting has been arranged for 1100 Wednesday when I shall profit by your 434 to Admiralty. Iskanderun is so much more important and more easy to defend suggest we first concentrate on that port and gulf, which has certain air protection from Cyprus.

3. Turks propose mine field of 600 mines across entrance of Gulf of Iskanderun protected each side by 6 inch battery from Arsus plan (?3) of 1754 C.B. to nearest point opposite batteries protected by A/A machine guns. The Port Uskanderun to be protected from torpedo attack by boom net. Port to have 12 A/A guns and 12 tank A machine guns in all. Turks also ask for 6 Submarine chasers in addition to 6 already due from us.

4. Shall be glad of any further views before meeting if possible.

1706B/29.

/ Situation in Turkey.
Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.N.I. (4) |
| 1st S.L. | E.P.S. |
| 2nd S.L. | I.P. (2) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.P.S. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | W.D. |
| A.C.N.S. (V) | D.C. |
| A.C.N.S. (T) (2) | D.T.D. (2) |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | Hd. of M. |
| D. of P. (2) | D.D.I.C. |
| Admiral Chalmers. | N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson |
| Admiral Herman Hodge. | |
| D.O.D. (F) | |
| D.D.O.D. (F) | |

GJ.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

TETRARCH.
TRIUMPH.

My 1651B/27. After passing 034° 14' 024° 00' (?proceed) through 032° 16' 028° 34' thence direct to arrive secret anchorage 0530B/3. TRIUMPH is routed (?through) 034° 38' 021° 44' thence direct to Alexandria to arrive same time and date. (Capt. S.l. 1835B/29 to TETRARCH)

Enemy
Shipping.

German HANS ARP, 2645 tons, sailed from Trieste on 4/9, probably for Dubrovnik. Italian MAURO CROCE, 1049 tons, arrived Barcelona 26/9. Ex- Greek tanker PETRAKIS NOMIKOS, 7020 tons, under German flag, German MARITZA, 2910 tons, and PROCIDA, 1842 tons, and Italian AVIONIA 1122 tons, are reported (B.2) to have sailed from Piraeus on 24/9. (D.S. 755, 29/9).

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CENTURION.

Your 1207Z/27, (earliest date CENTURION is likely to be required) 1st November. (1st S.L. 0027A/29 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

REWAK.

Your 2114/26. Launch REWAK (a) No information that launch was in French naval service. French N.O. piloting vessel was part of complement of oiler ELORNI at Djibouti. (b) Position of interception Obokh 040° 2 miles. (2) Launch is being detained and will be escorted or towed to Aden by NETRAVATI leaving Zeilah 30/9. (S.N.O. Red Sea., 0602Z/29 to Admty.)

CLAN FORBES.

Suggested programme, Port T and Port W. (C. in C. E.I., 0740Z/29 to C. in C. China). See Lion Copy.

Jibuti.

It is not known what is carried. For last two days five trips per day from Obock to Jibuti by aircraft have been made. A request from Yemen Authorities to allow five Dhows to proceed to Jibuti to repatriate Yemen subjects was refused by me but Dhows were permitted to go Obock under supervision, they left again yesterday but French authorities only allowed two women and one man to be evacuated notwithstanding there were some two hundred there. (C. in C. M.E. 0800/29 to C. in C. Med.)

B.P.16.

Convoy B.(?P) 16 sailed 28/9 due Basra 4/10.(details) (S.S.T.O. India, 0835A/29 to S.T.O. Basra.)

Port T.

(1) The title Defence Commander Port T is being used by S.O. of M.N.B.D.O. at Port T. (2) An H.M. Ship Establishment of codes and cyphers is available at Port T. Requested any signals for Port T be addressed in text "C. in C. East Indies for Defence Commander Port T". (C. in C. E.I., 1356Z/29 to C. in C. China).

Marsamarhu Light.

W.C.68 Red Sea Marsamarhu light X lat. $18^{\circ} 50'$ X may be unreliable until further notice. (Navyntell Colombo 1732Z/29).

MOST SECRET

413 A.

MOST SECRET MESS AG E IN
0740Z/29th September
FROM:- C. in C. East Indies DATE:- 29.9.41.
RECD:- 1629

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T

ADDRESSED:- C. in C. China repeated Admiralty F.O.C.R.I.N.

AIDAC

660 Your 0543 paragraph 4

(i) GEORGE (CLAN FORBES) Fresh Water capacity 183 tons daily consumption with troops 18 tons daily distilled capacity 6 tons

(ii) In view of her unsuitability for your immediate requirements at Port W I suggest she should carry out following programme.

- (a) After unloading stores and equipment at Port T (probably late October) proceed to Calcutta to discharge cargo referred to in C. in C. Mediterranean 1127 17th.
- (b) Return to Port T early in November to embark M N B D O stores equipment and personnel required for Port W calling first at Colombo to collect 2 6 inch guns for Diego Garcia.
- (c) Proceed Diego Garcia to land 2 6 inch guns which Indian Army have orders to instal there.

(iii) This programme would enable ship to reach Port W by mid November.

(iv) If you concur I will take the matter up with D. of S.T.

0740Z/29

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

1st Lord

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

D. of P.(2)

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.O.D.(H)

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.N.I.(4)

D.S.D.

D.A/S.W.

I.P.(2)

W.D.

Duty Captain

Hd. of M.(10)

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D.(2)

MOST SECRET
N.I.D.10. (Pay Cdr. Wilson)
Admiral Bellairs (2)

D.C.O.

D. of S.T.

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

MARECHAL
JOFFRE.
(French).

Departure 28/9. (Manila, 0642Z/29 to M. of W.T.)

America and West Indies.

Newfoundland
Escorts.

As 2 of the destroyers and 5 of the corvettes detailed in C. in C. W.A. 1858A/28 are already out of action for periods between 5 and 8 weeks, and as 2 R.C.N. Destroyers are now in U.K. detailed for next C.T. Convoy and 3 detailed for T.C.14, it is most improbable that we shall be able to continue to maintain in action 6 groups of 8 ships for the present. (C.C.N.F., 0117Z/29, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MALOJA.
WOLFE.

Admty. 1820A/28. MALOJA reports unable to maintain more than 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots. WOLFE less likely to maintain requisite speed but assume you will interrogate C.O. personally. (R.A.3., No. T.O.O. T.H.I. 0120/29).
Your 1820A/28. WOLFE and MALOJA speed insufficient (?excludes) inclusion in T.C.14. Intend they should sail for U.K. in next convenient H.X. convoy, final destination Southampton. C.O.A.C. Halifax requested to arrange. WOLFE will leave Bermuda for Halifax 30/9, arriving 2/10. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0922Q/29 to Admty.) Orders to WOLFE (1032Q/29).

Distress
Report.

Priority for information from N.O.B. Guantanamo relayed by Comten, reports unidentified British Ship in distress calling Kingston Jamaica on 500 kcs. 2248/28. No other information picked up by Guantanamo due to bad static conditions. (Opnav, 0300/29 to Admty.)
Guantanamo reports unidentified British ship in distress calling Kingston (Jamaica) on 500 Kcs. at 2248/28. (D.O.D.(F) 0841A/29 to C. in C. A.W.I., N.O.I.C. Kingston).

/Admty.....

War Diary.29.9.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Distress
Report
-Contd.

Admty. 0841A/29. British ship HOPECASTLE reported herself off Guantanamo 0645R/28 awaiting orders from consignee in Havana. No distress signal received Kingston. (Capt. I/C Jamaica, 1051R/29 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Following received from Opanav. Unidentified British ship in distress. No further details. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1335Z/29 to Admty. etc.) My dispatch regarding British ship in distress calling Kingston. Probably this vessel is British S.S. NOVELIST which sailed Savannah 1400/28 course 70 speed 11. Would be approx. 30 miles S.E. of Charleston Light at 2248/28. Sent to C. in C. America and West Indies, Comsix, Comdr. Southern Lant Naval Coastal Frontier for action. Sent to Comten. (Opanav, 1840/29 to Admty.)

AUSONIA.

Bermuda departure AUSONIA in accordance with my 1307Q/25/9, E.T.A. Halifax 1/10. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1013Q/29 to Admty.)

Washington 1127R/29, see North Atlantic.
Washington 1157R/29, see South Atlantic.

Suspicious
A/C, Lisbon.

U.S. ship EXCALIBUR reports that on 20/9 when about 100 miles out from Lisbon, ship was circled twice by 4 engined German plane which then flew off to Northward. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1209Q/29 to Admty.)

MENESTHEUS.

Leaves Norfolk for Halifax Thursday 2/10. (B.A.R.M. 1246R/29 to Admty.)

S.C.47.

Sailed at 1730Z/29, draft sailing telegram delayed further 12 hours due to late sailing. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 1251Z/29 to Admty.)

O.N.S.
Escorts.

Request escort units may be sailed as follows, from Iceland: 4.1.11 with O.N.S.21. 4.1.12 with O.N.S. 23. 4.1.14 with O.N.S. 25. 4.1.15 with O.N.S. 27. 4.1.16 with O.N.S. 29. 4.1.13 with O.N.S. 31. Names of ships in each unit will be signalled later. (C.C.N.F., 1359Z/29 to S.O.P.A. Iceland).

/Washington.....

War Diary.29.9.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.

Washington 1419R/29, see North Atlantic.

Bases.

Following from B.A.S.R. Your 1559A/24. Have investigated. No instructions have been given by U.S. Authorities which would show (?slow) down in any way equipment bases. On contrary Bureau Yards and Docks is pressing on work with utmost energy. (B.A.D. 1449R/29 to Admty.)

POLYANTHUS.

Your 1724Z/24 and my 1508/26. POLYANTHUS can be accepted at U.S. Navy Yard, Charleston. Request she may arrive at 2000 zone 5 time on 6/10 at sea Buoy 2C 5½ miles S.E. of Jetties off Charleston. (B.A.R.M. 1534R/29 to C.C.N.F.)

ORDUNA.

Your 2035A/25, para. 4. ORDUNA arrived Halifax in time to sail with H.X. 152, 28/9. 78 Air Force embarked in addition to 450 passengers already on board. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1603Z/29 to Admty.)

BUXTON.

Your 1258Z/24, confirmed BUXTON is capable of making passage to St. Johns N.F. to U.K. at convoy speed. Intend sailing BUXTON for St. Johns N.F. on completion of working up about 7/10. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1646Z/29 to F.O. N.F.)

CANDYTUFT.

Your 1226R/22. CANDYTUFT in tow of PRUDENT will proceed for Brooklyn 2/10 and should arrive 9/10 in accordance with your 1214R/25. (C.C.N.F., 1754Z/29 to B.A.R.M.)

ROODE ZEE.

My 1627A/22 and Comdre i/c Bermuda's 1217Q/25. ROODE ZEE is to be sailed for East Indies as soon as practicable. Arrangements are being made for U.S. Tug AMERICAN, 550 H.P., length 97 feet, to be sent to Bermuda in lieu. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1956A/29 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/HARBOE.....

717

War Diary.

29.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

HARBOE
JENSEN.

My 1621Z/28 Diesel engine oil fuel capacity 30 days at speed 11- $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 knots consider direct route to Capetown would allow insufficient margin for stress of weather and possible need for diversion. Calls for bunkers are therefore necessary at Port of Spain Capetown and probably Aden. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2014Z/29 to D. of S.T.)

CATHAY.

Your 1412R/27. Anticipated date of arrival of CATHAY at Halifax is 8/10.
2. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to inform B.A.R.M., Washington, anticipated date of arrival at Brooklyn. (D.O.D. (H) 2317A/29 to B.A.R.M. C.O.A.C.)

FORTH.

My P.C. and S. 040° 38' N. 070° 27' W. 124° 13 knots. E.T.A. Halifax 0600P/1. (FORTH, 2355Z/29 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

U.S. Ships
for Eire.

U.S. Maritime Commission has authorized the chartering of two cargo vessels to Eire for service between the United States and Canadian ports and Eire.
Vessels are WEST HEMATITE*⁵⁴²¹(8,556 tons) and WEST NERIS*(8,542 tons). Both are leaving New Orleans to-day for New York, manned by Irish crews who arrived in this country several days ago and will be operated by Irish Shipping Limited, under the Irish flag. (The Times Correspondent, New York, 29/9, published 30/9).

*5421
Lloyd's

New Zealand.

A/S Vessels.

Admty. 1934A/11. Following is position regarding A/S vessels in New Zealand. (N.Z.N.B., 1134M/29 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

414A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1134M/29th September

FROM:- New Zealand Navy Board Wellington DATE:- 29.9.41.

RECD:- 1143

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T

ADDRESSED:- Admiralty repeated C. in C. China, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board

585 Admiralty Message 1934M/11. Following is the position regarding A/S vessels in New Zealand.

- (ii) (a) Ocean escort. Estimated requirements are
- (i) 4 for trans Tasman convoys
 - (ii) 3 for NE and coastal convoys.
- (iii) Only vessels available in near future are
- (a) 25th Minesweeping Flotilla (?including) 4 vessels which are being fitted for A/S but which will be employed primarily on minesweeping
 - (b) 3 small corvettes (KIWI, MIA and TUI) fitted for A/S and 4 trawlers allocated by Admiralty (presumably DANCE class and fitted for A/S) which are expected in New Zealand end of 1941 and early 1942.
- (iv) In the event of it becoming necessary to adopt a general convoy system, the vessels (?in) paragraph (iii) (b) would be allocated as follows, although really more suitable for port A/S duties:
- (i) four for trans Tasman and eastbound (?convoys)
 - (ii) three for NE and coastal convoys.
- (v) The above information was communicated to C. in C. China (?), but it is noted that C. in C. China's 0337Z^{24th} August and Admiralty message 2121A/11 does not take account of A/S escort in the vicinity of New Zealand.
- (vi) (b) Port A/S duties. Estimated requirements are 15 trawlers and 12 Fairmile motor launches.
- (vii) Only vessels now available are two port minesweepers which are being fitted with asdic.
- (viii) 9 steel trawlers of CASTLE type have been ordered to be built in New Zealand but construction has not yet started. Delivery is expected between May and December, 1942. These vessels will be (?chiefly) minesweepers and A/S but their primary duty will be as port mine sweepers of which we are 13 short of estimated requirements.
- (ix) 12 Fairmile motor launches are also on order but construction cannot be started pending arrival of prefabricated parts from England.

MOST SECRET

717B

MOST SECRET

(x) From above it will be seen that if Japan enters the war New Zealand will be gravely deficient in A/S and minesweeper vessels particularly vessels suitable for A/S ocean escorts. Any reinforcements which could be made available would therefore be welcome.

Advance copy sent Duty Captain D.O.D. (F) D.T.D. (2)

- 1st Lord
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- M.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F) (i) Four for transport

D.O.D. (F) (ii) Three for minesweepers

D.N.I. (4) (iii) ...

D.A/S (2) ...

D.T.D. (2) ...

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

Admiral Palliser

D.M.S. ...

D.T.D. (2) ...

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

Admiral Palliser ...

D.M.S. ...

D.T.D. (2) ...

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

Admiral Palliser ...

D.M.S. ...

D.T.D. (2) ...

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

Admiral Palliser ...

D.M.S. ...

D.T.D. (2) ...

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

Admiral Palliser ...

D.M.S. ...

D.T.D. (2) ...

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

Admiral Palliser ...

D.M.S. ...

D.T.D. (2) ...

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

Admiral Palliser ...

D.M.S. ...

D.T.D. (2) ...

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

Admiral Palliser ...

718

War Diary.29.9.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.TRINIDAD.

Panamanian, 434 tons, from Lisbon to Dublin, now known was sunk by gunfire from German S/M on 5/9 about 380 m. N.W. of Cape Finisterre. 10 survivors landed Oporto after being in open boats for 22 days (D.S., 755).
W.D. Note:- 4th American ship torpedoed, others ROBIN HOOD, SESSA, PINK STAR.

(21.5.41) ^{100R} (17.8.41) (19.9.41).

H.G.73.
(Attacked
26/9.)

C. in C. W.A. 1048/29. Survivors as follows: JASMINE 56 plus 10 cot cases; PERIWINKLE 19 plus 1; HIBISCUS, 34; BEGONIA, 37; STONECROP 14, plus 1; FOWEY 107 plus 1; COXWOLD, 53, STARLING, 73. Propose sending corvette to Milford Haven together with FINLAND for Barry Roads. Survivors from FOWEY, COXWOLD, and STARLING who are naval ratings to be landed at Liverpool. Escorts for Clyde, MYOSOTIS, Oban, GENTIAN, Liverpool, WOLVERINE, FOWEY, LARKSPUR, JASMINE, PERIWINKLE and STONECROP will be detached at dawn. Ships for north west port to be detached off Holyhead. WOLVERINE concurs.
(FOWEY, 1315A/29 to C.in C.W.A.)

Submarines Reported.1100

(Mediterranean.) Suspect Submarine submerged 33.06 N., 24.06 E., 235. 6. 1035.
(Med. A/C "W" 1100/29.)

1114Z.

By D/F at 1114Z/29 German U/Boat, possibly homeward bound, was within 20 miles of 49°10'N. 18°10' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1316A/29 to W.App.Comd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1426A/29.)

Submarines Attacked.By A/C.

Oil patch in 46.44 N., 8.15 W. Have attacked enemy with one depth charge and estimate no hits.
(A/C duty Q, 0935/29, to 19 Group.)
Oil moving very slowly 230.
(A/C duty Q, 1070/29, to 19 Group.)

By
Whitley
A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 59.07 N., 5.40W., (position based on fix obtained by observation of terrestrial objects at 1500.)
(A/C duty S, 1515/29, to Group 18).
(A.C.O.S., 1556A/19 to VALSE.)

/My 1315....

War Diary.

29;9.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By Whitley
A/C.
-Contd.

My 1315: (?1515 intended) Have attacked enemy with level bombing. Estimate nil hits. Periscope only of enemy S/M previously reported was sighted. Enemy course and speed are 040° 5 knots. Am carrying out shadowing duty of submerged S/M. Weather report. (A/C duty S., 1527/29 to 18 Group) Details of attack (Pitreavie 2225/29) See Lion Copy.

By A/C

Am over enemy submarine in 49.09 N., 8.23 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 120° estimated speed 10 knots. (A/C duty A., T.O.R. 1619/29, 1642/29, to 19 Group). Details of attack. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 2300/29, 0205/30) See Lion Copy.

719^A

2225/29th September

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

Date 30.9.41.

From Pitroavio.

Recd. 0020.

P/L by T/P

Addressed Admiralty O.I.C.

FORM BLUE STRIKE ATTACK REPORT.

- (A) 18 Group
- (B) WIC/BS1/29/9
- (C) Whitley S/612
- (D) RO/G3/29/9
- (E) S/M at periscope depth - T.V.C.T 0020.
- (F) Visibility 10 miles showery - wind 190/20 kts.
- (G) 1515 hrs. - 700'
- (H) 4/250 A/S Bombs - 1 sec delay - dropped in stick
- (K) (1) Nil
- (2) Attack made diagonally at angle of 30 degs from Port quarter - 1 explosion only believed to be last of stick approximately on starboard bow of U-boat - distance unknown.
- (L) (1) 300 yds - another run over target made to make attack
- (2) 040 degs. - 5 kts.
- (3) only periscope showing when first sighted
- (4) No air bubbles or oil observed
- (5) 4 hrs. 35 minutes
- (6) A/O was proceeding to Datum T.V.D.U. 2050 via Rona for A/S sweep Relief A/C sent out from base not sighted A/Os returned to base as ordered oil patches seen at 1855 not believed to be relevant.
- (M) Nil
- (N) Nil
- (O) Nil
- (Q) Nil
- (R) Nil

/(S)

719^B

- 2 -

(S) Enquiry being held into cause of failure of 3 bombs in stick to explode S/E was being used the whole time but S/W was not contacted by it.

2225/29.

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

1st Lord	D. T. D. (4)
1st S. L.	D. T. D. (M)
4th S. L.	D. T. D. (C)
V. C. N. S.	O. I. C. (1)
A. C. N. S. (H)	D. of P. (3)
A. C. N. S. (T) (2)	W. A. S. W.
Nav. Sec.	I. P. (3)
N. A. 1st S. L.	W. D.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.	D. P. D.
K. M. Cps. (4)	D. S. D. (2)
O. D. (5)	M. (2)
D. N. I. (4)	C. C. L. S. (2)
	D. N. A. D.

719^c

SECRET

MESSAGE

2300/29 September

IN

Date 30.9.41.

From A.C.H.Q. Plymouth.

Recd. 0259

P/L BY T/P

Addressed. Admiralty for O.I.C. only.

FORM BLUE

- (A) 19 Gr.
- (B) ST EVAL STE/BS7/29/9
- (C) Hudsons A/233
- (D) PL/G7/28/9
- (E) U-Boat below periscope depth KRAF 0937
- (F) Fine Vis. 10 miles 2/10 Cu. at 2000 feet.
wind 305 degs 20 M.P.H.
- (G) 1556 - 50 ft.
- (H) 3 X 250 LB D/Cs Mark VIII 60 foot spacings
50 foot setting
- (K) Not known - only one burst seen oil appeared
- (L) 1. 15 miles
2. 120 degs T
3. 30 seconds
4. Oil appeared one minute after explosion
5. 3 hrs. 20 mins.
6. A/C speed 120 kts.

S Hudsons A/233 at 1548 hrs when on track 347 degs T at 600 feet sighted U-Boat on the port bow 15 miles distant on CO 120 degs T at 10 knots. A/C immediately altered CO to port and attempted to attack down sun. When 2 to 2 miles from the U.B. it was seen to be submerging and was finally lost to view when 3/4 mile distant and 30 seconds before release of 3 x 250 lb. Mark VIII D/Cs. The D/Cs were dropped in stick across track of U-Boat at angle of 30 degs from 50 feet at a speed of 120 knots. Only one burst was observed dead on track 100 feet from edge of swirl, and crew are of opinion that the other two failed to explode. Oil came to the surface one minute after the attack and a further patch 100 yds ahead which developed into a streak A/C remained in the area on patrol seven miles ahead on U-Boats track for 3 hours 30 minutes and S/C for base on P.L.E.

2300/29

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

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

War Diary.

30.9.1941
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 10 rounds between 2249 and 2255 today. All fell to the westward of Dover, near C.W.52. No damage or casualties are reported.

British Air Operations.

84 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Stettin last night and 64 attacked Bloehm and Voss establishments and other targets at Hamburg. Direct hits are claimed on the aircraft factory of Blöhm and Voss and near misses on the ADMIRAL SCHEER causing damage to the quay alongside her mooring. Minor attacks were made on Le Havre and naval bases in N.W. Germany.

It is believed that one merchant ship was torpedoed in a convoy attacked by Coastal Command aircraft today off South Norway.

4 Blenheims attacked the shipyards at St. Nazaire at 2145 today.

721

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Fishing drifter NORTH BRITON was unsuccessfully bombed at 1325 3 miles E. of Collieston.

There was a sharp air attack on the Tyne area from 2105 - 2215 today. Superficial naval damage was caused at North Shields. H.M. Trawlers EILEEN DUNCAN and STAR OF DEVERON were sunk. SUNFISH (S/M) was seriously damaged.

Convoy E.C.79 called for help at 1924 in 56° 40' N. 2° 5' W. No damage has been reported.

Convoy F.N525 reported being attacked at 2058 in 54° 59' N. 1° 11' W. No damage has been reported.

Convoy C.W.52 was attacked at 1943 in 51° 22' N. 1° 32' E. S.S. CEDARWOOD was damaged and was towed to Dover.

Mining.

S.S. CARRICKMORE engaged a D.O.17 at 2150A 10 miles S. by E. of the Tuskar. The A/C reappeared at 2240 and dropped 2 objects, believed to have been mines, about 2 miles south of the Tuskar.

722

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.Operation
"Halberd"

NELSON arrived at Gibraltar at 1000 today. S.O. Force H. intends to retain FORESIGHT, FORESTER and FURY until sailing date of NELSON can be forecast. F.O.C.N.A. proposes that the forces employed on the operation should be dispersed as follows:- PRINCE OF WALES, EDINBURGH, SHEFFIELD and 3 destroyers to the U.K. about 1830A/1. KENYA with 2 destroyers to escort LEINSTER and any merchant ships ex Operation "Substance" to U.K. about 0200A/2. EURYALUS, FARNDALE and HEYTHROP for Freetown.

Convoy
protection.

Owing to the recent attacks by U-boats on S.L.87 and H.G.73 west of Canary Isles and 450 miles north of the Azores respectively, the Admiralty propose that when attacks are forecast Force H. should assist, either by reinforcing the convoy escorts by destroyers or harassing the U-boats by ARK ROYAL's aircraft by day. S.O. Force H, however, considered these proposals to be impracticable (see 7/10)

PORT CHALMERS,
CITY OF
PRETORIA.

PORT CHALMERS and CITY OF PRETORIA arrived at Gibraltar from Malta this morning and early this afternoon respectively. PORT CHALMERS reports having engaged and driven off by gunfire an E-boat at 2320/27. Twice on 28/9 Italian aircraft examined her, but no attack occurred. CITY OF PRETORIA was examined on the morning of 28/9 by an Italian and later by a French aircraft. At 1725/28 she was attacked in 37° 20' N. 7° 30' E. by 3 Italian torpedo bombers; she avoided their torpedoes and damaged one of the enemy by gunfire. At the same time she sighted and shelled a submarine periscope sighted astern; but no attack developed. When approaching Cape de Gata at 0200/30 a strange craft, possibly a S/M, was sighted on the surface and fired two or three rounds.

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

U.S. forces are patrolling along a line from Pernambuco towards Cape Verde Is.

BIRMINGHAM is to operate in the neighbourhood of the new focal area round Abrothos on completion of Trinidad sweep. The two corvettes sent to join R.A.S.A.D. are to work in the same area, after visiting Rio de Janeiro about 7/10, to advertise their presence.

DEVONSHIRE is to join the South Atlantic Station after escorting Convoy W.S.12 to the Cape.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Halberd".

GURKHA and LEGION sank an Italian U-boat at 1010 today in 37° 10' N. 0° 56' ~~S~~ W. (ADUA)

Libya and
Western
Desert.

13 Wellingtons attacked shipping in Benghazi last night, obtaining several direct hits on a merchant vessel alongside the outer mole. A ship was seen by R/C today on fire in Benghazi.

There was a combined bombing and mine laying raid on Tobruk at 2000 today. 3 mines which fell in the harbour self detonated 2 hours later, one exploded ashore and two fell outside the searched channel.

Black Sea.

B.N.L.O. Black Sea reports that the Russian destroyer FRUNZE and gunboat RED ARMENIA were both sunk by aircraft about 21/9 off Tendra.

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Casualties
in S.C.46.

About 6 or 7 ships in Convoy S.C.46 were sunk or damaged or went aground during the passage of Belle Isle Strait in dense fog.

Flag of
B.S.3.

The Flag of F.O. 3rd B.S. was hauled down p.m. today. C.O.A.C. Halifax will take over all operational and administrative duties of R.A.3.

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.GRAPH.

A.C.I.C. 1738/29. Intend to attach GRAPH to 5 S/M Flotilla for period of her visit to Barrow. (F.O.S. 1101A/30.)

BOURNEMOUTH
QUEEN.

A.M. 1115A/27 and C. in C. Nore's 1632A/29. It is approved for BOURNEMOUTH QUEEN to relieve CONQUEROR at the Tyne. (D.O.D.(H) 1106A/30.)

Canadian
Escorts.

C.C.N.F's 1359Z/29. Presume it is intended I should continue to sail Canadian escorts and not S.O.P.A. (A.C.I.C. 1905/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

COMMANDANT
DUBOC.

When COMMANDANT DUBOC has completed escort duties with SILVERBELLE it is suggested that she should return to the U.K. with S.L. 88. (C. in C. W.A. 2252A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Co-operation with Russia.M/S Gear for
Russian
Trawlers.
Lists of
other Naval
articles.

Understand that D.T.M. told Powell that there was a proposal that 9 Russian S Trawlers should be chosen and sent to U.K. for fitting out with LL and SA gear. Request confirmation. (Ad. Miles. 1045/30.)

1. Your 1045/30.9.41. Confirm proposal is "The Admiralty could undertake to fit up 12 Russian Trawlers with LL. and SA. gear. These vessels if sailed immediately before Archangel is closed by ice could be equipped and practiced by the time conditions permitted them to return to Archangel". This proposal was sent by A.C.N.S.(H) to Admiral Kharlamov 19.9.41.
2. Adty. 1119A/16, para.3. List of articles of naval supply asked for by Soviet Mission in London, and replies thereon to the Mission, awaiting passage to you by next Catalina (delayed by weather). (D.N.I. 1722A/30 to Ad. Miles.)

Technical
information
requested.

Soviet Naval Authorities request they may be supplied with (A) particulars of non-gassing batteries as fitted in O.R. Submarines. (B) Explanation of method of Hydrogen Absorption employed in such batteries. Request has arisen as a result of co-operation with Captain Fawkes of Soviet Submarine personnel in Black Sea and it is recommended that request should be acceded to (Ad. Miles 1301C/30 to Adty.)

/Archangel

726

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia - contd.Archangel.
Facilities
for M/Vs.

M.E.W's representative reports the total capacity of Archangel to be 1000 tons daily. N.I.D. records, which include outlying wharves as far north as Ekonomia, give an estimate of 8,000 to 10,000 tons per day. Request you will visit and make a report, similar to your 1903/26/9, on the complete port facilities of Archangel, and outlying wharves. (D.N.I. 1415A/30 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)
Your 2231A/27th and my 0949C/29. Full details now being collected by a committee of Beaverbrook conference. It is therefore unnecessary for B.S.N.O. Murmansk to visit Archangel. (N.A. Moscow 2252C/30.)

Movements.→ Z.5.
H.28.

Cancel my 2305/29. ^{N.T.A.W.D.} Ships have not yet sailed. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0200/30.)
Sailed H.28 escorted by Z.5 at 0230A/30. My 0957A/29 amend E.T.A. Campbeltown to read 1030A/30. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0245A/30.)

→ INDOMITABLE.

Amend my 1454/29 for I.J. 2850 read I.J.7850. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0755A/30.)

→ O.10.
→ Z.5.

Request you will sail S/M O.10 escorted by Z.5 to arrive Rothesay a.m./3rd via Sound of Islay, arranging fighter protection. S. of A. 9½ knots. (Capt. S.7. 1046A/30 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)
Intend to sail O.10 escorted by Z.5 at 1430A/2 in accordance with S.7's 1046A/30. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1810A/30.)

WANDERER.

Increase speed if necessary to arrive before dark. Reduce to 20 knots at 54 A, and 12 knots at Sunk buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1231A/30 to WANDERER.)

P.31.
P.35.

My 1211A/28/9 and my 1139A/29 para. B. Sailed P.31 and P.35, escorted by CUTTY SARK passes Bell Rock 2000A/30/9. (Capt. S.9 1505A/30.)

→ VICEROY.

^{JACOB VAN}
If ^AHEEMSKERK is not available VICEROY is to be detailed to provide A/A protection to INDOMITABLE during night of October 1/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1642A/30 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

JUNON.

French S/M JUNON, escorted by a Trawler, will be exercising in Area "D" off Plymouth between 1400 and 1800/1. (C. in C. Plymouth 1811/30.)

/CONQUEROR

MOST SECRET

426A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2220/30th September IN

From No. 30 Military Mission, Moscow. Date 1.10.41.
Recd. 0245.

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE

47732. MIL. 1036 cipher 30/9. Most Secret.

Following for Chief of Staff from Macfarlane.

Up to the present Mission's discussions have been almost entirely confined to discovering what supplies the Russians want from U.S.A. and ourselves. Strategic questions have not been mentioned even indirectly.

2. I much hope that before Mission leaves, Ismay and I will be given an opportunity of explaining personally to Shaposhnikov and if possible to Stalin himself, our inability to create a major diversion anywhere at the present time. This explanation will of course be based on Prime Minister's directive.

3. Russians are almost certain to revert to Stalin's suggestion of early intervention, even though only on a small scale, on either the Russian Northern or Southern fronts.

4. So far as the Southern front is concerned, may we take it that it is our firm intention to intervene as strongly as possible as soon as the Eastern Mediterranean situation admits.

5. So far as the Northern front is concerned, I have discussed the matter with Ismay, and we feel that the employment of two or more divisions in Murmansk sector should not be ruled out without very serious consideration. We believe ~~that at present the opposing forces~~ there are fairly evenly matched.

MOST SECRET

In/.....

- 2 -

In the first place the denial of Murmansk to the enemy is one of the essentials to the security of the approach to Archangel.

Secondly, Murmansk itself, which is ice free, may well be required to supplement or even perhaps replace Archangel, as the only Northern port through which we can supply Russia. This of course presupposes the use of the railway from Murmansk to Archangel and the presence of a British contingent might enable the Russians to make available more troops for its protection. Might this project be examined forthwith. If this has not already been done. In the meantime have Ismay and I authority to discuss it with Shaposhnikov, if the interview materialises, and tell him that you are prepared to give it the most serious consideration. In the event of your saying 'Yes' we shall at once ask for a personal reconnaissance by M.L.

2220/30.

Received from the War Office 0855/1.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H) Head of M.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

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. (10)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

N.I.D. 10 Pay.

Cdr. Wilson.

War Office Circulation:-

S. of S.

C.I.G.S.

V.C.I.G.S.

D.M.O. & P.

D.D.M.O. (0)

M.O. 1,5,12.

D.M.I.

D.D.M.I. (1)

M.I. 3,3c,14. (3 copies).6.(JIC). (3 copies)

Col. Shoosmith. Cabinet Offices (2)

Col. Jacob. (Cabinet Offices) (5)

F.O. Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck. (2)

Admiralty. War Registry.

Air Ministry A.I.3a. (1) S/L. Williams.

Brig. Firebrace. Room 019.

Cmdr. Chatwin. N.I.D. 16 Admiralty

Plans 1 Air Ministry.

Lt. Col. G.S. Thompson (M.O.1.JP).

C.N.S. Admiralty.

C.A.S. Air Ministry.

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

CONQUEROR.

My 1600/29. Sailed. Ship requires early boiler clean. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1852/30.)

Operations.

Operation "Chopper"

This operation consisted in landing fighting patrols of strength 35 all ranks each at St. Vaast (East of Cherbourg Peninsula) and St. Aubin (North of Caen) on night 27/28 Sept. Useful information was obtained. Three Germans K. or seriously W. One dead German brought back. Our casualties amounted to two K. one seriously and three slightly wounded. (D.C.O. 0922A/30 to Adty.)

Following lessons from Operation "Chopper".
(1) Carrier ship should be provided with taut wire gear and modern wireless aids to Navigation as D/R position after several hours steaming may be inaccurate.
(2) Simultaneous landings at widely separated points are difficult to achieve, and if coast is alarmed by first landing the second may get a hot reception.
(3) Echo sounding gear in M.G.B. very valuable, otherwise boat must ease down to take soundings and loses time.
(4) Accurate landing more easily achieved if towing M.G.B. guided by another M.G.B. as otherwise towing M.G.B. has to watch tows as well as navigate. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1505/29.)

East Coast Patrol.

Patrol one unit Motor Gunboats vicinity of 61 B Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1012A/30.)

BULLDOG fired at on 22/9.

Your 1533A/28. BULLDOG failed to identify herself to P.W.S.S. in accordance with C.B.01718 (Q) (41) paragraph 15. BULLDOG was informed that the bring-to round was fired for this reason. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1816/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

British Air Activity.

R/C of Spanish Biscay Coast.

(C) 1 Sunderland to take off forthwith and fly special shipping R/C outside Territorial Waters between meridians 3° W. and 8° W. on parallel 44° N. A/C to report any M.V. over 5000 tons by signal when well clear. A/C will not attack inside Territorial Waters. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0417/30.)

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. - Contd.Patrols.

The following are being flown today :-
 "Hornli" - "Trost" - "Stab" - "Bert" - "Stand".
 The latter two as Rover Patrols.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 0850/30.)
 P.R.U. Stavanger, Haugesund, Bergen in operation.
 My 0850/30. "Trost", "Stab" and "Rover" "Bert"
 nothing to report. (C. in C. Rosyth 1502/30.)
 My 1502/30. P.R.U. returned, too much cloud.
 "Hornli" patrol nothing to report.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 1750/30.)

Operation of
Balloons and
Kites.

0001/6/10/41

The following rules governing the operation of
 Balloons and Kites by H.M. Ships, Merchant and
 Fishing Vessels supersede all previous
 instructions and are to come into force at
 0001/6/41. (D.G.D. 1320A/30 and 2019A/1)
 See Lion Copy.

6000 Ton M/V
attacked off
Lindesnaes.

At 1151 A/C C/42 sighted 1 DR, 1 MV and 1 EV in
 58° 02' N. 6° 24' E. on course 130° at about
 6 knots. M/V was of about 6000 tons. Description.
 DR was of about 1000 tons. E/V looked like an
 armed trawler. Attack made on M/V (with DR
 intervening as possible target). Torpedo dropped
 700 yards from destroyer and 1100 yards from M/V.
 Torpedo was seen to run and miss DR and A/G
 reports torpedo still running strongly 200 yards
 from bow of M/V as A/C entered cloud.
 (Pitreavie 1500/30.)

Bombing
operations.
ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

On night 29/30, eight-four A/C attacked Stettin,
 starting many fires. 64 A/C attacked Hamburg,
 causing large fires, bombing the Altona railway
 station, the yards of Blohm and Voss, and
 registering near misses on ADMIRAL SCHEER. 5 A/C
 bombed the docks at Havre; and Kiel, Heligoland,
 Sylt, Warnemunde, Cuxhaven, and Emden were also
 attacked. (H.Q.B.C. 1528/30.) See Lion Copy.

Sunderland
II Aircraft.

Are coming into service and will be flying on
 3/10. At first will be seen in S.E. England.
 Description. Request confirmation that all
 pilots and A.A. defences have been notified.
 (Air Ministry 1705/30.)

INDOMITABLE.

INDOMITABLE will have two Hurricane aircraft on
 deck ready to fly off during passage to Clyde.
 C.O. has orders to use his discretion as to making
 use of them in the event of attack by E/A.
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1826/30 to H.Q.F.C., 9th F.G.)

428A

M E S S A G E.

OUT
1320A/30th September.

SECRET

Date. 30.9.41.

Addressed: A Message (permanent) Home
and Abroad, 613A.

Repeated Air Ministry.
H.Q. Fighter Command
H.Q. Coastal Command
H.Q. Bomber Command.

BASEGRAM

WILLPRINT

Naval Code J & P/L BY T/P

From: Admiralty:-

(Pass to all concerned)

NITE

The following rules governing the operation of balloons and kites by H.M. ships, Merchant and Fishing Vessels supersede all previous instructions and are to come into force at 0001 on 6th October, 1941:-

1. There is no restriction as to the area in which vessels sailing independently or in convoy may fly kites or balloons except they should not be flown in the North Atlantic when to the west of 8° west.

2. Balloons and kites may not be flown:

- (a) above the cloud base at any time, or
- (b) above 2,000 feet at any time, or
- (c) above 300 feet (1) by day when the surface visibility is less than 1500 yards and/or the cloud base is at 1,000 feet or below or (ii) by night from vessels sailing independently.

3. Balloons are not to be flown above 300 feet from ships in harbour or when inside the 3 mile limit when entering and leaving harbour. In special cases the maximum height may be reduced by request from the Air Ministry.

Note:- The Firth of Forth West of May Island is to be considered as inside the 3 mile limit.

- 4.(a) Balloons and kites may not be flown above 1,000 feet by night when in convoy.
- (b) Vessels in convoy may fly balloons or kites up to 1,000 feet by night except that if the cloud base is at 1,000 feet or below they must be close-hauled to 300 feet.
- (c) Cables must be non-lethal at night except those of the LZ balloons of the Channel convoy barrage sailing between the Thames and Southampton water.
- (d) Lethal devices may be set to operate only by day and then only when balloons and kites are flown above 300 feet.

5. When at anchor in harbours for which local balloon barrages are provided and if within the periphery of the balloon barrage, ships fitted with balloons may fly them in conformity with the action of the barrage or in accordance with instructions agreed between the local Naval and R.A.F. Authorities concerned. During the hours of darkness, or in visibility which prevents observation of the local Balloon Barrage, balloons are to be close-hauled unless direct communication is available to ascertain the state of the local Balloon Barrage.

6. Attention is drawn to the importance of accurate marking of the kite or balloon wire at 300 feet.

728^B

2.

7. The foregoing instructions are subject to any local restrictions that may be imposed by Cs. in C. abroad in their respective commands.

1320.1/30.
D.G.D.

A.C.N.S. (W)
M. (2)
I.P. (3)
D.G.D. (2)
D.T.D. (4)
C.C.L.S.

D.M.W.D. (2)
D. of L.D. (2)
~~W.D.~~
O.D. (5)
D.T.S.D.
S.W.R. Bath.

C
728B

2019A/1st October.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

To. 'A' Message Home and Abroad.
620A.

Date 1-10-44.

Repeated Air Ministry,
H.Q. Fighter Command,
H.Q. Coastal Command,
H.Q. Bomber Command.

BASECIVIL. Naval Cod (J) Secret.

From Admiralty.

WILLPRINT. NICE.

Correct Admiralty Message 613A 30/9.
Rule 2 (b) for 4000 feet read 2000 repetition 2000
feet.

2019A/1.

D.C.D.
(Tel. No. 171.)

A.C.N.S. (W).
M. (2).
I.F. (3).
D.G.D. (2).
D.T.D. (4).
C.C.L.S.

D.M.W.D. (2).
D. of L.D. (2).
W.D.
O.D. (5).
D.T.S.D.
S.W.R. Bath.

T.H.I. 1528/30

From H.Q.B.C.

Date.
Recd.

30.9.41.
1650.

728D

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Air Ministry War Room, Air Ministry
War Room Z., All Bomber Command Groups
and Stations., Headquarters R.A.F.
Northern Ireland., Int. Course Station Z.
Coastal Command Repeated Admiralty.

Bomber Command Intelligence Narrative of Operations
No 216.

Covering period 1200 hours 29 September to 1200 hours
30 September.

Narrative of Operations.

Night 29/30 September 234 aircraft out of total of
248 set out to attack targets situated at Stettin
and Hamburg, the remainder being detailed for
Le Havre and minelaying duties.

Stettin.

8 Wellingtons of 1 group, 27 Wellingtons and 7
Stirlings of 3 group 29 Whiteleys, 9 Wellingtons
and 4 Halifax of 4 group reached the area. The
weather was generally fine with good visibility
slightly marred by ground haze. Many bursts were
seen on buildings in close proximity to the aiming
point, some of these started satisfactory fires
which were added to by the late arrivals.

Hamburg.

A force of 64 aircraft comprising 16 Wellingtons
of 1 group 8 Wellingtons of 3 group, 5 Whiteleys
2 Wellingtons and 2 Halifax of 4 group and 27
Hampdens and 4 Manchesters of 5 group attacked
targets at Hamburg special attention being paid to
the yards of Blohm and Voss. Visibility was good
and bursts were seen around the main railway
station. Several fires were started one
particularly large one was observed just West of
the Binnen Alster, but searchlight glare hampered the
successful pinpointing of many others. Two of the
4000 lb bombs fell to the East of the Altona
railway station causing much debris to be hurled
into the air. The crew of one Hampden claim direct
hits on the aircraft factory of Blohm and Voss
whilst near misses were registered on the Pocket
Battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER causing damage to the
quay alongside her mooring. Conflagrations from
this very successful raid could be seen by aircraft
crews as far away as Kiel. An ME. 110 which sought
to interfere with a Hampden was shot down in flames
which were only extinguished when the fighter hit
the sea off Texel.

©/Le Havre

Le Havre.

4 Wellingtons and 1 Stirling of 3 group attacked the docks at Le Havre registering hits along the quayside of Bassin Bellet, to the North of the Bassin and also at the West end of the dock.

4 Manchesters of 5 group successfully laid mines and a fifth Manchester attacked by 7 enemy aircraft was forced through lack of petrol to lay its consignment in the wrong place.

Other targets attacked by aircraft unable to attack their primaries for various reasons included Rostock by several aircraft. Kiel where bursts causing fires were seen adjacent to the torpedo fitting out quay, Heligoland, Sylt, Warnemunde, Cuxhaven and Emden, for details and a complete list of last resorts, see summary of operations No. 216.

Advance Copy Ops., O.D.

1st Lord.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 M.A. 1st S.L.
 Ops (4)
 O.D. (5)
 O.I.C. (2)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.P.D.
 D.N.A.D.
 D.M.S.
 D.M.S. Basement.
 D. of P. (3)
 D.S.D. (2)
 O.C.S.C.
 W.D.
 C.C.L.S.

UCA

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
E.C.79.Help "Mission" in 56° 40' N. 2° 5' W.
(CURACOA 1924/30.)Convoy C.W.Help "Bacon" in 51° 22' N. 1° 32' E.
(BLENCATHRA 1943/30.)Convoy
F.N525.Enemy aircraft attacking convoy "Attempt" in
54° 59' N. 1° 11' W. (QUANTOCK 2058/30.)Mining.Dover area.Sweeping carried out to 0800/30. By S.A. and
L.L. trawlers Q.Z.S.191, and in Q.Z.A. 190 and
269 between Dumpton and Dover. One magnetic
mine detonated in 51° 20' 25" N. 01° 35' 30" E.
Q.Z.S.238, 224, and 208 by Oropesa and S.A.
Trawlers in progress. (V.A. Dover 1001A/30.)Portsmouth
Area Sweep.High percentage search eastern half old Q.Z.Y
(248) completed for 2½ miles from (Southern) ?
Boundary. 1 type-T mine swept in 050° 31' 18" N.
000° 54' 18" W. One static cutter swept 050°
32' 06" N. 000° 54' W. One static cutter swept
and dragged. (S.O. 13 M/S.F. 1601A/30.)Enemy Intelligence.E-Boat off
Spurn Point.One enemy war Motor Boat 100°. 18 miles from
S.P.P. (SANDRINGHAM 0600/30.)Brest.At 0830 all three docks appear occupied as usual.
Photos taken of Brest Port, but Rade cloud
covered. (St. Eval 0930/30.)German Main
Units.Latest known positions. (D.D.I.C.1216A/30.)
See Lion Copy.1 Destroyer,
1 Escort Vessel
and 1 M/V.Off Landesnaes at 1151/30. See British Air
Activity.Navigational.Belfast.As from 30/9 the Port of Belfast will be open to
cross channel steamers and local coastal vessels
at all times. For all other vessels the Port of
Belfast will be closed from the Pile Light
inwards during the hours of darkness.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1300/30.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT.

729A.

1216A/30th September.

TO A.I.G. 62.
A.I.G. 21.
F.O.S.
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.B.C.

DATE 30.9.41.

NAVAL CODE (J) SECRET

FROM Admiralty.

German Main Units.

TIRPITZ - In Gdynia Bay 29th September.

GNEISENAU)
SCHARNHORST) Brest in Dry Dock 30th September
PRINZ EUGEN)

LÜTZOW)
HIPPER) Kiel, in Dry Dock, 28th September.
ADMIRAL SCHEER Hamburg, Alongside 28th September.

SEYDLITZ Bremen, completing 28th September.

NÜRNBERG)
KÖLN) Gdynia, 29th September.
EMDEN)

LEIPZIG In Fehmarn Belt 21st September
believed still in Baltic.

GRAF ZEPPELIN Stettin, completing 27th September.

SCHLESSEN Aarhus, 15th September.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN Copenhagen, 27th September.

1216A/30.
for D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.	D.T.D. (4)
1st S.L.	D.T.D. (M)
4th S.L.	D.T.D. (C)
V.C.N.S.	O.I.C. (4)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. OF P. (3)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	I.P. (3)
Naval Sec.	W.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.P.D.
Capt. Pim, Admy. House.	D.S.D. (2)
Ops. (4)	M. (2)
O.D. (5)	FILE X.
D.N.I. (4)	

MP

War Diary.

30.9.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

JACOB VAN
HEEMSKERK.

Cancel my 1453A/29. E.R. defects prevent vessel sailing. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0751A/30.)

NORSE LADY.

NORSE LADY damaged through grounding. Salvage Officer arranging beaching ship, also necessary discharge forward deck cargo direct to coaster, probably EMPIRE TERN, to ascertain extent damage, as steamer leaks. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 1534Z/29.)

Shipping and Convoys.

C.T.4.
(PASTEUR).

PASTEUR should be ready to sail from Clyde 15/10.
2. Sailing will be known as convoy C.T.4.
3. Vessel will be embarked to capacity and details of personnel will be notified in due course. (D.S.T. 0200A/30.)

S.C.45.

My position is 55° 25' N. 16° 46' W. - C course and speed 085° 14 knots bound for Londonderry. All corvettes except PICTOU intend to remain with S.C.45 until arrival U.K. (ST. LAURENT 1108Z/30)

Signals by
Homing
Convoys.

Following has been received from C.in C. W.A. (Repeats C.in C. W.A. 1549A/29.) (Capt. D. Londonderry 1203A/30 to KEPPEL, DOUGLAS, MALCOLM, VENOMOUS, VETERAN, SARDONYX.)

P.Q.1.

Ships, Escorts, and Route. (D.O.D.H. 1205A/30 to Ad. Miles) See Lion Copy.

W.S.12. Fuel
For ROYAL
ULSTERMAN
and PRINCE
BAUDOUIN at
Ponta Delgada.

Reference 1245A/20, para.7. Estimate fuel required 60 tons and 85 tons. Presume Admty. will inform necessary authorities. ROYAL ULSTERMAN, DEVONSHIRE, and SIKH have copies of Admiralty 0212/5th July 1941. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1214/30.)

"Vesca"
~~VESCA~~
Signals.

A.M.2043/29. ^{"Vesca"}~~VESCA~~ signals are to be in the following standardised form. (D.I.D. 1309A/30.)

O.N.Convoys.

1. Undertaking in Admiralty 1934A/21/8 para.(G) involves very long cypher signals since ships are diversely routed.
2. Suggest for your consideration that destination of all ships dispersed from an O.N. convoy should be included in the first daily Admiralty signal subsequent to dispersal giving the estimated daily positions of independently routed merchant ships. Thereafter these ships would be included in the squares appropriate to their 1800 G.M.T. positions daily.
3. Would this meet your requirements. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1445Z/30 to Opnav.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

1205A/30 Sept.

430A

OUT

To. Admiral Miles.
Repeated. S.B.N.O. Murmansk,
C. in C. Home Fleet. 281.
R.A.D. Home Fleet. 9.
C.S.I. 468.

Date. 30.9.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (A ONE TIME TABLE)

From Admiralty.

- (A) P Q I.
- (B) CAPIRA, NORTH KING, VILLE D'ANVERS, ELNA II, LORNA,
BLAIRNEVIS, ATLANTIC, HARMONIC, RIVER AFTON, GEMSTONE.
- (C) Ocean Escort H.M.S. SUFFOLK, A/S Escort H.M.S. LIEDA
(S.O.) H.M.S. ERITOMART, H.M.S. GOSSAMER, H.M.S. HUSSAR,
H.M.S. IMPULSIVE, H.M.S. ESCAPADE.
- (D) Position Z 270 degs. Cape Kanin 40 miles. Course
186 degs.
- (E) 1730Z 10th October.
- (F) 7 knots.
- (G) Until escort for Q.P. 2 is available.
- (H) Estimated fuel requirements H.M.S. SUFFOLK 2000 tons,
H.M.S. IMPULSIVE 350 tons, H.M.S. ESCAPADE 350 tons,
4 Minesweepers 210 tons each. Minesweepers also
require 5 tons diesel oil and 4 tons of domestic coal
each.
- (I) Not known.

1205A/30

D.O.D. (H)

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

- Head of M.
- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D. (2)
- N.I.D.10.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

SCOTOL.
P.W.44.

Intend sailing oiler SCOTOL to R/V with P.W.44 at seaward end (24) Admiralty message Q.Z.S 295 at 1730/2 for passage to Milford Haven and onward routing to Port Z.A. (N.O.I.C. Portland 1545A/30.)

W.S.12.

C. in C. W.A. 1821A/27. Request you sail STANLEY and NEWARK to join Liverpool Section of W.S.12 in 304°. Mull of Kintyre Light 12 miles at 0700A/1. On being relieved WITCH and WHITEHALL are to complete with fuel at Londonderry and rejoin the convoy with despatch. (DEVONSHIRE 1640A/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
C. in C. W.A. 1821A/27. Request you sail BADSWORTH, BLANKNEY, BRADFORD, LANCASTER to join Clyde section W.S.12 in 304°. Mull of Kintyre Light 12 at 0700A/1. (DEVONSHIRE 1641A/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
It is intended that DEVONSHIRE shall escort W.S.12 as far as the Cape Area. (D.O.D.F 1728A/30)
W.S.12 sailed 2225/30th. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 2300/30.)

H.G.73

Your 1214/30. Convoy is not to enter swept channel before 0700/1.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1728A/30 to FOWEY.)

C.F.2.

Your 0330/30 and C. in C. S.A. 1715/24. It is important that Convoy C.F.2 should arrive at R/V in 49° N. 24° 40' W. during daylight 4th October.
2. Proceed at your best speed and report your E.T.A. at R/V. (D.O.D.F. 1915A/30 to CHESHIRE.)

Orders for
Escort Groups.

My 1230A/10. Amend sailing dates as follows :-
O.N. 22 - October 2nd
O.S.8 - " 3rd
O.N.S.23 - " 4th
O.N.2 - " 8th
O.N.S.25 - " 10th
O.S.9 - " 13th
O.N.26 - " 14th
(C. in C. W.A. 1926A/30.)

S.L.88

S.L.88 proceed at best speed. Report your speed on crossing 40° N. (C. in C. W.A. 1931A/30th)

/CHILLIWACK

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

CHILLIWACK
BITTERSWEET
COLLINGWOOD
DIANTHUS
SNOWBERRY
TRAIL
SPIKENARD.

Ships addressed are to proceed forthwith at best speed to Londonderry to refuel.
(C. in C. W.A. 2157A/30 to CHILLIWACK etc.)

In view of my 2118/30 / cancel my 1450Z/30 //.
(D.T.D. 2205Z/30 to Opnav.)
/ Convoy reported by U-Boat.
// Most Secret (N.T. in W.D.)

Convoys
H.G., H.X.,
S.L., S.C.

Code Words on arrival in U.K. Following standardised procedure will be followed.
(C. in C. W.A. 2250A/30) See Summaries Folder.

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.RAIDER SITUATION.

Admty. 1857A/30. See Lion Copy.

FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.NELSON.

Entering (harbour ?) now.
 (S.O. Force H. 1024A/30 to Admty.)
 Your 1714A/30^{NT} Approved.
 (V.C.N.S., 2223A/30 to Cdre. Supt. Gib.)

PORT
CHALMERS.

Arrived. Request early instructions.
 (V.A.C.N.A., 1149A/30 to Admty.)

LA
CARRIERE.

On arrival of LA CARRIERE request you will ascertain actual latitude and longitude positions of ship reported in her signals of 0400/27 and 1300/29. Bearing and distances were construed by Admiralty as from Lettered Position in each case.
 (D.T.D. 1448A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

THORN,
TRUANT.

Intend to sail THORN p.m./4 for Malta. Route.
 (ii) TRUANT will sail about 9/10 having been delayed at Gibraltar by defects.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1510A/30.)

H.G.74.

H.G.74. Request destinations for my 1121/27.
 (V.A.C.N.A., 1620A/30 to Admty.)

Cable
cut.

Brest-Casablanca cable cut by MIRROR in 036° 52' N. 013° 24' W. at 0200A/29.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1702A/30.)

Dispersal of
"Halberd"
Ships.

Intend to sail (i) PRINCE OF WALES, EDINBURGH, SHEFFIELD, LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, ORIBI for U.K. about 1830A/1.
 (ii) KENYA, GARLAND, PIORUN, 2 Force H Destroyers, LEINSTER, and any merchant ships ex "Substance" for U.K. about 02(00?)A/2. 2 Force H Destroyers parting company as requisite to R/V with ARGUS in 43° N. 27° 30' W. at (?16)30A/5.
 (iii) EURYALUS, FARNDALE, HEYTHROP for Freetown and MELBOURNE STAR (? for) Buenos Aires as soon as ready (? subject to) concurrence of C. in C. Med. A.M. 2345A/12 refers.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1722A/30 to Admty.)

/Convoy.....

733A.

SECRET, MESSAGE.

OUT.

1857A/30th September.

To C. in C. Home Fleet 287.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 144. Date. 30.9.41.
 New Zealand Naval Board
 573.
 B.A.D. Washington 758.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 129.
 C. in C. South Atlantic 278
 N.O.I.C. Simonstown. 485.
 R.A. South America Division
 437.
 C. in C. America and West
 Indies 501.
 Australian Commonwealth Naval
 Board 858.
 C. in C. China 950.
 C. in C. East Indies 6.
 A.L.U.S.N.A.
 S.P.E.N.A.V.O.

Naval Cypher (C)

From Admiralty.

NITE

My 1427A/23.

1. W/T indications of R/V of two surface units in South Atlantic on 24/9 but no bearings obtained. Possibly in calm weather area 600 miles S.W. of St. Helena.
2. Series of R's intercepted by Trincomalee at 1549Z/26 but reception conditions bad and no other confirmation that this was raider report.
3. D/F fix of surface unit at 0578Z/28 within 300 miles of 40° S 153° W. Possibly raider which is thought to have attacked, KOTA NOPAN 17/8, AUSTRALIND 19/8, DEVON date unknown and SILVAPLANA 11/9.
4. Reference Raider Supplement to W.I.R. No. 64 amend details of raiders as follows:-

Raider A. Number 36.

Real identity probably NEUMARK Captain Weyer.

Raider B. Number 45.

Raider C. Real identity GOLDENFELS.

Raider D. Number 21. Real identity possibly PARANAGUA

/Raider E

Raider E. Probably no repeat no mines.

Raider F. Real Identity KANDELFELS Captain Krueder.

Raider G. Number 41. Real identity thought to be
STEIERMARK, 9,400 tons, of Hapag Line.

1857 A/30.

for D.D.I.C.
(Green Line (8))

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)(2)
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim, 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)
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.S.D. (2)
M. (2)

UCA

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Convoy
Protection.

Personal from 1st Sea Lord.

A. We have recently had one S.L. Convoy and one H.G. Convoy roughly handled by U-Boats in the area between lats. 25 N. and 32 N. on the meridian of 24 W., and that enclosed by parallels of 45 N. and 50 N. and meridians of 20 W. and 25 W., in spite of the fact that one convoy had a good escort and the other a fair one.

B. Until we can give these convoys adequate protection by local escorts we must try other means of protecting them.

C. It is probable that Admiralty by means of D.F. bearings of U-Boats may be able to forecast when trouble is likely, and Force H. would then assist either by:

(i) Reinforcing the escorts by destroyers,
(ii) Harassing the U-Boat by ARK ROYAL aircraft by day.

D. As regards C (ii), it is suggested that ARK ROYAL should operate roughly 50 miles from the convoy and harass any U-Boats attempting to make contact with, or shadow the Convoy.

E. It would be essential that ARK ROYAL should be strongly escorted by destroyers, even at the expense of using them as a hunting force.

(D.O.D.(F) 1732A/30 to S.O. Force H.)

Operation
"Halberd".

Arrivals PRINCE OF WALES, KENYA, SHEFFIELD, LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, FURY, ORIBI.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1750A/30.)

FORESIGHT,
FORESTER,
FURY.

Your 2345/12 and F.O.C.N.A's 1722(?A)/30.

Intend to retain FORESIGHT, FORESTER, FURY until sailing date of NELSON can be forecast. If delay is too great they will be sailed to assist with escort of H.G.74.

(S.O. Force H., 1823A/30 to Admt.)

German &
Italian
Ship
Movements.

For information. It is probable that German ships ATLAS and SULLBERG will be approaching Genoa and HANS SCHMIDT approaching Savona on 2nd or 3rd October.

Italian ship MAURO CROCE and DERNA may be leaving Genoa about the same time.

All these are trading from or to Spain.

(D.D.I.C., 2303A/30 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.German
Shipping.

My 2245Z/30/7. Further report received that for last fortnight rumours have been renewed that German merchant ship is expected to arrive Mar del Plata. Also reported firms who shipped by ERLANGEN are showing signs of activity.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 0003Z/30 to S.A. Div.)

W.S.11.

DERBYSHIRE and portion of convoy W.S.11 arrived Capetown.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1103Z/30.)

ALBION
STAR.

Slight damage by fire this morning caused probably electrical short circuit. Repairs will delay vessel 2 to 3 days only.
(D.E.M.S. Officer, Buenos Aires, 1245/30.)

BIRMINGHAM.

My 1521Z/28. Owing to revised routeing of "Piston" PISTON vide Admty 2318A/28 intend BIRMINGHAM to operate in the vicinity of new focal area round Abrothos on completion Trinidad Sweep. Corvettes to visit Rio de Janeiro about 7/10 to advertise presence then work in same area. Request BULOLO on leaving Tristan da Cunha may now proceed to J 33 (C) and (D).
(R.A.S.A.D., 1246Z/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

Air R/C
of Dakar.

Sunderland aircraft J/204 carried out R/C over Dakar p.m./29 no instructions were given for this. J/204 was then joined by C/204 and both aircraft were engaged by 4 Mohawks fighters which had followed from Dakar. One enemy aircraft probably (destroyed?) possible other damaged. C/204 extensively holed (? and) 3 wounded recuperating. J/204 slight hull damage only. Both aircraft now at Bathurst (? making good). Reason for flight being undertaken is being investigated.
(C. in C. S.A., 1307N/30.)

HOLLY,
ANCHUSA.

Arrival 30th HOLLY, ANCHUSA, the latter has completed oiling but has minor engine defects which have been taken in hand. Will be ready for sea p.m./1. Request instructions.
(D. of Nigerian Marine, Lagos, 1600Z/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

/Air R/C.....

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Air R/C
of Dakar.

Re my daily operation summary for 29/9. Sunderland C/204 Squadron carrying out R/C over Dakar on return from convoy escort. Centre of combat area TJW 495, 17, 20, engagement lasted about 20 minutes. Both our aircraft returned Bathurst Gambia together. R/C of Dakar not ordered and was carried out through error in briefing pilot.
(Combined Ops. Room, Freetown, 1605/30.)

Troop
Transports
for Berbera.

Your 1801/29.* M.W.T.R. prefer Durban for loading cargo. Request I may be informed of draught limitations Takoradi.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1639B/30 to C. in C. S.A.)
* Presumably A.M. 1801/29.

DEVONSHIRE.

A.M. 1720/24 para. (g) and A.M. 1924/23. DEVONSHIRE is to continue escort of W.S.12 to the Cape.
2. On completion of this duty DEVONSHIRE is to join the South Atlantic Station in accordance with A.M. 1532/20 June para. 8.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1752A/30.)

Task
Force 3.

Future movements.
1. Group 3.6 (OMAHA, SOMERS) leave position (A) on 29/9 to arrive Pernambuco 4/10. Thence leave 5/10 for Trinidad so as to arrive 11/10.
2. Group 3.7 (MEMPHIS, DAVIS) leave Pernambuco 2/10 through position (A) on 7/10, returning Pernambuco 12/10.
3. Group 3.8 (JOUETT) leave Pernambuco 10/10 through position (A) on 15/10 returning Pernambuco 20/10. CINCINATTI having previously been detached to New York for repairs rejoins Group 3.8 at a later date.
4. Position (A) in all cases is 15° N. 26° W.
(D.O.D.(F) 1800A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

DORSETSHIRE,
DEVONSHIRE.

Admiralty 1948/18 and 1752A/30.
In view of the number of South African ratings in DORSETSHIRE there is no obligation to employ DEVONSHIRE and DORSETSHIRE in the areas for which they are designated in Admiralty 1532/20.
(D.O.D.(F) 1938A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

/Planes.....

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Planes for
British.

Opnav reports:- 30/9 Panamerican clippers scheduled depart Natal for Bathurst. Six twin engine Douglass transport landplanes scheduled depart about same time and follow same route 1/10. Flights are under supervision Panamerican airways for delivery of planes and personnel to British. Request U.S. Naval vessels in vicinity of route be advised to be on alert. Re communications.
(Spenavo, 2120/30 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Halberd"

Request you will convey my thanks for most valuable assistance rendered by R.A.F. during operation "Halberd".
(S.O. Force H., 0502A/30 to V.A. Malta.)
Necessary to await arrival of remainder of force before I can supplement information contained in my 1730A/29. (ii) Press report from ARK ROYAL dealing with D.3 will be despatched to Admiralty for censorship on arrival of NELSON.
(S.O. Force H., 0910A/30 to Admty.)
Congratulations of Board of Admiralty.
(Approved 1st Lord, 1226A/30 to F.O Force H, V.A. Malta.)

Unknown
A/C.

Following has been read. Unknown aeroplane(s) signification unknown 140, 32° N., 26° E., 29.
(Nore W/T, 0810/30.)

Enemy
Convoy.

My 1015B/28. First sentence. This convoy is 24 hours late.
(Capt. (S)1, 1035B/30 to PERSEUS.)

Black Sea,
Russian
Warships
Sunk.

1007C/30. B.N.L.O. Black Sea reports Russian Destroyer FRUNZE and Gun Boat RED ARMENIA were both sunk by dive bombers about 21/9 off Tendra.
(Adm. Miles, 1040/30 to Admty.)

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.NEAHELLAS.Has developed defects. Movements.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1115B/30.)Enemy M/V's.
UTMOST.3 Northbound merchant ships speed 10 knots expected to pass 038° 00' 012° 00' on course 30° between 0040 and 0240B/2. Endeavour to intercept before making passage to south-eastwards.
(Capt. S.10, 1140B/30, to UTMOST.)
My 1140B/30th. Swordfish will attack tonight Tuesday.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1945B/30 to UTMOST.)Air attacks at Bardia.Night 28/29 September. 4 Albacores continued the attacks on enemy ship in Bardia Harbour obtaining 1 probable hit. 14 Wellingtons subsequently attacked 2 hits amidships and other hits on Mole and Buildings in town.
29/9. 19 Marylands with large fighter escort made further attacks. Details awaited.
Tomahawks made offensive sweep Bardia area.
R/C's Benghazi, Derna, Bardia, Cyrenaica Coast and for enemy shipping between Crete and Libya.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1148/30.)RORQUAL.My 1921C/2. Repairs to periscope completed. Diving trials to 200 feet carried out satisfactorily. Proposed programme, Aegean 9/10 lay mines in accordance with special instructions proceeds Malta on completion 13/10 arriving Malta.
After short rest period Malta RORQUAL to embark full outfit of mines and sail as arranged by Capt. (S) 10th to lay as required by N.O.i/c Malta subsequently proceeding Gibraltar and U.K.
(Capt. (S) 1, 1151B/30.)
Your 1151B/30 approved.
(C. in C. Med., 1400B/30 to Capt. S.1.)Beirut - Tunis cable.Misunderstanding likely to arise regarding Beirut/Tunis Cable. While cutting cable is simple matter from Beirut, I consider it unjustifiable to employ a valuable Cable Ship to pick up lengths of cable unless I can give her continuous fighter protection. This is essential in area concerned owing to continual T/B and bomber R/C. To provide fighter protection needed is beyond R.A.F. fighter resources without prejudicing other much more important services such as Tobruk supply. I therefore see no immediate prospects of picking up (? Beirut) Cable. Foreign Office 3357 of 26/9 to Ambassador Cairo refers.
(C. in C. Med., 1220B/30 to Admty.)

739

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Turkish
Defences.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 175. Matters raised in your O/08338 of 27/9 are being discussed here. Meanwhile you should take no steps in regard to tripartite Anglo-Turkish-Russian conference or to seeking Turkish General Staff permission to construct defences in Turkish territory north of Aleppo.
(1st S.L., 1324A/30 to C. in C. Med.)

CONFEDERATE.

Following is a repetition of my 1730B/27 begins C. in C. E.I's 0458/25. Sail CONFEDERATE as convenient to comply. Ends.
(C. in C. Med. 1537B/28 to S.B.N.O. Canal Area.)

PROTEUS.

Area P. Summary of intelligence.
(Capt. (S) 1, 1550B/30 to PROTEUS.)

BRECONSHIRE.

Request your proposals as to future employment.
(D.O.D.(F) 1723A/30 to C. in C. Med.)

PERSEUS.

2 Merchant Ships sail from 032° 04' 020° 01' p.m./2 for 032° 54' 013° 06'. Enemy naval activity may be expected in Eastern part of your area for next 2 or 3 days, together with preliminary extra air and destroyer A/S measures. The type of operation is not known but it is expected it will take place by day and cruisers may participate.
(Capt. (S) 1, 2131B/30 to PERSEUS.)

Operations
of S/Ms. in
Aegean.

Admty. 1427A/29. Admiral Miles 1052Z/28. Analysis of British Submarine Patrol in Aegean between 1/7 and 30/9. 5 patrols carried out from Alexandria each about 21 days at sea. Sinkings. 1 U-Boat, 2 Tankers, 4 Merchant Vessels of 3,000 tons and upwards. 9 Large Schooners and Caiques heavily laden with troops. Opposition considerable with difficult conditions, often glassy calm and heavy air activity.
(C. in C. Med., 2256B/30 to Admty. for Admiral Miles.)

740

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Persian Gulf.

Your 2005 5th (i) I am assuming there is no doubt we shall occupy Persian Naval Base Khorramshahr and I intend to instruct S.N.O. Persian Gulf to proceed with diplomatic preparations forthwith. It will be invaluable to us as a M/S base and as an H.Q. Base for S.N.O. Persian Gulf and N.O.I.C. Basra. (ii) I also intend (a) To commission 2 Persian gunboats with R.N. crews retaining remaining 2 gunboats as spares. (b) To make use of tug * NEYROU. (corrupt group) vessel SHAHIN depot ship * IVY and smaller craft. (iii) Inspection of the W/T Stn. shows that it is obsolete and of little value. Intend therefore to (modernize?) it and establish an adequate W/T Stn. in its place. (C. in C.E.I., 0748Z/30, to Adty.)

* NIRU. (L.B. 1615.) - * Not identified.

China.

CLAN FORBES.

Your 0740/29. This would suit me admirably. (C. in C. China 0245Z/30 to C. in C.E.I.)

TRANNINH (French.)

Arrival 30th. (N.C.S.O. Manila 0648Z/30.)

S.S. TRAN-NINH. (French.)

Arrivals 30th from Haiphong with 2200 tons coal for MADRIGAL * (C.G. Manila 1440/30.) * Not identified

America & West Indies.

Casualties to S.C.46.

S.C.46 suffered following marine casualties during passage of Belle Isle Strait in dense fog.
1. EMPIRE KUDU grounded extensive salvage necessary.
2. CULEBRA grounded forward can refloat.
3. EMPIRE MALLARD sunk in collision.

/4. SOUTH.....

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Casualties
to S.C.46.
Contd.

4. SOUTH WALES ashore after collision. Back broken cargo (? salvable.)
5. EVEROJA returned to Sydney after collision with 4.
6. EMPIRE MOON returned to Sydney to have (10 groups omitted.) returned Sydney after collision with ATHELVIKING.
- 5,6 and 7 being repaired locally ATHELVIKING (?resuming)
- (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.1409Z/30.)

ABGARA
(Latvian)

Aground at Manati Cuba 25/9 refloated 29/9 and awaiting survey.

(S.O.(I)Jamaica 1506R/30.)

ARIMA MARU.
(Jap.)

Repairing temporarily Callao.

Reported will be towed to Japan by SAKITO MARU.

(S.O.(I)Jamaica 1526R/30.)

FORT DE
FRANCE
MONT VISO.

French S.S.FORT DE FRANCE, leaves Martinique for Casablanca 30/9 and MONT VISO leaves Casablanca for Martinique. Sailing of these vessels has been approved by H.M.Govt., FORT DE FRANCE will carry a ships certificate issued by U.S Consul Martinique in lieu of ship navicert.

(B.A.D.Washington 1625R/30 to Adty.)

Ships in
distress.

My 1840/29/9. Information now considered discredited. Coast Guard has two vessels in area designated.

(Opnav. 1636Z/30.)

POLYANTHUS.

Your 1534R/29. Ship will arrive as requested.

(C.C.N.F.1759Z/30 to B.A.R.M. Washington.)

Flag of
B.S.3.

Flag of F.O. 3rd B.S. hauled down and H.M.S. SEABORN paid off p.m./30.

(F.O.3.B.S.1801Q/30.)

U.S.S/M.
movement.

S/M Voyage East Coast approx. date New London to Philadelphia one boat October 2nd to 3rd.

(U.S.C of Ops., Washington 2030Z/30.)

/HARBOE.....

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

HARBOE
JENSEN.

My 1621Z/28th (?calculating) oil fuel capacity HARBOE JENSEN 30 days at speed $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 knots consider direct routeing to Capetown would allow insufficient margin for stress of weather and possible need for diversion. Calls for bunkers are therefore necessary at Port of Spain Capetown and probably Aden.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2014Z/29 to D. of S.T.)

TRENTON
Galapagos
Patrol.

My 2115/22. Southeast Pacific Force. TRENTON departs Balboa 3/10 passes through following points.
(O.P.N.A.V. 2128/30.)

743

War Diary.30.9.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.SILVERBELLE
(torpedoed
22/9.)

Your 1315/29, not to Admty., (see 0615A/30.)
Offer of Admiral Naval base much appreciated.
As LADY SHIRLEY is already standing by
SILVERBELLE would prefer seagoing tug to be
sent when ready. SILVERBELLE reported in
026° 34' N, 024° 02' W., at 0200A/28 in tow at
slow speed towards Las Palmas. Towing vessel
parted company 29th.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0613A/30 to Consul, Las Palmas.)
Following received from Consul Las Palmas,
Addressed S.O.(I) Gibraltar Repeated Madrid
(begins).- Your 1902/28. Only Seagoing Tug
undergoing repairs will be ready for sea in 36
hours has no W/T. I have therefore consulted
Admiral, Naval Base, here who is willing to
consult Minister at Ministry of Marine, Madrid,
whether he can send Spanish Minelayer MARTE and
whether he can take SILVERBELLE in tow or only
standby to save lives. Admiral not making
consultation until I inform him whether this
suggestion acceptable to you. Please instruct.
Consul's 1315/29. (Ends.)
(F.O.C.N.A., 0615A/30 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

0522. Bearing by D/F at 0522 position of enemy U-boat
was 069°28' N., 044° 10' E.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 0926C/30.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1432A/30.)

1512Z. S/M reported in vicinity 045° 45' N., 054°
35' W.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1512Z/30.)

1330 G.M.T. From Senior Officer present afloat Argentinia
"Patrol plane reports submarine 46 10 N.,
5 -50 W., course 210 about 5 miles N.W. of convoy
at 1330 G.M.T/30. Taskunit 4.1.5. and Cinclant
informed. Sent to Admiralty, C.O.A.C.,
N.S.H.Q., C in C. A., and W.I., and Comdr.,
No Lant Nav. Coastal Frontier for information.
(Opnav 1600/30.)

/1709Z.....

War Diary.

30.9.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1709Z,
1728Z,
H.X. 152,
reported.

A U/Boat made a sighting report at 1709Z/30 and 1728Z/30. No Fix obtainable. (D.D.I.C. 1937A/30 to WALKER, VETERAN, FOLKESTONE, ROCHESTER, MAYFLOWER, WALLFLOWER, ST. CROIX, GARDENIA, Opanav.) My 1937A/30. Further bearings indicate that convoy reported is probably H.X. 152, south of Newfoundland. (D.D.I.C. 2118A/30 to Opanav.)

Warrifal Bay,

*Warrifal.
See P 621*

Following has been received begins. S.O.(I) Freetown from British Consul St. Vincent. German submarines reported on the surface Warrifal Bay San Antonio 28/9. Strong local evidence in support. Letter received 29/9 reliable source states submarine arrived about 1800 transferred stores and equipment sailed 2230 course S.W. T.O.O. 1519/30. (S.O.(I) Freetown 2144N/30).

Submarines Attacked.

By DUNCAN.

C.A.F.O. 854/41. (A) DUNCAN (B) 1942 28/9 (C) 057° 28' N. 005° 44' E. (D)10 (E) 2024. (DUNCAN 0931/30).

By GURKHA
(?time).
W. S/M ADUA.

Attack successful. No prisoners but have wreckage of Italian U-boat. (GURKHA, 1140B/30 to C.S.18).

744A

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

0205/30th Sept. IN.

From:- A.C.H.Q. Plymouth.

Date 30.9.41.
Recd 0425.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed:- H.Q.C.C. Repeated Ops. Sec. War Room
Admiralty.FORM BLUE STRIKE IMMEDIATE NOTIT.

- B. H.Q.19. Gr. area combined Hqs Plymouth.
PL/BS 2/30/9.
- C. Hudson A/c 1/233 Squadron.
- D. PL/G7/28/9.
- E. U-Boat below periscope depth KRAF 0937.
- F. Fine vis. 10 miles, 2/10 Cu. at 2000 feet wind 305
degs 20 M.P.H.
- G. 1556 - 50 feet.
- H. 3 X 250 lb D/cs. Mark VIII 60 ft. spacing 50 foot
setting.
- K. Not known - only one burst seen oil appeared.
- L. 1. 15 miles.
2. 120 degs T.
3. 30 seconds.
4. Oil appeared one minute after explosion.
5. 3 hours 20 mins.
6. A/c speed 120 knots.
- S. Hudson A/233 at 1548 hrs when on track 347 degs T
at 600 feet sighted U-Boat on the port bow 15 miles
distant on CO 120 degs T at 10 knots A/c immediately
altered CO to port and attempted to attack down sun.
When 2 to 3 miles from the U-Boat it was seen to be
submerging and was finally lost to view when $\frac{1}{4}$ mile
distant and 30 seconds before release of 3 X 250 lb
mark VIII dcs. the dcs. were dropped in stick across
track of U-Boat at angle of 30 degs from 50 feet at
a speed of 120 knots only one burst was observed, dead
on track, 100 feet from edge of swirl, and crew are
of opinion that the other two failed to explode.
Oil came to the surface one minute after the attack
and a further patch 100 yds. ahead which developed into
a streak.
A/c remained in the area on patrol seven miles ahead
on U-Boat track for 3 hours 30 minutes and SC for
base on P L E.

0205/30.

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

jr.