

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

3 M.T.B's patrolled off Ostend last night.
No shipping was sighted.

British Air Operations.

Six Wellingtons bombed the docks at Boulogne last night. Small scale attacks were made on docks at Ostend and Dunkirk.

Two Flakships which with two destroyers were escorting a merchant vessel off Barfleur were set on fire this evening.

6 A/C of C.C. and 8 of B.C. to lay mines last night at Karmsund and from Frisian Is. to Elbe.

Mining.

Operation
Q.L.1.

Mines were laid last night off Hook of Holland.

Sunderland was closed at 0315, Tyne at 2240 and Blyth at 2315.

Liverpool is to be closed at night, commencing today.

Thames
Estuary.

M/S Trawlers ETRUSCAN and WAR WING were slightly damaged this morning by the explosion of S.A. mines off Harwich.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air attack
on Cotronne.

This morning 7 Blenheims attacked shipping and other targets at Cotronne. A merchant ship in harbour was hit and set on fire.

Operations
by TETRARCH.

TETRARCH reports a possible hit on a merchant ship approaching Benghazi on 19/8. She shadowed an escorted convoy of 5 large schooners and a steamship proceeding close in shore from Tripoli to Benghazi and sunk one schooner on the morning of 23/8 and one on the following morning.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

There was a heavy air attack on Tobruk today. No serious damage was caused. 7 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli from 2000 to 2300 today. Blenheims last night attacked a tanker and petrol storage barges at Benghazi. Results are not known.

Egypt and
Suez Canal
Area.

Port Said and Alexandria were attacked by aircraft last night. Some naval casualties were caused at Alexandria.

Flag of
C. in C.

The Flag of C. in C. Med. has been transferred to QUEEN ELIZABETH and Flag of V.A.1.B.S. to BARHAM.

Black
Sea.

It is reported that the Russians damaged by air attack on 23/8 the Rumanian monitor ARDEAL. The Soviet minesweepers BAIKAL and OCHAKOVICANAL were sunk when evacuating troops from Kherson Ochakovo. The Soviet transport BRIYANSK was sunk by aircraft at Odessa. ** not identified*

America and West Indies.

Raider
search.

The U.S. forces abandoned at 1800Q today the search for the enemy cruiser sighted on 28/8.

War Diary.1.9.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Flag of
V.A.2.

Pink List dated 26th August. Flag of V.A.C. 2nd B.S. and 2nd in command Home Fleet was transferred to PRINCE OF WALES 18th August. (V.A.2 0943A/1.)

S/M's in
Northern
Waters.

Suggest that Admiralty should include the movements of any Russian or British submarines based in Northern Waters, which may be operating in an area where contact with our own forces is possible, in the daily submarine position signal or alternatively should inform any Flag Officers concerned in a separate daily message. (F.O.S. 1636A/1 to Adty.)
Your 1636A/1. This information will be passed in a separate message to Flag Officers concerned. (D.O.D(H) 1913A/1 to F.O.S.)

M.T.B.54.

Norwegian crew of M.T.B.56 now repairing at Northam is to proceed to Dover to take over M.T.B. 54. British crew of latter is to stand by M.T.B. 56 until she has completed repairs. M.T.B.54 is to be at 48 hours notice for special service from 4/9. This exchange of crews is to be regarded as temporary until M.T.B.56 has completed repairs about 23/9. C. in C. R.N.N. concurs. (D.D.O.D. C. 2001A/1.)

Iceland.
N.C.S.O.
and D.E.M.S.
Staffs.

Due to U.S.A. Tanker shuttle service and requirements for North Russia etc., amount of shipping calling at Iceland is likely to increase. Intend therefore to augment your N.C.S.O. staff. Understand there is some difficulty in passing route instructions to ships in Hvalfjord unless they call at Reykjavik. Propose that a branch N.C.S.O.'s Office be established at Hvalfjord. It is also under consideration, to appoint a small D.E.M.S. staff in addition to the Gunners Mate already allocated. Request your remarks, and earliest date accommodation can be made available. (A.C.N.S(T) 2208A/1 to A.C.I.C.)

Co-operation with Russia.Baltic.

(Destruction of Naval Construction) Your 1511/30. Reply. (Ad.Miles 0959C/1 to Adty.) See Lion Copy.

/White Sea

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET ~~SECRET~~ 0959C/1st Sept. IN

From Admiral Miles.

Date 1.9.41.

Recd 1739.

Naval Cypher (X) by Special Route

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Your 1511 August 30th. The Russian scorched earth policy is everywhere being carried out with great thoroughness and relentlessly. The destruction of the Dnieper Dam recently is a sure proof that there is no squeamishness in implementing this policy.

The removal of unfinished hulls and machinery from Nicholaev and the destruction there of what could not be removed shows that the Soviet Naval Authorities are doing their share.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of your message I am in no position at Moscow to ensure repeat ensure similar destruction in the Baltic and a recent request for a visit to Leningrad was somewhat naturally turned down under the existing circumstances.

3. The most I could do was to express your anxiety to Kuzbetsov (the Head of the Navy) in view of my remarks above I am confident that destruction in the Baltic will be carried out if the need arises and any suggestion on my part that it might not be would only be resented and would serve no useful purpose.

4. If however you would still like me to see Kuzetsov I will ask for an interview but I think it would be more generous and stimulating if I might be allowed to come straight out in the open with an offer of help after the war.

0959C/1.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L
- 3rd S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D. of F.(2)
- D.N.I.(4) for action
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C.
- Duty Captain
- I.I.(2)
- W.D.

jf

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia - contd.

White Sea.

After fuelling and resting, and when A/A protection of Convoy is reasonably assured, escort may be used in agreement with Russian S.N.O. to operate off entrance to White Sea against U-Boats and Ships or (? bases). (V.A.2.1034A/1 to ELECTRA). See Operations Volume.

Employment of British Naval Forces.

Admiralty's 1905A/31. C. in C. Northern Fleet greatly appreciates offer of use of destroyers and minesweepers, and requests destroyers may be employed to escort number of M/V's waiting at Archangel to Nova Zembla as no other escort available. Minesweepers to be employed sweeping entrance to White Sea vicinity Gorodetski. Admiral Surinin (? noted) and requested to arrange details with S.N.O. British Forces at Archangel. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., ELECTRA, and V.A.2. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1123C/1 to Ad. Miles.) *See also page 6, "Derrick".*

Movements.

TRUSTY.

My 1849A/31. Delete all reference to TRUSTY. (S.3. 0106A/1 to authorities concerned in Home Commands.)

My 1851A/31. Delete all reference to TRUSTY. (S.3. 0108A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FURIOUS,
LIVELY,
LEGION.

Sailed FURIOUS escorted by LIVELY. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0548/1.)
Following is a repetition of my 0946A/1. begins. Request onward route for FURIOUS from position X be repeated LEGION (ends). (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1046/1.)
Expect to leave Londonderry at 1900A/1 and reach 047° 45' N. 025° 10' W. at 1930A/3 with 65% oil fuel remaining. (LEGION 1730A/1 to REPULSE, FURIOUS, Capt. D.4.)

P.35.

Sailed my 0956A/30/8. Code word ^{"Label"} LABEL.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 0825A/1.)

KING GEORGE V. Request you provide 3 destroyers to screen KING GEORGE V. passing Oxcars Gate at 0900/5.
(V.A.2. 1010A/1 to R.A.D.)

/DUKE OF YORK

War Diary.1.9.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.DUKE OF YORK.

Admiralty 1855A/11/8 para.2. I should be grateful if two destroyers from 17th Division could carry out this duty, as there are no worked-up H.F. destroyers available. (V.A.2. 1036A/1 to R.A.M.)

Your 1036. Regret no destroyer of 17th Division will be available before about 13/9. (R.A.M. 1229A/1 to V.A.2.)

Admiralty 1857A/11. S.O. Destroyers is requested to provide 3 Destroyers as A/S screen to arrive Clyde by p.m./8.

2. PENELOPE is to provide surface and A/A escort and is to arrive Clyde p.m./8. (V.A.2. 1535A/1.)

Admiralty 1855A/11/8. Request you will provide two destroyers. (V.A.2. 1549A/1 to R.A.D.)

CATHAY,
CANTON.

For Freetown CATHAY and CANTON leave Clyde not before 18/9. (S.O.W.P. 1146A/1 to Adty.)

See H 9 219

H.33.

H.33 leaves Sheerness at 1500A/1 routed as follows to R/V 0630A/5 in 180° Lizard Head 5 miles. (Capt.S.7. 1414A/1.)

SEAWOLF routed as follows to arrive Portsmouth 0600A/5. No other S/M movement affects you. (Capt.S.7. 1501A/1 to H.33.)

Sheerness departure H.33 for Rothesay at 1515A/1, escorted by GARTH as far as Dungeness. E.T.A. Clyde 1400A/7. (C. in C. Nore 1632A/1.)

BROADWAY,
POLYANTHUS,
TRAIL.

Proceed into Iceland when KEPPELS Group have joined. (C. in C. W.A. 1709A/1 to BROADWAY, etc.)

PARTHIAN.

Intend to sail PARTHIAN from Dartmouth for Portsmouth, New Hampshire, passing through 180° Start Pt. 15 miles at 1700A/2 thence routed as follows.

2. PARTHIAN will dive by day when to Eastwards 015° W, thence on surface at C.O.'s discretion. (Capt. S.5. 1853A/1 and 2242A/1.)

EURYALUS.

A.S. Rosyth's 1009/29. On completion of practices tomorrow proceed to Rosyth. You will be required to sail from Rosyth to arrive at Scapa a.m./11th. (V.A.2. 2002A/ to EURYALUS.) V.A.2's 2002A/1. You should not arrive May Island before 0900/3 so that morning sweep can be completed. (C. in C. Rosyth 2354/1 to EURYALUS.)

War Diary.

1.9.1941. 6
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation
~~"Acid Drop"~~
"Dervish"

Force L. unable to make Seidisfjord due to thick fog. Propose proceeding R. (SHROPSHIRE 0520A/1 to V.A.2.) Your 0520A/1. Concur. (V.A.2. 0758A/1. to SHROPSHIRE.) My position 065° 53' N. 013° 38' W. visibility maximum. E.T.A. Seidisfjord 1045A. (PUNJABI 0915A/1 to SHROPSHIRE.) Intend to sail Seidisfjord at 1300A/1 and proceed position R. at 18 knots to R/V with Force L. (PUNJABI 1128A/1 to SHROPSHIRE.)

Operation
"Dervish"

Employment of Escort and sailing date. (V.A.2.1034A/1 to ELECTRA.) See Operations Volume. p.222 (See also W.D. p.4)

Your 1903A/31. It was understood from your 1453A/24 that close escort was not proceeding to Archangel. Para.4. No but by Lloyds register her draught appeared to be too great to proceed up river. I learn now that she has in fact been berthed up harbour. Para.6. Arrangements have been made and are much appreciated by the Soviet authorities. (Ad. Miles 2028C/1 to Adty.)

Ostend.
M.T.B.
Patrol
Report.

Following from BEEHIVE. Your 1132A/31. No shipping sighted. Lights seen as follows. (C. in C. Nore 1232A/1.)

Off
Hardanger.

Proceed now to R/C area near 59° 27' N. 04° 55' E. Attention is called to my 1246A/28. Do not disclose your presence by attacking unimportant targets or southbound merchant ships. (F.O.S.1701A/1 to MINERVE.)

Operation
"Acid Drop"

On Night 30/31 August. Preliminary Report. (D.C.O.1717A/1) See Operations Volume.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

~~FATE~~ ^{FATE} 5 in operation until 1900/1. (C. in C. Rosyth 0912/1.) My 0912/1. Aircraft recalled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1046/1.) P.R.U. Stavanger-Kristiansand and "Hornli" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1618/1.)

/A/S Sweep

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1.9.1941. 7
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - contd.

A/S Sweep
requested.

LV/OPS3/1/9. Concentration of U-boats suspected in following area GFYE 0000, TVYE 0000, TVEU 0000, GRJU 0000. Request you sweep in area today with as many A/C as possible. (15 Group 1100/1 to R.A.F. Iceland.)

Bombing
Operations.

On 31/8 Bremen and shipyards at Le Trait were bombed; and during Night 31 Aug/1 Sept. the docks at Boulogne and Ostend were attacked. (H.Q.B.C.1527/1.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy.

One A/C height 2000 feet, my position 54° 22' N. 0° 40' W. (WESTMINSTER 1130/1)
My 1130. Apparently Junkers 88 flew north up convoy, driven off to the north eastward by gunfire without attack. (WESTMINSTER 1142/1.)

Myggenaes
Beacon
(bombed 24/8.)

Your 1016A/28. Regular operation of Myggenaes Beacon can be dispensed with for the present, but the use of this Beacon on request from H.M. Ships is most desirable. (C. in C. H.F. 1626A/1 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Mining.

Sunderland.

Port of Sunderland closed until further notice. (N.C.S.O. Sunderland 0315/1.)

Operation
Q.L.1.

Carried out as follows. Details. (BEEHIVE 1100A/1.) Completed (C. in C. Nore 1428A/1.)

Operation
P.W.18.

My 1432A/31/8. P.W.(18) postponed due to engine defects of M.T.B's. Weather permitting intend carrying out P.W.18 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1428A/1.)

Operation
S.N.23.A.

Intend to carry out as follows with PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK. Details. (R.A.M.1446A/1.) See Operations Volume.

Portland
Minefield.

Controlled minefield at Portland completed and in operation. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1503/1.)

/Harwich

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Harwich.
ETRUSCAN.
WAR WING.
(M/S
Trawlers)
damaged.

2 Mines exploded by S.A. Trawlers at 0911 and 0913 today. Details. ETRUSCAN and WAR WING sustained slight damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1503A/1.)

Nymph Bank
Channel
Search.

Request you will arrange for 4 R.N.N. Minesweepers at Milford Haven to carry out a single Oropesa search of the Western portion of the Channel through the Nymph Bank Minefield described in Admiralty 1754A/13/8.

2. Sweep should commence west of the Meridian 06° 50' W. and should consist of a single lap covering one mile either side of the centre line, being extended westward as far as daylight permits.

3. Operation should be completed on one convenient day before 5/9.

4. Request you will arrange air escort.

5. It will be necessary to repeat this operation at irregular intervals. Request you will allocate a code word by which this and "repeat" operations can be referred. (A.C.N.S.H. 1654A/1 to C. in C. W.A.) *See also 1207A/10 p. 241*

Tyne.

Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2240/1.)

Blyth.

Port of Blyth closed. Estimated time of reopening 1200/2. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2315/1.)

Enemy Intelligence.

A.S.V.
Contact.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 55° 20' N. (? 9° 22' W.) probably a surface vessel. Below surface nothing seen though contact maintained. (A/C of J. Sqdn. 0955/1 to 15 Group H.Q.)

German Main
Units.

Latest known positions. (D.D.I.C. 1946A/1)
See Lion Copy.

Casualties and Defects.

BANDIT.

(Tug) Damaged above water-line during attempt to tow B.P.T.25 out of Montrose Harbour. Sailing cancelled until extent of damage is known. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1242/1.)

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1946A/1 September

8A
OUT

To: A.I.G. 62
A.I.G. 21
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.B.C.
S.O. Force H

DATE: 1.9.41

Naval Cypher A 1

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Main Units - 1st September, 1941.

Battleships

TIRPITZ Off Holtenua proceeding towards
Kiel 1st September.

Battlecruisers.

GNEISENAU Brest in dry dock 1st September

SCHARNHORST Brest in dry dock 1st September

Pocket Battleships

ADMIRAL SCHEER In Strander Bucht, Kiel 1st September.

LÜTZOW : Kiel in dry dock 1st September.

8" Cruisers

HIPPER Kiel in dry dock 1st September.

PRINZ EUGEN Brest in dry dock 1st September

SEYDLITZ Bremen completing 19th August, 1941.

6" Cruisers.

LEIPZIG At Copenhagen, 19th August, 1941, reported
in Oslo Fjord, 26th August (C.2)

NÜRNBERG At Flensburg, 19th August, 1941.

KÖLN At Travemünde 1st September.

EMDEN At Oslo 31st August.

Old Battleships.

SCHLESWIEN Reported in the Great Belt 5th August
1941 (C3).

...../SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN

Old Battleships (Cont)

{	SCHLESWIG
	HOLSTEIN.

Reported in Drogden Channel
23rd August, 1941 (B 2)

Aircraft Carrier.

GRAF ZEPPELIN

Reported at Stettin 6th August (B 2).

1946A/1

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 Hse,

Ops (4)

O.D. (5)

D.N.I. (4)

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

O.I.C. (4)

D of P (3)

Cdr. Holbrook,

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (3)

~~W.B.~~

D.P.D.

D.S.D. (2)

BM M (2)

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - contd.

CATHAY.

(A.M.C.) Adty. 1455A/30/8. Essential work including fitting of R.D.F. and fire control table will be completed p.m./15/9. Propose to sail ship 17/9 for Greenock to embark naval stores and boiler tubes ready to proceed to U.S.A. 20/9. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1309A/1.)

See pp. 5 & 19.

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy for Russia.

Informed that 3 ships carrying war material for Russia leave New York for Halifax as follows: CAPIRA 31/8, *NORD KING about 5/9, *ANVERS 6 or 7/9. First two under Panamanian flag, last under Panamanian or Belgian. Soviet Authorities are anxious that they should be included in British convoy from Halifax to U.K. and from U.K. to Archangel. Request confirmation that this will be arranged. (Adm. Miles, 1031C/1 to Admty.) *NORTH KING *VINE D'ANVERS

S.L.85.

Proceed at best speed and report 4 days in advance your E.T.A. at U.K. R/V. (C. in C. W.A. 1032/1 to Escorts of S.L.85.)

F.S.
F.N.
E.C.

Forecast of sailings. (C. in C. Rosyth 1200/1)
See Lion Copy.

Orders to alter course.

A.M. 1904/30/8. It is not considered desirable to issue any instructions in this connection, but to leave it to the discretion of the man on the spot. Moreover, there can be no guarantee that any drastic alteration of course as proposed will not lead the convoy into a shadowing or homing U-boat with any less probability than if the convoy were to continue along its ordered route. (C. in C. W.A. 1504A/1 to Adty.)

EMPIRE CLIVE's
A/C.

S.O. Escort pass to Commodore and ships concerned. Owing to failure of R/T in EMPIRE CLIVE, aircraft if catapulted is to be directed by one of the other C.A.M. ships in company as detailed by Commodore. Pilot should be instructed that unless good R/T communication is established he is not to lose sight of convoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1543A/1 to Capt.D. Clyde for BULLDOG, 9th Group R.A.F.)

/Loaded

SECRET

MESSAGE

1200/1st September IN

From C. in C. Rosyth.

Date 1.9.41.

P/L BY T/P

Recd. 1624.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, S.E.E.C.C.D., H.Q.F.C.,
H.Q.C.C., 11, 12, 13 Groups.

Not WT.

786. Forecast of convoy sailings.

F S587 (S) "ATTACHE" 0800 Friday 5th SOUTHDOWN, VERDUN.
 F S588 (F) "BREAST" 2100 Saturday 6th LIDDESDALE, JASON.
 F S589 (M) "MERIT" 1230 Monday 8th VORTIGERN, VIMIERA.
 F S590 (S) "PARALLEL" 0800 Tuesday 9th WHADDON, QUANTOCK.
 F S591 (F) "BOOBY" 2100 Wednesday 10th VERSATILE, VALOROUS.
 F S592 (M) "ARENA" 1230 Thursday 11th WALLACE, WOLSEY.
 F N514 (F) "RADIO" 0700 Friday 5th VIVIEN, WOLFHOUD.
 E C 70 (S) "PATTERN" 0700 Saturday 6th VERSATILE, WOLSEY.
 F N515 (M) "PILOT" 0700 Sunday 7th WESTMINSTER, WINCHESTER.
 E C 71 (F) "MISSION" 0700 Monday 8th SOUTHDOWN, VERDUN.
 F N516 (S) "CASING" 0700 Tuesday 9th LIDDESDALE, JASON.
 E C 72 (M) "MIGHT" 0700 Thursday 11th VORTIGERN, VIMIERA.
 Time table as in my 1200/22/8.

1200/1

A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
 N.A.1st. S.L.
 Ops.(4)
 O.D.(5)
 O.D.S.
 D.N.I.(4)
 D. of S.2A.
 D.T.D.(4)
 D.T.D.(M)
 D.T.D.(C)

Advance copy sent Ops. Trade.
 D. of S.T.
 I.P.(3)
 D.A./S.W.
 O.I.C.(2)
 W.D.
 I.M.N.G.

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Loaded fish
carriers from
Iceland.

Re leaving convoy and sailing unescorted in the East Coast Channel during dark hours. Undesirable that any vessels other than Warships should proceed independently in the East Coast War Channels in dark hours owing to risk of collision and impossibility of providing protection from Air Attack. (C. in C. Nore 2304A/1 to Adty.)

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

11

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

T.class
S/MS.

The withdrawal of CLYDE for A/S training duties at Freetown and return of O.23 to U.K. for refit will reduce 8th S/M F. to three effective operational submarines. In view of commitments of this flotilla including A/S training request consideration may be given to retention at Gibraltar of one of the "T" class submarines mentioned in F.O.(S) 1117A/29. (F.O.C.N.A., 1140A/1 to Adnty). The "T" Class submarines mentioned in F.O.(S) 1117/29/8 are at the disposal of C. in C. Med., It is within his discretion to employ them in the area that he considers most necessary. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1948A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HIGHLANDER,
PIORUN.

Expected Ponta Delgada 4/9 or 5/9 require approx. 200 tons oil fuel each. (C. in C. W.A., 1153/1 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada) Delete PIORUN (C. in C. W.A., 1926A/2 to N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada).

JOAO DE
LISBOA,
Portuguese
Sloop.

Portuguese Naval Authorities request permission for her proceeding from Macao to Hong Kong for docking 20/9. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1155/1 to Adnty).

Situation
report No.
3. at 2000A/1.

- (i) CLYDE patrol in area between 040° N., and 034° N., and 023° W., and 031° W.
- (ii) MARON patrol H.X.3.
- (iii) CAVINA patrol H.Z.1. (F.O.C.N.A., 1218A/1).

S/M O.23
TAKU.

Arrangements for their sailing to U.K. p.m./3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1606A/1 to Adnty).

BRITISH
FREEDOM.

BRITISH FREEDOM from Trinidad routed through (position)
(11) E.T.A. BRITISH FREEDOM meridian 25° W., is 2000/3 S. of A. 8 knots endeavour to meet 4/9 and escort to Gib.
(111) If not met by darkness 4th proceed along tanker route eastward at 3 knots. Search westward during daylight 5th. If not met by darkness 5th report the fact and return Gib. reporting E.T.A. on crossing 10 W.
(IV) Acknowledge when 100 miles clear of CARDIUM. (F.O.C.N.A., 1828A/1 to JONQUIL, SPIREA, amended 0558A/4).

/MIRROR.....

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

MIRROR.

^{/N.T.A.W.D.}
My 1246. Departure escorted by SCOTTISH.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1916A/1).

MAURO
CROCE.

Number 6 probably sailed 1915/1, for Genoa.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2136A/1 to O.24).

BOREAS.

Defect. Speed reduced to 20 knots except in emergencies (ii) Intend sailing BOREAS for U.K. for repairs and as escort for H.G. 72 fuelling at Ponta Delgada on 8/9 subsequently rejoining convoy (iii) Request name of refitting Port.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2232A/1 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

BIRMINGHAM
Raider
Search.

Your 1845N/31. Intend BIRMINGHAM to arrive Southern end of line at 1200Z/3 with 52% fuel remaining, thus allowing about 3 days patrol before proceeding to 'Cat' to fuel.
(R.A.S.A.D., 0112Z/1, to C. in C. S.A.)

SOLI.

Overdue ship. Cancel my 1016/30 SOLI arrived Beira. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1101B/1).

See also p. 17.

Ex Italian
ships.

CASTELBIANCO, DANTE, TESEO and VAL DARNÓ arrived Buenos Aires, 31/8. (N.S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1154Z/1)

CHRISTIANHOLM.

My 1221/28/8, late arrival at Capetown due to incessant engine trouble. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1245B/1).

HAWKINS.

^{/N.T.A.W.D.}
Intend sailing a.m./2 to comply with N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1006/31. E.T.A. Durban a.m./5.
(HAWKINS, 1503Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/Falklands.....

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Falklands,
Defence,
Japanese
threat.

Conclusions of Service Depts. regarding Japanese action are (1) Any attack would take the form of a raid to destroy local facilities. (2) Type and strength of raid can only be conjecture, but unlikely to exceed 800. (3) Japanese action against islands is unlikely in view of distances involved and because result would not benefit Japan directly. (4) Action would almost certainly provoke adverse reaction on the part of the Americas. (W.O. 1535/1 to M.A. Buenos Aires).

W.S.10 X.

Convoy W.S. 10 X sailed 1/9 - STRATHNAVER, STRATHMORE, ORION, PORT JACKSON, PALMA, BRISBANE STAR. Fuel etc. (S.S.T.O. Freetown, 1813N/1 to P.S.T.O. Capetown).

ECHODALE

Departure 0800/1 CALENDULA with R.F.A. ECHODALE. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2211N/1).

GAZCON.

Following received from Consul General Loanda begins: GAZCON sighted off Loanda about one A.M. this morning going very slowly. T.O.O. 1425/1/9 Ends. (C. in C. S.A., 2331N/1 to BULOLO, ALBATROSS).

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report 134.

Syria. Ships of convoy (?D) have arrived Beirut with 13 British Prisoners of war. (iii) TETRARCH reports (a) Possible hit (?on) (? merchant ship) approaching Benghazi 0715/19. (b) Shadowed escorted convoy 5 large Schooners and one steamer proceeding close in shore Tripoli (Africa) to Benghazi and attacked at 0615/23 and 0702/24 one Schooner being sunk in each attack. (iv) Air raid on Alexandria and Canal area up to midnight 31/1. (C. in C. Med., 0035/1).

URGE.

My 1148B/24 not to Netherlands Sub. 0.21 URGE has (? returned to) Malta. (Capt. S.1. 1010B/1 to Capt. S.8).

/German.....

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

German Steel. Germany very seriously short of materials for production of special steels. Investigating possibilities of Molybdenum deposit near Inegol Brussa District. Details of scheme. (Wolffson, Istanbul, 1020/1 to D.N.I.)

Air Operations. 1. Dodecanese. Night 30/31 16 Wellingtons dropped 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons of bombs on Maritza and Calato Aerodromes Rhodes.
2. Egypt. Night 31 August/1 September Port Said and Alexandria attacked by about 8 and 6 aircraft respectively. Further details awaited.
3. Western Desert. Night 30/31 August. 5 F.A.A. Albacores bombed supply dumps near Bardia causing explosions believed ammunition. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1026/1).

Axis Shipping and Supplies. Appreciation by M.E.W., (a) Oil (b) Other commodities. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C. Med., 1028A/1) See Lion Copy.

OTUS. Leaves 035° 51' 015° 15' 35° 1' 16° 20' about 2100B/1. Thence direct to arrive off Ras Amer about sunset /4 next 24 hours being spent between there and Ras Hilal thence as ordered by you. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1216B/1 to Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10 1615B/1 to Capt. (S) 1).

Black Sea. 30/8, enemy crossed Dnieper 3 places near Berinot about 40 miles from Kherson. 5,000 Soviet reinforcements arrived Odessa. Destroyer TASHKEND near missed bomb Odessa arrived Sevastapol 31/8 has hull damaged. Slight night air raids Crimea Novorossisk last two nights. Enemy air attack against sea communications Odessa to Kerch increasing including torpedo bomber. 3 E-boats and floating workshops arrived Ruse 26/8. More E-boats and submarines in sections expected shortly for assembly at Ruse. Cypher situation with Alexandria still obscure. (L.O. Black Sea, 1351C/1 to Admty).

Flagships. Flag of C. in C. Med., has been transferred to QUEEN ELIZABETH and Flag of V.A.1. B.S. to BARHAM. (C. in C. Med., 1552C/1).

Shipping protection. Proposed arrangements consequent on arrival of F.W. aircraft in Greece. (C. in C. Med., 1333/1). See Operations Volume.

/TORBAY.....

SECRET

MESSAGE 1028, 1st Sept.
MOST SECRET

14A
OUT

To: C. in C. Mediterranean 989 Date 1.9.41
Repeated: Admiral Miles.

Naval Cypher One Time Table & Naval Cypher (X) Moscow Settings

From Admiralty.

~~407~~

NITE

The following is a summarised appreciation by M.E.W. of the probable developments of Axis shipping movements in the Eastern Mediterranean.

A. Oil.

Germany's overland transport routes are probably not capable at present of handling more than current Roumanian oil surplus of 350,000 tons per month. Half of enemy's free oil reserves, about 1,000,000 tons, are in Roumania and are inconveniently situated for the Russian campaign. She is therefore being forced to draw heavily upon stocks in Germany. Although the reserves in Roumania are to some extent available for her southern army, they cannot be made available in the North by a direct route until considerable repairs and alterations to rail communication in Western Russia have been effected. Unless therefore Germany can increase the rate of import from Roumania, free stocks in Western Europe may become exhausted while considerable reserves still remain in Roumania. This may result in a severe limitation on Germany's future strategy. This limitation can only be avoided if the Roumanian stocks can be removed by the sea route through the Dardanelles. In addition to the Black Sea route, oil is being transported overland to Salonika and loaded direct into Italian tankers, two of which are usually present in the port.

Italian naval and other stocks are very low and their manufacture demands at least 50,000 tons per month by sea from Roumania or by rail from Germany. Latter is most unlikely in present circumstances. Interruption of tanker traffic at present time is therefore calculated to affect strategic mobility in Mediterranean or Russia, or both.

/ B. Commodities

14B

MOST ² SECRET

B. Commodities other than oil

Germany has been exploiting the resources of Turkey and Middle East to the fullest but the Greek campaign and the outbreak of war with Russia interrupted communication between Turkey and German Europe. A service between Trieste and Istanbul is being organised as a matter of urgency, and it is considered the enemy will do his utmost to develop this route, which is his only substantial transport link with the Near East.

In connection with this trade a road lorry system is being built up in Anatolia to act as a feeder service. The commodities principally concerned, of which there are considerable accumulations in Turkey, are wool, cotton, oilseeds and tanning materials, all vitally important to Germany's war effort.

C. Of the two trades, the oil traffic is the more important. Intelligence as to this traffic is the more difficult to obtain, especially as regards sailings from the westward. Good information concerning the other traffic is often available here and will be passed to you for your information.

D. It is suggested that at an opportune moment Admiral Miles might again encourage the Russian naval and air forces in the Black Sea to take offensive action against these trades. It is considered that such action would also discourage the Turks from re-opening their coastal traffic with German occupied territory.

E. Similarly and in view of the information contained in para A above, any effective air action the Russians are able to take against the Roumanian oil complex may be expected to achieve important results.

1028A/1
N.I.D. 16 (794)
for D.N.I.
Approved A.C.N.S. (F)

1st Lord
1st Sea Lord
4th Sea Lord
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.E.W.D.
D.T.D. (2)

Head of M.
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
D.D.I.C.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
Duty Captain
I.P. (2)
W.D.

E.P.S.
N.I.D.10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson)

MOST SECRET

14c.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1843A/1 September

OUT

To C. in C. Mediterranean 999.
Repeated Admiral Miles.

Date 1.9.41.

Naval Cypher (One time-table) &
Naval Cypher X Moscow settings.

From Admiralty.

NOTE My 1028A/1. Paragraph A, second sentence words between
Roumania and situated should read " and are inconveniently."

1843A/1.

N.I.D.16 (794)
for D.N.I.

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

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

TORBAY.

Has reported Asdic directing gear damaged beyond repair. There is no spare on Station and gear cannot be manufactured locally. In case it is desirable to take necessary gear from TAKU, request she may be held Gibraltar pending decision. (Capt. (S.) 1. 1700C/1 to C. in C. Med).

Tripoli
bombed.
2 M/Vs hit.

9 Wellingtons 38 Sqdn. attacked shipping Tripoli from 1905 to 2300 hours. 1 medium M.V. hit and believed sunk. A second medium M.V. left ablaze from stem to stern. Aerodrome small fires started near station.

Crotone
bombed
M.V. hit.

Day Sept. 1st. 5 Cannon Hurricanes attacked train leaving Tut of Pozzallo at 0445 hours strikes seen on engine and drivers cabin left with volumes of steam coming from it. Guard jumped from train judging by number of strikes on engine it cannot be worth much. 2 lines of coaches Pozzallo station. 1135 hours 7 Blenheims attacked shipping, munitions factory, and railway (Crotone) ?. 1 M.V. 3 to 5,000 tons in harbour, 3 hits, last seen well on fire aft. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1900/1).

SEEFALKE.
passage of
Dardanelles.

Your T Y /1/(g) of 11/8/1941 in transit to D.N.I. Referring to Ambassador Angora's telegram 1926 of 9/8 to F.O., please inform Ambassador that I consider we should give full support to Soviet Govt's. note concerning passage through Straits of German Coastguard Vessel SEEFALKE, as suggestion war craft of less than 100 tons such as E-boats should be allowed free passage is a most serious one. It also appears to him counter to whole spirit of Montreaux convention whose provisions are surely designed to prevent passage of ships capable of offensive action.

(2) I concur with your suggestion Turks should be asked to state what would be their attitude to passage of Straits by M.T.B.'s E-boats, etc. If answer is that this is permissible, it might be worth saying that we therefore presume that we are free to pass M.T.B.'s (?into) Black Sea now.

(3) Telegram 1926, 9/8 was not received by C; in C. Med. This should be investigated. (C. in C. Med., 1945C/1 to N.A. Angora).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

16

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Convoy.

5 merchant ships 5 destroyers expected to pass 037° 36', 016° 04' on constant course 145° at 1800/2 and vicinity 033° 50' 018° 00' on approx. course 245° at about 1800/3. UNBEATEN endeavour to intercept in 1st and OTUS in 2nd position leaving them at sunset if convoy not sighted. (Capt. (S) 10, 2241B/1 to UNBEATEN, OTUS) Note. Capt. (S) 10 0835B/2 ordered his 2241B/1 to be disregarded.

Situation report 135.

*addition,
2345/3.*

1. British white oil tanker EOCENE has arrived Port Said from Istanbul.
2. TRIUMPH reports possible hit on cruiser when one battleship two cruisers and 10 destroyers were attacked at 0700/26 entering straits of Messina from Northward. British officer prisoner in Vichy convoy D confirms seeing Italian Cruiser POLA Class being beached near Messina p.m./26. UTMOST damaged railway bridge in 039° 50' N., 016° 31' E., at 0220/24. Western Desert. LESBOS and PASS OF BALMAHA have returned to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 2245C/1 to Admty).

OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.

OTUS establish patrol in 34° 42' 17° 50'. THUNDERBOLT proceed with despatch to establish patrol in 33° 36' 17° 50'. Southbound convoy of 5 ships expected to pass these positions daylight hours 3rd. Speed approx. 13 knots. (Capt. (S) 1 2350C/1 to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

17

East Indies.

Crew of
CORFU.

Your 1901/30 para. 2. Cannot concur for important operational reasons. My 1118/25/8 F.O's cypher refers.
(C. in C.E.I., 0756Z/1, to Adty.)

W.S.10B.
C.M.17.

(STRATHALLAN)

Your 1651/28, Para. 1. Substitution of RANGITIKI for ARONDA in W.S.10B will slow this convoy down and is most undesirable.
Para. 2. Intend to make a fast 16 knot convoy W.S.10B consisting of STIRLING CASTLE, BRITANNIC, WINDSOR CASTLE, STRATHALLAN, ARONDA for India. Remaining M.E., ships of W.S.10 plus 4 Group B ships to form C.M.17 to Aden. DIOMEDE to be detached from Gulf of Aden to Basra.
Para. 3. N.O.I.C. Simonstown concurs and escorts are being arranged accordingly.
Para. 4. Suggest RANGITIKI joins C.M.17 filled to capacity for M.E.
(C. in C.E.I., 0818Z/1 to D. of S.T.) *copy, p. 64*

SOLI.

Overdue ship. Cancel my 1016/30. SOLI arrived Beira. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1101B/1.)
See p. 12.

HILDA.
(Italian.)

Should HILDA be taken in prize on arrival Karachi? Request sanction engage care and maintenance party as required by Principal Officer Mercantile Marine Dept.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 1034Z/1, to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Operation
COURT PENANCE.
"Countenance."

Para.1. My 1320/17/8 being passed to A.C.N.B. Operation commenced day 25/8 operations A and B were conducted by S.N.O.P.G. flying his broad pennant in SREABELLE with following ships: SHOREHAM, LILAVATI, ZENOBIA, IHSAN, 6 Eureka's and 3 small craft, carrying a total of about 1320 troops. Operation C Senior Officer Commander U.R.H. James in FALMOUTH with YARRA and three small craft together with 200 troops.
(C. in C.E.I., 1146Z/1 to Admty.)

Italian
Shipping.

Your 1948/22. (Presumably 1848A/27/8 intended re sabotage on Italian ships.) Charges were placed and ship prepared for being (? set) on fire between 14th (? up to and including) 19th August. So far as I am able to establish actual (firing?) was done on arrival of British force. (S.N.O.P.G., 1209Z/1, to Admty.)

/GIORGIOS.....

11

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

18

East Indies Contd.

GIORGIOS
AVEROFF.
(Greek.)

Leaves Aden shortly as single ship escort to Bombay. Intended she shall subsequently escort Indian Ocean convoy from Bombay. MARIT MAERSK is acting collier for GIORGIOS AVEROFF. (C. in C.E.I., 1248Z/1 to C. in C. Med.)

Iranian
Shipping.

Your 0614Z/31. No, my 1825A/27 still holds good. My 2344A/29 was intended to refer to enemy merchant shipping only. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1330A/1 to C. in C.E.I.)

Local
defence
craft.

Your 1320Z/27 para. 2. Hope Harbour Defence Patrol Craft for patrolling indicator nets or booms can be improvised from station resources. Should you wish to use 72 ft. M.L's 1098 and 1099 completing at Durban for this service you should report to Adty., as question of their employment outside African waters may have to be taken up with Union Govt. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1543A/1 to C. in C.E.I.)

China.

Your 1902/30/8. (N.T. in W.D.) Are these arrangements being communicated to Dutch. (C. in C. China 0313Z/1 to Adty.)

Local
defence
craft.

It is anticipated that you will be able to meet requirement for harbour defence patrol craft for patrolling indicator nets or bombs at Port W., from station resources including new construction M.L's. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1542A/1. to C. in C. China.)

Oil Tankage.

In Malaya, Rangoon, etc.
(C. in C.F.E., 1752/1, to W.O.)

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

19

America and West Indies.

U.S. Task Forces.

Following is Com. Task Force 3 30 1 20 1 30 addressed Com. Task Group 2.6 information to Com. Task Force 2 and Opanav and C. in C. Atlantic, which is also passed for information to Spenavo, London and to Admty. "On 1/9 at 0600, 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers will arrive at 100 miles bearing 31 zero from Paramaribo light ship. In order to conserve fuel the speed shall be 17 knots and course 130° early forenoon. On the 2nd the MEMPHIS and SOMERS will return to Trinidad in order to refuel. The MILWAUKEE and the WARRINGTON, if no longer required, will assume their regular patrol to retire Cape Verde Islands and reverse. At daylight on 1/9, one cruiser and 2 destroyers start fuelling at Trinidad. Signed Opanav. (Spenavo 0056/1).

Surinam L/V.

Repeating Spenavo 2008/31.
(D.D.I.C. 0126A/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

EMPRESS OF JAPAN.

Your 0355A/30. Readiness to sail refers to Esquimalt. My 2124Z/31 also refers sailing Esquimalt 27/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0138Z/1 to D. of S.T.)

Southeast Pacific Force.

Your 2151Q/31. CONCORD and TRENTON due Balboa 13/9. (B.A.D. Washington 0803R/1).

FORT DE FRANCE.

S.O.(I) Jamaica 1508R/31 request reply to my 0942Q/30 to Admty. only asking whether voyage of FORT DE FRANCE to Casablanca is approved. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0952Q/1 to Admty.)

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.

Admty. 1555A/31. Dates to leave Halifax and arrive Trinidad. Request confirmation that onward escort from 40° W. will be available. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

Lightship at Surinam.

Lightship at entrance to Surinam River has been temporarily withdrawn. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1016Q/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

CATHAY.

Your 1454A/30 CATHAY can be accepted. Yard will be communicated later, job number S 149. (B.A.R.M., 1116R/1 to Admty.) *see Mp 579.*

/Raider.....

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

20

America and West Indies.-Contd.

Raider search.

Task forces 2 and 3 are resuming regular dispositions and assignments if no further developments by 1700R/1. Estimated position at that time 2.7 021° 30' N. 040° 00' W. steering 120°. 2.5 012° 00' N. 052° 30' W. returning to Hampton Roads. 2.6 007° 00' N. 055° 00' W. probably proceeding to Trinidad for fuel.

U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE and 1 destroyer in 010° 00' N. 054° 30' W. (B.A.D. Washington 1151R/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Opnav reports: All Task Forces have been ordered by C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet to discontinue their search for Axis Cruiser at 1800Q/1 if there are no definite developments. RODNEY has been ordered if no further report received to stop search at dusk on 31/8. Regular cruise assignments and dispositions are to be resumed. This has been passed to the Canadian Naval Service by Alusna, Ottawa. (Spenavo 1555/1 to Adty.)

Dispositions. State at 1/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1122Q/1)
See Lion Copy.

KATWYK.
ROSENBERG.

Ref. A.M. ^{NT. in W.D.} 0001/1/5 sect. 1 para. 15 should KATWYK and ROSENBERG both doubtful 7½ knots require 400 and 150 tons coal bunkers respectively cargo phosphates be sailed for convoy Assembly. Port. These ships came out 7. (S.N.O. Curacao 1210QR/1 to Adty.)

Fuelling in U.S.A.

Your 1311/30. Presume that relaxation of 24 hours rule for visit would also be granted. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1231Q/1 to B.A.D.)

EMPRESS OF ASIA.

Your 0420/27. Desired that EMPRESS OF ASIA should return to U.K. so as to be available for outward convoy sailing about 30/9. Under consideration that vessel should sail as soon as possible independently and at her best speed. In that event numbers accommodated should be in accordance with A.M. 1744/16/7. Suggest if possible engine repairs referred to in your 0420/27 might be done in U.K. concurrent with preparation for next voyage. Request report as to earliest practicable sailing date. (D.O.D. (H) and D. of S.T. 1237A/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

/LE.....

20 A

SECRET

MESSAGE

1122^Q/1 September IN

From C. in C. America & West Indies.

Date 2.9.41.

Recd. 0545.

Naval Cypher X by W/T

Addressed C. in C. South Atlantic.

America & West Indies Fleet state 1st Sept. at Bermuda - CARADOC, DIOMEDE, R.F.A. ORANGELEAF. At St. Johns Newfoundland, FORTH. Patrolling vicinity Galapagos Islands - DESBATCH, PRINCE HENRY. Returning to Bermuda from North Atlantic Patrol - RODNEY, PRINCE DAVID with SS ST. MARGARET in tow. On passage to Halifax from Freetown- CIRCASSIA. Due Bermuda September 2nd from Trinidad - R F A BISHOPDALE. Due Trinidad September 4th from Baltimore - R F A WAR BRAHMIN. N.A.E.F. based on Halifax and Bermuda - ALAUNIA, ASCANIA, CALIFORNIA, LACONIA, MALOJA, AUSONIA, MONTCLARE, RANPURA, WOLFE, WORCESTERSHIRE. Iceland - RAMILLIES. Refitting - AURANIA, CHITRAL, LETITIA, SURCOUF.

1122Q/1

Advance copies sent to Ops. O.D. & O.I.C.

1st S.L.	I.P. (3)
V.C.N.S.	D.A/S W.
A.C.N.S. (H)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.P.S.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of P. (3)
Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.	C.C.C.S.
Ops. (3)	D. of S. 2A.
O.D. (5)	E.P.S.
O.D. 8.	
M. (2)	
O.I.C. (2)	
Mails.	
Movts.	

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

LE
TRIOMPHANT.

A.M. 1555A/22/8. Permission has been granted by State Dept. (D.O.D. (F) 1401A/1 -to C. in C. A.W.I.)

S.S. GEORGIAN. Has been chartered to act as accommodation vessel at St. John's Newfoundland and will arrive not later than 14/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1416Z/1).

LAFONIA.

Your 0029Z/31 to S.O.(I) Freetown ship received here as LAFONIA arrived Rio Grande 24/8. (D.T.D. 1503A/1 to N.S.H. Q. Ottawa).

LIMOUSIN
(French).

Arrived Venez.
(Caripito, Venezuela 1700/31).

Light in
Guiana.

Opanav reports: This message has been sent to Com Task Units 2.5 and 2.6 Com Task Forces Two and Three, C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Com Ten for action and for information to Spenavo London. It has been reported that in Dutch and British Guiana lights for assisting navigation have been temporarily extinguished. Spenavo 1737/1 to Adty.)

RODNEY.

My 1002Q/27. RODNEY arrives Bermuda 4/9 and will sail for Gibraltar on 7/9 in accordance with my 2212Q/25. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/1 to Adty.)

1.9.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Convoy
O.S.4.
27/8.

At 2230A/31 in 46 09 24 50 3 pyrotechnics White White Green search failed. At 2313A/29 in 50 48 25 05 German R/T conversation on 2410 kc/s strength 8 loud and clear. M.O. attended accident case in Dutch ship MEERKERK, No. 53, observed U-boat on same course close alongside his starboard side immediately after TREMODA torpedoed at 0107A/27. At 2115A/30 in 49/05 25/20 U-boat sighted and shot at 1000 yards port quarter HARPA3ON sudden lift dense fog. No casualties since departure local escort. (GORLESTON 1759A/1).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1422A/1).

1502.

From DENBIGHSHIRE. De 59.21 N. 9.27 W.
Submarine sighted - Ends. (Valentia Radio 1502/1).

1550Z/31.

2 S/M sighted by Clipper Aircraft in Triangle Fayal Pico San Jorge at 1550Z/31.
Course approx. N.N.E. (F.O.C.N.A. 1938A/1 to CLYDE).

1650/31.

3 Submarines reported in Triangle Fayal Pico San Jorge at 1650/31 steering approx. N.N.E. (F.O.C.N.A. 1946A/1 to NESTOR, Escort of O.S.4.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C
31/8.

By A/C R/502 at 1503 in 55° 9' N. 10° 5' W.
One bomb did not explode. The other exploded before U-boat fully submerged, position not observed. Weather bad. (H.Q. R.S. 15 Group 0025/1).

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION R EPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy
Convoy
in Channel.

A number of enemy vessels was plotted leaving Boulogne northeastwards at 0030 today and was off Gravelines at daylight. Air R/C reported them as 9 merchant vessels escorted by 9 escort craft or minesweepers. This is the first occasion on which this part of the route has been used in darkness. All M.T.B's at Dover are unserviceable and V.A. Dover requests that 4 may be lent to him whilst the Dover boats are under repair.

Norwegian
Vessels
captured.

A Norwegian Lieutenant has brought to Iceland 3 captured Norwegian cargo vessels INGERTO, NANDI and MUNIN loaded with 8700 tons of coal and 65 picked volunteers.

Convoy
"Dervish".

The Soviet authorities report that the B.B.C. broadcast the arrival of a convoy, presumably "Dervish", thereby jeopardising future operations.

Enemy Air Operations.

An escort ship is reported to have been set on fire off the coast of Belgium, by Blenheims this morning. It is reported that three Beauforts attacked with torpedoes two merchant vessels and an escort ship off Stavanger. The larger merchantman was hit twice and was on fire when last seen and the escort ship was also probably hit.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation
P.W.18.

This operation was carried out last night by M.T.B's. 30 and 34.

Thames
Estuary.

1 magnetic Mine was detonated in the Thames Estuary.

Blyth was reopened at 0929A and Tyne at 0825.

Mediterranean.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

7 Wellingtons last night bombed shipping in Benghazi harbour; observation of results was difficult, but smoke was seen rising from one vessel.

Egypt and
Canal
area.

There was an air raid on Port Said from 2152 to 2307 today. No service damage was caused, but there was considerable civilian damage..

The Italian Fleet oiler TARVISIO passed Istanbul at 0730 today bound for the Aegean. (For former movements and implication of present movements see Diary of to-day's date).

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Jibuti.

At 0925 G.M.T. today the shore batteries at Jibuti opened fire on HINDUSTAN which was on patrol. No damage is reported.

C. in C. E.I. suggest that as a reprisal our patrols should fire on dhows or other craft hauled up on the beach in Obok area. (Minister of State agreed to this retaliation on 4/9).

America and West Indies.

The area in which the U.S. South East Pacific Force will operate for protection of trade is given in C. in C. A.W.I. 1222Q/2. British forces will operate to the northward of the U.S. force.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dover.
Request for
M.T.B's.

All M.T.B's at Dover are unserviceable. Request that 4 M.T.B's may be lent while Dover boats are under repair. (V.A. Dover 0921A/2 to Adty.)

WELSHMAN.

Admiralty's 0709/1. Depermig will take three to four days at Scapa. Understood WELSHMAN is to be given until 11/9 to work up. Considered that unless additional time can be allowed deperm should be secondary to working up. Request decision. (R.A.D. H.F. 1541A/2).

M.A/S.B.
Flotillas.

Your 1457A/31. If satisfactory results are obtained from M.A/S.B. now undergoing trials allocation of M.A/S.B. Flotillas will then be reconsidered. (D.D.O.D. (C) 1552A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

SOKOL
for
Mediterranean.

A.M. 0159A/28 and your 1022A/27. Polish authorities concur in proposal to employ SOKOL in Mediterranean subject to review at a later date. 2. Your 1022A/27 is therefore approved. (D.O.D. (H) 1715A/2 to F.O.S.) Add to my 1117A/29 para. A. SOKOL about 7/9 in anticipation of Admiralty approval. (F.O.S. 1907A/2 to S.5).

17th and
86th A/S
Groups.

Your 1214A/25. Approved. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2032A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Identification
Signals.

Admiralty 1818B/22 June. U.S. Signals continue as follows. (D.S.D. 1529A/2).

Co-operation with Russia.

Employment
of British
Naval
Forces.

Your 1125R/1. No objection to this, but I would like destroyers to have at least 2 days in harbour before sailing with convoy "Dervish". (F.O. 2 H.F. 1557A/2 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

ELECTRA.
ACTIVE.

ELECTRA and ACTIVE with 210 R.A.F. ^{Benedict} ~~BENEDICT~~ personnel are proceeding to Murmansk on 5/9. After disembarkation destroyers will return to Archangel. (Ad. Miles 1032C/2 to Adty.)

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK.

V.A.2's 1535A/1. Para. 3. DUKE OF YORK should pass Beamer Rock, Firth of Forth at 1630/10 and thence proceed into dockyard basin. (C. in C. Rosyth 1021/2).

KOS 7
KOS 9
HOXA
ROMEO.

Following will sail from Clyde for Freetown with O.S. 5 (1) Whalers KOS VII and KOS IX fuelling at Ponta Delgada and at Bathurst if necessary (2) A/S trawlers HOXA and ROMEO fuelling at Fayal and at Bathurst if necessary. (C. in C. W.A. 1047A/2). *See also p. 31.*

SHEFFIELD.

My 1513A/28. All enemy units having been located SHEFFIELD is being ordered to return to Scapa. (V.C.N.S. 1354A/2 to V.A.2.)
See also p. 31

PARTHIAN.

Sailed. Route and times as in Capt. (S) 5. 1855A/1 and 2242A/1. E.T.A. dawn 17th. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1419/2).
Route. (Capt. S.5 1611A/2 to S/M's Area A).

LOBELIA
(Escort
for Finnish
Ships)

Intend to sail LOBELIA for Tobermory at 1900 today. E.T.A. 0900/3. Request you sail LOBELIA to comply with A.C.O.S. 1949A/1. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1654A/2).

BLANKNEY.

-BLANKNEY and two destroyers to be detailed by Captain D Liverpool are to arrive Barrow 0800A/7 to escort INDOMITABLE to Liverpool. Duration of escort 24 hours. (C. in C. W.A. 1716A/2 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

EURYALUS.

My 2354/1. Adjust arrival to pass Beamer Rock at 1230 tomorrow and thence proceed into dockyard basin. (C. in C. Rosyth 1745/2 to EURYALUS).
My 2002A/1. Date of sailing from Rosyth may be altered to A.M./11th if required. (V.A.2. 2351A/2 to EURYALUS).

BRADFORD.

Your 1234A/2. Request you sail BRADFORD to Londonderry 8/9. (C. in C. W.A. 1924/2 to C. in C. Nore).

KING GEORGE V
Escort.

Your 1010A/1/9. BEDOUIN, ESKIMO, VIVACIOUS detailed. (R.A.D. 2210/2 to V.A.2.)

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

M.T.B.
Patrol
off The
Hook.

Weather permitting M.T.B's of unit 3 are to carry out a patrol tonight Tuesday passing through the following points. Surface vessels met east of 2° 30' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 0956A/2 to BEEHIVE).

Unknown
Ship.

CAPE PALLISER's 1124/2. ^{see p. 30} Proceed to investigate. (V.A.2. 1239A/2 to LONDON).
My 1239A/2. Wait further orders at Hvalfiord. (V.A.2. 1255A/2 to LONDON).
Unknown vessel in sight 030° North 5 miles failure to reply to challenge. Have attacked. Unable to close distance. My position 025° 62' 26' N. 16° 25' W. (CAPE PALLISER 1330/2).
My 1330/2. 1307 in 061° 58' N. 017° 42' W. lost sight 320° 9 miles, steering approx. 310°. Am steering 310°, 13 knots until 1530. (CAPE PALLISER 1345/2 to S.O.T. N.P)
Arrived LONDON 1630. (A.C.I.C. 1701/2).
My 1255A/2. Revert to normal notice for steam. (V.A.2. 1955A/2 to LONDON).

INGERTO.
NANDI.
MUNIN.
captured.

? RANDI intended
27/9/41 P. 258

Following from Ullring. Lieut. (?Tamber) with 3 captured Norwegian Cargo Vessels INGERTO, NANDI, MUNIN loaded 8700 tons coal and 65 picked volunteers arrived Reykjavik. Vessels with own crew and a guard of 3 soldiers. Propose to unload cargo at Reykjavik and send ships with guard to U.K. Lieut. Tamber with 65 men to be sent to London at first opportunity. Request approval. (A.C.I.C. 1306/2 to Adty.)

M.L's
off
Dunkirk.

My 1237. Add two M.L's leave Dover at 2200 to operate in vicinity of outer Ruytingen returning to Dover at about 0400A/3. (V.A. Dover 1814A/2).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

"Fate V" in operation 0900/2 until 1730/2. (C. in C. Rosyth 0820/2).
"Hornli" now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1120/2).
"Bert" now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1214/2)
"Trost" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 2230/2).
"Stab" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 2324/2).

/S.B.R.....

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.-Contd.

S.B.R.

Ops. 934. 2/9. Institute S.B.R. in area 53 to north of 49° 30' N. from 1400/2 to 1600/3 and in area 51 to south of 50° N. from 0001/2 to 0600/5. (H.Q.C.C. 1018/2).

Operation "Nomad".

C. Two A/C of 500 Sqdn. to carry out operation "Nomad" between Ostend and Texel to-night. (Chatham 1145/2).

R/C of Dutch Coast.

Two A/C 407 Squadron to carry out independent moonlight R/C of shipping along coast between Texel and Borkum tonight. A/C to carry three 250 lb. S.A.P. bombs, fused 11 secs. delay. (Chatham 1210/2).

Ostend bombed.

During Night 1/2 one Wellington bombed Ostend Docks. (H.Q.B.C. 1223/2).

Operation J.R.

Intend to begin Operation J.R. at dawn 4th. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2123A/2).

Enemy Air Activity.

ATLANTIC.

(Belgian Trawler, 88 Tons) Attacked by A/C on 25/8, 10 miles N.W. of Bishops Light. Damaged in engine-room. No casualties. (D.S. 726).

Mining.

Operation P.W.18.

Arrivals M.T.B's 30 and 34. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0730A/2). BEEHIVE reports P.W.18 carried out in position ordered. (C. in C. Nore 0749/2).

Tyne.

My 2240/1. Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0825/2)

Blyth.

Port open.(N.O.I.C. Blyth 0929A/2).

Nymph Bank Channel Search.

Admiralty 1654A/1. Intend to sail Minesweeper 2000 today to commence sweeping 0700A/tomorrow. Request co-operation of Coastal Command aircraft be arranged. Code word "Tincture". (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1540A/2).

/Operation.....

War Diary.2.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining-Contd.Operation
E.H.
(Minedelaying)
Standard.)

Carry out operation E.H. on night 3rd/4th. (F.O.2. H.F. 1854A/2 to C.S.10).
 V.A.2's 1702A/2. Intend to pass Hoxa Gate at 1000/5 proceeding West of Orkneys through following -positions A. and B. Thence on a course and speed 097° 28 knots, MANXMAN proceeding 35 knots. On completion of operation intend passing through (B) at 0600/4 and thence returning to Scapa through position (A), speed of advance.24 knots. (C.S.10 1957A/2)
 Operation E.H. Mines are to be laid with flooders set to 14 days. (V.A. 2. 1928A/2 to C.S.10).

Thames
Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 1703/2 in 125° S. Shoebury buoy 4½ cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1921/2).

SCOTT.

Sailed for Denmark Strait 2030. (A.C.I.C. 2329/2 to R.A.M.)

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy
Convoy.

A number of enemy vessels was plotted by shore R.D.F. leaving Boulogne Northeastwards at 0030 today and was off Gravelines at daylight. Air R/C at daylight reported shipping to be one large and 8 smaller vessels accompanied by nine escort craft or minesweepers. This is first occasion this part of the route has been used in darkness.
 All M.T.B's at Dover are unserviceable. (V.A. Dover 0921A/2 to Adty.)

Iceland-
Faroes
Passage.

One enemy Merchant Vessel bearing 030° distance 5 miles, course 000°. My position 025° 62° N. 17° W. 26 miles. (CAPE PALLISER 1124/2).
 One enemy vessel, type unknown, destroyer or larger warship, bearing 030° 5 miles, course 000°. My position 025° 62° N. 17° W. 26 miles. (CAPE PALLISER 1124/2). See also p. 28

Brest.

P.R.U. St. Eval 1255/2.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

31

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

IBIS.

My 1455/31. IBIS has developed engine defects and arrived Rosyth A.M. today for repairs. (C. in C. Rosyth 1015/2).

BANDIT.

Repairs at Montrose not satisfactory and vessel not seaworthy. Am bringing BANDIT to Dundee forthwith to effect repairs which it is hoped will be complete in 48 hours. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1203/2).

MONTGOMERY.

My 1354/1. Sailing deferred owing to 2 defective engine room fans. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1801A/2).

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.11.

My 1513A/28 para 3. SHEFFIELD should be detached and ordered to return to Scapa. *See p 27*
2. C. in C. W.A. is signalling route.
3. DERBYSHIRE will assume escort of slow portion.
4. DUNEDIN should join slow portion as already arranged.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1530A/2 to REPULSE, C.IN C. W.A.)

O.S.4.

As convenient after nightfall on 3/9 detach FIDELITY with instructions to proceed direct to Gibraltar in accordance with previous orders. (D.T.D. 2005A/2 to BIDEFORD for Commodore O.S.4).

O.S.5.
HOXA.
ROMEO.
KOS 7.
KOS 9.

Sailed A/S Trawlers HOXA, ROMEO, as additional escort and Whalers KOS 7 and KOS 9 in convoy O.S.5. Destination Freetown for onward routing HOXA to Far East, ROMEO, KOS 7, and KOS 9 to Mediterranean via Cape. Vessels will break off as a group under command of HOXA to fuel in Azores trawlers at Fayal, whalers at Ponta Delgada, rejoining convoy on completion, attention being paid to A.M. 0212/5/7. The same procedure will be followed for fuelling Bathurst. Request fuelling arrangements be made in Azores. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2304A/2 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

32

Raiders.

My 1825A/26. PRINCE DAVID sighted unknown ship before dawn 27/8 in $34^{\circ} 30' N.$ $51^{\circ} 47' W.$, course 140° high speed. Possibly armed merchant raider or supply ship. Unknown ship reported in $26^{\circ} 13' N.$ $57^{\circ} 47'$ at 1330Z/28. Course 160° . Speed 20 knots. Possibly same ship sighted by PRINCE DAVID. AUSTRALIND now seriously overdue. CONGELLA now reported arrived Colombo. (D.D.I.C. 1705A/2 to C. in C. H.F., etc.)

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

33

North Atlantic.

NESTOR.

Arrived Ponta Delgada 0845 G.M.T./2.
Left 1900 G.M.T./2.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0902/2, 1812/2.)

Vichy
Convoys.

French convoy routes run from point (?P) to E. coast Corsica thence via Cape Corse direct to Toulon. (11) Convoy B. leaves Toulon 1200/3 by reverse (?route point P 1200/4 Messina 1000/6. Convoy C, 3 ships 10 knots Messina 1000/2 point P A.M./4 Marseilles A.M./5. (F.O.C.N.A., 0908A/2, to O.24, O.21.)

JONQUIL,
SPIREA.

My 1828A/1. Para. 2, amend E.T.A. at 025° West to read 0600/2. S. of A. 9 knots.
(11) Act accordingly.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1058A/2, to JONQUIL, SPIREA.)

O.23.

Admty. 1913A/31. Propose sailing Netherlands S/M O.23 tomorrow, 3rd; request concurrence.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1108A/2 to C. in C. Med.)

See also p. 34

SEVERN.

Leave patrol after dark/3 and adjust speed to R/V with escort in position 350 Spartel 5 at 1600 A/4. Report if unable to comply within 1 hour. T.B.R. arranged.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1708A/2, to SEVERN.)

U/Boats.

Reported repairing in Rio Strait. (Las Palmas, 1730/2.) See U-Boat Campaign.

TAKU.

In view of F.O.S. 1058 A and a dock not being available for some time, intend to sail TAKU P.M./3.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1808A/2, to C. in C. Med.)

H.G.72.

Departures WILD SWAN, LEITH, BLUEBELL, BOREAS, FARNDALE, WALLFLOWER, CAMPANULA, HYDRANGEA and MAPLIN, CAMPION, with H.G.72. BOREAS as in my 2232A/1. WILD SWAN, FARNDALE, until dusk/7.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1816A/2, to Admty., etc.)

PIORUN.

My 1153A /1. (HIGHLANDER, PIORUN expected Ponta Delgada.) Delete PIORUN.
(C. in C.W.A., 1926A/2, to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

FURIOUS.

My 1550A/22. Adjustments to aircraft, personnel and stores. (D.N.A.D.2224A/2 to S.O. Force H, etc.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2224/2nd September. OUT

To S.O.Force "H" 584. Date. 2.9.41
F.O.C.North Atlantic. 585.

FURIOUS

Repeated. C.in C. Home Fleet. 748.
V.A.2. 199.
C. in C. America and West Indies. 29.
V.A.H.A.S. 655.
C.D.B.
N.O.i/c Jamaica.
R.N.A.S.Palisadoes.
ARK ROYAL

~~434~~

Naval Cypher (A one T.T.)

From Admiralty.

NITE

My 1550A/22 not to all addressees.

Following adjustments are to be made to aircraft,
personnel, and stores:-

- (A) FURIOUS to disembark 880 Squadron at Gibraltar, aircraft being retained at Gibraltar for fighter catapult ships, personnel returning to U.K. at earliest opportunity.
- (B) FURIOUS to exchange 812 Squadron with 810 Squadron in ARK ROYAL. 812 to be made up to 12 I.E. by transfer from 810.
- (C) FURIOUS to retain 810 Squadron reduced to 6 I.E. for passage to Palisadoes Jamaica where they are to be disembarked.
- (D) Remaining aircraft of 810 Squadron to be absorbed into reserve at Gibraltar, personnel returning to U.K. Disposal of 810 Squadron pilots and observers to be signalled to Admiralty.
- (E) FURIOUS is to land at Gibraltar ten mark twelve torpedoes complete with accessories, and all Sea Hurricane and Fulmar stores and spares.

/ (F)

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

(F) The remaining torpedoes complete with accessories and torpedo maintenance personnel and all Swordfish stores and spares are to be landed at Jamaica.

2224A/2

for D.N.A.D.
(Tel. No. 995)

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

D.C.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
N.I.D.10 Payr.Cdr. Wilson)
Air
D.A.M.
D.A.M.R.
D. of S. (Air)

War Diary.2.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. Contd.O.23.
TAKU.

My 1218A/2 (N.T. in W.D.) All positions N., and W., add -
 (A) Netherlands Submarine O.23 sailed Gibraltar 1500/3rd through (2000° or 292°) Cape Spartel 8 and 036° 40' 009° 10' E.T.A., 2nd position 0600/4. *See O.33*
 (B) TAKU sailed Gibraltar 1700/3 routed as O.23. E.T.A. 2nd position 0200/5. Submerged during daylight/4.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 2130A/2 to N.A. Stn.)

ENCOUNTER.

My 1154A/30. Amend E.T.A., of ENCOUNTER at Ponta Delgada to read 1500A/5.
 (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2150A/2, to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

South Atlantic.BIRMINGHAM.

Will be in 8° S., 31° 30' W. 1200Z/3 patrolling a line to 4° 30' S. 28° W., until approx., 6/9.
 (D.O.D.(F)0034A/2 to Spenavo.)

W.S.10.X.

Departure 1300/1, REVENGE, WOODRUFF, MIGNONETTE, ARMERIA, AMARANTHUS, with Convoy W.S.10.X.
 (S.O.I. Freetown, 0805N/2, to Admty.)

Distress
Signal
18/8.

U.S.A. ship COLORADAN when in 12° 10' S., 24° 53' W., at 2140Z/18 sighted 3 white rockets towards which she steamed for 15 miles but found nothing.
 (S.O.I. Cape Town, 1012B/2, to Admty.)

Convoy
S.T.2.

Departure 1300/2, BRIDGEWATER, CYCLAMEN, ASPHODEL, CLEMATIS, with southbound convoy S.T.2.
 (S.O.I. Freetown, 1101N/2, to Admty.)

M/S Groups
156, 157,
158.

Your 2315/28. (A) M/S Group 156 consisting of GOS 7, KOS 10, KOS 11, and KOS 12, delayed in Capetown owing to Malaria and Blackwater affecting over half total complement. Anticipate that Crews for GOS 7 and KOS 12 will be assembled by 4/9 and two vessels will be sailed.

War Diary.2.9.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.M/S Groups
156,157,
158. Contd.

Date of sailing of remaining two indefinite. Advantage is being taken of delay to effect repairs and to replace S.A.Gear which was removed at Freetown.

(B) M/S Group 157 GOS 2 and GOS 3 at Durban.

(C) M/S Group 158 composition unknown.

CORDELIA and NORSE arrived 27/8 Walvis Bay for boiler cleaning and repairs.

(F.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1534B/2 to C. in C.S.A.)

S.L.85.

No signal has been received reporting names of ocean escort of S.L.85.

(D.T.D. 1618A/2 to S.O.I.Freetown.)

Air Sqdns.

Your 1907/18. 2 medium bomber squadrons are being re-equipped in Middle East with torpedo bomber aircraft. Anticipated two squadrons will be completed by mid-October. A.O.C.-in-C.,M.E., is kept informed of reinforcement programme and should be able to give you the most recent information.

(Hd. of M., 1701A/2 to C. in C. Med.)

W.S.10.
EDINBURGH.
HAWKINS.
JUPITER.Arrivals 2/9 Simonstown, BATAVIA and EDINBURGH. Capetown, Capetown portion of convoy WS.10. Departures Simonstown, HAWKINS at 0617 to relieve EDINBURGH as escort of Durban portion of WS.10, JUPITER at 1745 for Durban S. of A., 20 knots, E.T.A., 1000/4.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1815Z/2, to Admty.)SARABANDE,
ST.WISTAN,
C.F.2.SARABANDE and ST.WISTAN are to proceed to Lagos (Nigeria) forthwith and patrol a sector (? 190) to 210° to a depth of 40 miles until the arrival of C F 2. E.T.A., of convoy 1600/?4.
(C. in C.S.A., 1844N/2 to SARABANDE, ST.WISTAN.)Ex-Italian
Vessels.My 1719/30. N.T. in W.D. Add following 4 ships which arrived Buenos Aires 31/8. CASTELBIANCO, DANTE, TESEO and VAL DARNIO.
(Head of M. 1953A/2 to C. in C.S.A.)Fuelling
Escorts at
Sea.Admty. 1927/23. (see Shipping.) I fully concur, Oiler RAPIDOL will be employed for this trial as soon as available after present operation with DUNEDIN but conditions for fuelling in this area are often not good.
(C. in C.S.A., 2207N/2, to Admty.)

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

36

Mediterranean.

VIRGINIA S.

Italian, ex-Greek, left Trieste 28/8 for Piraeus and Istanbul. (D.S., 726, 2/9.)

Black Sea.

Intelligence up to 27/8 received from Soviet Naval Staff. (30 M.M., Moscow to W.O., 0323/2.) See Lion Copy.

OTUS.
THUNDERBOLT.

Disregard my 2241/1 in view of Capt. S.1's 2350C/1.
(Capt. S.10, 0835B/2, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)
Capt. (S) 1's 2350C/1. OTUS proceeding to 035° 40' 018° 16' and THUNDERBOLT to 035° 25' 018° 20', convoy expected to pass respective positions at about 1100 and 1200/3.
(Capt.S.10. 1324B/2.)
My 1324, amend longitude position to OTUS 018° 08' THUNDERBOLT 018° 10'.
(Capt. S.10, 2127B/2, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

Air Raids.

1. Egypt. My A.861 1/9 para. 2. No R.A.F. damage or casualties in raids on Port Said and Alexandria night 31/1, some damage to R.A.O.C. workshops and 2 houses demolished Alexandria where 5 Naval and Army Officers killed 4 wounded, and 5 soldiers wounded. No damage or casualties reported Port Said.

Benghazi,
Bardia,
Gambut,
bombed.

2. Western Desert Night 31/1, 3 Blenheims, 2 Marylands, 6 Wellingtons despatched on special operation to attack petrol storage barge and tanker at Juliana Mole in Benghazi Harbour. Blenheims attacked first while Marylands bombed town as diversion. 1 Blenheim dropped bombs within 25 yards of target. Results obtained by remaining 2 Blenheims unknown as both are missing. Wellingtons attacked 2 hours later. No hits. Further 2 Wellingtons bombed Bardia and landing ground near Ras El Tin in Cyrenaica. 3 F.A.A. Albacores bombed supply dumps near Gambut starting small fires.
(H.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 1001/2.)

Vichy convoys
Z1 and A1.

Return route as follows.
(C. in C. Med., 1058C/2, to Med. Fleet.)

/PROTEUS.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 0323/and Sept. IN

From No. 30 Military Mission,
Moscow.

Date 2.9.41.
Recd 0400.

Cipher

Addressed War Office.

39985.
MIL 594 Cipher 1/9.

To Chiefs of Staff.

1st of 3 parts

Following intelligence up to the 27th August received from Liaison Officer Black Sea was obtained from Soviet Naval Staff.

Naval. One enemy M.V. and one warship class unknown bombed on the 20/8 just above Galatz the warship caught fire and was beached. Italian tanker TARVISIO (5480 tons) now in Dardenelles awaiting entry to Black Sea. ANTARES (3700 tons) at Istanbul believe bound for Italy. Italian transport ~~ALBANO~~ left Bosphorus for Black Sea night 21/22. Roumanian ~~ARDEAL~~ ARDEAL bombed on 23 and damaged on waterline. Italian tanker at Varna with 8000 tons of oil expected to leave shortly for Italy. Soviet minesweeper BAIKAL and OCHAKOVICANAL sunk when evacuating troops from Kherson Ochakovo. Soviet transport BRIYANSK sunk by aircraft at Odessa.

* ALBANO

2nd part.

Military 19th August. Movement Bulgarian troops towards Turkish frontier. 20th August. Germans within 15 miles of Odessa (Vigoda). 21st August. Large enemy motorised formations 25 miles West of Odessa and tank units 5 miles N.E. Bielyaevka attacked by aircraft. 6000 Germans mostly mechanised reported area Kherson. 22nd August. Strong enemy attack Odessa. Prisoners state heavy losses. Up to 30 tanks destroyed by dive bombing attack area Karstal. 23rd August. Successful air attack on enemy concentration East of Dniester Bay. Nicholaev occupied by at least one division motorised infantry. Italian Torino Div. Confirmed Operating S.W. frontier Bessarabia Vigoda captured. 24 August Air attacks on enemy troops west of Odessa. Italian Arty. Regt. located Pervomaisk. 26 August. Large enemy concentrations including tanks N.E. and N.W. Odessa German reinforcements arriving Kherson. H.Q. 2nd Roumanian Army Keshinevo.

Last of 3 parts./

Last of 3 parts.

Air. Following Roumanian-German aerodromes were in operation on the 20 August Bakeasa (North of Bucharest) Suet Gihol. Zellichte. Buzau. (N.E. of Polesti) Focani. (N.E. of Ploesti) Mamaia Kilometers N. of Constanta. 21 August. Bulgarian aircraft based on aerodromes at Shuman and Bacchik Patrol Coast Turkey to Roumania. 22 August Bulgarian aerodromes near Turkish Frontier are showing signs of activity being fully manned. As a result of Soviet bombing of Cernavoda Bridge above Constanza oil and ammunition for Northern Dobrudja is now carried by rail via Silistria and Ruse (Danube opposite Giurgi) 26 August. Heavy Balloon Barrage observed at Polesti. Oil. Movements southwards from Dobrudja of trains and lorries carrying large quantities of oil.

0325/2.

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)

N.A. 1st S.L.

A.C.N.S. (H)

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.

P.A.S. (S)

Hd. of M. (8)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson

Recd. from War Office 2130/2.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

PROTEUS
TAKU.

Your 1700C/1/9 and your 0035C/27/7. One directing gear for Type 129 is being shipped to you in PROTEUS sailing for Mediterranean tomorrow 3/9. Second spare directing gear for Type 129 shipped to you in S.S. AFRICAN PRINCE. In view of above it should not be necessary to delay TAKU.
(F.O.S., 1058A/2, to S.1.) See 1532/3.

SAINT
BRIEUX.
(? SAINT
BRIEUC.)
(French.)

Arrival 29/8.
(Barcelona 1209/2 to M. of W.T.)

Russia.

Re demolitions of ships. Report from Adm.Miles.
(D.N.I., 1435A/2 to C. in C. Med.)
See Lion Copy.

TARVISIO.
(Italian.)

TARVISIO sailed for Aegean 0730 G.M.T. today. (N.A. Istanbul, 1302C/2, to C. in C. Med.)
N.I.D. Comment. TARVISIO is an Italian Fleet Oiler of 10,900 tons. In spite of our protests she went through the Straits and returned to Italy from Roumania with a cargo of oil last June. She arrived at Chanak from Aegean on 10/8, claiming to have been taken off the list of Italian warships and to be a merchant vessel and therefore entitled to proceed through the Straits. Turkish Govt. refused to agree to her passage and said that no facilities or pilot would be given, but that, nevertheless, if she did proceed up the Straits, she would not be fired on. In future, passage to ships on the original Italian list of warships would be refused.

Enemy
Convoy.

Convoy of 5 ships including ALBA/JULIA and BALCIC reported left Trieste for Istanbul 28/8. (Capt. S.1, 1510C/2, to PERSEUS.)

URSULA.
(Near. missed)
27/8.

Your 1614A/31. URSULA was near missed. My 2342B/27 was to inform submarines of type of air attack to expect. Bomb referred to appeared to explode on impact with surface of the sea.

Tripoli
bombed.

(S.O.S/M's Malta, 1612B/2, to Admty.)
7 Wellingtons dropped bombs and incendiaries Tripoli power station from 2000 to 2300 hours.
(H.Q.R.A.F., Malta, 1645/2.)

/TARVISIO.....

MOST SECRET

37A

1435A/2 September.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

To: C. in C. Mediterranean. 30

Date: 2/9/41.

Naval Cypher O.T.T.

From: Admiralty.

IM ORTANT.

Following received from Admiral Miles. (0989c/1)

1 The Russian scorched earth policy is everywhere being carried out with great thoroughness and relentlessly. The destruction of the Dnieper Dam recently is a sure proof that there is no squeamishness in implementing this policy.

The removal of unfinished hulls and machinery from Nicholaev and the destruction there of what could not be removed shows that the Soviet Naval Authorities are doing their share.

2 I am in no position at Moscow to ensure repeat ensure similar destruction in the Baltic and a recent request for a visit to Leningrad was somewhat naturally turned down under the existing circumstances.

3 The most I could do was to express your anxiety to Kuzbetsov (the Head of the Navy) in view of my remarks above I am confident that destruction in the Baltic will be carried out if the need arises and any suggestion on my part that it might not repetition not be would only be resented and would serve no useful purpose.

4 If however you would still like me to see Kuzbetsov I will ask for an interview but I think it would be more generous and stimulating if I might be allowed to come straight out in the open with an offer of help after the war.

1435A/2.

N.I.D.16 for D.N.I. (794)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
3rd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
Head of M.

D.D.I.C.
Duty Captain.
I.P. (2)
W.D.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

TARVISIO.

Italian fleet oiler TARV(?IS)IO passed Istanbul 0730/2 for Aegean.
(Capt. S.1, 2110C/2, to PERSEUS.)

Situation Report 136.

Heavy dive and high level bombing attack on Tobruk 1/9 without serious damage. One certain and 3 probably shot down. R.A.F. attacked Benghazi harbour night 31/1. Result uncertain.
(2) Syria. Repatriation convoy D has left Beirut.
(C. in C. Med. 2332/2.)

Syria.

Attitude of Free French. (C. in C.M.E., 2350/2, to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2350/2nd September.

IN

MOST SECRET

From C. in C. Middle East.
(?Orionne)
consensorship

Date 4.9.41.
Recd. 1040

CIPHER.

Addressed War Office.

IMPORTANT.

40987. 4144 CIPHER 2/9.

To Mideast for Hastarius pass Embassy for
Minister of State repeated Milpal for General Wilson repeated
Troopers for Spears Mission London from General Spears.

Spirit De Gaulle will produce complaints concerning
the British in Syria. When he does so following points may
be useful. Catroux and De Gaulle promised that officials
whose removal we asked for on grounds of anglophobia or
corruption would be removed (vide Ambassadors's telegram to
Foreign Office No. 2586 of 18/8). Nevertheless Capitaine de
Fregate Moron whose anti-British views are well known and
concerning whom evidence has been produced has been reinstated,
in spite of the strongest protests by Navy on security grounds,
as Chief Local Maritime Advisor. Have had to threaten very
serious consequences. This is far from being isolated case.

2. A number of officers have been removed for
their pro-British tendencies e.g. Legentilhomme, Cuinat, Head
of the Surete and many more. Other reasons for removal can of
course be alleged but none here doubt that the one given above
is real one.

3. The same procedure is being followed as
regards prominent Arabs. So evident is anti-British attitude
of Free French Leaders that natives have discovered best
means of getting a man into trouble is to denounce him as such.

4. A secret note has been issued forbidding
French and Native officials having anything to do with the
British.

5. Our well founded objections to officials
likely to upset Arab opinions have been consistently disregarded.

6. Free French have insisted on operating Radio
(?Orionne) without prior consultation or taking adequate
consensorship measures.

7. Catroux's systematic evasions of agreements
have become notorious. Most recent example. A basis for common
propaganda was settled involving considerable expenditure by
us and bringing over from India of Cinema vans. He tried
to insert a clause that the contract was only valid for a
fortnight. When absurdity of this exposed he altered an
extremely important word, altering agreed intention of
contract at last moment when for technical reasons it was
difficult for us to withdraw.

8. Spirit of above agreement being violated. Permission
to show film "Convoy" so far refused.

So evident is anti-British attitude
of Free French Leaders that natives
means of getting a man into trouble is to denounce him as such.

MOST SECRET

Our well founded objections to officials
likely to upset Arab opinions have been consistently disregarded.

9. Papers in Arabic containing photographs of British troops or descriptions of British military successes are stopped at the frontier.

10. The word "British" is not allowed in press. "The Allies" alone is tolerated. The proprietor of newspaper "Alouf Bay" has been informed there must be no pro-British propaganda in press. "Kifah" newspaper informed by an official that British have shameless designs on Syria.

11. Natives are puzzled by this obvious attempt on part of F.F. to enhance their prestige by belittling us which deceives none but F.F. themselves. Natives inclined to think we tolerate this because of a deep-laid scheme consisting in allowing F.F. enough rope to hang themselves.

12. The above examples taken haphazard are only intended to give idea of atmosphere created in the main, I fear, by General de Gaulle's own attitude, his precepts and instructions.

13. The position does not alarm me. The mass of F.F. is unshakable pro-British and might well turn on their leaders if made aware of the attitude of some of them. The inexhaustible patience of the British authorities is gradually improving the atmosphere. There are some signs that commonsense will prevail.

2350/2
Adv. copy D.N.I.

- 1st Lt. S. L. ...
- V.C.N.S.
- N. ...
- P.N.S. (8)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.N. (4)
- D. ... (2)
- D. ...
- H.P.S. ...
- Hd. of M. (8)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D. ...
- N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson
- D.D.I.G.
- Admiral Chalmers

War Diary.

2.9.1941.

Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

39

East Indies.

HILDA
(Italian).

1034/1 from N.O.I.C. Karachi being passed to C. in C. E.I., Admty and S.N.O. P.G. Engagement of certifying party has been approved. Request instructions regarding Prize Court proceeding for HILDA and other ships concerned. Ref. Naval Prize Manual, Article 4, presume Persian Govt. will not be allowed to contest seizure. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0401Z/2 to C. in C. E.I.) Reply, 0948/4.

Admty. 0042/2. (0049/2 intended N.T. in W.D.) I welcome the news that Adm. Dreyer is coming out to assist us with this difficult problem. I would very much like him to visit Aden. (C. in C. E.I., 0646Z/2 to Admty).

Use of
Bandar
Shapur..

Request decision (? as to) intended use of Bandar (?Sharur) S.N.O. P.G. has received information that U.S. Govt. have a contract rail tracks for extensions of line from Bandar (?Sharur) to Caspian. In view of Admty 2313/29 para 6 development of Railway from Persian Gulf to Caspian, matter (?appears to be) of importance, observing there is no railway from Basra to Caspian. S.N.O. P.G. is to report by signal present conditions of port of Bandar (?Sharur) and its facilities. (C. in C. E.I., 0648Z/2 to Admty).

Diego Garcia
Addu Atoll.

Re garrisons, etc. (Easfar, 0845/2, 0850/2 to East Indies and Air Ministry). See Operations Volume.

GOS II.
GOS III.
AUSTRALIA.

Durban departures GOS II and GOS III. E.T.A. at Kilindini 1000Z/10. S. of A. 9 knots. Routed as in my 1400Z/19/5. (ii) AUSTRALIA in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 0752Z/1. *See also next page.* (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1402Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Zanzibar). My 1402Z/2 GOS II and GOS III have returned to harbour owing to defects. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1652Z/2).

^{E/}
MONTTEIDE
(Spanish).

^{E/}
EXETER reports sighting Spanish ship MONTTEIDE in 025° 35' S., 035° 33' E., course 045°, speed 8 knots. Request last reported movements of this ship. (C. in C. E.I., 1420Z/2 to Admty) My 1420/2, time of sighting was 0910Z/2. (C. in C. E.I., 1644Z/2).

/U.S. Shipping...

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

40

East Indies. - Contd.

U.S.
Shipping,
Red Sea.

C. in C. Med., 1333/1, C. in C. E.I., 1258/22. Numbers passed through Aden in July and August. Question of protection. (S.N.O.R.S., 1632Z/2 to C. in C. E.I.) See Operations Volume.

HINDUSTAN
fired on
at
Djibouti.

Governor of Djibouti has opened his offensive against our patrols. HINDUSTAN was fired on by Shore Batteries at 0925 G.M.T./2. Would you concur that as a reprisal our patrols should be directed to choose the best Dhows or other craft they can see hauled up on the beach in Obok area and fire round for round? In this case Djibouti fired 3 Salvoes so we fire 3 back. The practice to be continued. Being passed to Admty. (C. in C. E.I., 1720Z/2 to G.H.Q. M.E. for Sec. of State.) Reply, 1700/4, *page 92.*

F/W
Aircraft.

6 Focke Wulf 200 have arrived in Greece. Comment. Operational endurance of these aircraft is 2,700 miles with 4,400 pound bomb load. Reported they may be able to carry torpedoes. (D.D.I.C., 1759A/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

CARTHAGE
AUSTRALIA.

Following movements ordered: CARTHAGE leaves Durban a.m./5 provides close cover for CITY OF CANTERBURY then X Y Z patrol, arrives Durban a.m./14 AUSTRALIA E.T.A. 0400Z/8. *See previous page* (C. in C. E.I., 1854Z/2 to N.L.O. Durban).

NUBIAN,
ISIS.

Your 0449Z/15. Request your intentions for onward passage of NUBIAN and ISIS. (D.O.D. (F) 1933A/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

Persian
Gulf.

Summary of report on R/C of Persian Gulf and defence measures. (C. in C. India, 2145/2 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

40A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

I N

From: C. in C. India

Date: 3.9.41.

Recd. 0430

CYPHER

Addressed: War Office, repeated C. in C. Middle East,
General Iraq.

IMPORTANT

40387. 12330/G cipher 2/9.

Your 83344 (M.O.12) of 10/8 Persian Gulf
reconnaissance and paras. 12 and 13 of your 84292 (M.O.12)
of 15/8. 2200/15.

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/M.O.4 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 Bahrain refinery. Report recommends provision now at Bahrain of R.D.F. Heavy and light A.A. increased P.A.D. measures.
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 Bahrain 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 Bahrain 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. Bahrain as before 8 Hy. and 4 Lt. A.A. guns plus

one/.....

- 2 -

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 recon. 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 Bahrain refinery and secure against air landing. Bahrain 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 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 at 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.

2145/2

Note by M.O.12.

83344 (M.O.12) 10/8 asked for summary of report on reconnaissance of Persian Gulf.

Received by hand from War Office at 1625/5.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.N.I.(4)

D. of P.(2)

D.N.A.D.

D. of L.D.

D.C.

E.P.S.

Hd. of M.(2)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

N.I.D. 10

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

41

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Panama
Route.

Your 1859 6/7. Request M. of W.T. be asked to communicate names of ships chosen to proceed via Panama as they are selected.
(C. in C. China, 0400Z/2 to Admty).

MARECHAL
JOFFRE.
(French).

Arrived 2/9. (Manila 0610Z/2 to M. of W.T.)

GLASGOW.

Intend to carry out two hour after repair trials of GLASGOW. Speed attained will be reported and 20 knots in service not exceeded as maximum vide your 0515/14/6 until further instructions received.
(C. in C. China, 0723Z/2 to Admty).

Suspicious
Submarines.

Position 010° 13' N., 110° 23' E., 29/8 one or possibly two unidentified submarines course S.W.
(C.O.S. Singapore, 0736Z/2 to Admty etc).

TEVIOT BANK.

In order to reply to your 1015/29, grateful to know if any particular operations are envisaged for TEVIOT BANK. (C. in C. China, 0855Z/2 to Admty).

JOAO DE
LISBOA.

B.N.A. Lisbon has signalled "Portuguese Naval Authorities request permission for Portuguese Sloop JOAO DE LISBOA proceeding from Macao to Hong Kong for docking 20/9". Request early report whether docking facilities available.
(Head of M., 1700A/2 to C. in C. China).

America & West Indies.

LIMOUSIN
(French).

Admty 0133/31/8. LIMOUSIN arrived Caripito 1/9.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0028R/2 to Admty etc).

BURNHAM.

Your 1209Z/31. BURNHAM can be accepted. Same date, Boston, Same job No. as RIPLEY.
(B.A.R.M., 1114R/2 to C.C.N.F.)

/Pacific Force.....

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

42

Pacific Force.

Formation of U.S. South East Pacific Force and orders for patrol to northward of it by DESPATCH, DIOMEDE, and PRINCE HENRY. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1222Q/2 to Cdre. W.I.) See Operations Volume.

Area of operation - see page 96. Amendment - see page 122

CAMPILO.

My 0944Q/23. Spanish CAMPILO reported sailed Port Arthur 28/8 for Barcelona. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1309Q/2 to Admty).

TRUANT.

My 1748R/26. TRUANT leaves New London at 0800 G.M.T./5. C.C.N.F. pass to FORTH. (B.A.R.M., 1346R/2 to Admty etc).

Ocean Routeing.

Reorganisation of Routeing Office's, scheme for approval. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1501Q/2 to Admty). See Lion Copy.

EMPRESS OF ASIA.

Your 1237/1. Re numbers of Service personnel etc. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1609Z/2 to D. of S.T.)

RODNEY.

Your 2212/1. RODNEY will probably not be required to sail until 14/9. F.O. Force H., is requested to inform you of time she should arrive at Gibraltar so that you may sail her to comply. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1707A/2 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

FORTH.

My (? 1431)/23/8. Recommend FORTH visits Halifax before returning to U.K. to collect Stores and spare propellers. Suggest ship be used for freighting stores or cargo for Ministry of Food from Halifax or U.S. (FORTH, 1711Z/2 to Admty). Approved. (D.O.D. H., 1639A/3).

PORTADOC, NEW NORTHLAND, survivors.

E.T.A. 1220, Gate 1330p/7. Passengers all Mercantile Marine, 12 Officers 58 ratings from NEW NORTHLAND. 6 Ratings from PORTADOC. C. in C. A.W.I., 2232Q/2 (N.T. in W.R.) guns are S.1. 2 and (?3). (CIRCASSIA, 2045B/2 to C.O.A.C., Halifax).

Refits in U.S.A.

Re publicity and relaxation of censorship. (B.A.R.M., 2140R/2 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

/LECPOLD.....

42A

15010/2 September.

S E C R E T

M E S S A G E

I N

From: C. in C. America & West Indies

Date: 8.9.41.

Recd. 1730

NAVAL CYPHER (X) by Cable

Addressed: Admiralty, repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.O.(I) Jamaica.

414. Following reorganisation of Routeing Offices is put forward for approval. This is result of a tour of Carribean N.C.S.O.'s and C.A.'s by Captain Watkins-Grubb and personal discussion with S.O.(I) Jamaica. The object is to concentrate ocean routeing at N.C.S. Offices where there is ample and experienced staff. The smaller N.C.S. Offices and C.S.A. are not now capable of dealing efficiently with the necessary complicated ocean routeing orders.

2. Ocean routes to be given only at Halifax, Bermuda and Trinidad for the Atlantic and Colon for the Pacific, the only exception being at such ports in the U.S.A. as N.S.H.Q. may designate routes for ships remaining west of a line from Sydney C.B. to Georgetown, B. Guiana, to be given by all N.C.S.O.'s and C.S.A.'s and governed by general instructions from me.

3. Examples.

A. Independent ships from Canal or Gulf get ocean routes from Trinidad if bound east or south east, from Bermuda if bound to United Kingdom.

B. Ships fuelling at Curacao or Aruba similarly to A.

C. Ships for convoy from any ports to be routed to Halifax, by the local N.C.S.O., C.S.A., or Reporting Officer.

4. Instructions for N.C.S.O.'s for ocean routes to be issued only to C. in C., N.S.H.Q., Halifax Bermuda and Trinidad repeated S.O.(I) Jamaica for information. Instructions for other ports to be responsibility of N.S.H.Q. and C. in C.

5./.....

5. Consider this proposal will ensure accurate routing and little if any lengthening of routes additional security which is of great importance will also result. Present method has been found inefficient due to complications of instructions which small ports cannot deal with. This proposal to continue to be worked when U.S.N. takes over routing so far as is applicable.

115010/2

- 1st Lord
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- Sec.
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.N.T. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- Ops. (4)
- M. (2)
- D. of P. (3)
- O.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (L)
- D.T.D. (O)
- D. of S.T.
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- Admiral Bailey
- D.A./S.W.

C
42X

SECRET

MESSAGE

2140R/2nd September

IN

FROM B.A.R.M.

DATE 3.9.41
RECD. 1127

NAVAL CYPHER "D" BY CABLE.

ADDRESSED Admiralty.

366 Have been approached by Admiral Hepburn Public Relations Officer who informs me that Secretary of Navy has under consideration a relaxation of secrecy at present maintained with regard to refit of H.M. Ships in U.S.A. and wishes to be informed as to whether Admiralty would agree to this and their views as to information that should be released. The suggestion is that each ship should be considered individually and that general principles should be that Ship's arrival and name should be released about 7 days after her arrival, that no information of movements reference to damage length of stay or information of value to enemy should be published and that articles should be submitted to Naval Authorities before being published. My ARMUK 49 T.O.O. 190C.1.4⁺ and Admiralty's 1943.4.4. refer. I understand there is a possibility of press refusing to continue co-operation in voluntary censorship concerning H.M. Ships unless some relaxation is permitted. I am in favour of such relaxation.

2140R/2

+ Reporting movements British
Ships in U.S. Ports.

1st Lord	O.D.(5)	
1st S.L.	O.I.C.(3)	
3rd S.L.	D.N.I.(4)	
Vice Controller	D. of P.(3)	
V.C.N.S.	M.(2)	
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.P.D. for action	
A.C.M.S.(F)	I.P.(3)	
Naval Sec.	D. 57 O.B.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	Ad. Bailoy	
Ops.(4)	Deputy Controller (3)	} Bath by T/P.
W.D.	D.(4)	

War Diary.

2.9.1941.

Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

LEOPOLD ^{L.D}
ILE DE RE.

New York reports French LEOPOLD^{L.D} was cleared at New York 30/8 for Casablanca but was still being held 2/9 detained by French instructions. Only French ILE DE RE, is to sail New York 3/9 for Newport News to load and sail about 8/9 for Casablanca. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2148Z/2 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

44

Ships Attacked.

EMBASSAGE.

3 survivors landed Greenock. As EMBASSAGE was missing after attack by 3/Ms on Convoy O.S.4 during night of 26-27/8, seems probable she was torpedoed, though nothing definite at present known. Was on passage to Bathurst and Pepel with general cargo. (D.S., 726, 2/9).

Convoy O:G 71
(attacked
19/8, etc).

A/T 1600A/23/8 and my 1658/23. Apparently undue reliance on H/F D/F by GURKHA led him to take the destroyers out unduly far on an offensive sweep and they were still remote from convoy when first attack developed.

2. On occasion of second attack conditions were normal, Asdic conditions good, no explanation forthcoming.

3. Port flank and quarter of convoy were inadequately guarded from the direction of third attack, close screen having dropped back to pick up survivors from second attack, and destroyer of outer screen detached to create a diversion.

4. No illumination was provided by the close screen on the flanks of the convoy during any attack. (F.O.C.N.A., 1222A/2 to Admty amended 1032A/3).

Submarines Reported.

2044/1.

By D/F at 2044/1 G.M.T. U-boat in Area 50° to 50.30 N., 22° 30' to 23.30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 0010A/2).

1109Z.

By D/F at 1109Z/2, position of U-boat was 50° N., - 51° N., 24° W., - 26° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1242A/2 to WESTON etc).

Estimated U/B dispositions. A considerable number between 58° and 62° 30' and 22° - 28°. Several 54° - 56° 15' - 20. Several 50° - 51° 30' 15' - 20°. (D.D.I.C., 1351A/2).

Rio Strait.

Unconfirmed report two submarines last week at anchor in Rio Strait apparently repairing. Investigating further. (Las Palmas. 1730/2 to Admty)

1856.

Port Patrick Radio de DPK. At 1856 received 3333 62.45 N., 21.58 W., submarine sighted, DENBIGHSHIRE. (ends) (Liverpool W/T 1905/2). Intercepted at 1932 G.M.T. De unknown station Cancel my 3333 at 1850/2. DENBIGHSHIRE.1930/2. (Port Patrick Radio, 2030/2 to Navy Charge Greenock)

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

45

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C

Am over enemy S/M in 61.04 N., 25.26 W., Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges, hits nil. - (A/C duty I, 1414/2, 1416/2 to Reykjavik H/F D/F Stn) I 269 Sqn. (D.S.727).

By A/C

Am over enemy S/M in 59.40 N., 7.42 W., have attacked enemy with bombs level, estimate no hits. (A/C call sign V.6 T., 2010/2 to Wick) P.612 Sqn. (D.S. 727).
My 2010, enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge..
(A/C V.6.T., 2020/2 to Wick) Details of attack. (A.C.H.Q., Rosyth, 2350/2).

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

46

Home Commands.

Two M.L's from Dover operated last night near the Outer Ruytingen.

M.T.B's patrolled off the Hook of Holland last night.

Fog.

Harwich was closed at 1956A today, on account of fog. Dartmouth and Humber were also affected.

Operations
by TRIDENT

TRIDENT reports that at 1046C/19 she gunned and obtained 5 certain hits on an unescorted west-bound merchant vessel at the entrance to Breda. At 1527C/22 she sank S.S. OSTPREUSSEN in an escorted westbound convoy of 4 ships near 70° 10' N. 21° 5' E. At 1740C/30 she obtained hits with torpedo on a 1500 and a 3000 ton ship respectively in an eastbound escorted convoy of 4 ships in 70° 35' N. 21° 45' E.; it is believed the smaller ship sank; the larger ship was seen listing and heavily on fire 2 hours later.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. VOLESUS was attacked off the Tyne at 2050 B.S.T. today and S.S. CITY OF AUCKLAND at 2223.

S.S. FORT RICHEPANSE was attacked at 0957 today in 52° 46' N. 23° 0' W. but was not seriously damaged and completed her repairs by 1400 G.M.T.

See also p. 48

WOLFHOUND was damaged by bombing this evening off the Humber. The fore part of the ship was sunk.

Mining.

Operation
"E.H."

F.O.10th.C.S. in KENYA left Scapa at 1001A today with MANXMAN and LIGHTNING. Fighter escort will be provided until return to harbour.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - Contd.

S.N.23A.

PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK left Port Z.A. at 2109A to lay mines north of the Butt of Lewis.

Mines were detonated today off Milford Haven and in the Thames Estuary.

South Atlantic.

Destroyers.

C. in C. S.A. asks that two of the four destroyers detached to Gibraltar may be returned to him, owing to the difficulty of maintaining full escort groups.

REVENGE

REVENGE reported today that a collision occurred last night between her and S.S. ORION, one of the ships she is escorting in W.S.10 X. Only minor damage was caused.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Malta was attacked by six aircraft last night. No naval damage is reported.

URGE reports that on 26/8 she damaged Italian S.S. AQUITANIA with a torpedo hit and sank a tanker when southbound in convoy off Marittimo. On 28/8 she hit and probably sank a DUILIO class liner when southbound off Capri in company with OCEANIA and NEPTUNIA.

Nine naval Swordfish attacked a convoy of 5 merchant ships escorted by 5 destroyers at 0005 today in 37° 33' N. 16° 0' E. One merchant vessel of 8000 to 9000 tons was torpedoed and blew up shortly afterwards. A 9000 ton and two other merchant ships were hit by torpedoes and at least two were seriously damaged.

The attack was a complete surprise and wild disorder ensued, destroyers firing on their own ships.

/Libya.....

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

R.A.F. Wellingtons bombed Derna, Bardia and Gazala landing grounds last night.

F.A.A. Albacores bombed supply dumps near Gambut last night.

Tobruk.

A combined high level bombing and minelaying attack was made on Tobruk last night by 15 enemy aircraft.

U-Boat Campaign.

FORT RICHEPANSE was torpedoed this evening in 52.34 N., 20.23 W. *See p. 46*

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

WELSHMAN.

Your 1541A/2. Deperming with re-range is to be carried out at Scapa.
2. Additional time up to four days may be allowed if required, but deperming should be secondary to working up.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1115A/3 to R.A.D. H.F.)

One HUNT
and 40th
A/S Group.

C. in C. Plymouth 2306/27 when PUCKERIDGE is ready for service and worked up request you will transfer her or another HUNT and 40th A/S Group to C. in C. Plymouth's command.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1727A/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

GLEANER.
Iceland
survey.

Your 1601A/3/9. GLEANER can be spared if a Wair from Western Approaches can be returned to my Command. Owing to damage to WOLFHOUND, GLEANER cannot be spared without a relief.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2345/3 to Admty).

Movements.

MANXMAN.

Scapa arrival. (A.C.O.S., 0210A/3).

MINERVE.

Your 2352A/2. Proceed Lerwick through following positions. T.B.R. in force.
(Capt. S.9. 0503A/3 to MINERVE).

A/S Trawlers
and whalers
for Freetown.

Sailed A/S trawlers HOXA and ROMEO and whalers KOS 7 and KOS 9 for Freetown via Azores. HOXA and ROMEO E.T.A. Fayal 11/9 coal required 100 tons KOS 7 KOS 9 E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 11/9 oil required. 80 tons.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock. 0908/3 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

Western Patrol
Sailing
of A.M.C.'s

In order to secure A/S protection ships of Western Patrol are sailed for and brought in from Patrol with O.G., O.S., H.G., and S.L. Convoys.
As H.G. Convoys no longer R/V with local escort it is requested that Cdres., may be instructed to cross lat. 048° N., at a given time and that the time so ordered may be included in Admty route signal and F.O.C.N.A. 2000 situation report thus enabling full use to be made of these Convoys as in the past. (S.O.W.P., 0939A/3 to Admty, F.O.C.N.A.)

/ELECTRA.....

War Diary.3.9.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.ELECTRA,
ACTIVE.

ELECTRA and ACTIVE sail for Murmansk 3/9 from Archangel. (D.O.D. (H) 1034A/3 to TRIDENT).

ST. BAUMOYH. *

Passed Wick from Lerwick en route with 30 Norwegian refugees on board ST. BAUMOYH 42 feet. (R.N.O. Wick 1203/3).

** Not identified.*RIPLEY.

Proceed to your destination forthwith. On arrival forward your reasons in writing as to why you anchored off Dunrobin and the names of the people you landed. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1252/3 to RIPLEY).

GREENFLY.

Gt. Yarmouth 3/9 arrival T.H.V. ALERT with L.V. No. 73 in tow. ALERT reports parting company with H.M.T. GREENFLY in fog, last seen in company of two tugs. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1635A/3 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

INDOMITABLE,
escort.

Your 1716A/2. WALKER, VOLUNTEER detailed. (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1645A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.Operations
by TRIDENT.

Arrival TRIDENT, Following attacks carried out.

1. 1046/C/19/8 entrance to Bredshun, unescorted merchant vessel westbound. 2 torpedoes. Missed. Gunned 21 rounds 5 certain hits.
2. 0900C/21 vicinity 70° 10' N., 21° 5' E., BREMSE westbound 4 torpedoes. Missed.
3. 1247C/21 vicinity of 70° 10' N., 21° 5' E. 1500 ton tanker unescorted westbound. 2 torpedoes. Missed.
4. 1527C/22 vicinity 70° 10' N., 21° 5' E., escorted convoy 4 ships westbound. 6 torpedoes OSTPREUSSEN 3,000 tons sunk.
5. 1740C/30 70° 35' N., 21° 45' E., convoy 4 ships of 1500 and 3000 tons respectively. Latter listing heavily and on fire 2 hours later, other believed sunk. 56 D.C.'s dropped close after attack.

No A/S activity other than escorts this area and little air activity. TRIDENT no defects. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1142C/3).

/TRIDENT.....

War Diary.3.9.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.TRIDENT,
TIGRIS,
Torpedoes.

B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1153C/3. See Operations Volume.

Operation.

C.S.1. 1220/3. See Operations Volume.

Convoy
"Dervish".Employment of escorting destroyers. (Miles 1553C/3)
See Operations Volume.
Arrival broadcast by B.B.C. (Miles 2019C/3)
See Operations Volume.British Air Operations.Operation
E.H.
(See Mining.)

V.A. 2's 1702/2 Fighter Escort will be by single Blenheims until 1800/3 then two Blenheims until dark. 4 Blenheims from first light 4th until 1000 then single Blenheims until return to Harbour. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0126/3 to F.O.C. 10 C.S.)

Patrols."Hornli"
HORNLI now being flown.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0828/3).
~~3/9~~ will be flown by two aircraft proceeding in company to make Landfall off Utvoer then splitting and timed so that northernmost aircraft reaches lat. 062° 30' N., and southernmost lat. 060° 20' N., at last light 3/9.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1302/3 to C.S.10).
My 1302/3. Aircraft will make reports on 6000 Kc/s. Suggest you set watch to intercept.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1550/3 to C.S.10).
My 1302/3. Southernmost aircraft returned owing to engine failure.
At 1800 aircraft in 61° 30' N., 05° E., reported clouds 10/10 at 400 feet. Visibility 15 miles except in frequent showers.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1958/3 to C.S.10).P.R.U.

Haugesund - Stavanger - Kristiansand P.R.U. in Operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1534/3).

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. FORT
RICHEPANSE.

AAAA 52.46 N., 23.00 W. attacked.
(Liverpool, W/T 0957/3 de GLD)
(W.D. Note:- See also U-boat Campaign - FORT
RICHEPANSE).
De FORT RICHEPANSE no serious damage 1050 G.M.T.
/3. (Valentia Radio, 1054/3).

W.S.11.

Fire opened at an F.W. 0645Z/2 in 51° 50' N., 17°
51' W. (CAIRO, 1215Z/3). *See also p. 54 for full
signal.*

S.S. VOLESUS.

Cullercoats Radio reports: A A A A VOLESUS
attacked near 20 Q can Buoy. 2050 B.S.T.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2107/3).

WOLFHOUND .

WOLFHOUND damaged by near miss. Fore part has
sunk. After part likely to remain afloat. No. 82
bulkhead holding. I am standing by.
(LADY PHILOMENA, 2120A/3 to C. in C. Nore).
Your 2120A/3 Endeavour to tow WOLFHOUND to Humber.
Tugs have been ordered to meet you. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Nore, 2225A/3 to LADY PHILOMENA).
Immingham departure Tug SABINE at 2245 to assist
WOLFHOUND. (F.O. Humber, 2302/3).

S.S. CITY of
AUCKLAND.

AAAA bombed off Bluff Light.
(Cullercoats Radio., T.O.R.2223).

Mining.

Operation
E.H.

Scapa departure F.O.C. 10th C.S. in KENYA with
MANXMAN, LIGHTNING.
(A.C.O.S., 1001A/3).

Milford Haven.

Two mines detonated by FAR, details. (F.O.I.C.
Milford Haven, 1003/3).

1st M.S.F.

My 1339B/16/5/41. 1st M.S.F. is now required to
have six ships available at 3 weeks notice to sail
in lieu of one week's notice. (D.M.S., 1409A/3
to C. in C. W.A.)

/Operation.....

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

53

Mining. - Contd.

Operation
Q.K. (7)

Prepare to carry out operation Q.K. (7) on 4/9 with 3 M.L.s of 51st Flotilla and covering Force from 4th M.T.B. Flotilla. Route. F.O.I.C. Harwich pass to BEEHIVE. (C. in C. Nore, 1532A/3 2301A/3 to BEEHIVE).

Speeds on
East Coast.

Instructions re Speed restriction between 21 A and 17 buoy due to acoustic mine. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1620/3 to RIPLEY).

Thames
Estuary.

One S.A. mine detonated as follows 1050/3. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1957/3).

S.N. 23 A.

Departure PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK. (N.O.I.C. Port ZA. 2109A/3).

Enemy Intelligence.

U.33
(sunk
12/2/40.)

Diving operations on U.33 should be suspended. (D.A/S.W., 1934A/3).

Miscellaneous.

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1956A/3).

Casualties & Defects.

P.34.

My 1100A/26/8 defects in P.34. will be completed 14/9. and vessel sailing 0745A/16. Reasons for delay. Firm progressing work as fast as possible. (P.S.O. Barrow, 1405A/3).

HAMBLEDON.
B.D.T. ~~HOY~~. KENTISH
HOY.

HAMBLEDON reports being in collision with KENTISH HOY. No damage sustained by HAMBLEDON she is proceeding. KENTISH HOY superficial damage. M.L. 102 not involved. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1740A/3).

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

54

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.12.

Proposed arrangements. (D. of S.T. 0256A/3 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland). See Lion Copy.

DOMINION
MONARCH.

Should be prepared for voyage commencing possibly 25/9. She will be embarked to full capacity. (D.S.T., 0257A/3 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

KOSCIASZKO,
CHANTILLY.

Proposed to use for a voyage commencing from Liverpool probably 22/9. (D.S.T., 0258A/3 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

T.C.15.

Your 2013/29/8. Unlikely that shipping for T.C.15 can be provided before Mid-October. Request confirmation that total of 14,000 includes R.A.F. and other service personnel in addition to purely Military requirements. (D.S.T., 0259A/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

D.S.11
C.T. 2.

Admty 1944A/28. 1718A/2.
(1) A/S Escort NEWARK, S.O., CHARLESTOWN, ST. LAURENT, SAGUENAY, ASSINIBOINE.
(2) Request you will sail ships accordingly. (C. in C. W.A., 1045A/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE,
ALCHIBA.

Drawing 20½' and 23½' respectively, both had difficulty in getting up harbour at Archangel. Please arrange that ships for this port in future do not draw more than 22' in fresh water, (Adm. Miles, 1124C/3 to Admty).

W.S. Convoys.

In future the Bristol Channel section of W.S. convoys is to be sailed and routed to the Oversay R/V entirely by N.C.S.O. Cardiff. Orders for escort of this portion of convoy should be issued by N.O.I.C. Cardiff. (C. in C. W.A., 1141A/3 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff).

W.S.11.

Following from REPULSE addressed C. in C. W.A. repeated C. in C. H.F. and Admty., at 0545Z/2 probable U-boats were D/F'ed by me in direction of, and subsequently flashes seen by, FURIOUS, approx. position 052° 23' N., 016° 36' W. At 0645Z/2 in 051° 50' N., 017° 51' W. fire was opened at an F(?W). Shadow signals were subsequently heard on 590 Kc/s at 0720Z/2. At 1131 A/C homing signals were heard on 1765 Kc/s but it is considered not on this convoy. Subsequently R.D.F. reports were received of unknown A/C up to 1745Z/2 in 051° 16' N., 021° 08' W. 1714N/2. (Ends). (CAIRO, 1215Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

See 17.52.

/Iceland.....

54A.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M.S. A. E.

OUT

To:- P.S.T.O. West of Scotland.
D.S.T.O. Glasgow.
D.S.T.O. Greenock.
D.S.T.O. Liverpool.
D.S.T.O. Avonmouth.

0256A/3 September.

Date 3.9.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (A. one T.T.)

From D. of S.T.

Following are proposed arrangements for
Convoy W.S.12.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Estimated Capacity.</u>	<u>Present Position.</u>	<u>Discharge Port.</u>	<u>Embarkation Port.</u>
B.1.	ALMANZORA	1972	Due U.K. mid-September.	Glasgow	Clyde
B.2.	CITY OF PARIS	1500	Liverpool	-	Clyde.
B.3.	DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	3021	Due U.K. 6.9.	Liverpool	Liverpool
B.4.	EMPIRE PRIDE	2034	Clyde	-	Clyde.
B.5.	EMPRESS OF ASIA	2380	Due U.K. possibly 19.9.	Liverpool	Liverpool.
B.6.	EMPRESS OF CANADA	2004	Due back in Clyde possibly mid-September	Clyde	Clyde.
B.7.	EMPRESS OF RUSSIA	2524	Clyde	Clyde	Clyde
B.8.	HIGHLAND BRIGADE	1250	Due U.K. 2/9.	Avonmouth	Avonmouth.
B.9.	MENDOZA	1400	Liverpool	-	Liverpool
B.10.	ORBITA	2163	Due U.K. about 10.9.	Liverpool	Liverpool
B.11.	LEOPOLDVILLE	1561	Due U.K. about 12.9.	Clyde	Clyde.
B.12.	SAMARIA	2997	Liverpool	Liverpool	Liverpool.
B.13.	BANFORA	2047	Liverpool	-	Liverpool.
B.14.	STRATHAIND	3094	Clyde	Clyde	Clyde.
B.15.	FRANCONIA	3100	Liverpool	Liverpool	Liverpool.
B.16.	STRATHEDEN	3293	Glasgow	Glasgow	Clyde.
B.17.	HIGHLAND PRINCESS	1251	Liverpool	Liverpool	Clyde.

- Proposed embarkation dates are 26th to 29th September.
- Reference my 0356/30/8 Agreed signal will be sent from War Office as to ships requiring preliminary inspections.

4. Drydocking will be required by ALMANZORA
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND EMPRESS OF RUSSIA ORBITA and
LEOPOLDVILLE.

5. Request report in due course of sea speed
which vessels will be able to maintain when ready for
sea.

0256A/3

for D. of S.T.

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. (T).
A.C.N.S. (F).
A.C.N.S. (T). (2).
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2).
D.O.D. (F).
B.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. S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P. (2).
W.D.
Duty Captain.
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2).
N.I.D. 10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson).
D.G.D.
D. of S.T.

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War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Iceland
M/V's.

Have 9 Merchant Vessels awaiting escort to U.K.
(A.C.I.C., 1456/3 to C. in C. W.A.) See 1212/4.

H.X.144

Met as arranged. Dense fog first week. All
ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1914A/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

ROYAL
ULSTERMAN.

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1316A/3 and A.M. 2346A/30/8.
Every effort is to be made to complete repairs
to ROYAL ULSTERMAN in time to embark troops and
sail (date). Report to Admty. whether repairs
can be completed by this date. (D.O.D. (H)
2241A/3 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

EMPRESS OF
CANADA.

Not desired that EMPRESS OF CANADA should proceed
to Hvalfjord unless for reasons of endurance.
If practicable ship and escort are to proceed
Scapa Flow. (Route).
(V.A. 2 2326A/3 to ICARUS, S.O. Force A).

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

PROTEUS.
TRUSTY.

My 1851A/31 paras. 1 and 2, for 1700A/6 read 1700/7. (Capt. S.3., 0846A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ MARON.

To leave patrol 0800/8 for Gibraltar passing south of area H.Z.1 and through (a) 052° 00' N. 035° 00' W. (2) F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue onward route from (a). (S.O.W.P.1040A/3 to Western Patrol).

→ MARON
CORINTHIAN.

My 1150A/17/8 and my 1040A/3 F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail MARON for patrol on 19/9 as in Admty. 0113A/18/8. CORINTHIAN leaves U.K. 13/9 and not as in Admty. 0131B/29/7. (S.O.W.P. 1050A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HEYTHROP.

Docked to-day 3/9 for defect to stern bush and glands. Estimated date of completion 14/9. (A.S. Gibraltar 1224A/3 to Admty.)

FURIOUS.

Admiralty 1433C/19. From position X pass through position (Y) 040° 00' N. 019° 00' W. (Z) 036° 00' N. 009° 00' W. thence Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1304A/3 to FURIOUS).

O.23.
TAKU.

My 1606A/1. Departure Netherlands S/M Q23. 'Q' messages affecting her to port of destination have been taken. TAKU delayed 24 hours owing to fuel tank defects. (F.O.C.N.A. 1546A/3 to Admty.)

Convoy
protection
against
F/W
aircraft.

Your 2352A/25. Owing to limited endurance of ships forming H.G. - O.G. convoys, it is not possible to route them outside the range of Focke-Wulf aircraft. Arrangements have been made for a catapult ship or AUDACITY to accompany each convoy whenever possible and a few C.A.M. ships are being diverted to this run, though they are generally too large for Spanish ports. Hoped these measures will prove an effective counter to shadowing aircraft. Intended that provisions of A.M. 2305B/16/7 para. 3 should still apply, but on occasions it will be necessary for Admty. to intervene when they are in possession of special information which cannot be made available to you. F.O. Force H. has been asked to give you further information personally as regards this. (V. C.N.S. 1548A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Suspicious.....

War Diary.3.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.Suspicious
A/C.

B.2. Large aircraft carrying bombs flying Bias Bay over sea off Ponta De Agulha Southeren Desertas 27/8 about 1600 G.M.T., no markings. (R.O., Funchal, 1815/3 to Admty.)

French
Convoy.

French convoy D. passes Messina 5th; point P, A.M./7; arriving Marseilles A.M./8. (F.O.C.N.A. 1908A/3 to S/M O.24, S/M. O.21).

O.24.

My 2136A/1. Amend time of sailing to 1500/3. (F.O.C.N.A., 2106A/3 to S/M O.24.)

South Atlantic.Dispositions.
B.D.V's.

Your 2027/21/8. JENNET^R Freetown, BARCASTLE refitting Lagos, RENNET and PUNNET Takoradi. Latter operating temporary A/T Gate, no Winch or Capstan being available. Unless 2 Vessels proceed independently, not practicable to release all 3 until arrival of relief for Gate Vessel Takoradi. My 0755/20/7, request drawings Winch Houses may be hastened and approval to commence -building same may be telegraphed. (C. in C. S.A., 0145N/3 to Admty.)

Refits.

Your 1113/26/8. (1) A. Agree that annual refits of destroyers and corvettes should normally take place in U.K. B. Agree that this can be done when 3,000-ton dock at Freetown is available. Until dock is provided not possible to do all 6-monthly dockings at Lagos for destroyers corvettes and Trawlers. BRILLIANT and BOREAS cannot dock Lagos until B extension is fitted. Only other alternative is Capetown. C. is very important. Refitting in U.K. will always provide fear that vessels will be retained from time to time. Pointed out that S/M activity develops rapidly in the area and reinforcements take a long time to move. Increase of 20% is proposed. (2) All refits of trawlers should be possible at Lagos. Refits for some corvettes could be done there as well if required. (C. in C. S.A., 0151N/3 to Admty.)

/WILD.....

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Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

WILD SWAN.
VIMY.
WIVERN.
BOREAS.

Admty. 1545/2/8. With movements of fast convoys and commitments such as EAGLE and REVENGE, lack of the 4 destroyers detached to Gibraltar is felt and it is difficult to maintain (?all escort) groups as desired. Escort requirements to and from Takoradi and to the south also are heavy. Though requirements elsewhere are appreciated it is requested that WILD SWAN and VIMY may be sent to Freetown the earliest date that situation allows. Concur that WIVERN and BOREAS shall refit in U.K. F.O.C.N.A. 1212/25/8 and 2232/1. (C. in C. S.A. 0159N/3 to Admty.)

LAFONIA.

My 0243/27/8. LAFONIA was originally intended to be used for movement from South Africa to South Georgia of 70 Norwegian personnel intended as crews for whale catchers. As LAFONIA will now be needed in South Africa for fitting, request report whether alternative arrangements can be made for the movement of the Norwegian personnel. (D.S.T. 0300A/3 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown) See 1432/5.

Ex Italian ships.

VITTORIO VENETO, INES CORRADO, AMABILITAS, FORTUNSTELLA, MARISTELLA and VOLUNTAS arrived Buenos Aires 2/9. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1144Z/3 to Admty.)

REVENGE
ORION
collison.

In Convoy W.S.10.X, REVENGE and (? transport) ORION in collision about 2130Z/2. Two bulging compartments between 165 and 183 stations starboard side in REVENGE flooded. Otherwise damage superficial, no leak, ship seaworthy and capable of full speed. Degaussing put out of action temporarily made good. Bow ORION damaged and twisted but collision bulkhead sound and ship capable of 15 knots in moderate (?). W.S.10.X. E.T.A. Capetown p.m./11. This message passed through Woodruff at Lagos. (REVENGE 1155Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

Raider
No. 33
(PINGUIN).

Local Red Cross request transmission following message to Intercroix Rouge Geneva through British Red Cross subject to concurrence Admiralty. - (1) Your 8245. Authorities inform raider known unofficially as PINGUIN officially as No. 33. (2) About 60 officers and men were landed Durban as war prisoners, further information should be sought by Geneva from Admiralty London. (C.G.S. Pretoria 1723/3 to W.O.)

/WIPUNEN.....

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday. 59

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

WIPUNEN.

Your 0935/4/8. Following is extract from Ambassador Rio De Janeiro telegram to M. of W.T. (Begins) - Master states that WIPUNEN is no longer immobilized and requests authority to proceed Montevideo. U.S. Embassy have received telegram stating Maritime Commission "prefer that ship proceed Montevideo". I propose to authorize departure P.M./4 unless instructed contrary. (Ends). (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1809Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

ATHOS.

Have you any news of ATHOS from New York due Rio de Janeiro 26/8. (D.T.D. 1818A/3 to S.O.I. Montevideo).

DUMANA.
MAFUTA.
SANSU.

Have you any news of DUMANA from Durban due Bathurst 23/8, MAFUTA from Freetown due Accra 31/8, SANSU due Bathurst 30/8? No ~~VECOAS~~ received since 14/8. (D.T.D. 1819A/3 to S.O.I. Freetown).

Falklands
Defences.

Your 06627 Cipher 28/8. In view of your first sentence do not proceed with the instructions contained in War Office 86390 (M.O.4). (T.O.O. 1830/26). (W.O., 1830/3 to M.A. Buenos Aires).

Norwegian
Minesweepers.

Request permission may be obtained from Portuguese Govt. for four Royal Norwegian Navy minesweepers TRANSVAALIA, NOBLENORA, EGELAND and JOHN WILLIAMSON to call at Beira for bunkers owing to endurance being 1000 miles only. Ships will sail from Durban for Suez as soon as permission received. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1842B/3 to Admty.)

GORLESTON.

E.T.A. R/V 19° N. 00 Z/10/9.
(GORLESTON 2111Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.

3.9.1941. 60
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

E/Boats
 passing
 through
 Dardanelles.

C. in C. Med.'s 1945/1. Full instructions are being sent to Ambassador. You should therefore refrain from any discussion with Turks on subject of E-boats until receipt of these instructions.
 (Head of M. 0017A/3, to N.A. Angora.)

→ Enemy
 Convoy.

Convoy attacked by aircraft 037° 33' N., 016° 00' E., at 0005/3, probably 2 undamaged.
 (Capt. S.10, 0423B/3, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

TORBAY
 TAKU.

Ref. 1058 A/2 from F.O.(S) and my 1941 C/2 and my 1700. C/1. In view of operational conditions in Mediterranean it is essential that Type 129 should be available and fully efficient. Gear mentioned in F.O.(S) 1058 A/2 cannot reach Alexandria before early November and TORBAY will be out of action until that time. Removal of directing gear should not delay TAKU more than 24 hours and does not necessitate docking. Request approval of proposal in my 1941 C/2.
 (Capt. S.I, 0905C/3 to C. in C Med.)

Benghazi,
 Barce.
 Gazala
 bombed.

2. Western Desert; Night 1-2/9, 7 Wellingtons bombed shipping in Benghazi Harbour, accurate observation of results rendered difficult by searchlights but smoke seen rising from 1 vessel. 1 Wellington also machine gunned 2 M.T. vehicles near Barce. 6 Marylands and 5 F.A.A. Albacores bombed Gazala south landing ground,
 (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1012/3.)

→ Enemy
 Convoy.

3 Merchant Ships 3 Destroyers 36° 50' 18" 15' course 125° 13½ knots at 0905B/3.
 (Capt. S.10, 1030B/3, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

UNIQUE.

Intend UNIQUE patrol in Southern Tyrrhenean Sea leaving places named p.m. as follows: Malta, 5th, Trapani 7th, Palermo 8th, South of Vulcano 10th Cape Vaticano 11th, Naples a.m./16 direct to Marittimo, arrive Malta a.m./19.
 (Capt. S.10, 1046A/3, to Capt.S.I.)

PAPANICOLIS.

Set watch on 4205 kc/s. BASILISSA OLGA sailing to your assistance keeping watch on 4205 kc/s call sign W IV. You will use Naval General Call Signs when calling.
 (Capt. S.I, 1130C/3 to Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS.)

See also p. 62

/Enemy

War Diary.

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Wednesday. 61

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Enemy S/M.

1 submarine P.C. and S. 036° 14' N., 017° 30'E., 145° 12 at 0835.
(V.A.Malta, 1245B/3, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

Captured M.A.S.

Result of Sea trial of captured M.A.S. 452.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1312B/3, to C. in C. Med.)

Port Said Raid.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 587.
(a) Night 2/3, calm, 7/10 cloud.
(b) Shallow dive bombing 300 - 16,000 feet by about 9 enemy aircraft, type unknown, on Port Said 2152 - 2307, one flare, Moon in 2nd quarter (c) H.E. (d) 12 X.B. One U.X.B. on land, several X.B. in water. (e) No service damage, 1 Naval rating slightly injured, considerable civilian damage. (f) Heavy army A/A barrage, 15 fighters up. (g) Balloons flying.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1315C/3.)

Route Signals, Shipping.

Your 1954/7/7 (see Shipping) has been applied to all traffic outbound from Suez but it is considered that in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea routeing signals are redundant. Request approval to inform N.C.S.O's accordingly.
(C. in C. Med., 1403C/3, to Admty.)

Directing gear, TAKU.

Admty. 1712A/2. Investigation reveals 3 sets of training gear for type 129 and 20 tabulated rings received at Alexandria within last week. Remaining items can be made locally. Request my 1700C/1, my 1941/2, my 1219/3 may be cancelled.
(Capt. S.I. 1532C/3, to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Raid.

Night 2/3. 6 Aircraft dropped bombs and incendiaries causing negligible damage and 4 slight civilian casualties. Hurricanes up, no illuminations, no interception.

4 M/V's attacked, 1 destroyed, 3 hit.

Nine Swordfish attacked convoy (3/9) reported by R/C. Swordfish (23 miles E. Cape Spartivento.) 1 torpedo hit M/V 8-9 thousand tons, shortly afterwards ship blew up with columns of smoke to 9,000 feet. 1 torpedo hit M/V 9,000 tons amidships. 2 other M/Vs hit by 2 torpedoes. Results not known but behind two were seriously damaged. Attack complete surprise. Wild disorder moment attack started. Drs. firing on their own ships and some almost collided.

/5 Blenheims.....

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

4 M/V's
attacked,
1 destroyed,
3 hit.
(Contd.)

5 Blenheims out to attack convoy reported 0905 hrs., but after thorough and long search no trace found.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1600/3.)

Turkey.

Progress report on conversations.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1607/3.) See Lion Copy.

CORDELIA,
SZEGED.

German CORDELIA arrived from Piraeus and proceeded to Black Sea with Hungarian SZEGED 3/9. Russians advised. CORDELIA appearance unchanged except hull now grey.
(S.O.I., Istanbul 1714C/3, to S.O.I., Med.)

SAINT
BRIEUK.
COETLOGON.
(French)

Arrived 2/9.
(Barcelona, 1731/3 to M.of W.T.)

Air
strength.

Chief of Staff No.167 to C.in C. M.E. and Med. (1st S.L. 1741A/3 to C.in C. Med.)
See Operations Volume.

THUNDERBOLT,
OTUS.

At 2100C/3 proceed as follows:
THUNDERBOLT operate in Area C in accordance with Memorandum S.O.33. OTUS proceed to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 0600C/9 passing through 036° 22' 021° 27' and 180° Gavdo 17 thence direct.
(Capt. S.I, 1750C/3, to THUNDERBOLT, OTUS.)

VENDETTA,
PAPANICOLIS.

VENDETTA leaves vicinity of Alexandria about 1900C/3 arrives Port Said 0800/4. Night of 3/4 7th D.F. at sea exercising off Alexandria. Greek S/m PAPANICOLIS in tow escorted by Greek destroyer BASILISSA OLGA from position 000° Rosetta 8 due Alexandria 0500C/4.
(Capt. S.I, 1825C/3, to TORBAY.) See p. 60

Enemy
Convoy.

For information. Convoy (s) numbers unknown arriving Benghazi 1230/4 passing through 032° 40' 019° 20' from N.E., at about 0700/4.
(S.10, 2105B/3, to THUNDERBOLT.)

PERSEUS.

Return to Alexandria leave your area P.M./5, arriving Sanctuary 0600C/10 passing Eastward Amorgo Island through Kaso Strait and 032° 10' 029° 14'.
(Capt. S.I, 2310C/3, to PERSEUS.)

/CITY OF

MOST SECRET

62A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1607/3rd Sept. IN

From: H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East. Date: 4.9.41.
CYIPHER. Recd: 0325.

Addressed: Air Ministry Whitehall. Repeated: Arminia.

IMPORTANT.

WX.3556. A.213 3/9 Most Secret. For Chiefs of Staff from Commanders in Chief. Following received from Military and Air Attaches Ankara. Progress report on conversations begins.

1. Turks do not consider German operations in Caucasus or on Black Sea Turkey coast possible until Russia Black Sea Fleet liquidated, and Russian resistance in Caucasus has entirely (ceased?), then both operations are possible together or separately. Samaun the most likely objective of seaborne attack.
2. Turks will not fight forward in Thrace but will defend Catalca Bulair as main line of resistance.
3. Special mid formations are allocated to defence Black Sea coast.
4. Very complete demolition scheme exists throughout Anatolia. Note. Most Secret. Answers to British Questionnaire. Para 3 of item 4 are on very broad lines only. Details by next bag.
5. Plan for Eastern front. No change from previous staff conferences.
6. British Forces to concentrate in area Jalihesiru Kutahya-Afion-Karahissar, though Turkish reply did not state definitely, this presupposes lines of communication via Konia to Iskanderun and Merson with possible subsidiary line via Antalya.
7. Minimum scale of land aid suggested by Turks is 3 armoured divisions 2 motorised divisions with additional artillery anti aircraft and anti tank units and technical troops. Turks also stress necessity of providing equipment bring Turkish armoured brigade up to a division.
8. British Forces initially would be in reserve in concentration area. General conditions of employment as agreed Beyrouth and Haifa conference.
9. Role of Turks themselves (query Turkish Air Force) stated to be "in complete co-operation with Army" For position regarding air reccos see Air Attache's 200 of 29/8.
10. Meantime will obtain fuller details Turkish plan and permission for recco etc. mentioned in Item VI. Ends,
11. Explanation of references in paras 3 and 10 as follows Item IV para 3 contained details of information we required about Turkish plans. Item VI dealt with preparatory measures and reccos we would wish to make in areas where our forces might operate.

Air /.....

MOST SECRET

Air Ministry please pass to War Office and Admiralty.

1607/3.

Received by hand from Air Ministry

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(F)
- D.D.O.D.(F)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D. of P.(2)
- Duty Capt.
- E.P.S.
- P.A.S.(S)
- Hd. of M.
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
- D.N.A.D.

EJ

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean Contd.

CITY OF
AUCKLAND.

British, 8336 tons, Liverpool for Suez, independently, was bombed off Bluff Point, at southern entrance to Gulf of Suez, at 1023/3 but it is not yet known whether she was damaged. (D.S. 730, 4/9.)

Situation
report 137.

(1) Canal area. Air raids Port Said night 2/3. No Naval damage. Port open.
(11) URGE (? reports) (a) AQUITANIA damaged with one torpedo hit, and tanker sunk with 2 hits when southbound in convoy off Marittimo on 26th. (b) DUILIO class liner hit and probably sunk when southbound (? area of) Capri in company with OCEANIA and NEPTUNIA 28/8. RORQUAL laid mines off Skinari on 26th and sank northbound 8000 ton merchant ship with 3 hits in 036° 25' N., 021° 01' E., at 1900/28. RORQUAL's periscope and standard were damaged in collision with second merchant ship in company with one that sank. My 2245/1. TRIUMPH (? in addition) demolished 120 feet of railway bridge in position 038° 03' N., 014° 34' E., during night 27/28. One army Officer and 7 others missing. Request no mention in press of any of these activities.
(C. in C. Med., 2345C/3, to Admty.)

✓ 21401A

War Diary.3.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.

64

East Indies.RANGITIKI
C.M.17.Your 0818/1. No objection to proposed use of RANGITIKI to Middle East.
(D.S.T., 0255A/3, to C. in C.E.I.)Use of
Bandar
Shapur.

Reply to C. in C.E.I., 0648/2. (S.N.O.P.G., 0702Z/3.) See Lion Copy.

Teheran.Situation report.
(M.A. Teheran, 1115/3 to W.O.)M.L's.Your 1543/1. Two M.L's from Durban would be very welcome as my resources of suitable craft are slender.
(C. in C.E.I., 1200Z/3, to Admty.)CASCADE.My 0618/31. Later information re CASCADE. Ship was taken up Bombay 19/5 on M.W.T. account. Was carrying commercial cargo when lost. Ship carried no Admiralty C.Bs. One Chinese crew drowned when abandoning ship.
(C. in C.E.I., 1204Z/3 to Admty.)SPETSAI.Gr. Destroyer SPETSAI leaves Colombo 0430Z/5. E.T.A. Diamond Harbour 0030Z/9.
(C. in C.E.I., 1228Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Calcutta.)Troop
Movement.

G.H.Q. Middle East requires to move after first week in October 24th Gold Coast Brigade strength 300 British 4896 Africans from Berbera to Takoradi calling at Mombasa en route for details. Propose allocating STRATHMORE and STRATHNAVER. Do you concur?(S.T.O. Egypt 1230/3, to D. of S.T.)

CERES.CERES is to leave Trincomalee A.M./5 on Patrol, pass through 1½° Channel and carry out following Programme. Arrive Seychelles P.M./10, fuel leave Seychelles A.M./12 arrive Mombasa A.M./15. CERES will be required for escort duty from vicinity of Mombasa about 19/9.
(C. in C.E.I., 1230Z/3, to CERES.)Fighter
Protection
Red Sea.Your 1333/1. (1) I agree that main problem is protection of shipping N. of Port Sudan.
(2) It looks as if the air threat mentioned in A.M. 1457/17/5 para. 5 may shortly develop and your offer of assistance now is much appreciated.
(3) Would you consider sending FLAMINGO and PARAMATTA to Port Sudan now where they can augment the present A.A. defences of the Port and shipping and be in a position to take over convoy escorts if they have to be started?

(4) I agree.....

MOST SECRET

64A

0702Z/3 September.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

From: S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

Date: 5/9/41.

Recd: 1108.

Naval Cypher C by /T.

Addressed: C. in C. East Indies. Repeated: Admiralty
Arm India (F.O.C.R.I.N. to pass)

Your 0648/2 details Bandar Shapur are as follows.

- (1) Approach of 45 miles from the sea well buoyed and lighted and (?explored).*
- (2) (?Bar) has natural depth 24 feet at lowest low water with mean rise of 9 feet.
- (3) Jetty can take two ships. Total overall length of jetty one thousand feet. (?Maximum) draft alongside low water 31 feet
- (4) Railway runs on to jetty.
- (5) One ?(6) ton crane.
- (6) Unlimited anchorage for ships of any draft several small tugs and barges. More could be sent from Basra.
- (7) There is no water at Bandar Shapur but 150 tons per day can now be supplied by barge from Bandar Mashur. Water has in the past been brought from Ahwaz.
- (8) Reference C. in C. 0648/2 Railway (?already) runs from Bandar Shapur to Caspian and extra railway track is intended to make it double track throughout.
- (9) (?Abandoned) railway rolling stock appeared in good (?condition).
- (10) The Khor Musa being salt sweeping for magnetic mines will be facilitated and depth in upper half of Khor allows sweepers to operate without danger.
- (11) 2 oil berths will be available for loading tankers or fuelling ships with crude oil or (?benzine) within next 2 or 3 months. These berths will be at moorings connected by floating pipe line.
- (12) There is section of (?port) in excellent condition and capable of taking ship (?up to) 6 thousand tons.

0702Z/3.

* Could be surveyed.

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. to 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

Duty Captain.

D.P.S.

P.A.S. (S)

Hd of M. (8)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

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

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

65

East Indies.

Fighter Protection.
Red Sea.
(Contd.)

(4) I agree generally with views expressed in S.N.O.R.S. 1632/2 which being repeated to you. The provision of adequate fighter protection is the crux of the problem.
(C. in C.E.I., 1252Z/3, to C. in C. Med.)

Ex-Enemy Ships,
Persian Gulf.

Admty., 2344A/29 and your 1500Z/31.
2. M.W.T. informed by Campbell, Calcutta, that no tugs are available at Karachi to tow prizes to Bombay and only one tug available at Bombay.
3. Request you will make any arrangements necessary to get these prizes to Bombay without delay.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1627A/3, to C in C.E.I.)

EFFINGHAM.

Have you any news of EFFINGHAM from Aden due Vizagapatam 24/8.
(D.T.D. 1821A/3 to S.O.I., Bombay.)
Reply: 0547/4.

China.

ROGGEVEEN
(Dutch.)

Have you any news of ROGGEVEEN from Batavia due Palembang 6/8?
(D.T.D. 1820A/3 to S.O.I. Singapore.)
Reply: 0855/4.

B.M.S.

Convoy BMS (H.T. EKMA, EGRA, ETHIOPIA, EL MADINA and NEVASA) with 4,700 Indian troops, arrived Port Swettenham. (China Return War Diary, 1822, 5235/41)

America & West Indies.

Fuelling in U.S.A.

Your 1231Q/1. Relaxation would probably be granted, but special request on each occasion is still necessary.
(B.A.D., 1013R/3 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

DESPATCH DIOMEDE.

Your 1902A/30 and my 1222Q/2. Relief of DESPATCH by DIOMEDE is necessary to enable damage sustained by former whilst alongside NORDENEY to be made good. DIOMEDE will visit Esquimalt if practicable.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1042Q/3 to Admty.)

/Raider.....

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

66

→ Raider
28/8.

If U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP is still in harbour request you will obtain all possible details enemy ship sighted by U.S. aircraft on 28/8. PRINCE DAVID holds to opinion vessel sighted by him on 27/8 was a warship. Chief impression from view fine on quarter was that masts and funnels were bunched amidships, long forecastle and longer quarter deck. Pronounced tumble home.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1052Q/3, to N.O.I.C.Trinidad.)

U.S.Task
Groups.

Ref. my despatch containing Schedule, ~~TASK~~ Task Group 2.7, ~~TASK~~ Task Group 2.5, from position 11.15N., 56.45 W., at 2200 G.C.T./1 proceeding Hampton Roads by way of lat. 20° long. 60° arriving 6/9. EBERLE and BROOKLYN to be released en route and proceed New York to arrive 7th. ~~TASK~~ Task Group 2.6 to leave Trinidad 6th for Patrol covering positions 20° N., 35° W., to 30° N., 35° W., arriving Bermuda 18th. ~~TASK~~ Task Group 2.7 continuing patrol arriving Bermuda 9/9.
(ALUSNA, 1053/3, to Admty.)

→ TOLTEN.

Br. Ship TOLTEN due Balboa 30/8 not arrived.
(S.O.I.Jamaica, 1309R/3 to Admty.)

RESOLUTION.

Programme. (B.A.R.M. 1536R/3, to Admty.)
See Operations Volume. 3/9 - p.227

FORTH.

Your 1711Z/2. (Re FORTH to visit Halifax to collect stores.) Approved.
(D.O.D.(H) 1639A/3 to FORTH.)

→ Reported
Enemy
Cruiser
28/8.

Your 1052Q/3. U.S.Adm. Hewitt informs me that pilot's description of vessel sighted is identical with that quoted in your signal except tumble home not mentioned. He says pilots are young and inexperienced and having orders to remain unseen did not approach near enough to say anything more definite although one of them thought he recognized silhouette of HIPPER.
(N.O.I.C.Trinidad, 1650Q/3 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

→ BETHORE
TOLTEN.

Have you any news of BETHORE from Balboa due Cruz Grande 16/8 and TOLTEN from Hobart due Panama 29/8.
(D.T.D.1822A/3, to S.O.I.Jamaica.)

Task Forces.

Movements. (D.O.D.F., 2207A/3 to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2207A/3 September.

CUT.

66A

To C. in C. America & West Indies. 40
 C. in C. South Atlantic. 695.
 C. in C. Western Approaches. 983.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic. 598
 S.O. Force F.
 R.A.S. A.D. 357
 R.A. 3rd B.S.
 B.A.D. Washington. 764.
 ALUSNA. 448.
 SPENAVO
 H.M.S. NEWCASTLE.

Date: 3.9.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (C)

From Admiralty.

AIDAC. IMPORTANT.

Movements of Task Forces.

1. Task Group 2.5 from position 11 degs. 15' North 56 degs. 45' West at 2200 G.M.T. 1st September. proceeding Hampton Roads through position 20 degs. North 60 degs. West arriving 6th September. EBERLE and BROOKLYN to be detached en route and proceed New York to arrive 7th September.
2. Task Group 2.6 to leave Trinidad 6th September for patrol covering positions 20 degs. North 35 degs. West to 30 degs. North 35 degs. West arriving Bermuda 13th September.
3. Task Group 2.7 continuing patrol arriving Bermuda 9th September.
4. Task Group 3 MILWAUKEE and WARRINGTON estimated in position 10 degs. North 54 $\frac{1}{2}$ degs. West at 1700 R 1st Sept. continuing regular patrol Recife, Cape Verde Is. and reverse.

2207A/3.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

N.A. 1st S. L.

D. of P. (2)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.N.I. (L)

D.S.D.

D. of L.D.

for D.O.D. (F) 164.

D.N.A.D.

D.A/S.W.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Duty Captain.

Head of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

N.T.D. 10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson)

Admiral Bailey.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

LEOPOLD L.D.
ILE DE RE
(French.)

N.S.H.Q., 2148Z/2 being passed to Admiralty and S.O.(I) Jamaica. Are these voyages approved?
(C. in C.A.W.I., 2212Q/3 to Admty.)

Australia.

TOKAI MARU.
NANA MARU.

Your 1239R/29. Noon positions (?TOKAI MARU) 26/8, 007° S., 149° W., (approx.) 29/8. 003° N., 165° W. NANA MARU, 23/8, (? 025°) S., 125° W., 29/8, 008° S., 147° W.
(A.C.N.B., 1336Z/3 to S.O.I., Kingston, J.)

War Diary.3.9.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.FORT
RICHEPANSE.

Repairs completed E.T.A., P, 2000 G.M.T.
At 1130 G.M.T. sighted a S/M 052° 38' N.,
022° 20' W.
(FORT RICHEPANSE 1400 G.M.T./3, to Admty.,
C.in C. Plymouth.) (C.in C. W.A., 1732A/3 to
GARLAND, PIORUN.)

1819.

Following has been read. SSSS 52.50 N.,
21.05 W., FORT RICHEPANSE, submarine sighted.
(Lands End, 1819B/3.) (Port Patrick Radio,
1920/3.) (C.in C. W.A., 1932A/3 to PIORUN,
GARLAND.)

Following has been read. SSSS 52.05 N.,
21.05 W.
FORT RICHEPANSE corrected position sighted
submarine.
(Liverpool W/T, 1832/3.) (Port Patrick Radio,
1932/3.)

My 1932A/3. FORT RICHEPANSE amended position
52° 05' N., 21° 05' W., at 1819/3 G.M.T.
(C.in C. W.A., 2002A/3 to PIORUN, GARLAND.)

Following received via Lands End radio.
Intercept 1849 G.M.T. S.S.S.S. De FORT RICHEPANSE
(Jammed). Signal much weaker and interference
heavy.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1956/3, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

0251.

Submerged U/B reported in 69° 59' N., 35° 27' E.,
at 0251/3.

(D.D.I.C. 0237A/3 to H.Q.C.C. Force A, C.S.1,
F.O.S., ELECTRA, IMPULSIVE.

(TRIDENT, 0251C/3, to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

My 0251C/3. S/M sighted on surface course 140°
speed 12½, dived in 069° 54' N., 035° 45' E.

(TRIDENT, 0330C/3, to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

TRIDENT reports (as 0330C/3). Admty., pass to
ELECTRA.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0851C/3, to ELECTRA.)

0545Z/2.

D/F by REPULSE. (CAIRO, 1215Z/3.) See W.S.11,
Shipping and Convoys.

1135 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1135 G.M.T., enemy U-Boat in 47° -
48° N., 7° - 8° W., probably homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1336A/3 to TUNA.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1430A/3.)

1511 G.M.T.

War Diary.3.9.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. Contd.

1511 G.M.T. By D/F at 1511 G.M.T. an enemy U/Boat in 52°
- 53° N., 17° - 18° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1716A/3.)

1820. Am over enemy submarine in position OPAF 1542.
Sighted on surface and observed to submerge,
course 240° speed 10 knots.
(A/C S/ - Squadron 1820/3 to Leighton Buzzard
T.O.R. 1836/3.) Position indecipherable.

Submarines Attacked.

0251C/3. By TRIDENT in 69° 59' N., 34° 25' E.
Chased 30 minutes before U boat dived.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1142C/3.) See Operations.

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C. in C. of the U.S.A. Atlantic Fleet has been directed to destroy Surface Raiders attacking or appearing to threaten shipping in the sea-lanes between North America and Iceland.

5 large Transports were observed passing Helsingborg going Northward at 1530 yesterday, and one German Destroyer at 1030 today.

The ADMIRAL SCHEER was seen this morning to have left Kiel and at 1320 was photographed in the northern entrance of the Great Belt steering W.N.W. and escorted by 3 WOLF-class Destroyers and 1 Depot Ship.

The re-fitting programme of the 1st M.L.Squadron is to be accelerated in order to re-form the Squadron as soon as possible.

The S/M O.14 is to sail tomorrow to patrol off Hardanger Fiord to attack enemy warships or northbound laden M/V's.

The Destroyer RIPLEY ran ashore at 0641 today under Flamborough Head and sustained extensive damage. She was refloated and at 1929 was lying in Bridlington Bay with Tugs in attendance.

British Air Activity.

56 A/C, including 3 Stirlings, attacked SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest last night. The ships were covered by a smoke screen, but bursts were seen across Nos. 1 and 2 Docks and a large fire was started North of the Commercial Port.

/6 Blenheim.....

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. - Contd.

6 Blenheim A/C attacked an oil tanker at Cherbourg, where hits on the Docks were seen; and the Docks at Rotterdam were also bombed.

Enemy Air Activity.

The Myggenaes Light and Radio Beacon, bombed and damaged on 24/8, is now again available on request, though its regular operation has been discontinued.

Mining.

The Oropesa search of the channel through the Nymph Bank Minefield could not be completely carried out owing to fog.

One Magnetic Mine was detonated yesterday in the Thames Estuary.

Harwich was re-opened at 1032 today but closed again at 1948 owing to fog; and at 2237 the ports of Tees and Hartlepool were reported closed owing to suspected minelaying.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 145

Convoy H.X. 145, on the successful arrival of which Adm. B.S. Thesiger has been congratulated, was one of the largest which has crossed the Atlantic - 83 ships, of which 64 were British and 19 allied. Included were 35 tankers.

/Sea.....

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Sea
fuelling.

C. in C. W.A. is to take general charge of trials for fuelling at sea to be carried out with EMPIRE GARDEN.

Russian
Convoy.

Plans for another Russian convoy are outlined in Admty. 2311, 2312 and 2314/4.

Mediterranean.

Malta,
A/C
operations.

5 enemy aircraft dropped bombs on land last night causing negligible damage. 2 soldiers were slightly wounded.

When 20 Macchi 200's approached Malta this morning 6 were shot down and 3 others badly damaged.

In the afternoon 8 Hurricanes encountered 12 Macchis covering rescue operations off the Sicilian Coast, and shot down 3 certain and 1 probable, with 2 more damaged, for the loss of 2 Hurricanes.

5 Blenheims which attacked ships taking refuge in Cotrone hit an M/V of 8000 tons and possibly 2 others.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

One M/V 8-10,000 tons was bombed and hit last night 3 cables E.N.E. of Tripoli Harbour, but the result was not observed.

Mines are suspected to have been dropped off Tobruk in the raid on the night of 2-3/9.

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy
Destroyer
claimed
sunk.

Swordfish A/C torpedoed an enemy destroyer 2 miles outside Tripoli Harbour last night and caused a large explosion. The vessel is claimed destroyed. An M/V of 8-10,000 tons was also attacked outside the harbour and received 1 bomb hit, but results were unobserved.

Egypt and
Suez Canal

Enemy aircraft estimated between 12 and 28 attacked the Canal Area last night. Abu Sueir aerodrome was the main objective, 50 bombs and a land mine being dropped there besides incendiaries but no casualties were caused.

FLAMINGO was ordered to Suez today to be at the disposal of S.B.N.O. Suez Canal. C. in C. Med. suggests she be employed for the present at Suez or Ataga.

Submarines.

OTUS reported today that she had attacked a southbound convoy of 13 M/V's in 35.40 N., 18.07 E. at 1430/3 and had sunk a RAMB class ship with 2 hits. OTUS was today ordered to establish a patrol off Sapienza Island.

East Indies.

Axis
Ships.

Progress in the sailing or towing to Karachi of Axis ships captured in the Persian Gulf is contained in C. in C. East Indies 0602Z/4.

Djibuti.

Minister of State has agreed to C. in C's proposal to fire on dhows in Obok area in retaliation for Vichy shore batteries firing on our patrols on 2/9.

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Japanese Shipping.

Nippon Yusen Kaisha state that all their further sailings are postponed indefinitely. A substantial part of the Japanese Merchant Fleet now appears to be collected in Japanese ports.

Gulf of Siam.

C. in C. Far East was informed today that Admty. consider the establishment of a 20-mile prohibited zone undesirable in view of our general policy of maintaining the freedom of the sea and air and the fact that at present freedom of air reconnaissance over the Gulf of Siam is of greater advantage to ourselves than the Japanese.

America and West Indies.

Trinidad

It has been decided to base 2 corvettes for A/S duties at Trinidad.

Shipping, Caribbean.

Diversions ordered on 28/8 when an American A/C reported a possible HIPPER class cruiser were cancelled today and normal routeing resumed.

U.S. Forces

Directions to C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, in regard to the use of his forces against raiders are quoted in Admty. 1934A/4.

"R" Report.

PORT ADELAIDE reports on arrival Balboa that at 1320Z/4 she heard a radio distress call from a vessel being attacked by a surface raider in the Pacific estimated some 300 miles from Balboa, direction unknown.

War Diary.

4.9.1941
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Campaign.

FORT
RICHEPANSE

PIORUN rescued 26 survivors from FORT RICHEPANSE torpedoed at 1830Z/3 in 52.34 N., 20.23 W., but there are 37 missing. Thick fog prevailed at the time of rescue.

U.S.S.
GREER
attacked.

U.652

Iceland W/T intercepted a message at 0921 today from the U.S.S. GREER reporting a U-boat submerged in 62.48 N., 27.30 W. Later the American Embassy informed Admty. that GREER, on a mail trip to Hvalfiord, was attacked by a submarine which fired 3 torpedoes in approx. 62.45 N., 27.30 W. about 170 miles S.W. of Reykjavik. Then GREER counter attacked on 2 occasions with depth charges, result unknown.

See Search 4141

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

76

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

→ AGAMEMNON.

1. Arrangements can be made to take AGAMEMNON in hand in U.S.A. now.
2. Request you will report date on which she can be ready to sail.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1320A/4 to R.A.M.)

Destroyers.
Hastening
refitting.

- Fleet destroyers are an urgent requirement.
2. Any further steps that you can take to accelerate the completion of those refitting or repairing will be most welcome. (Controller, 1343A/4)

KENYA.
NIGERIA.
SHEFFIELD.
EURYALUS.
HERMIONE.
Armament.

It is intended to fit six Oerlikon guns in each. HERMIONE is to be prepared at Gibraltar by 15/9, mountings for the ship being sent subsequently. Mountings are to be fitted by 15/9 in ships in U.K. (D.G.D., 1436A/4).

WINHA
(Finnish,
3331 tons)
Prize.

Arrival WINHA as prize in Tow MARAUDER.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1714A/4).

LOBELIA.

Allocated to 4th Escort Group.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 1732/4).

1st M.L.
Squadron.

1. With SOUTHERN PRINCE and ADVENTURE out of action, adherence to the First M.L. Squadron refitting programme reduces the strength of the Squadron to two ships until the end of October.
2. The employment of two ships only in the Faeroes-Iceland (C) area is not economical.
3. Therefore decided to accelerate the refitting programme in order to get the Squadron together again at the earliest possible date.
4. AGAMEMNON can be taken in hand in the U.S.A. now and PORT QUEBEC can be taken in hand at Southampton about mid-October.
5. This will leave one large minelayer to carry on with the deep fields off the Butt of Lewis, and the two Fast Minelayers for laying without escort off the East Coast when not required for offensive operations. (D.D.O.D. M., 1931A/4).

U.S.
Atlantic
Fleet.

Direction to C. in C. re use of his forces.
(V.C.N.S., 1934A/4 to C. in C. H.F. etc).
See Operations Volume. See also V.C.N.S. 1423/6.

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia.

Archangel.
Proposed
British W/T
station.

To overcome time lag in signals amending times of arrival of convoys, Soviet Naval Authorities asked that we should establish our own W/T at Archangel for direct communications with London. I have suggested that it might be preferable to work direct from U.K. to Archangel Soviet W/T Stations. They have agreed to this in principle on either long or short wave but they would require three British Operators to work with them. Request your views and, if agreed, your proposals for initiating communications after the arrival of Howard. (Ad. Miles 1304C/4).

Movements.

INDOMITABLE.

Your 1716A/2. As there is no suitable berthing accommodation suggest escort arrive Lightning Knoll Buoy 1300A/7. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1010A/4). My 1716A/2. Request you arrange time of R/V at Barrow. (C. in C. W.A., 1124A/4 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool). Arrived CAIRO, BLANKNEY. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1235A/4).

O.23

After passing position (D) 43° N., 10° W. at 0200A /6 proceed through following positions to R/V on 9/9 with escort near Trevoise Head for onward passage to Dundee as ordered by Capt. (S) 3 and Capt. (S) 9. (B) S.B.R. will be arranged in area X forthwith until further notice. T.B.R. as follows. (F.O.S., 1554A/4 to O.23).

SEAWOLF.

KINGSTON TOPAZ and LORD WAKEFIELD will R/V with you in 050° 31' N., 0° 41' W. at 0600A/5. Movements affecting you HAMBLEDON E.T.A. Nab Tower 0600A from East. (Capt. S.5. 1603A/4 to SEAWOLF).

SHEFFIELD.

Scapa arrival SHEFFIELD. (A.C.O.S., 1753A/4).

PORT QUEBEC.

Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1831A/4).

/TRUSTY.....

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

→ TRUSTY,
TUNA.

- (1) Intend to sail TRUSTY escorted by BREDA at 0900A/6 for 285° Bishop Rock 3 miles. E.T.A. 2200 A/7.
- (2) Thence BREDA to R/V with TUNA in 250° Trevoze Head 10 miles at 0630A/8 and escort her to Clyde.
- (3) Thence TRUSTY dived by day to 046° N., 9° W., thence on surface at C.O.'s discretion to 043° N., 010° 40' W. E.T.A. 1700A/10. (Capt. S.3. 1831A/4).

→ TUNA.

TUNA leaves patrol after dark 5th proceeding as follows to R/V with BREDA in 250°. Trevoze Head 10 miles at 0630A/8 Sept.
3. S.B.R. in force in area X. T.B.R. as follows. (Capt. S.3. 2225A/4 to TUNA.)

Operations.

S/M Patrol
off
Hardanger.

O.14 is to be sailed for a short patrol as ready on 5/9 for patrol near 59° 27' N., 04° 55' E. Object to attack enemy cruisers and above or Northbound laden merchant vessels. (F.O.S., 1043A/4 to S.9).

Operation.

Your 1220/3 received partially corrupt. Any information concerning lights on the coast, shipping South of Narvik and enemy air searches will be passed to you immediately when ascertained. -Cancel my 0159A/4. (V.A.2 1108A/4 to C.S.1).

Off Dunkirk.

Weather permitting two M.L.'s leave Dover at 2200 to operate in vicinity of outer Ruytingen returning at 0400/4. (V.A. Dover, 1559A/3).

Straits of
Dover.

^{NT. & W.D.}
My 1538. Add three M.T.Bs leave Dover at 2145 to patrol vicinity South Varne Buoy returning at daylight. (V.A. Dover 1822A/4).

Operation.

C.S.1's 1220/3/9/41 paras. (i) and (ii). No information available. Para (iii) no information other to that contained in Admiralty 1619A/2/9 not to F.O.S. (A.C.N.S.(H), 1847A/4 to V.A.2).

/Operation.....

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation
"Dervish".

My position at 0001/5 077° 25' N., 032° 20' E. Showers lost in fog at 1400 when Force L in Company. Shadowing tomorrow likely unless weather remains thick. Hope to fly off 0600/7. Cannot afford to delay if sighted again. Will reception be ready, otherwise may have to send Force L into White Sea. Cannot co-operate with Force A as arranged. (C.S.1. 2116/4 to V.A.2).

Operation
"Gauntlet".

Your 2326A/3. E.T.A. EMPRESS OF CANADA and escort position 2 (two) (71800) A September 6th. (S.O. Force A., 2251/4 to V.A.2).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

P.R.U. of Hangesund, Stavanger, and Kristiansand South in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1130/4). My 1130/4. Add P.R.U. of Aalborg, (C. in C. Rosyth, 1248/4). "Fate V" in operation until 2130/4. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1302/4). My 1111/3. Confirmed ~~SIRCO~~ ^{SIRCO} is required today. (A.C.O.S. 1540A/4 to 18 Group).

U.S.A.
A/C

Your O/1071 cipher/26/8 War Office. Please confirm that U.S. Aircraft now in Iceland have been supplied with British Pyrotechnic Recognition cartridges and pistols. (D.S.D. 1747 A/4 to G.O.C. Iceland).

818
Squadron
training.

Admiralty 2005/9 th July. Request programme of Training in army co-operation for 818 Squadron may be forwarded and that I may be informed of probable date of completion. (V.A.N.S., 1814A/4 to V.A. C.T.C.).

R/C
requested.

Request, if practicable, air R/C may be carried out of Norwegian coast between Hammerfest and Tana Fiord during night 5/6 to ascertain if lights on the coast and in the leads are burning. (V.A. 2 1901A/4 to Admty). Your 1901A/4. It is most improbable that this can be arranged. (V.C.N.S., 2200A/4 to V.A.2)

Escort
delayed.

My 0126/3. Fighter Escort delayed owing to Weather. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0408/4 to C.S.10).

4.9.1941.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Myggenaes
Beacon.
(Bombed
24/8).

My 1016A/28 Aug., C. in C. H.F. 1426A/1 Sept. Myggenaes light and Radio beacon now available on request. Regular operation beacon discontinued. Cancel my 1205A/26. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1041A/4).

EAST COAST
attacked on
29/7.

(Trawler) Reports when 15 miles South of Fastnet at 1730 B.S.T. 29th attacked by an enemy plane thought to be DO 215. Ship machine gunned and bombed. No damage, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1232/4).

WOLFHOUND
(Bombed 3/9).

Arrivals WOLFHOUND in tow of GALLIONS REACH and SABINE. Tug YORKSHIREMAN and LADY PHILOMENA in attendance at 1435. (F.O. Humber 1509A/4).

ACTINIA
(Dutch
352 tons).

Following from R.N.O. Penzance. .S.S MARENA reports that, in 12 miles N.W. of Smalls with M/V ACTINIA 1½ miles astern at 2300/3, an enemy plane was observed passing overhead and shortly afterwards 2 explosions were heard in the estimated position of the ACTINIA. ACTINIA has not been sighted by MARENA since explosions were heard. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1615/4).

Mining.

Harwich.

My 1956/3. Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1032A/4).

Operation
Q.K.7

My 1532A/3. General instructions. (C. in C. Nore, 1126A/4). See Operations Volume.

Operation
E.H.

My position 1130A 061° 07' N., 0° 45' W. MANXMAN not met. Am remaining in vicinity. (C.S.10 1146A/4 to V.A.2). Report your P.C. and S. using 1570 K/cs, provided you can get through on this wave at once. (V.A. 2 1523/4 to MANXMAN). My 1524/4. Add KENYA, MANXMAN, LIGHTNING 060° 10' N., 002° 50' W. bound for Scapa. (A.C.O.S., 1742A/4).

Oropesa
Search of
Nymph Bank
Channel.

Admty. 1654/1. Royal Netherlands Navy Minesweepers have returned having only been able to sweep 10 miles to westward position 051° 51' N., 006° 50' W., owing to continuous fog. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1575/4).

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Thames
Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 1111/3. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1959/4).

Tees.
Hartlepool.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to
suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool,
2237/4).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Forces in
the Sound.

Five large transports going North observed passing
Helsingborg at 1530/3. One German destroyer
observed same place moving North quickly at 1030/4.
(British Consul, Goteborg 1200/4).

German Main
Units.

Photographic R/C to-day shows: ADMIRAL SCHEER has
left Kiel. TIRPITZ alongside quay at entrance
to inner dock basin. HIPPER and LUTZOW still
in dock. Both Battlecruisers and PRINZ EUGEN
still in usual docks at Brest. (D.D.I.C. 1803A/4).

ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

Photographs taken at 1320/4 show ADMIRAL SCHEER
escorted by 3 Wolf class Destroyers and 1 Depot
Ship in position 55° 50' N., 10° 50' E., course
W.N.W. (D.D.I.C., 1920A/4 to V.A. 2 F.O.S.)

Technical.

Fuelling
at Sea.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to take general charge
of the trials for fuelling at sea to be carried
out with EMPIRE GARDEN. It is desired to release
EMPIRE GARDEN as soon as possible.
(A.C.N.S. T., 1434A/4).

* ex-German GEDANIA

Miscellaneous.

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1948A/4).

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

OLVINA
(A/S Trawler)
ashore.

Intend to sail 0900 rescue tug RESOLVE to assist OLVINA ashore off St. Albans Head. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0615A/4).

RIPLEY
grounded.

Following received by N.O.I.C. Humber from RIPLEY As far as can be ascertained ship is ashore on north side Flamborough Head. Visibility nil. Bows smashed, and holed boiler room. Internal water controlled. No casualties. Tug is being sent from Humber. (C. in C. Nore, 0641/4). Immingham departure Tug SCOTSMAN at 0715 to assist RIPLEY. (F.O. Humber 0724A/4). Casualty Flamboro badly damaged. Grounded under steep cliff doing 20 knots just after high water this morning. Vessel high and dry. Badly damaged forward by contact with cliff. Mid-ships supported by rocks. Am laying out anchor at stern with local assistance. Weather foggy but hope that tugs will arrive to endeavour refloat tonight tide 1700. 100 men sent ashore retaining 40 as working party. Military arranging protection from cliff. (Chief Salvage Officer, Flamborough 1300/4). Refloated 1600. Proceeded Bridlington. Ship making water. Require pumps before ship safe to proceed Humber. (Chief Salvage Officer, 1620A/4). RIPLEY relocated and now lying in Bridlington Bay with 2 Tugs in attendance, making water, extra pumps are being sent by road. Extensive damage to bows, bottom and shafts and A brackets. Salvage Officer considers necessary dock as soon as possible. She will therefore be towed to Grimsby to-morrow and docked for further examination. (F.O.I.C. Humber 1929/4).

Raft.

Man on raft alive 59° 17' N., (? longitude). (A/C LG 7 L. 1251/4 to 15 Group H.Q.) My 1250. Raft empty. (A/C LG7 L. 1305/4 to 15 Group H.Q.)

BOTNE
(Norwegian,
991 tons).

VIMEIRA has crew of BOTNE in collision with BRITISH HOPE in about 50° 50' N., 4° 49' W. at 0100/3. BOTNE may be derelict and danger to navigation. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1546/4 and 1632/4).

AMBUSCADE.

Bad defect has developed again in both condensers. Am returning to Clyde. (AMBUSCADE 1802A/4).

War Diary.4.9.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.O.S.4.

Request I may be informed whether you consider your estimated position of O.S. 4 at 2000A/3 reasonably accurate. (C. in C. W.A., 0005A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0005A/4. My estimated position for O.S.4 is based on GORLESTON's 1759A/1. (F.O.C.N.A., 0950A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C. 40.

Congratulations on again bringing in safely ships of your convoy S.C. 40. (C. in C. W.A., 0955/4 to Cdre. C.G. Illingworth).

H.G.71

Congratulations on again bringing safely to U.K. all ships of your convoy H.G.71. (C. in C. W.A., 1048/4, to Cdre. G.N. White RN.R.)

H.X. 145.

Congratulations on bringing home successfully your large convoy H.X. 145. (C. in C. W.A., 1119A/4 to Adm. B.S. Thesiger).

One of the largest convoys to have crossed Atlantic 83 ships, of which 64 British and 19 Allied. 35 tankers. Other cargoes. (D.S., 730, 4/9).

Ships from Iceland.

Your 1456/3. Sail these ships with Destroyer Escort to join S.C. 41. (C. in C. W.A., 1212A/4 to A.C.I.C.)

Fuelling Trials.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to take general charge of the trials for fuelling at sea to be carried out with EMPIRE GARDEN. It is desired to release EMPIRE GARDEN as soon as possible. (D.T.S.D. 1434A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.G. Convoys.

Your 0939A/3. Now that there is no meet with local escorts, it is desired that H.G. convoys should proceed at best speed and should not be delayed. Suggested that:- (A) You should signal to C. in C. W.A. repeated Admty and Escort, time and position that vessel from Western Patrol intends to join H.G. convoy, obtaining your information from nightly situation reports. (B) Should the vessel fail to join after 3 hours search, she should signal the fact to same addressees giving her position. (C) C. in C. W.A. will then consider instructing the escort to break W/T silence to indicate the P.C. and S. of convoy. (D.T.D., 1744A/4 to S.O.W.F.)

W.S.11

List, numbers, and destinations. (D.O.D.(F), 1801A/4) See Lion Copy.

/Russian.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1801A/4 September. OUT
 Important to Cs. in C South Atlantic & East Indies. Date 4.9.41.
 To. C in C East Indies. 601.
 C in C South Atlantic 710.
 Repeated C. in C Mediterranean 91.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 610.
 F.O.I.C. Simonstown 183.
 S.N.O. Red Sea.
 C in C China 750.
 F.O.C. Malaya 592.
 F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy 831.
 N.O.I.C. Durban.

NAVAL CYPHER (C)

From Admiralty.

Following transports sailed United Kingdom 30.8.
 in convoy W.S. 11 .

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Numbers on board</u>	<u>Destination</u>
C.5.	MOOLTAN	15½	12 1128 10 75 2008 3223	West Africa. South Africa. East Africa. Aden Middle East.
C.6.	NORTHUMBERLAND	13	1475 118 1593	West Africa. Middle East.
C.9.	EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA	18	69 177 10 1950 342 2576	West Africa. South Africa. Aden. Middle East Malaya.
C.10.	LARGS BAY	15	5 46 791 13 9 864	Middle East. Burma. Malaya. Hong Kong. Australasia.
C.11.	ABOSSO	14½	1013	West Africa,
C.12.	VICEROY OF INDIA;	17	1189 1348 2 2539	Iraq India. Colombo.
C.13.	DUCHESS OF YORK	18	101 1444 1510 3055	Middle East. Iraq India.
C.14.	OTRANTO	17½	301 1941 772 4 193 3211	Middle East. Iraq India. Burma. Malaya.
C.15.	SCYTHIA	16	234 1916 980 3130	South Africa. Middle East Malaya.
C.17.	ORONTES	16	75 1789 1380 3244	Middle East. Iraq. India

2. Following vehicles guns etc. and stores were shipped in troop transports.

<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Vehicles Guns, etc.</u>	<u>Stores</u>	<u>Destination</u>
LARGS BAY	94	1648 tons d.w.	Malaya.
DUCHESS OF YORK	24	-	India.
OTRANTO	69	-	India.
SCYTHIA	83	-	Middle East
ORONTES	72	76 tons d.w.	India.

3. Following M.T. ships also sailed in convoy W.S.11.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Aero- planes</u>	<u>Desti- nation</u>
R. 215	BARRISTER	13	M.T.ammunition guns stores	-	Basra.
R. 216	MANCHESTER PROGRESS	13½	M.T.ammunition guns stores tanks	2 Sword- Fish	Middle East.
R. 217	GLAUCOS	13½	M.T.ammunition stores, guns	-	Singapore.
R. 218	KINA II	15	M.T.ammunition stores guns	4 Masters	Capetown. Singapore and Trincomalee
R. 219	CITY OF EDINBURGH	16	M.T.ammunition stores, guns	-	Basra.
R. 220	CITY OF MANCHESTER	14½	M.T. ammunition stores, guns, tanks	4 Fulmars 1 Albacore	Middle East
R. 221	GLENORCHY	17	M.T.ammunition stores, guns tanks	-	Basra. & Bombay.
R. 222	BHUTAN	15	M.T.ammunition stores, guns, tanks 1 H.S. launch.	1 Sea Gladiator 2 Alba- cores	Middle East

4. Personnel for Middle East ex NORTHUMBERLAND should be accommodated in 81 berths in MOOLTAN and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA vacated at Freetown and balance distributed as convenient.

5. Personnel for Middle East ex ORONTES, OTRANTO, DUCHESS OF YORK and LARGS BAY should be disembarked in South Africa for onward conveyance.

6. It is intended to release MOOLTAN EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and SCYTHIA in South Africa for return to U.K. Further signal will be made regarding arrangements for onward conveyance to Middle East and Far East of personnel ex these ships. Vehicles in SCYTHIA to be discharged at Durban for onward conveyance at first convenient opportunity.

7. VICEROY OF INDIA DUCHESS OF YORK OTRANTO and ORONTES will be turned round in India. P.S.T.O. India should

/ arrange for

c
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MOST SECRET

arrange for onward conveyance of personnel for Iraq BURMA and Malaya ex these ships.

8. LARGS BAY will proceed to Singapore and thence to New Zealand to load for U.K. Onward conveyance of personnel for Burma and Hong Kong should be arranged as convenient.

9. ABCSSC after disembarkation in West Africa will load homewards to U.K.

10. NORTHUMBERLAND after disembarkation in West Africa will proceed to the Plate to load for U.K.

11. It is proposed that all M.T. Ships should replenish in Capetown together with LARGS BAY, VICEROY OF INDIA, DESCLERS OF YORK, and CRONTES. MOULTAN, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, OTRANTO and SCYTHIA will proceed to Durban.

12. Commodore of convoy is Commodore Roger R.N.R. in CRONTES.

13. Addressees pass to S.T.O s concerned.

1801A/4
for D.O.D. (F)

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

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.- Contd.

Russian
Convoy.

LORCA at Leith, BLAIRNEVIS at South Shields and ATLANTIC at Sunderland are required to arrive Hvaalfjord by (date). They should join Coastal Convoy in time to sail in ON(F) 15 at latest. If necessary their lack of speed for normal ON (F) Convoy must be accepted. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2311A/4 to N.C.S.O.'s Loch Ewe etc).
Your 1631C/1. Intended to sail a convoy consisting of CAPIRA, NORTH KING, VILLE D'ANVERS, ELNA II, LORCA, BLAIRNEVIS, ATLANTIC and possibly three other ships leaving Hvaalfjord about (date).
(A.C.N.S. (T) 2312A/4 to Adm. Miles).
Following ships are loading in New York for North Russia and are expected to sail for Halifax on dates shown:- CAPIRA 31/8, NORTH KING 5/9, VILLE D'ANVERS 6/9. Ships are to be sailed for Hvaalfjord in appropriate H.X. and S.C. Convoys to arrive Iceland as soon as possible.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 2314A/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MANCHESTER,
FIREDRAKE.

Request you will report your proposals for passage of MANCHESTER and FIREDRAKE to Philadelphia and Boston respectively so that arrangements may be made for an oiler if necessary. Neutral ports should be avoided. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0024A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 0024A/4. Following proposed for MANCHESTER and FIREDRAKE. (2) Expected date of sailing 10/9. (3) (Route). (4) If MANCHESTER can oil FIREDRAKE after passing 40° W., ships will proceed to approx. 38° N., 60° W., and thence independently to refitting port. (5) If oiling is not possible both ships will proceed to Bermuda. (F.O.C.N.A., 1704A/4 to Admty).

BRITISH
FREEDOM.

My 1828A/1. Correction to route. (F.O.C.N.A., 0558A/4 to JONQUIL, SPIREA). See 2200/4. *See next page*

Situation.

Report No. 3 at 2000A/4 all positions North and west (1) CLYDE patrol between 40° and 34° N., 23° and 31° W. (ii) CANINA patrol H.Z.1. (iii) MARON patrol H.X.3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1406A/4 to N.A. Stn).

PROTEUS.

Passes Bishop Rock 2200A/4 routed submerged by day to 046° N., 009° W., thence probably on the surface to pass through 043° N., 010° 40' W., at about 1700A/7 thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (F.O.S., 1608A/4 to O.23, TAKU).

Cape Verde
Defences.

Your 1915B/29/7 and my 1801/31/7. The two guns at Ponta Do Ribeiro Julian have carried out test firing. A 3rd gun is being mounted at Ponta Do Morro Branco. These three guns are 15 Cm. Schneider. 200 Troops are now stationed at Gato, St. Vincent C.V. Most troops at St. Jago Island have been sent to Sal Island. (Consul, St. Vincent, 1640/4, to Admty).

DURHAM.

Your 1940A/28/8/41. Suggested repairs. Time required about 3 to 4 weeks. Request decision whether work is to be put in hand. (C.S. Gibraltar, 1716A/4 to Admty) Reply: 1342/5.

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Enemy
Ships.

Following is an extract from a Fairmiss Telegram:-
Addressed: D. of S.T. Arrivals. No. 14 LE
VIOLENT, French, PRESIDENT DE LAVIT, French,
NO. 2 COURDANES, French, JEANNE DENISE, French,
x TRIANTHA, German. (Bilbao, T.H.I., 1824/4).
x *not identified*

French,
Shipping.

Gibraltar 4/9 0815 unidentified French armed
Trawler, French ships PONTET, CANET, light,
PARAME, MEN GWEN laden westbound. 1613 French
armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE, French ships
CARIMARE, THISBE, laden, latter deck cargo,
eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1855A/4 to Admty etc).

BRITISH
FREEDOM.
JONQUIL.

Your 0930A/4 acknowledged. BRITISH FREEDOM not
met. My P.C. and S. at 2200A/4, 027° 24' N.,
022° 43' W., 044° 13.5 knots. Returning along
BRITISH FREEDOM's track to Gibraltar.
(JONQUIL, 2200A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.) *see previous page*

South Atlantic.

Norwegian
Minesweepers.

Ref. S.N.O. Simonstown's 1842B/3. Please
request Ambassador approach Portuguese Authorities
to obtain necessary permission for vessels
concerned to call at Beira for bunkers.
(Head of M. 1233A/4 to N.A. Lisbon).

Convoy C.F.2.

Arrival 4/9 1100 G.M.T. C.F.2 Convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Lagos 1300Z/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

ECHODALE
Grounded.

R.F.A. regulations, Art. 126. R.F.A. ECHODALE
grounded Freetown harbour between 0915 and
1045, 17/8, no apparent damage, report follows.
(N.O.I.C. Freetown, 1531N/4 to Admty).

W.S.11.

List and details. (D.O.D. (F) 1801A/4 to Cs. in C.
S.A. and E.I.) See Lion Copy.

/EDINBURGH.....

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

EDINBURGH.

After consultation with C.S. 18, EDINBURGH is at 24 hours notice for sea until 2359/7 and thereafter at 12 hours notice until completion of boiler defects on 9/9.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1750B/4 to Admty).

DUMANA.
MAFUTA,
SANJH.

Your 1819A/3/9. DUMANA arrived Bathurst 26/8. MAFUTA arrived Accra 31/8, sailed 2/9 and arrived Freetown 3/9. Sailed from Freetown 1600 /4/9 for Monrovia and Takoradi. Attention of R.O. Bathurst and R.O. Accra is being drawn to lack of Vescas. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1846N/4 to Admty).

156 M.S.
Group.

Your 1534B/2. Request you will report detailed movements of M/S Group 156 since arrival at Freetown and where fevers were contracted.
(D.M.S. 1905A/4 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

S.L. 86

Departure 0530 VANSITTART, ASTER, BURDOCK, CROCUS, VERVAIN with convoy S.L. 86. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1941N/4 to Admty).

Norwegian
Minesweepers.

My 1842/3. Details of 4 Norwegian L.L. whale catchers NOBLE NORA, TRANSVAALIA, EGELAND, JOHN WILLIAMSON.
Request you arrange onward routing instructions to be given accordingly. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1945B/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

Troop
Transport.

S.T.O. Egypt's 1230/3. Ships proposed are too large to enter Takoradi owing to difficulties in handling. Largest ship dealt with so far has been PALERNA DEL PACIFICO and the authorities dealt with her reluctantly. (C. in C. S.A., 2015N/4. to D.S.T.) * *not identified.*

WIPUNEN.

My 1809/3 Rio De Janeiro reports Finnish WIPUNEN sailed for Montevideo 1830 G.M.T./4 on approved voyage, speed 6 knots. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2046Z/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

GORLESTON.

E.T.A. R/V 19° N., 00 Z/10/9. (GORLESTON, 2111Z/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

4.9.1941.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Abu Sueir
Raid.

Night 3/4. About 12 unidentified enemy A/C low and high level bombing attacks on Abu Sueir 102 M.U. about 50 bombs and 1 land mine dropped. No casualties. 3 aircraft approached Cairo 1 of them dropping 2 bombs at Abbaika. Slight damage to 1 building, civilian casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1038/4)(See also 1305/4).

Derna,
Bardia
bombed.

Night 2/3. Of 35 Wellingtons despatched to bomb Derna only 9 located target owing to bad weather. 24 Wellingtons bombed Bardia and Gazala landing grounds. 5 F.A.A. Albacores bombed supply dumps near Gambut. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1101/4).

OTUS.

Proceed to establish patrol (corrupt group) 293° Sapienza Is. light 64. (Capt. S.1. 1101C/4 to OTUS).

Tobruk,
mines.

Suspected Mines dropped night 2/3. Ref. C.A.F.O. 587/40 para. 3 (a) (b) (c) (d) Nil. Para. (4) combined high level and bombing mine laying attack - 15 aircraft, flares were used. Moon nearly full. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 1134C/4 to Admty).

FLAMINGO,
PARRAMATTA.

Your 1252Z/3. Para 3. FLAMINGO is proceeding to Suez to arrive p.m./4 and will be at the disposal of S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 4th. I think she will be better employed for the moment at Suez or Ataq. PARRAMATTA is at present boiler cleaning but will be sailed from Alexandria p.m./7 and can go Port Sudan unless situation then shows other disposition desirable. (C. in C. Med., 1214C/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

OSIRIS.

Leaves position 035° 51' 015° 15' about ^{1256/4} 2200C/5 through 033° 43' 020° 00' to spend day 3/9 off Apollonia thence as ordered by your. (Capt. S.10 1215B/4 to Capt. S.1.)

Submarines.

Admty. 1028A/1 and 1948A/1. Importance of operations in Eastern Med. (C. in C. Med., 1218C/4 to Admty) See Operations.

/Abu Sueir.....

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Abu Sueir
Raids.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 587. (a) Night 3/4 calm clear. (b) High level attack 5000/13000 feet by about 18 enemy A/C in 2 waves, main objective Abu Sueir Aerodrome. No flares, bright moon (c) H/E and incendiary (d) About 50 H.E. including about 5 Moascar and F.C. One land mine, about 250 incendiaries (e) Slight R.A.F. and military damage No service casualties (f) A.A. barrage 14 fighters up (g) Balloons flying. (3.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1305C/4 to Admty.etc).

Italian
Fleet,
Messina.

* Not in C.B. 1815
Oct: '41

Photographs of Messina 3/9 show 3 8 inch cruisers and 1 6 inch, 2 destroyers, 3 submarines and 2 torpedo boats. Cruisers appear to be GORIZIA, TRENTO, CONDOTTIERI and BOLZANO. Latter suggests damage to starboard side, several lighters and small craft alongside, quarter deck suggests discolouration possibly oil fuel, slight list to port and the only cruiser without awnings spread. (V.A. Malta, 1310B/4 to Admty).

DERWENTDALE.
(R.F.A. Officer)

My 1802/12/8 and your 1309/21/8 DERWENTDALE is required in Mediterranean and should bring out as many M.L.C's as possible. Fast landing craft carrier is also required as soon as one can be spared. (C. in C. Med., 1344/4 to Admty).

Visit of
Adm. Dreyer.

Admty M. 0049A/2. I am in complete agreement with your signal and welcome advent of Adm. Dreyer. Present state of affairs. (C. in C. Med., 1640/4 to Admty).

Malta Raids.

Night 3/4. 5 aircraft dropped bombs on land causing negligible damage. Two soldiers lightly wounded. Hurricanes up, one shore illumination, no interceptions.
Day 4/9. 20 Macchi 200's approached 0843 hours. 18 Hurricanes up engaged enemy out to sea. 6 enemy fighters shot down into sea 3 others badly damaged. 4 parachutes seen but no survivors yet recovered. 1 low flying Macchi 200 engaged by 3 Bofors positions at Kalafrana claiming hits. This plane flew towards Hal Far and was reported already in difficulties and again engaged by 3 sights, two hits claimed. Plane last seen losing height over cliffs. In afternoon 8 Hurricanes intercepted 12 Macchis covering rescue operations off Sicilian Coast. Leader states engagement the hottest he has been in. 3 enemy shot down into sea 1 probable crashed and 2 badly damaged. 2 of our fighters missing. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/4).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy
Destroyer
Sunk ?
M/V hit.

Night 3/4. 3 Swordfish despatched to sink damaged Tanker outside Tripoli Harbour, Tanker not located, 1 Torpedo released at Destroyer 2 miles outside harbour. Large explosion with smoke and water rising to 300 feet. Claimed destroyed. M/V 8 - 10,000 tons 3 cables E.N.E. harbour attacked from 1,500 feet. 1 hit scored but result not observed. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1701/4).

Axis
Shipping.

Inquiry from M.E.W. (D.N.I., 1830A/4 to S.O.(I)'s Gib., Istanbul, etc). See Lion Copy.

→ OTUS.
OSIRIS.

Defects. Estimated dockyard would require at least 6 weeks for OSIRIS and probably longer for OTUS. (Capt. S.10 1843B/4 to Capt. S.1.)

Enemy
Supplies,
Libya.

*reply 1933/17 Sep
to 415A+B*

Following for C. in C. M.E. from Chiefs of Staff, No. 168. Interception of enemy supplies to Libya in next few weeks is a matter of such importance that we are anxious to be in possession of all information which will enable us to form a true appreciation of the practicability of such interception. What are your views as to possibility of interception in future, bearing in mind that information, though correct in first instance, is liable to subsequent changes? (1st S.L., 1918A/4 to C. in C. Med).

* HANES ENMEDA
Italian,
LISBOA
German.

Sailed from Garrucha 3/9 with 6960 tons Lucainena Spathic Ore for Germany via Marseilles. LISBOA left 24/8 with 3050 tons ditto ditto. (Almeria 1951/4).

** not identified.*

Enemy Ships.

Departures 3rd MAURO CROCE, Italian, Genoa: ATLAS Genoa; COETLOGON, French, Sete. (Barcelona, 2100/4).

OTTO
LEONHARDT.
German.

Finished unloading sulphate of ammonia and today 4th left for Saint Jacques to load iron ore for Genoa. (Valencia, T.H.I., 2100/4).

→ Situation
Report 238.

Submarines. OTUS attacked southbound 13 merchant vessels convoy in 035° 40' N., 018° 07' E., at 1430/3 and reports sinking RAMB class. (?ship) (?with) two hits. CITY OF AUCKLAND and ROSS were attacked by enemy aircraft in Straits of Jubal between 2345/3 and 0130/4 but were apparently not damaged. COVENTRY reports 3 aircraft were detected in this area, one was seen to be twin engined and was engaged. (C. in C. Med., 2238C/4).

90A

SECRET

MESSAGE

1830A/4th September.

CUT

To S.O.(I) Gibraltar.
S.O.(I) Istanbul.
C.O.I.S. Alexandria.

Date 4.9.41.

I.D.C. 13.

From Admiralty.

NITE.

Following has been sent by M.E.W. to Ambassador Madrid, Minister Tangier and Consul-General Istanbul. Begins.

1. We calculate that cargo shipping available to the Axis in the Mediterranean should suffice for any probable shipping programme. Yet there is external evidence that the Axis shipping position in the Mediterranean generally is tight. Most likely explanation of this apparent anomaly seem to be:-

(a) Shortage of bunkers, (b) Shortage of crews, (c) on the Libyan run, the sheer difficulty of convoying, (d) abnormal delays in repairing damaged ships owing to shortage of materials.

2. Can you obtain any information on any of these factors, but particularly as to (b) and (d). As regards (b) are the Italians relying on foreign crews to a large extent? How do they make up crews for the Libyan voyage? Are bonuses paid or are crews conscripted? How many such voyages are crews required to do? Is there much desertion from Italian ships?

3. Have you any information as to the respective proportions of coal, oil or Diesel-fired vessels employed by the Axis?

Ends. Can you assist M.E.W. representatives in their reply.

1830A/4.

for D.N.I. N.I.D. 3. (2039)

A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
D.E.W.D. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.S.D. 9.
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (4)

D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
O.D. (5)
M. (2)
I.P. (3)
W.D.

War Diary.4.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.Motor
Boats
Suez.Your 1216C/28, motor boats for Suez.
Necessary arrangements are being made.
(D.S.V.P. 2329A/4 to C. in C. Med.)East Indies.S.S.
EFFINGHAM.Your 1821/3. Ship arrived Calcutta 3/9.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0547Z/4, to Admty.)Axis Ships
ex-Persian
Gulf.Ref. A.M. 1627/3. Strongly recommend prize steamships from Persian Gulf should proceed Karachi first. Preliminary examination to be carried out at Karachi and if possible work except docking done at that port. After preliminary examination decision to be taken as to which ships are to proceed to Calcutta, Bombay, or elsewhere.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0547Z/4. to C. in C.E.I.)Enemy
Shipping.
ex-Iran.My 1500/31/8, present situation.
Para. 1. WILDENFELS left 2/9 under own steam.
Para. 2. CABOTO left 1/9 in tow SHOREHAM.
Para. 3. BARBARA left 3/9 in tow SNAPDRAGON.
Para. 4. BRONTE towed by FALMOUTH expects to leave 4/9.
Para. 5. HILDA who has taken list and made water is being turned over to tugs in Chahbar Bay (about 300 miles West of Karachi in Persian Territory.) Ship may have to be beached. Salvage tug expects to reach her A.M. 5/9. YARRA is standing by. Para. 6. MARIENFELS and STURMFELS sail under own steam as soon as coaled, date of sailing uncertain due to difficulty in raising steam with scratch crew.
Para. 7. Salvage work on HOHENFELS continues. KANIMBLA is standing by.
Par. 8. Immediate destination of all ships Karachi.
(C. in C.E.I., 0602Z/4, to Admty.)
I am arranging towage by H.M. Ships from Persian Gulf to Karachi of captured enemy ships which are unable to proceed under their own steam. On arrival at Karachi make arrangements for early onward towage to Bombay for repair.
(C. in C.E.I., 0726Z/4 to S.T.O. Karachi.)

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

NUBIAN
ISIS.

Your 1933/2. NUBIAN and ISIS are being sailed as soon as weather conditions permit. Monsoon shows signs of easing now. (C. in C.E.I., 0604Z/4, to Admty.)

Mooring
Vessels.

Com. Hong Kong's 1242/1, not to Admty. Regret not possible to state when MOORLAKE can be spared from Trincomalee. There is still another first class mooring to be laid and a destroyer trot. MOORLAKE is also employed on maintenance of Boom defence until relieved by a suitable Boom working vessel. Doubtful whether LUMINARY (a converted trawler) will be capable of the work. She is not expected in Ceylon until about first week in October. (C. in C.E.I., 0608Z/4 to C. in C. China.)

HILDA.
(Italian.)

Your 0401/2 para. 1. Only action required is delivery of ships and cargoes by Prize officer to Collector of Customs for subsequent Prize Court proceedings vide (signal) 5316 articles 205 and 206. Para 2. Question is one for Admty. (C. in C.E.I., 0948Z/4, to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

MONTE PIANA.
(Italian.)

Left Capetown 25th. (Colombo, 1200Z/4, to M. of W.T.)

Fairmiles,
etc.

Reply to Admty. 1727/29/8 re maintenance. (C. in C.E.I., 1418/4, to Cdre R.I.N.) See Lion Copy.

HINDUSTAN
fired on at
Djibouti.

From Minister of State. Your 1720Z/2 Jibuti. I agree to retaliation for fire by Vichy shore batteries against our patrols. Retaliation needs (not) be restricted to round for round. (C. in C.M.E., 1700/4 to C. in C.E.I.)

/MARYMAR.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1418/4 September IN

From C. in C. East Indies. Date 5/9/41
Recd. 1120

NAVAL CYPHER X BY W/T

Addressed Com. R.I.N. Repeated F.O.C.R.I.N. One Admiralty.

345. Ref. A.M. 1727/29/8. Para. 1 and 2 passed to you.

Colombo can undertake ten engines per month at Railway Works. Nucleus of six men accustomed to Diesel work exists, and remainder would have to be entered and trained. A guarantee would have to be obtained from the Ceylon Government that the work once agreed to undertake would not be rejected in the future if political pressure were brought to bear to utilize space for a war supplies order which would give more employment, or other cause. In addition four garages can undertake two engines each per month. Considered important to concentrate work in one establishment. No machine in Ceylon capable of grinding crankshaft for cylinder bores. Work would be well organised in Railway Works and if hand lapping of crankpins and machinery of (?mail) bearing journals is acceptable these works are considered suitable if approval of Ceylon Government is obtained. Three trained E.R.A.'s or dockyard fitters would be required at the start, and would be reduced to one for inspection duties when native workmen became more experienced. A testing brake is required. Replacement of parts would be practically entirely dependant on supplies from outside Ceylon. Assume that ten spare engines would be supplied with crates for transport. Number of sets of tools would be dependant on number of fir(?m)s. Request information whether Bombay can improve on the above particularly with regard to grinding machines and manufacture of parts. If drawings are available in India request they may be sent to me for scrutiny and return.

1418/4.

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 1st Lord. | E. in C. | |
| 1st S.L. | E.A.P. | |
| 2nd S.L. | D. of D. | |
| Controller | Hd. of M.(3) (P.D.0326M/41) | |
| Vice Contr. | D.P.S. | |
| 4th S.L. | D.A./S.W. | |
| V.C.N.S. | Dep. Contr. | } Bath |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | D. of D. | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | E. in C. | |
| D.O.D.(F) | Hd. of S.W.R. | |
| D.D.O.D.(F) | | |
| I.P.(2) | | |
| W.D. | | |
| D.C. | | |
| D. of P.(2) | | |
| D.S.V.P. | | |

War Diary.4.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. Contd.MARYMAR
STEEL
INVENTOR
GIORGIOS G.

Have you any news of following U.S. Ships:
MARYMAR and STEEL INVENTOR, due Aden 29/8 and
1/9 respectively, and Greek G~~E~~ORGIOS G., due
Berbera 27/8?
(D.T.D. 1955A/4 to S.O.I. Aden) Reply 0733/6.

Iran.

Summary of naval, military and air requirements
in Persia (W.O., 2320/4 to C. in C. India.)
See Lion Copy.

China.ROGGEVEEN.
(Dutch.)

Your 1820A/3. ROGGEVEEN at present at Batavia.
Vessel engaged in Dutch local coastal service.
(S.O.I., Singapore, 0855Z/4, to Admty.)

Japanese
Shipping.

A.1. source reports 12 Japanese cargo ships in
ballast at Yokosuka 31/8. 3 are modern motor
ships and six modern coal burners. Others
inside harbour but numbers not ascertained.
All painted black. Black funnel. White
upper works. Only one had Japanese flag on
ships side, remainder no national markings.
(N.A.Tokyo, 1029/4, to Admty.)

FUSHIMI MARU.

Due to sail for Shanghai 4/9 fully booked with
passengers, cancelled her sailing midnight
3/9. Nippon Yusen Kaisha state all further
sailings are postponed indefinitely.
Substantial part of Japanese merchant fleet
including first class liners now appear to be
collected in Japanese ports.
(M.A., Tokyo, 1055/4 to Admty.)

20-Mile.
Zone.

Your telegram No. 132/4 cypher 29/7. (N.T. in
W.D.) Admty consider establishment of 20-mile
prohibited zone undesirable, in view of our
general policy of maintaining the freedom of the
sea and air, and fact that at present freedom of
air R/C over Gulf of Siam of greater advantage
to ourselves than to Japanese.

/Attitude.....

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E. 2320/4th September.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From The War Office. Date. 4.9.41.

C Y P H E R.

Addressed C., in C., India. Repeated General Iraq.
C. in C., Middle East. M.A. Ankara.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

88220. Cipher (M.O.12). 4/9.

H.M. Minister Tehran has been sent following summary of our eventual naval, military and air requirements in Persia. These have still to be discussed with Soviet Government. Sir Reader Bullard is, however, asked to bear them in mind in his negotiations.

NAVAL.

- (i) Occupation, control and use of the Naval base and W/T station at Khurramshah.
- (ii) Retention of all captured merchant ships other than those under Persian flag.
- (iii) Retention of all captured warships until the end of the war with Axis.
- (iv) Facilities for use of all Persian ports and harbours.
- (v) Full British control of all navigable Persian rivers at the head of the Persian Gulf.
- (vi) Persian navigation lights of Shatt-el-Arab to be placed in British hands.
- (vii) The right to acquire local craft as necessary for minesweeping and patrol purposes.

ARMY.

- (i) Control of the Persian railways in order to ensure the efficient operation and military security of the system.
- (ii) The right to free use of all communications including ports, railways, roads and telegraphs, and the right to develop these communications as we deem necessary. We shall require to establish Allied personnel in key positions in these communication system.

AIR.

- (1) The full use of Persian aerodromes, landing grounds and flying boat bases, including the right to carry out constructional work to expand or improve them where necessary.

Full British control of all navigable Persian rivers at the head of (ii),....

Persian navigation lights of Shatt-el-Arab placed in British hands.

93^B

- (ii) Facilities for the establishment and maintenance of air defence systems particularly for the defence of Abadan and the oilfields.
- (iii) The use of any aircraft maintenance and workshop facilities in Persia that may be required.

Middle East pass to A.O.C. in C. G.O.C. Iraq to A.O.C. and S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

2320/4

Recd. by hand from War Office at 1625/5.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st 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)
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.C.
- D.D.I.C.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of (2)
- D.N.A.D.
- D.M.S.
- D.A/S.W.
- E.P.S.
- D. of L.D.
- Hd. of M.
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.S.D.
- W.D.
- I.P. (2)
- N.I.D. 10. Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

MMC.

War Diary.

4.9.1941..
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

20-Mile.
Zone.
(Contd.)

Attitude may be reconsidered if Japanese attack our planes or attempt to reconnoitre Malaya.
(W.O. for Air Min., 1402/4, to C. in C. Far East.)

America & West Indies.

H.X.148.
S.C.43.

H.X.148 ocean escort ALAUNIA proceeding to Iceland with stores and returning to Halifax. A/S escort, SHERBROOKE, LETHBRIDGE and ~~BYDLAC~~^{SHEDIAC} to Western R/V thence to Sydney. S.C.43, ocean escort AUSONIA to Western R/V thence returning Halifax. A/S escort ARVIDA, DAUPHIN, and BARRIE continuing to U.K., with convoy for training at Tobermory.
(R.A.3, 1029P/4, to Admty., etc.)

ASTURIAS.

To be ready to sail about 6/10. Proposed if you concur that ship spends one week working up at Bermuda.
(B.A.R.M., 1142R/4, to C. in C.S.A.)
Concur (C. in C., A.W.I., 1832Q/6.)

TULIP
CLARKIA.

Request information whether TULIP and CLARKIA are now fitted for tropics in accordance with C.A.F.O. 1512/41. If fitted ships are to be sailed to Trinidad, as soon as possible.
(C. in C.W.A., 1215A/4, to B.A.R.M.)

U.S.
Submarines.

Re proposed transfer. (B.A.D., 1233R/4 to Admty.) (See Operations Volume.) *Accepted. Sep. 149A.*

Corvettes
Trinidad.

Decided to base two corvettes for A/S duties at Trinidad. C. in C. W.A., is requested to sail two corvettes as soon as possible.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1321A/4 to C. in C.W.A.)

CALIFORNIA
and WOLFE.

Are next two A.M.C's of N.A.E.F. due for refit. Propose to arrange if possible for WOLFE to be taken in hand at Saint John N.B. on completion of CHITRAL about end of September. CALIFORNIA requires work which cannot be undertaken at Saint John N.B. Propose ship should be taken in hand in U.S.A., about last week in September.
(R.A.3 1437P/4 to Admty.)

/Shipping.....

95

War Diary.4.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.Shipping,
Caribbean
ports.Cancel my 1702Q/28. Resume normal routeing.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1552Q/4 to A.I.G. 129 etc.)French
Shipping.
Military
Cargoes.

Naval (i) Case 3/9 A.1. ^{? CALEDONIEN intended} S.S. CALEDONACIDE is about to sail for Dakar carrying a ton of ammunition loaded at Casablanca and war material from Marseilles. Naval and Military (ii) Case 4/9 A.1. In addition to passengers and cargo already reported CONDE and MEDIE II had on board 2300 tons war material. (details.) ROUENNAIS carried 13 cars and 20 trucks. BOURGES carried 2185 tons fuel etc. ARCTURUS carried 12 officers and 72 men of Tirailleurs, Senegalais etc., CARTHAGE, 56 motorised vehicles and SAINTE BASILE, 6 protected trucks. (B.A.D. 1815R/4, to Admty.)

U.S.S/M.

Your 1536B/5/8. (N.T. in W.D. Request Menzies may keep in touch with Crossman of British Admiralty re suitability of W/T apparatus.) Navy will turn vessel over converted to our requirements. (B.A.D., 1819R/4, to F.O.S.)

VAN
KINSBERGEN.

Programme. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1845A/4 to C. in C.A.W.I. etc.) See Lion Copy.

EMPRESS OF
ASIA.

My 1609Z/2 EMPRESS OF ASIA arrived New York dry dock 1900/4 was down to 6 knots last 4 days. Ship is not seaworthy and will take at least 8 days to effect essential repairs. Proposals. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1933Z/4 to D. of S.T.)

U.S.
Atlantic
Fleet.

Direction to C. in C., U.S. Atlantic Fleet, re use of his forces against raiders. (V.C.N.S., 1934A/4 to C. in C.H.F., C. in C.A.W.I. etc.) See Operations Volume.

T.C.15.

Your 0259/3. Confirm total 14,000 includes R.A.F. and all services personnel so far as can be foreseen. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 2042Z/4 to D. of S.T.)

S.S.Convoy.
"Indigo 3."

Following received from Opnav, delivered to Cinclant and Comtask Group 15.1 for action. For information to Spenavo, London, N.S.H.Q., Ottawa and S.O.P.A., Iceland. Special service convoy "Indigo 3" departs New York 1300 G.M.T/5, speed 12 knots routed as follows. (Spenavo, 2046/4 to Admty.)

/U.S.....

95A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1845A/4th Sept.

OUT

To C. in C. America and West Indies. 51. Date. 4.9.41
 C. in C. Western Approaches. 15.
 Repeated. F.O.C. North Atlantic. 612.
 S.N.O. Curacao.
 F.O.i/c Greenock.

Inter Departmental Cypher 13.

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

When ready for sea C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail H.N.M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN independently to Bermuda at best speed.

2. The Netherlands Naval Authorities have requested the vessel should visit Surinam as soon as possible and then Curacao. If possible the vessels should stay a fortnight at Surinam, where about 60 Dutch military troops will be landed. At Curacao about 16 Dutch naval ratings will be landed. C. in C. America and West Indies. is requested to arrange if the situation allows.

3. H.N.M.S. VAN KINSBERGEN will operate under C. in C. America and West Indies on passing into that station.

1845A/4.

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. 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.A./S.W.
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.

for D.O.D. (F) (164)
 Approved A.C.N.S. (F)
 P.D. 09885/41

Duty Capt.
 Hd. of M.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

War Diary.4.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.U.S. S.E.
Pacific
Force.

Your 1222Q/2 para. 1. Area of operation should read as follows:-
To eastward of line joining
(a) Mexican Guatemalan border.
(b) 005° 00' S., 095° 00' W.
(c) 005° 30' S., 100° 00' W., thence south on Meridian 100° W. Navy Dept. confirms this. (B.A.D., 2101R/4 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

DESPATCH.
Search for
Raider.

Your 1222 Q/2 para. 4. ^{NTKWD.} Arrangement made for Baloa. (B.A.D., 2115R/4 to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.)

"R" report.

Following received from U.S. source. British ship PORT ADELAIDE reported on arrival Balboa that at 1320Z/4 she heard radio distress call from vessel being attacked by surface raider in Pacific estimated 300 miles from Balboa in an unknown direction. (B.A.D., 2125R/4 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

Ocean
Routeing.

C. in C.Aand W.,I., 1501/2. If suggestions are concurred in and with ref. to para 2 it is anticipated N.S.HQ. Ottawa will recommend that all ports in Ottawa area where N.C.S.O. and C.S.A's are already stationed will be designated. (2) Indicated future requirements and arrangements for Ottawa area have been fully discussed with appropriate U.S.N. Officers who are in full agreement and prepared to co-operate. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2135Z/4 to Admty.)

FORT
RICHEPANSE.

N.C.S.O. Halifax's 2311Z/28 gave departure of FORT RICHEPANSE from Sydney, C.B. as 29/8. Ship reported crossing 30° W., at 1100/1 which put her 2 days ahead of time. Request apparent discrepancy be investigated. Your 2054Z/28 refers. (D.T.D., 2217A/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.) Reply: 1632/8. See also U-Boat Campaign.

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

FORT
RICHEPANSE
(torpedoed
3/9).

PIORUN and GARLAND in company. Survivors of FORT RICHEPANSE report that they were torpedoed by U-boat, 1830Z/3 in 052° 34' N., 020° 23' W. approx. Rescued 26 survivors (1 cot case) in thick fog, 37 missing. After searching vicinity for 9 hours am proceeding to Clyde, my course and speed is 068° 24. Meteorological report. (PIORUN, 1200A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

PIORUN 26 survivors FORT RICHEPANSE on board 53.29 N., 19. 20 W. (C. in C. W.A., No. T.O.O./4 to 15 Group, from N/221).

A/C Message received. Report if any further survivors are known to be in boats. If so search as long as fuel permits. (C. in C. W.A., 1312A/4 to PIORUN).

Submarines Reported.

0955.

Following has been read. Am investigating suspicious object (oil patch) in 56.02 N., 10.23 W. circular diameter one advise. (A/C J of 224 Sqdn. on A.S. Sweep, 0955/4 to W/T Station using call sign 7KZ).

0810Z.

Report received from P.M.G. that South African A/C sighted periscope in position 13° 30' S., 12° 30' E., at 0810Z/4. S/M submerged and withdrew periscope when approached. A/C intends examine area on return flight Lobito to Mossamedes. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1002Z/4 to Admty).

1138 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1138 G.M.T. U-boat in area within 30 miles of 51° 30' N., 16° W. (D.D.I.C., 1317A/4 to WANDERER, WESTON etc). There are D/F indications of the presence of more than one U-boat in the vicinity of each convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1645A/4 to FOWEY, WANDERER, WESTON etc).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1410A/4).

/0850 G.M.T.....

War Diary.4.9.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. - Contd.

- 0850 G.M.T. Major Madeley, pilot of South African Airways mail plane, reports sighting periscope of Submarine at 0850 G.M.T./4 at 12° 30' E., 13° 30' S., about 2 miles off coast 10 miles South of Cape Santa Maria. S/M was travelling in N.W. direction when first spotted and submerged when plane circled over her. Pilot made radio report to Capetown. (Consul Gen., Loanda, 1416/4 to Admty).
- 10/8 Philadelphia report begins. American ship LEHIGH reported sighting large enemy S/M carrying 2 guns on surface 10/8 position about 100 miles N.W. of San Miguel Azores. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1526Z/4 to Admty).
1748. 1 S/M bearing 245° 7 miles Course unknown. My position 005 36° N., 12° W., 5 from a fix at 1400. (WILD SWAN, 1748/4 to Gibraltar W/T) (F.O.C.N.A., 1955A/4 to N.A. Stn).
- 1640 G.M.T. By D/F at 1640 G.M.T. U-boat in 62° 20' N., 4° E., unreliable fix. Signal was repeated at 1658 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 1840A/4 to V.A. 2 etc).
- 1914 G.M.T. Bearings at 1914 G.M.T. of Italian U-boat 14 N. (D.D.I.C., 2107A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Submarines Attacked.By A/C and
U.S.S.
GREER.

Am over enemy S/M in 62° 55' N., 28° W., S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C using call sign Z7KM, 0715/4 to Reykjavik W/T).
Following has been read. Addressed Ships and Shore Stations from U.S.S. GREER. Submarine submerged lat. 62.48 long. 27.30. (Iceland W/T 0921/4). [? 1921 unlinked, see p 99]
United States Navy Dept. announces that a submarine attacked the U.S. destroyer GREER yesterday morning (says Reuter in a Washington message received early to-day). The torpedoes missed. The GREER was on the way to Iceland and was carrying mail. She counter-attacked with depth charges, but the results are not known. (The Times 5/9/41).

Continued

/Following.....

War Diary.4.9.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked - Contd.By A/C and
U.S.S.
GREER. Contd.

Following telephone message has been received from the American Embassy:-
"About 1900/4 U.S.S. GREER proceeding on mail trip to Hvalfiord was attacked by submarine firing three torpedoes in approx. 62° 45' N., 27° 30' W. GREER counter-attacked on 2 occasions with depth charges, the result is unknown. (Duty Capt. 5/9/1941).

*(Hudson w/c M
of 269 Sqdn)
Iceland*

Aircraft M. 0735/4 (0715/4 intended) WATCHMAN proceeding to search from 063° 28' N., 022° 49' W. at 0945A. (MALCOLM, 0955A/4 to N.O.I.C. Iceland, etc).

(See Search 4141)

M M Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges, result unknown. (A/C Using Call Sign 27 K M. 1040/4 to Kaldadarnes H/F D/F Stn).

*U-boat was
V. 652*

Your 1041A (N.T. in W.R.) Aircraft cover being maintained. U.S.A. destroyer is in contact with S/M. (A.C.I.C., 1142/4 to MALCOLM, WATCHMAN, SARDONYX).

O.N.11 U.K. escort 1400 A situation:-

(A) WATCHMAN searching for U-boat in position of aircraft "M" 0735A/4 report.

(B) MALCOLM, SARDONYX, refuel Hvalfjord subsequently relieving WATCHMAN.

(C) WISTARIA escort Iceland portion off Skagi.

(D) PETUNIA, ARABIS, MONKSHOOD, NORTHERN PRIDE, NORTHERN WAVE, NORTHERN SPRAY, with O.N. 11, leaving about 1600 A to meet S.C. 41 and carry out exercise sweep through U-boat (?latest area). Intend continuing above search in U-boat area for 48 hours from initial report of S/M activity, illumination from moonset until daylight assisted by A/C with flares. (S.O.8 Escort Group, 1146A/4 to A.C.I.C., etc).

Have made contact with aircraft, am proceeding to hunt. Estimate position 062° 55' N., 027° 20' W., Aircraft bearing from me 210° 10 miles.

(WATCHMAN, 1445A/4 to MALCOLM).

WATCHMAN and Corvette searching. Trawler proceeding independently to R/V S.C. 41. Corvette leaving me 0700. My P.C. and S. 062° 55' 027° 10' 180° 12 knots. (WATCHMAN, 2330A/4 to MALCOLM).

By A/C

From A/C using call sign YU7X. Am over enemy S/M in position 52.00 N., 18.20 W.

(Liverpool W/T 1210/4 to 15 Group).

Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface when first sighted was on course 150° speed 6.

(A/C using Call Sign YU7 X 1210/4 to 15 Group).

Have attacked enemy with torpedoes and estimate one hit. (Aircraft using call sign YU7 1225/4 to Reykjavik W/T).

/By Aircraft.....

4.9.1941. 100
Thursday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked- Contd.

By A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in position 51.25 N., 15.35 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate one hit. (A/C using call sign 9AWY, 1331/4 to 15 (R) Group H.Q.) WESTCOTT and CAMPBELLTOWN are searching for S/M in 051° 25' N., 015° 25' W. (WESTCOTT, 1610A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

By
ST. ALBANS

Have attacked contact classified as U-Boat 4 times position (051°) 05' N., 015° 50' W. No visible signs of destruction, am continuing to hunt. EMPIRE GUNNER proceeding 8 knots course 086°. (ST. ALBANS, 1715A/4 to C. in C. W.A.) My 1715A/4. Have made 2 further attacks, contact lost after last delivery. Area searched but without regaining contact. Am rejoining EMPIRE GUNNER. (ST. ALBANS, 1845A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

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5.9.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

One Enemy Cruiser and 3 Destroyers were reported by A/C at 0425 today to be steering East in Christiania Fiord; and at 1230 a photographic R/C of Oslo showed SCHEER alongside but EMDEN not present and no Destroyers in the port.

C. in C. Nore reports considerable difficulty in providing sufficient Destroyers for the escort of East Coast and Channel convoys and asks when Portsmouth Destroyers will again be available for this duty.

A Patrol of 2 M.G.B's. and another of 3 M.T.B's. will operate in the Straits of Dover tonight to act on any reports of E-Boats received from Dover.

The Destroyer RIPLEY which grounded under Flamborough Head yesterday arrived in the Humber in tow at 2310 to-day.

Enemy Air Activity.

Peterhead was bombed by one A/C at 0848 today. 3 naval casualties were caused and some damage to buildings, but none to Government property.

At 0135 the St. Govans Light Vessel was bombed with very slight damage and no casualties.

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5.9.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation E.H. was completed this morning and MANXMAN arrived at Port Z.A. at 1920.

3 M.L's and 3 M.T.B's. left Harwich at 1907A to carry out Operation Q.K.7 off the Belgian Coast.

The Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 0021 today owing to suspected minelaying.

1 Mine was detonated off the Tyne today, 2 off Hartlepool, 2 off Milford Haven and 1 off the Humber.

North Atlantic.

Repairs.

It is approved for MANCHESTER and FIREDRAKE (damaged by A/C torpedo attack in operation "Substance" on 23/7) to proceed to the U.S.A. for repairs.

Suspicious Convoy.

PHILANTE (sloop) at midday today reported a suspicious convoy in 32.52 N., 22.32 W. at 2100Z/4, course S.E. (see 6/9).

South Atlantic.

W.S.10.

Convoy W.S.10, which left the Clyde on 2/8, arrived at Durban, escorted by HAWKINS.

W.S.10X.

Everything possible is to be done to expedite Convoy W.S.10X, at present in the vicinity of St. Helena. If one ship governs the speed of passage there is no objection to her proceeding independently after the remainder beyond Capetown.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

French
Fleet,
Alexandria.

A message to Adm. Muselier today throws light on the internal conditions of the French ships at Alexandria.

PHOEBE.

If repairs to PHOEBE (damaged by A/C torpedo off Bardia on 27/8) are beyond the station's resources she will probably be taken in hand in U.S.A.

Egypt and
Suez Canal.

There were 2 raids on the Suez area last night by about 8 enemy aircraft. No service damage or casualties were caused, but the Canal is closed between K.M.95 and Deversoir and 152 to Port Tewfik. The main attack was directed against the shipping anchorage, Suez, but caused no damage. It is possible that mines were dropped.

Malta.

2 aircraft dropped bombs on Malta last night without causing any damage or casualties. 1 was shot down into the sea by Hurricanes.

Libya
and Western
Desert.

Swordfish aircraft sent to attack ships outside Tripoli found none, but laid a mine in the harbour approaches.

13 Wellingtons attacked M/T depots at Tripoli with good results.

A Blenheim on sea R/C attacked an Italian U/boat 170 miles N. of Sollum, but no visible damage was reported.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Djibouti.

The Minister of State, Middle East, having concurred in the policy of reprisals for Djibouti defences firing on H.M. ships, instructions have been given to S.N.O. Red Sea Force for patrol ships, who will take immediate action on future occasions.

Caspian Sea.

As the result of recent operations in Persia, the line of supply to the Caspian Sea will pass through area controlled by C. in C. E.I., who therefore recommends that any projected operation in the Caspian should come under him.

America and West Indies.

Shipping Diversions.

To facilitate shipping diversions, the U.S. naval authorities have been informed that a 2-letter group will be used in signals to indicate the reason for the diversion. Details are contained in Admt. 1748A/5.

U.S. Escorts.

Dates for the start of escorts to high speed convoys by U.S. Forces were reported today.

U-Boat Campaign.

Norwegian EINVIK was torpedoed at 0534 G.M.T. this morning in 60.58 N., 30.18 W. She was a straggler from S.C.41.

Admiralty today congratulated Coastal Command on the successful attack on a German U/B on 27/8, when the U/B surrendered and was captured.

Panamanian M/V TRINIDAD was sunk today N.W. of Cape Finistere by gunfire from a German U-boat. (665, 28.9.41, 718, 29.9.41)

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Rosyth
Escort
Force.
(WOLFHOUND.)

In view of damage to WOLFHOUND request she may be replaced in Rosyth Escort Force at an early date by a Hunt Class Destroyer or Sloop. (C. in C. Rosyth 1035/5.)

WELLS.

Was sent to Hull for refit. In view of Admiralty 1343A/4 propose this ship be reduced to C. and M and be treated as a long term job. (F.O.I.C. Humber 1116A/5.)

Iceland,
N.C.S.O. and
D.E.M.S.
Staffs.

Your 2208A/1. Chief difficulty is lack of suitable boats to collect Capts of ships and distribute sailing orders. Hoped to hire Icelandic drifters to alleviate this. Consider one more officer necessary at Reykjavik and one officer at Hvalfjord advantageous. No accommodation for either officer is available now. Anticipate accommodation will be available in December. (A.C.I.C., 1205/5 to Admty.)

ATHERSTONE.

Your 1727A/3. When PUCKERIDGE has worked up and joined 1st D.F. ATHERSTONE will be transferred to Plymouth Command. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1717A/5.)

Destroyers
for Channel
Convoys.

A.M. 1616B/29/5, 1316B/28/6, 1647B/20/7 and my 1026B/30/5. Two Destroyers from Nore Command have been provided as escort for C.E.48 owing to C. in C. Portsmouth being unable to provide any. It is understood that no Destroyers from Portsmouth will be available for C.W.49 sailing on 8th September.
2. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in meeting commitments which has been enhanced by frequent breakdowns and consequent docking of S.A. fitted Destroyers. Ten out of 13 available Destroyers are now at sea and the remaining 3 proceed to sea tomorrow morning. 3. It is not considered desirable to reduce the scale of escorts provided for protection of East Coast convoys in view of large convoys and number of Tankers in convoy. 4. Request information when it is likely Portsmouth Destroyers will again be available to escort Channel convoys. (C. in C. Nore 1800A/5 to Adty.)

ALBATROSS.
(Norwegian
Refugees.)

One Norwegian and one naturalised American Norwegian arrived off Dunbar in sailing yacht at 1815 today. Name of Yacht ALBATROSS Port of Registry Oslo. Reported left Oslo 28/7. Norwegians have been detained on board patrol craft which will tow yacht into Leith tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Leith 2130/5.)

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

CAP DES
PALMES.

Following received from F.O.I.C. Liverpool begins: A.L. M/O.D. 1016/41 of 4 August to B.N.L.O. to General De Gaulle and A.M.1810A/28/8 to C. in C.W.A. Instructions are requested as to where vessel is now to be taken in hand for conversion, observing that A.L. referred to stated this would be done in U.S.A. Ends. Request Admiralty reply.
(C. in C.W.A. 2134A/5.)

Oban A/S
Patrol.

Your 1511A/2 approved.
(D.A/S.W. 2157A/5 to C. in C.W.A.)

Movements.

H.33.

Estimate my position is south of Ronaldsay mean course 183° speed 8 knots. Request bombing restrictions.
(H.33 0710A/5 to F.O.S.)
Your 0710A/5 not understood. WHITE BEAR is waiting in R/V 180° Lizard Head 5 miles. Indicate your position and proceed to join her.
(Capt. S.3 0959A/5 to H.33.)
H.33 reported in 199° Longships 5 at 1940.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2011/5 to WHITE BEAR.)

PROTEUS.

(a) Proceed submerged by day whilst between latitude 043° 40' N., and 045° 40' N. (b) Netherlands S/M 023 is to R/V on 9/9 as previously ordered.
(F.O.S.1251A/5 to PROTEUS.)

TAKU.

(A) After passing 169° 43' N., 10° W. at 0900A/8th proceed through 46° N., 7° 50' W. Thence submerge by day to R/V on 12/9 with escort in vicinity Trevoise Head as ordered by Captain (S) 7 for onward passage to Rothesay.
(F.O.S. 1253A/5 to TAKU.)

SOKOL.

Intend to sail SOKOL at 1530A/7. Route to N.A.Station.
(Capt. S.5. 1422A/5 and 1922A/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

→ 0.23.

F.O.(S) 1554A/4. From position (E) proceed through 270° Wolf Rock 3 miles to R/V with WHITE BEAR in 250° Trevoise Head 10 miles at 0630A/9.
(Capt. S.3 1509A/5 to 0.23.)

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

ELECTRA
ACTIVE.

Departure ELECTRA, ACTIVE for Archangel.
E.T.A. Dvina Light vessel 1200C/6.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1801C/5.)

KROOMAN.

Your 1450A/30/8 and 1045A/5/9. Propose sailing Rescue Tug KROOMAN for Hull on 7/9 for boiler cleaning. Propose that KROOMAN tows Tug NESS POINT from Lowestoft to Grimsby.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1838A/5.)

BERWICK.

My 1707B/26th July. Intend sailing BERWICK to Rosyth on 15/9 to complete turbine repairs as arranged. These are likely to take 3 to 4 weeks.
(C. in C.H.F. 1913A/5.)

H.43.

My 1542/5. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2130A/5.)

Operations.

Operation
"Dervish".

Your 2019/3. (Re B.B.C. Broadcast.) Reply.
(1st. S.L.0026A/5 to Ad.Miles.) See Operations Vol.

TRIDENT
Torpedoes.

Your 1153C/3. Reply. (F.O.S.1223A/5 to B.S.N.O. Murmansk.) See Operations Volume.

Operation
"Gauntlet".

Your 2116/4. HAZEL (?Oiler OLIGARCH) VAN OOST will now arrive position GG 075° N.002°E., at 2359A/8, and there remain until noon 9th for Force A. From noon 9th at your disposal, but trawlers must reach coaling port by 16th. If no orders are received they will sail noon 9th for Hvalfjord. Spitzbergen ports and approaches now less healthy for unprotected oilers. (S.O. Force A 1232A/5 to C.S.1.) S.O. Force "A"'s 2251/4. If endurance permits, EMPRESS OF CANADA with escort of two Destroyers is to proceed from position 2 to Clyde via Minches. (11) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange for long range fighter escort to be provided during daylight/6th.
(C. in C.H.F. 2346A/5.)

Dover
Straits
Patrols.

Weather permitting M.G.B's 46(S.O.) and 52 will be near South Varne Buoy during passage of C.E.48 tonight to act on E Boat reports from Dover R.D.F. M.T.B.'s 219 (S.O.) 38 and 218 will be near East Varne Buoy to attack shipping on French Coast Route. Neither force will approach within 5 (word omitted ? miles) Convoy route before daylight. (N.O.I.C. Dover 1701/5 to MENDIP)(V.A. Dover 1801A/5.)

/Patrols....

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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British Air Activity.

Patrols.

^{Stand}
~~STAND~~ in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0032/5.)
Cross over A/S patrol between following positions
in operation from dawn today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0630/5.)
P.R.U. Kristiansand, Horten, Oslo in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1226/5.)
My 0630/5. A/C withdrawn.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1238/5.)

A/C Russia.

Flying off arrangements.
(D.O.D.H) 2140A/5 and V.C.N.S. 2156A/5)
See Operations Volume.

Enemy Air Activity.

Peterhead
bombed.

Junkers 88 flew over Peterhead from S. to N.,
at about 3000 feet at 0848 dropping 2 bombs.
Three naval ratings injured. Names. No damage
to Government property. Ships and shore
defences in action before bombs were dropped with
negative result.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0930/5.)

St. Govans.
Light Vessel.
VALENTIA.
(Trawler,
bombed.)

St. Govans Light Vessel bombed at 0135/5.
Three near misses, slight damage, no casualties,
light and fog signal correct. Trawler VALENTIA
arrived Milford Haven damaged by near misses in
30 miles N.W. by N. of Stockholm at 2330/4.
No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1710A/5.)

Mining.

Tees
Hartlepool.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to
suspected minelaying.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0021/5.)

Operation
E.H.

Scapa arrival. F.O.C.10th C.S. in KENYA with
MANXMAN and LIGHTNING.
(A.C.O.S. 0032/5.)
Operation "E H" completed.
(V.A.2. 0943A/5.)
MANXMAN is to sail for port Z.A. leaving harbour
at 1315 today.
(C.S.10. 1051/5 to MANXMAN.)

/C.S.10's.....

War Diary.5.9.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Operation
E.H. (Contd.)

C.S.10's 1051A/ E.T.A. 1845 today.
(MANXMAN 1132/5.)
Scapa departure MANXMAN for Port Z.A.
(A.C.O.S. 1401/5.)
British Mines laid at about 0245A/4 in following
area. Enemy Mines cut by MANXMAN paravané in
following position.
(C.S.10. 1746A/5.)
See Operations Volume.
MANXMAN may be placed at 48 hours notice for
steam. (A.C.N.S.H. 1802A/5.)
Arrival MANXMAN.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1920/5.)

Tyne.

Detonated 1 red ground magnetic mine at
1042/5. Details.
(P.M.S.O. North Shields 1112/5.)

Operation
S.N.61.

Admiralty's 1320A/4. AGAMEMNON will arrive
at Clyde Gate at 1130/8. My 1137/5 refers.
(R.A.M. 1138/5, to Adty.)
Intend to carry out as follows on 7 and 8/9
with AGAMEMNON and CASTLETON.
(R.A.M. 1457A/5.) See Operations Volume.

Hartlepool.

1 red mine exploded by L. sweeper 54° 40' 57"
N. 01° 09' 30" W., at 1358 and red mine approx.,
same position at 1458.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1500/5, and 1735/5.)

Operation
QK.7.

Weather permitting operation Q.K(7) will be
carried out tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 1710A/5.)
Departures M.L's 106 105 and 100.
M.T.B's 34 31 and 43 at 1907.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1910A/5.)

Milford
Haven.

One red mine detonated by single L Trawler,
and one red mine by Dutch LL Drifters.
Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1830/5.)

Humber.

Following mine detonated at 1255 to-day.
Details. (F.O.Humber 1945A/5.)

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Force off Christiansand. 1 Cruiser, 3 Destroyers bearing 181° distance 5 miles, Course 290°. My position 58° 7' N., 9° E. (A/C. P/- 0130/5.)
One Cruiser, three destroyers, 080°. 58° 53' N., 10° (20') E. Cancels my 0130. (R.A.F. JS8P.2. 0319/5 to Wick.)
Position. ZNEA 5320 58° 53' N., 10° 20' E., Course 080°, Speed. Unknown. (R.A.F. J.S.8P. 0425/5 to 18 Group H.Q.)

Oslo.

Preliminary examination of photographic R/C of Oslo at 1230 to-day showed SCHEER alongside. No destroyers present. EMDEN not present. (D.D.I.C. 2103A/5.)

Technical.

Fuelling at Sea.

It is desired to carry out the following trials of oiling at sea.
(A) Oiling BRITOMART Class minesweeper and FLOWER Class corvette in Clyde-Londonderry area.
(B) Oiling sloop in Southern latitudes.
Proposed arrangements.
(C. in C.W.A. 1313A/5.)

Miscellaneous.

Harwich.

Port is now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0700A/5.)

Casualties & Defects.

BRITISH VALOUR.
MOSLI.
ATHELTEMPLAR.
OLVINA aground.

Your 0919/4. BRITISH HOPE arrived. BRITISH VALOUR, MOSLI, and ATHELTEMPLAR aground on Shambles. Escort standing. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0200A/5, 0400A/5, 0410A/5.)

MOSLI reports herself afloat. Tugs RESOLVE and PILOT, A/S Trawlers LA NANTAISE, HERTFORDSHIRE, and LORD HAILSHAM, Destroyer KRAKOWIAK, sweepers CROMER and BLACKPOOL, anchored in vicinity. Oiler ELDEROL being sent out at daylight to lighten ships if required. Anticipate ships can be floated without further assistance but Trawler OLVINA ashore 200° 1½ cables from Coast Guard St. Albans requires tug. Request one be sailed. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0525A/5.)

My 0525A/5. OLVINA afloat. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0920A/5.)
My 1903A/5. ATHELTEMPLAR now in Portland.

/BRITISH.....

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

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BRITISH
VALOUR.
MOSLI.
ATHELTEMPLAR.
OLVINA
aground.
(Contd.)

BRITISH VALOUR reported again grounded on Shambles. Resuming towing at 0530/6. (N.O.I.C.Portland 2210A/5.)

AMBUSCADE.

Arrival with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1545/5.) AMBUSCADE 1802A/4. Condenser trouble attributable to movement of ship in rough weather. Intend she should sail on next rough weather to confirm this opinion. (Capt. D. Greenock 1907/5.)

BLANKNEY.

Has developed serious defects in type 128 which necessitate dry docking for four days. This can be undertaken at Londonderry. Intend sailing BLANKNEY to arrive Londonderry 8/9. (F.O.I.C.Belfast 1612A/5.)

H.D.M.L.
1064.

Grounded A.M. to-day off Holm of Howton. A/S Dome lost. (OC.A.P.S. 1746/5.)

COMFORT.

Aground in Harris. Taking water. Require immediate assistance. (COMFORT 2300/5.)

RIPLEY.
(Grounded
4/9.)

Arrival RIPLEY, tugs HEADMAN and SCOTSMAN in attendance, DRAUG escorting, at 2310. (F.O.Humber 2324A/5.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy
"Dervish".

Request standard route for detached ships for the return of "Dervish" may be signalled as soon as possible. Urgently required by Commodore of convoy. (Miles, 1009C/5 to Admty.)

Iceland
Ships.

Approved to send Lieut. Tamber with 65 men wishing to join Norwegian forces to London by first opportunity. Also to unload cargo of coal and dispose of locally. Ships with crews will be time-chartered to M. of W.T. (Head of M. 1041A/5 to A.C.I.C.)

/Sailed.....

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- Iceland Ships (Contd.) Sailed 11 Merchant Ships at 1200Z escorted by WINDERMERE and SEALYHAM to join S.C.41 in position F at 0700Z/6.
(A.C.I.C., 1442/5 to C. in C.W.A.)
- H.X.145. Met as arranged with 83 ships, all now arrived. Fair weather after first few days.
(D.T.D. 1452A/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Numbers and cargoes. (D.S.730, 4/9.)
- SESSA. Have you any news of Panamanian SESSA due Reykjavik about 18/8 from New York?
(D.T.D.1739A/5 to N.C.S.O.Iceland.) *Reply: p. 174.*
- C.E.48. Provision of destroyer escort.
(C. in C. Nore 1800A/5.) See Policy.
- D.S.11.
C.T.2. My 2238A/5, sail D.S.11 and C.T.2 when SAGUENAY is ready.
(C. in C.W.A. 2245A/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Whole convoy is to return to Greenock forthwith.
NEWARK, CHARLESTOWN, proceed Greenock.
(C. in C.W.A., 2328A/5, to ST.LAURENT, NEWARK.)

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.

French Shipping.

Passings 4/9. French Westbound PARAME, MEN-
GWEN, full PONTET CANET in ballast. Eastbound
CARIMARE, THISBE full.
(V.A.C.N.A. 0915A/5 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

TRUSTY.

Intend to sail TRUSTY A.M./6 for Gibraltar.
(Route.) TRUSTY is painted grey with white
letters and numbers on conning tower.
(Capt. S.3, 1107A/5, to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE.

Leave Patrol P.M./6 for Gibraltar. Route (A)
035° N., 020° W., thence along parallel 035°.
Report position at 0001/7.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/5 to CLYDE.)

Suspicious Convoy.

Unidentified convoy about 8 ships and 2 or 3
smaller escorting ships passed 10 miles Westward
of S L.85 Southbound after dark at 2100Z/4.
My position then 032° 52' N., 022° 20' W., 356°
speed 6½ knots capable of 7½ knots. Weather.
(PHILANTE, 1241A/5, to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C.W.A.)

DURHAM.

Your 1716A/4. Approved for docking at
Gibraltar provided that dock is kept at 48 hours
notice for use of H.M.ships.
(D.O.D.(F) 1342A/5 to C.S.Gibraltar.)

ENCOUNTER.

Due to sail Ponta Delgada P.M./5 to R/V REPULSE
in position ~~SUMNER~~ at 1100A/7.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1448A/5, to DUNEDIN.)
ENCOUNTER left Ponta Delgada 2015 G.M.T./5.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1922/5.)

Enemy Shipping.

My 1736A/31. Left Barcelona 3rd.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1838A/5 to S/M O.24.)

MANCHESTER.
FIREDRAKE.

Your 1704A/4. Proposals approved.
Request you will sail ships accordingly and
arrange to inform B.A.R.M. of E.T.A., at
destinations.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1847A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Ammunition.

Your 1436A/4. Request outfit and reserves
ammunition accompany guns insufficient stock
held.(C.S., Gib., 2036A/5 to Admty.)
Reply: 1548/6.

/German.....

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.(Contd.)

German
Shipping.

(1) German SULLBERG loading at Sagunto 30/8 for Genoa or Savona. 1300 tons Iron Ore 1,000 tons Pig Iron. (2) ELISABETH HENRIK FISSER arrived Genoa 1/9 expected to be unloaded by 4/9. Probable return Route Barcelona - Sagunto - Valencia. (3) HANS SCHMIDT loading Agua Amarga ready to sail about 6/9 for Genoa or Savona.
(D.N.I., 2055A/5, to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

CARTHAGE
JUPITER
HAWKINS
W.S.10.

5/9 Durban departure CARTHAGE at 0400Z in accordance with C. in C. East Indies 1854Z/2. Arrivals. JUPITER at 0440Z, HAWKINS escorting Durban portion W.S.10.
(N.L.O. Durban, 0704Z/5 to C. in C.E.I., C. in C.S.A. etc.)

TOMBOUCTOU
(French.)

Departure, - Lagos 5th.
(R.O.Accra, 0940/5 to M. of W.T.)

ALBATROSS
→ GAZCON.

Your 1801/4. Return to Freetown, report if you sight GAZCON at any time and if you have any other information. Up to what point did you search coast?
(C. in C.S.A., 1027N/5, to ALBATROSS.)

EMPIRE
ATTENDANT.

Overdue Shipping. EMPIRE ATTENDANT due Capetown 1/9 not arrived.
(Capetown, 1112B/5, to Admty., etc.)

→ S/M Report
4/8.

Possibly French looking for GAZCON.
(C. in C.S.A., 1205N/5.)
See U-Boat Campaign.

ALCANTARA.

My 1255Z/4th. ^{/NT. W.3.} Amend time of sailing to read 1830Z, engine defects and delay receiving oil.
(ALCANTARA, 1302Z/5, to Admty., C. in C.S.A.etc.)

/Norwegian.....

War Diary5.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.Norwegian
Personnel
LACONIA.

Your 0300/3. Request whereabouts of seventy Norwegian personnel. Norwegian Consul Capetown has no information.
(? P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1432B/5, to D.S.T.)

W.S.10.

Position. Durban portion W.S.10.
(A) arrived 5/9 with exception of DIOMEDA.
(B) storing, fuelling and repairing (C) ARONDA
9th C.M.17, 11th NIEUW AMSTERDAM. (B) disembarks
P.O.W, storing, fuelling and repairing.
(C) 8/9 MAURETANIA. (C) 8/9.
(S.S.T.O. Durban, 1543Z/5, to D. of S.T.)

Sea Transport
Durban and
Capetown.

Following from Milmis Pretoria via Impean (begins.) Ref. previous telegram on Admty., proposal to alter location of P.S.T.O. from Simonstown to Durban. Understand Admiral Simonstown has signalled Admty., that proposal is not concurred in because M. of W.T. does not favour move and Dechief prepared to leave things as they are. Feel sure Q.M.G. can be persuaded to agreement to change. Have watched arrival at Durban W.S.10 which has proved perfect example of real difficulty produced almost entirely by existing situation. Feel it is essential that Admiralty recommendation be adhered to. (Ends.)
(Imperial Movements Control, Durban, ?1560/5 to W.O.)

ASTURIAS.

Your 1142B/4. Concur subject to concurrence of C. in C.A. & W.I.
(C. in C.S.A., 1606N/5, to B.A.R.M.)

W.S.10X.

Everything possible should be done to expedite passage of W.S.10X to its destination. If one ship governs the speed of passage there is no objection to her proceeding independently after the remainder beyond Capetown.
(V.C.N.S. 1735A/5 to C. in C.S.A., etc.)

TOMBOUCTOU
(French.)

Arrived. (Lagos, 1835/5, to M. of W.T.)

Destroyer
Refits.

Your 0151N/3. Request you will submit a proposed programme of refits of destroyers and corvettes in U.K. for next two months.
(D.O.D.(F) 1844A/5 to C. in C.S.A.)

/DORSETSHIRE...

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

116

South Atlantic. Contd.

DORSETSHIRE.
EAGLE.

DORSETSHIRE is to remain in company with EAGLE when proceeding to fuel from ECHODALE. If you have not already left patrol line to fuel report by W/T on leaving that you are doing so but not before. Report to be made preferably when about 200 miles N.E. of St. Paul's Rock.
(C. in C.S.A., 2021N/5 to S.O. Force F.)

SOBIESKI
DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD.

S.T.O. Capetown's 1437/27/8 and 0937/29/8. SOBIESKI and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD may be delayed two days in Lagos and two in Freetown for loading cargo. 2. Request you advise S.T.O.'s concerned as to whether this delay to escort can be accepted.
(D. of S.T. 2233A/5, to C. in C.S.A.)

Troop
Transport
C.M.
Convoys.

Your 1216/27/8. Shipping available, and proposals. (D.S.T., 2301A/5 to P.S.T.O., Simonstown.) See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.

W.S.10.

Following are disposal instructions for vessels of W.S.10. (D.S.T., 0349A/5 to P.S.T.O. Egypt, etc.) See Lion Copy. (116E)

French
Fleet.
Alexandria.

Message for Adm. Muselier from Jaquet. (R.A. Alexandria, 1013C/5 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

Abu Sueir
Raid. 3/4.
Suez Raids,
4/5.

My A869, 4/9. About 28 enemy aircraft attacked Abu Sueir night 3/4. No further damage reported. Night 4/5. Two raids on Suez area each by about 8 enemy aircraft. Bombs dropped at Suez and Kasfarect. Patrols by 15 Hurricanes and 3 Beaufighters made no interceptions.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1032/5.) See also 1342C/5.

/OTUS.....

499
116 #

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

2301A/5th. September.

MESSAGE

OUT.

Date. 5.9.41.

To. P.S.T.O. Simonstown.

Repeated. P.S.T.O. Egypt.

C. in C. South Atlantic.

C. in C. East Indies.

S.T.O. Durban.

D.S.T.O. Mombasa.

S.N.O.R.S.

P.S.T.O. India.

G.H.Q. Middle East.

Dechief Pretoria.

Impecon Durban.

203 Military Mission

} Through
War Office.

Naval Cypher (A.2)

From. Director of Sea Transport.

Your 1216/27/8 not to all addressees.

Commitments for movement from South Africa to Middle East up to the end of October are as follows.

- (a) 11,250 transhipped ex W.S.10.
- (b) 20,964 detailed in your 1216/27/8 plus 800 reinforcements.
- (c) 8,600 proposed to be transhipped ex W.S.11 due at Durban about 2.10.

Total to be moved 41,614.

2. Shipping available is as follows:.

- (i) C.M.17. Comprising CITY OF CANTERBURY, NIEUW HOLLAND, LLANDAFF CASTLE, JOHAN DE WITT and RANGITIKI sailing Durban about 8.9. Total capacity 5,800.
- (ii) C.M.18 comprising MAURENTANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM sailing Durban about 8.9. Total capacity 8,100.
- (iii) C.M.19. sailing Durban end September. Provided that DILWARA, NOVA SCOTIA, ELIZABETHVILLE, DUNERA, EMPIRE TROOPER, SONTAY and PULASKI can all be included total capacity would be about 10,700.
- (iv) C.M.20 comprising MAURENTANIA, NIEUW AMSTERDAM and ILE DE FRANCE sailing Durban about 7.10. provided ILE DE FRANCE can be ready in time. Total capacity 12,200.
- (v) C.M.21 comprising ships of C.M.17 plus X KOSCIASKO from U.K. Total capacity 7000. This convoy would sail Durban late October. Further signal will be made regarding X KOSCIASKO. X KOSCIUSZKO
- (vi) Total capacity provided by paragraphs 2.(i) to (v) would be about 43,800 which would cover requirements quoted in paragraph (1).

3. Sailing dates are subject to C. in C. East Indies concurrence and adjustment to fit in with other escort arrangements.

4. Allocation of personnel between the ships would be left to you and Impecon Durban so as to avoid difficulties of using Group 'A' ships for non-European personnel.

5. Request your views on above proposals and report as to probability of readiness of ships mentioned in paras. 2 (iii) and 2 (iv).

6. Proposals/.....

MOST SECRET

6. Proposals referred to in G.H.Q. Middle East's Mov. 1/97394 Cipher 29.8 and P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1625/1 not to all addressees are agreed to and would not be interfered with by the foregoing.

7. Agreed with War Office.

2301A/5.

Director of Sea Transport.
M.W.T. Extn. 2187.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- Duty Captain
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D. of S.T.
- D.N.I. (4)
- Head of M. (8) (and for War Office and
(to pass to G.H.Q. Middle
(East. Dechief Pretoria,
(Impeon Durban, & 203
(Military Mission.

- E.P.S.
- D. of P. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.A/S.W.
- D.D.I.C.
- N.I.D.10 (Pay.Cdr. Wilson)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

A

49/51 September.

OUT

To:- P.S.T.O. Egypt,
P.S.T.O. Simonstown
P.S.T.O. India.

Date 5.9.41.

Rept. R.A. Malaya.
C. in C. South Atlantic.
C. in C. East Indies.
S.N.O. Red Sea.
F.O.C.R.I.N.
D.S.T.O. Mombasa.
S.T.O. Capetown.
S.T.O. Durban.

Naval Code J₁ Secret.

From Director of Sea Transport.

Following are disposal instructions for vessels of W.S.10.

- 2. ANDES, ORCADES and REINA DEL PACIFICO will proceed from South Africa to Halifax for T.C.14.
- 3. CAMERONIA will return from South Africa to U.K. with personnel ex MAURETANIA and all service personnel from South Africa in accordance with Admiralty signal 2222/20/8 and D. of S.T.'s 1652/28/8 neither to all addressees.
- 4. STRATHALLAN, WINDSOR CASTLE and BRITANNIC after disembarkation in India should return to U.K. Request report whether STRATHALLAN and BRITANNIC can be drydocked in Bombay.
- 5. STIRLING CASTLE after disembarkation at Singapore will proceed to Wellington to load for U.K.
- 6. HIGHLAND MONARCH will proceed from South Africa to the Plate to load for U.K.
- 7. RANGITIKI after disembarking at Suez will proceed to Auckland for loading for U.K.
- 8. INDRAPOERA, NEA HELLAS and WOLENDAM will return from Suez to U.K. and will probably be used en route for movement referred to in Admiralty signal 1228/29/8 not to all addressees.
- 9. BRITANNIC, WINDSOR CASTLE and STRATHALLAN will load in Bombay and complete in Capetown. WOLENDAM, INDRAPOERA and NEA HELLAS will load in Mombasa/Durban/Cape range as required by Campbell Capetown who will receive instructions from Ministry of War Transport. ANDES, ORCADES, REINA DEL PACIFICO and CAMERONIA will load in Durban/Capetown range.
- 10. Cargo must not be loaded in troop decks without prior approval of D. of S.T.

0349A/5.

D. of S.T. (M.W.T. Ex. 2187)

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

War Diary.5.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.OTUS.

Second tanker expected to pass your position about dawn/6. If not encountered by 1900C return to Alexandria to arrive sanctuary 0600C/11 routed as in my 1750C/3.
(Capt. S.1, 1127C/5, to OTUS.)

Troop Transport.

My 1920/14/8. Can additional ship be allocated to assist in moving of Pioneer Companies from Mombasa to Suez. S.S.T.O. India Bombay requested to advise if he can allocate a ship for the purpose.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1305/5, to D. of S.T.)

Suez Raids.

C.A.F.O. 587. First Raid. (a) 4/5 Sept., calm clear. (b) Attack on Suez by 8 enemy A/C 7 to 12,000 feet, 22 (?12) - 0018, no flares, bright moon (c) H.E. (d) 12 H.E. mostly in water (e) no service damage or casualties (f) 15 fighters up, (g) balloons flying.
Second raid. (a) 4/5 Sept. calm clear. (b) high and medium level attack on Suez by 14 enemy A/C 4 - 14,000 feet, 0308 - 0527 no flares, bright moon. (c) H.E. and mine. (d) 20 H.E. 3 U.X.B. 2 X.M. and several U.X.B. or U.X.M. in approaches to Canal 2 U.X.M. in Canal (e) no service damage or casualties (?extensive) damage to Egyptian State Railway installations. Egyptian military casualties. (f) 10 fighters up. (g) balloons flying.
Canal closed km. 95 to Deversoir and (?152) to Port Tewfik. Attaching port open subject to restrictions.
(S.B.N.O.Suez Canal, 1342C/5, to Admty. etc.)

PHOEBE.

If repairs to PHOEBE are beyond the station's resources request date she will be ready for ocean passage. She will probably be taken in hand in U.S.A.
(D.D.D.(F) 1343A/5 to C. in C. Med.)

PERSEUS
TORBAY.

Amend route in my 2310C/3 as follows. Pass east of Amorgo Island through Scarpanto Channel and position 032° 20' 029° 36'. TORBAY leaves Alexandria p.m./6 through 032° 18' 029° 22' and Kaso Straits thence N.W.
(Capt. S.1, 1510C/5, to PERSEUS.)

/Malta.....

War Diary.

5.9.1941. 118
Friday.

FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Malta
Raid.

Night 4/5. 2 aircraft dropped bombs, no damage or casualties, searchlights illuminated 1 Br.20 which was shot down in flames into sea by Hurricanes.

M/V's
attacked
Cotrone,
Tripoli
mined, and
bombed.

Day 4/9. 5 Blenheims attacked ships taking refuge Cotrone after Swordfish attack night 2/3. 1 MV 6/8000 tons hit and explosion seen, 2 other ships attacked, result not observed. Night 4/5 Swordfish sent attack ships outside Tripoli, no ships seen. 1 aircraft laid mine in harbour approaches. 13 Wellingtons attacked motor transport depots, Tripoli from 2255 to 0300 hours. Medium gliding and low attacks down to 500 feet, target well and truly hit. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1700/5.)

830 Sqn.

Their Lordships note with satisfaction the series of successes obtained by 830 Squadron during 1941, especially against enemy shipping during recent months, and wish to congratulate all personnel concerned. (5 S.L., 1730A/5, to V.A.Malta.)

Situation
report 139.

3 Merchant Vessels attacked by moonlight with bombs vicinity of Ashrafi Reef night 3/4. 2 continuing voyage HARPALYCUS slightly damaged near miss has returned to Suez. U. Boat sighted by R.A.F. in 034° 10' N., 025° 17' East at 1040 steering N.E. has been attacked without result. (C. in C. Med., 2157C/5.)

Enemy Convoy.

Small convoy including Schooners with surface and air escort expected in position 264° Benghazi 55 at 1500C/7 on N.E. course. (Capt. S.1, 2225C/5, to THUNDERBOLT.)

War Diary.5.9.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Djibuti,
reprisal
for firing
on HINDUSTAN.

My 1720/2 re Djibuti passed to you.
(i) Minister of State, Middle East, concurs
reprisals on line proposed. (ii) Policy passed
to C. in C. Red Sea Force for patrol ships
who will take immediate action on future occasions.
(C. in C. E.I., 0650Z/5 to Admty.)

Caspian
Sea.

As a result of recent operation in Persia the
Line Supply to Caspian Sea will now pass
through area controlled by C. in C. East Indies
and C. in C. India respectively. I therefore
recommend that any projected operation in
Caspian Sea should come under C. in C. East
Indies. Grateful if an Admiralty appreciation
may be signalled. (C. in C. E.I., 0720Z/5 to
Admty.)

Iraq.

Problems of transport, road, rail and river.
(General, Iraq, 0830/5 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

Ex-Enemy
Ships,
Persian
Gulf.

Admty. 2544A/29 and your 1500Z/31. WILDENFELS,
MARIENFELS, STURMFELS and Ex Italian ship
HILDA on arrival Karachi should be handed over
together with affidavits of seizure to Local
Detaining Officer for Prize proceedings.
CABOTO, BARBARA and BRONTE in tow should be
handed over for Prize proceedings at Karachi or
Bombay whichever more convenient. Govt. of
India have been instructed by India Office
to arrange with representative of M. of W.T.
for early requisitioning of the ships out of
Prize. Waiver of any right possessed by Persian
Govt. to reclaim vessels captured in their
waters is being included in Persian Armistice
negotiations. As an additional precaution
Govt. of India will be asked to bring Prize
proceedings to judgment as expeditiously as
possible. (Head of M. 1918A/5 to C. in C.E.I.)

Iran.

Summary of Naval, Military and Air requirements
forwarded by F.O. to Ambassador, Teheran.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2005A/5 to C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N.)
amended S.N.O.R.S., 0807Z/7). See Lion Copy.

Red Sea
Anchorage.

Your 1632Z/2. Request particulars of anchorage
F and also E if such an anchorage exists.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2206A/5 to S.N.O.R.S.)

MOST SECRETFrom General Iraq

Date: 5. 9. 41. (19A)

Recd. 1528

CYPHER

Addressed The War Office, repeated C. in C. India.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

41031 QM/547 cipher 5/9.

Following from Arminia for Troopers.

Ref. our telegrams 11439/Q and 11434/Q of 20 Aug. 41 and your 85404 (Q.Ops) of 26 Aug. 41 Q.M.G. has exhaustively discussed transportation position in Iraq with General Iraq and following are agreed conclusions.

Two. Load to be carried forward from Basra to Baghdad is about 7500 tons a day including (A) maintenance for 10 divisions and 30 R.A.F. Sqns. and (B) 2000 tons for partial maintenance for 10 Turkish divs. but excluding 1000 tons a day for through Turkish traffic on assumption that this lift will not be needed during active operation.

Three. Road. Even when improved to good dry weather standard road will not stand up to continuous operations of 1750 lorries required (see part IV our telegram 11434/Q). We consider road should only be looked upon as emergency L. of C.

Four. Rail. General Iraq has been planning to develop existing single line to take 3000 tons a day. This allows for 13 trains of 450 tons each, 7 for goods and 6 for personnel etc. Further development possible up to 4000 tons a day allowing 10 goods trains and 8 personnel trains. Present rolling stock on rly. 43 locos and 2000 wagons. To develop to 3000 tons requires additional 116 locos and 6000 wagons. Development to 4000 tons requires additional 132 locos and 7000 wagons.

Five. River. Prime movers in sight 22 in Iraq, 30 from India and 20 from A.I.O.C. (if they will agree to release them) can lift 1500 tons through traffic by April 1942.

If metre gauge single track be laid Kut to Baquba traffic could be increased to 2500 tons in same period. Maximum possible development of river is about 4000 tons through traffic given unlimited resources and time and specially efficient management of lock at Kut.

Six. It is evident therefore that railway capacity must be increased by doubling line if required lift is to be achieved in reasonable time. I have exhaustively considered possibility of using standard gauge in one form or another and rejected it for following reasons. (A) Greater dislocations of traffic during construction (B) Longer time required for construction. (C) Facilities would be required for standard gauge marshalling yards at port, and terminus at Basra to receive rolling stock required for construction and no space for this exists. (D) Layout of port and base at Sheiba is such that change over to standard gauge would be exceeding difficult and probability is that transshipment from M.G. to S.G. at either port or base would still be needed. The object of having an S.G. is thus defeated. (E) No sleepers, locos, or rolling stock available from India and problem of shipping all such requirements to Basra and clearing through M.G. port would be serious.

Considerable amount of M.G. Locomotives and rolling stock available in India, also sleepers. We have no hesitation in recommending that existing M.G. Line should be doubled. This would give lift if needed up to 10000 tons a day allowing additional 200 locos and 12000 wagons.

Eight. But in addition to doubling railway lines we recommend that river facilities should also be developed to carry 2500 tons through traffic to Kut by single M.G. line from Kut up east bank of Tigris for following reasons,

MOST SECRET

C
1198

-3-

(A) another advanced base on east bank is required. Advance base now under preparation on west bank cannot provide for more than 4 divisions (b) necessity for being independent of train ferry bottle neck at Baghdad to ensure full use of M.G. line to Khaniquhn and Kirkuk (c) necessity for alternative or reserve L. of C. in event of damage to Railway.

Nine. We therefore recommend. (A) That M.G. line Basra Baghdad be doubled (b) Tigris L of C. be developed to carry 2500 tons. (c) single M.G. line be laid from Kut to Baquba by passing Baghdad. (d) Road Basra - Baghdad should be considered as purely occasional route.

Ten. Immediate firm authority to proceed on these lines is requested. Requirements in stores equipment and personnel will then be worked out and demands placed on you for such items as cannot be obtained in E.G.

Eleven. Policy of fort development not yet clear and separate telegram on this subject will follow if necessary after discussion in Basra.

Twelve. General Wavell agrees.

0830/5

Recd. by hand from War Office at 1100/8

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

MOST SECRET

119D

~~402~~

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2005/A/5th Sept.

OUT

To C. in C. East Indies. 629.
F.O.C. Royal Indian Navy. 837
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean. 131
S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

Date. 5.9.41

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty.

AIDAC

For your personal information only, following is a summary of Naval, Military and Air requirements forwarded by the Foreign Office to H.M. Ambassador, Tehran. This will, of course, also be discussed with Soviet Government.

NAVAL

(i) Occupation, control and use of the naval base and W/T station at Khurramshahr.

(ii) Retention of all captured merchant ships other than those under Persian flag.

(iii) Retention of all captured warships until the end of the war with Axis.

(iv) Facilities for use of all Persian ports and harbours.

(v) Full British control of all navigable Persian rivers at the head of the Persian Gulf.

(vi) Persian navigation rights of Shatt-el-Arab to be placed in British hands.

119D
0807/7/9

(vii) The right to acquire local craft as necessary for minesweeping and patrol purposes.

ARMY

(i) Control of the Persian railways in order to ensure the efficient operation and military security of the system.

/ (ii)

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

(ii) The right to free use of all communications including ports, railways, roads and telegraphs, and the right to develop these communications as we deem necessary. We shall require to establish Allied personnel in key positions in these communication systems.

AIR

(i) The full use of Persian aerodromes, landing grounds and flying boat bases, including the right to carry out constructional work to expand or improve them where necessary

(ii) Facilities for the establishment and maintenance of air defence systems particularly for the defence of Abadan and the oilfields.

(iii) The use of any aircraft maintenance and workshop facilities in Persia that may be required.

This information is also being passed by Military Authorities to S.N.O.Persian Gulf.

2005A/5

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.

for Head of Military Branch(86)
Approved A.C.N.S.(F)

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

W.D.
Duty Captain
Head of M.(8) for Foreign Office
Air Ministry
War Office

D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.(2)
N.I.D. 10(Pay Cdr.Wilson)
I.A.S.(S)

120

5.9.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

MOORLAKE.

Your 0608/4. I am concerned about this continued absence of MOORLAKE from China Station where she is urgently needed as since loss of BUFFALO no mooring vessel is available either at Singapore or Hong Kong. I should be glad if you would return MOORLAKE to me at the earliest possible date. (C. in C. China, 0843Z/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

Japanese Shipping.

Intelligence Report. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0842Z/5) See Lion Copy.

MARECHAL)
JOFFRE)

Left, Haiphong 8/9. (Manila 0610Z/5 to M.of W.T.)

CAP TOURANE
SI-KIANG
(French).

Arrival. (Saigon, 1041Z/5 to D. of S.T.)

ROGGEVEEN
(Dutch).

Your 1820/3. My 204/30 was to Fairmiss to whom on authority your 1835/13/3 and 1406/13/6 routes are not reported. Ship sailed from Cebu and was presumably routed by N.C.S.O. Manila to whom I am passing your signal. (N.C.S.O. Hong Kong, 1603/5 to Admty.)

ANHUI.

As 20/9 and 23/9 public holiday, suggestion has been made ANHUI should arrive Yokohama about dawn/24. Japanese Authorities ask be informed approx. course ANHUI also particular call signs etc. so that there will be no danger her being molested. (Craigie, Hong Kong to Hong Kong, no T.O.O./5).

Japan.

Policy proposed to avoid war by increasing firmness. (C. in C. Far East 2218/5). See Lion Copy.

/20A

SECRET MESSAGE

0842Z/5th September.
IN

From: C.O.I.S. Singapore.

Date 4/9/1941.

Time: 2348.

I.D.C. BY W/T

Addressed: Admiralty. Repeated N.O.i/c Hong Kong.
S.O. (1) Shanghai., B.N.A. Tokyo.

B.N.A. Tokyo's Teleg. No. 1055 September 4th.

Position Japanese shipping intelligence report latest
Far East Combined Bureau of Information.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Average number of Merchant Vessels during early months 1941.</u>	<u>Number of Merchant Vessels on September 1st, 1941.</u>
North Atlantic	10	Nil.
North Pacific	45	11
South America	9	16
Australasia	5	Nil.
India and Burma	15	4
Africa	3	1
South Seas	75	47

Remainder are assumed to be in or near Japanese waters.

0842Z/5.

^ Sailing of FUSHIMI MARU postponed, etc.

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

H.F.

MOST SECRET

120B

M E S S A G E. 2218/5th Sept.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From C. in C., Far East.

Date. 5.9.41.

Recd. 0850.

C Y P H E R.

Addressed The War Office.

41239. 12/5 cipher 5/9.

For Chiefs of Staff.

In pursuance of policy of avoiding war with Japan by increasing firmness I propose following measures be progressively applied in Far East.

One. Propaganda regarding.

(A) Our determination to continue and increase aid to China.

(B) Japanese infiltration Thailand with object paving way action by our Forces should necessity arise.

(C) Failure Japanese operations in China, their profitless losses, doubts regarding ability Japanese Commanders and staff, China's ability fight on indefinitely War with Japan being no worse than many local phenomena.

(D) Decline of Japanese trade, effects of freezing Japanese assets abroad, immobilizing her merchant marine and economic results in Japan, all due ineptitude Japanese politicians and political company they keep (C.F. Mussolini before and after.)

(E) Movement Burma Forces to forward positions Kontung Road.

(F) Arrival reinforcements in Malaya and

(G) Development Road North Assam into China.

Two. A selection volunteers from 204 Mission for action in China soon as training completed. Volunteers to resign officially from service. Volunteers might be described as part of I.A.F.

/Three.....

SECRET

-2-

Three. Increased visits China by Army and R.A.F. Officers.

Four. Visit of cruisers China Station to Hongkong to influence morale Japanese as well as Hongkong Garrison and population.

Five. Greater publicity exchanges visits ships and aircraft associated powers to each other's bases.

Six. Action to reduce Japanese Consular Staffs Far East Centres (e.g. Hong Kong) to normal Establishment. C. in C., China agrees. On receiving your concurrence I will initiate measures.

Seven. Am also considering advisability of despatch of three buffalos, of dummy fighters and dummy fighter crates to Hong Kong combined with apparent work on aerodrome on Island. Object to influence Japanese against war without expectation that they would be effective should war come.

2218/5

Recd. by hand from War Office at 1100/S.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 N.A. to 1st S.L.
 P.A.S. (S)
 D.C.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D. of P. (2)
 D.C.
 E.P.S.
 Head of M.
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 N.I.D. 10. Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
 D.N.A.D.
 Admiral Bellairs (2)
 Admiral Palliser.

MMC.

121

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

EMPRESS OF ASIA.

Your 1609/2. Request report of anticipated speed of EMPRESS OF ASIA after drydocking. Also how long will be required for turn round in U.K. (D.S.T. 0143A/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

"R" Report
4/9, PORT
ADELAIDE.

Following received from Opnav: (repeats B.A.D. 2125R/4) (Spenavo, 0230/5 to Admty. for D.C.) Your 1039 (N.T. in W.D.) C. in C. A. and W. I. repeated S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica) from N.C.S.O. -Panama. PORT ADELAIDE arrived Balboa 1548/4 Z + 5 reports as follows: At 1320 Z + 5 distinctly heard 4 Q's then silence. From strength of signals estimate distance 300 miles, direction not obtainable, (ends). U.S. Naval Authority inform me 4 planes leaving Cristobal daylight/5, to search 600 miles radius from Balboa 2251/4. Above only information available.

(N.C.S.O. Panama, 0720/5 to Admty.)

B.A.D. Washington 2125R/4. 4 U.S. aircraft leave Cristobal daylight/5 to search area 600 miles radius from Balboa. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0852Q/5 to Cdre. W.I., PRINCE HENRY).

My 2251/4 repeated to Admty. in my 0720/5.

Following additional information; three sets of four Qs. distinctly heard, broken off suddenly on last repeat, interrupted continuous wave with modulations, frequency approx 1000 metres. U.S. Naval Authorities inform me U.S. Destroyer BORIE at 0900/5 in 006° N. 080° W. U.S. Destroyers BARRY, GOFF on Galapagos Islands station. On 10/9, two U.S. light (?cruisers) will be in 005° S. 100° 02.

(N.C.S.O., Panama, 1531/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.) B.A.D. Washington's 2125R/4. DESPATCH reports British ship SURREY made an incomplete raider distress message at 1320R/4 on sighting PRINCE HENRY in 004° 40' S. 084° 25' W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2232Q/5 to Admty.).

ORION.

Arrived Mare Island, San Francisco.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0745Z/5).

ASCANIA.

Following is a repetition of my 1031P/4. (begins) Your 1541A/21. Intend to sail ASCANIA as escort for HX 1 ? 49 proceeding to U.K. with Clyde portion to give leave. T.O.O. 1031P/4 (ends). (R.A.3., 1018P/5 to Admty.)

/CARADOC.....

War Diary.

5.9.1941. 122
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

CARADOC.

Intend to sail CARADOC from Bermuda for Halifax 12/9 for deperming and D.G. ranging and quick docking for bottom cleaning. C.O.A.C. Halifax concurs. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1022Q/5 to Admty. etc.) Date amended, see 2232/8.

Suspicious
Ship,
31/8.

St. Lucia reports British Ship at 0800/31/8 in 008.00 N. 047.00 W. sighted ship on course 135° 12 knots, about 500 feet long, Cruiser stern, 2 Masts, 8 Samson posts, funnel and hull black, upperworks masts white, no display nationality, no gun, general appearance German similar latest Hansa Line FELS. Name own ship awaited. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1026R/5 to Admty. etc.) Name British ship BENREOCH. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1526R/6).

Corvettes
Trinidad

Your 1521/4. Essential that corvettes be fitted with W/T type F.R.12 or similar type. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1050Q/5 to Admty.) Reply: 2007/8.

DIOMEDE.

Leave Bermuda on completion of practices P.M./6 and proceed to Trinidad via Sombrero Channel, adjusting speed so as to arrive 1800Q/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1052Q/5 to DIOMEDE).

DIOMEDE,
flag of
C. in C.

Intend to transfer my flag to DIOMEDE P.M./6 and carry out following programme. Leave Bermuda 6/9 arrive Trinidad 9/9 leave Trinidad 12/9 arrive Bermuda 15/9. Request messages requiring my immediate personal attention may be addressed DIOMEDE, remainder to Bermuda as usual. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1104Q/5 to Admty. etc.)

Anti-Raider
Operations.

DIOMEDE and oilers. Reply to Admty. 1902A/30. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1112Q/5) See Operations Vol. 5/9
P. 232

VAN KINSBERGEN.

Your 1845A/4. Request B.N.L.O. may be appointed to VAN KINSBERGEN before leaving U.K. No suitable officer available on A. & W.I. Station. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1144Q/5 to Admty.)

U.S. S.E.
Pacific
Force.

My 1222Q/2 part 1. amend (B) to read 005° 00' S. 095° 00' W. Add (c) 005° 30' S. 100° 00' W. thence south on meridian 100° 00' W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1215Q/5 to S.O.W.I. Force).

/CHAMBLY.....

War Diary.

5.9.1941. 123
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

CHAMBLY and
MOOSEJAW.

Intend to sail at 1500Z/5 for training cruise. Corvettes will proceed 12 knots and be in the vicinity of S.C. 42 in approx. 030° W. on 9/9 returning thence St. Johns N.F. E.T.A. 15/9. Corvettes will be in the vicinity of O.N. 12 or O.N. 13 during return journey. (C.C.N.F., 1409Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. Sailed San Diego 4/9 1200, due Honolulu 12/9 0700. (Consul, Los Angeles, 1453/5 to Admty.)

Communications. Between ships on one side of Atlantic and those on other. Reply to Admty. 1730/23; (B.A.D., 1655R/5 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Diversions. Diversions of shipping to avoid U/boats. 2-letter group code to be used. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1748A/5 to Opnav). See Lion Copy.

U.S. Forces,
Convoy
Escorts. Re escort of high speed convoys. (Spenavo, 1752/5 to Admty.) (See Operations Volume). B.A.D. 1825R/5 to Admty. (See Operations Volume.) Amended, see 1345R/6.

St. John's
N.F. Installation of I.F.F. beacon by R.A.F. (D.S.D., 1904A/5).

Brazil. Negotiations re transfer of fighting equipment. (B.A.S.R., 2051/5 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

U.S. Tankers. For Operations D.C. Following received from Opnav. At 2100 G.C.T./6. Following ships depart for Reykjavik from New York, speed 10, U.S. Tanker *T.H. WHEELER, ROANOKE, CITY OF DALLAS, will take following route. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 2100/5 to Admty.) Position G amended (Spenavo, 1009/9).

* THOMAS H. WHEELER

/U.S.N.....

MOST SECRET

123A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1655R/5th September.

IN

From B.A.D. Washington.

Date 6.9.41.
Recd. 0142

Naval Cypher O.T.T. by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty.

400. Your 1730/23rd. Navy Department are making detailed reply to Admiral Ghormley. Following is gist of their reply.

1. They do not consider any ship or authority on one side of the Atlantic should address messages to those of the opposite nation on the other even though messages are purely informatory, and insist on such messages being sent from Admiralty to Navy Department or vice versa. Every possible argument as to disadvantages of above procedure on grounds of lack of speed, recoding etc. were rejected flatly and it was clear that reason was fear of interference with their ships. They could not see any difference between an order and information. The above do not, however, preclude escorts and relief escorts addressing each other on intercommunication waves.

2. Navy Department contend that this is a matter for local commanders and have referred the matter to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. They were not in sympathy with (b) however which they thought tended to allow silence being broken unnecessarily. It was evident that they did not appreciate difficulty of escorts meeting.

3. As U.S. transmitters are tuned to 375 kc/s they suggest U.S. Ships should transmit on 375 and British on 366 for "homing" one escort on to another.

4. Agreed.

It is regretted decisions were so unfavourable but no modification is likely until difficulty experienced in practice reverses argument based on theory.

1655R/5.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
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.
I.P. (2)
W.D.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D. (F), D.S.D.

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

e.d.

MOST SECRET

1238

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

1748A/5 September OUT.

Date: 5.9.41.

To: OPNAV

repeated: C. in C. Western Approaches 45,
C. in C. America and West Indies, 68,
C.C.N.F.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 735
C.O.A.C. Halifax,
R.A. 3, 774
A.C.I.C. 151
B.A.D. Washington, 470

Naval Cypher (A1 I.T.T. and Special (X))

From Admiralty.

Spenavo's 291447. The principle object of diversion of merchant shipping is the avoidance of U Boats. Diversions are also ordered occasionally for navigational reasons or to avoid suspected raiders.

2. In the light of information at their disposal Admiralty will pass to C.N.O. the proposed diversion and the reason and this information will be repeated to such addressees as C.N.O. will designate.

3. In order to enable this to be done briefly a two letter group will be used in the signal to indicate the reason for the diversion. This group will be inserted in the message immediately after the number of the convoy. Thus:-

"Proposals for H X 149 B) amend route as follows"

4. The letters H, Q and X used as the second letters of groups will have the following messages:-

H Suspected position of a U Boat.
Q Position of U Boat by D/F Bearings
X Position of U Boat known by actual contact.

5. Code

AH, AQ, AX. To avoid one or more U Boats near route a short distance ahead.

BH,

BH, BQ, BX, to avoid one or more U-Boats less than 24 hours ahead.

CH, CQ, CX, to avoid one or more U Boats more than 24 hours ahead.

DH, DQ, DX, to shake off one or more U boats believed to be shadowing convoy.

AB to increase range from enemy air bases.

AC To change line of advance of convoy believed reported by enemy aircraft.

JR to change line of advance of convoy believed reported by enemy raider.

KR to avoid suspected track of raider.

LR To avoid neighbourhood of suspicious ship.

NO To place convoy in good position for further diversion (when situation is clearer)

NP To shorten voyage.

NS To avoid ice.

NT To avoid derelict.

NU to avoid another convoy.

NW Because present route may have been compromised.

1748A/5

for D.T.D. (983)

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

1st Lord

1st S.L.

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.D.I.C.

D.T.D. (2)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.S.D.

Duty Capt.

D.N.I. (4)

Head of M.

E.P.S.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

N.I.D. 10

ALUSNA (2) by Courier (above has been passed to OPNAV)

MOST SECRET **M E S S A G E** **SECRET** 2051/5 Sept.
IN

From. B.A.S.R. Washington.

Date. 6.9.41.
Time. 0423.

M.A.P.X. BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty.

LOCON 95 September 5.

CONDO No. 16. Am now informed that for political reasons Brazilian Government would be unwilling to conclude a deal which was purely a cash transaction and that they would desire to receive in exchange for the transfer of fighting equipment something which could be shewn to the populace as possessing equivalent, or partially equivalent, fighting value. They are therefore interested in planes plus cash. The aircraft need not be up to date first class service planes and comparatively obsolete type would probably be acceptable.

2. Request early information whether negotiations under these terms could be considered. If so it is suggested that some of the planes being manufactured in this country under early British Contracts might be made available.

3. Types of vessels under consideration are as follows. U.S.A. Type of 1500 one or possibly two. Camocin Class M/S - numbers uncertain.

4. ACRE Class have been referred to in error in previous signals as these are the British Design which were taken over before completion in England.

5. Guns in U.S.A. type are similar to those being fitted in DELHI.

2051/5

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
3rd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (H)
SEC.
NAV. SEC.

N.A.1stS.L.
P.A.S.(S)
D.N.I.(4)
Head of M.(2)
(M.0940/4/41)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D.(H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)

D.D.I.C.
D.S.D.9.
I.F. (2)
W.D.
Admiral Bailey.
Head of N.A.S.
D.N.O.
D.S.D.
H.W.R.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

U.S.N. and
Routeing.

Your 1256/3 to Admty. (N.T. in W.R. see 1259/7) Procedure outlined in Admty. 1401/6/8 was dictated by Navy Dept's. insistance that route shall be approved by 12th Naval District and subsequently given to ship by U.S. Naval Observer. It is not considered advisable or useful to reopen question. Usual Vesca reporting system will be employed after route has been approved. (B.A.D. 2103R/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

NEWCASTLE.

Is NEWCASTLE still to act as additional escort to DURBAN CASTLE from Trinidad to R/V with A/S escort or is she to proceed to Boston from Trinidad? (C. in C. A.W.I., 2222Q/5 to Admty.) Reply 1649/6.

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War Diary.5.9.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.EINVIK.

Following has been read. SSSS 60.38 N.
31.18 W. EINVIK torpedoed. (Iceland W/T.
T.O.R. 0530/5.)
Following from O.1/c Resolution Island (begins)
0534 G.M.T. S.S. EINVIK torpedoed 60.38 N.
30.18 W. (Ends) (Ottawa 0828Z/5 to Admty.)
Note difference in position. EINVIK, Norwegian,
2000 tons, straggler from S.C.41 (D.O.R. 6/9.)
Detach one Corvette to assistance of EINVIK
torpedoed at 0530A/5 in 60° 38' N. 31° 18' W.
ship detached to report name when well clear
of convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 0721A/5 to NIAGARA.)
Your 0721A/5. HONEYSUCKLE. (HONEYSUCKLE,
0931Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0721/5. Aircraft has searched the area
and seen nothing. Visibility 30 miles.
(A.C.I.C., 1711/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
Proceeded (?), area of oil in position indicated.
Slight wreckage and no survivors have been
found. Am searching the area. (HONEYSUCKLE,
2050Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

? KIRKLAND
(torpedoed
1/9.)

Polish marine informs me that fishing vessel
has landed Tarifa at (7 groups missed) (possibly
KIRKLAND) torpedoed 1/9 100 miles West Spartel.
Survivors British, Belgians, Poles. Consul
Seville to take necessary steps for transfer to
Gibraltar and inform Ambassador. (N.A. Madrid,
1115/5 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See also p. 231*

FORT
RICHEPANSE
(torpedoed
3/9.)

Arrived PIORUN and GARLAND with 27 survivors
from S.S. FORT RICHEPANSE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock,
1346A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

2246/4.

Bearings at 2246 G.M.T. of Italian U-Boat 88 N.
(D.D.I.C. 0016A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0850 G.M.T./4

C.C. Loanda's 1416/4. If this was a submarine,
consider possibly French looking for GAZCON.
(C. in C. S.A., 1205N/5 to Admty.)

/1400 A.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - contd.

1400 A.

8th Escort Group 1400A/5 situation. MALCOLM SARDONYX WATCHMAN sweeping for U-boat in vicinity A/C M 0735A/4 report. WATCHMAN proceeding to Iceland for fuel 1800A/5. MALCOLM SARDONYX, proceeding to meet S.C.41 by 0600A/6. Corvettes and trawlers in company with S.C.41. No A/S contacts obtained. (S.O. Escort Group 8, 1428A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1440A/5.)

Submarines Attacked.

By ISAAC
SWEERS.

E.T.A. Needles 1800A/5. A/S contact at 1445 position 003° 19' West 050° 15' North attacked with 1 pattern D/C. (ISAAC SWEERS 1530A/5 to N.O.I.C. Southampton.)

By ST.CROIX.
etc 3/9. 5/9.

C.A.F.O. 834/1941. Following attacks carried out on S/M contacts, no visible result. (A) ST. CROIX 0815Z/3 060° 02' N. 037° 10' W. five charges. (B) BUCTOUCHE 2020Z/3 061° 14' N. 035° 05' W. five charges (C) ST. CROIX 0212Z/5 063° 54' N. 030° 12' W. 12 charges ST. CROIX, 5 charges BUCTOUCHE. Hunt abandoned in each case under two hours to rejoin convoy. (ST. CROIX, 2306Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

By Hudson
A/C 27/8.

Their Lordships wish to congratulate Coastal Command upon successful attack on a German U-Boat by Hudson A/C S of 269 Sqdn. on 27/8, and request their congratulations may be conveyed to all concerned. (1st S.L. 2022A/5 to C. in C. Coastal Command.)

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A photographic R/C of Oslo at 1250A today shows the ADMIRAL SCHEER alongside protected by boom defences and 30 M/V's of over 200 feet in the port. No destroyers were seen.

The establishment of A/S defences at Seidisfiord has been approved in principle.

Oerlikon Guns and equipment are to be supplied at once to SHEFFIELD, KENYA, and NIGERIA at Scapa, to EURYALUS at Rosyth, and to HERMIONE at Gibraltar; and SHEFFIELD is to sail on 12/9 for Gibraltar with the necessary mountings for HERMIONE and with Service personnel and a supply of oxygen.

C. in C. Nore can no longer meet the whole of the commitment for Destroyer Escorts for the Channel Convoys, and 2 Destroyers only must therefore be accepted for operation J.R.

During the M.T.B. Patrol off the Belgian Coast last night the M.T.B's. concerned were brilliantly illuminated by star-shells and flares in 51° 21' N. 2° 59' E. and attacked by accurate 4-inch and M.G. fire. They withdrew to the westward however without damage or casualty.

The flying-off of A/C from ARGUS has been postponed until tomorrow morning. (Op. "Benedict".)

The S/M H.43 and her Escort NORTHERN GEM ran ashore this morning on Dippen Point, Arran Island, but were both re-floated by 2114A without apparent damage to either.

War Diary.

6.9.1941. 128
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

3 Fortress I A/C attacked ADMIRAL SCHEER at Oslo during daylight today. Bursts were seen on the Piperviken Harbour, on the Drams Fiord, and among small craft. Photographs of Oslo and Oslo Fiord were taken.

Enemy Air Activity.

The Paddle Minesweeper GLEN AVON was slightly damaged by a near miss off the Tyne early this morning and returned to harbour; and it is reported today that the Dutch Government's TON S was attacked and damaged at 2330A/4 by a Flying Boat in 52° 58' N. 40° 55' W.

Convoy "Pattern" (E.C.70) was attacked at 2010 today off Yarmouth, and the British Tanker STANMOUNT was damaged by a near miss.

The British ABBAS COMBE, 489 Tons, is reported today to have been sunk by a direct hit at * 0015/4 about 6 miles West of Bardsey Island, 7 survivors being landed at Dublin.

*001575 Bl.1337-P.56

Mining.

The M/S Trawler STRATHBORVE was mined and sunk off the Humber at about 1330 today.

AGAMEMNON and CASTLETON left Port ZA at 2317A for a minelaying operation off Cape Wrath.

The operation Q.K.7 was successfully completed off the Belgian Coast last night.

3 Mines were detonated by Sweepers today off the Humber.

./Sunderland.....

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6.9.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining-Contd.

Sunderland was closed at 1310 owing to suspected minelaying, but was re-opened at 1750; and the ports of Tees and Hartlepool will in future be opened daily as requisite from 1200 to 1800, when vessels will be swept in and out.

Shipping and Convoys.

As C. in C. Nore can no longer meet all Channel Convoy commitments, Nore and Portsmouth are each to provide one destroyer to escort C.W.49.

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, in C.T.2, returned to Clyde shortly after midnight last night with engine trouble. She was to have proceeded Halifax to lift military personnel in WARWICK CASTLE, damaged in collision in W.S.10 on 7/8.

WESTON reported at 0700A today that no ships in S.L. 84 had P/V's working. 5 ships were so fitted and inquiry is to be made on their arrival.

Fighter catapult ships are not to be sailed with a convoy escorted by AUDACITY auxiliary aircraft carrier. Operation orders to AUDACITY are given in C. in C. Western Approaches 1112A/6.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious
Convoy.

Admty. suggested that the suspicious convoy sighted by PHILANTE in 32.52 N., 22.32 W. at 2100 Z/4 might have been O.S.4, but F.O.C.N.A. points out that this convoy was over 200 miles away if positions given by GORLESTON and PHILANTE were correct. A Catalina sent to search this morning had to be recalled owing to probable fog at Gibraltar. The identity of the Convoy thus remains in doubt. DUNEDIN, on completion of fuelling is to proceed towards Grand Canary in case it should be an enemy force proceeding to capture the Canaries. Another possibility is that the Convoy is French.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Ship.

An unknown British ship reports that at 0800/31 in 08° N., 47° W., she sighted a ship of German appearance similar to the latest Hansa line FELS.

Mediterranean.

Fast Supply Ships.

Details of the arrangements made to supply C. in C. Mediterranean with some fast supply ships were communicated by the Admiralty today.

Salvage Vessels.

C. in C. Mediterranean calls attention to the importance of salvage vessels in his command. Compared to our lack of salvage appliances and personnel, the Italians have salvaged 2 ships at Suda Bay already and 2 at Benghazi.

Malta.

3 aircraft last night dropped bombs in the sea and on Gozo causing slight damage but no casualties.

Aircraft Operations.

An enemy convoy 20 miles N. of Pantellaria was attacked by 7 Swordfish at 2246/6. One M/V of 6000 tons received 3 hits and was considered bound to sink, another of 6000 tons of tanker type was torpedoed twice and is claimed as damaged.

Egypt and Suez Canal.

About 9 enemy aircraft bombed Alexandria last night. No service damage or casualties, but a barge was sunk in harbour and Sidi Gaba railway station was damaged. There is a U.X.B. in a naval stores shed at Arsenal Quay and 4 U.X.B's on shore. WOOLWICH, MAINE and KANDAHAR suffered slight damage from near misses, and there were some casualties. About 14 enemy aircraft raided Ismailia aerodrome causing some damage, but the war effort is not affected. 1 enemy A/C dropped 4 bombs on Port Said without damage.

/Libya.....

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Wellingtons and Blenheims bombed Derna, Bardia and other enemy landing grounds last night.

9 Wellingtons attacked shipping at the Spanish Quay, Tripoli, and claimed 3 hits on a medium M/V and many on the quay.

Cyprus.

Enemy aircraft bombed Strongylo and Kythrea last night without damage or casualties.

East Indies.

Vizagapatam.

C. in C. East Indies advocates the development of Vizagapatam as an alternative embarkation port, despite opposition by the War Office on grounds that adequate protection cannot be afforded to a third port.

REPULSE.

On the arrival of REPULSE at Durban with Convoy W.S.11, she is to join East Indies Station.

China.

Indo-China.

The text of the agreement between Admiral Decoux and Japanese General Sumita on the occupation of Indo-China is given by C. in C. America and West Indies in a message today.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

C. in C. America and West Indies, who had hoisted his flag in DIOMEDE, left Bermuda tonight for a visit to Trinidad.

U-Boat Campaign.

U.73.
sunk.

The Soviet naval authorities claim to have sunk U.73 off Cape Kanim today. A lifebuoy was recovered.

War Diary.

6.9.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of
R.A.M.

My flag has been transferred to PORT QUEBEC today. (R.A.M. 1027A/6).

CAP DES
PALMES.

Your 2134A/5. CAP DES PALMES sailed in convoy O.S.5 in accordance with A.M. 1810A/28 pending decision on conversion in U.S.A. referred to in A.L. M/O.D. 1016/41 of 4th August.
2. When port and date are forthcoming further orders will be issued. (D.O.D.(F) 1142A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

A/S Trawlers
required for
V.A. C.T.C.

My 1511A/2 and Admiralty 2157A/5. Four A/S trawlers will also be required to meet V.A.C.T.C. requirement now being temporarily covered by KOS 20. (C. in C. W.A. 1232A/6 to N.O.I.C. Oban).

SHEFFIELD.
KENYA.
NIGERIA.
~~EUROPE.~~
EURYALUS.
Oerlikon
Guns.

Your 1436A/4. It is intended to fit SHEFFIELD, KENYA and NIGERIA at Scapa. Latter ship only requires 2 equipments to complete. To enable dates to be kept request immediate delivery of 14 complete Oerlikon equipments and ammunition to Scapa. My 1128A/6 asks for 6 equipments for EURYALUS to be delivered to Rosyth. (C. in C. H.F. 1346A/6 to Adty.)

U.S.A.
Atlantic
Fleet.

My 1934A/4. Western Hemisphere Defence Plan No. 4 is the plan referred to under Para. D. of my 1614A/28/8. (V.C.N.S. 1423/6).

Defence of U.K.

Seidisfjord
A/S
Defences.

In view of increased use of Seidisfjord it is approved in principle to establish A/S defences probably consisting of indicator loops and indicator nets. (V.C.N.S. 1326A/6 to A.C.I.C.)

Amateur
fishing
in Portsmouth
Command.

Amateur fishing may now be allowed in the Portsmouth Command. Conditions and permits. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1734A/6).

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6.9.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SHEFFIELD
for
Gibraltar.

It is intended to sail SHEFFIELD for Gibraltar leaving Clyde p.m. 12.
2. Request you sail her for Clyde accordingly.
3. SHEFFIELD will be required to embark 300 Service personnel at the Clyde and the Oerlikon mountings for HERMIONE at Scapa. (A.C.N.S. H. 0035A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
A.M. 0035A/6. Supply of oxygen is urgently required at Gibraltar. Report in accordance with C.A.F.O. 726/41, paragraph one C. and D. only.
3. Additional rafts and inflatable lifejackets for 300 passengers should be drawn from N.S.O. Greenock. (D.O.D.(F) 1525A/6 to SHEFFIELD).

PARTHIAN.

My 1856A/1. Para. 2, for 0100/12 read 2200/8 and for 1200/15 read 2200/10. (Capt. S.5. 1011A/6 to H.Q.C.C.)

VAN
KINSBERGEN.

Sailed in accordance with my 1728A/5. E.T.A. Bermuda 14/9. (F.O.I. C. Greenock 1436A/6).

TRUSTY.
SOKOL.

Sailed TRUSTY escorted by BREDA in accordance with S.3's 1831A/4, 5½ hours late. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1438A/6).
TRUSTY passes Bishop Rock at 2200A/7. Routed as follows to pass 45° N. 10° 40' W. at about 1700A/10.
SOKOL leaves Portsmouth 1530A/7 routed as follows to pass 45° N. 10° 20' W. at about 0200A/12. (F.O.S. 2256A/6 to TAKU).

Operations.

Northern
Operations.

A.M. 1330A/4. para. 3 and 4. Force "M" will not now be able to co-operate in this operation.
2. Submarine restrictions in A.M, 1359A/4 should however remain in force until otherwise ordered.
3. Fly off of ~~BENEDICT~~ aircraft is postponed until a.m./7. (A.C.N.S.H. 0003A/6 to Ad. Miles) Your 0532A/6. ANTHONY and ICARUS will proceed direct to Clyde with EMPRESS OF CANADA. (ICARUS 1000A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 1009C/5. Route for return of "Dervish" Convoy. (D.O.D. H. 1849A/6 to Ad. Miles).
See Operations Volume.
Your 1736C/6. Limitation imposed in A.M. 1359A/4 must, in order to give "Force A" freedom of movement, remain in force from 1600A/8 until completion of that Force's operations 1200A/9. Unless orders are received to the contrary TIGRIS may however resume operating in the original patrol area ordered by S.B.N.O. Murmansk after 1200A/9. (A.C.N.S.H) 2303A/6 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

/Operation.....

War Diary.6.9.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.Operation
J.R.

C. in C. Nore can no longer meet the whole of the Channel Convoy commitment. Two destroyers only must therefore be accepted for Operation J.R. (D.O.D.(H) 0048A/6);

M.T.B.
Patrol
Report.

Following received from BEEHIVE. Your 1126A/4. M.T.B. patrol carried out as ordered from Kwinte Bank Buoy which was in position and lit. East Ostend Bank Whistle Buoy and Wenduyne Bank Bell Buoy not sighted. On breaking off patrol small conical buoy was sighted in 51° 21' N. 2° 59' E. On closing to investigate large red flare bursting to three green stars was seen in direction 100° from Buoy. Boats were illuminated by starshell and flares. This was followed by accurate gunfire from weapons varying between four inch and machine guns. Owing to continued accuracy of ranging boats withdrew to Westward. No casualties or damage sustained. 1010A/6 Ends. (C. in C. Nore 1220A/6).

British Air Activity.A/C for
Russia.

Fly-off of ^{"Benedict"} ~~BENEDICT~~ aircraft is postponed until A.M./7th. (A.C.N.S.H. 0003A/6 to Ad. Miles). See also C.S.1. 1042/6, 1954/6, 2321/6, C. in C. H.F. 1256A/6, A.C.N.S.H. 1518A/6, 1749A/6, No. 151 Wing 1800C/6, D.O.D.H. 1840A/6, and D.C. 2250A/6.

A/C from
Archangel.

British Catalina expects to leave Archangel for U.K. about 1700Z/7. (D.O.D.H. 0027A/6).

Patrols.

"Fate V" in operation 0845/6 until 1545/6. (C. in C. Rosyth 0716/6). Oslo, Horten, Kristiansand P.R.U. in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1014/6). "Stand" and "North" "Stab" now being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1932/6).

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

GLEN AVON
damaged. (Paddle Minesweeper) Slightly damaged by near miss. Returned to harbour. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0540/6).

TON S.
(Dutch,
466 Tons)
bombed
on 4/9. At 2330A/4 in 52° 58' N. 40° 55' W, forecastle damaged by one bomb from one Flying Boat. No casualties. (N.O.I. C. Newport 1049A/6).

Convoy E.C.70.
STANMOUNT
(British
Tanker. 4468
Tons)
damaged. Departure tug DIVERSION at 2159A to assist STANMOUNT in distress vicinity 54D buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2004A/6). Convoy "Pattern" is being attacked by aircraft in 52° 38' N. 2° 10' E. (VERSATILE 2010/6). STANMOUNT damaged, unable to steam. Request tugs. Position 54.D. buoy. (VERSATILE 2030A/6). STANMOUNT damaged near miss bomb. Tugs probably not required. TANGO detailed to stand by. Intend making for Humber. (GARTH 2043/6). A/C still bombing. (VERSATILE 2113/6). 2 tugs proceeding to STANMOUNT now. (C. in C. Nore 2123A/6). Your 2043. Tugs are proceeding. STANMOUNT is to proceed to Humber only if you are satisfied she is seaworthy, otherwise to Yarmouth Roads. If tugs not required report to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2247A/6 to GARTH). Departure Tug KROOMAN to assist STANMOUNT. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 2312A/6).

ABBAS COMBE.
(British,
489 Tons)
sunk. Sunk by direct hit at *0015/4 about 6 miles West of Bardsey Island. 7 survivors landed at Dublin. (D.S. 733). * 0015/5 BR 1337 P.56

Mining.

Operation
Q.K.7. Arrivals M.L's 106, 105, 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0810A/6). Following from BEEHIVE. Q.K.7 carried out in position ordered. 0911/6/9 ends. (C. in C. Nore 1121A/6).

Tees.
Hartlepool. Ports of Tees and Hartlepool will be opened daily as requisite between 1200 and 1800. Vessels will be swept in and out. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1050/6).

/Sunderland.....

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-Contd.

Sunderland.

Port closed owing to suspected mine laying.
(N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1310/6).
Port opened. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1750/6).

STRATHBORVE
(M/S Trawler)
Sunk.

At about 1330 today Trawler STRATHBORVE mined and sunk near H.10 buoy. Eleven survivors picked up by Trawler FITZGERALD. (F.O. Humber 1525A/6).
Wreck approx 253° Humber L.V. 2.5 miles.
(F.O. Humber 1629A/6).

East of
Faroos.

F.O. 10th C.S. 1746/5. para 6. Request any further details which will assist in establishing presence of an enemy minefield in this position.
(C. in C. H.F. 1716A/6 to R.A.M.)

Operation
S.N. 25A.

Clyde arrival NEWARK.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1727A/6).

Humber.

Following three Mines detonated by L.L. Sweepers to-day. Details. (F.O. Humber 1845A/6).

Firth of
Forth.

My 1115/21/8. Daily sweep of suspected area since 21/8, together with final clearance sweeps for all types of mines, has proved negative. Request QZY 259 may be cancelled.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2231/6).

Operation
S.N. 61.

Departure AGEMEMNON and CASTLETON.
(N.O.I.C. PortZ.A. 2317A/6).

Enemy Intelligence.

Oslo.
ADMIRAL
SCHNEER.
Stavanger
Fiord.

Photographs at 1250/6 show ADMIRAL SCHNEER lying at South side of Utstikker one, on West side of Bjorviken. Berth completely protected by Boom defences connecting Utstikkens one and 2. No other Naval Units present. 30 M/V's over 200 feet present, including Liner. At Stavanger Fjord S.Y. STELLA POLARIS, one cargo Liner 500 feet, and 8 vessels 400 to 500 feet.
(P.R.U. Wick 1945/6) (D.D.I.C. 2240A/6).

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

BRORA.

(A/S Trawler) Struck rocket at Leading Beacon to Obbe of Harris. Full crew have been landed. Tug MARAUDER will be sent at first light. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0039A/6). Crew of BRORA landed. Tug proceeding to assist. Rejoin convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 0047A/6 to SABRE). Representative of Glasgow firm reports salvage of BRORA unlikely. All Officers and crew arrived Stornoway. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1640A/6).

H.43.
NORTHERN
GEM.

Tugs SUPERMAN from Campbeltown and ST. OLAVES from Ardrossan are being sent to your assistance now. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0929A/6 to H.43.) Sailed SUPERMAN. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 0955/6). Admiralty Salvage representative is proceeding to your assistance now; (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015A/6 to H.43). Submarine H.43. Refloated. NORTHERN GEM still aground on Dippen Point, Arran Island. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1023A/6). H.43 and NORTHERN GEM refloated without damage. NORTHERN GEM floated on own power just before salvage tugs arrived. Ships are proceeding to destination as weather permits. (N.O.I.C. Lamash 1305/6). Both vessels refloated. Following apparent damage. H.43 Nil. NORTHERN GEM dome end oscillator lost. (Capt. S.7 2114A/6).

BRADFORD.

My 1004A/3/9. Delayed 24 hours owing to defects. (C. in C. Nore 1224A/6).

KUWI.

(Dutch Coaster). Has put into Milford Haven for engine repairs. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1658/6).

T.L.C. 107.

My 1832/6. T.L.C. 107 has engine defects and is unable to sail as arranged. (N.O.I.C. Methil 2130/6).

MY DREAM.

Your 1055/6. Arrived 1930/6 with engine trouble. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2203/6 to L.N.O. Salcombe).

BRITISH
VALOUR.

(Tanker) Refloated at 1735. Now anchored clear of Shambles. Proceeding to Portland tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Portland 2255A/6).

War Diary.

6.9.1941. 139
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

C.W.49.

Nore and Portsmouth to provide one destroyer each as C. in C. Nore can no longer meet whole Channel convoy commitment. (D.O.D. (H) 0048A/6).

D.S.11.
C.T.2.

D.S.11 and C.T. 2 returned to Clyde 0045/6. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL has engine trouble. Starboard engine not functioning, full details will be forwarded when ascertained. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 0050A/6, to D. of S.T.) My 0050/6, position C.S.16 arrived Tail O'the Bank at 0009/6. K.11 and C.1 not yet arrived at anchorage as delayed by fog. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 0945A/6). Sailed D.S.11 consisting of LEOPOLDVILLE escorted by NEWARK and CHARLESTOWN. Codeword "Product". (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2026A/6 to Admty.)

S.L.84.

E.T.A. Minefield 1200A/6 EMPIRE GUNNER has no paravane. Is straggler to be escorted to Oban? (ST. ALBANS, 0235A/6 to WANDERER). No ships in S.L. 84 have P/Vs working. In the absence of further orders am proceeding on route orders. (WESTON 0700A/6 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 0235A/6 to WANDERER. Proceed with EMPIRE GUNNER as in my 1429/4. Further signal will be made regarding destination. (C. in C. W.A. 0844A/6 to ST. ALBANS). S.L. 84. My 0844A/6. Special escort is unnecessary after passing Skerries. (C. in C. W.A. 1030A/6 to ST. ALBANS).

W.S.11X.

Date of sailing and details. (A.C.N.S. H., 1011A/6) See Lion Copy.

SESSA.

Your 1739A/5. No news of SESSA (Panamanian). (N.C.S.O. Iceland 1049/6 to Admty.) W.D. Note:- Was torpedoed 17/8, see 1009/8/9.

F.C. Ships,
AUDACITY.

My 1715A/19/8 and my 1614A/29/8. Fighter catapult ships are not to be sailed with a convoy escorted by AUDACITY. If this results in any fighter catapult ships being delayed for an undue period in harbour between operations with Gibraltar convoys, F.O.I.C. Belfast is to inform C. in C. W.A. who will decide whether to operate the F.C. ship concerned with an O.S. convoy or to sail her as a second additional fighter catapult ship with an O.G. convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1110A/6 to F.O.I.C. Belfast). Operation Orders to AUDACITY. (-C. in C. W.A. 1112A/6) See Lion Copy.

/Indship.....

139A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT
1011A/6 September.

Addressed C. in C. Western Approaches 63

Repeated F.O.i/c Liverpool.

F.O.i/c. Greenock.

F.O.i/c. Cardiff

F.O.i/c. Belfast

N.C.S.O. Liverpool.

N.C.S.O. Clyde.

N.C.S.O. Swansea.

C. in C. Home Fleet 814.

C. in C. South Atlantic 738

C. in C. Mediterranean 150 Bl

F.O.C.N.A. 640.

F.O. Force H 595

S.O.W.R.

H.Q.F.C.

H.Q.C.C.

Dato 6.9.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (C)

From Admiralty.

Convoy W.S. 11X carrying personnel and stores for the Near East will be ready to leave the United Kingdom on September 16th. Speed of slowest ship 15 knots.

2. Convoy consists of nine ships who will load at the following ports:-

Swansea.....DUNEDIN STAR
CITY OF CALCUTTA

Mersey.....AJAX
IMPERIAL STAR
CITY OF LINCOLN.
ROWALLAN CASTLE.

Clyde.....H.M.S. BRECONSHIRE
CLAN MACDONALD
CLAN FERGUSON

3. Ocean escort will be detailed in a separate signal.

4. A/S escort

3 destroyers from Home Fleet and 9 from Western Approaches. ISLAC SWMERS may be included in the number from Western Approaches and will join Force "H" in accordance with A.M. 2258/15/8 on completion of this escort duty.

5. Six of the Western Approaches destroyers will return at the prudent limit of endurance.

6. Routes and fuelling arrangements for the remaining two destroyers from Western Approaches, ISLAC SWMERS and Home Fleet destroyers will be communicated later.

/7.

139^B

7. Convoy Route

Route will be promulgated by Admiralty.

8. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to -

- (a) Detail destroyers in accordance with paragraph 4.
- (b) Arrange sailing of ships to R/V off Oversay

9. C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to -

- (a) detail destroyers in accordance with paragraph 4;
- (b) sail Destroyer and ocean escort to Clyde in time for convoy conference.

10. Main convoy conference should be held at Greenock and arrangements should be made for C.O.'s of escorts to attend.

1011A/6.
 D.O.D. (H).
 Approved A.C.N.S. (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)
- N... 1st S.L.
- D. of P. (2).
- D.O.D. (H).
- D.D.O.D. (H).
- D.O.D. (F).
- D.D.O.D. (F).
- D.N.I. (4).
- D.S.D.
- D.N... D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.A./S.W.
- D.M.S.
- I.P. (2).
- W.D.
- Duty Capt. (2).
- Hd. of M.
- D.T.S.D.
- D.G.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D. (2).
- N.I. D10 Pay Cdr. Wilson.
- D.T.D. (M).

~~SECRET~~

M I S S A G E IN

1000000

C

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date 6.9.41. 1398

Time 1255

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed AUDACITY. F.C.I.C. Greenock. F.C.C.N.A. Repeated Admiralty. F.C.I.C. Liverpool. F.C.I.C. Belfast. Capt. D. Liverpool. Capt. D. Greenock. Capt. D. Londonderry. N.C.S.C. Liverpool. N.C.S.C. Clyde. 15 Group. H.Q.C.C.

180. AUDACITY is to proceed to Gibraltar as additional escort with U G 74. F.C.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail AUDACITY so as to R/V with convoy in North Channel.

(2) F.C.C.N.A. is requested to sail AUDACITY for United Kingdom with H G 74. On return, AUDACITY is to proceed to Clyde.

(3) AUDACITY is to operate in accordance with the following instructions:-

- (a) Intention is to provide fighter escort and reconnaissance for the convoy against air attack and shadowing by aircraft or U-Boats.
- (b) Patrols are to be flown as ordered by Commanding Officer of AUDACITY, at his discretion.
- (c) W A C I Part 371, paras. 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to apply to AUDACITY. Reference Paras. 4 and 5, it is considered that the windward beam of the convoy, inside A/S screen, will normally be the best position by day, and a position between middle columns of the convoy by night or when conditions are unsuitable for flying.
- (d) Two escorts are to be detailed by Senior Officer, Escort Group, to provide close A/S protection if AUDACITY is detached outside Convoy A/S screen during flying operations or at any other time.
- (e) Attention is called to W A C I Part. 2. Senior Officer, Escort Group, is to be responsible for stationing of ships of the escort group, other than those attending on AUDACITY if detached, and for handling them in event of U-Boat attack.
- (f) When C.A.M. ships are also present, AUDACITY is to control the flying operations of these ships. See W A C I, part 374, para. 4.
- (g) It is intended to include standing operation instructions for AUDACITY in W A C I after experience during her first voyage.
- (h) W/T Watch as in W.A.S.C. 202 table one line 5 and on Cheadle transmissions, in addition, during daylight hours.
- (i) Cheadle will notify the position of the F/W on 6480 kc/s (0800 to 2200) and 4045 kc/s (2200 to 0800) B.S.T. using special code which is being forwarded to AUDACITY.

11121/6

Advance copies sent ops. & C.D.

1st S.L.	Capt. Pim.	Movts.	C.C.L.S.
5th S.L.	Cps. (3)	I.P. (3)	D.T.D. (4)
V.C.N.S.	C.D.S.	W.D.	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S.(H)	C.D. (5)	D. A/S W.	D.T.D. (3)
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)	M. (2)	A.H.Q.H.F.	W/T Rm. (2)
A.C.N.S.(F)	O.I.C. (2)	E.P.S.	D.S.D. (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.	Mails.	D.N.A.D.	

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Indship
Tables.

My 2005A/6/8. If necessary to communicate with Naval Authorities, British merchant ships holding Indship Tables should now use them in all areas except Area 2. Written instructions to Masters should be amended accordingly. (D.T.D. 1221A/6 to A.I.G. 26 and 19).

Northbound
Convoys.

Forecast of sailings from Southend.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1500/6) See Lion Copy.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1500/6th Septe,ber.IN.

From: C. in C. Rosyth.

Date. 6.9.41.

Recd. 1920.

P/L by T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C., 11, 12, 13 Groups.

NOTWT.

896. Convoy Message less SEE CCD

Forecast of Northbound Convoy sailings from Southend.

Monday 8th.	E.C. 71(F)	Tuesday 9th	F.N. ^S _A 16(S)
Wednesday 10th	Blank Day.	Thursday 11th	E.C. 72 (M)
Friday 12th	F.N. ^S _A 17(F)	Saturday 13th	F.N. ^S _A 18(S).
Sunday 14th	E.C. 73(M)	Monday 15th	F.N.S19(F)
Tuesday 16th.	E.C. 74(S)	Wednesday 17th	Blank Day.
Thursday 18th	E.C. 75(M)	Friday 19th.	F.N. ^S _A 20(F).
Saturday 20th.	E.C. 76(S)	Sunday 21st	F.N. ^S _A 21(M).
Monday 22nd.	E.C. 77(F)	Tuesday 23rd	F.N. ^S _A 22(S).
Wednesday 24th	Blank Day	Thursday 25th.	F.N. ^S _A 23(M).
Friday 26th.	E.C. 78 (F)	Saturday 27th.	F.N. ^S _A 24(S).
Sunday 28th	E.C. 79 (M).		

After passing May Island E.C. 73 and E.C. 75 will run as fast convoys E.C. 76 as a medium and E.C. 77 as a slow.

1500/6.

Advance copy Ops. O.D. Trade.
Passed F.O. (S).

- A.C.N.S. (T) (2).
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops (4).
- O.D. (5).
- O.D. 8.
- D.N.I. (4).
- D. of S. 2.A.
- D.T.D. (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.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

PHILANTE,
Convoy,
suspicious.

PHILANTE's 1241Z/5 (N.T. in W.R.). Convoy reported by PHILANTE in 032° 52' N., 022° 32' W., at 2100 Z/4 steering southerly course cannot be identified. Catalina searching. (F.O.C.N.A., 0704/6 to Admty).

O.S.4 (?)

Your 0704/6 request repetition of PHILANTE's 1241Z/5 observing that O.S. 4 might have been in the vicinity if it had made good eight knots. (D.C., 1005A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

F.O.C.N.A.'s 0704/6. Break W/T silence to give details of Convoy reported in your 1241Z/5 if you think it was suspicious. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1051A/6 to PHILANTE).

Your 1005A/6. O.S. 4 was over 200 miles away if positions in GORLESTON's 1345/4, 0830Z/5 and PHILANTE 1241Z/5 were correct. (F.O.C.N.A., 1142A/6 to Admty).

My 0704A/6 Catalina recalled owing to probability of fog at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1204A/6 to Admty).

F.O.C.N.A.'s 0704/6. Convoy consists of eight ships and does not appear to be O.S.4. On completion of fuelling proceed with despatch towards Grand Canary in case convoy should be enemy proceeding to capture Canaries. Possible convoy is French, in which case if met shadow and report. R.F.A. RAPIDOL to continue in accordance with previous orders.

(V.C.N.S. 1727A/6 to DUNEDIN) (See also DUNEDIN 1906Z/6 in U-boat Campaign.)

Could any ships of O.S.4 have been Convoy of 8 ships reported by PHILANTE in position 32.52 N., 22.30 W., at 2100Z/4. If so break W/T silence to report. (V.C.N.S., 1728A/6 to GORLESTON).

Your 1032/1 not previously received. Speed of convoy 7½ knots from 1930 G.M.T.

(PHILANTE, 2033A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

NELSON.

Your 1524/21. Request all outstanding Naval stores for NELSON be available for embarkation on arrival U.K. Ship is stored to 30/9 only. (S.O. Force H., 0948A/6 to Admty).

PROTEUS,
TAKU.

(1) Report P.C. and S. of A on entering North Atlantic station (ii) Onward route position (P) 037° 40' 011° 30' (?Q) 036° 35' 009° 00' (R) 350° ~~SPARTEL~~ SPARTEL 10 for inward escort. (iii) TAKU estimated p.c. and s. at 1200A/7, 039° 45' 010° 26', 005° 9 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/6 to PROTEUS).

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

KOS 17.
KOS 19.

Your 0908/3. (F.O.I.C. Greenock's 0908/3 intended) and your 1321/4 Portuguese Naval Authorities have raised point contained in Naval Prize Manual Convention 13 page 109 para 20. They plead ships should either call themselves KOS 17 and KOS 19 unless names are very legible or that the ship should put in without official notification on account of breakdown or stress of weather. Request early information which suggestion adopted. (N.A.Lisbon, 1130/6 to Admty). ^{N.T. in W.D.}

WILD SWAN.

When VIMY and CROOME have joined H.G.73 you are to proceed to Ponta Delgada and complete fuel. (F.O.C.N.A., 1344A/6 to WILD SWAN).

Ammunition.

Your 2036A/5. Ammunition will accompany gun. (D.G.D., 1548A/6 to C.S. Gibraltar).

Reported U/B
in Rio Strait.

Your 1730/2 (?) to Admiralty. Report most reliable source states no engine or spare engine ^{1/c} parts for submarine in CONTREMAESTRE CASADO. All cargo military stores for island including generator (N.A., Madrid, 1740/6 to Consul Las Palmas).

CANADA.

Gibraltar 1252 French Hospital Ship CANADA east-bound. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1803A/6 to Admty etc).

Gibraltar.

Suggested trial. (W.O., 1815/6 to Govr., Gib.,) See Operations Volume.

South Atlantic.

W.S.11.

List, fuel requirements. (D.S.T., 0333A/6 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

/ALBATROSS.....

142A
~~138~~

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0333A/6th Sept.

OUT

To C. in C. South Atlantic.
C. in C. East Indies.
Repeated, N.O.I.C. Freetown,
N.O.I.C. Simonstown,
N.O.I.C. Durban
N.O.I.C. Aden.

Date. 6.9.41

Naval Cypher (X)

From Director of Sea Transport.

Convoy W.S.11

Ship.	Daily Fuel Consumption at Convoy Speed	Type of Fuel	Bunkers on leaving U.K.	Water required at Free-town	Fuel required at Free-town	Fuel required at Cape-town	Fuel required at Durban.
MOOLTAN	115	Furnace	2667	Nil	1800	(See (3))	See (3))
NORTHUMBERLAND	80	Furnace	1520	Nil	2000	Nil	Nil
EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA	99	Furnace	1880	1200	2400	(See (3))	See (3))
LARGS BAY	75	Furnace	1720	Nil	2300	Nil	Nil
VICEROY OF INDIA	50	Furnace	1250	900	1700	Nil	Nil
DUCHESS OF YORK	68	Furnace	1500	400	2300	Nil	Nil
OTRANTO	90	Furnace	1710	800	2500	Nil	200
SCYTHIA	120	Furnace	2250	1600	1800	(See (3))	(See (3))
ORONTES	83	Furnace	1940	600	1900	200	Nil
BARRISTER	60	Coal	1700	Nil	300	Nil	1700
BHUTAN	55	Furnace	760	Nil	1000	100	Nil
CITY OF EDINBURGH	43	Furnace	1145	Nil	1100	200	Nil
CITY OF MANCHESTER	50	Furnace	950	Nil	1300	200	Nil
GLAUCUS	60	Furnace	1150	Nil	1100	650	Nil

/ GLENORCHY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Daily Fuel consumption at convcy speed</u>	<u>Type of fuel</u>	<u>Bunkers on leaving U.K.</u>	<u>Water required at Free-town</u>	<u>Fuel required at Free-town</u>	<u>Fuel required at Cape-town</u>	<u>Fuel required at Durban.</u>
-------------	---	---------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------

GLENORCHY	23	Diesel	490	Nil	900	Nil	Nil
KING. II	16	Diesel	495	Nil	500	Nil	Nil
MANCHESTER PROGRESS	51	Coal	1700	Nil	300	Nil	1500

- (2) Oil bunkering in South Africa should be reduced to a minimum on the basis of reaching the next port of call with a safe margin. Reservations covering all quantities given have been made ex commercial stocks commercial reference A Y.
- (3) 4000 tons furnace oil have been reserved at Capetown and/or Durban for MOOLTAN EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and SCYTHIA bunkering to be arranged as convenient.
- (4) ABOSSO is being bunkered under arrangements made by owners.
- (5) Coal suppliers at Durban are as follows:-
BARRISTER, RENNIE; MANCHESTER PROGRESS, COTTS; latter vessel requiring nut coal.
- (6) All vessels concerned should be watered to capacity in South Africa but any demands at Freetown in excess of the quantities stated should be carefully scrutinised.
- (7) Addresses pass to S.T.O's concerned.

0333A/6

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

Director of Sea Transport.

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

6.9.1941¹⁴³
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ALBATROSS,
GAZCON.

ALBATROSS reports GAZCON was not sighted and coast was not searched other than as stated in his 2155/31 (N.T. in W.R.) (C. in C. S.A., 1101N/6 to BULOLO).

W.S.11.

Ref. A.M.1801/4, as BARRISTER and MANCHESTER PROGRESS are coal burners it is proposed that they should replenish at Durban instead of Capetown. Para 11 should be amended accordingly. -(D.O.D. (F) 1223A/6 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)

EMPIRE
ATTENDANT.

Overdue shipping, cancel My 1112/5. EMPIRE ATTENDANT arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 1225B/6 to Admty etc).

Suspicious
Ship.

Unknown British Ship reports at 0800/31 in 008° N., 047° W., sighted ship on course 135° 12 knots (details) General appearance German similar to latest Hansa line FELS. (D.O.D. (F) 1650A/6 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D., S.O. Force F).

DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE.
DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL.

Your 0942Q/1 and Admty. 1555T/31. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be available as escort from 40° W., (date). Intend DUCHESS OF ATHOLL shall proceed direct to Capetown from Trinidad without calling at Freetown to arrive Capetown (date). Request ship be routed and R/V with DUNNOTTAR CASTLE arranged accordingly. C. in C. E.I., is requested to state whether arrangements for onward escort can be made from Capetown or whether vicinity of Durban would be preferred. (C. in C. S.A., 1801N/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

FORTUN-STELLA.

My 1719/30 (Ex Italian vessels taken over by Argentine) and 1953/2, add FORTUN-STELLA which arrived Buenos Aires 2/9. (Head of M., 1927A/6 to C. in C. S.A.)

Force F.

On completion of fuelling proceed through H.34 C, I.34 A then roughly along line(s) between the centre of I.34 and centre of J.35 then to St. Helena for fuel where aviation spirit is available also if required. CALENDULA and ECHODALE to remain neighbourhood of (?Zara) until P.M./10 when further orders will be sent in case other information makes it desirable that Force F should fuel in Northern instead of Southern Area. (C. in C. S.A., 2037N/6 to S.O. Force F).

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday. 144

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

158 M/S
Group.

Your, 1534B/2, para (C) 158th M/S Group consists of CORDELIA, NORSE, LORINDA (Lost at Sea) and LORD IRWIN (due Walvis Bay 15/8). Request information of subsequent movements of LORD IRWIN. (C. in C. S.A., 2135N/6 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Mediterranean.

Fast Supply
Ships.

Your 1125C/15 and 1350C/20. Arrangements are now in hand to meet your requirements with the following ships:- (a) White Ensign, ANTWERP, MALINES, CHANTALA, CHAKDINA. (b) Red Ensign. SHUNTIEN, PRINCE BADOUIN, PRINCESS KATHLEEN, PRINCESS MARGUERITE.
2. Princess Ships are being fitted as cased petrol carriers in Canada.
3. In addition HARBOE JENSEN, (details) will be sent from U.S.A. to E. Med., as soon as possible. M. of W.T. propose to retain Norwegian crew in this ship. 4. We assume the above will meet your requirements.
5. Future employment of *TANG LEUM is under consideration. Commodore Hong Kong's 1852I/18 refers. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0118A/6 to C. in C. Med).
** not identified*

Port T.

Your 1330/23. It is intended to use one GLEN ship for part of M.N.B.D.O. move to anchorage T leaving Suez about 20/9 and returning to Suez about 3 weeks later. (C. in C. Med., 1040C/6 to Admty).

Suez Raids.

Main enemy attack on Suez night 4/5, directed against shipping anchorage but caused no damage. Possible that mines were also dropped. Some bombs fell in town killing 1 Officer 29 Soldiers of Egyptian army and wounding 38 others. Railway Marshalling Yard for traffic Suez-Ataka hit but single line traffic resumed on 5/9. Night 5/6, about 14 enemy aircraft bombed Ismailia aerodrome. No casualties.

/U/B attacked.....

War Diary.

6.9.1941. 145
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- U/B Attacked. Day 5/9 Blenheim on sea R/C attacked Italian Submarine 170 miles North of Sollum 4 bombs bursting 10 yards from Target. No visible damage. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1048/6).
- RANGITIKI, ARONDA. Your 0349A/5/9 (7) and 1651A/28/8. Confirm RANGITIKI, is proceeding Suez. Is ARONDA proceeding Suez, if not request destination. (P.S.T.O., Egypt, 1146/6 to D. of S.T.)
- Alexandria Raid. Air raid 0315 to 0430/6. 9 planes shallow dived H.E. bombing. About 20 bombs over wide area, 8 in harbour. Sidi Gaba Railway station and naval stores shed Arsenal Quay hit and contains U.X.B. 4 bombs U.X.B. on shore. 4 civilians killed. Bright moon, some clouds. Defence included night fighters, 2 sighting, no combat. Balloons and searchlights with dispersed beams smoke and barrage fire. (R.A. Alexandria, 1155C/6 to Admty). Damage to warships, see 2334C/6.
- Enemy Convoy. 3 Merchant ships 4 destroyers 10 knots latitude 035° 22' 0930/6 E.T.A. (?) Marittimo 0430B/7. (Capt. S.10. 1210B/6 to UNIQUE). My 1210B/6 convoy was 30 miles South of Pantellaria at 1640. (Capt. S.10 1854B/6 to UNIQUE).
- Ismailia and Port Said Raids. Ref. C.A.F.O. 587. (a) Night 5/6 Calm, Clear (b) High level attack by about 14 enemy A/C on Ismailia Aerodrome 2035 to 2251, 12 flares, bright moon (c) H.E. and Incendiary (d) About 60 bombs including 4 in Moascar Camp (e) Fair damage to R.A.F. Buildings, war effort unaffected. Port Said attacked by 1 enemy A/C 2344 to 0005, 4 bombs. No damage, no casualties. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1325C/6 to Admty etc).
- BALCIC (Roumanian). Arrived Trieste, general cargo. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1635C/6 to S.O.(I) Med).
- Malta Raid. Night 5/6. 3 aircraft approached Island and dropped few bombs in sea and on Gozo causing slight damage, no casualties. Hurricanes up, no illuminations or engagements.

/Tripoli.....

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Tripoli
Bombed.

Night 5/6. 9 Wellingtons attacked shipping Spanish Quay Tripoli 0130 to 0550 hours. 3 hits claimed on medium M/V, many bombs hit the quay. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1660/6).

Salvage
Vessels.

Importance in Middle East. (C. in C. Med., 1710C/6)
See Lion Copy.

Vichy Convoys.

Vichy repatriating convoys pass position 180° Gavdo 10 as follows. Westbound convoys Z1. A1. at 1700C/6 and 1900C/9 respectively. Eastbound convoy B.1. at 1000C/8.
(Capt. S.1., 1915C/6 to OTUS).

OTTO
LEONHARDT,
German.

Arrival Sagunto 5/9. (Valencia, 2050/6, to M. of W.T.)

Black Sea.

N.L.O. (? Black Sea) reports as follows:
(A) Strong Soviet forces concentrated against enemy bridgehead (?S) Dnieperpetrovsk and Berislav. Indication that Russians (? preparing) to counter attack. Italian barges being constructed at Varna for attack on Turkey or Batum early October.
(C) Large movements Italian (? troops) across Austria to Ukraine and German troops from Roumania to Turkish frontier. Comment. Information fits in with opinion Czech Colonel Paka who tells me to-day that all his information tends to show that Germans are staging an extension of operations from Sicily. (?He has) evidence (? that) at least 1 German Unit has (?gone) south from Roumania in tropical kit. (30 M.M., Moscow, 2205/6 to W.O.)

Situation
Report 140.

Alexandria. Air raid night 5/6 slight hull (? damage) from near misses to WOOLWICH, Hospital Ship MAINE, and KANDAHAR in addition to damage reported in R.A. Alexandria 1155/6. Casualties, one officer, 4 ratings killed: 15 ratings wounded.
2. Canal area. Air raid see S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1342/5. Canal closed until sweeping complete.
3. NAIAD with 2 destroyers at sea off Alexandria night 6/7 controlling naval aircraft. Object to intercept enemy bombers.
(C. in C. Med., 2334C/6 to Admty).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

146A

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E.

1710C/6th Sept.
I.

From : C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date : 7.9.41.

Recd : 1820.

Naval Cypher I.T.T. By Cable.

Addressed : Admiralty,

252. I feel it important to draw attention again to the situation out here, as regards salvage. One of our difficulties in providing adequate supplies for the Army by sea in January was due to an almost entire lack of salvage appliance and personnel. In consequence when we (?took) Tobruk and Benghazi we were unable to clear wreckage or salvage vessels sunk as obstructions and this seriously restricted amount of supplies entering these Ports. On the other hand, Italians have salvaged 2 ships at Suda Bay already and 2 at Benghazi. I feel provision of adequate salvage craft and personnel is thus a matter of great importance and urgency. Matter was represented in My 2140/30th May but CONFEDERATE is still the only Salvage Vessel on Station and I have no news of VALKYRIEN.

Former is fully employed in Suez Bay and Canal. It is understood call on Salvage Service is acute in U.K. but could not U.S.A. help us in this matter? Need is urgent: if U.S.A. Vessels were used British Personnel might be necessary as work will be in Area very likely to be attacked.

*No shortage of Salvage Vessels
in Middle East.

1710C/6

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
Controller.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
A.C.N.S. (T) (2).
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.N.S. (S).
D.O.D. (F).
D.D.O.D. (F).
D.O.D. (H).
D.D.O.D. (H).

D.N.I. (4).
D.A./S.W.
I.P. (2).
W.D. —
Head of M. for action.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson.
D. of P. (2)
Adm. Bailey.
Salvage
D.T.D. (2).

147

6.9.1941.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Convoy
Attacked.

7 Swordfish attacked a convoy at 2246/6 of 3 medium M/Vs and 3 destroyers northbound 20 M. N., of Pantellaria. 1 M/V of 6000 tons was hit 3 times, violent explosions, seen to fall to port and stop with heavy list, considered bound to sink. A 6,000 ton ship of tanker type hit by 2 torpedoes and claimed as damaged. (D.O.R.8/9).

East Indies.

STUART

Sails from Colombo at 0230Z/7 E.T.A. Keppel Harbour 0900/11 speed 15 knots.
(C. in C. E.I., 0657Z/6 to C. in C. China).

Shipping.

A.M.1955/4. MARYMAR and STEEL INVENTOR both received orders direct from New York to proceed to destinations. MARYMAR arrived Colombo 5/9 STEEL INVENTOR due Bombay about 8/9. GEORGIOS G. is at Berbera due to leave 14/9 for Aden.
(S.O.(I) Aden, 0733Z/6 to Admty).

Vizagapatam.

Please see telegrams from Defence Dept. Simla to S. of S. for India dated 22/7 and 23/8 advocating development of Vizagapatam to minimum extent to enable it to serve as alternative embarkation port for Far East if Madras or Calcutta or both are unworkable through enemy action. Scheme is opposed by War Office on grounds that adequate protection cannot be afforded to third port. Experience in U.K. and in Middle East has shown the need for alternative ports, and recommend that W.O. be proposed to withdraw opposition.
(C. in C. E.I., 1202Z/6 to Admty) Text of telegrams 22/7 and 23/8 in Lion Copy.

W.S.10
India
section.

Your 1651/29 and 0349/5. Request confirmation RANGITIKI or ARONDA now carrying India personnel ex CAMERONIA. Confirmed STRATHALLAN and BRITANNIC can be docked. (S.S.T.O. India, 1230Z/6 to D. of S.T.)

/REPULSE.....

147A

N.T.O.O

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From Govt. of India Defence Dept.

Date 23.7.41

Recd.1430

CYPHER

Addressed Secretary of State for India.

11104

3725. 22/7. Chiefs of Staffs have considered desirability of developing Vizagapatam as an alternative port for embarking troops and munitions for Malay in case (?either) (?Madras) or Calcutta or both have to be abandoned temporarily owing to enemy action. They recommend and we agree that Vizagapatam should be developed to minimum extent necessary to cope with military traffic that would be in that event be so diverted.

2. Harbour engineer specially deputed for the purpose has submitted detailed report and it is now proposed that two jetties each a total length of 1590 feet to accommodate 3(?additional) ships at one time making a total of 6 berths along the sides (?which have) buildings and that crane track should be provided on only one of the jetties to facilitate use of existing port cranes.

3. The estimated initial cost of whole scheme is approximately Rs.30 lakhs of which Rs.1 lakh represents development of water supply.

4. The port is willing to give land free provided that jetties can be considered additional accommodation at port available for ordinary commercial purposes except when required by the Defence Services. Suggest this should be agreed to for the (?duration of the)war, the ultimate disposal of the (?jetties) being reserved for later settlement.

5. In framing this scheme we have throughout assumed that reinforcements would not (?consist of) more than one Brigade group at one time (?). As the scheme would be His Majesty's Government's (?liability) to the extent of financial plan, request their early approval (?be)obtained.

War Reg Note C.in C.E.I's 1202 /6 refers.

1st Lord	I.P.(3)	
1st S.L	W.D	
Controller	D.N.I.(4)	
Vico Controller	D.57.O.B	
V.C.N.S	D.A.S	
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.N.O	
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	C.E. in C	
Sec.	D.C.D.(2)	
Nav. Sec.	D.A/S.W	
N.A.1st S.L	D.B.D.(2)	
P.A.S.(S)	D.M.W.D.(2)	
Ops.(4)	D of L.D.(2)	
O.D.(5)	Dop. Contr.(3)	}
M(2)	D(4)	
D of P(5)	D.A.S(3)	
O.I.C.(2)	D.N.O(4)	
	C.E.in C	
	D.A/S.W.(2)	} Bath

1478

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From Government of India
Defence Dept.

Date 24.8.41
Recd. 0845

Addressed Secretary of State for India

13173

4081 23/8. Your telegram No.10001 August 21st. We are convinced of advisability of having an additional port reasonably developed on East coast of India for the following reasons.

2. Calcutta. (a) The port is some 110 miles up a river, inside radius of air attack from Indo-China and Thailand, both by bombs and mines over its entire length. (b) A ship sunk in one of narrow channels of which there are several, would block the river for a considerable time. (c) It is most unlikely that sufficient A.A. or fighter defences will be available to protect the full length of the river from this form of attack. (d) Even if A.A. defences were available it is not possible to mount guns on shore in lower reaches of river. (e) Ships arriving at and leaving Calcutta are in river for some 24 hours and thus must be exposed to day-light attack. (f) Counter measures to magnetic mines are being developed but problem here is even greater than Shatt-el-Arab.

3. Madras. This port is (a) limited in capacity (b) vulnerable to attack from sea-borne aircraft, (c) shipping is congested, (d) liable to be blocked owing to having only one entrance, (e) exposed to bombardment.

4. Vizagapatam. Although exposed to bombardment, is easier to defend than Calcutta as length of channel to 100 fathom line from outside the river or harbour entrance, is 25 miles against 41 miles at Calcutta.

5. Admittedly the entrance to Vizagapatam is narrow but it is only about 1 mile in length. In emergency convoys could be cleared in dark hours.

6. Defences for Vizagapatam and Madras are being organised on similar line already agreed to.

7. In brief it is the very fact that Calcutta and Madras (especially the former) are very vulnerable which makes us press for an alternative port.

8/.....

147^C

8. Consider Admiralty should be consulted. Commander in Chief East Indies has been informed of the proposal.

War Reg. Note C. in C.E.I's 1202Z/6 refers.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L
- Controller
- Vice Controller
- V.C.N.S
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
- Sec.
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L
- P.A.S.(9)
- Ops.(4)
- O.D.(5)
- M(2)
- D of P(3)
- O.I.C.(2)
- I.P.(3)
- W.D
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.57.O.B
- D.A.S
- D.N.O
- C.E. in C
- D.C.D.(2)
- D.A/S.W
- D.B.D.(2)
- D.H.W.D.(2)
- D of L.D.(2)
- Dep. Contr.(3)
- D(4)
- D of S(3)
- D.N.O.(4)
- C.E. in C
- D.A/S.W.(2)

}
* } Bath
}

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

REPULSE.

Admty 0028A/28. On arrival of REPULSE at Durban with Convoy W.S.11 (date) REPULSE will join East Indies Station. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1820A/6 to C. in C. China etc).

China.

JOAO DE LISBOA.

Your 1700/2. Arrangements made. (C. in C. China, 0322Z/6 to Admty).

COMPIEGNE,
CAP TOURANE,
LE CONTE DE LISLE.
(French).

Saigon COMPIEGNE expected to sail for Japan on 7/9. Unconfirmed report that CAP TOURANE and LE CONTE DE LISLE both with repatriated German Legionaries will also sail in Convoy. (C.O.I.S. Far East, 0343Z/6 to Admty etc).

LAMOTTE PIQUET.

Your 187 to F.O. Glad if you would remind Adm. Decoux when opportunity offers that Capt. Jouan gave me an assurance at Singapore on 8/5 last that there was no question of sending LAMOTTE PIQUET to Japan to refit; I accepted his assurance and all our subsequent discussions were on this assumption. (C. in C. China, 0515Z/6 to ? Minister, Saigon).

Fuelling Base.

Reply to C. in C. China 0431Z/27. (V.C.N.S., 1224A/6) See Operations Volume.

Indo-China.

Text of agreement between Decoux and Japanese General Sumita re occupation. See America & West Indies, 1328/6.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S.
Submarines.

Re proposed transfer. (1st S.L., 0117A/6 to B.A.D.)
See Lion Copy.

TRUANT.

Following is sense my 1131P/6 (N.T. in W.R.)
you may meet U.S. Convoy on same course off Cape
Race during night 8/9. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1046P/6 to
TRUANT).

WINNIPEG.

D. of S.T. (1840A/5), has concurred in my proposal
to embark remainder of Honduras Unit numbering
169 in WINNIPEG sailing 9/9 for Halifax. I am
anxious too to sail naval draft ex QUEEN OF BERMUDA
numbering 107 in same vessel as no accommodation
for them here and no other opportunity of forward
passage in view. I now find WINNIPEG due to foul
bottom not likely to make more than 9 to 10 knots,
she has mountings but no guns and will probably
have to be docked before making Atlantic passage.
Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1100Q/6
to C. in C. A.W.I.)

N.O.I.C. Trinidad's 1100Q/6. In view of absence
of armament and low speed, consider WINNIPEG
most unsuitable transport of Honduras unit and
Naval drafts. Propose (?ship) be docked and armed
in U.S. if possible, and Honduras unit await next
opportunity for passage. Naval draft to remain
in QUEEN OF BERMUDA and disembark at Bermuda to
Await onward passage. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1842Q/6
to D. of S.T.) Reply; 1523/7.

Task Force. 3. Dispositions.

1. MEMPHIS, DAVIS, JOUETT, OMAHA and SOMERS at
Culebra (Puerto Rico).
2. MILWAUKEE and WARRINGTON will return to
Pernambuco from Cape Verde Island patrol.
(D.O.D. (F) 1125A/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc).

LE TRIOMPHANT. My 1435/5. Ship returned for deserters 1700/5
departed 0200/6. (Consul, Los Angeles, 1234/6
to Admty).

CALIFORNIA,
WOLFE.

Your 1437P/4. Concur with your proposal for refit
of CALIFORNIA. M. of W.T. will make arrangements
for refit of WOLFE. (D.O.D. (H), 1242A/6 to R.A.3).

/WOLFE.....

149A/495

MOST SECRET

~~MOST SECRET MESSAGE 0117A/6~~ Sept.

OUT

To B.A.D. Washington. 475.
Repeated. F.O.(S) 512

Date. 5.9.41

Naval Cypher (D one time table)

From Admiralty.

CONDO.

Your 1233R/4. We are prepared to accept either one 'S' Class and one 'R' Class or two 'S' Class.

2. One 'R' Class and one 'S' Class would be preferred for following reasons:-

- (a) 'R' Class appear suitable for A/S Training for which more S/M's are now urgently required.
- (b) Economy in manning of S/M's for this purpose.
- (c) Trial of both types with a view to taking over more S/M's for operational and training purposes in due course.

3. A British crew is detailed for one 'R' Class and a Polish crew for one 'S' Class. Intend that they should arrive New London by the end of September.

4. Your DOCON 80. Reply to paragraph 1 must be deferred pending trial of these two submarines as stated in A.T.1717B/2/8. If trials are satisfactory schedule would probably be one S/M a month from December 1941.

5. Offer to train these crews is much appreciated.

0117A/6

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Controller,
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
Sec.
F.A., 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(H)
D.D.O.D.(H)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(M)
N.A.2.S.L.
D.P.S.

for Hd. of M.(808)
Appd.1st Sea Lord.

D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
D.D.I.C.
Duty Capt.
Hd. of N.A.S.
D.T.S.D.
E.P.S.
Ad. Bailey.
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D. of M.(M/PDG209/45)
N.T.D. 10 (Pay Cap. ...)
Dep. Contr Bath.
Hd. of S.W.R. Bath.

150

6.9.1941.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

WOLFE.
LACONIA.
MALOJA.
LETITIA.
CHITRAL.
RANPURA.
HECTOR.

Decided that WOLFE, LACONIA, MALOJA are to be returned forthwith to M. of W.T. in addition to LETITIA.

2. LACONIA will not return to Halifax but will be paid off after arrival in U.K.

3. Further instructions will be given regarding the sailing of WOLFE and MALOJA.

4. Decided that in due course CHITRAL and RANPURA shall be transferred to C. in C. E.I. and that HECTOR shall be returned to M. of W.T.

5. Intended that CHITRAL and RANPURA shall return to U.K. to give leave before proceeding to their station and need not therefore be included in your leave programme. (1st S.L., 1248A/6 to R.A. 3 etc).

NASTURTIUM
and PRIMROSE.

Your 1551A/2. Completion dates approximately end of September. U.S. authorities would like the next two ships to arrive Charleston 25th, 26th or 27/9. (B.A.R.M., 1322R/6 to Admty).

Indo-China.

Text of agreement between Decoux and Japanese General Sumita, from Censorship, Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1328Q/6 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

US. Forces.

My 1825R/5. Cancel paras 2 and 3. Question is still under investigation. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet has gone north and will confer with C.N.S. Canada so as to arrange that no U.K. escort group will be required. (B.A.D., 1345R/6 to Admty).

Suspicious Ship, 31/8.

My 1026R/5, last sentence. British Ship BENREOCH. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1526R/6 to Admty). S.O.(I) Jamaica's 1026R/5. Address has been amended to include C. in C. S.A. and R.A.S.A.D. (D.D.I.C., 1644A/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc).

NEWCASTLE.
DURBAN CASTLE.

Your 2222Q/5. Yes, NEWCASTLE is required to act as additional escort from Trinidad. (D.O.D. (F) 1649A/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U.S. Convoy Escorts.

Following received from Opanav. (repeats Spenavo 1752/5). (A.C.N.S. (H), 1709A/6 to C.s. in C. A.W.I., H.F., W.A. etc).

/KATLA.....

150A-

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. SECRET 13280/6h Sept.

From C. in C. America
and West Indies.

Date. 7. 9. 41.

Recd. 0035

NAVAL CYPHER X BY W/T. RECIRCULATION.

Addressed Admiralty for D.N.I.

IMPORTANT.

457. Following from Officer in Charge Naval Section Censorship Bermuda begins:- please repeat M 1. 12 and Chief Air Adviser Censorship. Agreement between Admiral Decoux, Governor General Indochina and General Semitain Head of Japanese Mission begins.

1. Disembarkation 40,000 men to be divided between Nhatrang, Camranh The Saigon Cholon District, the Baria-Cap St. Jacques District, Mytho, Phom-Penh, Kompong-Trach.

2. French Authorities to requisition all billets necessary Japanese Army.

3. During Movements of Japanese Troops no movement French or Indochinese troops must take place. Minimum French troops necessary internal security will afterwards remain south Indochina.

4. No movement French Warships or merchant ships except make necessary room for anchorage. Japanese ships.

5. Munitions of French troops locked up until termination Japanese troop movement. Artillery pieces hooded, no one near them during entry Japanese ships. Barracks and positions French troops to be indicated by white crosses.

6. French planes must not fly during operations.

7. Japanese troops may use petrol already Indochina but will be replaced by Japanese Mission.

8. When operations ended French warships may visit Indochinese ports but names must be communicated Japanese.

Agreement ends. Principle points secret document from French Military General Staff stated to be from reliable source.

1. Japanese created some time ago Indochinese Section of Panagdatic Association with object "emancipation and liberation" on Indochinese.

2. Nuclei organised in Hanoi, Haiphong and Cochinchina in view preparation for revolt against French Hanoi is now ready comprising all private house and hotel servants. Haiphong movement being organised. Cochinchina in course of formation already comprises 20,000 adherents, Ends. Original by Air Mail today.

13280/6.

N.I.D./.....

N.I.D. Comment.

"This signal is a Precis
(1) of a copy of an Agreement
between General Deccux and
Japanese General Sumita
regarding occupation of Indo
China.

(2) Secret French Papers about
Japanese activities.

Note. Original Documents are
being forwarded to Admiralty by
Air.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(F)
- B.D.O.D.(F)
- D. of P.(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.C.
- Hd. of M.(30)
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D.(2)
- Admiral Bellairs.(2)
- Admiral Chalmers.
- N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson

EJ

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

KATLA,
GODAFLOSS.

My 2218Z/4 U.S. Navy Dept. has requested KATLA be instructed to join first available S.C. Convoy destination Reykjavik. Also requested GODAFLOSS be instructed to proceed Halifax to sail H.X.150 16/9. Navy Dept. request early information if KATLA and GODAFLOSS (?will) comply. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1736Z/6, to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B).

ASTURIAS.

Your 1142R/4. Concur.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1832Q/6 to B.A.R.M.)

DIOMEDE.

Bermuda departure for Trinidad DIOMEDE wearing flag of C. in C. A.W.I. in accordance with my 1052Q/5/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1903Q/6 to Admty).

VANJA.

Necessary Oiler VANJA arrives Freetown as early as possible. If not already sailed request departure be expedited. (D.T.D., 1911A/6 to N.C.S.O. Curacao).

Australia.

Monster
Liners.

Your 1244/21/8. Concur with (A). 2. Question where these vessels should proceed in the case of (B) is being considered. Further signal will be made as to this and as to (C). 3. Trincomalee is in any case considered unsuitable. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1745A/6 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EINVIK
(torpedoed
5/9).

Your 2050Z/5. If nothing is found by dark tonight proceed to St. John's N.F. (C. in C. W.A., 1032A/6 to HONEYSUCKLE).

Submarines Reported.

0854.

Am over enemy submarine in position 46.57 N., 11.08 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge, Course 270° speed 8 knots. (A/C "C" 0854/6 to 19 Group).

Am over enemy submarine correct position 46.57 N., 12.08 W. (A/C "C" 1025/6 to 19 Group).

0853Z.

Following bearings of Italian U-boat, call sign 32A, obtained on 8520 k/cs at 0853Z/6. (D.D.I.C., 1036A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0918Z.

By D/F at 0918Z/6, an Italian U-boat was in the vicinity of Convoy H.G.72. (D.D.I.C., 1154A/6 to BOREAS, FARNDALE, LEITH).

1027 G.M.T.

Bearings of Italian U-boat 97V at 1027 G.M.T./6. (D.D.I.C., 1219A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

1150 G.M.T.

Bearings at 1150 G.M.T./6 of Italian U-boat 25V. (D.D.I.C., 1341A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1434A/6).

1637 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1637 G.M.T./6 enemy U-boat in 45° - 46° N., 21° - 22° W. (D.D.I.C., 1826/6).

1841Z.

U-boat sighted on surface range 10 miles, and dived in 028° (905') N., 028° 20' W., at 1841Z/6. Am now parting company with Oiler RAPIDOL to comply with your 1727A/6 (See North Atlantic) Weather report. (DUNEDIN, 1906Z/6 to Admty).

Submarines Attacked.

Mediterranean.

By Blenheim A/C 170 miles N. of Sollum, 5/9. (See Mediterranean, Foreign Stations).

War Diary.7.9.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

At 0730A an Enemy Force was engaged by NIGERIA and AURORA of Force A. in Sverholthavet (71° N. 26° 30' E). The result is still obscure, but a Destroyer, a Trawler, and one other vessel are believed to have been sunk by our Forces, and the BREMSE and another vessel were hard hit, the BREMSE having apparently been also torpedoed by her own side. NIGERIA rammed a wreck during the action and damaged her bows. No casualties were sustained by our Forces.

German Report
escorts - Bremse enemy
2 patrol boats
2 chasers
2 R boats

Ships in convoy
Trautentfels
Barcelona

Bremse hit by torpedo
port side, sunk.

Trautentfels - Barcelona

reached Honningsvåg
safely

no other damage reported

(War Diary S.K.L.)

At 0324 today when about 1½ miles East of Sheringham VERSATILE, escorting Convoy E.C.70, sighted an E-Boat bearing 005° some 2 miles away. An A/P vessel within 400 yards of the E-boat took no action and so allayed VERSATILE's suspicion; but at 0350A several tracks were seen and the British DUNCARRON, 478 Tons, as well as the Norwegian EIKHAUG, 1436 Tons, were torpedoed and sunk, the E-Boat retiring to the Eastward. 11 survivors were picked up. The D.G. gear of the British STELLING was damaged at the same time by a near miss, but she was able to continue towards Hartlepool.

A force of Enemy Ships apparently steering to the Eastward was located by D/F to the northward of Murmansk at 0338C and 0530C today; and 4 fishing vessels escorted by an armed Trawler were seen off Jan Mayen Island at 1305.

INDOMITABLE escorted by 3 Destroyers left Barrow at 1355A for Liverpool.

The Formby Light Vessel was sunk today by collision with EMPIRE SNIPE. Her crew are safe.

British Air Operations.

12 Blenheims, with fighter escort were despatched today to attack shipping off the Dutch coast. A Flakship was blown up off the Hague and a 2000 ton merchant ship is believed to have been hit.

4 Hudsons of Coastal Command last night bombed and set on fire a fish oil factory at Bergso Island (near Stadlandet).

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

The British MARCREST, 4224 Tons, in Convoy F.N.515 was bombed at 2128A off Yarmouth, whence Tugs proceeded to assist her. There were no casualties.

The Grimsby Trawler NAIRANA was bombed and slightly damaged off Mygganaes (Faroes) at 1005.

At 1438 a Junkers 88 passed over the Orkneys from N.W. to S.E. and could have seen into the Fleet Anchorage.

Mining.

The Fishing Trawler OPHIR^{II} in Convoy E.C.70 was sunk by Mine about 15 miles from Spurn Point near H.5 Buoy at 1800 today. 6 of her crew were landed, but 5 are feared lost.

The southern entrance to Egersund is reported today to have been mined between Skarvo and Tingelset.

An enemy Type T. Mine beached yesterday near Shanklin was found to have a wheeled trolley attached to it which may have served to lay it from surface craft.

2 Mines were exploded by Sweepers off the Tyne today, and 1 off the Humber.

21 Hampdens laid mines last night at Oslo Harbour.

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys.

N.E. Coast.

To improve the week-end turn round at N.E. Coast ports, the Ministry of War Transport request that the convoy cycle be put back one day, thus making Thursday the blank day at Southend and Monday at Methil. C. in C. Nore has no objection but the change cannot be made for a few days. C. in C. Rosyth also agrees and has made proposals to start the new cycle.

South Atlantic.

GAZCON.

Vichy French GAZCON, 4134 tons, was intercepted this afternoon or evening by ALBATROSS about 200 miles S.W. of Takoradi.

Mediterranean.

U.S.S
STEEL
SEAFARER
sunk.

It was reported today that the American ship STEEL SEAFARER was bombed and sunk by aircraft at midnight on 5-6/9 near Shadwan Island, entrance to Gulf of Suez. 24 of the crew reached the island and signalled for help. COVENTRY was sent to take them off. 12 others landed at Hurghada, and it is reported all are now safe.

The threat to shipping in Red Sea by the arrival of Focke Wulf aircraft is discussed by C. in C. Mediterranean in a message today (167) If the American ships are to be protected it is essential they should conform to our directions as for Allied ships. It will also be necessary to increase both air and surface forces in the Red Sea. He asks C. in C. East Indies to consider sending as many escort ships with A/A armament as can be spared to Port Sudan. Admty. view of the situation is contained in 1831A/7.

/Libya

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

15 Wellingtons and 9 Albacores bombed Benghazi and various landing grounds last night.

9 Marylands bombed heavy guns east of Tobruk today, but scored no direct hits.

Egypt and
Suez Canal.

Abu Sueir and Ismailia aerodromes were attacked by 2 waves of 10 and 12 bombers last night. Some damage was caused but no casualties. The canal has been reopened.

Turkey.

A message from the Navy Liaison Officer, Black Sea, which the Military Mission at Moscow consider most important, states that an attack on Turkey is expected on 15/9, and that 25,000 German sailors are in Bulgarian ports. Meantime, the Military Attaché at Ankara sends details of German activities in Bulgaria.

China.

C. in C. China considers it would have great propaganda value if REPULSE could pay an early visit to Singapore. C. in C. East Indies concurs and has suggested what would be the earliest date.

An indication of the operations on which TEVIOTC BANK may be employed was given by the Admty. today.

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Suspicious Ship.

American S.S. ROBIN HOOD reported a suspicious ship at 2200Z/7 in 04.40 S., 32.21 W.

Easter Island report.

N.A. Santiago states that Easter Island has reported to the Chilean Naval authorities that at 2200/3 three warships were sighted from the island. It is confirmed these were not U.S. ships.

Corvettes.

TULIP and CLARKIA have been allocated for service at Trinidad.

U.S. Convoy Escorts.

In regard to the start of escorts of high speed convoys by U.S. Forces, R.N. destroyers and corvettes of Newfoundland Force are to carry out allotted duties up to and including S.C.44 and O.N.17

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TULIP.
CLARKIA.
(Corvettes).

TULIP and CLARKIA are allocated for Service at Trinidad. (C. in C. W.A., 1708A/7).

Oerlikons
for KENYA.
NIGERIA.
→ SHEFFIELD.
EURYALUS.
HERMIONE.

Following is summary of final arrangements made. (Hd. of G. Branch, 1710A/7).

Assessment
of Enemy
M/V losses.

To assess enemy M/V losses, all claims are being considered by a joint Admty., and Air Ministry Committee and will be placed in four categories as follows:-

1. Sunk or Constructive loss.
2. Seriously damaged.
3. Damaged.
4. Results of attack unobserved or no definite claim.

The existing procedure as regards reporting successes should continue to be made by ships at sea when breaking W/T silence is permissible.

On return to harbour, the following further details should be signalled.

- (i) Name of ship attacked, if known, otherwise estimated tonnage and type.
 - (ii) Whether laden or in ballast.
 - (iii) Destination if known or course.
 - (iv) Any known or observed facts as to damage sustained which will assist in classification.
- (D.D.I.C., 1723A/7) (A Message 529A).

Movements.

→ SHEFFIELD.

Your 1525A/6. Space available as follows. (SHEFFIELD, 0920A/7 to Admty).

KUJAWIAK.

My 1318/5. After R/V proceed Plymouth for steering gear repairs. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1020/7 to KUJAWIAK).

SOKOL.
TRUSTY.
TAKU.
Alteration
of T.B.R.s.

In view of probability of U-boats returning to Biscay ports in the next few days, propose TRUSTY be diverted to Falmouth and TAKU be diverted East of 6° W., or W. of 12° W., to give our A/C a clear run. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1308/7 to F.O.S.)

My 1308/7. Alternatively requirements would be met if T.B.R. were not imposed North of 44° 30' N. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1630/7 to F.O.S.)

/Your.....

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SOKOL.
TRUSTY.
→ TAKU.
Alteration
of T.B.R.s
- Contd.

Your 1630/7. This alternative is being arranged. (F.O.S. 1846A/7 to C. in C. Plymouth).
A. Proceed submerged by day when to the northward of 44° 30' N.
B. Submerged B.R. arranged in area between 44° 30' N., 46° N., and 08° and 11° W., from 0800A/8 until 2200A/12.
C. All T.B.R. between 44° 30' N., and 46° N., are cancelled.
T.B.R. between 43° N., and 44° 30' N., and all Submerged B.R. areas remain in force for the periods previously ordered.
D. Expect own air activity and avoid surfacing during daylight hours.
(F.O.S. 1847A/7 to TAKU, SOKOL, TRUSTY).
SOKOL sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1553/7).

INDOMITABLE.

Sailed escorted by WALKER, VOLUNTEER, and BLANKNEY. Code Word ~~MASTER~~. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 2030A/9. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1355A/7).

→ BREDA.
TAKU.

At 2030A/10 intend to sail BREDA to R/V 0630A/12 with TAKU in 260° Trevose Head 8 miles. Thence TAKU escorted by BREDA to Rothesay. E.T.A. Clyde 0530/14. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection.
-(Capt. S.7. 1709A/7).

Operations.

Convoy E.C.70.
DUNCARRON
(British,
478 tons)
EIKHAUG
(Norwegian,
1436 tons)
sunk by
E-boat.
STELLING
(British
2136 tons)
damaged.

1 Enemy Boat (E-boat) bearing 001°, position (indecipherable). (VERSATILE, 0324/7).
My 0324. About half a dozen tracks sighted. 2 ships torpedoed. Enemy retired to East. (VERSATILE, 0350A/7).
Departure Tug DIVERSION at 0535A to assist ships in distress off Sheringham Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0602A/7).
My 0350A. DUNCARRON and EIKHAUG sunk by E-boat approx. 1½ miles East Sheringham. M.L. No. 149 W returning to base with 7 survivors, and S.S. BRYMILL has 4 survivors from above ships. STELLING D.G. out of action through near miss. He is bound Hartlepool. Request instructions. (VERSATILE, 0640A/7 to C. in C. Nore).

/Departure.....

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Convoy E.C. 70
DUNCARRON
(British
478 tons)
EIKHAUG
(Norwegian,
1436 tons)
sunk by
E-boat.
STELLING
(British
2136 tons)
damaged.
- Contd.

Departure tug SABINE at 0640 to assist torpedoed vessels. (F.O. Humber, 0727A/7).
My 0640A. VERSATILE sighted E-boat bearing 005° two miles when approx. 1½ miles East Sheringham. All suspicions were lulled by the fact that there was an A.P. vessel certainly not more than 400 yards from E-boat. A.P. vessel apparently took no action whatsoever. (VERSATILE, 0735A/7).
Your 0640A/7. STELLING is to continue to destination. (C. in C. Nore, 0925A/7 to VERSATILE).

Force A.

My 1232A/5. Oiler OLIGARCH not now required by Force A. 3400 tons (?remaining). (S.O. Force A., 0758A/7 to C.S.1).

1 Enemy
Destroyer
and 1 Trawler
sunk.
BREMSE
damaged.
NIGERIA
damaged.

Admty. 0104A/7th. Enemy brought to action in foul weather somewhere in Svaerholthavet at 0730A. Result obscure but seems certain that small Destroyer a (Corrupt group) and one Trawler sunk. German BREMSE and another vessel hard hit and BREMSE believed to be torpedoed by own side. NIGERIA rammed wreck in smoke screen, bow damaged speed reduced, sea (corrupt group). AURORA in company. No casualties. P.C. and S. 071° 46' N., 021° 30' E., 270°, 19½ knots, altering course to 240° at 2200. (S.O. Force A., 0800A/7).

for later information see p 153.

M.G.B.
Patrol.

Your 1125A/7. M.G.B.'s 87 and 89 detailed vessels to arrive off South Leman buoy at dusk. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1708A/7).

British Air Activity.

A/C from
ARGUS.
Operation
"Benedict".

Following from 151 Wing. Weather is 5 - 10. No wind. Visibility excellent. Suitable landings here. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0230C/7). All off. (C.S.1., 0815/7).
Following from 151 Wing. All A/C have landed. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1125C/7 to Admty).

Patrols.

P.R.U. Kristiansand and Oslo and another of Bergen and Haugeaund about to take off. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1056/7).

/My.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols
- Contd.

My 1056/7. P.R.U. Bergen-Haugesund cancelled as A/C U/S. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1158/7).
"Hornli" in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1300/7).
"Stab" in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1918/7).

Flight
postponed.

Cancel my 0027A/6. Flight has been postponed. (D.O.D. H., 1811A/7).

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C over
Orkneys.

Ju. 88 appeared out of clouds at 1438 today to West of Hoy, Passed over Fara and Flotta, then left area on S.E. course. Plane was below cloud base of 1500 feet and could have seen into fleet anchorage. No RD/F plots were obtained until plane was going away to Eastward. (A.C.O.S., 1559/7).

NAIRANA
bombed.

(Grimsby Trawler) Bombed at 1005 today 5 miles S. by E. of Mygganaes. Slight damage, no casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1716/7).

Convoy F.N515.
MARCREST
(British
4224 tons)
bombed.

C.M.R.35

A/C bombing convoy "Pilot" in 110°./ (WESTMINSTER, 2104/7).
Fighter A/C have been sent. (Nore, 2117/7).
MARCREST bombed in 52° 39' N., 2° 10' E. settling slowly aft. Tug required. No casualties. (WINCHESTER, 2128A/7).
Your 2128A. Tugs proceeding from Yarmouth now. (C. in C. Nore, 2301A/7).

Mining.

North Rona
- Iceland
Minefield.

Propose to visit you on 9/9 to discuss certain aspects of North Rona Iceland mine field, arriving about noon in MANXMAN and leaving the same evening, in that ship.
(R.A.M. 1221/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Enemy.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd. -

Enemy Mine with Trolley attached.

One type "T" Mine which was found drifting in Q Z S 239 on Friday has been beached near Shanklin Chine at 1900/6. The mine was recovered with a wheeled trolley secured to it. This does not appear to form part of the sinker but would seem to indicate the means of laying from surface craft. Mine is being dealt with by M.R.S. Party today and will be removed to VERNON to-morrow. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1233A/7).

Egersund reported mined.

It is reported that the southern entrance to Egersund is mined between Skarvo and Tingelset. Approach is behind Tingelset or North of Egero. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C., 1626A/7).

Tyne.

1 Magnetic and 1 Acoustic Mine detonated today. Details. (P.M.S.O. North Shields, 1715/7).

OPHIR II sunk.

(Fishing Trawler) Sunk this morning by mine explosion near H.5. buoy. 5 survivors landed at Grimsby from examination vessel FLIXTON at 1430, of whom two are slightly injured. Grimsby trawler RADASTO picked up 1 survivor and has proceeded to Scarborough. 5 are feared lost. (F.O. Humber, 1800A/7).

Humber.

At 0756/7 one mine was detonated as follows. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1900A/7).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats.

Suspected E-boat activity in position T. (C. in C. Nore, 0340/7).

Force off Murmansk.

Reliable D/F fixes place enemy ships at 0338C, 069° 56' N., 034° 20' E. At 0530C, 070° 13' N., 35° E. in W/T communication with Tromso. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0729C/7).

Vessels off Jan Mayen.

Following received in plain auxiliary code from Jan Mayen at 1305. 5 ships in vicinity 08.45 20 miles off. One armed trawler, gun fore, probably A/A; one smaller ship named ICEBEAR,* Norway seal catching vessel; 2 fishing vessels. Course W.S.W., 10 miles off. H. BULL sailed 2200/6 Heading S.O.S. standby all times here in plain language. (A.C.I.C. 2227/7). * Not identified

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

BRITISH
VALOUR,
(Grounded
5/9).

BRITISH VALOUR and tugs NEPTUNE, VOLATILE, and RESOLVE arrived Portland. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1116A/7).

AVALANCHE
(M/S Trawler)
Grounded.

Grounded in fog at 1450/6 on the West end of Warden Ledge, Needles Channel. When attempting to tow clear a.m. 7th, vessel rolled on her side. At high water, water is half way across the deck and all compartments are half full. Request Admiralty Salvage Section may take over. Crew all picked up. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1407A/7). Your 1407A/7. Salvage Department will take over. (Director Salvage Dept. 1907A/7).

Formby Light
Vessel
sunk.

EMPIRE SNIPE reports at 1549 helm jammed, collided with Formby Light vessel. Crew taken off Formby L.V. (Nore W/T 1602/7). Everybody safe off Formby Light Ship. Light Ship sinking. (EMPIRE SNIPE, T.O.R. 1710/7). Formby Light Vessel has been sunk on station. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1853A/7).

NIGERIA.

Details of Damage. Ship cannot anchor. (NIGERIA, 2141A/7 to S.O. Force A).

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L. 84.

Ref. WESTON's 0700/6, following ships in S.L. 84 are fitted with Paravanes. HOLMPARK, BARRDALE, BEREBY, BOTHNIA, HARBERTON. On arrival of ships in harbour request you will investigate and report reasons why these ships were unable to use Paravanes. (D.T.D. 1230A/7 to C. in C. W.A., etc).

Iceland.

S.O. Force A reports following sailed from Adventfiord A.M./3 routed west of Jan Mayen to Akureyri, escorted by ELM speed about 5 knots, Sealers POLARIC, SVALBARD, Whaler AGNES.
2. Tug ISBJORN with armed guard from AURORA sailed P.M./3 to join this convoy.
3. Request you will report arrival, repeated S.O. Force A. (C. in C. H.F., 1431A/7 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

N.E. Coast
cycle.

M. of W.T. request that the convoy cycle may be put back one day to improve the week-end turn round at N.E. coast ports, thus making Thursday the blank day at Southend and Monday at Methil. Request your remarks. (D.T.D., 1901A/7 to Cs. in C. Rosyth, Nore).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

WIVERN.

Departure WIVERN for Portsmouth via Plymouth for fuel (route). Request C. in C. Plymouth issue onward routing instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. 0732A/7 to Admty.)

Suspicious Convoy,
4/9.

Has any reply been received to your 1051A/6 to PHILANTE? (F.O.C.N.A. 0927A/7 to Admty.) Your 0927A/7. PHILANTE's 1756A/6 states nothing suspicious observed about convoy. Position S.L. 85 at 1400Z/6 was 37° 03' N. 22° 52' W. course 353° 6 knots. 2. Admty. 1728A/6 to GORLESTON. No reply received, hence assumed no ships of O.S.4 were in vicinity. It must therefore be concluded that convoy was not British. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1233A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

KOS 7
KOS 9

Your 1130/6. KOS 7 and KOS 9 did not call at Ponta Delgada as mentioned in A.M. 1321/4/8. Proposed visit on 11/9 will not therefore contravene International law. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1100A/7 to N. A. Lisbon).

PROTEUS.

Dive by day on the 8th. Keep look out for U-boats. Adjust speed to arrive in position R at 1700A/9. Bombing restriction arranged. (F.O.C.N.A. 1138A/7 to PROTEUS). Correct P.C. and S. of PROTEUS at 2020A/7 to read 039° 25' 011° 25', 184°, 12 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1140A/7 to TAKU).

JOAO DE LISBOA.

Your 1155/1. (Docking of Portuguese Sloop JOAO DE LISBOA). Permission granted and arrangements made. (Head of M. 1238A/7 to N.A. Lisbon)

South Atlantic.

GOS 7
KOS 12.

Capetown departure A.M./6 GOS 7 and KOS 12 for Durban on passage to Alexandria, speed of advance 8 knots. E.T.A. Durban A.M./10. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0735Z/7 to Admty.)

/CITY.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

CITY OF
JOHANNESBURG
"Q" Report.

No coded cancellation of QQQQ 2014 G.M.T./6 (N.T. in W.R.) has been received from CITY OF JOHANNESBURG. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0914Z/7 to Admty. C. in C. E.I.) Takoradi and Lagos W/T Stn. intercepted QQQQ made twice at 2123Z/6, but nothing more on 500 KC/S per sec., apparently near Lagos. Any ship having any further information to report is to break W/T silence as soon as present duty will permit. (C. in C. S.A., 1856N/7 to S.A.Stn.)

Convoy
O.S.4,
GORLESTON.

O.S.4 in 26.20 21.05 8 knots. In accordance with W.A.C.I.V. 132 para. 15, my 2111Z/5 amended by my 0911Z/5, gave R/V in 19° N. as 0400Z/10. Your 1919N/3 addressed BIDEFORD orders escort S.L. 86 to R/V us 17.41. N. 19.57 W. at 0800/9. Cdre. of convoy whose Liverpool orders give latitude of position F as 21, agrees to steer 156° from R to S, given as 37.30 27.00 and 25.00 20.30 respectively in C. in C. W.A. 1545A/26/8, thence to F, given as 12° N. in Admty. 1508A/16/8. F.O.C.N.A.'s 1542A/6 places convoy 28.32 25.27 steering 174° at 2000A/6, actually 28.00 22.00 steering 156°. FARA and ISLAY rejoining from Azores were given my above intention. If you concur, submit that situation reports all commands conform to avoid ambiguity. (GORLESTON, 1200Z/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

SAGITTAIRE.

My 2525/27/ (? 7) (N.T. in W.R). Information has now been received that SAGITTAIRE is expected at Dakar shortly. No other information about movement available but look out to be kept for this ship. (C. in C. S.A., 1547N/7 to S.A. Stn.)

GAZCON
(French)

Intercepted by ALBATROSS p.m./7.
(D.O.R. 8/9) See W.D. 8/9.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Vichy
Convoy.

Return route of Vichy Convoy B.1 as follows.
Leaves Beyrout 1100/12, etc.
(C. in C. Med., 0847C/7 to Med. Fleet).

STEEL
SEAFARER
sunk.

Cape Clear reports STEEL SEAFARER bombed and sunk midnight 5/6. Am sending COVENTRY to search for 12 survivors in boat (?40) miles S.S.E. of Shadwan Island. 24 men landed Shadwan Island. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0921C/7 to Admty. etc.) American STEEL SEAFARER reported sunk by aircraft attack near Shadwan Island. No details known except that 24 of crew are on Shadwan and signalled for help. COVENTRY sent to take them off. (C. in C. Med., 1051/7 to Admty.) My 0921C/7, boat contains 12 survivors landed Hurghada. Reported all crew saved. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1236C/7). Your 1051/7, was SEAFARER Northbound or Southbound? (1st S.L. 1509A/7 to C. in C. Med.) Your 1509A/7. Northbound. (C. in C. Med. 1907C/7 to Admty.) *See also p.p 167, 168*

Air Raids,
Alexandria,
Abu Sueir,
Ismailia.

My A.872, 6/9. Alexandria bombed by about 9 enemy aircraft night 5/6. A barge sunk in Harbour and Sidi Gaber Railway Station damaged. Some civilian casualties. No service damage or casualties reported. Night 6/7 Sept. Abu Sueir and Ismailia twice bombed by a total of 22 enemy A/C. Hurricanes destroyed two enemy A/C probably destroyed one and damaged a fourth. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1038/7) See also 2031/7. *See also p. 168*

Derna,
Bardia
bombed.

Night 5/6. 3 Wellingtons bombed Derna aerodrome. Further 2 Wellingtons bombed M.T. vehicles and camp south of Derna and Martuba West landing ground. Blenheims bombed El Adem and Bardia. Cyprus. Night 5/6, 3 enemy aircraft dropped bombs near Strongylo and Kythrea. No damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1041/7).

Cyprus
Raid.

/U.S.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

U.S. Ships,
Red Sea,
A/C attack.

The arrival of Focke Wulf aircraft means ships in Red Sea are now being attacked. Policy regarding U.S. ships is not clear and very early guidance is requested. At present U.S. ships steam with lights burning at night and are not escorted. If Red Sea is now treated as a War Zone and measures taken with merchant vessels accordingly, will the effects be to stop American ships bringing supplies to Middle East? One American ship has already been sunk and if these ships are to be protected it is essential they should conform to our directions as for Allied ships. It will also be (?essential) to increase both air and surface force in Red Sea. (C. in C. Med. 1117/7 to Admty., C. in C. E.I.)

My 1117C/7. Request you will give immediate consideration to sending as many escort ships with A.A. Armament as you can spare to Port Sudan.

(C. in C. Med. 1119C/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

Your 1117/7.

A. Situation likely to arise was pointed out to Americans over a week ago. No reply yet received, possibly due to their wishing to leave the situation as it was. B. Sinking of STEEL SEAFARER will no doubt bring things to a head. C. Meantime no action as regards either escort or instructions to U.S. ships should be taken. D. We do not know what instructions U.S. ships have, but we have informed them that their ships have their lights on. E. C. in C. E.I. will no doubt remark on reinforcement of surface forces from his station. (1st S.L. 1831A/7 to C. in C. Med.) *See M. 116-118*

Black Sea.
Expected
Attack on
Turkey.

(1) Para. 1 my teleg. No. 2117, 5/9. Enemy bridge head at Berislev maintained and strongly protected by anti-aircraft and fighter aircraft. (2) All bridges Bulgarian Turkish frontier blown up by Turks. Attack on Turkey expected 15/9 after (?ultimatum). (3) 25,000 German (?sailors) in Bulgarian ports. (4) Air attack Satchell railway and sea communications increasing but not serious. (5) Enemy transporting poison gas to the eastern front. (6) One battleship towed from and one battleship blown up at Aeolayev both early in August. (7) All above stated as facts by Chief Intelligence Officer, Black Sea, but I cannot assess veracity. (N.L.O. Black Sea, 1917C/7 to Adm. Miles.)

/Cyprus.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean-Contd.

Cyprus.
Raid.

Air Raid 0410/7. Some bombs well out to sea about 10 miles east of Kyrenia. Some bombs about 18 miles west of Famagusta. Flares used for first time but not over Famagusta. No Mines as far as known. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1926C/7 to C. in C. Med.)

Abu Sueir
and Ismailia
Raids.

Ref. C. A. F.O. 587. Night 6/7, calm, clear (b) 2 waves attacked Abu Sueir Aerodrome 2048 to 2245 and 0550 to 0524 by 10 and 12 enemy aircraft, no flares, bright moon. (c) H.E. and incendiaries (d) 40 H.E. about 300 incendiaries - (e) 4 hangars burnt, contents negligible, no casualties reported (f) 16 fighters up, 3 interceptions resulting in 1 J.U. 88 destroyed prisoners taken, large crater containing fragments being investigated, (g) balloons flying. K.4 H.E. Ismailia Aerodrome, 12 machines damaged varying degrees, no casualties. 4 U.X.B. Moascar Camp, no damage no casualties. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 2051C/7 to Admty. etc.)

See p 166

Bulgaria.

Report of German activity. (M.A. Ankara 2105/7 to C. in C. M.E.) See Lion Copy.

Situation
report 141.

Red Sea. American ship STEEL SEAFARER sunk (? total loss) 5/6 as in JADE's 0921/7. Captain and 24 survivors now on board COVENTRY. 12 others landed. Canal Area, 2 raids Abu Sueir (?aerodrome) night 5/6 no damage. Canal reopened. (C. in C. Med., 2355C/7).

See p 166 & 167

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2105/7th Sept.,

From Military Attache Ankara.

Date 8.9.41.
Recd. 0320.

168A

CYPLER.

Addressed C. in C. Middle East, Repeated War Office.

41624.

74407 cipher 7/9

1. Turkish military attache Sofia reports following rumours or indications of German activity Bulgaria.

(a) Increase of German troops Belgrade and Varna.

(b) Supplies of petrol and artillery ammunition despatched Varna.

(c) Movement of small units to Varna from Roumania.

(d) About August 27th German motorised unit soon moving through Shipka Pass southwards.

(e) Increase of German naval and air personnel Varna and air personnel Sofia.

(f) German naval Headquarters left Sofia for Varna.

Now naval Headquarters Burgar.

(g) Increase of German M.T. in transit through Sofia.

(h) Rumour that German troops entering Bulgaria at Piroet.

2. General impression increased activity mostly converging on Black Sea ports.

3. Turkish military attache Bucharest reports rumour (repeat rumour) that 3 German divisions entered Bulgaria from Roumania.

2105/7.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (H)
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
C.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (4)

Received from War Office at 0815/9th.

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

D.S.D.9.
M. (8).
D. of P. (3).
E.P.S.
I.P. (3).
W.D.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Fairmiles.

Your 1418/4. Arrangements are being made for maintenance and repair facilities for all Fairmiles and 72 ft. M.L's etc., expected to be based on Indian ports. Details.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 0401Z/7, to C. in C.E.I.)

Ex-Enemy
Ships and
Port T.

Request Admiralty views on my 0730/30⁴⁴⁶ (salvaging of ships captured at Bandar Shapur), re Port T.
(C. in C.E.I., 0518Z/7, to Admty.)

WEST ZEDA.

WEST ZEDA ashore at Abu Ali since 21/8 refloated at 0127Z/7 proceeding Aden. Tugs TAI KOO and ST.AUBIN in attendance.
(S.N.O.R.S., 0609Z/7, to Admty.)

Port T.
MAURITIUS.

In view of C. in C. Med's., 1040/6 and fact that stores and equipment which M.N.B.D.O. requires loaded in GLEN Ship cannot be known until R/C of Port T. has been carried out, I intend sailing MAURITIUS with M.N.B.D.O. leaving here at 0330Z/8 for this purpose.
(C. in C.E.I., 0644Z/7, to Admty.)

Iran.

Admty., 2005/5. Naval para. (VI) "Navigation lights" should read "Navigation rights". Original error arose in (? Para. 5 of) my 0235/28.
(S.N.O.P.G., 0807Z/7, to C. in C.E.I.)

Enemy Ships
ex-Iran.

My 0602/4, present situation. HOHENFELS salvage work continues. MARIENFELS delayed by engine defects. Earliest possible sailing date p.m./8. All other ships are clear of Northern End Persian Gulf. HILDA has been refloated.
(C. in C.E.I., 1302Z/7, to Admty., etc.)

FALMOUTH
SHOREHAM.

It may be necessary in very near future to withdraw FALMOUTH and SHOREHAM for duty with Red Sea Force. Report earliest date on which these ships can be made available.
(C. in C.E.I., 1540Z/7, to S.N.O.P.G.)

CITY OF
JOHANNESBURG
"Q" Report.

At 2040Z/6 Oban W/T Station intercepted QQQQ from GDVN on 500 kc/s. No position given. As CITY OF JOHANNESBURG's estimated position 14° 30' S 41° 30' E., message appears unlikely to have originated from her, but have you any information?
(D.D.I.C., 1543A/7 to C. in C.E.I.)

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CITY OF
JOHANNESBURG.
"Q" Report.
Contd.

Your 1543/7 QQQQ from CITY OF JOHANNESBURG in 15° 05' S., 41° 39' E., made at 2014Z/6 subsequently cancelled in P/L at 2112Z/6 and in Merchant Navy Code at 1650Z/7.
(C. in C.E.I., 1652Z/7, to Admty.)

China.

French
Shipping.

Departure 6/9 CAP TOURANE, COMPIEGNE, SI-KIANG destination believed Madagascar.
(Saigon, 0225Z/7, to M. of W.T.)
Saigon, departure 6/9 LUFFIEGNE believed for Japan.
COMPIEGNE intended see p. 148.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0301Z/7, to Admty.)

FUSIJAMA
(Italian.)

Yokohama departed about 31/8.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0309Z/7.)

REPULSE.

Admty., 1820/6. I consider it would have great propoganda value if REPULSE could pay an early visit to Singapore.
(C. in C. China, 0503Z/7, to C. in C.E.I.)

TEVIOT BANK.

Employment. Reply to C. in C. China 0855/2.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1350A/7.) See Operations Volume.

Hong Kong.

S.X.1. Demolition arrangements should be extended to cover all stocks of petroleum products if this is not already allowed for. Orders regarding boom defence in Sec. 3, Para.30. (K) should be amended to conform with A.L. B.D.01098/41 of 18/7/41.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1736A/7 to Cdre.Hong Kong.)

BERNARDIN
DE ST. PIERRE.
(French.)

Arrived. (Shanghai, 2351Z/7, to M. of W.T.)

/DUCHESS.....

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL.
WARWICK
CASTLE.

My 1759/21/8. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL has been unable to leave Clyde owing to engine defects. Possibility is being considered of using WARWICK CASTLE herself for movement of 1500 personnel ex WARWICK CASTLE. Request immediate report of earliest firm date by which she could be ready to sail Halifax.
(D.S.T., 0151A/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Your 0151A/7. Unable to confirm WARWICK CASTLE firm date but expected date 25/9 given in my 1757 Z/27/8 still holds. Firm date will be given as soon as possible.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1712Z/7, to D. of S.T.)

PRINCE
HENRY
DESPATCH.

After R/V with DESPATCH on 8/9, proceed to Balboa so as to transit canal on 11/9. Proceed thence to Kingston Jamaica. Further instructions will follow. Panama informed.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0931Q/7 to PRINCE HENRY.)

NEWCASTLE.

Your 1050R/5. NEWCASTLE E.T.A. Boston unlikely before 24/9.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0941Q/7 to B.A.D.)

PARTHIAN.

PARTHIAN reaches position (D) 048° 00' N., 030° 00' W., at 0700A/9. Route and E.T.A. PARTHIAN is painted dark blue. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to arrange bombing restrictions.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0953Q/7 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

BARFLEUR.
(French.)

Following from Opnav for D.C. French auxiliary cruiser BARFLEUR returned to Fort de France a.m./6. C.N.S. Ottawa informed.
(Spenavo, 1046/7, to Admty.)

NORSEMAN.

Request opportunity may be taken of presence here of cable ship NORSEMAN due to sail for St. Lucia 10/9 to eliminate severed cable movement No. 1 loop Northern system and repair faulty No. 6. loop. Ship should not be delayed beyond 12/9 if I can receive immediate approval.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1125Q/7 to Admty.)
Approved. (D.S.D., 1142A/8.)

/CALIFORNIA.....

171A

~~MOST SECRET~~ **MOST SECRET** MESSAGE ~~OUT~~

TO: C.N.S.Ottawa. 761. 1131A/7 of September.

Date: 7.9.41.

Naval Cypher D. One-Time Table.

Recirculation at request of Sec.
to 1st S.L!

FROM: Admiralty. Personal from 1st Sea Lord.

IMMEDIATE.

Following telegram No.153 From Dominions Office
To the Government of Canada is passed for your
information.

Begins:- We wish to draw your attention to a most
serious difficulty which has arisen in connection with
the Battle of the Atlantic and one on which we should
greatly appreciate your assistance.

2. Relying on figures supplied to us by sources
in the United States we have been counting on the
receipt of some 150 Catalina aircraft between July 1941
and April 1942. With these aircraft we planned to
re-equip 5 existing squadrons in Coastal Command.
form the necessary Operational Training Units and meet
our estimated wastage. We hoped also that this
allotment would enable us to form 2 new squadrons,
1 in September and 1 in November 1941, and thus cover
areas inadequately protected by our existing forces.

We have recently been informed that the total
number of Catalinas which can be delivered to us up
to April 1942 is 12.

3. The U-boat attack is now concentrated in the
eastern half of the Atlantic and the effect of this
very heavy reduction in our expectations is likely to
be serious. The Flying boat resources of Coastal
Command will not be sufficient to maintain our present
effort and we may be compelled to disband squadrons
in order to keep others up to strength. This is a
measure which we should be most reluctant to adopt
with the enemy effort at its present scale, and we
have to expect that enemy operations will be more
effective in the winter months.

4. Our urgent need, therefore, between now
and April, 1942, is the provision of a total of 80
Catalina aircraft; 56 of these are required for the
re-equipment of existing squadrons and 24 for the
formation of 2 new squadrons and to meet their
wastage over a period of 3 months.

It is in this direction that we seek your
help.

5. We understand that the Royal Canadian Air
Force is due to receive 50 complete Catalina aircraft
including amphibians between July and December 1941,
and, in addition, parts for the assembly in Canada

of a further.....

of a further 94 aircraft. We ask whether you would be willing to consider affording us temporary assistance in the following forms:-

- (i) The release to the Royal Air Force of 50 Catalina aircraft due to be delivered to Canada this year, repayment to be made at the rate of 11 aircraft per month, beginning in May 1942. and
- (ii) The loan to us for operations in the Western Approaches, of any Flying Boats that are now manned and available and of Royal Canadian Air Force Squadrons as they become ready for service.

6. The aircraft, loaned under paragraph 5 (i) above, would be supplied to squadrons already formed and manned by experienced pilots and we should avoid the necessity for disbanding existing squadrons and decreasing our operational output. It would, moreover, allow us to develop Operational Training Units which are badly needed.

7. The transfer of Royal Canadian Air Force Squadrons to the United Kingdom would allow us to bring some of our Catalina Squadrons up to strength by disbanding recently formed Squadrons and it would give us spare aircraft to meet wastage.

8. Before making this request, we have considered carefully the effect of meeting it on the defence of Canada. We suggest that the proposal is not likely to affect adversely the protection of shipping in Canadian waters; it represents, in our opinion, the most effective disposition of our combined resources in the North Atlantic areas as a whole. In appreciating the situation, we have taken into consideration the fact that the United States (whether belligerent or not) is intending to employ in that area 4 squadrons of Flying Boats on convey escort, of which 3 will be based on the Western seaboard and 1 in Iceland. It is understood that they plan to increase this force to a total of 12 Squadrons, the majority of which is to be employed on the Western seaboard based on Shelburne Halifax and Argentia. We feel that these forces should provide adequate protection against the enemy threat in the Western Hemisphere, but if conditions change, we would of course agree to the transfer to the Western Hemisphere of such squadrons as the situation demanded.

9. We should be grateful if you will give our request your earnest consideration and advise us as soon as possible whether you are able to afford us the assistance we need. Ends.

1131A/7.

Asst. Sec. to 1st S.L.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1st Lord. | D.O.D.(H) | D.N.A.D. |
| 1st S.L. | D.D.O.D.(H) | D.T.D.(2) |
| 5th S.L. | D.O.D.(F) | D.A/S.W. |
| V.C.N.S. | D.D.O.D.(F) | E.P.S. |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | Duty Capt. | Hd. of M. |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | D.D.I.C. | W.D. |
| A.C.N.S.(T) (2) | D.N.I.(4) | I.P.(2) |
| N.A.1st S.L. | D. of P.(2) | |

MLC.

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America & West Indies.Contd.

→ CALIFORNIA.

Your 1242A/6. CALIFORNIA can be accepted. Yard will be given later. Job. No.S.150. (B.A.R.M., 1236R/7, to Admty.)

U.S.N.
Routeing.

My 2103/5. Correct references to read U.K. High Commissioner in Canada's No. 125643 and Dominions Office No. 1401 of 6/8. (B.A.D., 1259R/7, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

→ CALIFORNIA
CATHAY.

Ref. R.A.3's 1437/4 and A.M. 1242/6, request whether CALIFORNIA can be taken hand in U.S.A., for refit about last week in September, and if so, at what port. Also, can Repair Yard be now given for CATHAY due to depart from U.K. on 20/9/41. (D. of D., 1516A/7, to B.A.R.M.)
W.D.Note.-Answered as regards CALIFORNIA by B.A.R.M. 1236R/7. See above -

WINNIPEG.

Your 1842Q/6. It is important to get Honduras unit as far as Halifax and s.s. WINNIPEG should be used for this purpose, low speed and absence of armament being accepted. 2. Agree Naval draft remain in QUEEN OF BERMUDA as far as Bermuda. D. of S.T.'s 0141/5 not to N.O.I.C. Trinidad deals with question of their on carriage in s.s.CAPETOWN CASTLE. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1523A/7 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

TULIP.
CLARKIA.

TULIP and CLARKIA are allocated for service at Trinidad. C. in C.A. and W.I., is requested to arrange sailing of these Corvettes. (C. in C.W.A., 1708A/7, to B.A.R.M., etc.)

Newfoundland
Force.

Admty. 1709A/6. (1) R.N. destroyers and corvettes of Newfoundland Force are to carry out allotted duties up to and including S.C.44 and O.N.17. (2) Largest available force of R.N. destroyers and corvettes is required to arrive Iceland in time to fuel and escort H.X.150 from a R/V in 027° W. (date) to U.K. subsequently remaining in U.K. Request you will signal name of ships detailed. (C. in C.W.A., 1711A/7 to C.C.N.F.)

/Suspicious...

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America & West Indies. (Contd.)

Suspicious
Ships,
Easter Island.

B.N.A.Santiago states Easter Island reported to Chilean Naval authorities that at 2200/3, three warships were sighted from Island. B.A.D. confirms these were not U.S.warships and that U.S. C. in C. has been informed.
(C.in C.A.W.I., 1753Q/7, to Admty.)

RIO BRANCO.

Nor. RIO BRANCO sailed Singapore 30/7 for Los Angeles has not arrived.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1931Z/7 to Admty.)

War Diary.7.9.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Ships Attacked.*(see page 112, Casualties)*SESSA.

Your 1739A/5 to N.C.S.O. Panamanian Ship ESSA
(? SESSA) torpedoed 17/8. 3 survivors brought
in by MAURITIUS P.M. today/7. * U.S.S. LANSDALE.
(A.C.I.C., 2251/7, to Admty.) *See also p. 231.*
SESSA left New York 8/8, overdue at Reykjavik
since 18/8. (D.S.734.)

Submarines Reported.

Enemy S/M reliable fix 069° 57' N., 036° 51' E.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 0734C/7 to F.O.I.C.S.)

2250/6.

By D/F at 2250/6 G.M.T. an enemy U/Boat within
200 miles of 29° N., 30° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0816A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

7/9.

It is suspected that a slightly damaged U Boat
was in approx., position 068° 20' N., 040° East
on 7/9 returning to Trondhjem.
(C. in C.H.F., 1213A/7, to ELECTRA.)

1335C.

U/B encountered by TORBAY 32.42 N., 28.55E.
See Capt. S.1, 0827/8.
(Mediterranean.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German. About 40 operating in Atlantic.
(D.D.I.C. 1455A/7.)

1620 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1620 G.M.T. U-boat in area 49° to 50°
30' N., 11° to 13° W. Probably homeward
bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1755A/7, to C. in C. Plymouth etc.)

Submarines Attacked.U.73. sunk.

"BC" Soviet Naval Authorities claim to have
sunk U.73. off Cape Kanin Saturday 6/9 Lifebuoy
was recovered.
(Adm. Miles, Moscow, 1501C/7 to Admty.)

8.9.1941.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

NIGERIA with damaged bows and her No.11 bulkhead showing signs of fatigue was about 100 miles West of the Lofoten Islands at 1800A today on her way home with AURORA in company. LONDON has been ordered to proceed from Hvalfiord to provide her with cover, A/S air escort and a Salvage Tug are being sent to her from Iceland, and 2 Destroyers are to be sailed to Seidisfiord to be available as A/S Escort.

At 0510 two Enemy Destroyers estimated at between 1500 and 2,000 tons passed Gris Nez steering eastward; and at 1500 one German Cruiser and 2 Torpedo Boats were seen passing Helsinborg in the Sound going north.

The cable from U.K. to Iceland is broken one mile north of the Faeroes and A.C.I.C. requests its early repair.

C. in C. H.F. intends to visit F.O.C. U.S. Naval Forces in Iceland shortly and has requested the clarification of several matters respecting our co-operation with U.S. Ships.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 11 rounds between 2045 and 2106 today, whilst Convoy C.W. 49 was passing Dover. No naval damage was caused.

British Air Activity.

42 aircraft bombed the Deutsche Werke shipyards at Kiel last night and 44 docks Nos. 4 and 6 and 7, at Boulogne.

Blenheims today successfully attacked barges and tugs between Guernsey and Sark.

2 A/C with a maximum load of G.P. Bombs are to carry out tonight an anti-shipping Patrol between Ushant and the Gironde.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

The British MARCREST, bombed yesterday off Cromer, sank in tow at 0630A today about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile N.E. of the South Scroby Buoy.

Yarmouth was bombed last night, but without naval damage or casualty.

At 2215 yesterday a single A/C dropped 3 Bombs on Dover, Killing 3 civilians; and shortly afterwards 3 salvoes of H.E. Bombs were dropped on and round the harbour at Ramsgate, killing 7 civilians and wounding 15 more.

Mining.

7 Hampdens laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands.

ELECTRA and ACTIVE sailed today from Archangel to cover our minesweeping operations at the mouth of the White Sea, and a Russian Minelayer left Murmansk yesterday for operations off Varda.

The M.D. Ship CORFIELD was sunk by a near mine explosion at 1934A today about 2 miles South of the Humber Light Vessel, it is believed without casualties.

As from next Wednesday, Belfast from the Pile Light will be closed daily from 2100 till 0600.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary and off the Humber.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N. Convoys.

Changes in the cycle of O.N. Convoys (U.K. to North America and West Indies) were ordered by Admty., today.

Foreign Stations.

Leave.

In order that ships' companies may not spend an undue time abroad without leave, it is intended to initiate a system of reliefs, provided the international situation does not further deteriorate.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious Convoy.

DUNEDIN continues to search for the suspicious convoy (possibly French) reported by PHILANTE in 32.52 N., 22.32 W., at 2100Z/4. DUNEDIN at noon had nothing to report southward of Canary Islands or in vicinity of Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, and Las Palmas. Sunderlands and a Hudson A/C from Bathurst are to co-operate tomorrow.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

REPULSE.

REPULSE, escorting W.S.11 reports oil from oiler RAPIDOL inadequate, and as she cannot exceed 15 knots and reach Freetown may have to go to Bathurst. C. in C. S.A. has informed her it is undesirable to fuel there, but oiler LISS can R/V off the harbour if necessary.

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be sent to join the convoy on 11/9 in case REPULSE has to leave.

Cable Operation.

MILFORD reports that the operation of cutting cable by LADY DENISON PENDER ordered last month has been completed.

Bathurst.

Facilities at Bathurst as a terminal port for ocean escorts are reported as inadequate by C. in C. Western Approaches.

Troop Convoy.

C.M.18 escorted by AUSTRALIA, left Durban today for Suez.

GAZCON.

Vichy French GAZCON, intercepted yesterday by ALBATROSS, is being taken to Lagos under armed guard, and is due to arrive about 0900/10 G.M.T.

Mediterranean.

Air Attack on Palermo.

9 Wellingtons attacked shipping in Palermo last night and report hits on sheds, docks, main jetties and dry dock.

Libya and Western Desert.

Supply of Tobruk by destroyers from Alexandria has recommenced.

/Egypt.....

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Egypt
and Suez
Canal.

Suez was twice bombed last night by about 26 aircraft. No naval damage was caused but there was 1 R.M. casualty in the first raid.

Dardanelles.

S/M TORBAY is to establish a patrol until further instructions, off the Dardanelles.

Black Sea.

There is further intelligence today of a possible German seaborne expedition against Russia, and apprehensions of possible action against Turkey.

East Indies.

Red Sea
Force..

Although FALMOUTH and SHOREHAM (Persian Gulf Division) are not adequately armed for A/A defence, C. in C. E.I. intends sending them to Aden as soon as possible. He requests that SUTLEJ and JUMNA may reinforce Red Sea Force.

Trincomalee.

A reply was given today to C. in C. E.I. in regard to the facilities to be provided for certain ships at Trincomalee.

Vichy
Shipping.

EMERALD is to leave Seychelles tomorrow to patrol between Cape Amber and Saya de Malha Bank for the interception of Vichy French Shipping.

China.

Singapore.

Details of mines, laid in the Western portion of Singapore Straits were announced today by R.A. Malaya.

War Diary.

9.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-boat Campaign.

Italian
U/B
Sunk.

(Confirmed by
Cmd 6842 - 1946.)

Destroyer CROOME, of 6th Escort Group, attacked and sunk an Italian U/B reported to be the ~~MAREGGIORE~~ FRANCESCO BARACCA, this morning in 40.30 N., 21.15 W., and picked up some survivors. Her bow was damaged.

War Diary.8.9.41.
Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS.Policy.LACONIA.

(A.M.C.) Is due Liverpool shortly to be taken in hand for conversion to a Troop Transport. (D. of S.T. 0213A/8.)

BURZA.

Owing to her limited endurance BURZA is to be placed temporarily under operational control of F.O.I.C. Belfast for employment in Irish Sea Escort Force. BURZA will continue to be administered by Capt. D. Greenock. (C. in C.W.A. 1307A/8.)

Co-operation with Russia.Information.BREMSE sunk

See p. 153

Admiral Vian reports enemy brought to action in foul weather somewhere in Svaerholthavet at 0730A/7. Result obscure but certain that one small destroyer one trawler and one other vessel sunk, BREMSE and one other vessel hard hit and possibly sunk. NIGERIA slightly damaged by ramming. No casualties in NIGERIA or AURORA. You may inform Russian Authorities. (A.C.N.S.H. 1329A/8, to Ad. Miles.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.Request for clarification.

Your 1904/13 May, your 1624/28/8, and your 1709/6/9. Intend visit F.O.C., U.S. Naval Forces about 22/9. Request clarification of following points. (C. in C.H.F. 1338A/8, to Adty.)
See Operations Volume.
See also C. in C.H.F. 1202A/9.

Movements.INDOMITABLE.

Have detached WALKER, VOLUNTEER to Lough Foyle. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel with BLANKNEY at 1000. (INDOMITABLE 0815/8.)
Visibility at Bar L.V. 1 - 1/2 miles.
BLANKNEY detached in execution of previous orders. (INDOMITABLE 0958/8.)
My 1046/8. Fog in River and Gladstone dock precludes berthing today. Remain at anchor and retain BLANKNEY as escort. Weather permitting movement will commence 1145/9.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1056A/8 to INDOMITABLE.)

/TAKU.....

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8.9.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

- TAKU. F.O.(S) 1253A/5. Route to Clyde.
(Capt. S.7. 0949A/8, to TAKU.)
- NORFOLK. Intend to sail for Scapa A.M./15.
(F.O.I.C.Tyne 1000/8.)
- AMARAPOORA
(Hospital
Ship.) Sailed for Scapa. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1147A/8,
1609/8.)
- DUKE OF YORK. Take ships mentioned under your orders and comply
PENELOPE. with Admiralty 1857A/11/8 passing Beamer Rock,
LIGHTNING. Firth of Forth at 1630/10 in accordance with
ICARUS. C. in C. Rosyth 1021/2. VIVACIOUS will R/V
VIVACIOUS. Clyde Boom at 0600/9.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1206A/8 to DUKE OF YORK.)
- Force A. Your 0911A/8. Approved to call at Scapa.
~~PROVAT~~ convoy arrived Iceland 1/9.
(C. in C.H.F. 1209A/8, to S.O.Force A.)
- AMAZON. Arrived and sailed 1250Z immediately.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1253/8.)
- O.14. O.14 is to be withdrawn from patrol after dark
today and is to return to Dundee.
(F.O.S. 1309A/8.)
Route. (Capt. S.9. 1529A/8 to O.14.)
Postponed - See next page
- TUNA. Have lost contact with escort in thick fog.
My position 052° 13' N., 005° 32' W., course
360°, Speed 10 knots.
(TUNA 1900A/8.)

Operations.

- Force L. Oiler OLIGARCH is to remain in position
G.G.75° N., 2° E., until further orders
probably p.m.11th. Trawlers are to remain
with oiler OLIGARCH to limit of endurance
subject to returning to Akureyri.

/2. When.....

War Diary.8.9.41.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Force L.
(Contd.)

2. When met one destroyer Force 'L' may be detached to escort Oiler OLIGARCH to Hvalfjord if it is found trawlers have proceeded. (C. in C.H.F. 1107A/8 to HAZEL, etc.) My 2052A/7 and S.O. Force "A" 0800A/7. Request you instruct Oiler OLIGARCH to remain in position GG and (corrupt group) 1500 tons oil by 0200A/10 when Force L expected. Leave GG for Base noon/11 if not met by then.

(C.S.l. 1443/8 to C. in C.H.F.)

TIGRIS.
Patrol.
TRIDENT.

Limitation imposed in A.M. 1359A/4 and A.M. 2303A/6 on TIGRIS patrol area is cancelled forthwith.

(A.C.N.S.H. 1328A/8 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.) Intend to sail TRIDENT for patrol with 12 torpedoes on 16/9. TIGRIS due Polyarno from patrol 21/9. In the event of TIGRIS returning on or before this date having expended all torpedoes, and unless spare torpedoes can arrive Archangel by 21/9, propose TIGRIS should return to Polyarno, embark four torpedoes for passage, and return to U.K. to complete outfit. Approximately 14 days required for transport and preparations of 16 torpedoes after arrival Archangel.

(B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1801C/8, to (?F.O.S.))

Dover
Straits
Patrol.

Two M.G.B.'s leave Ramsgate at 2030 to patrol between East Varne and South Varne buoys until 0200 then returning to Dover.

(V.A.Dover 1618A/8.)

O.14.

One cruiser and two torpedo boats reported passing Helsingborg northbound at 1500/8. Action ordered in S.9's 1529A/8 is to be postponed for 24 hours.

(F.O.S. 2044A/8 to O.14.) *See previous page*British Air Activity.Patrols.

P.R.U. of Haugesund, Bergen, Stavanger, and Kristiansand South, Oslo, Aalborg in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1130/8.)

Own A/C fired
on.

By Trawler DE RESKE 1820B.S.T/5. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1202/8.)

/Anti-.....

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.Contd.

Anti-
shipping
Patrol.

C. Two A/C of 217 Squadron armed with maximum load of G.P. bombs (11 sec delay) to carry out anti-shipping patrol in most suitable area between Ushant and mouth of Gironde tonight. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q.1401/8.)

Patrols.

"Hornli"
HORNLI now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1410/8.)
~~FARE 2~~ in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1458/8.)

T.B.R.

Request T.B.R. in area 51 North of 50° N., and East of 006° 30' W., from 0500 A/12 until 1200 A/12.
(Capt. S.7. 1419A/8 to A.O.C.C.C.)

A/C in
Russia.

Following received from 151 Wing. Unable to operate until guns and ammunition arrive by train from Archangel. 1305C/8. Ends.
(B.S.N.O.Murmansk 1545C/8 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MARCREST
(Bombed 7/9.)

Arrival at 0600 A/8 M.L.'S. 194, 191, 190 with mate and 29 other survivors of MARCREST including five D.E.M.S. All uninjured. Captain and eight men on board EUCLASE.
(N.O.I.C.Lowestoft 0550A/8. 0754A/8)
Arrival Tug KROOMAN having towed MARCREST from No. 5 buoy at 0300A/8 to 1/2 mile South of South Scroby buoy at 0630A/8, where MARCREST foundered. Salvage abandoned.
(N.O.I.C.Lowestoft 0820A/8, F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 0911A/8.)

Yarmouth
bombed.

Gt. Yarmouth bombed night 7th/8th. No naval damage or casualties. Slight structural damage to swing bridge.
(F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 0743A/8.)

TRSAT.
(Jugoslav,
1369 Tons.)
sunk on 7/9.

Bombed and sunk by direct hit forward at 2054/7 in 17 N.E. by E. Kinnairds Head seven miles. Total crew 17 of which Fraserburgh Lifeboat landed 14 some injured. One dead picked up by A/P trawler EBOR ABBEY. Two missing. (C. in C. Rosyth 0759/8.)

/Dover.....

War Diary.

8.9.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.Contd.

Dover
bombed.

Single A/C dropped three bombs at 2215/7 in Dover. Two hit Burlington Hotel killing three civilians.
(V.A.Dover 0900A/8.)

A/C over
Orkneys on
7/9.

My 1559/7. Cancel last sentence. R.D.F.plots of an aircraft approaching Orkneys were obtained from 30 M to westward. This aircraft was identified by Filter Officer at Sector headquarters as friendly coastal, in light of subsequent events probably incorrectly. A/C was also picked up by GL set which lost it over Hoy. R.D.F.plots were again obtained as A/C flew out eastward. A/C was above cloud until diving through over Gutter Sound.
(A.C.O.S. 0950/8.)

Ramsgate
bombed on
7/9.

My 2322A/7. Three salvos of H.E. bombs dropped on and around the harbour. Civilian damage and casualties. Number of unclassified roads blocked and telephone wires damaged.
(N.O.I.C.Ramsgate 1440A/8.)

EMPIRE
GUNNER
(British
4492 Tons.)
sunk on
7/9.

Sunk by A/C at 0037/7 about 25 miles North of Milford Haven. Crew saved and landed at Liverpool. (D.S.734.)

Mining.

White Sea.

ELECTRA and ACTIVE returned Archangel 6/9 sailing 8/9 for A/S Sweep and as covering force for our minesweepers and Russian convoys at mouth of White Sea. Returning about 12/9. HARRIER, SALAMANDER, HALCYON, three trawlers sailed 7/9 for mine searching operations at entrance to White Sea returning 11 to 12 September.
(Ad. Miles. 1022C/8.)
Soviet K 2 sailed p.m. 7th to patrol off Varda and lay mines in this vicinity. Position of mines laid will be signalled.
Soviet K20, K21, K22, K23 and L (?22) (LIN Class) have arrived White Sea from Baltic.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1244C/8.)

/Thames.....

War Diary.

8.9.41. 186
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. Contd.

Thames
Estuary.

Three magnetic mines detonated today as follows.
Details.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1616/8.)

Belfast.

As from 10/9 the Port of Belfast from the Pile
Light will be closed between 2100 and 0600.
(F.O.I.C.Belfast 1831A/8.)

CORFIELD
(M.D.Ship.)
Sunk

CORFIELD sunk by a near mine explosion about
2 miles South of Humber L/V. Believed no
casualties.
(F.O.Humber 1934A/8.)

Humber.

The following two magnetic mines exploded at
0841 to-day. Details.
(F.O. Humber 2216A/8.)

Enemy Intelligence.

2 Destroyers
off Gris Nez.

Two Enemy Destroyers passed Griz Nez eastward at
0510 today. Class uncertain. Visual reports
estimate between 1500 and 2000 tons.
(V.A.Dover 0706A/8.)

TIRPITZ.
SEYDLITZ.

(1) Kiel 4/9. TIRPITZ lying behind floating
dock. No other large warships observed.
Graded A.2.
(2) Bremen 3/9. SEYDLITZ fitting out.
Graded A.2. (Asst. N.A. Stockholm 1347/8.)

Force in
The Sound.

One German cruiser and two torpedo boats
observed at Helsingborg going north 15 hours.
(? B.C.Goteborg 1630/8 to Adty.)

E-Boats.

Indication 3 E boats near Sheringham Buoy.
(SOUTHDOWN 2225A/8.)

Miscellaneous.

Iceland - U.K.
cable.

Broken. Break appears one mile north of
(Faroes)? As this cable is of great importance
in our communications request it may be repaired
as soon as possible.
(A.C.I.C. 2345/8.)

War Diary.

8.9.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

AYRSHIRE.

(Escort Trawler). Has broken down and has been towed by ARAB to Kilchattan Bay. Request you sail ZWARTE ZEE to Kilchattan Bay with instructions to tow AYRSHIRE to Greenock. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 0357A/8 to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown.)

AUK.

Vessel is ashore Bhride Island, 204° Ardmore Point 3 miles. Port Askaig lifeboat proceeded. (C.G.Kilchoman 0420/8.) Ashore Chuirn Island. Require immediate assistance. (AUK 0642/8.)

NIGERIA.
(damaged
7/9.)

NIGERIA's 2141A/7th. Ship could be secured to buoy, lie alongside or in emergency anchor. Should like to call at Scapa to see you and collect mails stores and personnel. (S.O.Force A. 0911A/8 to C. in C.H.F.) S.O. Force "A" 0800A/7. Request repair yard be allocated for NIGERIA who will probably be available 10/9. (C. in C.H.F.1150A/8.) NIGERIA can be taken in hand forthwith at Middle Docks, South Shields.
2. Dock itself not available until about 22/9, but refitting and preliminary work can be commenced as soon as ship arrives.
3. Length of refit is to be limited to time required for repairs. (Vice Controller 2004A/8 to C. in C.H.F.) NIGERIA with damaged bows and number 11 bulkhead buckling and showing signs of fatigue in 068° 59' N., 007°14' W., at 1800A/8, course 245°, speed 8 knots. AURORA in company.
(ii) LONDON proceed at best speed to provide cover.
(iii) A.C.I.C. is requested to provide A/S air escort and also to sail salvage tug. (C. in C.H.F. 2316A/8.) LONDON proceeding from Hvalfiord to provide cover. A/S air escort and salvage tug are being sailed by N.O.I.C. Iceland. Request you sail 2 destroyers to Seidis Fiord to be available as A/S escort. (C. in C.H.F. 2346A/8 to R.A.D. H.F.)

BURZA
ROSEMARY
collision.

(slight)
BURZA and ROSEMARY were in collision to-day in thick fog inside Milford Haven. Both vessels sustained slight damage, but this does not affect their seaworthiness. (F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1058/8.)

War Diary.

8.9.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

BURZA.
ROSEMARY
collision.
(Contd.)

Damage will not prevent BURZA complying with C. in C.W.A., 1448A/7. (N.T. N.W.S.)
(BURZA 1111/8.)

MAID MARIAN.

My 1034/7. Delayed with compass defects.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1108/8.)

BORDE.

Departure Immingham Tug HEADMAN at 1320 to assist BORDE broken down at Humber L.V.
(F.O.Humber 1322A/8.)

Unknown
vessel.

Following has been read. Automatic S.O.S. signal heard at 1507 G.M.T., strength 2, bearing from G.L.D. 100° about.
(Lands End Radio 1516/8.)

EILEEN EMMA.

Delayed owing to steam pipe and boiler defects, estimated to take 10 days.
(N.O.I.C.Oban 1710A/8.)

BRADFORD.

Delayed approx., 7 days by defects.
(C. in C. Nore 1740A/8.)

Shipping & Convoys.

ORBITA.

Due Liverpool 11/9 Personnel, etc. Requires docking board.
(D.S.T., 0208A/8 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool.)

W.S.12.

Now proposed DUCHESS OF ATHOLL be included in W.S.12. Request every endeavour be made to complete her repairs in time.
(D. of S.T. 0210A/8 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland.)

CHANTILLY
KOSCIUSZKO

My 0258/3. Now understood that CHANTILLY will not be ready in time for proposed voyage on 22/9. Now proposed that she should sail probably on 2/10. Request confirmation that she can be ready. KOSCIUSZKO will still be sailed on 22/9.
(D. of S.T. 0212A/8 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool.)

/F.N., F.S., etc...

War Diary.

8.9.1941. 189
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. Contd.

F.N., F.S.,
etc.

Forecast of sailings. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1200/8.)
See Lion Copy. Harwich additional escorts.
(F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1614A/8.) See Lion Copy.

Rescue of
Survivors.

Addition to Western Approaches Convoy
Instructions. (C. in C.W.A. 1706A/8.) See Lion
Copy.

N.E. Coast
Cycle.

Your 1901A/7. No objection is seen to this
arrangement but the change cannot be made for a
few days.
(C. in C. Nore, 1721A/8 to Admty.)
Your 1901A/7. This presents no difficulty,
propose to commence cycle on 14/9 running
F.S.595 medium on that day, 15/9, being a Methil
blank day. E.C.75 medium to run on 17/9,
18/9 being a Southend blank day. For the
benefit of ships from Tyne it is desired that
the first Northbound convoy after a blank day
shall not be fast.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2030/8, to Admty.)

HARMONIC
RIVER AFTON.

My 2312A/4. It is intended to sail HARMONIC
and RIVER AFTON in O.N.16 to join this convoy.
(D.T.D. 1735A/8 to A.C.I.C., B.S.N.O., Murmansk,
Adm. Miles.)
HARMONIC and RIVER AFTON should be sailed in
O.N.16 to Hvaalfjord for onward convoy to
Archangel.
(D.T.D. 1802A/8 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

O.N. Convoys.

Following changes should be made in sailing of
O.N. convoys: O.N.18 (fast) sail Liverpool
19/9 and then every six days. O.N.S.19 sail
Liverpool 21/9 and then every six days.
Requested that after 19/9, odd numbered O.N.
Convoys should be designated O.N.S.
(D.T.D. 1743A/8 to C. in C.W.A.)

S.L.84.
paravanes.

Your 1230A/7/9/41. Vessel BEREBY is not now
fitted with P.V. A frame was badly damaged and
removed by Hull. BOTHNIA. P.V. bridles in-
accurately shackled on. P.V. on board overdue
for overhaul.
(D.E.M.S. Staff Officer Liverpool 1800/8 to Admty.)

Thurso-Hull
Service.

My 2047A/6 and C. in C. Rosyth's 0759/8. Request
you will consider sailing these ships so as to
cross the Moray Firth during dark hours. Consider-
ation is being given to running a shuttle service
of two extra guns and military gunners per ship
between Thurso and Hull.
(D.T.D. 2109A/8 to A.C.O.S.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

1200/8 September IN

From C. in C. Rosyth.

Date 8.9.41.

Recd. 1702

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, S.E.E.C.C.D., H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.,
11, 12, 13 Groups.

936 Convoy message plus F.O.i/c Aberdeen, N.O.i/c Leith, Captain M/S
Granton.

Forecast of convoy sailings:-

F.S.593 (S) "OCEAN" 0830 Friday 12th SOUTHDOWN, JASON.
F.S.594 (F) "PLUMB" 2100 Sat. 13th LIDDESDALE, GLEANER.
F.S.595 (M) "EVIDENCE" 1330 Mon. 15th WESTMINSTER, VORTIGERN.
F.S.596 (S) "ATTACHE" 0830 Tues. 16th WINCHESTER, QUANTOCK.
F.S.597 (F) "BREAST" 2100 Wed. 17th VIVIEN, WHADDON.
F.S.598 (M) "MERIT" 1330 Thurs. 18th VALOROUS, VIMLERA.
F.N.S.17 (F) "ATTEMPT" 0700 Friday 12th WHADDON, QUANTOCK.
F.N.S.18 (S) "CONSEQUENCE" 0700 Sat. 13th VERSATILE, VALOROUS.
E.C. 73 (M) "YIELD" 0700 Sun. 14th WALLACE, WOLSEY.
F.N.S.19 (F) "NUMERAL" 0700 Mon. 15th SOUTHDOWN, JASON.
E.C. 74 (S) "PATTERN" 0700 Tues. 16th LIDDESDALE, GLEANER.
E.C. 75 (M) "USAGE" 0700 Thurs. 18th WESTMINSTER, VORTIGERN.
Time table as in my 1100/8/9.
After passing May Island, E.C.73 will run as a fast convoy.

1200/8.

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.D. 8

O.I.C. (3)

I.P. (3)

D.S.D. 9

D.A/S.W.

W.D.

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

D. of S.T.

189B

MESSAGE.

IN.

SECRET.

1614A/8th September.

Date 8.9.41.

Time 1630.

From F.O.I.C.

P/L. by T/P.

Addressed C. in C. More. 1st Division Corvettes.
Repeated C. in C. Rosyth. N.C.S.O. Southend. F.O.I.C. Humber.

1st Division Corvettes acknowledge

F.N.	E.C.	F.S.	Harwich Additional Escorts.
517	-	593	MALLARD.
518	-	594	SHELDRAKE.
-	73	595	SHEARWATER.
519	-	595	KITTIWAKE.
-	74	596	WIDGEON.
-	74	597	MALLARD.
-	75	598	SHELDRAKE.

SHEARWATER leaves E.C. 73 off H.3. Buoy enters Humber and sails on 16th September to join F.S.595 off 62 D. Buoy at 1645/16. MALLARD leaves E.C. 74 off H.3. Buoy enters Humber and sails on Thursday 18th September to join F.S.597 off Flanboro' at 1700/18. Names of A/S Trawlers detailed will be signalled at 1000 on the day before sailing.

1614A/8.

Advance Copy. OPS., O.D.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops.(4).
- O.D.(5).
- O.D.8.
- O.I.C.(3).
- I.P.(3).
- D.S.D.9.
- D.A/S.V.
- W.D.
- D.T.D.(4).
- D.T.D.(M).
- D.T.D.(C).

189c

CONFIDENTIAL.

M E S S A G E

1706A/8 Sept

IN

From C in C Western Approaches,

DATE: 9.9.41
RECD: 0415

Naval Code K 1 by W/T

Addressed Captains (D) for Escort. Repeated Admiralty
A.C.I.C. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C.C.Newfoundland
C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.C.N.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock.

On occasions not already covered by Western Approaches Convoy instructions part 102 when survivors are picked up a report is to be signalled as soon as practicable to C in C Western Approaches, Repeated Admiralty and those of following Authorities concerned: A.C.I.C. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C.C.N.F. F.O.C.N.A. C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.O.I.C. Greenock and Captains (D).

2. This report is required to assist authorities concerned to decide what further action if any is to be taken and it should be framed with this end in view.

3. In addition names of ship and position information on following points is specially required:

- (a) What other boats and rafts if any got away from ship and when.
- (b) Number of crew picked up and number still unaccounted for.
- (c) Maximum time ship making report can remain in the vicinity and continue to search.
- (d) Fate of ship.

4. Weather report called for in Western Approaches General orders 060 is to be included.

5. These orders will be embodied in Western Approaches Convoy instructions in due course.

1706A/8

Advance copy Ops O.D. 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)
D.N.I. (4)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
Cdr. Holbrook
M (2)
D.S.D. (2)
D.A/S.W.
E.P.S.
Forecast Base
I.P. (3)
W.D.

BM

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Leave and Refit.
HAWKINS,
GLASGOW,
DRAGON.

In order that ships' companies may not spend an undue time abroad without leave it is intended to initiate a system of reliefs which will continue so long as the international situation does not further deteriorate.

2. As a first move (a) C. in C. E.I. is requested to sail HAWKINS to U.K. for leave and short refit as soon as GLASGOW is ready for service. (b) C. in C. South Atlantic is requested to sail DRAGON on completion of refit to relieve one of the China 'D' Class cruisers selected by C. in C. China.

3. Local adjustments to the returning ships' companies may be made as considered desirable by Cs. in C. concerned.

(1st S.L., 0001A/8, to Cs. in C. S.A. E.I., China).

North Atlantic.

DUNEDIN.
suspicious
convoy.

Admty 1727A/6. If nothing is seen in the vicinity of Gran Canaria proceed forthwith to vicinity of Cape Verde. If Convoy speed was 8 knots it should arrive Dakar by early A.M./10.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0020A/8 to DUNEDIN).

Your 0020A/8. Nothing to report to southward of Canary Islands and in vicinity of Santa Cruz Teneriffe and Las Palmas. My position 1200Z/8 026° 51' N., 015° 37' W., speed of advance 18 knots. Refuelling at Bathurst p.m./10 is essential.

(DUNEDIN, 1203Z/8 to F.O.C.N.A.) (See also South Atlantic, 1603/8 etc).

CROOME.

Bow damaged, am returning to Gibraltar with survivors. (CROOME, 0847/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

W.D. Note:- Action with Italian U/B. See U-boat Campaign. (MAGGIORE FRANCESCO BARACCA.)

Enemy
Unit.

Following is a repetition of my 1207A/8 D/F Bearing at 0820A/8 indicates enemy unit in vicinity of Cape Finisterre. (F.O.C.N.A., 1417A/8 to N.A. Stn).

/CLYDE.....

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

CLYDE
PROTEUS.

Situation 2000A/8 CLYDE 035° 28' 009° 40' through 036° 00' 007° 00'. E.T.A. off Spartel 1200A/9 PROTEUS 037° 15' 010° 30' through 036° 35' 009° 00'. E.T.A. off Spartel 1700A/9. Escort will be motor launch. (F.O.C.N.A. 1436A/8 to CLYDE, PROTEUS.)

My P.C. and S. at 2100A/8 041° 35' 010° 54' 187° 12 knots. Earliest time of arrival position (R) 1700A/10. (PROTEUS 2101A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

O.21.

Return to (? Gibraltar) forthwith south of Sardinia, north of Balearic Islands thence (?within) 25 miles of Spanish coast. Report P.C. and S. when north of Minorca. (F.O.C.N.A., 1510A/8 to S/M O.21.)

Spanish
Ships.

Protest by Spanish Consul-General against seizure. (Govr. (Lord Gort) to S. of S. for Colonies, No T.O.O./8) See Lion Copy.

HIGHLANDER.

A.M.2358A/7. On (?parting company) pass through position 043° 00' N., 019° 00' W. Repeat P.C. and S. when not less than 100 miles from REPULSE. (F.O.C.N.A., 1826A/8 to HIGHLANDER.)

PHILANTE
wreck.

At 0400A/7 in 038° 32' N., 023° 26' W., passed drifting yard craft apparently large pile driver in good condition consisting of raft hull about 60 by 40 feet, steel lattice tripod, large engine house at one end. No one seen on board. Has lettering on hull and engine house but words not distinguished. Danger to navigation. (PHILANTE, 1927A/8 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

FURY.

My 1828A/7. ^{N T W D} (re FURY to join O.G.73) Ship not met, air R/C during last three days has failed (to? Locate). No signal on crossing 25° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 2254A/8 to Admty.)

191A

SECRET

M E S S A G E

No T.O.O. 8th Sept.

IN

From Governor (Gen. Viscount Gort)

DATE: 8.9.41

RECD: 2210

cipher

Addressed Secretary of State for the Colonies.

IMMEDIATE.

No. 415.

Addressed to Secretary of State.

Repeated Madrid No. 122.

Your Telegrams Nos. 397 400 and 402.

Spanish Consul General called today to lodge formal protest against seizure of these ships. He made strong representations regarding the ITA and CASTILLO GIBRALFARO on the following grounds:-

- (a) These ships were engaged in coasting trade between Spanish ports.
- (b) Political repercussions which would follow their seizure would be very great, and would be fomented by German propaganda in the press and elsewhere.
- (c) Ships themselves are old, small and slow and their value would not off-set the damage which their seizure would inevitably cause to good relations between Spain and H.M.G.

2. I am impressed by his arguments and strongly recommend reconsideration of decision to seize these ships.

3. Consul General seemed to have little interest in cargo and confined his representations to the seizure of the ITA and GIBRALFARO.

Please repeat Admiralty and M.E.W.

No T.O.O.

Recd. from Colonial Office 1405/9

1st Lord

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

NAV. SEC.

N.A. 1st S.L.

Ops (4)

O.D. (5)

D.N.I. (4)

C.I.C. (3)

D of S.T.

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

D.E.W.D. (3)

H (3)

D of P (3)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

8.9.1941. 192
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Norwegian Whalers.

Your 1432/5. Understand personnel are still in South Georgia preparing to proceed to South Africa in first Flight of Whale Catchers. They will then require to return to South Georgia. (D.S.T. 0136A/8 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown).

Escort Orders O.S.4 S.L.86

Your 1200Z/7. Following is a repetition of my 2033N/5 addressed VANSITTART, GORLESTON. My 1913/3. Amend O.S.4 R/V to 018° 20' N., 020° W., at 0800/10. (C. in C. S.A., 0233N/8 to GORLESTON).

158 M/S Group.

Your 2135/6/9. CORDELIA, NORSE, and LORD IRWIN are on passage Walvis Bay to Capetown. E.T.A. A.M./10. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0825Z/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

REPULSE etc. W.S.11.

Oiler RAPIDOL oil inadequate. NESTOR proceeding Bathurst for fuel E.T.A. 0800Z/11. REPULSE cannot exceed 15 knots and reach Freetown, may have to go to Bathurst. SUTLEJ and HIGHLANDER will arrive Bathurst for fuel 12th. Request local escort may meet as far West as possible. Admty 2358A/7. Intend to retain HIGHLANDER until NESTOR rejoins. (?East) portion position "F" is 0200Z/11. (REPULSE, 0900Z/8 to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 0900Z/8. Undesirable that REPULSE should fuel off Bathurst but oiler LISS can R/V off the harbour if necessary. Destroyers should be retained until arrival Freetown, if possible. N.O.I.C. Bathurst is to keep LISS at short notice and use M.L.'s for A/S screen. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be sent to join convoy 11/9 in case REPULSE has to leave. (C. in C. S.A., 2247N/8 to REPULSE).

ALCANTARA.

Circumstances permitting R/V with BROOMDALE at sea R/V "Henrietta" p.m./11 to carry out fuelling trials vide my 1938/27/8. You should embark 500 tons fuel if possible. BROOMDALE must leave so as to be at sea R/V "Orange" a.m./18. Then resume on K.32 K.33. (R.A.S.A.D., 1028Z/8 to ALCANTARA).

KONGSDAL.

Overdue shipping. KONGSDAL due Lourenco Marques 3/9 from Basra not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1033B/8).
Cancelled see p 248

/CITY OF.....

8.9.1941.
Monday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

CITY OF
JOHANNESBURGH,
"Q" Report.

Your 1856N/7. CITY OF JOHANNESBURG made QQQQ at 2014Z/6 from Mozambique Channel. Message cancelled in P/L. at 2112Z/6 and in M.N.C. at 1650/7. QQ intercepted in U.K. at 2040Z/6. Suggest signals heard by Takoradi and Lagos at 2123Z/6 were broadcast of CITY OF JOHANNESBURG's message. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1107A/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

ARNDALE.

Admty 1048/2. Please sail ARNDALE for sea R/V with ~~PERKIVAL~~ (Rio de Janeiro area) when ready. Request you ensure that she carries sufficient 5 inch hose for stirrup fuelling etc. (R.A.S.A.D., 1233Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

Cable
Operation.

Your 1253A/20/8 and my 2311N/24/8. MILFORD reports operation of cutting cable completed. LADY DENISON PENDER E.T.A. St. Helena 14/9 for fuel then proceeds Capetown to dock. (C. in C. S.A., 1327N/8 to Admty).

Bathurst
port
facilities.

Reported that facilities at Bathurst for obtaining fresh and dry provisions are inadequate for regular use of this port as a terminal port for Ocean Escorts. Facilities for obtaining fresh water are also unsatisfactory. Local Authorities most helpful but are handicapped by lack of supplies and insufficient notice of arrivals of ships, and of their requirements. (C. in C. W.A., 1337A/8 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply, 0421/10.

C.M.18
AUSTRALIA.

C. in C. E.I., 0700/30/8. Durban departures, AUSTRALIA escorting convoy C.M.18. E.T.A. position J 1400 G.M.T./15 E.T.A. AUSTRALIA at Aden 0200 G.M.T./16. (N.L.O. Durban, 1337Z/8 to C. in C. E.I. etc) Convoy sailing telegram C.M.18. (MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM) (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1315Z/8).

GAZCON
intercepted.

Vichy French Merchant vessel GAZCON intercepted by ALBATROSS is being taken to Lagos in detention with armed guard on board, E.T.A. about 0900 G.M.T./10. Armed guard may be retained until arrangements made for crew and any passengers to be accommodated on shore but should then be returned Freetown at first opportunity. Request details of passengers and cargo may be telegraphed to S. of S. Admty, and to me as soon as practicable. (C. in C. S.A., 1347N/8 to Govr. Nigeria).

/REVENGE.....

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

REVENGE.

Ref. REVENGE's 1155Z/3, request arrangements be made for docking REVENGE about 15/9 to carry out repairs to damaged Starboard Bulges. Please confirm. (D. of D., 1548A/8 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

DUNEDIN search.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 0020A/3. Request you will arrange for aircraft from Bathurst to co-operate in search by DUNEDIN. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1603A/8 to C. in C. S.A.) Admty 1603A/8 Sunderlands from Bathurst will search area 016° 30' to 017° 30' N and 018° to 020° W., in daylight tomorrow, 9/9. (C. in C. S.A. 1815N/8 to DUNEDIN).

My 1815N/8 One Hudson will be searching area 17° to 18° N., 23° to 25° W., p.m./9. (C. in C. S.A., 2201N/8 to DUNEDIN).

Dispositions.

Your 1233A/7/9. Forces available at Freetown, CHESHIRE and DUNNOTTAR CASTLE at short notice, VELOX and ORESTES sailing 9/9 to join escort W.S.11 Fast. BRILLIANT required for S.L.87 14/9. Force EAGLE and DORSETSHIRE in position "Zaal" 6/9 then proceeding as in my 2037N/6/9. (C. in C. S.A., 1749N/8 to Admty).

C.M.17

It was intended to sail NIEUW HOLLAND and THYSVILLE with C.M.17 from Durban on 11/9 but Durban now reports former has had accident to windlass which necessitates ten days repair and latter has defective boilers needing extensive repair. As Middle East urgently requires personnel allocated for these ships request I may be allowed to utilise EASTERN PRINCE now loading homeward at Durban to embark at least those most urgently required and take them to Suez. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1751Z/8 to D. of S.T.) See 1402/10.

Oil Uruguay.

Uruguay Govt. have issued new oil fuel decree which prohibits private oil companies from exporting fuel but permits them to carry bunkering subject to prior authorization of Ministry of Industries who will take into account total stock of fuel in country. No difficulties yet experienced by ships requiring bunkers. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 22206/8 to Admty).

War Diary.8.9.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.PERSEUS,
TORBAY.

Understand your 0427/8 (N.T. in W.D.) Well done nice first innings. Approved to enter swept-channel 1000 (2 corrupt groups). TORBAY encountered U-boat in 032° 42' 028° 55' course 105° at 1335C/7. Blenheim A/C hunting it today. (Capt. S.l. 0827/8 to PERSEUS).

Enemy
Tanker.

Tanker 3000 tons due Benghazi 1800C/8. She arrives at position 16 miles 310° from Benghazi light at 1630C (?on) course 200° speed 9 knots. (Capt. S.l. 0937C/8 to THUNDERBOLT).

Schooners as
"Q" Ships.

Recent sightings confirm that schooners are being used as Q ships and often appear to work in pairs. (Capt. S.l. 1045C/8 to S/Ms on Patrol).

Tobruk
mines.

C. in C's. 1850C/25/8. Weekly report ending Noon/8. One acoustic mine swept by sweeper. One unknown type self detonating. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 1058C/8 to Admty).

Air Report.

1. Following are details damage from enemy raid 6/7 Abu Sueir, Ismailia. Night 7/8, Suez twice bombed by a total of approx. 24 aircraft. Hurricanes on layer patrols made no interceptions. (see 1325/8).
6/9. 3 unidentified enemy aircraft bombed Stronglo and Kythera causing no damage or casualties and departed N.W. towards Turkish coast. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1121/8).

Benghazi. etc
bombed.

Night 6/7. 15 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. One aircraft subsequently bombed Barce. 9 Albacores bombed Tmimi Gazala North Gazala South and Martuba landing grounds.
Day 7/9. 9 Marylands bombed 4 heavy guns east of Tobruk. No direct hits. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1154/8).

OSIRIS,
OTUS.

After daylight R/C of Apollonia and Ras-al-Hilal on 9th proceed through 033° 14' 025° (?30') to enter Alexandria Sanctuary 0600C/12. OTUS E.T.A. Sanctuary 0600C/11 from position 180° Gavdo 17. (Capt. S.l. 1215C/8 to OSIRIS).

/Suez Raids.....

War Diary.

8.9.1941. 196
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Suez Raids.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 587, first Raid (a) Night 7/8, calm clear (b) High (?level attack) 2144 - 0004 by 14 enemy A/C on Suez, no flares, bright moon (c) H.E. (d) 7 X.B. and 3 U.X.B. (e) No Naval damage, one R.M. killed, minor civil damage. (f) No fighters up (g) Balloons up. 2nd Raid. (a) As above (b) High low and dive bombing by 10 enemy A/C 0320 - 0500 on Suez. No (?Flares) bright moon. (c) H.E. (d) 7 X.B. one U.X.B. (e) No damage or casualties (?a) shell Refinery closed down due to U.X.B. (f) No fighters up (g) Balloons flying (k) one plane dropped 4 bombs Abu Sueir aerodrome, very slight damage, no casualties. During both raids 15 fighters patrolling Ismailia Area. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1325C/8 to Admty).

Operation
"Status".
(Hurricane for
H.C.P.A.)

A/S Trawler BERYL will be in position 255 Cape San Dimitry 20 by 0900B of D.2.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1425B/8 to F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H).

Black Sea.
Threat to
Turkey.

To D.M.I. from MacFarlane. Presume Admty have passed to you L.O. Black Sea 1917C/7 which is most important. Previous Russian appreciations of possible action against Turkey seem nearer the mark than yours. (30 M.M. Moscow, 1441/8 to W.O.) Talk with Turkish Ambassador (30 M.M. Moscow, 1511/8).

TORBAY
Dardanelles
Patrol.

Proceed through Zea and Doro Channels to establish patrol until further instructions off Dardanelles in area North of 39° 30' and East 25° 00'.
(Capt. S.I. 1530C/8 to TORBAY.)

Black Sea.

Intelligence, possible German seaborne expedition against Russia. (W.O. 1615/8 to No. 30 Moscow amended 1950/10) See Lion Copy.

GOS II.
GOS III.

Your 2003/6. In view of increased scale of aircraft minelaying in Suez Bay and approaches and that at present there appears to be no threat to Persian Gulf, is it still considered necessary to divert GOS II and GOS III to Basra?
(C. in C. Med., 1620C/8 to Admty).

/BALCIC.....

MOST SECRET

~~SECRET~~

196A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1615/8th Sept.

IN

From: The War Office.

Date 9.9.41.

Recd:

Cipher

Addressed: The British Liaison Staff No. 30 Moscow.

MOST SECRET IMMEDIATE.

88773 Cipher (M.I. 14) dated 8/9

Following from D.M.I. for Macfarlane. Begins.

Your 661 of 6/9.

1. Para (A). No confirmation Italian barges at Varna but some reports of barges Constanza and Danube.
2. Para (C) Four Italian divisions identified Ukraine. Two or three more probably despatched via Hungary. Reports state despatch of further Italian divisions asked for at meeting Hitler-Mussolini.
Number of reports received German forces moved from Ukraine to Bulgaria but not considered reliable. Two German divisions have moved from Protectorate or Germany to Balkans end of August probable destination Varna and Bourgas. Now three or four German divisions Bulgaria.
3. Your comment. We have no confirmation Germans staging operations from Sicily.
We have no reports of German units moving south from Roumania in tropical kit but such movement is possible as troops destined for Libya might leave Greek ports.
4. Considerable evidence German preparations to launch seaborne expedition in Black Sea against Russia. ends.

1615/8

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D. (F) D.D.L.C.,

Recd; from War Office. 0120/9

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.C. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D.C.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D of P (2)
D.C.
E.P.S.
Hd of M. (8)
W.D.
N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

MOST SECRET

196B

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1950/10th Sept.

IN

From: The War Office.

Date 13.9.41.

Recd:

Cipher

Addressed: The British Liaison Staff No. 30 Moscow.

89245 cipher (M. I. 14) dated 10/9.

D. M. I. for Macfarlane.

Your C. R. 19 dated 9/9.

1. Your 661 of 6/9 was corrupt. My 88773⁺ of 8/9 para 1 referred to sentence "Italian repeat Italian barges being constructed at Varna". Your telegram contained No repeat No para B.
2. Your comment referred extension of operations from Sicily repeat Sicily. ends.

1950/10

✶ T.O.O. 1615/8/9.

1st Lord.

1st S. L.

V. C. N. S.

A. C. N. S. (H)

A. C. N. S. (F)

N. A. 1st S. L.

P. A. S. (S)

D. O. D. (H)

D. D. O. D. (H)

D. O. D. (F)

D. D. O. D. (F)

D. N. I. (4)

D of P (2)

D. C.

E. P. S.

Hd of M. (8)

W. D.

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

Recd: from War Office 1520/13.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

BALCIC,
MAYA,
ALBA JULIA,
(S/M attack).
Use of
Corinth
Canal.

Following from Master of Roumanian BALCIC, grade C.4. (a) Ship in company with tanker MAYA passed from Italy through Corinth Canal (comment: MAYA in ballast and BALCIC lightly loaded and drawing about 15 feet) (b) Submarine attack outside Dardanelles at 0730C/4 MAYA sunk and BALCIC avoided torpedo. (Can you confirm) (c) ALBA JULIA loading Piraeus for Crete. (d) BALCIC sailed from Trieste in convoy of 7 ships with light surface trawlers heavy Air escort. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1747/8 to S.O.(I) Med). N.I.D. Comment. MAYA is an Italian Tanker of 3867 tons. BALCIC is a Roumanian Tanker of 3600 tons. This is the first information received in N.I.D. that the Corinth Canal which was damaged by two bombing attacks in August, is again open to Traffic It was considered that there would be an interruption of traffic for at least six weeks from the date of the last attack on 13/14/8. If this report is correct the repairs must have been completed more rapidly than was expected.

Enemy
Convoy.

One A.M.C. one Tanker 2 Merchant Ships P.C. and S. 12 miles from Cavoli Island (?knots) 8 Southbound. (O.21 1800Z/8, to S.O.(3) Malta).

Troop
Movement.

C. in C. S.A.'s 2015N/4 (re Movement of Gold Coast Brigade) my 1230/3. Request you allocate shipping. (S.T.O. Egypt, 1831/8 to D. of S.T.)

R.N.
drafts.

A total of about 800 R.N. will be embarked ex Suez for U.K. in returning ships of O.M.18 and W.S. 10 X. or O.M. 17. Request disposal of STRATHMORE, STRATHNAVER, ORION. Can three ships mentioned in your 0349A/5/9 (eight) be used for R.N. drafts to U.K. (S.T.O. Egypt, 1834/8 to D.S.T.)

Providence.
PROVIDENCE
bombed.

For British Admty. A bomb from unknown Aircraft has fallen near Convoy B. 34° 25' N., 28° 02' E. (PROVIDENCE, 1930/8 to all ships).

SUFFREN.

Proposal of Adm. Godfroy for relief of married men in ship's company. (C. in C. Med., 2004C/8 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET

197A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

2004C/8/September.

From C, in C, Mediterranean.

Date 10.9.41.

Naval Cypher O.T.T. by W/T & T/P Time 2044

Addressed Admiralty, repeated Minister of State.

289. Admiral Godfroy has put forward proposal ship's company of Fr. Cruiser SUFFREN which has been 3 years abroad and certain married men with families in Squadron should return home after being relieved by ratings sent from France. His argument is that if ships are to be detained indefinitely ships' companies should be relieved. He asks if I have any objection and if I am prepared to forward this proposal.

(2) I have replied so far as I am concerned I am ready to agree to send men home but in present political situation I am not repetition not prepared to recommend reliefs should be sent from France.

(3) It would be to our advantage of course if men were sent home without relief as this would reduce expense of paying men and we might even reach stage where there might be insufficient ratings to maintain ships. Copies of correspondence being sent by mail.

2004C/8

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

1st Lord	D. of P. (2)	
1st S.L.	D.O.D.(H)	D.T.S.D.
2nd S.L.	D.D.O.D.(H)	D.G.D.
3rd S.L.	D.O.D.(F)	D.D.I.C.
4th S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F)	E.P.S.
5th S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	D.T.D. (2)
V.C.N.S.	D.S.D.	N.I.D.10 Payr Cdr Wilson.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.N.A.D.	
A.C.N.S.(F)	D. of L.D.	Ad. Chalmers.
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)	D.A/S.W.	Hd. of M (6) for action and for Min. of State.
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.M.S.	
Sec.	I.P. (2)	
N.A.1st S.L.	W.D.	
P.A.S.(S)	Duty Capt	

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation
report 142.

Destroyers at sea between Alexandria and Haifa hunting U-boat reported by TORBAY steering eastward from 32° 42' N 28° 55' E., at 1330/7.
2. Western Desert. Supply to Tobruk by destroyers has been restarted. TALISMAN reports opening fire with gun on two motor lighters off Benghazi 30th. Both hit and one possibly sunk.
5. Submarines. On 30/8 UNBEATEN torpedoed and sank large schooner suspected acting as Q ship near Straits of Messina. (C. in C. Med., 2352C/8).

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ARONDA
RANGITIKI.

Your 1230/6 and P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1146/6. ARONDA is proceeding to India with personnel for India ex CAMERONIA. RANGITIKI is proceeding to Suez. Agreed.
(D. of S.T. 0207A/8 to P.S.T.O. India.)

REPULSE.

Your 0303/7. (0503/7 intended.) I intend REPULSE to come Ceylon area as soon as possible. Earliest date for a visit to Singapore. Fully appreciate the propaganda value of such a visit.
(C. in C. E.I., 0818Z/8, to C. in C. China.)

Repair of
M.L's.

Your 0401/7. Request whether major overhauls of ten Hall Scott engines could be undertaken at Bombay per month in addition to those based on Bombay. (C. in C.E.I., 1112Z/8, to F.O.C.R.LN)

Kardiva
Channel.

Cancel my 0820/30/4. Ships may now be routed through Kardiva Channel.
(C. in C.E.I., 1118Z/8 to C. in C. China etc.)

FALMOUTH.
SHOREHAM.
SUTLEJ.
JUMNA.

Admty., 1831/7 crossed my 1540/7. It must be appreciated that FALMOUTH and SHOREHAM are not adequately armed for A/A defence, particularly in regard to short range weapons. I intend however to send both ships to Aden as soon as possible and am asking C. in C. Med., if he can do anything to augment their short range armament. Unfortunate that YARRA, by far (? the) better equipped ship, is not available. She is (? about to) start (? her) refit at Bombay already well overdue. Requested that SUTLEJ and JUMNA may be sent to reinforce Red Sea Force as soon as possible.
(C. in C.E.I., 1132Z/8, to Admty.)

Trincomalee.

Reply to C. in C.E.I., 1320Z/27/8, re facilities (A.C.N.S.(F) 1221A/8 to C. in C.E.I.)
(See Operations Volume.)

EMERALD.

Following patrol for interception of Vichy French Shipping has been ordered for EMERALD. Leave Seychelles p.m./9 patrol between Cape Amber and Saya de Malha Bank returning p.m./13.
(C. in C.E.I., 1438Z/8, to Admty.)

/MARIENFELS.....

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

MARIENFELS.
HOHENFELS.

My 1302/7. ⁻¹⁶⁹ MARIENFELS sailed from Bandar Shahpur 0600 G.M.T./8. HOHENFELS is the only ship remaining. (C. in C. E.I. 1456Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

Anchorage.

Your 2023/6 repeating your 2206/5. Anchorage F, 027° 49' 033° 57' SHA (?B) ALI. Dispersal anchorage also established, G 027° 47' 033° 38', ASHRAFI, and H 027° 38' 033° 44' TOWILA. (S.N.O.R.S. 1509Z/8 to Admty.)

Seamen ex
BRITANNIC
STRATHALLAN.

Your 0621/31/8. The 248 Mercantile Marine should be divided between the two ships as evenly as is possible without splitting any single crew. Remainder may be embarked in one ship or divided, as convenient. (D.O.D.(F) 1818A/8 to S.S.T.O. India.)

China.

Vichy
Convoy.

My 0343/6 and 0301/7 Saigon Departure 6/9 French sloop AMIRAL CHARNER. May be in company with COMPIEGNE. French Submarine MONGE and French ships CAP TOURANE and LE CONTE DE LISLE may join convoy but are not yet reported sailed. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0231Z/8, to Admty.)

My 0231/8. Saigon departures 6/9 CAP TOURANE, SIKIANG. Now reported that destination of above ships and COMPIEGNE believed to be Madagascar. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0501Z/8 to Admty.)

Fairmiles,
etc.

Your 1727/29 para. (iv). Special repair facilities not required on China Station. Action being taken to acquire all available spares. (C. in C. China, 0517Z/8 to Admty.)

GOUVERNEUR
GENERAL
PASQUIER.

Arrived 8/9. (Saigon 1011Z/8 to M. of W.T.)

Singapore
Straits -
danger area.

The following additional areas in the Western Approaches are dangerous to shipping by mines. Vessels entering these areas do so at their own risk. Areas enclosed by lines from No 4 beacon in 001° 15' 14" N. 103° 45' 06" E. in a direction 276° for two point two miles. Thence in a

/direction

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Singapore
Straits -
danger area
contd.

360° to the coast of Pulo Ayer Merbau, and from No.4 beacon in a direction 360° for 0.68 miles, thence in a direction 270° to the coast of Pulo Ayer Merbau. Area (B) is enclosed by lines from position 01° 13' 34" N., 103° 46' 33" E. on the S.E. coast of Pulo Nuko in two directions (1) 119° for 0.9 miles, thence 160° to coast of Pulo Sebarok. (2) In a direction 180° to coast of Pulo Sakeng, thence in a direction 104° to the S.E. point of Pulo Sebarok. (R.A. Malaya 1131/8.)

America and West Indies.

NEWCASTLE.

E.T.A. 0600/9 DURBAN CASTLE and QUEEN OF BERMUDA in company. (NEWCASTLE, 0123Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)
NEWCASTLE 0056Z/8 (N.T. in W.D.). If desired PRINCE DAVID now at Bermuda is available as additional escort for DURBAN CASTLE in place of NEWCASTLE, and could R/V as convenient to QUEEN OF BERMUDA between position (a) and (b) in my 1132Q/7. If Admiralty require this, request time and position of R/V be communicated by N.O.I.C. Trinidad when time of sailing is known. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1112Q/8 to Admty.)
Reply: 1102/9.

TULIP
CLARKIA.

C. in C. W.A. 1708A/7. Request you will sail TULIP and CLARKIA for Bermuda when ready and report anticipated date. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/8 to B.A.R.M.)

DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL
WARWICK CASTLE.

Ref. A.M.1848/18/8. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL has been unable to leave Clyde owing to engine defects. Proposed that the 1500 personnel for Middle East now at Halifax ex WARWICK CASTLE should be on-carried in WARWICK CASTLE herself. Immediate report has been called for as to her earliest possible firm date of sailing from Halifax. When promulgated, C. in C. A. and W.I. and C. in C. S.A. are requested to report whether escort can be provided for the voyage from Halifax. (D.O.D.(F) 1036A/8 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A.)

LE TRIOM-
PHANT.

My 1234/6. Amended hour of arrival Honolulu 1700/12. (Consul, Los Angeles, 1121/8 to Admty.) *See also p. 204.*

/NORSEMAN

War Diary.8.9.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.NORSEMAN.

Your 1125Q/7 approved. Cable and Wireless head office have been consulted and agree. (D.S.D. 1142A/8 to F.O.I.C. Trinidad)

Barge Sunk.

H.M. Tug PRUDENT returned St. Johns 7/9 found barge No.11 which was taken in tow and again broke adrift in following gale and foundered. (C.C.N.F., 1147Z/8 to Admty.)

WARSPITE,
Press
interviews.

Your 2202/2 to WARSPITE and my 2140R/12 to Admty. Request that proposals for interviews by Officers in Ships refitting in the U.S.A. to be given to Newspaper representatives should in future be passed to N.A. Washington for concurrence of U.S. Navy Dept. prior to instructions being given to ship so that simultaneous release to all newspapers may be given. (B.A.R.M. 1152R/8 to Admty.)

Suspicious
Ship.

Following from U.S. Authorities. American S.S. ROBIN HOOD at 2200Z/7 in 004° 40' S. 032° 21' W was approached within 2 miles by a large vessel low in water steering 016° at slow speed. Ship carried navigation lights and illuminated flag aft which was indistinct. When abeam vessel hove to heading E. and then made various alterations of course. Vessel was deemed suspicious although ROBIN HOOD was not spoken to nor molested. American WINDRUSH and SCHOHARIE were in area at this time Northbound but were light. (B.A.D., 1251R/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DIANTHUS
GLADIOLUS.

A.M. 1231A/7. Propose DIANTHUS and GLADIOLUS follow PRIMROSE and NASTURTIUM. DIANTHUS can arrive Charleston 25/9 and GLADIOLUS by about 27/9. (C.C.N.F. 1252Z/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

BANGOR
Minesweepers.

Your 1656Z/19/5. Proposals re manning. (D.P.S. 1341A/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

O.N. Escorts.

Request names of escorts of O.N.12. C. in C. W.A. 1630A/6 implies BROADWATER with this convoy. Presume this should be BROADWAY. If no objections request escorts of future O.N. Convoys be sailed as follows: Group 20 with O.N.14, Group 24 and SAINT CROIX if ready with O.N.15. MOOSEJAW and Group 23 less CHESTERFIELD with O.N.16. RICHMOND and Group 22 less RAMSEY with O.N.17. My 0237Z/8. Following escort for O.N.18 or O.N.19 whichever is R.C. Navy escorted:- ARROWHEAD, AGASSIZ, LEVIS, MAYFLOWER, and either OTTAWA or SAGUENAY. (C.C.N.F. 1353Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

EMPRESS OF ASIA.

My 2122Z/5 (N.T. in W.R.) Confirm EMPRESS OF ASIA turn round U.K. can be carried out within three days. Personnel embark at Halifax afternoon 15/9 and ship sail H.X. 150 16/9.

(Ottawa, 1543Z/8 to D. of S.T.)

Midship from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. My 1543Z/8 further consideration of defects and serious crew situation Newfoundland indicates unwise to turn around in three days. Conclude minimum one week required for turnround and a further minimum of two weeks in U.K. or at next destination to complete refit. All possible work in hand on 24 hour basis and ship will sail in accordance with my 1543Z/8.

{N.C.S.O., Thursday Island, 1754Z/8 to D. of S.T.)

FORT RICHEPANSE, (torpedoed 3/9.)

Your 2217A/4. Careful scrutiny of N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 2311Z/28 shows FORT RICHEPANSE reported leaving Sydney^{ca} on date of signal i.e. 28/8 Words "29th August" preceding name FORT RICHEPANSE refer to expected date of arrival Norwegian ship VICTO at Parrsboro, N.S. FORT RICHEPANSE having reported crossing 030° W., on 1/8 it appears that delay of only four hours at Sydney^{ca} was not considered to have affected her original expected date of arrival Liverpool which nevertheless might well have been confirmed by Spain in reporting movements to Halifax for inclusion in Vesca. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1632Z/8 to Admty).

NEWFOUNDLAND.

C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1206/2. When fitting of NEWFOUNDLAND is complete she should be sailed for Freetown. She will be held at Freetown pending further instructions. Request anticipated sailing date from Halifax and arrival Freetown. (D.S.T., 1712A/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

BURNHAM.

Intend to sail BURNHAM at 2200Z/12 for Boston E.T.A. 1800R/16. (C.C.N.F., 1746Z/8 to B.A.R.M.)

ORANGELEAF.

Your 1112Q/5. Dispositions and retention of ORANGELEAF approved. (4th S.L., 1926A/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/U.S.N.....

8.9.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.S.N. Communications.

Your 1655R/5. Information received from Adm. Ghormley that Navy Dept. are prepared to pass information direct to selected British shore authorities on Western side of Atlantic provided these hold special settings for Type X. Is it the intention of Navy Dept. that these four authorities should reciprocally pass information direct to Opnav or through B.A.D. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1937A/8 to B.A.D.)

Corvettes, Trinidad.

Your 1030Q/5. Corvettes are fitted with Marconi type TW12. (details). (D.S.D., 2007A/8 to N.O.I.C Trinidad).

Suspicious ships, Easter Island.

My 1753Q/7. It has been suggested that this may have some connection with N.A. Santiago de Chile war despatch 4/41 dated 17/6 page 6, last para. et seq. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2139Q/8 to Admty).

U.S. Submarines.

Re proposed transfer. (B.A.D., 2149R/8 to Admty). See Lion Copy.

→ LE TRIUMPHANT.

Consul Los Angeles' 1234/6. Request information about deserters so as to counter enemy propaganda. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2225A/8 to N.A. Washington).

CARADOC.

My 1022Q/5. For 12/9 read 19/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2232Q/8 to Admty).

Australia and New Zealand.

→ LE TRIUMPHANT.

When ready to sail leave Honolulu for Papeete direct. Report date of sailing and E.T.A. Papeete to N.Z.N.B. through British Consul Honolulu. (N.O. Wellington, 1240M/8 to LE TRIUMPHANT) (Repeated and corrected. 2131M/10).

2- 5. 201

From B.A.D. Washington

MOST SECRET 2149R/8/Sept.

Date 9.9.41.

Time 0657.

Naval Cypher D by Cable

Addressed Admiralty, repeated F.O.(S)

423. (i) Your O117A 6th. On further investigation

Navy Dept now state 'R' Class will not be ready by the time crew are trained,

(ii) In any case their plans both material and operational are already somewhat advanced towards release of 2 'S' Class and they are unwilling to change at this stage.

(iii) Under circumstances there seems no alternative to accept 2 'S' Class which I have therefore done

(iv) Menzies suggests balance of crew be made up from H.M.S. FORTH

(v) 'R' Class would probably be available in December 1941.

(vi) U.S. Authorities would prefer to train crews 2 at a time for same class.

2149R/8

* Prepared to accept either one 'R' Class or 2 'S' Class
British crew detailed for 1 'R' Class
If trials are satisfactory 1 S/M per month from
December 1941.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

Vice Controller

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.O.D.(H)

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.P.S.

D.N.I. (4)

D.of P. (2)

D.D.I.C.

D.C.

Hd. of N.A.S.

D.T.S.D.

E.P.S.

Ad. Bailey

D.D.O.D.(M)

N.A. 2nd S.L.

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

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Hd. of M. (M/PD02C9/41) for action

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

Dept Controller)

Hd. of S.W.R.) Bath by courier

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SESSA
(torpedoed
17/8).

My 2251/7 (Panamanian ship ^SESSA torpedoed 17/8/41)*
approximate position was 061° 03' N., 034° 51' W.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1009/8 to Admty). (N.T. in W.D.)

SESAPAREN
(~~SESSA~~).
(B.R. 1337)

U.S.S. LANSDALE picked up three male survivors of
S.S. SESAPAREN, Panamanian. Registry Paren in
61.05 N., 34.50 W. Ship was torpedoed 17/8 about
300 miles from Reykjavik proceeding to that
port from New York. Survivors believe they are
the only ones of crew of 53. Alusna, Ottawa pass
to C.N.S. Ottawa for additional action.
(Spenavo, 1710/8 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

Bearings at 0708 G.M.T. of Italian U-boat 78A.
(D.D.I.C., 0840A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

1117 C.

By D/F at 1117C/8 enemy warship probably U-boat
in 70° 41' N., 34° 18' E. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk,
1251C/8 to Admty).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1425A/8).

1235.

Auxiliary Coast Guard at Sarclet Head (South of
Wick) reports sighting object resembling Submarine
at 1235 in position 3 miles N.E. of look-out.
Seen on surface for one minute before submerging.
Course N.E. subsequent investigation reveals that
object, which was sighted without binoculars was
seen by Auxiliary Coast Guard only, and he is
doubtful if it was a Submarine. Report graded
C.5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1843/8 to Admty).

Submarines Attacked.

By CROOME.

(MAGGIORÉ
FRANCESCO BARAGCA)

See p. 160

1 Submarine on the surface bearing 087 distance
4 miles, Course 180° 40.30 N., 21.15 W.
(CROOME, 0732/8 to Gib., W/T).
Repeated on B.N. at 0807/8. G7W8 has got
My 0732 - 466 Submarine has dived. (CROOME, 0734/8)
Repeated on B.N. at 0810/8.
My 0732. Italian U-boat sunk. Am picking up sur-
vivors. (CROOME, 0834/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Bow damaged, am returning to Gibraltar with
survivors. (CROOME, 0847/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)
CROOME reports sinking Italian submarine in 040°
30' N., 021° 12' W., at 0830 picking up survivors.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0908A/8 to Admty).
Well done. (C. in C. W.A., 1306A/8 to CROOME).

/By.....

War Diary.8.9.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked. - Contd.

By GORLESTON. Excellent submarine contact attacked 5 patterns in 024° 00' N., 020° 20' W., at 0555Z/?8. Nothing heard or seen. LULWORTH co-operating, re-joining. Dawn at 0645Z. (GORLESTON, 0815Z/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C Am over enemy S/M in position 46.38 N., 10.57 W. (D. A/C Home., 1006/8 to Call sign 9 R.L.) Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface and observed to submerge course 060°. Have attacked with depth charges. (D. A/C Home, 1020/8.) (19 Group 1104/8 to all 19 Group Stns. etc). A/C D/221 details of attack at 0950. (Plymouth, 1700/8 1745/8, 1945/8 to Admty) 1745 in Lion Copy. 1945. (repetition of 1745) in Tiger Copy.

By A/C Am investigating suspicious object oil patch in position 46.48 N., 10.22 W. (A/C duty P., 1230/8 to 19 Group). Have attacked enemy with depth charges - 2 hits - oil patch - My estimated time of arrival is 1725. (A/C duty P., 1415/8 to 19 Group)

By Russian A/C. Following from Soviet Intelligence. (a) U-boat sighted on surface and attacked by A/C in 68° 35' N., 41° 50' E., at 1630C/4. Result not observed but (corrupt group) oil still coming to surface from this position after 48 hours. (b) Buoy - probably S/M indicator buoy with marking "U 73" recovered vicinity 68° 05' N., 39° 40' E. Thought to be from S/M attacked in this vicinity 12/7. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1241C/8 to Admty).

By A/C Sunderland P/10 Squadron attacked oil patch in position 47.04 N., 10.31 W., with 4 D/C's. 2 explosions were definitely seen. A/C then circled round for 10 minutes, and noticed more oil appearing in circle of D/C disturbance. Capt. of A/C is of the opinion that U/B must have been damaged severely by attack of previous A/C as oil appeared to be particularly fresh, and free from scum as though an oil tank had been sprung. (Plymouth, 1950/8).

SECRET

MESSAGE

206A

IN
1745/8th September.

From:- Plymouth.

Date. 8.9.41.
Recd. 1905

P/L by T/P

Addressed:- Admiralty for O.I.C.

IMMEDIATE
FORM BLUE STRIKE.

A. 19 Group

B STE Eval STE/ BS 2/8/9 PL/ G2/7/9

C' Wellington D/221

E U/boat DPDU 3803 below periscope depth

F Visibility 1-2 miles haze. 10/10 ths ST C U 1500 feet

G 0952 - 50 feet

H 3 X450 lb D.Cs. set at 50 feet spaced 60 feet

K 1 nil 2. 3 D.Cs. were observed to burst about 220 yards

ahead of swirl and at right angled to track with centre of

stick dead ahead of swirl 49 seconds after U/boat submersion

L 1 mile 2. 060 3. 40 seconds 4. Patch. of brownish

oil observed immediately after explosion. 5. 20 minutes

followed by special patrol 7 miles north east of position for

74 minutes 6 speed of A/C 125 knots.

At 0950 ^{Wellington} WELLINGTON D/221 on A/S patrol 18 on track 013 at

1400 feet sighted U/boat 1 mile distant 2 points on starboard

bow in position DPDU 3803 on CO 060/12 KB A/c lowered

undercarriage and continued on course gradually losing height

about 50 seconds later U/boat began to submerge as A/C circled

to starboard 40 seconds after submersion 3 D.Cs were released

in stick at right angles to across track and the centre of stick

all of which were seen to burst was estimated to be 220 dead

ahead of swirl a small patch of brownish oil was observed

almost immediately after attack presumably from D.Cs but no

further results were observed A/C dropped smoke floats and

remained/

remained over position for 20 minutes and then proceeded to carry out special patrol till P I E SE contact was obtained and U/boat at a distance of 3 miles.

1745/8

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

War Diary.

9.9.1941
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Benedict".

The operation of flying off aircraft for Russia from ARGUS, covered by 1st C.S. has been successfully completed.

M.T.B. attack
on Convoy.

Last night, and again in the early hours of this morning M.T.B's 35, 54 and 218 attacked off ~~off~~ Nez an enemy convoy of 2 merchant vessels with 4 escorts. In the first attack they badly damaged and perhaps sank a 3500 ton vessel and in the second attack they sank a 4000 ton ship. M.T.B. 35 was badly damaged and had to be beached at Ramsgate. M.G.B's 43 and 52 on patrol near the Varne closed and shadowed the convoy in the interval between the two attacks. They were attacked by 4 enemy fast craft; M.G.B.52 was damaged by gunfire; and M.G.B.43 is believed to have sunk one of the enemy with a depth charge; she has superficial damage.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft carried out a minor attack on Cherbourg docks last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

^{ALBERT}
S.S. ~~A.C.~~ ^{ALBERT} FIELDS was unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon off Flamborough Head. by aircraft, with torpedo and machine gun. VIMIERA drove off the enemy.

War Diary.

9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

208

Mining.

Single mines were laid by aircraft off Copenhagen, Langeland Belt, Great Belt and Frisian Islands.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Status".

The first flight of aircraft in Operation "Status" left Force H. at 0653A today and at 1220B V.A. -Malta reported the arrival of 1 Blenheim and 14 Hurricanes.

The second flight was cancelled.

S.O. Force H. again stresses the unsuitability of Blenheims for this type of operation.

Mediterranean.

Messina
bombed.

Eight Wellingtons attacked targets at Messina between 1918 and 2220 today.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Destroyers were bombed last night whilst on passage to and from Tobruk. KIMBERLEY and DECOY were slightly damaged. The Mersa Matruh area was also bombed, damaging the railway.

Egypt and
Suez Canal.

Enemy aircraft made 2 raids on Abu Sueir last night, and also raided Kasfareet and Ismailia; Abu Sueir aerodrome was rendered unserviceable by bomb craters.

S.S. GURNA was dive bombed without success in Bitter Lake.

S.B.N.O. Suez Canal suspects the use of a new type of combined H/E and incendiary bomb. A single aircraft raided Alexandria shortly before midnight last night, but jettisoned his bombs into the sea.

/Cyprus

War Diary

9.9.1941
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

209

Mediterranean - contd.

Cyprus.

About 7 aircraft dropped bombs in the sea off Kyrenia and Famagusta last night. Minelaying is not suspected.

Haifa.

Haifa was raided by 4 planes early this morning, but no casualties and practically no damage caused and the port is open.

Corinth Canal.

23 Wellingtons bombed the Corinth Canal last night.

MAYA sunk

C. in C. Med. reports that PERSEUS sank the Italian tanker MAYA on 5/9 off the Dardanelles.

America and West Indies.

DURBAN CASTLE.

Admiralty have approved that PRINCE DAVID should relieve NEWCASTLE as additional escort for DURBAN CASTLE (with the King of Greece and suite on board). The latter arrived at Trinidad today, escorted by QUEEN OF BERMUDA and NEWCASTLE.

SHEHERAZADE.

N.A. Madrid forwards today a protest by the French -Admty. against alleged bad treatment of the officers and crew of tanker SHEHERAZADE while detained ashore at Bermuda.

St. Johns N.F.

On arrival for duty as accommodation ship at St. Johns N.F. S.S. GEORGIAN will be renamed H.M.C.S. AVALON II.

War Diary.

9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

210

New Zealand.

The German wireless having broadcast that 100 deserters from the Free French destroyer LE TRIOMPHANT broke ship at San Diego. Adm. Comdg. Free French Forces has asked for a report from her next port of call.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy
S.C.42

S.S. JEDMOOR in S.C.42 was attacked unsuccessfully p.m. today in mid-Atlantic. CHAMBLY, MOOSEJAW SKEENA and READING were ordered from Newfoundland to join and escort this convoy to Iceland if fuel permits, and A.C.I.C. was ordered to send 20th Group at best speed to meet the convoy, if available.

S.S. SESSA.

U.S.S. LANSDALE has picked up 3 survivors of Panamanian SESSA which was torpedoed on 17/8 in 61° 5' N. 34° 50' W.

War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

211

Policy.

Iceland.

Army berthing, harbour, and accommodation requirements for next winter. Request you co-operate with G.O.C. and report. (V.C.N.S. 1129A/9 to A.C.I.C.) See Lion Copy.

Cruiser requirements.

Requirements for Cruisers in the immediate future are as follows. (V.C.N.S. 1342A/9.) (A.C.N.S.H. 1917A/9.) See Operations Volume.

TIGRIS torpedoes.

B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1801C/8 and F.O.S.1523A/9. In view of the possible requirements of TIGRIS it is considered most desirable to retain in U.K. eight of the forty torpedoes now being loaded. (F.O.S. 1524A/9.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Clarification of certain points of policy.

My 1338A/8th. Add at end of paragraph two "and of activities of American aircraft". (C. in C.H.F. 1202A/9 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Fuel at Archangel White Sea Minesweeping.

Request information on following points (a) can we rely on fuel being available at Archangel for convoy escort and an occasional cruiser. (b) can Russian minesweeping arrangements at entrance of White Sea be regarded as reliable. (C. in C.H.F. 2203A/9 to Ad. Miles.)

Defence of U.K.

Hvalfiord A/S Defences.

Your 2107/18/8. A/S vessels for local defence of Hvalfiord were intended to be used primarily as follows. (a) 15th and 21st A/S Groups. Two at a time on patrol behind the indicator loops. (b) 4th M.L.Flottilla. Two at a time on patrol to seaward of the H.D.A's in Hvalfiord. (c) 106th M.L.Flottilla. One or two at a time on patrol inside the boom in Hvalfiord. (D.A/S.W. 1859A/9 to A.C.I.C.)

211A

Addressed : A.C.I.C. 184.
 Repeated : War Office, Date : 9.9.41.
 C. in C. Home Fleet, 874.
 C. in C. Western Approaches 176.
 A.C.O.S. 714.

Naval Cypher D. One T.T.

From : Admiralty.

Investigation into the maintenance of the garrison in Iceland (C) during the coming Winter stresses the necessity to place at the disposal of the Army as much as possible of the capacity of the port of Reykjavik. This must be done even at the expense of considerable Naval inconvenience.

2. It is required to develop Hvalfiord as an alternative landing place to Reykjavik for Naval Stores and supplies.

The War Office are examining giving higher priority to the construction of the necessary jetties and quays.

3. The necessity for one berth at Reykjavik for naval craft under repair is admitted. This berth must be subject to Army requirements and cannot be permanently allocated.

4. Possible means of Naval co-operation which require your urgent investigation are the release of berths and quayage in Reykjavik now not fully available for Army requirements. In particular the surrender of (a) BALDUR's Berth, (b) Quayage space for moorings and heavy stores, should be considered.

5. It should be accepted that Personnel may have to be accommodated on shore to the Army scale in the vicinity of the Combined Headquarters.

6. Request you will initiate the necessary action in co-operation with G.O.C. reporting your proposals without delay.

1129A/9

For Head of M. (671).

Approved By V.C.N.S.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H).
 Civil Lord.
 D. of P. (P.D. 0398/41).

D.O.D. (H).
 D.D.O.D. (H).
 D. of L.D.
 M. 38. (7) and to pass to War Office
 E.P.S.
 W.D.
 I.P. (2).

War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BEDOUIIN
ESKIMO

BEDOUIIN, ESKIMO R/V Hoxa Sound 0230 today and proceed with despatch to Seidisflord Iceland. (R.A.D.H.F. 0015A/9 to BEDOUIIN, ESKIMO.)

→ DUKE OF YORK.

Sailed DUKE OF YORK escorted by PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, ICARUS, and VIVACIOUS for Rosyth. Codeword "Branch" (N.O.I.C.Greenock 0638A/9.)

NEWARK.

E.T.A. Reykjavik 1030Z/9. (NEWARK 0830Z/9.)

WHITEHALL
WITCH.

Proceed at best speed to Londonderry forthwith. (C. in C.W.A. 1156A/9 to WHITEHALL, WITCH.)

INDOMITABLE.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1435A/9.)

P.31.
O.10.

Your 1532/8/9. P.31 escorted by CUTTY SARK sailed for Dundee. O.10 will be exercising in the Flow daily until further orders. (A.C.O.S. 1501/9.) O.10 arrived. P.31 and CUTTY SARK sailed for Dundee at 1500. (A.C.O.S. 1545/9.)

→ PENELOPE.

When released by DUKE OF YORK return to Scapa. (C. in C.H.F. 1523A/9 to PENELOPE.)

SHEFFIELD.

Admiralty 0035A/6th. Proceed to arrive Clyde A.M./11th. (C. in C.H.F. 1527A/9 to SHEFFIELD.)

MANXMAN.

R.A.(M) in MANXMAN will be leaving Scapa for Port Z.A. at 0900 tomorrow. (R.A.M. 1532A/9.) *See also next page*

CANTON
CATHAY.
(A.M.C's.)

My 1146A/1. Following forecast corrected to 8/9. For Freetown.CANTON leave Clyde end of September. For Halifax.CATHAY leave Clyde for U.S.A. via Halifax 20/9. (S.O.W.P. 1630A/9.)

9.9.41. 213
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

L.26. At 0630A/12, intend to sail L.26 escorted by
ALECTO. ALECTO to Devonport. E.T.A.0630A/14.
 (Capt. S.7. 1753A/9.)
MANXMAN. R.A.(M) 1532A/9. E.T.A. Port Z.A. 1530/10.
 (MANXMAN 2007A/9.) *See Medicine page*

LONDON. Proceed Hvalfjord with despatch and complete
 with fuel.
 (C. in C. H.F. 2322A/9.)

Operations.

Operation Their Lordships congratulate all concerned on
"Benedict" the successful completion of operation ~~BARBBIOT~~.
 (1st. S.L. 0015A/9 to C.S.1., ARGUS.)

Convoy C.W.49. Enemy coastal batteries fired eleven rounds
and Dover between 2045 and 2106 yesterday. All fell on
shelled on land in the Dover area. Some damage to house
8/9. property. No casualties reported. C.W.49 was
 passing Dover at the time.
 (V.A.Dover 0138A/9.)

Attack on Convoy of 2 M/V's and 4 Escorts attacked by
Enemy Convoy M.T.B's 35, 54, and 218 at 2350 and again at
off Blanc Nez 0201, which badly damaged and perhaps sank
on Night 8/9th one 3500-Ton vessel in the first attack and sank
Sept. one 4000-Ton vessel in the second. M.G.B's 43
One 4000-Ton and 52 on patrol near the Varne closed and
M/V sunk. shadowed the Convoy from 0115 for about one
One Enemy Fast hour during which they were attacked by 4 Enemy
Craft and one fast craft. M.G.B.52 was damaged by gun-fire and
3500-Ton M/V M.G.B. 43 is believed to have sunk one Enemy
believed sunk. Craft with a depth-charge. M.T.B.35 arrived
 Ramsgate at 0640 with S.O.6th Flotilla and one
 rating wounded, and the Boat was badly damaged
 and has been beached. M.G.B.52 was damaged, and
 M.G.B.43 has superficial damage and 2 casualties.
 (V.A.Dover 0805A/9 and 1055A/9.)
 See Lion Copy.
 Arrival M.G.B. 52 at 1200. No casualties.
 (Commodore, Sheerness 1230A/9.)

East Coast 2 Motor Gunboats from Lowestoft on patrol in
M.G.B.Patrols. vicinity of South Leder Buoy. 1 (one) unit of
 Motor Gunboats from Harwich on patrol in
 vicinity of Brown Ridge.
 (C. in C. Nore 0954A/9.)
 My 0954/9. 3 M.T.B's return to Harwich from
 Eastward daylight Wednesday.
 (C. in C.Nore 1535A/9 to Ships on Convoy duty.)

S E C R E T

M E S S A G E 0805A/9th September

IN

From V.A. Dover.

Date 9.9.41

213A

P/L BY T/P

Time 0854

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Nore. C. in C. Portsmouth.

382 An enemy convoy which had been expected to make a night passage of Dover Strait Eastward from Boulogne was plotted by shore R.D.F. type 271 leaving harbour at 2133 and passing Gris Nez at 2252. M.T.B.'s 35, 218 and 54 were sent to intercept. M.G.B.'s 43 and 52 already patrolling near the Varne had role of standing off and supporting withdrawing M.T.B.'s after attack.

R.D.F. gave two ships and four escorts and plots were signalled periodically.

M.T.B.'s attacked at 2350 off Blanc Nez. M.T.B. 35 claiming hit on 3500 ton vessel with one torpedo seeing flash and hearing explosion. Second torpedo misfired. M.T.B. 218 fired both torpedoes at another vessel described as corvette at about 300 yards but observed no explosion. M.T.B. 218 returned Dover at 0113. M.T.B. 35 asked for further plot at 0011. Plots now given by R.D.F. as one ship and escorts were passed until convoy was off Gravelines. At 0114 M.G.B. 43 reported one merchant vessel and six escorts. At 0120 A.M. shadowing. At 0145 A.M. about to carry out depth charge attack. At 0201 M.T.B.'s 35 and 54 attacked - M.T.B. 54 fired both torpedoes at about 1200 yards at 4000 ton vessel. M.T.B. 35 attacked with second torpedo through smoke of M.T.B. 54 and saw big explosion with much wreckage thrown up from M.T.B. 54 torpedoes.

M.G.B. 43 reported after 40 minutes engagement with enemy M.G.B. 52 damaged M.G.B. 43 superficial damage 2 seriously wounded. These boats are due Ramsgate about 1030. M.T.B. 54 arrived Dover at 0504 no damage no or casualties. M.T.B. 35 arrived Ramsgate at 0640 Senior Officer 6th Flotilla and one rating wounded. Boat badly damaged and beached.

Considered vessel in first attack badly damaged if not sunk and vessel in second attack sunk which has been confirmed since daylight by air reconnaissance sighting masts of new wreck and much wreckage.

Results of M.G.B. engagement will be reported later.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Controller.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Nav. Sec.
Ops.(4)
O.D.(5)
D.N.I.(4)
O.I.C.(2)
D.S.D.(2)
N.
C.W.(2)
D.D.O.D.(C)(2)
D.G.D.(2)
D.T.M.
D.P.D.
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)

M.(2)
D. of P.(3)
D.T.S.D.
Salvage Dept.
D. 57 O.B.l.
D.N.C.
I.P.(3)
W.D.
D.A/S.W.
E.P.S.
A.H.Q.H.F.
Dept. Contr.(3)
D.(4)
D.S.D.(3)
D.N.C.(2)

0805A/9

Advance Copy Ops. O.D.
O.I.C. P.O. A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A. 1st S.L. Press.

D.T.M.
S.W.R.

Bath by Courier

SECRET

MESSAGE

2136

IN

1055A/9th September

DATE 9.9.41.

RECD. 1209.

FROM V.A. Dover

P/L BY SECRET T/P

ADDRESSED Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, R.A.C.F.

384. My 0805A/9. S.O. M.G.B.s reports that after first attack M.G.B.s 43 and 52 closed and shadowed convoy at three-quarter mile distance for about an hour from 0115. During this time 4 enemy fast craft came up astern and were challenged as being possibly our M.T.B.s. Enemy opened fire and M.G.B.43 dropped a depth charge explosion of which is considered to have destroyed 1 enemy craft. After short gun duel, during which hits were obtained on enemy and M.G.B.52 received damage, the enemy broke off engagement. M.G.B.s then engaged escort of Merchant Vessel for 40 minutes and hit a Trawler so as to cause an explosion and much black smoke. Enemy escort are reported to have fired in all directions and may have engaged each other. Actual times of M.G.B. attack and second attack by M.T.B.s and how far they synchronised is not at present clear but S.O. 6th M.T.B. Flotilla considers M.G.B. action enabled his damaged boat to get clear.

Difficulties in navigation took M.G.B.s into Thames Estuary where damaged M.G.B.52 was taken in tow by a Nore trawler for Sheerness.

M.G.B.43's 2 casualties are reported not to be as serious as at first thought.

Weather conditions were excellent calm sea moon obscured.

1055A/9.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D., F.O., N.A. 1st S.L.,
A.C.N.S.(H), Press, O.I.C., D.D.O.D.(C).

1st Lord	A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	N.	D. of T.(3)
1st S.L.	Nav. Sec.	C.W.(2)	D.T.S.D.
2nd S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D.G.D.(2)	I.F.(3)
3rd S.L.	Ops.(4)	D.T.M.	W.D.
Vice Controller	O.D.(5)	D.P.D.	D.A/S.W.
4th S.L.	D.N.I.(4)	D.T.D.(4)	E.P.S.
V.C.N.S.	O.I.C.(2)	D.T.D.(M)	A.H.Q.H.F.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.S.D.(2)	M.(2)	D.D.O.D. (C)(2)

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War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. Contd.

C.S.I.
SHROPSHIRE.

Heat 1500 tons of oil and be prepared to fuel cruiser by 0200A/10. Leave G.G. for Hvalfjord at 1200A/11 if not met by that time.
(C. in C.H.F.1109A/9 to Oiler OLIGARCH.)

M.T.B.
Patrol off
Schelde.

Weather permitting M.T.B's of unit (1) are to carry out a patrol tonight through the following position. Surface vessels met east of 2° 30 E., may be attacked without challenge.
(C. in C. Nore 1316A/9 to BEEHIVE.)
Departures M.G.B's 64, 65, 58 at 1849. M.T.B's 31, 34, 30 at 1856.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1857A/9.)

A/S Patrol.

An A/S patrol is to be carried out tonight and on subsequent nights until further orders by available A/S trawlers. Movements. Leave St. Helens in time to clear searched channel before dark, and return into searched channel at daylight. Route. Along Q.Z.S. 271 eastward as far as possible and return. Object. To search for and destroy enemy submarines.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1803A/9.)

Attack by
E-Boats on
Night 6/7.
Trawlers
Reports.

Following extracts from reports of H.M. Trawlers OSAKO and FORT ROSE on F.B. Patrol during night of 6/7 September when Convoy E.C.70 was attacked by E-Boats are forwarded pending written reports.
(C. in C. Nore 1836A/9.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

^{"Bart"} ^{"Stub"}
(c) BERT and STAB Patrols to be flown as offensive R/C's making use of cover afforded by bad weather on Norge coast. Suggested that landfalls should be made at about 1400 hours but time of patrols at discretion of Station Commander. (Pitreavie 1020/9.)
~~BERT~~ and ~~STAB~~ in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1844/9.)

Height of
Balloon.

Your A247/6/9, to Air Ministry. Operational height referred to was that allowed to ships in harbour, namely 300 feet.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1028A/9 to H.Q.F.C.)

/Your 1324A/9...

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War Diary.9.9.41.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Height of
Balloon.
(Contd.)

Your 1324A/9. Following is text of my A247 6th Sept. Following received from C. in C. Portsmouth. Begins. A Kite Balloon will be flying at operational height from a Merchant ship at anchor in Cowes Roads from 1900/5/9 until P.M.8/9/41 1900A/5. Ends. As this is contrary to regulations and no reason stated request investigation.
(H.Q.F.C. 1738/9 to Adty.)

NIGERIA
Escort.

Request fighter and A/S air escort during daylight 10th. Codeword "Fallow".
(C. in C.H.F.1058A/9 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Expect A/S air escort from first light by one sortie single Whitley followed by sorties of single Hudsons. Fighter escort from first light by sorties single Blenheims.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2352/9 to S.O.Force A.)

DUKE OF YORK
Escort.

Fighter protection is being sent to the aid of DUKE OF YORK and PENELOPE.
(Rosyth W/T 1202/9.)

2 Enemy Tugs,
sunk.
1 Tug damaged.
Barges sunk.

On 8/9 Blenheims attacked 2 Tugs and a string of Barges between Guernsey and Sark. One Barge received a direct hit, the stern of another was lifted out of the water from a near miss, and other bursts were observed close to the Barges. Fighters also carried out an attack with Cannon and Machine Gun Fire and reported that one Tug blew up, another Tug was seen to be on fire, while several Barges were seen to sink.
(H.Q.B.C.1450/9.)

A/C for
RODNEY.

RODNEY's Walrus with personnel and aircraft spares to be embarked in SHEFFIELD in the Clyde by 12/9 for passage to Gibraltar.
(Hd. of Air Branch 2000A/9.)

Enemy Air Activity.^{WBEff}
A.C.FIELD\$
attacked.

One enemy A/C, height 5000 feet, position 54°12' N., 0°6'W.(VIMIERA 1440/9.)
My 1440. Enemy aircraft attacked with torpedo and machine gun fire independently routed S.S. A.C.FIELD\$ at 18 buoy. Engaged and driven off by H.M.S.VIMIERA. Torpedo missed close astern A.C.FIELD\$ who is proceeding Robin Hood Bay.
(VIMIERA 1503A/9.)

War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Spurn
Point.

One Mine self detonated and 2 others were
detonated by Sweepers on 8/9. Details.
(F.O.Humber 0900A/9.)

Firth of
Forth.

Latest searched approach Channel Firth of Forth
as follows. Details.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1431/9.)

Enemy Intelligence.

ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

SCHEER reported to be leaving Oslo 8/9 for
Stavanger and Trondjem. Graded B.4.
(N.A.Stockholm 1741/9.)(D.D.I.C.2133A/9.)
N.I.D.Comment.

SCHEER was located at Oslo on 5th. There has
been no R/C today.

Miscellaneous.

Faroes-
Iceland
Cable broken.

Cable from Faroes to Iceland was broken on 7/9
and I have now established that this was done by
BARDALAND which anchored foul of cable when
ordered in for examination. The ship parted
telegraph cable when weighing but took no steps
either to report the matter or buoy position.
Request you will ask Swedish Authorities in
London to ascertain as early as possible the
ship's anchor bearing so that recovery and repairs
to cable may be hastened.
(N.O.I.C.Faroes 0915A/9.)

Casualties & Defects.

NIGERIA.
(Damaged
7/9.)

Your 2316A 8th. LONDON sails 0330Z/9. Tug
SALVONIA sails 0130Z thereto southabout towards
Seidis Fiord. Air escort by Catalina will be
provided weather permitting.
(N.O.I.C.Iceland 0119/9 to C. in C.H.F.)
My 2346A/8. NIGERIA's course should read 245°.
(C. in C.H.F. 0217A/9 to R.A.D.H.F.)
C. in C.H.F. 2316A/8. Sea moderating. Thick
fog. Bulkhead holding well. P.C.S. 067° 57'
N., 008° 58' W., 165°, 12 knots.
(S.O.Force A. 0245A/9.)
Am heading South. Tug not required thank you.
(S.O.Force A 0606A/9 to A.C.I.C.)
S.O.Force A's 0245A/9th. Join S.O.Force A.
(C. in C.H.F. 0827A/9 to BEDOUIN.)
My 0119/9. Salvage tug returning Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C.0935/9 to C. in C.H.F.)

/LE TIGER.....

War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. Contd.

LE TIGER
(Escort
Trawler.)
ashore.

Following received from LE TIGER begins: Ashore at Iasgair Island, Making little water. Hope to float at high water. Ends. T.O.O.0300A/9. (N.O.I.C.Aultbea 0529A/9.) Your 0300A/9. Report situation at high water. If unable to refloat, assistance will be sent. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1059A/9 to LE TIGER.)

BARDALE,
EMERAUDE,
HAMLA, ashore.

Following ships aground west side Fladda Shuain BARDALE, EMERAUDE, HAMLA. BARDALE requests tugs immediately, unable to refloat, forecastle full, making water in number 1 hold.

(POLKA 1109/9.)
Sailed Tug MARAUDER to assistance of ships, reported ashore in 057° 44' N., 006° 33.8' W. (N.O.I.C.Stornoway 1131A/9.)

Report situation on arrival and render whatever assistance is possible without danger to yourself.

(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1217A/9 to MARAUDER.)
Proceed to render whatever help is possible without endangering yourself. Report situation on arrival.

(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1347A/9 to SUPERMAN.)
Your 1102A/9. Stand by damaged ships until tug arrives.(C. in C.W.A.1348A/9 to POLKA.)
Am proceeding according to your 1348A/9. (POLKA 1510/9 to C. in C.W.A.)

Drifter is being sent from Loch Alsh to assist with Weirs. Salvage Tug RANGER from Belfast and Admiralty Salvage representative are also proceeding to your assistance.

(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1525A/9 to MARAUDER, SUPERMAN.)

ST.MELLONS.

Sailing of Tug ST.MELLONS with H.M.T. EARL KITCHENER in tow postponed owing to grounding. (F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 1732A/9.)

M.L.214.

My 1710A/9. M.L 214 arrived back Humber at 1930. Defective Voltage Control. (F.O.Humber 1952A/9.)

AUK
(Grounded
8/9.)

Have refloated AUK. Ship requires assistance until (Survey A.M.) Standing by on request of master. Will comply with your 1347A/9 as soon as released. Tug RENE LE BESNERAIS has arrived but not connected. (SUPERMAN 2100A/9 to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)

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War Diary.9.9.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.S.L.84.
paravanes.

Your 1230A/7. BARRDALE not fitted with P.V.'s
HOLMPARK carried deck cargo which prevented
streaming of P.V.'s. HARBERTON P.V.'s were
rigged on wrong sides of ship and when streamed
ran alongside. Master admonished and instructed
for future reference.

(N.O.I.C.Oban 1035A/9 to Admty.)

16 British and 3 Allied ships in S.L.84,
Commodore Baxter R.N.R. Cargoes.(D.S.735, 9/9.)H.X.146.Met as arranged. Average weather. All ships
arrived.

(D.T.D. 1317A/9, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

43 British, 14 Allied, and 4 neutral ships.
13 tankers. Other cargoes. (D.S.735, 9/9.)Congratulations on bringing home safely your
large convoy H.X.146. NORSE LADY is now in
Iceland with engine trouble.

(C. in C.W.A., 1834A/9 to Vice Adm.R.Fitzmaurice.)

SOUTHERN
PRINCESS.Is due to leave Liverpool about 11/9 with
Service Personnel on board. She should be
routed to Halifax to disembark personnel.

(D.T.D. 1952A/9 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

U.S.Tankers.

Your 1750/8 reporting route of U.S.A.Tankers
appears not to have been despatched until 2½
days after ships had sailed and bore no indica-
tion of priority. Your 1235/6 reporting
departure of these ships did not give route.
Most important that full information of all
movements of U.S.A. ships should be reported to
Admiralty without delay to avoid serious
consequences which would arise from collision
with British convoys. Routes of ships entering
West Indies station should be repeated to

C. in C.A. and W.I.

(A.C.N.S.(T)2206A/9 to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary

9.9.1941
Tuesday.

RAIDER SITUATION.

219

My 1705A/2.

(1) A Report B 2 states No.36 (Raider A) has recently arrived in Germany. Cancel last para. of my 1825A/26/8.

(2) At 0800/31/8 an unknown ship resembling FELS class of HANSA Line was sighted in 8° N. 47° W. course 135° speed 12 knots. If this is the same ship as that sighted on 27th and 28th August, her speed would have been too great for her to be 16 (Raider C), whose maximum now believed to be 15 knots.

(3) At 2200Z/7 U.S. ROBIN HOOD in 004° 40' S. 032° 21' W. was approached by large vessel low in water burning navigation lights and with illuminated ensign aft. Though two other U.S. ships were in vicinity, vessel might be raider or U-Boat supply ship, in view para.2 above and other reports of suspicious tankers in West Indies Area in July and August.

(4) KONGSDAL six days overdue at Lourenco Marques from Basra.

(5) No news of Galapagos raider which may now be in South Atlantic or Australasian waters.

(6) RIO BRANCO apparently overdue at Los Angeles from Singapore. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1923A/9.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Status".
(Hurricanes for
H.C.N.A.)

First Flight left 0653A. Second Flight cancelled. Returning Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H., 0734A/9 to F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta.

First pair of Blenheims failed to locate Force H. Owing to lack of endurance standby aircraft (? of) second pair unable to wait for second flight.

(ii) Shall attempt to fly off remainder from ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS A.M./12. If light winds prevail FURIOUS may be unable to reach sufficient speed and third attempt will be made A.M./15 using ARK ROYAL only. (iii) Unsuitability of Blenheims for operation, which have repeatedly stressed, subjects ships and Hurricanes to avoidable hazards. (S.O. Force H., 1604A/9 to Admty.)

Derelict.

Derelict sailing craft of ferry type sighted 0400A/7 in 038° 32' N. 023° 26' W. danger to navigation. (F.O.C.N.A., 0901A/9.)

/TRUSTY

War Diary

9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

TRUSTY.

(1) Report P.C. and S. of A. and weather when crossing 043° N. (2) Onward route position (P) $037^{\circ} 40'$ $011^{\circ} 30'$ (Q) $036^{\circ} 35'$ $009^{\circ} 00'$ (R) 350° Spartel 10 for inward escort. (3) Dive by day on 12th. Appropriate T. and S.B.R. arranged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/9 to TRUSTY.)

LADY SHIRLEY
LADY HOGARTH

Auxiliary A/S Trawlers LADY SHIRLEY and LADY HOGARTH arrived a.m. today. LADY SHIRLEY was towed by LADY HOGARTH on account main engine trouble and is being surveyed by captain of port. Have instructed LADY HOGARTH to proceed Gibraltar p.m. today. Report of survey to follow. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1115/9 to F.O.C.N.A.) Request LADY SHIRLEY may be sailed to Gibraltar as soon as she has been repaired. Request anticipated date of sailing. (F.O.I.C. Gib., 1658A/9 to Consul, Funchal.) My 1115/9. As result of survey LADY SHIRLEY will leave Funchal at 2000 G.M.T./11 subject to boiler test proving satisfactory. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1731/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DEUCALION

My 1704/30/8. Portions of mooring indicate mine was German type V.A. recently laid. (F.O.C.N.A., 1204A/9 to V.A. Malta.)

Vichy French.

Interview with French N.A. (N.A. Madrid, 1205/9 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

CAUDEBEC
LE TRAIT.

French ships CAUDEBEC and LE TRAIT arrived Setubal 8/9 from Casablanca with cargo of phosphates. (N.A. Lisbon 1220/9 to Admty.)

B.D.V's.

Arrival 9th B.D.V's BARRYMORE, PHYLLISIA, LORD GAINFORD, bunkering, urgently required routing instructions Bathurst. (R.O. Horta 1534/9 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1534/9. Request BARRYMORE, PHYLLISIA, LORD GAINFORD be sailed, on completion of bunkers, for Bathurst through position (a) $038^{\circ} 00'$ N. $028^{\circ} 30'$ W. (b) $020^{\circ} 50'$ N. $023^{\circ} 00'$ W. thence to Bathurst direct, or as ordered by C. in C. South Atlantic. (F.O.C.N.A., 1958A/9.)

/MARON

SECRET

MESSAGE.

1205/9th September. IN. *ha*

From:- N.A.Madrid.

Date. 10.9.41.

Interdepartmental Cypher V.14 (Old)
by Cable.

Recd. 0700. 220A

RECIRCULATION.

Addressed Admiralty,

I have just received first visit from French N.A. for some time.

True purpose not apparent. Would not discuss war much made protest mentioned (?Ireland). Spoke bitterly of treatment by us of French prisoners in Syria. (? quoted) Maurras that in our dealing with France we although (? brave) and enduring yet showed complete lack of enlightenment dignity or reason.

Then he went suddenly on other tactics and said Weygand told him in Vichy that British must win. Admiral Leborde said same at Toulon. Darlan apparently expressed no opinion.

Marshal still Chief in fact though getting feeble physically. Admiral Auphon's appointment welcomed.

N.A.'s attitude altogether strange mixture of hostility and (?submission).

1205/9.
Advance copy O.I.C.

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

Admiral Chalmers.
D.P.O.

Note. Copies have been sent by D.N.I to
D.M.I., A.G.A.S. (I) F.O and J.I.C.
N.I.D. Comment. Although recently hinted
at, no such firm statement as this
has previously been received.

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War Diary9.9.1941
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.MARON.

Cancel my 1410A/8. Proceed Funchal to complete with fresh water to utmost capacity. None available at Gibraltar. Authorities will be informed you will arrive 13th and will require 500 tons. (F.O.C.N.A. 1548A/9 to MARON.)

H.G.72
sabotage (?)

Suggest para. 2 of your 1422A/8 (N.T. in W.D.) may give erroneous impression. (ii) Bomb in question emanated from Algeciras and would therefore be placed aboard in Gibraltar. (iii) All Masters especially those from Huelva are warned of the possibilities of sabotage. (iv) I was aware of this incident but deemed it unnecessary to warn the convoy in view of the nature of the bomb and the undesirability of causing extra nervousness. (F.O.C.N.A. 1758A/9 to Admty.)

MANCHESTER
FIREDRAKE.

My 1704A and C.S. Gibraltar's 1134/4. Intend sailing MANCHESTER and FIREDRAKE on 13/9 and FURIOUS on 17/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1844A/9 to Admty.)

French
Convoy.

Gibraltar 9/9 0829 French survey vessel SENTINELLE French ship BELLE ISLE laden Westbound. 1840 French armed Tug, French ships CONGO, GABRIEL GUISTHAU, one S.S. name unknown 200 tons. all full, Eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 2113A/9.)

South Atlantic.Suspicious

Suspicious Vessel reported at 2200Z/7 in position 004° 40' S. 032° 21' W. (C. in C. S.A. 0237N/9 to S.A. Stn.)

TASMANIA
PENTRIDGE
HILL.

Overdue shipping. TASMANIA and PENTRIDGE HILL both due at Capetown on 5th from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1029B/9.) *cancelled see page*

S.L.86

Departure Bathurst 7/9 EGRET, BANFF, 8/9 FISHGUARD all ocean escort convoy S.L.86. Bathurst's 1551/7 and 1627/8 refer. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1105N/9 to Admty.)

GAZCON (inter-
cepted 7/9.)

Unless you require to enter Lagos for fuel leave GAZCON at 2000Z/9 and return to Freetown. After leaving report brief summary of (a) Attitude of officers and crew. (b) Number and category of passengers if any. (c) Cargo. (d) Any other points of interest in the interception. (C. in C. S.A. 1301N/9 to ALBATROSS.)

/REPULSE

War Diary.

9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

REPULSE.

REPULSE's 0900/8. Request you will signal further details on arrival of REPULSE at Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1323A/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

B.D.V's.

Your 0145N/3/9, all three trawlers are to be sailed for Durban as soon as possible in company, the impracticability of operating defences until the arrival of reliefs being accepted. Duplicate sets of winch drawings are held by A.B.O. Pointe Noire taking passage in GUARDIAN and reporting to C. in C. S.A. for onward passage on arrival at Freetown. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1330A/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

CAMERONIA.

D. of S.T's 0349A/5. Request information probable number passages available in CAMERONIA from Freetown to U.K. (C. in C. S.A. 1455N/9 to D. of S.T.)

C.M.17.

Durban arrivals CARNARVON CASTLE escorting Capetown portion C.M.17. (N.L.O. Durban 1628Z/9 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown etc.)

Brazilian Destroyers.

Information is urgently required as to state of construction and dates of completion of 9 Destroyers now building at Rio de Janeiro. (D.N.I. 1909A/9 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)

SUTLEJ.

Request you will sail SUTLEJ to join East Indies Station. She may escort W.S.11 out of Freetown as far as you consider necessary but her subsequent passage is to be accelerated as much as possible. Arrangements will be made to forward balance of Mark I M/S Equipment and Oerlikon guns. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1938A/9 to C. in C.S.A.)

Mediterranean.

M/V Syracuse.

Air R/C on 7/9 showed that ship torpedoed by Swordfish A/C at Syracuse on 10 - 11/8 now has her stern under water. (D.S. 735, 9/9.)

Enemy Convoy.

6 destroyers 5 merchant ships southbound from Naples 8½ knots. E.T.A. Marittimo 0400/10. (Capt. S.10, 0030B/9 to UNIQUE.)

/Enemy M/V's

War Diary.

9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Enemy M/V's

2 M/V's camouflaged sighted in 037° 40' N. 004° 36' E. and 037° 38' N. 004° 34' E. respectively course 155°, 5 knots at 1820B/8. (V.A. Malta, 0051B/9 to Capt. S.8.)

Cyprus Raid.

Famagusta raided 0227 to 0346, one aircraft high, direction of approach probably N.W. About 5 bombs, all in sea outside reef between 0310 and 0325. One unexploded. No reason to suspect minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 0350C/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Suez Canal mines.

C. in C. Med. 1850C/25/7. During raid of 4 and 5/9 bombs and parachute mines were dropped in Suez Bay and Southern part of Adabiya Bay. No bombs or mines have exploded this week since laying. Suspect mines at k.m. 97 and 158.6 are being swept and searched by divers. Further investigations show mine at k.m. 160.7 is in shoal water out of channel near Asia Bank. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0929C/9 to Admty.)

Haifa Raid.

Air Raid ?Haifa between 0300 and 0400/9. 4 planes (?varied) levels, several flares, and incendiary bombs dropped near (?I.P.C) tank farm. No casualties and practically no damage. Ports open. (N.O.I.C. Palestine Ports, 0930C/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea.

L.O. Black Sea message No.1917C/7 bears out our view that combined operation in the Black Sea is planned and not operation against Turkey. (W.O., No T.O.O./9 to 30 M.M. Moscow.) Panfilov's personal appreciation of Balkan situation is that Germans are concentrating very strong Forces to back up an ultimatum demanding passage of their troops across Turkey. Should Turkey refuse Germans will attempt to force their way through. Panfilov literally ridicules our refusal to believe in the imminence of this threat. Situation on Russian Front. (details) (30 M.M. Moscow 1020/9 to W.O.)

Palermo.

9/9 Wellingtons bombing Palermo early this morning report no cruisers present. (V.A. Malta, 1021B/9 to Admty. etc.)

/Derna

War Diary.9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Derna,
Capuzzo
bombed.
Bardia
bombed.

Night 7/8 2 Blenheims bombed enemy aircraft on Capuzzo North Landing ground. A third Blenheim attacked Derna aerodrome.

Day 8/9. A Maryland despatched to attack a submarine previously reported by R/C off Bardia was unable to locate it and attacked Bardia Harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1106/9.)

Suez Raids.

About 26 enemy aircraft attacked Suez night 7/8. Bombs dropped in anchorage and on land. 1 U.X.B. near oil refineries, 2 U.X.B's in canal. No damage reported to shipping or property. 1 Marine killed. Isolated aircraft also bombed and machine-gunned Abu Sueir and Kasfareet. No casualties. Night 8/9 2 raids by enemy aircraft on Abu Sueir, Kasfareet and Ismailia, but damage reported slight. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1108/9) See also 1320/9.

Operation
"Status".

One Blenheim and 14 Hurricanes arrived. (V.A. Malta, 1220B/9 to S.O. Force H.)

Suez Raids.

Ref. C.A.F.O.587. 1st raid (a) night 8/9 slight wind, clear. (b) 5 enemy A/C attacked high level Abu Sueir and low level Kasfait 2314 to 0036, some flares, bright moon. (c) H/E. (d) 12 H.E. Kasfait 4 plus Abu Sueir. (e) No damage, one R.A.F. rating slightly wounded, slight civilian damage. (f) 14 fighters up A/A active. (g) balloons up. 2nd raid (a) As above. (b) low level attack by 12 enemy A/C 0339 - 0525 on Abu Sueir, no flares, bright moon. (c) H/E. (d) 30 H.E. plus D.A's. (e) one machine evacuated hangar and quarters burnt, no casualties reported. (f) and (g) as above. (k) One interception result unknown, one enemy A/C machine gunned ground position three H.E. Moascar, damaged, casualties negative. S.S. GURNA dive bombed Bitter Lakes unsuccessful. Suspect use of new type of combined H.E. and incendiary. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1320C/9 to Admty. etc.)

Palermo
bombed.

Night 7-8/9. 9 Wellingtons attacked shipping Palermo between 2200 and 0200 hours. Effective smoke screen made observation results difficult. Many hits on sheds and docks and sticks across main jetties and dry dock. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1630/9.)

/Tobruk

War Diary.

9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Tobruk.

Arrival and sailing of JAGUAR, DECOY, KIPLING.
(S.T.O. Tobruk, 1830C/9.)

Movements.

Summary 216. (C. in C. Med. 1913C/9) See Lion
Copy.

THRASHER.

Leaves vicinity Alexandria about 1700C/10 routed
through 032° 08' 029° 18' and 033° 45' 026° 07'.
(Capt. S.I. 2305C/9 to OTUS, OSIRIS.)

Alexandria
Raid. 8/9

Alexandria air raid 2320 to 2350/8. One enemy
who jettisoned his bombs in sea. (R.A. Alexandria
2329C/9 to Admty.)

MOREA.

Italian. Tempo of dates 7/8 to 14/8/41 publishes
sinking of MOREA, 1968 tons, by S/M on 16/8/40
when returning from Durazzo to Brindisi.
(D.S. 735)

CATALANI.

2429 tons, given by Tempo as sunk in Adriatic
during war with Greece, no date given. Pre-
viously reported sunk (unconfirmed) in Nov.1940.
(D.S. 735)

ANTONIO
LOCATELLI.
CAPO VITA
FIRENZE
PREMUDA
SARDEGNA.

Sinking confirmed by Tempo.
(D.S. 735)

Malta Raid.

Night 8/9, 21 enemy aircraft approached Malta
singly. Only 7 crossed coast, bombs and
incendiaries, no Military and only slight
civilian damage. One Cant Z 1007 BIS shot down
in sea by Hurricane after good illumination dawn
9/9. (H.Q. Malta, No T.O.O./9.)

Situation
report 143.

(1) Destroyers and patrol craft continues search
for U-Boats which have been reported to north of
Alexandria.
(11) Western Desert. Destroyers bombed night
8/9 on passage to and from Tobruk. Slight damage
only from near miss to KIMBERLEY and DECOY.
(111) On 5/9 PERSEUS sank Tanker MAYA off
Dardanelles. (C. in C. Med. 2355/9.)

1913C/9 September.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 10.9.41.

Received 1026.

NAVAL CODE (02) SECRET BY W/T.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet, H.M.S. CANDYTUFT, N.O.I.C. Malta 74, S.O. Force H., F.O.C. North Atlantic 104, S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area, No. 756 Squadron (F.A.A.), F.O. Alexandria Force, N.O.I.C. Port Said, Botwood W.T. Station, S.O. Force 1. Captain S. (1) R.A.D. Mediterranean, N.O.I.C. Palestine Ports, N.O.I.C. Syria, Inshore Squadron Headquarters Middle East, Group 201, 204 Group.

IMPORTANT.

Movements Summary 216.

Part A. On completion A/S search H.M.S. KINGSTON, H.M.S. HAWOCK, H.M.S. HOTSPUR due Alexandria p.m. 10th, H.M.S. HERO, H.M.S. GRIFFIN due Haifa, and H.M.A.S. VENDETTA due Port Said night 10th/11th, H.M.S. HASTY due Alexandria a.m. 11th. H.M.A.S. VENDETTA and H.M.S. SALVIA leave Port Said for Famagusta with convoy 12th. H.M.S. ERICA due Beirut 0600 10th. H.M.S. PEONY leaves Beirut for Alexandria a.m. 10th. ARPHA and WOLBOROUGH due Port Said a.m. 10th from Alexandria. ST. MONANCE (?OELANCEH) leaves Famagusta 10th for Alexandria via Haifa and Port Said.

2. Part B. H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH leaves Alexandria noon 10th for exercises. Alexandria H.M.S. ABDIEL H.M.S. LITONA and destroyers returning p.m. 10th. 5 trawlers and 2 motor launches hunting U boat 30 miles West of Alexandria. H.M.S. GILT at Mersa Matruh, SCHOERS and a lighter on Tobruk Supply Service.

3. Part C. and D nil. T.O.O. 1911 9th.

A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st. S.L.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty House.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.D. 3.
M. (2)
O.I.C. (2)
Mails.
Movements.
I.P. (3)

1913C/9.
D.A./S.V. Advance copy
W.D. sent Ops.,
E.P.S. O.D., O.I.C.
N.L.O. Australia House.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.D.O.D. (C) (2)
F.O.S. by courier.

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 2103/9 September IN

From C. in C. Middle East. Date 10/9/41
Recd. 0530

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office, C. in C. India.

42286. Q/01201 cipher 9/9.

For C.O.S. from C.S. in C.

First. Following progress report on Ankara talks received from Service Attache. Begins.

Second. Week devoted mainly to clearing up outstanding points first two weeks work.

Third. Anglo-Turkish aerocrome reconnaissance party formed and will start on 15th September.

Fourth. Prime Minister has sanctioned in principle improvements Alexandretta. Question now under discussion

Fifth. Diarbekir Mardin Nusaybin Road project not yet sanctioned in principle. Still pressing.

Sixth. Until improvements Alexandretta effected Turkish General Staff suggest heavy material should be disembarked Tripoli and put on rail there.

Seventh. Item 1 of Instructions paragraph 6(B) last 3 lines. Turks do not consider Rhodes and Samos essential for security Western Anatolia. They consider resources should be concentrated on main front and island neutralised by air.

Eighth. Information regarding L. of C. and concentration area for British Forces bad. Ends.

Ninth. Ref. Seventh Para. Attaches were instructed to sound Turks as to whether they regarded capture of Rhodes and Samos as essential to Security Western Anatolia.

Pass copies Admiralty and Air Ministry.

2103/9.

Recd. by hand from War Office
at 1400/11.

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.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
D.C.
E.F.S.
Hd. of M.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
N.I.D.10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.9.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesSHOREHAM
FALMOUTH

Your 1119/7. SHOREHAM and FALMOUTH will arrive Port Sudan about 1/10. They can be sent to Suez instead if this will facilitate the fitting of extra short range weapons vide my 1126/8. (C. in C. E.I., 0758Z/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Port Defences
Persian Gulf.

Admty. 1755/17/7, 0957/23/7, 1700B/27/7, your 0467/8 and previous signals. In the light of changed circumstances request your requirements for A.A. gun and searchlight defences for all areas of Naval interest in Persian Gulf and Iran may be represented to C. in C. India in order that collated plan for air defence may be prepared in accordance with para 12 of Admty. 1753/17/7. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1032A/9 to C. in C. E.I.)

REVENGE

Cancel Admty. 1548A/8. Considered desirable to carry out repairs to Starboard bulges of REVENGE without delay. Request you arrange for REVENGE to be docked at Durban as soon as practicable. (D.O.D. (F) 1169A/9 to C. in C. E.I.)

ChinaRIO BRONCO

Your 1931/7. Ship departed Miri 3/8 due Los Angeles 12/9. (C/S Singapore, 0201Z/9 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

JADE
French

Arrived 9/9. (Hong Kong, 0219Z/9 to D. of S.T.)

Soviet
Mission

Ref. F.O. telegram No. 1. to C. in C. Far East and No 27 to C. in C. China dated 9/9. Subject to any views British Ambassador, Tokyo, may express, would you be prepared to receive a Soviet Mission. -C. in C. China please reply to Admiralty. (W.O., 2155/9 to C. in C. Far East, C. in C. China.)

War Diary9.9.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSChina-Contd.COMPIEGNE
LECONTE DE
LISLE
CAP TOURANE

Vichy ships COMPIEGNE, LECONTE DE LISLE and CAP TOURANE are reported in Consul-General, Saigon's No. 191 to have definitely sailed on 7/9 for Madagascar. 2. If Dutch permit these vessels to pass Sunda Straits interception by forces operating from Seychelles is contemplated. Request you ask Dutch, (a) whether vessels will be intercepted. (b) if not, to report at once whether ships are being escorted by sloop or by submarine, particularly the latter, and to inform us immediately if escort should be seen returning after taking merchant ships through the Straits. 3. Very early report is requested.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 2356A/9 to C. in C. China)

America & West IndiesSt. Pierre
Miquelon.

Re probable adherence to Free French (MIMOSA, no T.O.O. 24/8 received 9/9, to Adm. Comdg. F.N.F.L.) See Lion Copy.

O.N. Escorts

My 1353Z/8. Neither OTTAWA nor SAGUENAY will now be available. Request you retain SAINT CROIX and sail her with escort in para 3. (C.C.N.F. 0236Z/9 to A.C.I.C.)

Corvettes
refits.

My 1252Z/8 has been approved by C. in C. Western Approaches. (C.C.N.F. 0257Z/9 to B.A.R.M.)

Suspicious
ship. 2/9.

Report from Sq.Ldr. Kennett passenger Mc KEESPORT arrived Balboa. At 0530 ship's time 2/9 in 005° S., 092° W. stopped by ship and questioned in good English through amplifiers. All Officers and men visible dressed civilian clothes. Ship finally hoisted white ensign and departed Southerly course. (Description) (S.O.I. Kingston. 0934R/9 to Admty.etc.) S.O. (1) Kingston 0934R/9. Presume this was PRINCE HENRY. Confirm by L/T on arrival Balboa 11/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1802Q/9 to PRINCE HENRY)

/U.S. Tankers..

MOST SECRET

9. 9. 41

227A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

No T.O.O.

JIN

From F.S. MIMOSA.

Date 24.8.41.

Addressed Admiral Commanding the F.N.F.L.

No. Ref. 2036.
Received 9.9.41.

No. 001. - According to up-to-date information from a sure source the present would be a very favourable time for rallying St. Pierre and Miquelon where a plebiscite would give a minimum of 80% in favour of Free France. The people of St. Pierre, who are making favourable atmosphere by propaganda and tracts, ask me to immediately carry out the operation, the postponement of which would risk making it more difficult.

Interior action would be undertaken by some influential people of St. Pierre, the landing party discreetly assuring the neutralisation of several hostile functionaries who are at present in power.

A plebiscite which would terminate in 48 hours would give the double advantage of appeasing the susceptibilities of democratic Americans and Canadians, and by renewing the precedent of New Caledonia would have a good effect on the French Empire. My presence would ensure the liberty of the vote.

A preparatory proclamation should guarantee non-conscription, the financial and economic advantages of Free French Colonies and supplies as well as defence.

I ask you urgently in the name of St. Pierre to obtain agreement for the realisation of the operation. After agreement, it would be necessary to obtain from the Admiralty the temporary release of the MIMOSA and ALYSSE after return from present convoy, their very discreet concentration at Halifax towards mid-September and the sending of LA MOQUEUSE, which would remain stationary at St. Pierre.

Further more to assure the continuation of supplies and finance and to inform as to the arrangements to be made about the Vichy functionaries.

I would also ask you at the same time for close watching of ships at Martinique.

Liaison during my absence with Capitaine de Corvette Quedruc, our representative at Montreal, by Colonel Pierrence. C.C. Quedruc only is in permanent liaison with people of St. Pierre.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
P.A.S. (S)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Capt.
E.P.S.
Head of M. (8)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
N.I.D. 10 Pay. Cdr. Wilson
Admiral Chalmers.

No T.O.O.

Received in War
Registry 1722/10th
September.

9.9.1941
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

U.S. Tankers

Following has been received from Opnav with reference my 2100/5 AE-ADY 14/6/9/41, please correct position ~~GEORGE~~ to read latitude 43-15 longitude 65-22. (Spenavo 1009/9 to Admty. for D.C.)

Service Personnel
WORCESTERSHIRE

6 officers and 172 other ranks R.A.F. took passage to Halifax in WORCESTERSHIRE today. Also 246 Norwegian Mercantile Marine Capt. No further R.A.F. in Iceland awaiting passage to Canada. (A.C.I.C. 1012/9 to Admty.)

PRINCE DAVID
NEWCASTLE

Your 1112Q/8. Approved for PRINCE DAVID to relieve NEWCASTLE in position B. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1102A/9)

NIAGARA

Your 2324A/4. NIAGARA can^{be} taken at U.S. Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. Job No S.169 Request date she may be expected. (B.A.R.M. 1112R/9 to Admty.)

CATHAY

Your 1454A/30. Yard allotted to CATHAY, U.S. Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. (B.A.R.M. 1119R/9 to Admty.)

U.S. S/M's

Your 2149R/8 Para 4.2 complete crews, 1 British 1 Polish, will be sent from U.K. for 2 "S" Class. (F.O.S. 1131A/9 to B.A.D.)

U.S.S.
BELKNAP

Following received from Opnav. U.S.S. BELKNAP departed Quoi-set Point 9/9 for Argentia, arrives 11th, departs for Reykjavik 13th arrives 18th. Lieut. Sylvius Gazzle commanding. No services required. This has been passed to C.N.S. Ottawa for additional action. (ends) (D.O.D. (H) 1148A/9 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

SHEHERAZADE
(French)

French N.A. showed me report by Master of French tanker SHEHERAZADE of detention at Bermuda. This accuses us of (? bad) treatment of officers and crew while detained ashore in barracks. Principal items poor scanty food at irregular hours and unhealthy quarters also alleged these designed to induce men to join Free French. When returned on board found most stores stolen and considerable damage to ship's chief auxiliary machinery. This report I could neither keep nor copy. His instructions were to show it to me and ask me to report protest of French Admiralty to you. (N.A. Madrid, 1206/9 to Admty.)

/LIVERPOOL.....

War Diary

9.9.1941. 229
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

LIVERPOOL

Following Armament stores are required to complete LIVERPOOL.
In view of Admty. 0435A/6 request stores be made available for ship to complete on return to Home Port.
(B.A.R.M. 1322R/9 to Admty.)

Guiana

Telegram to Govr. re possible threat to bauxite plants. (1st S.L., 1334A/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.) See Lion Copy.

Base Ship
St. John's N.F.

My 1416Z/1. Accommodation ship at St. John's N.F. On arrival SS GEORGIAN is to be renamed H.M.C.S. AVALON 11. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1518Z/9)

U.S.
Liaison

Following from R.A. Danckwerts. Opanav's 0822/15 to C. in C. Atlantic repeated Spenavo, London. I have seen no request for a conference but message may refer to suggestion I made to Director of Plans, Navy Dept., that personal contact with representative of C. in C. W.A. would be valuable. C. in C. Atlantic has already been told to confer with C.N.S. Ottawa. (B.A.D. 1601R/9 to Admty.)

Task Force 3.

A.T. 1125A/6. MILWAUKEE and WARRINGTON leave Pernambuco 10/9 towards Cape Verde Islands and return Pernambuco.
(D.O.D. (F) 1739A/9 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

"Q" Report
4/9.

LOBOS report receiving distress signal three sets of four Q's only at 1822 G.M.T./4 when in 007° 50' S., 079° 35' W. five miles West Macabi Island. Signal strong estimated within radius 150 miles - no direction obtained - no interference by jamming. Frequency 600m. interrupted continuous wave British sounding.
(N.C.S.O. Panama, 2047/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1334A/9th Sept.

MOST SECRET

OUT.

229A

Addressed :

C. in C.

Date : 9.9.41.

Naval Cypher (F).

From : Admiralty.

The following Telegram to the Governor, British Guiana is repeated to you for information. Begins :-

1. United States and Dutch Authorities have drawn attention of British Joint Staff Mission to possible threat to bauxite plants in British and Dutch Guiana. Accordingly defence measures necessary for protection bauxite have been reviewed by Chiefs of Staff and their views are as follows :-

2. Bauxite supplies so important that steps should be taken to safeguard them against likely forms of attack.

3. Scales of attack.

(a) Naval. No direct attack by surface craft is possible owing to the distance inland of the processing plants; we consider that an attack by ship-borne aircraft is extremely unlikely.

(b) Military. The possibility of land attack is so remote owing to the great distances involved from Brazil, Venezuela and French Guiana and the difficult nature of the terrain, that it can be ruled out.

(c) Air. There is no risk of Air attack on the bauxite industry in British Guiana as the nearest aerodrome, Para, is 900 miles away and no aerodrome or landing ground exists in French Guiana from which an attack at shorter range might be launched.

A slight risk of air attack arises in the case of Dutch Guiana which is 600 miles from Para, where aircraft of the Condor Air Line are established. The risk is, however, negligible as only the two Focke Wulf Condor Aircraft operated by the Company are capable of making the return flight.

/We thus

We thus consider danger of external attack to be negligible, and provision of A.A.Guns would not be justifiable especially in view of cover given by establishment of U.S.Air Base at Georgetown.

4. Only likely forms of attack sabotage or blocking of Rivers by sunken ships.

5. This best guarded against

(i) By close examination and surveillance of all Vessels entering and leaving bauxite ports.

(ii) Provision of adequate protection of plants by guards and by enclosing vulnerable parts by an unclimable fence.

(iii) Provision of duplicate machinery and essential spares elsewhere in the Colony.

(iv) Efficient works police to keep an eye on subversive activities.

6. Reference 5 (1) above, are you satisfied that the two R.N.V.R. Officers mentioned in Para.4 of your Telegram 330 of 21st July are now sufficient for proper examination of shipping.

7. Increase in local defence forces already planned considered adequate to guard against sabotage. Ministry of Aircraft Production being invited to consider 5 (iii). Presume you have considered 5 (iv) above.

8. War Office will consider despatch of small number permanent Staff Instructors to assist in training the new Infantry Companies and local defence militia, if thought necessary by you.

9. Please report on desirability of approaching U.S.War Department for Temporary Guard to reinforce present guards at Bauxite plant and on ships in river by U.S.Contingent now at Hyde Park, Georgetown.

10. Have you organised any intelligence system on and over borders especially in Rio Branco Area? Ends.

1334A/9

Assistant Secretary to 1st S.L.

N.P:	1st Lord.			
	1st S.L.	D.O.D.(F).	D.C.	
	V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D.(F).	E.P.S.	W.D.
	A.C.N.S.(F).	D.N.I.(4).	Hd. of M.(8).	N.I.D.10 Pay
	N.A.1st S.L.	D. of P.(2).	I.P.(2).	Cdr.Wilson.
	P.A.S.(S)			

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.9.1941.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia & New ZealandU.S. Convoys

Your 1209Z/30 superseding my 1640M/18. New Zealand requirements. (numbers)
(N.Z.N.B., 0920M/9 to A.C.N.B.)

T.C. 14
AORANGI

D. of S.T.'s 1725A/22 and my 0906Z/30. AORANGI due Panama. (date) Fuel required and accommodation available from Halifax.
(A.C.N.B. 1044Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

LE TRIOMPHANT

Forward earliest possible time forecast of your movements to enable British Admiralty to inform Dutch and British Authorities concerned. (Adm. Com. F.N.F.L. 1557A/9 to LE TRIOMPHANT)
German radio broadcast has it that 100 deserters from TRIOMPHANT broke ship at San Diego. Please forward telegraphic report from your next port of call.
(Adm. Com. F.N.F.L. 1609A/9 to LE TRIOMPHANT)
Sailed from San Diego 4/9 for Tahiti and Noumea via Honolulu. She carries Capt. de Vaisseau d'ARRENTIQUY, Free French High Commissioner for Pacific, whose H.Q. will be Tahiti, and Capt. de Fregate GABANIER, to command Free French Naval Forces in Pacific, whose H.Q. will be Noumea. (Head of M. 2354A/9 Amended 0014A, 11 to C. in C. Far East, A.C.N.B., etc.)

War Diary

9.9.1941.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

KIRKLAND
(Torpedoed 1/9)

Your 1108A/6. Following is repetition of groups mutilated in my 1115/5. "TARIFA 45 survivors British ship SS KIRKEN (possibly KIRKLAND) torpedoed 1/9."
(N.A. Madrid, 0945/9 to Admty.)

JEDMOOR
(S.C. 42.)

SSSS JEDMOOR, torpedo attack, port side.
(JEDMOOR, T.O.R. 1226/9)
A ship of S.C. 42 has been attacked. Sail 20th group to meet S.C. 42 at best speed if not boiler cleaning. (C. in C. W.A. 1522A/9 to A.C.I.C.)
British JEDMOOR which sailed in S.C. 42 reports being attacked by U/Boat at 1226Z/9. D/F bearings at 1543Z/9 indicate position of U/Boat between 58° 30' N., to 60° N., and 37° W., to 41° W.
(D.D.I.C., 1740A/9 to Opnav) W.D. Note:-
JEDMOOR was undamaged. See 1530/14.
A ship of S.C. 42 has been attacked. Proceed with despatch to join and escort convoy to Iceland if fuel permits.
(C.C.N.F., 1858Z/9 to CHAMBL^F_A, MOOSEJAW, SKEENA, READING)

SESSA
(Torpedoed 17/8)
(page 174)

Following received from Opnav (begins) U.S.S. LANSDALE picked up 3 male survivors of S.S. SESSA Panamanian registry in 61° 05' N., 34° 50' W. Ship was torpedoed 17/8 about 300 miles from Reykjavik proceeding to that port from New York. Survivors believe they are the only ones of a crew of 53. Alusna Ottawa pass to C.N.S. Ottawa for additional action T.O.O. 1710/8. (Ends)
(D.O.D. (H) 1227A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

Submarines Reported

0321Z

Following bearings of Italian U-Boat call sign 67L, obtained at 0321Z/9. Estimated 45° 30' N., 10° 00' W. This is an indication of area only. (D.D.I.C. 0521A/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/a.m./9.....

War Diary

9.9.1941.
Tuesday 232

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

- a.m./9. Contact this morning was definitely with enemy submarine. Report follows as soon as possible.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 0955/9 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
- 0916Z By D/F at 0916Z/9. Italian U-Boat call sign 34D, was probably within 30 miles of 47° 00' N., 8° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1110A/9 to F.O.C.N.A., 1111A/9 to S/M's on Patrol Area A)
- Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1420A/9)
- 1456 G.M.T. D/F bearings at 1456/9 indicate a U-Boat may be in the vicinity of Convoy O.N. 13, or of Convoy S.C. 42. No fix obtained.
(D.D.I.C. 1646A/9 to SKEENA, ALBERNI, VETERAN, SALADIN etc.)
My 1646A/9. Further D/F bearings at 1543 indicate position of U-Boat between 58° 30' N., 60° N., and 37° W. to 41' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1736A/9)
- 1809 G.M.T. (1) By D/F at 1808/9 G.M.T. a U-Boat northward
1811 G.M.T. of Cape Ortegal.
(2) By D/F at 1811/9 G.M.T. a U-Boat in 47° - 48° - N., 8°-9° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2017A/9 to S/M's on Patrol Area A., etc.)

Submarines Attacked

- By A/C
- Am over enemy S/M in 46.50 N., 8.38 W. Have attacked enemy S/M, estimate no hits.
(A/C "D" 1400/9 to 15 Group)
Am over enemy S/M - on surface. Have attacked with depth charges estimate no hits. (P.C. and S. of enemy)? Course 095° have lost touch, last seen in 46.59 N., 8.34 W.
(A/C "D" 1425/9 to 15 Group)
Am over enemy S/M 46.53 N., 8.19 W. enemy S/M is on the surface.
(A/C "D" 1545/9 to 15 Group)
Am over enemy S/M in 46.55 N., 8.18 W. Enemy S/M was on surface. Have attacked with 500 rounds into conning tower, course 105°. S/M has dived. Present visibility towards the surface is 4 miles. (A/C "D" 1600/9 to 15 Group.)

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Casualties.

NIGERIA arrived at Scapa at 1945 today with AURORA and 2 destroyers.

BURZA arrived at Greenock at 1805A with collision damage.

CANDYTUFT has burst a boiler in mid north Atlantic and is unable to steam. BITTERSWEET who has been ordered to tow her, has on board survivors from a ship in the convoy, which was sunk in collision yesterday.

A/S Trawler LE TIGER is aground on Iasgair Island, Skye. *Arrived Anttica - Sea p. 242.*

Three ships of Convoy W.N.78, BARRDALE, HAMLIA and EMERAUDE are aground 5 miles N.W. of the Northern tip of Skye.

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

It is thought that ADMIRAL SCHEER may be breaking out. LONDON proceeded this afternoon to patrol the western approaches to Denmark Straits. Air patrols have been arranged.

British Air Operations.

A Beaufort on anti-shipping patrol off the coast of Norway today obtained a hit with torpedo on a 5,000 ton ship south of Lister Light.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Status".

FURIOUS left Gibraltar at 1900 with 3 destroyers and NELSON, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE and 4 destroyers left at 2100.

Palermo
bombed.

9 Wellingtons attacked shipping and the dock area at Palermo between 2120/9 and 0240/10, dropping 33,750 lbs. of bombs. They claim hits on the main quays and dry dock and possible damage to four merchant ships.

Messina
bombed.

8 Wellingtons attacked the power station and landing stages at Messina in the early hours of this morning. Fires were started near the Commercial oil tanks and in the citadel area.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Enemy air raids on Tobruk last night were almost continuous. About 100 bombs and possibly some mines were dropped. Damage was caused, but was not serious. The jetty was hit by a bomb today.

Mersa Matruh was bombed last night; slight damage was caused.

Egypt and
Canal Area.

Moascar and Ismailia aerodromes were attacked twice last night by 8 and 7 aircraft respectively. The latter aerodrome was rendered unserviceable, but the raiders suffered losses.

Enemy aircraft were active last night against shipping in the Gulf of Suez. S.S. HONDURAS (Panamanian) is reported holed and making for Afarana at 0800 today. Two other ships appear to have been unsuccessfully attacked.

MUREFTE
sunk.

The Palestine Coast Ferry Steamer MUREFTE was sunk by gunfire by an enemy submarine at 2220 today in 33° (or 34°) 12' N., 34° 55' E., whilst on delivery voyage to the Turks.

/Attitude.....

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Attitude
of
Bulgaria.

The Soviet Govt. today accused the Bulgarian Govt. of preparing their Black Sea ports as bases for the operations of German and Italian warships. It was reported, early in July, that the Italians had arranged a spurious sale of 6 destroyers to the Bulgarian Govt. It is reported that Bulgaria, which claims to be non-belligerent, though Greece and Yugoslavia declared war on her, will give notice to Turkey of her intention to pass these vessels through the Dardanelles.

East Indies.

ANSON is to revert to her proper name CENTURION.

C. in C. E.I. today reports his dispositions for Force T (MAURITIUS and 2 Catalina Flying Boats) and for HAWKINS, to search for Vichy ships.

China.

N.A. Tokyo reports that there are definite indications that a widespread call up of naval reserves at the earliest possible moment is now in force.

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10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

An aircraft attacked a submarine at 1855 today in 48° 20' N., 7° 5' W., and claims 5 hits with depth charges.

The master of S.S. DENBIG^HSHIRE reports that at 1450Z/1 in 59° 21' N., 9° 21' W., he fired 3 rounds at a S/M which submerged and disappeared.

Convoy
S.C.42
8 or 10
Ships
torpedoed.
U.501 sunk.

At 0138Z today CHAMBLY^E and MOOSEJAW, part of the escort of S.C.42 reported sinking a U-boat in 62° 55' N., 37° 50' W., and taking 30 prisoners. Two ships of S.C.42 are reported to have been torpedoed at 0333Z today in 61° 32' N., 40° 51' W. These were apparently BARON PENTLAND and TAHCHEE. Another ship, apparently SALLY MAERSK was reported torpedoed at 0513Z though WINTERSWIJK and MUNERIC are also mentioned, and ~~GAM~~ ship EMPIRE GLAN^{W.F.F.} at 0800Z, and THISTLEGLLEN at 1444Z. At 2050Z today SKEENA informed an aircraft that 8 ships had been torpedoed, two of them being apparently VESTLAND and STARGARD, though VESTLAND reached port. In addition REGIN, was reported to be missing, but she eventually arrived at Loch Ewe.

SKEENA attacked the U-boat which torpedoed THISTLEGLLEN, she believes with success.

* U.501. S. p. 255

South
Atlantic.

GORLESTON (sloop)^(cutter) reports that a torpedo passed ahead of her at 2052 N., today in 14° 5' N., 18° 38' W.

War Diary

10.9.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

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Policy

PRESTOL

As there are no oil burning ships working from this base now, is R.F.A. PRESTOL to remain at Stornoway? (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0958A/10).

My 1224A/10.

5. 6. and 7
E.G's,
Allocations.

1. To bring 5th, 6th, and 7th escort groups to proper strength for new duties, following Corvettes are allocated to Liverpool for these groups:

(A) HONEYSUCKLE, POLYANTHUS, CAMELLIA, CANDYTUST, CELANDINE on arrival early October.
(B) SWEETBRIAR, COLTSFOOT, EGLANTINE, ACANTHUS, MONTBRETIA on completion of working up.

2. AURICULA has already been allocated to 6th escort group.

3. Previous allocations are cancelled.
(C.in C., W.A. 1226A/10).

Cruiser
requirements.

Your 1342A/9 para.(C). AURORA and PENELOPE are the only 6 inch cruisers available and PENELOPE is not fully worked up. Other operational commitments and needs for boiler cleaning make it most undesirable to use either of these. Request EDINBURGH be detailed for operation "Halberd", and that cruisers for journey to U.S.A. referred to in para.2 be postponed until after return of EDINBURGH from "Halberd".
(C.in C., H.F. 1721A/10 to Admty.)

Ramsgate to
Dover new
channel.

The establishment of an additional daylight channel between Ramsgate and Dover is considered desirable in view of the coastal craft now being based at Ramsgate.

It is not proposed that this channel should be regularly swept and it should only be used as ordered by F.O.C. Dover.

Request Q Z F as follows.

(V.A. Dover 1736A/10 to Admty.)

10.9.41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Conference.

Following message has been received from Opnav. Since C.N.O. desires to meet the wishes of the British and they requested a conference, the C.N.O. will inform them that this conference will be held at your convenience upon the arrival of a staff officer from C.in C., W.A. (Spenavo 1250/10 to Admty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Fuel at Archangel.

Have been informed that stocks of oil fuel at Archangel have been greatly increased and there should be no difficulty in future of providing fuel for our destroyers and if necessary cruisers. (Ad. Miles 1103C/10 to Admty.)

"Pardoe" and "Benedict" Forces.

Admty. 1401A/10, B.S.N.O. Murmansk 2214C/10. See Operations Volume.

Movements.

BERWICK.

Proceed passing Hoxa boom at 0600/12 to Rosyth. (C.in C., H.F. 1309A/10 to BERWICK.)

SEALION.

Intend to sail SEALION at 1700/12. Route to patrol in Bay of Biscay North. (Capt. S.5. 1332A/10.)

DUKE OF YORK.

Arrivals DUKE OF YORK and VIVACIOUS. (C.in C. Rosyth 1600/10.)

P.34.

Intend to sail P.34 from 290° Bishop Rock 5 miles at 2200A/17 for Gibraltar. Route. N.O.I.C. Barrow is requested to sail P.34 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE. LA CAPRICIEUSE to return to Holy Loch on arrival off Bishop Rock. (Capt. S.3. 1633A/10.)

/ ARGUS

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War Diary.10.9.41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd)ARGUS.
SHROPSHIRE.

In absence of other developments, ARGUS and SHROPSHIRE are only to embark sufficient fuel at Seidis Fiord to ensure arriving at Scapa with 30% remaining.
SHROPSHIRE provide Oiler WAR SUDRA with any necessary supplies and investigate living and messing conditions for report on return to Scapa. (C.in C., H.F. 1843A/10.)

Force A.
(NIGERIA)

Scapa arrival 1945. NIGERIA, AURORA, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO. (A.C.O.S. 2135/10.) *See also p. 244.*

Operations.Patrol off
Portland.

Sailing M.L's 245, 246, 247, 268 at 0130 to patrol on latitude 50° 28'N from 2° 15'W to 1° 55'W returning to Portland at dawn. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0115A/10.)

LONDON.
Patrol off
Denmark
Strait.

My 1203A/10. Proceed to Patrol Western Approaches to Denmark Strait prepared to act on report from Patrol.
(11) Attention is called to Admiralty's 1420/9. Keep North of 065° North unless in contact with enemy. (C.in C., H.F. 1308A/10 to LONDON.)
Cancel my 1302Z/10. Am acting in accordance with C.in C., H.F. 1308A/10. Percentage of fuel remaining 70%. (LONDON 1624Z/10 to A.C.I.C.)

PRINCE OF
WALES.

My 1307A/10. ^{N.T.A.W.D.} Remain in practice area and carry out practices pending further information. (C.in C., H.F. 1430A/10 to F.O.2., H.F.)
Cancel my 1307A/10 and my 1430A/10. Return to harbour. (C.in C., H.F. 2212A/10 to V.A.2.)

Force "S".

Reported returning to Westward at 2300. (A.C.O.S. 2358A/10 to V.A.2.)

Western
Channel.

3 A/S Trawlers on patrol between Portsmouth and Beachy Head. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1437A/10.)

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War Diary.10.9.41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.NIGERIA
Escorts.

My 1058A/9. Request also air R/C 50 miles to Eastward of NIGERIA until South of 061° N. (C.in C., H.F. 0009A/10 to C.in C. Rosyth.) Your 0009/10. R/C will be carried out if and when weather improves.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0238/10 to C.in C., H.F.)
My 2352/9th postponed owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0254/10 to S.O. Force A.)
My 2352/9 and my 0254/10. Expect Blenheim fighter about 0700/10. A/S escort still postponed. (C.in C. Rosyth 0622/10.)
Expect A/S Escort Hudson from 1015.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0934/10 to S.O. Force A.)

Patrols.

Request air patrols as follows
(A) "Polar" during daylight today.
(B) "Fox" at last light and first light tomorrow.
2. Object to detect German Armoured Ship ADMIRAL SCHEER who may be breaking out.
(C.in C., H.F. 1203A/10 to Admty.)
"Hornli" now flying. (C.in C. Rosyth 1232/10.)
"Bert" and "Stab" in operation.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1556/10.)
Your 1203A/10. These will be flown.
(A.C.I.C. 1810/10 to C.in C., H.F.)
C.in C., H.F. 1203A/10. (i) 1 Northrop float plane patrol "Polar" until 2100/10. (ii) 2 Hudson patrol "Fox" until last light 2245/10. (iii) 2 Hudson patrol "Fox" from first light 11th. (A.C.I.C. 1850/10.)
-My 1850/10. Paras. 1 and 2 returned owing to poor visibility.
(A.C.I.C. 2206/10.)
Comply with C.in C., H.F. 1203A/10.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1635A/10 to A.C.I.C.)

828 Squadron
F.A.A.

1. 828 Squadron with certain additions to complement and a temporary I.E. of 14 aircraft is required for service abroad. Orders.
(5th S.L. 1304A/10.)

Recognition
Equipment to
U.S.A.
Aircraft.

Request that reply may be given to Admty. 1747A/4/9 regarding supply of recognition equipment to U.S. aircraft.
(D.S.D. 1726A/10 to G.O.C. Iceland.)

/ 817, 827

War Diary.

10.9.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd)

817, 827,
and 832
Sqdns. F.A.A.

Admiralty 1018A/19 August and 1304A/10/9.
Understand that No.817 Squad.(F.A.A.) will now remain embarked in place of No.828.
No. 827 Squad. F.A.A. will be available for embarkation from 15/9. No. 832 Squad. F.A.A. should be disembarked to R.N.A.S. Hatston. Request arrangements may be made accordingly. (V.A.N.A.S. 2111A/10 to C.in C., H.F.)

Mining.

Thames
Estuary.

One S A Mine detonated at 1227/8 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1155/10.)

Operation
"Tincture"
(Nymph Bank
search).

My 1654A/1. Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m. 13th employing one R.N.N. trawler on centre line only. She is not to display any minesweeping distinguishing marks. (A.C.N.S(H) 1207A/10 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Plymouth.

Red mine detonated by M M S at 0824/10. Details. (C.in C. Plymouth 1819/10.)

Off
Shetlands.

Moored mine within 2 miles from 060° 30'N 2° 26'E. (O.14 2115B/10 to F.O.S.)

East Coast
S.A. Sweep.
HOLDERNESS,
MEYNELL.

Leave Sheerness at 1100 tomorrow and proceed by Swept Channels in force to R/V off 22 A Buoy at 0600A/12.
Speed on passage 20 knots and S.A. gear to be operated by leading destroyer whilst on passage. HOLDERNESS is to take station 6 cables ahead and operate S.A. gear changing stations as requisite to rest S.A. gear.
C.in C. Rosyth is requested to issue further instructions whilst on passage and to arrange return immediately on completion of operation. Fighter protection arranged.
(C.in C. Nore 2232A/10 to HOLDERNESS, MEYNELL.)

SCOTT.

Sailed H.M.S. SCOTT for Denmark Straits 2200Z/10. (A.C.I.C. 2346/10 to R.A.M.)

Addressed B.A.D. Washington. 524.

Date. 10. 9. 41.

24 (A)

Naval Cypher X.

From Admiralty D.N.I.

Meter. My 1521A/3 German Main Units.

Battleships

TIRPITZ

At Kiel alongside 4th September.

Battlecruisers.

GNEISENAU

At Brest in dry dock 10th September.

SCHARNHORST

At Brest in dry docks 10th September

Pocket Battleships.

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

At Oslo 6th September. Reported to have left.

LÜTZOW

Oslo p.m./7th September (B2).

At Kiel in dry dock 4th September

8" Cruisers.

HIPPER

At Kiel in dry dock 4th September.

PRINZ EUGEN

At Brest in dry dock 10th September.

SEYDLITZ

At Bremen completing 3rd September.

6" Cruisers.

LEIPZIG

Reported at Copenhagen 1st September (B.2) but had left by 4th September, believed still in Western Baltic.

NÜRNBERG

At Flensburg 4th September.

KÖLN

At Travemünde 1st September.

EMDEN

At Horten 7th September.

One German Cruiser is reported to have passed Helsingborg steering north at 1500 8th September (this may be NURNBERG).

Old Battleships.

SCHLESSEN

At Aarhus, 4th September.

SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN

Reported off Limham (S. of Malmo), 4th September. (B.1).

Aircraft Carrier.

GRAF ZEPPELIN

At Stettin 8th September.

Italian Main Units.

BOLZANO

Mossina 3. 9. 41. (B.2).

TRENTO

"

"

"

GORIZIA

"

"

"

Remainder no change.

1932A/10.

for D.D.I.C. (Green Line 8).

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)

Cdr. Holbrook

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

D.A/S.W.

Nav Sec.

I.P. (3)

N.A. 1st S.L.

W.D.

Capt Pim, Admiralty Hsc.

D.P.D.

Ops (4)

D.S.D. (2)

O.D. (5)

M. (2)

D.N.I. (4)

War Diary.10.9.41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Brest.

Photographic R/C of Brest at 1830A/9 shows both battlecruisers and PRINZ EUGEN present in usual positions. (D.D.I.C. 0001A/10.)

E-Boats.

Indication of "E" Boats.
(C.in C. Nore 0047A/10.)
E-Boat activity Cromer area.
(C.in C. Nore 2115A/10.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Report graded B2 states warship, presumably ADMIRAL SCHEER, left Oslo p.m. 7th. W.T.I. overnight suggests the possibility of the movement of an important unit northwards to Bergen today. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1202A/10.) EMDEN in Oslo Fjord Sept. 5th. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm 1247/10.)

Suspicious Ship.

At 1614 GMT/10. Br. EGTON reported a suspicious ship, possibly raider, in 44°N. 38°05'W. (D.D.I.C. 1855A/10 to A.L.U.S.N.A.)

German Main Units.

My 1521A/3. Latest known positions. (D.D.I.C. 1932A/10.) See Lion Copy.

LIGHTNING, STRATHGELDIE. (Collision on 9/9).

Casualties and Defects.
Collision with trawler STRATHGELDIE at 2230 in 058° 12'N 002° 21'W. Trawler flooded to fore watertight bulkhead. Am escorting her to Wick. LIGHTNING has sustained following damage. (LIGHTNING 0110/10.)

CANDYTUFT, explosion, damaged. M/V sunk, collision.

CANDYTUFT starboard boiler burst, unable to steam, many injured. BITTERSWEET standing by ordered to tow St. Johns' N.F. estimated position 0030Z/10, 051° (? 20') N 039° 08'W. BITTERSWEET has 18 survivors from ship number (? 23) sunk in collision in fog yesterday with ship number 25, latter damaged but rejoined convoy with 25 survivors. RICHMOND and FENNEL (? lost) home convoy in fog 0100Z/9 have searched for CANDYTUFT without (corrupt group). My estimated position 0130Z/10 051° 20'N 039° 07'W proceeding to rejoin convoy in estimated position at 0100Z/10 051° 16'N 038° 42'W. Course of convoy at 2300Z was 016°, 9 knots. Am steering 87° 15 knots until 0830Z and then 059° for position 055° 30'N 025° 00'W. FENNEL endeavouring to rejoin convoy. Weather report. (RICHMOND 0205Z/10 to Admty., C.in C. W.A. etc.)

/ RICHMOND's

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Wednesday. 243

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

CANDYTUFT.
explosion,
damaged.
M/V sunk in
collision.
(Contd)

RICHMOND's 0205Z. BITTERSWEET with CANDYTUFT in tow, estimated position at 1400Z 051° 18' (? North) 039° 13'W steering 246° at 6 knots. CANDYTUFT casualties 11 dead, 14 seriously burnt, 8 burnt but able to walk. After boilers blown. Boiler rooms have 12 feet oil fuel in them. Remaining damage cannot be estimated. Weather. (BITTERSWEET 1612/7.)

LE TIGER
(Grounded
9/9).

Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0855A/10.)

ML.209.

Arrived M.L's 209 and 289. 209 has engine defects. Anticipate sailing 0600A/11. (N.O.I.C. Oban 0935A/10.)

MANOR
(A/S Trawler).

A/S.T. MANOR when escorting W.P.31 yesterday dropped two patterns of depth charges on target considered to be non-sub and sustained following damage. Ship was towed back to Dartmouth by M/S T. SCARRON and French Tug ISERE. 2. Repairs should be complete by noon 12th. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0951/10.)

BARDALE.
(Grounded
9/9).

Your 0915A/10. If BARDALE has been refloated Tug SPARKLER is to escort her to Staffin Bay. Tug HECTOR has proceeded from Loch Alsh with Admiralty Salvage representative. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1115A/10 to MARAUDER.) BARDALE refloated. Tugs SPARKLER and HECTOR towing her to anchorage off Fladda Ch^hain. (MARAUDER 2330A/10.)

AUK.

My 0019A. Arrived Rothesay in tow of RENE LE BESNERAIS. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1153A/10.)

LANCASTER.

My 1030A/8. Completion of LANCASTER delayed, due to defective air compressor. Anticipate ship ready to sail 17/9. (F.O. Humber 1540A/10.)

BURZA.
(Collision
8/9)

Arrived BURZA with collision damage. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1805A/10.)

/ NIGERIA

War Diary.

10.9.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. (Contd)

NIGERIA.
(Damaged
7/9)

C.in C., H.F. 1709/10. Regret no S A fitted destroyer available from Rosyth Escort Force to escort NIGERIA from 22A Buoy 0600/12th to Tyne. Request C.in C. Nore will provide S A escort in order to comply with Admiralty 1105B/24th July. (C.in C. Rosyth 1925/10.) NIGERIA arrived Scapa 1945. (A.C.O.S. 2133/10.)

EMERAUDE.

My 1409. ^{NT W.D.} Aground Fladda Chuain. Reports all ballast tanks badly strained and holed. Ship's beam on to shore. (MARAUDER 1930A/10.)

CHRISTINE
ROSE.
Grounded.
(Exam: Ser. V.
Fench.)

(Steam Drifter). N.O.I.C. Campbeltown reports her ashore on bow of Knap Rock 55° 53'N 50° 42'W. Feared total loss. 10 survivors including Professor and Assistant being taken to Lochgilphead by Lloyds Agent. 3 dead being sent to Oban by Civil Authorities. 2 missing. Master, Engineer, 2 Deckhands and 1 Stoker included in dead and missing. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1949A/10.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.12.

My 0256/3. EMPRESS OF ASIA, BANFORA, and HIGHLAND PRINCESS will not now be included in W.S.12. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL will be included, code number B.18, to embark in Clyde. (D.of S.T. 0732A/10 to P.S.T.O. W.of Scotland.)

D.S.12.

ORMONDE will probably ready for D.S.12 leaving Clyde 18/9. On outward voyage not more than 1000 all ranks will be embarked but on homeward voyage she will be used to capacity. (D.S.T. 0733A/10 to P.S.T.O. W.of Scotland.) ORMONDE will form Convoy D.S.12 leaving Clyde 18/9. (D.O.D(H) 2315A/10 to C.in C., W.A.)

East Coast.

Forecast of northbound sailings from Southend. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1140/10.) See Lion Copy.

U.S. Tankers.

Your 2206A/9. Delay is regretted. It was due to route being ordered by Director of Operations Washington as ships were escorted by U.S. Naval Force. Arrangements have been made for me to be kept informed in future. (A.C.I.C. 1216/10 to Admty.)

/ East Coast

SECRET

MESSAGE

1140/10th Sept.

IN.

From: C. in C. Rosyth.

Date: 10.9.41

244A.

Recd: 1535

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed: Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, H.Q. Fighter Command,
H.Q. Coastal Command, 11, 12, 13 Groups.

NOT W/T

CONVOY MESSAGE LESS S.E.C.C.D

908

Cancel my 1500/3/9 and substitute:-
Forecast of Northbound sailings from Southend:-

Thursday	September 11th	E C 72	(Medium)
Friday	12th	F N517	(Fast)
Saturday	13th	F N518	(Slow)
Sunday	14th	E C 73	(Medium)
Monday	15th	F N519	(Fast)
Tuesday	16th	E C 74	(Slow)
Wednesday	17th	F N520	(Medium)
Thursday	18th	Blank day	
Friday	19th	E C 75	(Medium)
Saturday	20th	F N521	(Fast)
Sunday	21st	E C 76	(Slow)
Monday	22nd	F N522	F N 22 (Medium)
Tuesday	23rd	E C 77	(Fast)
Wednesday	24th	E C 78	?(Slow)
Thursday	25th	Blank day	
Friday	26th	F N523	(Medium)
Saturday	27th	F N524	(Fast)
Sunday	28th	E C 79	(Slow)
Monday	29th	F N525	(Medium)
Tuesday	30th	E C 80	(Fast)

After passing May Island E C 73 and E C 79 will run as fast convoys, and E C 80 as a slow.

1140/10.

Advance copy Ops., & Trade.

- A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops (4)
- 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.
- O.D. (5)

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

245

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

East Coast Cycle.

Cancel my 1135/26/5. Following cycle for east coast convoys will operate as from 14/9:-
Southbound. Sunday F.S. (Medium) Monday Blank Day, Tuesday F.S. (Slow), Wednesday F.S. (Fast), Thursday F.S. (Medium), Friday F.S. (Slow), Saturday F.S. (Fast).
North Bound. Promulgated from time to time as in my 1140/10/9. Sailing times according to current timetable. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1220/10 to Admty).

O.N. Escorts.

To turn over their convoys to Newfoundland escort in about 27° W. (C. in C. W.A., to Capts. (D), 1224A/10). See Lion Copy.
Orders for Escort Groups from O.N.18. (C. in C. W.A. 2224A/10 to Capts. (D)) See Lion Copy.

S.L. 86.

Proceed at best speed forthwith. Report your speed on crossing 40° 00' N.
(C. in C. W.A. 1237A/10 to Escorts of S.L.86).

→ W.S.11 X.

Admty 1011A/6. CAIRO is to escort Bristol Channel portion and subsequently act as anti-aircraft escort to Convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1316A/10 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).
Information in my 1202/10 (reporting ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER leaving Oslo) is not considered sufficient to justify interfering with arrangements for W.S.11 X. (V.C.N.S., 1359A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

O.N.14

At 1600Z/10 alter course to avoid probable U-boat in 059° 25' N., 010° 15' W., and steer for 058° 00' N., 011° 00' W., onward route follows.
(C. in C. W.A., 1440A/10 to Escort O.N.14).

Calls at Belfast.

Several cases have occurred of ships in convoy bound for Bristol Channel ports proceeding direct to their destinations instead of entering Belfast Lough. Definite instructions that these ships are to call at Belfast for onward escort should be included in their sailing orders.
(D.T.D. 1651A/10 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

→ W.S.11 X.

A.M.1011A/6. Para 2: for 9 read 15 and add from Clyde:- S.S. STRATHEDEN, H.M. Ships QUEEN EMMA, PRINCESS BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ULSTER MONARCH; from Mersey:- S.S. LEINSTER.
(2) STRATHEDEN will be detached with two of the A/S Escorts and proceed to Halifax with air training personnel. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2317A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
1224A/10th Sept.
DATE 11.9.41.
RECD. 0315.

FROM C. in C. Western Approaches

245A

P/L BY SECRET T/P

ADDRESSED Capt.(D) Londonderry, Capt.(D) Liverpool,
Capt.(D) Greenock. Repeated Admiralty,
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.C.N.F., A.C.I.C., Capt.(D)
St.Johns, F.O.i/c Belfast, F.O.i/c Liverpool,
F.O.i/c Greenock.

NITE

325. Starting with O.N.18, Escort Groups of O.N. Convoys will turn over their convoys to Newfoundland Escort in about 27 degs.W. and will then proceed to Iceland, returning to U.K. with the next convoy after that which they would normally have met. Thus, escort of O.N.18 will bring back S.C.45.

2. Resultant absence of escorts from base will be about 15 days.

3. A special group from Eastern rendezvous will bring back H.X.150, which would normally have been met by escorts of O.N.18.

4. When this arrangement comes into force, 5th, 6th and 7th Escort Groups will operate on O.N., H.X. and S.C. Convoys in addition to groups already operating, and there will consequently be no local escorts for O.S., O.G, S.L. and H.G. Convoys.

1224A/10.
Advance Copy Ops. O.D.

1st Lord	O.D.8.
1st S.L.	O.I.C.(3)
V.C.N.S.	I.P.(3)
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.S.D.9.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	W.D.
Nav. Sec.	D.T.D.(4)
N.A.1st S.L.	D.T.D.(M)
Ops.(4)	D.T.D.(C)
O.D.(5)	E.P.S.

MESSAGE. 2224/A/10th September.

IN.

SECRET.

Date. 11.9.41.

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Recd. 0442.

245B

P/L by T/P.

Addressed Capt. D Liverpool Capt. D Londonderry, Capt. D Greenock,
repeated F.O.I.C. Liverpool. F.O.I.C. Belfast, F.O.I.C. Greenock,
N.O.I.C. Oban Admiralty A.C.I.C.

344. Orders for Escort Groups:-

<u>Group.</u>	<u>Out</u>	<u>Sail</u>	<u>Meet</u>	<u>R/V.</u>
2	O.N.18	19	S.C.45	28
6	None	20	S.L.86	23
4	O.N.S.19	21	H.X. 151	1/10
Special A	O.S.7	22	Through to Bathurst	
5	O.N.20	25	S.C. 46	4/10.
37	O.G.75	27	Through to Gibraltar.	
1	O.N.S.21	27	H.X. 152	7/10
7	O.N.22	1/10	S.C.47	10/10
Special B	O.S.8	2/10	Through to Bathurst.	
3	O.N.S.23	3/10	H.X.153	13/10.
3	O.N.24	7/10.	S.C.48.	16/10.
6	O.N.S.25	9/10	H.X.154	19/10.
Special C	O.S.9	12/10	Through to Bathurst.	
35	O.G.76.	12/10	" "	Gibraltar.
2	O.N.26.	13/10	S.C. 49	22/10.

2 Special Group(a) will be WESTON, LONDONDERRY, BLACK SWAN, FOLKESTONE.

Composition of special groups B and C will be signalled.

2224A/10th.
Advance copy O.D. Ops.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S(T) (2).
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim. Admiralty Hse.
Ops (3).
O.D. (5).
O.I.C. (2).
M. (2).
Mails.
Movts.
I.P. (3).
W.D.
D.A./S.W.
O.D.8.
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (C).
D.P.S.
E.P.S.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

246

North Atlantic.

Suspicious
M/V.

One unidentified Merchant ship showing lights P.C. and S. 170° Cape St. Vincent 28, 155° 18. (PROTEUS, 0355A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French
Ships.

French CAPITAINE PRIEUR full and tug L'OBSTINE escorted by minelayer No. A.62 bound N., position 332 S.T.V.50. (SCOTTISH, 0740A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation
"Status."

My 1604/9. No positive evidence that operations observed by enemy but in vicinity of Algiers French Aircraft particularly inquisitive. Fulmar closed a very persistent French Boston. Latter waggled his wing and moved off but returned later. This behaviour of French A/C unusual and if persisted in may provoke incident.

(ii) Reception Gibraltar broadcast failed entirely between 2100/8 and 0800/9 due to atmospheric and fade. Weather report and departure of Blenheims not received in consequence. (S.O. Force H., 0817A/10 to Admty).

Departure for Operation "Status" 1900:- FURIOUS, LEGION, FORESIGHT, FORESTER; 2100 NELSON, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, ZULU, GURKHA, LANCE, LIVELY. (F.O.C.N.A., 2150A/10 to Admty etc).

Your 1604/9. Long range Hudsons have only 30 land miles more endurance than Blenheims fitted as are those made available for this operation.
2. Figures of consumption received by Air Ministry from Malta and 200 Group indicate that the Blenheim that arrived at Malta had about two hours' patrol remaining and that the Blenheims which returned to Gibraltar had even better consumption.
3. Request report in due course whether conditions allowed you to try homing the Blenheims to carrier in accordance with A.M.1926B/27/5. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2236A/10 to F.O. Force H) Reply: 0947/15.

Suspicious
A/C.

Unidentified large flying boat bound North 326 S T V 45. (SCOTTISH, 0830A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Force H.

Arrival ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, LANCE, LIVELY, FORESTER, GURKHA. (F.O.C.N.A., 0920A/10) W.D.
Note:- From Operation Status (M).

/CROOME.....

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

247

North Atlantic. - Contd.

→ CROOME.

E.T.A. 1445. Have following Italian prisoners, 6 Officers, 10 Chief and Petty Officers. 18 other ratings. Request military escort on arrival. (CROOME, 1015A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)
W.D. Note. Prisoners from Italian U/B sunk by CROOME 8/9.

→ B.D.V.'s

Request all Boom Defence Vessels calling Horta for Bunkering in next few days may be instructed to proceed in accordance with my 1958A/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1232/10 to R.O. Horta) See also 2114/10.

→ CROOME.

Damage. Intend docking 12th for repair. Estimated 2 or 3 weeks. Ref. my 1716/4 docking of DURHAM will be postponed until CROOME is completed. (C.S. Gibraltar, 1848A/10).

O.21.

Following is repetition of my 1550A/8 (N.T.in W.D). Return Gibraltar forthwith South of Sardinia North of Balearic Is., thence within 25 miles of Spanish coast. Report P.C. and S. when North of Minorca. (ends). Force H., and FURIOUS operating in Western Mediterranean. (F.O.C.N.A., 1910A/10 to O.21).
Position 2000A/10 039° 40' N., 001° 47' E.
E.T.A. 0807A/12. 22 prisoners ex ISARCO on board since 5/9. (O.21 2000A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ B.D.V. Group.

Following from C. O. B.D.V. BARRYMORE. BARRYMORE, PHYLLISIA, PANORAMA, LORD GAINFORD completed with fuel and stores Fayal and sailed Bathurst expected time of arrival 22/8/41 (?)
B.D.V. CONSBRO lost convoy 0000/6 last seen steaming ahead full speed 044° 051' North 025° 02' W. Weather rough, visibility poor at times. CONSBRO had not arrived Fayal up to time of sailing of above group for Bathurst 10/9.
(R.O. Horta, 2114/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

JONQUIL.
SPIREA.

^{N.T. & W.D.}
Your 1250/10. JONQUIL and SPIREA failed to locate BRITISH FREEDOM and were diverted to NOREG. My 2254/8 refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 2351A/10 to Admty).

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

248

South Atlantic.

Bathurst.

Reply to C. in C. W.A. 1337/8 re inadequate facilities for ocean escorts. (C. in C. S.A., 0421N/10) See Lion Copy.

Transports.
W.S.10 B.

Position 9/9. (S.S.T.O. Durban, 0849/10, to D. of S.T.)

TASMANIA.
PENTRIDGE
HILL.

Overdue shipping, cancel my 1029/9, TASMANIA and PENTRIDGE HILL arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0946B/10 to Admty etc).

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

Proceed Capetown with all despatch report E.T.A. You are required to escort CAMERONIA towards Freetown. You will have to leave immediately after fuelling but hope will have opportunity returning later. (C. in C. S.A., 1017N/10 to PRETORIA CASTLE).

DUNEDIN
search for
suspicious
convoy.

Nothing seen of Convoy but when in position 235° Cape Verde 24 miles at 0900Z/10 observed smoke from one possibly more ships close under land to southward Dakar and 2 aircraft patrolling in vicinity. Simultaneously French type of submarine on surface closed DUNEDIN from similar bearing diving when 4 miles distant. At 0938Z sighted French Cruiser MONTCALM class flying flag of S.O. 4th Squadron, French light forces, who informed me French submarines were present. Another large unidentified warship closer in shore and many (?general reconnaissance aircraft) also sighted. E.T.A. Bathurst 1530 B.S.T. Weather report. (DUNEDIN, 1047Z/10 to Admty etc). Your 1830N/10 to DUNEDIN only (N.T. in W.R.) Add to my 1047Z/10, DUNEDIN was steering southerly courses throughout. (DUNEDIN, 2043N/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

KONGSDAL.

Overdue shipping, Cancel my 1033/8 KONGSDAL arrived Lourenco Marques. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1144B/10).

CALENDULA.

My 2037N/6. Return to Freetown with ECHODALE. (C. in C. S.A., 1249N/10 to CALENDULA).

See also p.249

/C.M.17.....

248A.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
0421N/10th Sept.
DATE 10.9.41.
RECD. 1924.

FROM C. in C. South Atlantic

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

ADDRESSED C. in C. Western Approaches. Repeated Admiralty.

191. Your 1337/8. Bathurst has not been used as Naval port until recently. Its use for ocean escorts was at short notice. Resources there being developed as far as possible and this is now being pushed on. Wharf is being extended to give a berth with 25 feet water this should complete in November and will facilitate watering. Bread and meat are obtainable but limitations on West African coast be appreciated. For example at Freetown there not normally any fresh vegetables, there have only been very occasional supplies of potatoes since June, there are no eggs no tinned vegetables no bacon. Efforts are being made to obtain dehydrated vegetables from Canada and South Africa but only small supplies are obtainable at present. Stocks of dry provisions are being established at Bathurst but it is assumed that escort vessels can carry 3 months' supplies and preferred they should not call on stocks in West Africa unless essential. Notice of probable arrival is given as possible. NOIC is now in operation and experience should (?assist) in estimation of requirements alternatively suggest you should supply advance estimate of probable requirements on arrival.

0421N/10.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

+ Re inadequate facilities for obtaining supplies for ocean escorts at Bathurst

4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)
I.F. (3)
~~W.D.~~
D. of V.
D. of S.
M. (2)

D. of P. (3)
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of V.) Bath
D. of S.) by T/P

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

249

South Atlantic. - Contd.

C.M.17
EASTERN
PRINCE.

My 1751/8 and D. of S.T.'s 1816/9 (N.T. in W.D.) As EASTERN PRINCE cannot be ready to sail before 14/9 owing to defects and as Dept. of Defence considers it important that departure of C.M.17 less THYSVILLE and NIEUW HOLLAND should not be further delayed, it is intended to adhere to date of departure 11/9 given in my 2135/9. Speed of this convoy now that these ships have dropped out will probably be 12 knots, slowest ship being INDIAN PRINCE of 13 knots. (2) Intended to sail EASTERN PRINCE from Durban about 15/9 to R/V with W.S. 10 X. as convenient assuming that no further delays take place. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1402B/10 to C. in C. E.I.) See 1743/16.

Force F.

Owing to adverse weather and other delay force F., completed fuelling 1600/10 in 007° 25' N., 027° 20' W., and is proceeding in accordance with your 1037N/6 speed 14 knots, E.T.A. St. Helena noon/17. CALENDULA and ECHODALE have been ordered to Freetown in accordance with your 1249N/10. Weather report. (S.O. Force F., 1500N/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

See p. 248

SOBO,
PINZON.

Have you any news of SOBO from Takoradi due 1/9 also of PINZON from Freetown due 3/9. (D.T.D., 1558A/10 to N.C.S.O. Bathurst).

Brazilian
Destroyers.

Your 1909/9 3 destroyers have been launched but owing to difficulties in supplies of materials from U.S., Naval Chief of Staff informs me that none of them will be ready for trials for another year. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1842Z/10 to D.N.I.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Owing to delay in arrival of new Minister, am postponing visit to Montevideo, I would like to visit Buenos Aires in BIRMINGHAM on Friday 19th but if week end is unsuitable will enter Monday 22nd. (R.A.S.A.D., 1911Z/10 to N.A. Buenos Aires).

250

War Diary.10.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.MAYA.
(Italian.)

C.4. report received that MAYA was torpedoed and sunk outside Dardanelles on morning of 4/9 on passage from Italy to Istanbul in company with BALCIC. Second report gives date 5/9. No confirmation yet from any S/M report. (D.S.735, 10/9.)

Enemy M/V's.

2 Enemy ships expected to arrive 032° 017' 020° 04' from Straits of Messina 1500C/11 and one from Greece A.M./12. My 0947C/8, (?0937/8.) ship delayed for (?supplies.) (Capt. S.1, 1050C/10, to THUNDERBOLT.)

Corinth Canal bombed.

23 Wellingtons dropped nearly 22 tons of bombs on Corinth Canal many bombs falling in canal and on both banks near point east of bridge previously attacked on nights 8/9 and 13/14/8. 5 Wellingtons also dropped 9 boxes of food supplies for propaganda purposes. 1 Wellington unable to reach Greece bombed Heraklion Aerodrome. Palestine Night 8/9. 4 Unidentified aircraft dropped incendiary bombs on Haifa, no damage or casualties.

Haifa Raid.Cyprus Raid.

Cyprus Night 8/9. About 7 unidentified aircraft dropped bombs in sea off Kyrenia and Famagusta, no damage or casualties. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1116/10.)

Suez Canal Raids.

My A.876, 9/9. Details of damage in enemy raid on Suez Canal Zone night 8/9. Aerodrome Abu Sueir rendered unserviceable by bomb craters. A single enemy aircraft also dropped bombs in sea off Alexandria. No damage or casualties. Night 9/10. Ismailia attacked twice by 8 and 7 unidentified enemy aircraft respectively. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E.1123/10.)

Re C.A.F.O. 587 1st raid (a) Night 9th, 10th September. (b) High level and dive bombing attack on Moascar and Ismailia Aerodrome by 8 enemy aircraft (d) About 50 H.E. and 100 incendiaries (e) slight R.A.F. damage fires in 54th General Hospital and R.E. Yard quickly controlled no casualties 16 fighters up no interceptions light A/A in action. 2nd raid (a) As above (b) Low Level attack by about 7 enemy aircraft on Ismailia Aerodrome. (d) About 20 H.E. 500 and 1,000 (c) slight damage no casualties (f) 16 Fighters up numerous interceptions 2 enemy A/C destroyed 6 prisoners taken plus 2 Dead one enemy A/C possibly destroyed. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1401C/10.)

/Palermo.....

251

War Diary.10.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.Palermo
bombed
M/V's damaged.

Night 8-9/9. 9 Wellingtons 38 Squadron attacked shipping and dock area Palermo between 2120 and 0240 hours. Many hits 3 main quays and drydock. Three large M/V's possible damage. Probable hit small M/V.
(H.Q.Malta, 1309/10.)

Aircraft
Carriers.

Your 0930C/20. Allocation of aircraft carriers is under consideration and will be discussed with Adm. Boyd who will bring back Admty., views.
(D.O.D.(F), 1549A/10 to C. in C. Med.)

Night
Fighters.

A fighter flight with I.E. of 6 Fulmars has been formed at Grebe for night fighter operations and developments.
(R.A.A., Med., 1606C/10 to Admty.)

Messina
bombed.

Night 9/10. 8 Wellingtons attacked power station, ferry slips and landing stages of ferry service Messina between 1918 and 2220 hours. Targets well straddled and many hits.
(H.Q.R.A.F., Malta, 1700/10.)

ROYAL EMBLEM.

Have you any news?
(D.T.D. 2026A/10 to S.B.N.O.Suez.)

Operation
"Halberd."

General Plan. (S.O.Force H. 2120A/10.)
See Operations Volume.

Beirut W/T
Station.

Security services consider most undesirable Beirut wireless station be left in unfettered control of Radio Orient. 3. We should like you to take over station. Should complete control be impossible consider it essential that operators be British and strong British representation be ensured on supervision.
(W.O.2120/10 to C.in C.M.E.)

Situation
report 144.

Enemy aircraft active night 9/10 against shipping in Gulf of Suez. S.S.HONDURAS reported holed and making for Afarana at 0800/10. Two other ships attacked apparently no damage.
2. Aircraft report successful attack on Corinth Canal night 8/9 by 26 Wellingtons.
(C. in C. Med., 2316C/10 to Admty.)

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

252

Jibuti.

Re blockade. (C. in C.M.E. 1136/10.)
See Lion Copy.

Norwegian
Whalecatchers.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1945/4 and A.M. 1233/4.
As soon as permission is obtained request you
sail Norwegian Whalecatchers for Mombasa call
at Beira for coal and routed inshore direct.
(C. in C.E.I., 1250Z/10, to N.L.O. Durban.)

REVENGE.

C. in C.E.I., 1310Z/10. See Operations Volume.

Vichy
Shipping.

Admty., 2356/9. Disposition of forces to
search. (C. in C.E.I., 1340Z/10.)
See Lion Copy.

ANSON.
renamed.

Inform C.O. H.M.S. ANSON that ship is now to
revert to her proper name H.M.S. CENTURION.
(V.C.N.S. 1648A/10, to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

China.

MOSEL.
(German.)

Reported that a German ship resembling ODER
(sunk in Red Sea in March 1941) was anchored
off Cape St. Jaques, Saigon, and sailed on 18/8.
Ship was under name AKAGI MARU, and was almost
certainly German MOSEL, which sailed from
Bangkok on 8/8. (D.S.735, 10/9.)

ANHUI.

Your 20, (Cannot be identified in W.R.) ANHUI
will be sailed to arrive Yokohama at daylight
24/9. Her call sign is G.K.Q.S. and she will
confirm her time of arrival by W/T when passing
Su Tims Saki.
(Cdre. Hong Kong 0615Z/10 to N.A. Tokyo.)

Vichy
Shipping.

Your 2356/9. Dutch will keep me informed of all
particulars of escorts. Their prize manual
does not permit interception of neutral convoys.
(C. in C. China, 0703Z/10 to Admty.)

/Harbour.....

MOST SECRET **MOST SECRET** 1136/10 Sept. IN

From C. ~~In C. Middle East.~~

Date 10/9/41
Recd. 1250

252A.

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office.

42247. RX/813 cipher 10/9.

Your 89051 (M.O.5)

Repetition of text of cable No. 10/8 from Force Nairobi to Mideast referred to in our 01288 begins. Addressed to Mideast from Force Nairobi 10/8. Immediate. Ref. 00552 of 7/9 and 00553 from Ops. For Minister of State. Personal BGS from Rucker.

One. If blockading forces remain present strength estimate surrender might be forced three months.

Indefinite factors are existing supplies in Jibuti and effect if additional submarines operate Jibuti.

Two. If recent naval additions withdrawn seaward blockade will become less effective and doubtful if surrender can be forced by this means.

Three. Am of opinion existing landward blockade could be increased considerably in efficiency if

(A) additional troops used. This would divert resources from proposed Gondar operations being planned for early Nov. and would prejudice success these operations. Troop concentrations connected Gondar must begin early October so that additional troops for blockade cannot be employed for both purposes in turn.

(B) By drastic tribal control instituting 25 mile wide belt territory round French Frontier from which all tribes evacuated and in which any tribal parties found can be engaged by our own troops and Air Force.

(C) By financial expenditure in purchasing at prices at least equivalent those paid by French of all cattle and supplies for sale vicinity French Frontier. Somalis will prefer sell to us rather than inconvenience and danger of entry French Somaliland vide (B). Consider similar purchase scheme might be instituted in connection Yemen supplies. Dhow skippers at present prepared to face great risks owing to high prices paid by French. Request you consider and arrange as Yemen outside sphere influence this command.

Four. If these additional measures adopted and naval resources enforcing blockade not reduced consider surrender might be forced by early December provided no unforeseen factors arise.

Five. If pressure blockade becomes intense consider probable Governor will request evacuation women and children in accordance our previous offer. Evacuation women and children will increase Governor's powers of resistance. Presume we are still authorised to arrange evacuation if requested made.

1136/10 Sept.

Recd. b/ hand from
War Office at
1400/11

SECRET

- 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)
- Duty Capt.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.D.I.C.
- D. of P. (2)
- Hd. of M.
- E.P.S.
- W.D.
- I.P. (2)
- N.I.D. 10 Paymr. Cdr. Wilson

M.D.

MOST SECRET.

MOST SECRET

1340/Z/10th Sept.
IN.

2528

From : C. in C. East Indies.

Date : 10.9.47.

Recd : 1613.

Naval Cypher F by T/P.

Addressed : Admiralty, repeated C. in C. China.

IMPORTANT.

427. Your 2356 9th.

(i) The following disposition of Forces is intended to implement a scheme to search for Vichy Ships.

(ii) Force T, H.M.S. MAURITIUS And 2 Catalina Flying Boats to operate from Diego Garcia. H.M.S. HAWKINS to operate from Seychelles.

(iii) H.M.S. ANTENOR to be sent as tender for flying boats at Diego Garcia and to provide night landing facilities.

(iv) Oiler PEARLEAF to be sent Diego Garcia. GFVP (BRITISH JUDGE) now at Colombo to refuel U.S. 12.A. (Corrupt Group).

(v) The use of Diego Garcia has the advantage over Seychelles that - (a) it is nearer the Area to be searched, and Area is further from Madagascar and nearer the (?supplies). (b) Intercepted Ships would be sent to Ceylon instead of (?South Africa). (c) More chance of surprise.

(vi) If no interception is made and circumstances still permit I intend to carry search into Area West of Nazareth Bank operating then from Seychelles and Mauritius.

(vii) A.O.C. Far East has been asked to send 3rd Catalina so that there will be one in Ceylon Area during presence of U.S. 12.A.

1340Z/10

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

1st Lond.

1st S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.A. (H).

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

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

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

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.

I.P. (2).

W.D.

Duty Capt.

Head of M.

D.T.D. (2).

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

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

Ad. Chalmers.

D.T.D. (M).

Ad. Palliser.

D. of P. (2).

N.P.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

253

China. Contd.

Harbour
Defence
Craft.

Your 1542/1. Some craft of 10-knot type can be taken up locally and presumably must suffice until new construction M.L's are in commission in sufficient numbers to meet this commitment. Building has been delayed by non-delivery of parts and only proportion of the 16 Fairmiles and 13 Launches under construction will be completed by Jan., 1942, by which date 48 craft were allotted to this station in A.L. M/PD. 09374/40 of 22/1/1941. This number falls far short of the total final requirement for China Station vide A.L.M 07805/40 of 15/5/1940.
(C. in C. China, 0705Z/10, to Admty.)

Use of
Danish Light-
ers, Bangkok.

Br. Minister Bangkok has transmitted suggestion in view of shortage of shipping Thair Navigation Co., should be permitted to supplement capacity of ships trading with Singapore by use of lighters owned by Danish East Asia Co, on assurance that these would not be seized as enemy property. Minister recommends assurance be given and states similar approach would be made to N.E.I., authorities. In view of instructions in Admty., 1931 of ?(26/3) (2/5.) 1940 that all Danish vessels are to be treated as enemy I am not prepared to agree to this without further authority.
(C. in C. China, 0853Z/10, to Admty.)

LECONTE
DE LISLE.

Departure 9/9. Haiphong.
(Saigon 1020Z/10.)

Japanese
preparations.

Definite indications are that widespread call up of naval (? reserves) at earliest possible moment is now in force, ratings reporting at naval bases 10/9. Known cases include men of ages 45 and 25. Individual mobilization orders were secret. (B.N.A.Tokyo 1556/10.)

Far East
Liaison.

Report on liaison arrangements, etc.
(C. in C., Far East, 2015/10 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

253A

MOST SECRET

1530/10 September
III.

From The War Office.

Date 11.9.41.

CIPHER.

Addressed C. in C. Far East.

IMPORTANT

89154 Cipher (M.O.10) 10/9

Following telegram despatched 8th September to Govts.

of Canada, Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand and U.K.

High Commissioner in Union of South Africa is repeated to you

Begins. M. No. 297 Most Secret.

New Zealand telegram of 14th August to Prime Minister of Commonwealth of Australia No. 228 paragraph 8, repeated to Canada No. 7, Union of South Africa No. 7.

1. Following is short appreciation by our Military Advisers of the situation with regard to Siam. Appreciation begins.

(i) Our object is to avoid war with Japan as long as possible in order to concentrate on defeating Germany.

(ii) Japan possesses air bases in Indo-China just within operating distance of Northern Malaya while Southern Malaya is liable to air attack of diversionary nature only.

(iii) Japanese could penetrate Siam to secure bases from which shore-based aircraft could be operated thereby greatly increasing scale of air threat to Singapore and to sea communications in Straits of Malacca.

(iv) A heavy scale of land attack strongly supported by land-based aircraft might then be delivered on the Northern frontier of Malaya to secure air bases from which to operate light and medium bombers against Singapore. This attack might be accompanied by sea-borne expeditions against the east coast of Malaya with the object of securing air bases to provide fighter escort for attacks on Singapore and to cause dispersion of the forces available for defence.

(v) Japanese

~~SECRET~~ - 2 -

(v) Japanese occupation of Siam would also create a threat to Burma, but in view of the lack of communications and the easily defensible nature of the country, we consider this of less danger.

(vi) Defence of Malaya best achieved by advance into Kra Isthmus to deny to enemy air bases within normal bombing range of Singapore, to increase depth in defence and to shorten land frontier. Plans for this are under consideration.

(vii) The lack of communications in Malaya make it very difficult to base its defence system on a central reserve designed to be moved to particular danger spots as occasion arises. We have permanently to maintain strong land forces on the northern frontier and land forces must also be permanently stationed elsewhere until our Naval and Air Forces are increased, particularly on the East coast which is very vulnerable to enemy landings. Although, however land forces have this to be unusually strong for the area involved, they are almost up to strength already and stronger Air Forces are being provided as they become available.

(viii) An advance into Kra Isthmus would be as much as we should be able to carry out in the way of active counter-measures. Implementation of a direct guarantee to assist Siamese would thus not be possible and in these circumstances it is not recommended that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom should give Siam any direct guarantee.

(ix) A Japanese

C
2538

MOST SECRET

(ix) A Japanese move into Siam would certainly be a threat to our interests, but would not necessarily be a precursor of an immediate attack. Japanese might only wish to secure themselves most favourable position economically and strategically to meet any further developments. Appreciation ends.

2. The above is of course on the hypothesis that at the time of a Japanese incursion into Siam we had not the active support of the United States. These wider political issues are the subject of separate correspondence between us.

3. Further consideration in light of above is being given to questions (a) Whether in absence of prior arrangement with United States or Netherlands authorities for joint action Japanese move into Siam should be treated as a casus belli. (b) whether in event of such a move we should advance into Kra Isthmus.

Repeated to Cairo for Minister of State PRIOR No. 60

Ends.

1530/10

Received in War Registry at 1400/11

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

2530

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2015/10th September IN

From C. in C. Far East.

Date 11.9.41.
Recd. 0925

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office.

42782. 55/5. Ciphor 10/9.

Following. Addressed Troopers for Chiefs of Staff, repeated Air H.Q. Wellington pass copies Army and Navy. Airboard Melbourne pass copies Army and Navy. C. in C. East Indies. C. in C. China. Progress A.D.B.

1. Liaison C.A.S. and C.G.S. Australia visited Malaya Namlea Koepang and had audience with Governor General in Batavia. Chief of Staff G.H.Q.F.E. visited Java Manila Hong Kong. British Observer with U.S. Pacific Fleet visited Singapore.

2. Malaya and N.E.I. Minor administrative arrangements for movements of British aircraft to Dutch Borneo and Sabang and Dutch aircraft to Malaya proceeding satisfactorily. Communications exercised daily. Dutch Officers for Liaison duties with British Squadrons completing training in Malaya.

3. N.E.I. and Australia.

(A) Army M.T. vehicles and military stores for one battalion each stored Ambon and Koepang. Additional Troops ready Darwin for Ambon one Anti Tank Troop field engineers detachment for Koepang one anti Tank Troop field engineers heavy battery fortress signal section. Fortress company engineers M.T. will be despatched shortly. Six inch guns for Koepang awaiting transhipment from Sourabaya. Shortage of concrete and difficulties in landing heavy loads has delayed emplacement.

(B) Air Force. At Koepang. Aerodrome practically complete. Erection of Barracks and W/T continues. At Ambon. Work on aerodrome runway and barracks delayed due to shortage cement. Anticipated date completion area combined H.Q. at Halong end October.

At Namlea. Aerodrome extentions barracks and W/T almost complete. At above three bases fuel bombs and reserve rations in place.

4. Alternative B.O.A.C. route. B.O.A.C. Officials toured Western Sumatra in Dutch Naval Flying Boat. Arrangements for transfer of route complete.

5. No report received from New Zealand.

6. Copies of this telegram for U.S.A. and N.E.I. passed to Liaison Officers.

2015/10

Recd. from War Office 2200/12.

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st Lord | D.N.I. (4) | |
| 1st S.L. | D. of P. (2) | |
| V.C.N.S. | D.C. | |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | E.P.S. | N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson) |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | Head of M. (3) | D.D.I.C. |
| D.O.D. (F) | I.P. (2) | |
| D.D.O.D. (F) | W.D. | |

e.d.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.10.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

LE TRIOMPHANT. Reply to Admty., 2225A/8 re report of desertions at San Diego. (N.A.Washington, ?110R/10 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

N.F.
Destroyer
Escorts.

Your 1807Z/9. How many destroyers of Newfoundland force do you anticipate will normally be available T.C and C.T convoy between Halifax and longitude of Iceland.
(C. in C.W.A., 1424A/10, to C.C.N.F.)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Your 1712A/8. Expect sail 16/9 for Freetown direct, arriving (date).
(C.O.A.C., 1437Z/10, to D. of S.T.)

"Q" Report
4/9.

Following received from Panama, (repeats 2047/9.) Was any American warship in this area? DESPATCH was probably in the area, but no cancellation of message has so far been received.
(D.D.I.C. 1547A/10 to O.P.N.A.V.)
N.C.S.O. Panama 2047/9 has been passed to O.P.N.A.V. O.P.N.A.V. has been informed that DESPATCH was probably in this area but that no cancellation of QQQQ has yet been received, and has been requested to state whether U.S. warships were also in vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1724A/10, to C. in C.A.W.I.)

*See also p. 255*PASTEUR.

Urgently desired to bring PASTEUR carrying service personnel back to U.K. leaving Halifax about (date). Can three R.C.N. Destroyers be made available for this escort, subsequently returning with C.T. 3?
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1622A/10 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.)

T.C.14.

Can estimated sailing date from Halifax and proposed ships for T.C.14 with total accommodation now be given.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1634Z/10 to D. of S.T.)

MEROPE.

Arrival 10th.
(Tampico 1641/10.)

NIAGARA.

RICHMOND 0205Z/10. (see Casualties.) NIAGARA is being despatched forthwith to assistance CANDYTUFT and BITTERSWEET.
(C.C.N.F., 1749Z/10, to C. in C.W.A.)
My 1749Z/10 also repeated to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.
(C.C.N.F.2347Z/10.)

/"Q" Report....

254A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

(?) 110R/10th Sept.

IN

From: N.A. Washington.

Date: 11.9.41.

Recd: 1003.

G.T.C. & I.D.C. 13 BY CABLE.

Addressed: Admiralty, Repeated: D.N.I. Ottawa.

IMPORTANT.

Your 2225 A Sept. 8th

(1) LE TRIOMPHANT due to leave San Diego Sept. 4th delayed sailing in order to recover 16 deserters and absentees. 13 of these were recovered and a court of enquiry was held by the captain at the request of U.S. Naval and immigration authorities. Ship eventually sailed Sept. 6th with eight men not on board.

(2) Two of these were subsequently apprehended including Commandant Gilbert. Both appear to have had Captain's permission to proceed independently by civil air transport to New Caledonia.

(3) Wealthy Free French residents and sympathisers in San Diego area offered collected hospitality to crew of LE TRIOMPHANT, which partly accounts for over staying of leave.

(4) (?Monsieur Vicars) N.A. Washington was in San Diego during visit and U.S. authorities are investigating his activities and testimony of the men recovered since there are grounds for suspicion that he may have encouraged desertions. Report will be forwarded in due course.

(5) Any further men recovered will be held pending the arrival of next Free French ship.

(6) Monsieur Pleven has acted in concert throughout on behalf of Free French Government.

(7) U.S. Naval and immigration authorities have been most co-operative.

1st Lord.

D. of P. (2)

(?) 110R/10.

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt.

1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.O.D. (F)

2nd S.L.

D.D.O.D. (F)

Adl. Chalmers.

D.D.I.C.

V.C.N.S.

D.N.I. (4)

D.C.

A.C.N.S. (F)

I.P. (2)

Hd. of M.

E.P.S.

N.A. 1st S.L.

W.D.

D.D.I.C.

D.P.D.

N.I.D. 10

255

War Diary.10.9.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd."Q" Report
SURREY.

Your 1724A/10. (~~N.T. in W.D.~~). This QQQQ is assumed to be the same as that referred to in B.A.D. 2125R/4 and my 2232Q/5. B.A.D. reported that time given in his above quoted signal as 1320Z/4 should probably have been 1320R/4. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1752Q/10 to Admty.)

*See p. 254*CAP TOURAINE
COMPIEGNE.

Saigon 8/9 B.2. S.S. CAP TOURAINE and COMPIEGNE for (?France) via Madagascar and ships at Sikiang for Madagascar sailed 6/9. Escort ship Sloop ADMIRAL CHARNER and probably two submarines also left same date. It is believed this force is acting as escort to the above merchantmen. 40 Germans the first of a group of 250 for French Foreign Legion are reported on board S.S. CAP TOURAINE returning to fight for Germany. Repeated C. in C. China, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., and S.O.(I) Capetown.
(B.A.D. Washington 1757/10.)

CATHAY.

B.A.R.M. 1119/9. CATHAY will be taken in hand for refit at Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. Anticipated date of departure U.K. 20/9.
(D.O.D.(F) 1846A/10 to C. in C.W.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.Royal New
Zealand Navy.

Mr. Nash, acting Prime Minister, announced in N.Z. Parliament 10/9 that the King had approved of the New Zealand Naval Forces being given the distinction of the name "Royal New Zealand Navy" and of the ships being designated "H.M. New Zealand Ships." (The Times 11/9/41.)

Suspect W/T
Op. in
Belgian Ship.

My 0524Z/13/5 Emile Rene Wuytt, Ex Belgian Tanker ALEXANDRE ANDRE, on appeal was released from internment and placed on parole on 4/7/1941. Left Australia in GLENSHIEL sailing from Sydney 21/8 under instructions from Belgian Consul with a number of Belgian reservists on the understanding that he will join the Belgian forces on arrival in England.
(A.C.N.B., 0308Z/10, to Admty.)

U.S.12A.

CANBERRA escorting U.S.12A left Fremantle 1545Z/9 for Trincomalee.
(A.C.N.B., 0322Z/10, to Admty., etc.)

War Diary.10.9.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.C.42
(attacked
9/9).

Your 1522A/9. (Attack on Convoy S.C.42, see Shipping). Sailed GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA, and WETASKIWIN, at 0015/10, BUTTERMERE, WINDERMERE, at 2000. (A.C.I.C., 0033/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
 2 ships torpedoed 061° 32' 040° 51'.
 (SKEENA, 0333Z/10 to Admty., etc).
 One ship torpedoed 061° 38' 040° 40'.
 (SKEENA, 0513Z/10 to Admty).
 One ship torpedoed 061° 50' 040° 18'.
 (SKEENA, 0800Z/10 to Admty., etc).
 2 ships in S.C. 42 torpedoed at 0335Z/10 in 061° 32' N., 080° (740°) 51' W.
 (C. in C. W.A., 0821A/10 to GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA etc).
 (D.D.I.C., 0925A/10 to O.P.N.A.V.)
 Ship torpedoed 062° 14' 039° 29'.
 (SKEENA, 1444Z/10 to Admty., etc).
 My 0333Z/10 WACI Sect. 1 part 102 (A) Illuminated stern (?appeared) by starshell. U-boat sighted on the surface starboard beam No. 75 no contact obtained. (B) Starboard hard. (C) WACI diagram N.E. 4 all positions filled. (D) HARON (?BARON) PENTLAND No. 45. TASCEE (?TAHCHEE) No. 42 (regard) salvage possibilities of both ships good (E) 0333Z/10 in D.R.61.32 N., 40.51 W., (F) Course 43° since 2200Z/10. (G) Clear night full moon sea smooth. (H) U-boat appears to have attacked on surface between column 7 and 9.
 My 0513Z/10. (A) Illuminated area by Starshell. Biplane not sighted and no contact obtained. (B) (?Aircraft) attacked from both sides. (C) WACI North East Beta (B) position G vacant (D) SALLY MAERSK No. 121 WINTERWYCH (?WINTERSWIJK) No. 25 MUNERIC Number 12 (E) 0510Z/10 in D.R.61 38 N., 40.40 W., (F) As for 0333Z attack (G) As for 0333Z attack (H) At least 2 U-boats must have attacked from bow position.
 My 0800Z/10. (A) S/M not sighted. No contact obtained (B) Port sideway attack correctly signalled (C) SKEENA (only ship present) ahead of convoy (D) C.A.M. Ship S.S. EMPIRE ^{WINDERMERE} No. 21. Possibility of salvage good. (E) 0800Z/10 in D.R.61.50 N., 40.18 0333Z attack. (G) Daylight clear sky visibility good.
 My 1444 Z/10 (A) Periscope sighted and contact obtained 283° two miles from torpedoed ship. One Pounce attack with pattern 10 charge and two deliberate attacks also with 10 charge pattern carried out on submarine echo. Result believed successful. (B) Unknown (C) WACI diagram D.E.3. All positions filled. (D) THISTLEGLLEN No. 91 (E) 1444Z/10 in D.R. 62.14 N., 39.29 W., (F) As for 0332Z attack (G) As for 0800Z attack (H) U-boat attempted to escape by remaining under convoy. Periscope (?sighted) astern when convoy resumed original course. In addition above REGIN 74 23 is reported as missing. (SKEENA 2205Z/10).

* This was incorrect see 16/9/41.

War Diary.10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

257

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

1105. Am over enemy submarine in 46.23 N., 11.22 W.,
Enemy sub. previously reported sighted on
surface and observed to submerge when first
sighted was on course 260° speed 8 knots.
(A/C call sign 5YTU 1105/10 to 19 Group.)
1305. ASV contact in position 59.25 N., 10.11 W.,
probably a submarine, no enemy has been sighted
(?visibility) 15 miles.
(A/C using call sign SJ8A, 1305/10 to 15 Group.)

Seaplane
and U/B 8/9.

Skippers of trawlers DEESIDE and DELHI report
that on anchoring at midnight 8/9 in 52° 7'
30" N., 6° 37' 12"W., seeing a Heinkel 115
seaplane take off from 52° 8' 6" 6° 35' 48" and
fly between trawlers and S. Saltee Island to the
S.W. Sound of batteries being charged heard for
two hours in direction of where plane came from,
but nothing seen. Bright moonlight at time A.2.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1356A/10 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1410A/10.)

- 1232 G.M.T. D/F bearings at 1232 G.M.T. indicate U.Boat may
be in vicinity of Convoy O.N.12.
(D.D.I.C. 1426A/10 to WORCESTERSHIRE, etc.)
1430. Enemy S/M in 61.50 N., 40.20 W.
A/C using call sign 6 WUH 1430/10.)
- 1449 G.M.T. By D/F at 1449 G.M.T. U-Boat in area 55° to
56° N., 23° 30' to 25° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1831A/10, to VERONICA etc.)
- 1811 G.M.T. By D/F at 1811 G.M.T. U-Boat in 48° 30' N., 13°
30' W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 2115A/10.)

War Diary.

10.9.1941 **258**
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By S.S.
DENBIGHSHIRE
1/9.

Master S.S. DENBIGHSHIRE reports (1) short action with submarine at 1450Z/1 in 59.21N., 9.21W. Three rounds fired at S/M which submerged and disappeared. Attempt to transmit distress message unsuccessful owing W/T failure (2) passed floating balloon type aircraft landing at 2045Z/3 in 60.55N., 32.56W-(3) passed floating black and blue canvas ball at 1415Z/4 marked in white G.K.4 and possible 2 other numbers.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0949Q/10 to Admty.)

By A/C.

Am over enemy submarine in position 48° 20' N., 7° 5' W. Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 090°. (A/C with Call Sign MK8T 1503/10.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 5 hits.
(A/C using call sign MK8T 1855/10 to H.Q. 19 Group. My 1949A/10 (not circulated.) Aircraft claim 5 hits with depth charges at 1855/10.
(F.O.S., 2129A/10 to TAKU.)

By GORLESTON.

In 014° 05' N., 018° 38' W., at 2002N., torpedo passed ahead, end of track attacked with depth charges. No asdic contact, R.D.F. out of action. Search abandoned at 2130N.
(GORLESTON, 2145/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

By MOOSEJAW.
CHAMBLY,
(U.501)

H.M.C.S. CHAMBLY^E and MOOSEJAW attacked and sunk a U-boat at 0130/10. MOOSEJAW has 30 prisoners. (D.O.R. 12/9) (No signal in W.D. 10/9, but see SKEENA, 17002/11, ship attacked)

Admty statement on the sinking of U.501, The Times.

6.12.1941, see next page.

⊗ First and only depth charge attack at 0035^Z/11/9. G.M.T. in 62°50'N., 37°50'W.
Ship time would therefore be about 2½ hours earlier, i.e. still 10th Sept. (M.016241/41)

10.9.41.
Wednesday.*The Times Sat. Dec. 6. 1941.*

U-BOAT CAPTAIN'S JUMP FOR LIFE

CREW ABANDONED

The Admiralty stated last night that the U-boat which was sunk by the corvettes H.M.C.S. Chambly (Commander J. D. Prentice, R.C.N.) and H.M.C.S. Moose Jaw (Lieutenant F. E. Grubb, R.C.N.), of the Royal Canadian Navy, was U 501. She was a new submarine and the first of a new series of 740-ton U-boats. She was built at Hamburg and commissioned on April 30, 1941, under the command of Korvetten Kapitan Hugo Forster.

On August 7 U-501 left Trondheim on her first and last operational cruise into the Atlantic. She had been out only a few days when she was attacked by a British warship at daybreak and forced to crash-dive. Later she was forced to remain submerged for two days owing to incessant air reconnaissance over the Atlantic.

Early in September U-501 attacked a small Norwegian ship of about 2,000 tons and fired six torpedoes. Only one hit and this failed to sink the Norwegian. U-501 came to the surface and fired more than 40 shells into this small steamer before sinking her.

On September 11 U-501 attempted to attack a British convoy, but was forced to the surface by the Chambly's depth charges. The Moose Jaw opened fire and then tried to ram, but because the U-boat was still under way and altering course the corvette struck her only a glancing blow. At the moment of impact Forster, who was on the conning tower, jumped on board the corvette, abandoning his boat and his crew in a scramble for his own life.

Later the German crew took to the water, and 37 were saved and are prisoners of war. Ten were drowned.

The action of Forster in jumping for safety without thought for his crew, says the Admiralty, has caused considerable discussion among the hundreds of U-boat prisoners now in our hands. He lacked both experience and the confidence of his crew. He joined the German Navy in 1923 and, apart from a short U-boat course, spent his time entirely in surface ships.

His first lieutenant, Oberleutnant zur See Werner Albring, joined the German Navy in 1934. Two years later he was transferred to the Luftwaffe and had only recently been sent back to the Navy, and had been drafted to U-boats after a short course.

Among the other officers were two midshipmen who had only joined the navy on December 1, 1939. They had had no naval experience. The engineer officer, four petty officers, and two ratings were the only members of the crew who had ever made a war cruise in a U-boat. Most of the crew were very young. They were disillusioned by the difference between the realities of life on active service in a U-boat and the glowing descriptions of the recruiting authorities and incessant propaganda.

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 1945).
- (c) Dispositions and Movements (Foreign Stations) (1 September 1945).
- (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.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

LONDON is patrolling the Western Approaches to the Denmark Straits. She was ordered to return to Hvalfjord at 2051A.

M.T.B.
engagement.

M.T.B.'s 38, 218 and 219, on patrol near the Varne at 2230 fired 4 torpedoes without result at 3 armed trawlers off Gris Nez. M.G.B.'s 43 and 46, despatched from Dover in support closed the enemy at 2249 and engaged them for 20 minutes. Several E or R boats may have been present. M.G.B. 43 and M.T.B. 219 were slightly damaged and the former had some casualties. No results of the fire of our own ships were seen, though many hits are claimed.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy E.C.72 was bombed this afternoon off Harwich no ships were damaged. WORCESTER reported that she suspected an aircraft, which was flying at 50 ft., of minelaying. The convoy was bombed again from 2000 today. (See 12/9).

Mining.

Mines were detonated off Spurn Point today.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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South Atlantic.

The Uruguayan Government have signed a decree taking over the 2 Italian and 2 Danish ships in Montevideo.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.

A single aircraft of Bomber Command operating from U.K. Dropped bombs on Genoa last night.

6 Blenheims today hit and seriously damaged a 3,000 ton escorted merchant ship in 240°, Cape Matapan 110 miles.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Slight damage was caused at Tobruk by enemy bombing last night. 2 fighters were lost in an air battle over A lighters on passage to Tobruk. The lighters arrived safely and discharged.

Mersa Matruh was bombed again today, and slight damage was caused.

6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour and one Derna last night.

Egypt and
Canal Area.

The last mine in the Suez Canal exploded spontaneously at 1703C today, and the Canal is now considered clear.

Syria and
Palestine.

Bombs were dropped S.E. of Acre last night and north of Acre today. No damage was caused.

Cyprus.

There was an air raid on Larnaca between 0500 and 0520 today. No damage was caused.

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Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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U-boat Campaign.

Renewed attacks on Convoy S.C.42 & further ships torpedoed.

Attacks on S.C. 42 continued today, SKEENA reports BULYSESSES torpedoed at 0002Z in 63° N., 38° W. GARM and BESTUM at 0210Z in 63° 2' N., 37° 51' W. GYPSUM QUEEN and STONEPOOL at 0332Z in 63° 5' N., 37° 50' W., SCANIA and EMPIRE CROSSBILL at 0514Z in 63° 14' N., 37° 12' W. ORILLA, last seen at 1205Z/10 taking TAHCHEE in tow, was missing at 1700Z today, but she eventually arrived in Iceland (C). ~~Report of torpedoing of BESTUM may be incorrect.~~ It appears that BERURY was also torpedoed at 0050. COLUMBIA and ST. CROIX left Iceland at 2135Z today to reinforce the escort of S.C. 42. Tugs are being sent to bring in three ships which it is hoped to salve.

At 1851A the convoy was still being shadowed and the escort ships were warned to expect attack by large numbers of U-boats.

At 0257Z KENOGAMI sighted a U-boat on the port side of the convoy and reported the U-boat probably destroyed.

MONTANA torpedoed.

At 1445 an aircraft saw S.S. MONTANA (Panamanian) sailing independently, torpedoed in 63° 40' N., 35° 50' W.

U-boat Attacked.

An aircraft attacked a U-boat this morning in 48° 0' N., 10° 30' W., and estimated two hits.

War Diary.

11.9.41. . . .
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

26th M.L.
Flotilla
for
Gibraltar.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool is to sail 2 corvettes of 36th E.G. to arrive Londonderry a.m./13th. Each corvette is to embark at Liverpool 1,000 gallons of 87 Octane petrol in tins or drums.
2. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is to sail 26th M.L. Flotilla when ready, escorted by the two corvettes, to Gibraltar issuing necessary orders in accordance with Admiralty's 1155A/24/8.
3. Route.
4. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue onward routeing instructions.
5. After escorting Convoy to Gibraltar, corvettes will be ordered to return to U.K. with H.G.74. (C.in C., W.A. 0026A/11.)

JUMNA for
E.I. Station.

A.M.1930/9. C.in C., W.A. is requested to sail JUMNA as part escort for an O.S. Convoy to Freetown as soon as her minesweeping winch and sweep wires are replaced on board.
2. C.in C., S.A. is requested to arrange for her onward passage to E.I. Station at best speed.
3. Arrangements will be made to forward Oerlikon Guns. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0128A/11.) *See also p.276*

EREBUS.

Admiralty 1747/9. Request you sail EREBUS for the Clyde at the first possible opportunity. No further working up period can be accepted.
(A.C.N.S(H) 1047A/11.) *See also p.264*

Cruiser
requirements.

Your 1342A/9. Para.(a). An 8 inch cruiser will be detailed. (ii) Para. (? (b)). This cruiser will provide ocean escort for return of "Dervish". (iii) Paras. (b) and (d) my 2153A/9 refers.
(C.in C., H.F. 1110A/11.)

BORDE.

F.O.I.C. Humber has reported that as M.D. ship BORDE is now without a mate, he considers it useless to keep her in commission. It is considered that the operational value of a single ship of this size and type is small and particularly so on the east coast where much shallow water and liability to frequent air attack exist. Request instructions.
(C.in C. Nore 1144A/11.)

/ Veidileysu

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Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd)

Veidileysu
Fiord.

C.in C., H.F. wishes to be able to use Veidileysu Fiord 066° 20'N 022° 42'W for refuelling A/S Ships. Can SCOTT be spared to visit this anchorage on passage and suggest what aids to navigation are required. (A.C.I.C. 1227Z/11 to R.A.M.)

S/M at
Pembroke for
C.C.
Practices.

Admiralty 1741A/10.

A. Regret that the requirement of a S/M at Pembroke for Coastal Command bombing practices can only be met (1) At the expense of A/S practices. (2) By detailing an operational S/M for this purpose.

B. In view of the very depleted state of the operational flotillas, and the heavy commitments for A/S training, it is for consideration whether the requirements of A.O.C. in C., C.C. could not be met by arranging bombing practices in conjunction with A/S practices in the Clyde area, necessary arrangements being made by the local authorities concerned.
(F.O.S. 1308A/11.)

4th M.L.
Flotilla.

4th M.L.F. with spare crew, maintenance staff, and base stores are to be withdrawn from Iceland and will be based at Troon.

2. A.C.I.C. is requested to report when this flotilla will be ready to sail and C.in C., H.F. is requested to provide escort from Iceland to Scapa as necessary.

3. A.C.I.C. is requested to route the flotilla as far as Scapa and A.C.O.S. to sail flotilla from Scapa to Troon.

(D.D.O.D.C. 1805A/11.)

Defence of U.K.

Iceland.
Accommodation
for Winter.

Admiralty 1129A/9. Port Reykjavik is shared between British and U.S. Armies and Iceland. Naval requirements hardly affect situation. BALDUR has not occupied any quay for many months but is berthed outside ships unloading. Negligible proportion of quayage has been occupied by Naval Stores lately.

/ When

War Diary.

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Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Iceland.
Accommodation
for Winter.
(Contd)

When transit shed completed no Naval Stores (? will) occupy (? quayage) at all. In view of acute inconvenience suffered during past year, personnel will be considerably more comfortable ashore and proposal will be submitted for extension of Naval camp accordingly. G.O.C. is being consulted and written report follows. (A.C.I.C. 1553/11.)

Movements.

PUCKERIDGE.

On completion of exercises tomorrow PUCKERIDGE proceed to Portsmouth to join command of C.in C. Portsmouth. Route. C.in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange fighter protection from daylight 14th when ship will be off Lands End. (R.A.D. 0954A/11 to PUCKERIDGE.)

KENYA.

Scapa departure C.S.10 in KENYA. (A.C.O.S. 1113A/11.)

Force A.

C.in C., H.F. 0045A/11. Intend to proceed passing through Switha Gate at 1705 today. E.T.A.1100A/12. (S.O. Force A 1156A/11 to A.C.O.S.)

EREBUS.

Return to Scapa. (C.in C., H.F. 1427/11 to EREBUS.) *See p. 262*

SHROPSHIRE,
ARGUS,
OLIGARCH.

E.T.A. Seidis (?Fiord) 0900A/12, SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS, IMPULSIVE, ECLIPSE, INGLEFIELD. Request oiler be informed. Estimated Oiler OLIGARCH and escort left vicinity G.G. 2000A/10 routed through 070° 33'N 008° 20'W thence round North Cape. S. of A. (?8) knots. E.T.A. Hvalfiord 1200A/15. (Capt. D.3. 1611A/11).

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Convoy
"Dervish".

Cancel my 1735A/8 and my 1802A/8. An additional ship the ~~X~~DUKE OF SPARTA is being included in the "Dervish" Convoy. The last 3 ships for this convoy namely HARMONIC, RIVER AFTON, and DUKE OF SPARTA are to be sailed in convoy O.N.18 for Hvalfiord. Ship will leave Clyde 20/9. Speed of this Convoy is to be reduced as necessary to include these ships.

Probable date of departure of "Dervish" from Hvalfiord will therefore be (-).

(A.C.N.S. (H), 1724A/11) (D.O.D. (H), 1025A/12).

**To read GEMSTONE P.290*

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

My 1308A/10. Return to Hvalfjord.
(C. in C. H.F. 2051A/11 to LONDON).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 1850/10, para (3). (?Air patrol) off, owing to thick fog. (A.C.I.C., 0910/11).

"Stand" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1002/11).

"Fox" and "Bear" being carried out by Hudsons at noon. (A.C.I.C., 1206/11).

"Hornli" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1444/11).

My 1024. R/C unsuccessful owing to weather.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1654/11).

My 1206/11. Patrols not completed owing to fog.

(A.C.I.C., 1859/11).

"Stab" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2104/11).

NIGERIA
Fighter
Protection.

558 Request Fighter protection for one Cruiser and two Destroyers from Daylight/12 until 1200/12. Ships pass 22A Buoy at 0600A/12 on passage to Tyne. (C. in C. H.F. 0915A/11 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operations
"Nomad"
"Intruder".

1. Carry out operation "Nomad" tonight with four A/C 53 Sqdn. between Ostend and Texel.

2. Three A/C of 500 Sqdn. to be at immediate readiness tonight for "Intruder" operations on instructions from this H.Q. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q., 1349/11 to Bircham Newton).

One
Reporting
Vessel
claimed
damaged.

During day 10/9 one A/C attacked a Reporting Vessel 63 miles N.W. of Vlieland. Near misses were recorded. The vessel was seen to rock violently and in all probability was damaged. (H.Q.B.C., 1515/11).

/C.A. Sweep.....

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - Contd.

C.A.
Sweep.

C.A. sweep of six Whitleys in line abreast five miles apart to proceed from Wick to Reykjavik taking off at 0100 B.S.T. and landing at Reykjavik. Centre line of sweep Cape Wrath - Vesterman Islands. (A.C.H.Q. Rosyth, 1935/11).

Iceland
A/C Re-
inforcements.

Propose reinforcing you with 2 Catalinas from Obanka, Whitleys from Wick, Catalinas arriving dawn/12 and Whitleys before 1000/12. Further 6 Whitleys from 502 Squadron on parallel sweep from Limavady to Reykjavik will arrive dusk 12/9 subject to weather. Of utmost importance to maintain maximum effort for cover of convoy. Keep this headquarters 15 and 18 Groups informed of aircraft situation and weather every 3 hours. (H.Q.C.C., 2000/11 to R.A.F. Iceland).

M/V
Attacked
off Sogne
Fiord.

2 Enemy M/Vs 2,000 tons bearing 090°, 5 miles, course 220°, in 61° 3' N., 4° 58' E. (A/C, F.H.7 A. 2302/11)
Have attacked enemy M/V with dive bombs and estimate 2 hits. (A/C F.H.7 A. 2310/11).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
E.C.72
bombed.

One Enemy A/C shadowing, bearing 150° 5 miles from Convoy "Might". My position 51° 56' N., 1° 40' E. (WIDGEON, 1440/11) (VIMIERA 1445/11).
Enemy A/C bombing Convoy "Might" position 51° 56' N. 1° 40' E. (WIDGEON, 1450/11) (VIMIERA, 1452/11).
Enemy A/C bombing Convoy "Might" position 52° 27' N. 2° 3' E., course 015°, 8 knots. (VIMIERA, 2000/11).
One Aeroplane bearing 030°, 2 miles, course 260° My position, 340°, 52° 31' N., 2° 4' E. (VERDUN, 2002/11).
One enemy A/C shot down by VIMIERA burning in water. Am searching for survivors. (VIMIERA, 2018/11).
1 Shadowing A/C "Might" convoy. Position 52° 49' N. 2° 9' E., course 335°, speed 5 knots. (VIMIERA, 2343/11).

A/C over
Orkneys.

At 1347/11 E/A Approached Hoy from Westward, passed over Fleet anchorage at 24000 feet on an easterly course. A/C was visually identified by three gun sites as a Junkers 88. Two fighters were sent up from CASTLETON but failed to intercept. First R.D.F. plot was at 1354 when A/C was to E. of Orkney, and last plot received when A/C was 90 miles E.S.E. of a Buoy. Assumed A/C saw into Fleet anchorage. (A.C.O.S., 1545/11).

/CONAKRIAN.....

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.- Contd.

CONAKRIAN
attacked.

At 1524/11 single enemy A/C, type unidentified, dropped one bomb on South Bank River Don about 200 yards from S.S. CONAKRIAN. No damage or casualties. A/C then passed over Aberdeen Harbour at about 2500 ft. height and proceeded Eastward to sea being fired at by examination vessel simultaneously with civil warning sounding. No A/A fire opened from A/A defences. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1707/11).

Mining.

Iceland.
ODERIN.
EMBERLY.

Motor Mine Sweepers ODERIN and EMBERLY have arrived Iceland. Request instructions. (A.C.I.C., 1145/11).

Off
Felixstowe.

1 A/C bearing 060° 8 miles. My position 51° 56' N. 1° 28' E. (WORCESTER, 1147/11)
My 1144. A/C at 50 feet possibly Minelaying. (WORCESTER, 1158/11).

Spurn
Point.

The Following mine was detonated at 0638 today. Details. (F.O. Humber, 2137A/11).

East Coast
S.A. Sweep.
WINDSOR.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1225A/9. Request you sail WINDSOR by Swept Channels for Tyne so as to arrive p.m./14. Speed on passage to be 20 knots, and S.A. Gear is to be operated whilst on passage. Fighter protection should be asked for. (C. in C. Nore, 2330A/11 to D.16).

Enemy Intelligence.

LÜTZOW.

LÜTZOW in tow of 2 tugs sighted (?apparently) entering Kiel Canal at Holtenau en route for Brünnsbüttel. Graded B.3. (Asst. N.A. Stockholm, 1446/11). *Cancelled 12/9. See p. 293*
Your 1446/11. Request time and date of this movement. (D.D.I.C., 2155A/11 to N.A. Stockholm).

Christiansand
in Early
September.

(A.N.A., Stockholm 1447/11).

/Off.....

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - contd.

Off
Sogne Fiord.

2 enemy M/V's 2,000 tons bearing 090°, 5 miles, course 220°, position 61° 3' N., 4° 58' E. (A/C F.H.7A. 2302/11).

DINANT,
MOURISCA.
(Trawlers)
off
Slyne Head.

At 1600/11 in 53° 30' N., 11° 17' W. A/C saw 2 trawlers, odd-looking superstructure, flying yellow and orange flag. Both appeared very modern and well looked after their names were DINANT, MOURISCA. DINANT was marked F.5095 BV, MOURISCA was marked F.5096 BV. Course 200° T, speed 15 knots. (A.C.H.Q. 2359/11 to H.Q., 15 Group).

Miscellaneous.

Iceland -
Faeroes cable
broken by
BARDALAND.

Your 1441/10. Provision of cable and cable ship would be welcome. Following cable required. Present break appears near an old repair and grappling this cable would endanger connection to Shetlands. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1000A/11).
Your 1145/10. Master computes position was 6° 43½' W., 61° 59½' N. (B.C. Gothenburg, 1500/11 to Admty).

Buoy with
Flag.

CASSEQUEL in 40° 15' N., 17° 16' W. Floating red buoy with white flag. Master. Ends. (Valentia Radio, 1003/11).

Casualties and Defects.

NIGERIA
(Damaged
7/9).
HOLDERNESS.
MEYNELL.
LAMERTON,
BADSWORTH.

NIGERIA is to proceed as necessary to pass 22 A. Buoy at 0600A/12 and thence to Tyne to be taken in hand for repairs.
(ii) R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to provide A/S Screen of 2 destroyers as far as 22 A Buoy.
(iii) S.A. Escort from 22 A., Buoy has been arranged in accordance with C. in C. Nore 2232A/10. (C. in C. H.F., 0045A/11).
C. in C. Nore 2232A/10. R/V with NIGERIA at 22A buoy 0600/12, relieve A/S, destroyer escort, and then act as S.A.escort to NIGERIA by war Channel to Tyne. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1050/11 to HOLDERNESS, MEYNELL).
Scapa departure S.O.Force A in NIGERIA escorted by LAMERTON and BADSWORTH. (A.C.O.S., 1711A/11).

KONGSDAL.

My 1923A/9. KONGSDAL arrived. (D.D.I.C., 1252A/11).

/BURZA.....

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BURZA.
(collision
8/9).

Your 1445/10 and F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1805A/10. Damage details. Approx. time for repairs would be ten days. Ship will have to come up harbour and Messrs. Fairfield will undertake the damage repairs only on 16/9. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1325/11).

EMERAUDE.
BARDALE.
HAMLA.
(Grounded
9/9).

Arrived tug MARAUDER. Report from Commander Kay, Liverpool Salvage Company as follows. EMERAUDE broadside on to rocks. Leakage at present under control. Require shallow draft craft for discharge. This only possible at high water. BARDALE refloated 2230 yesterday, leaking slightly No. 1 hold. Pump installed, vessel safe to proceed Clyde via Oban. HAMLA No. 1 hold half full, increasing rapidly. Operations proceeding. MARAUDER landed crew of HAMLA for night at Stornoway, proceeding with crew and extra stores at 0600 tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1553A/11).

M/L 163.

Damaged in collision with R.A.F. Pinnace No. 59 on 10/9. Estimated time for repairs 5 days. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1819/11).

Shipping and Convoys.

STRATHEDEN.

To be used for voyage commencing from Clyde 16/9. Equipment, etc. of units left in DUCHESS OF ATHOLL to be transferred to STRATHEDEN. (D.S.T., 0816A/11 to D.S.T.O. Glasgow).

WS12

DOMINION
MONARCH.
HIGHLAND
PRINCESS.

DOMINION MONARCH will now be included in W.S.12, code number B.19, and she will embark at Liverpool. (2) Sailing date of HIGHLAND PRINCESS will not be before 26/9., but will be confirmed in due course. (D.S.T., 0820A/11 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

Soviet
Convoy.

Soviet convoy of 2 ships escorted by 2 URITSKI class destroyers sailed Murmansk for Archangel at 1100C/11 3. of A 8 knots. Admty pass to ELECTRA, HARRIER. (British S.N.O. Murmansk, 1414C/11).

T.C.14.

My 1725/22/8. Position in regard to T.C.14 is now as follows. (D.S.T., 1614A/11 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

/E. C. 72.....

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Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

E.C. 72
additional
escort.

Your ^{N.T.W.D.} 1016/11 regret BROKE cannot be spared for this duty. Request she may be sailed direct to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 1622A/11 to C. in C. Rosyth).

S.S. MANELA.

Carrying R.A.F. personnel to Freetown is leaving U.K. in O.S.7.

2. Request you will detail one escort to accompany MANELA in case of dispersal of the convoy. (D.O.D. (H) 1920A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Aircraft
Recognition
Signals.

The issue of extracts from Aircraft Recognition Signals to Commodores of Convoy should be discontinued. (D.T.D. 2124A/11 to N.C.S.O.'s and C's in C.)

War Diary.11.9.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.S.L.86

Your 1318A/10. Request check of position of S.L.86. (D.T.D. 0024A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TRUSTY.

My position is 043° N. 010° 40' W. course 187° S. of A. 12½ knots. Weather. (TRUSTY, 0601A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0601A. Adjust speed to R/V escort in position (R) at 1900A/13. If unable to comply within 1 hour signal E.T.A. position (R) when crossing 009° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1310A/11 to TRUSTY.)

BRITISH
FREEDOM.

Your 1250A/10. BRITISH FREEDOM not arrived nor has she been sighted. My 2254A/8 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 0932A/11 to Admty.)

French Ships.

Arrival Setubal 9th CAUDEBEC, LE TRAIT. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1121/11.)

SOKOL.

(i) On crossing 043° N. report your P.C. and S. of A. (ii) onward route position. (S) 038° 00' 010' 40' (T) 036° 35' 009° 00' (U) 350° Spartel 10 miles for inward escort. (iii) Diving by day on (?13th). Appropriate bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.C.N.A. 1308A/11 to SOKOL.)

PROTEUS.

Intend to sail PROTEUS for Malta p.m./14 subject to completion of defects routed through 038° 15' N. 009° 00' E. thence as ordered by V.A. Malta. PROTEUS crosses 009° E. a.m./17. Cargo R.A.F. Stores and 65 tons D.T.D. 230 Petrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/11.)

CONSBRO.

Your 1049/11. ^{N.T.N.W.D.} Confirmed that CONSBRO is at Londonderry, ship put back shortly after sailing and message 2114/10 from R.O. Horta must be in error in the position given for CONSBRO. (D.O.D.(F) 1726A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LADY SHIRLEY.

My 1731/9. Auxiliary A/S Tanker (GZQS) LADY SHIRLEY proceeding direct to Gibraltar after carrying out submarine search in vicinity of Islands Desertas and Porto Santo. Speed 9 knots. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 2015C/11.)

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11.9.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

→ EDINBURGH
CAMERONIA.

Request you will sail EDINBURGH forthwith at best speed to Gibraltar where she should arrive (date) at latest. 2. Request you will arrange A.M.C. escort for CAMERONIA. (1st S.L. 0023A/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

GORLESTON,
O.S.4.

Admty. 1728A/6. Report your P.C. and S. at following times, 0900Z and 2100Z on each of the following days, 4th, 5th and 6/9, and to what extent these differed from your estimated position at time. Forward a track chart on return to harbour. (C.in C. S.A., 0221N/11 to GORLESTON.) Reply: 2359N/12.

→ CAMERONIA.

Your 1455/9. Report whether the 445 personnel awaiting passage from Freetown to U.K. take into account any embarked in DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and SOBIESKI in accordance with your 1131/13/8. P.S.T.O. Simonstown is requested to reply regarding accommodation available in CAMERONIA. (D. of S.T. 0819A/11 to C. in C. S.A.)
My 0349/5. Request CAMERONIA be drydocked before leaving South Africa if practicable without delaying escort arrangements. (D.S.T. 1028A/11 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)
CAMERONIA further delayed by defects and E.T.D. from Durban now 14/9. As dock at Durban not available, propose ship sails from Capetown for Freetown as soon as PRETORIA CASTLE is available probably 18/9. Alternative of possibly docking Simonstown would entail too great delay. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2123B/11 to C. in C. S.A.)

REINA DEL
PACIFICO.

Your 0338/31/5 REINA DEL PACIFICO sailed for Halifax and U.K. 7/9 E.T.A. Halifax 25/9. Ship sustained damage at Capetown in collision with BRITANNIC, repairs estimated take 7 days otherwise only normal voyage repairs. Loaded Capetown 3989 tons including 1508 tons Citrus. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown 0956B/11 to D. of S.T.)

SOBO
PINZON.

Your 1558A/10. See my 1551N/6 and my 0901N/11. (Bathurst 1030N/11 to Admty.)

French
ships.
Dakar.

Meter Dakar 10/9 A one. 2 Destroyers and French S/M parent ship JULES VERNE have put to sea for what is said to be manoeuvres. FORT DE VAUX, AISNE have sailed for southward. (B.A.D. Washington 1233R/11 to S.O.(I) Freetown.)

/Suspicious

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Suspicious
tanker.

U.S.S. LONE STAR reports sighting a large Tanker stopped, possibly a supply ship p.m./25/8 in 25° 53' S. 04° 19' W. Master's suspicions roused because unknown Tanker burned two white flares and later showed one red light high up amidships. Vessel would not respond to LONE STAR's signals by lamp at close distance. Tanker's course when last seen was approx. 315°. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1445/11.)

BORDEAUX.

Departure. Duala 13.9.41. (N.C.S.O. Lagos 1800Z/11.)

NESTOR.

Damage by depth charges. Am proceeding Freetown direct. E.T.A. 1130Z/12. My p.c. and s. are 013° 09' N. 017° 12' W. 185° 25 knots. (NESTOR 1830Z/11 to C. in C. S.A., Admty.) My 1830. Both sliding feet port H.P. Turbine fractured. Speed reduced to 18 knots. E.T.A. now 1900. Route through following positions A 11 13 N. 17 16 W. B 8 28 N. 14 38 W. My P.C. and S. are 12 05 N. 17 29 W. 166° 18 knots. (NESTOR 2200Z/11.)

ALCANTARA
CARNARVON
CASTLE.

R.A.S.A.D. 1243Z/8 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1642Z/8 unless it is necessary for ALCANTARA and CARNARVON CASTLE to R/V for specific purpose following programme is intended. CARNARVON CASTLE leave Simonstown 26/9 arrive Tristan da Cunha 30/9 depart 1/10 arrive L. 31 7/10. ALCANTARA leave S.A.D. about 4/10 to arrive Simonstown 14/10. R.A.S.A.D. is requested to signal concurrence or otherwise. (C. in C. S.A. 2025N/11 to R.A.S.A.D., N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

LORINDA.

B. of E. into loss. Summary of finding. (C. in C. S.A. 2201N/11.) See Lion Copy.

Axis ships
taken over.

Uruguayan Government have signed decree taking over the 2 Italian and 2 Danish ships in Montevideo. Ships will be run by National Port Administration on Inter American Trade. (N.S.O.(1) Montevideo 2251Z/11.)

27319

2201^N/11th September.

MESSAGE.

IN.

S E C R E T.

Date 12-9-41.

From C. in C., South Atlantic.

Time 0845.

Naval Cypher (X) By W/T and T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

217. My 1151/10/8. B. of E. into loss of LORINDA, summary of finding. LORINDA and BALTA in company BALTA Senior Officer. (1) Loss due to abnormal leak into W/T compartment comprising engine room, boiler room and cross bunker. (2) Believed ship left Rosyth Dockyard without strainer to bilge suctions. (3) Ballast was put in at Ardrossan consisting of granite blocks 12 inches by 6 inches by 6 inches. Some stated to have been heaped in boiler and engine rooms without precautions against shifting in heavy weather. Commanding Officer and Chief Engineman state they considered this unsatisfactory and Commanding Officer represented this verbally to N.O.I.C. Ardrossan. (4) After leaving Freetown trouble experienced with choking pump suctions, caused by gasses and small coal in bilges, which should have been cleared before leaving. On 18th August motion increased and granite block ballast in boiler room shifted and damaged one or more sea connections or pivots in vicinity. From this time increase of water was abnormal. It increased and eventually exceeded any capacity of pumps. Increase was due to further movement of ballast. (5) Primary cause of loss due to shifting of ballast in heavy weather which caused damage resulting in leak, but loss would have been delayed and possibly prevented if bilges had been clear.

(7) Cause of leak was not appreciated at the time and was thought to be stern gland, which Board consider was not the case. Chief Enginemans attention was concentrated on improvising direct hose connection to the pumps from the bilge as a result of damage to pipes during first twelve hours. Main bilge circulating injection was not used. (8) Lack of appreciation of developments by Commanding Officer and failure of engine room staff to take adequate steps to locate source of leakage during this time contributed to the situation getting out of hand. (9) B. of E. state though original cause was damage due to shifting ballast conclusions reflect severely on competence of Commanding Officer and Chief Engineman and, if naval personnel, B. of E. would have definitely attributed blame, but taking into consideration lack of training and experience of Commanding Officer and mental limitations of Chief Engineman do not ascribe negligence. Each carried out their duties to utmost of limited qualifications. Commanding Officer Lt. J.H. Seelye, R.N.V.R. (New Zealand) Chief Engineman W.F. Steele R.N.P.S. . . . 10 Ref. A.F.O. 3700/40 do not consider court martial desirable and propose to use some of crew to complete that of Trawler MAPLE due to proceed to Mediterranean subject to their not being required for any further action but not Commanding Officer or Engineman.

2736

11.9.41

- 3 -

Intend to sail BALTA for China as originally
instructed. Ends.

2201N/11.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty House.
Ops. (3).
O.D. (5).
O.D. 8.
M. (2).
O.I.C. (2).
Mails.
Movts.

I.P. (3).
D.A/S.W.
~~W.D.~~
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Basement.
D.D.T.M.
A.C.R.
C.W. (2).
D.P.S. (2).
N.
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (C).
D. of S.T.
N.L.
E.A.P.
D.S.V.P. (2).

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Palestine.

Hostile aircraft number unknown probably 4 approached Haifa between 0300 and 0400/11. Fighters sent up, no contact. Some H.E. bombs dropped north of Acre no damage no casualties. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 0936C/11.)

GLENROY
CLAN FORBES.

Admty. 1330/23/8. GLENROY with 35 Officers 550 O.R., 300 tons stores and CLAN FORBES with (?23) Officers 400 O.R. and 370 tons stores will be ready to leave Suez on (date). GLENROY will be loaded for anchorage at T and CLAN FORBES for anchorage at W but it may be necessary for CLAN FORBES to call at T. S. of A. of both ships is 15 knots. GLENROY should return to Suez immediately after discharging at T. CLAN FORBES after discharging at W is required to proceed to Calcutta. (? C. in C. E.I.) is requested to say whether escort is likely to (be) available. (C. in C. Med. 1325C/11 to C. in C. E.I., China, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Larnaka

Larnaka air raided between 0500 and 0520. 11 bombs near aerodrome. No flares used. No casualties or damage. (N.O.I/c Famagusta 1351C/11.)

Rumanian
vessels.

M.V. BALCIC expected to load for Trieste but instead brought short notice for sea. Other 2 Rumanian vessels in Istanbul, BAN SARABIA, TRANSYLVANIA, painting out flag on ship's side. (Beyoglu 1714/11.)

Air
Operations.

0030 to 0445/11 8 Wellingtons attacked area train ferries landing stage and ferry power house Messina. Total 24250 lbs. dropped smoke screen and cloud obscured target area. Results not observed opposition moderate no searchlights. Day 11/9 6 Blenheims on 105 Squadron offensive sweep central Ionian Sea to Greece two waves three aircraft. 1000 hours first wave found 1 destroyer 1 M/V 1000 tons 1 M/V 3000 tons 240°. Cape Matapan 110 miles attack on larger M/V 2 definite hits 2 others probable resulting in smoke amidships. Photos. confirm hits claimed seriously damaged. P.M.11/9 2 Blenheims same squadron despatched attack 1 southbound M/V 5000 tons near Kerkenah still out. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1720/11.)

/Libyan

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Libyan
convoys.

Your 1823 and 1830/4 (a) Italian crews are not conscripted but 30% bonus is paid on Libyan run (b) crews discontented and badly fed. Incident at Trieste end of August when a ship refused to sail for Benghazi. Crew arrested. (c) on Aug. 23rd 4 ships loading at Trieste for (?Libya) and 2 damaged had been awaiting repairs for 3 weeks due to shortage of materials. At Fiume several ships lying idle including two tankers. All above from crew of Rumanian BALCIC graded B 2. Consul General informed. (N.S.O.(I) Istanbul 1729/11 to Admty.

Illegal
Jewish
immigrants.

Up to present it has been impossible to allocate shipping for Capetown. Palestine Government are pressing for shipment. Suggest RANGITIKI be allocated. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1850/11.)

Suez Canal.

Object at km. 158.6 spontaneously exploded at 1703C/11. Canal now considered clear. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1853C/11.)

PRU.

Photographs 11/9. Messina, Palermo. Details. (V.A. Malta 2253B/11.)

Situation
Report No.145.

2 Army Officers 3 O.R. and 9 Greeks picked up by JACKAL proceeding in Caique from Greece to Alexandria.
2. 2 Fighters lost in battle over A repeat A Lighters on passage to Tobruk. A Lighters arrived safely and discharged.
3. Palestine Coast Ferry Steamer MUREFTE sunk by gunfire by enemy submarine at 2220/10 in position 33° 12' N. 34° 55' E. in delivery voyage to Turks. (C. in C. Med. 2359C/11.)

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

SUTLEJ
JUMNA.

SUTLEJ and JUMNA have landed their minesweeping gear temporarily in U.K. Recommend they should re-embark it before transferring to E.I. Station. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0350Z/11 to C. in C. E.I.)

p. 262

Ceylon.

Ref. Admty. 1720/20/7 and 1221/8. Recommending increase in stocks in Ceylon. (C. in C. E.I. 0726Z/11.) Approved (4th S.L. 1854A/15.)

Service
personnel in
unescorted
ships.

Asking for increase from 100 to 150 Army and R.A.F. personnel permitted to be carried in unescorted vessels should it be necessary to avoid formation of escorted convoys. (C. in C. M.E. 1250/11 to W.O.)

U.S. 12 A
HAWKINS
EMERALD.

Fuelling arrangements. (C. in C. E.I. 1256Z/11.) See Operations Volume. *p. 238*

ATREUS
ALSEY.

Duty at Port T. (D.T.M. 2118A/11) See Operations Volume. *p. 238* -

China.

LECONTE DE
LISLE.

Arrival 11/9. (N.C.S.O. Manila 0610Z/11.)

A/S Escort.

In Eastern Theatre. (Adty. 2121A/11.) See Lion Copy.

Repatriation
of
Annamites.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1929A/11 to C. in C. China.)

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1519/11th September.
IN.

MESSAGE.

SECRET.

From B.N.A., Tokyo.

Date 11-9-41.

Time 1920.

Interdepartmental Cypher (13) By Cable. RECIRCULATION.

Addressed D.N.I. Repeated C. in C., China, C.O.I.S.,
Singapore (? S.O.(I) Shanghai).

Admiral K. Shiozawa appointed War Councillor.

Admiral Shimada appointed C. in C., Yokosuka Vice

Shiozawa. Vice Admiral M. Koga appointed C. in C.,

Japanese Fleet in China waters Vice Shimada. Vice

Admiral B. Ktagiri appointed Director of Naval Aviation.

1519/11.

Advance copy sent O.I.C.

N.I.D. Comment.

These appointments are not particularly significant in themselves, but it is remarkable that the changes should take place now, when, in ordinary circumstances, the Fleet would be on the point of carrying out the annual manoeuvres. Vice Admiral Koga, the new C. in C., of the China Fleet has been in command of the 2nd Fleet during 1941 and he has probably been relieved in this command by Vice Admiral Kondo, until recently Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.

These changes in some of the most important commands further indicate that the annual reorganisation of the Fleet is taking place now instead of in November. It is suggested that this advancement of programme and the reported calling up of large numbers of Naval reservists are directly connected with the Russo-German Campaign and the Washington discussions.

The Japanese probably expect that a Russian collapse and the failure of the Washington discussions, if they take place at all, will occur within the next two months.

The Navy wishes, therefore, to carry out its annual reorganisation, combined with a degree of mobilisation, now so as to be ready for any emergency which may arise within the next eight weeks.

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

CIME.

MOST SECRET

2768

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

2121A/11/September.

To:- C.in C. China 823
Rept C.in C. East Indies 745
A.C.N.B. 770
N.Z.N.B. 517

Date 11.9.41.

Correction

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty

A. Further investigation in the light of your 0337Z/24th August suggests A/S Escort in the Eastern Theatre must be instituted in two phases for the following reasons:-

- (a) We are unable at present to divert A/S Forces to the Eastern Theatre until the outbreak of hostilities. An interval of approximately 40 days must, therefore, be expected before re-inforcement.
- (b) The only U.S. destroyers which could be available belong to the Asiatic Fleet. These will not anyhow be available initially, and, in any case, can only be allocated their own specific strategic tasks (see A.B.C. 1 Report para 14 (d)).

B. Phase I

2. A/S Escort in the most probable areas of submarine activity by the short endurance vessels which alone will be available. Approximate dispositions six ships in each of following areas:-
 - (a) Colombo
 - (b) Pulo Weh
 - (c) Sunda Strait
 - (d) Fremantle.
3. Shortage of escorts may require synchronization of Australian and Colombo convoys so that one group of escorts may fulfil the duties at 2 (b) and (c) above.
4. Diversive routing of convoy between areas of escort should allow reasonable chance of avoiding contact with enemy submarine. Main danger appears that a submarine might contact in focal area and trail convoy until escort had left. In this connection the provision of air escort referred to in your paragraph (vi) is most important to prevent shadowing

C. Phase II

5. A/S Escort for the whole passage on the lines of A.M. 1934A/11th August. This would only be implemented if scale of attack demanded and after long endurance escort reinforcements had arrived.

/D

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MOST SECRET

D.

6. Escorts for separate personnel convoys will have to be provided as destroyers become available in the Eastern Theatre.

E.

7. To avoid possibility of misunderstanding it is intended in future to refer to Singapore - Australia Convoys as Singapore - Melbourne Convoys since the latter Port is named for convoy assembly.

2121A/11.

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

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

.M.

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11.9.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Communications. Your 1937/8th. Navy Department have agreed that the 4 authorities mentioned should address Opnav direct in following types of message:-
(a) Urgent Operational signals of direct interest to U.S.
(b) Signals re routeing and diversion in address of which it is desired to include Opnav.
(ii) By arrangement B.A.D. Washington receive a copy of all these signals.
(B.A.D. Washington 1257R/11 to Adty.)

LE TRIOMPHANT.

Intended approx. programme. (LE TRIOMPHANT 1400W/11.)

A.M.C. for Iceland (C)

In view of A.M.1709A/6 and diversion to Clyde of ALAUNIA carrying provisions for Iceland should an A.M.C. be sailed with next appropriate H.X. convoy to proceed Reykjavik with provisions in replacement? (R.A.3 1456P/11 to Adty.)

NEWFOUNDLAND (Hospital ship)

Proposed route sailing about 15/9 destination Freetown. No code books held. Full navigation lights to be burnt. Are these orders correct for hospital ship. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1614Z/11 to Adty.)

LIMOUSIN.

Arrived St. Thomas 11th. (St. Thomas 1637/11.)

MEROPE.

Departure 11th. (Tampico, Mex 1704/11.)

CALIFORNIA.

Will be taken at Navy Yard Boston Mass. (B.A.R.M. Washington 1726R/11.)

Re Raider.

Ref. 2047/9 from N.C.S.O. Panama (LOBOS renewed distress signal etc.) Following from DESPATCH via PRINCE HENRY and despatched to S.O.(I) Callao at former's request. Begins - S.O.(I) Callao from F.O. West Indies. For information. Raider's distress signal broadcast on 500 metres at 1820Z today Thursday was made G C B.J on sight PRINCE HENRY. She gave no name or position and when challenged gave wrong reply 1846/4 - Ends. (Panama 1731/11.)
Your 1630/10 negative. American destroyers GOFF and J. FRED TALBOTT were about 700 miles N.W. by N. of position given but made no report of receiving distress message. (Opnav 1813/11 to Adty.)

/S.S. MEROPE

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11.9.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - contd.

S.S. MEROPE
(French)

Opnav reports on 10/9 MEROPE arrived Tampico from Martinique. This has been passed to C.N.S. Ottawa for information by Opnav. (Spenavo London 1906/11.)

?

From position (j) steer 020° for 75 miles thence to (k) and resume route. Action Comtask unit one point one point eight and to Cinclant C.C.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Admiralty for Info. This is paraphase Opnav eleven seventeen. (Opnav 2100Z/11 to Adty.)

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Ships Attacked.

Convoy S.C.42 Ship torpedoed 063° 00' 038° 00'. (SKEENA, 0002Z/11 to Admty. etc.)
REGIN. Ship torpedoed 63° 0' N. 38° 0' W. *(A/C, 20 Sqdn. 0210/11 to Reykjavik W/T.)* at 0002
VESTLAND, Ship torpedoed 63° 02' N. (? 37°) 51' W.
TAHCHEE, (SKEENA 0210Z/11 to Admty. etc.)
SALLY MAERSK, Ship torpedoed 63.05 N. 37.50 W. (SKEENA, 0332Z/11 to Admty. etc.)
STARGARD, Following received from Iceland. S S S S 25
BARON PENTLAND, torpedoed. (Scapa W/T, T.O.R. 0213/11 to
BERURY, Admty.) (A.C.O.S. from Wick Radio, No T.O.O./11)
THISTLEGLLEN, 2 ships torpedoed 063° 14' 037° 12'. (SKEENA
SCANIA, 0514Z/11 to Admty. etc.)
DULYSSES Intercept De Mas (Iceland) (following has been
GARM. read) SSSS 44 and 43 torpedoed T.O.R. 0515 (Ends).
BESTUM. (Valentia Radio, 0522/11 to Admty.)
GYPSUM QUEEN, Following received by aircraft from SKEENA
STONEPOOL, (?2050Z/10 begins "Ref.my 0333Z, 0800Z and
EMPIRE 1444Z/10 (8) ships known to have been torpedoed.
CROSSBILL, HORAN,*CELKLAND, / TASCEE, / SALLY MAUSKE,
WINTERSWIJK, STARGARD, BARON PENTLAND, EMPIRE CLAN, THISTLE-
MUNERIC, GLEN, Salvage possibilities of HORAN, PENTLAND
torpedoed. and TASCEE in 061° 31' N. 040° 51' W. and
EMPIRE EMPIRE CLAN in 061° N. 040° 51' W. are good,
HUDSON. ends." Intend sailing RESTIVE, CAROLINE MOLLER,
 escorted by COLUMBIA and SAINT CROIX as soon
 as they are ready. (A.C.I.C. 1434/11 to C. in
 C. W.A.) *VESTLAND? /TAHCHEE? /SALLY MAERSK?
 Abandoned ship sinking by bow 63° 40' N. 35°
 50' W. (A/C 19 M.P.H. 1457/11.)
 S.C.42 P.C. and S. 063° 55' N. 035° 23' W. 090°
 5 knots. Following escorts now present.
 DOUGLAS, SKEENA, SALADIN, SKATE, VETERAN,
 LEAMINGTON, ALBERNI, KENO GAMI, MOOSEJAW, CHAMBLY,
 WETASKIWIN, GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA, BUTTERMERE,
 WINDERMERE. At 1205Z/10 ORILLA reported in
 061° 15' N. 041° 05' W. taking TASCEE in tow.
 Was ordered to rejoin convoy immediately by
 signal made through aircraft but has not been
 heard from. Following ships torpedoed since
 my 1730Z/10. My 0002Z/11 DULYSHEH. My 0212Z/11
 GARM, BESTUM. My 0332Z/11 GYPSUM QUEEN,
 STONEPOOL. My 0514Z/11 SCANIA, EMPIRE CROSSBILL,
 My 1730Z/10 add WINTERSWYK. At 0138Z/10 CHAMBLY
 and MOOSEJAW reported sinking U-Boat in 062°
 55' N. 037° 50' W. 30 prisoners now in MOOSEJAW.
 At 0257Z/11 KENO GAMI sighted U-Boat on port side
 of convoy and reported U-Boat probably destroyed.
 At 1605Z/10 in 62° 14' N. 39° 29' W. SKEENA
 sighted periscope confirmed by ALBERNI and 2
 ships in convoy. One Pounce and one deliberate
 attack carried out firing 10 charges (corrupt
 group) escort, echo faded after second attack
 further search proved fruitless U-Boat believed
 sunk. Weather report. (SKEENA 1700Z/11.)

Cont. over page

War Diary

11.9.1941
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

280

Ships Attacked.

Convoy S.C.42
REGIN.
VESTLAND.
TAHCHEE.
SALLY MAERSK.
STARGARD.
BARON PENTLAND.
BERURY.
THISTLEGLLEN.
SCANIA.
BULYSESSES.
GARM.
BESTUM.
GYP SUM QUEEN.
STONEPOOL.
EMPIRE
CROSSBILL.
WINTERSWIJK.
? MUNERIC.
torpedoed.
EMPIRE
HUDSON.
contd.

My 0002Z/11. (A) U-boat not sighted. No contact obtained. Illuminated starboard side convoy and aircraft dropped flares. (B) unknown. (C) W A C I, N E 3 all positions filled. (D) (DULYSHEH) (as received) number 103. (E) 0002Z/11 position 063° 00' N. 038° (?00) (incomplete Group) W. (F) Course-degrees 43 since 2200Z/9. (G) Generally cloudy, visibility 3 miles, sea slight. My 0212Z/11 (?0210Z/11) (A) Illuminated ahead and on Port side of convoy. KENOGAMI sighted and attacked U-boat Port side. (B) not known. (C) W A C I. N E 3 all positions filled. (D) GARM number 24, BESTUM number 26. (E) 0241? Z/11 in 063° 02' N. 037° 51' W. (F) Course-degrees 43 since 2200Z/9. (G) Generally cloudy visibility 3 miles, sea slight. (H) U-boat probably attacked from Port side convoy on surface. My 0332Z/11th. (A) Illuminated starboard side convoy. (B) Starboard side. (C) W A C I, N E 5 position L not occupied. (D) STONEPOOL number 111, GYP SUM QUEEN Number 81. (E) 0328Z/11 in D R 063° 05' N., 037° 50' W. (F) Course-degrees 43 since 2200 un-registered 9th. (G) Generally cloudy, visibility 3 miles, sea slight. My 0514Z/11. (A) U-boats not sighted. No contact (B) not known (C) W A C I N E 5 position E, L and G vacant. (D) SCANIA number 43, EMPIRE CROSSBILL number 44 (E) 0514Z/11 in D R 063° 14' N. 037° 12' W. (F) Course-degrees 43 since 2200Z/9. (G) Generally cloudy, visibility 2 miles, sea slight. (SKEENA 1802Z/11 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
If available COLUMBIA and ST. CROIX are to be sailed forthwith to reinforce escort of S.C.42. (C. in C. W.A. 1853A/11 to A.C.I.C.)
S.C.42 is still being shadowed. Attack by large numbers of U-boats is expected. (D.D.I.C.1851A/11 to SKEENA, ALBERNI, CAMBLY, GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA, DOUGLAS, VETERAN, BUTTERMERE, and 2103A/11 to A.L.U.S.N.A.) Note: by D.D.I.C..A.L.U.S.N.A. informed.
My 1434/11 and your 1853A/11 COLUMBIA and SAINT CROIX being sailed at 2100. Trawler escort will be provided for rescue tugs. (A.C.I.C. 1904Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
In an attack by U/B's on convoy S.C.42 ships were torpedoed and probably sunk in the following positions 61° 38' N. 40° 40' W, 61° 50' N, 40° 18' W, 62° 14' N. 39° 39' W, 63° 03' N, 37° 55' W, 63° 14' W, 37° 12' W and 63° 40' N, 35° 50' W. Two ships reported still afloat in 61° 31' N, 40° 51' W. and one in 61° 00' N, 40° 51' W. It is not yet known if all survivors have been rescued. Assistance of any ships in the vicinity would be appreciated. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2200Z/11 to O.P.N.A.V.)

Cont over page

/My 1904Z

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Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Ships Attacked.

Convoy S.C.42
REGIN.
VESTLAND.
TAHCHEE.
SALLY MAERSK.
STARGARD.
BARON PENTLAND.
BERURY.
THISTLEGLLEN.
SCANIA.
BULYSES.
GARM.
BESTUM.
GYP SUM QUEEN.
STONEPOOL.
EMPIRE.
CROSSBILL.
WINTERSWIJK.
? MUNERIC.
 torpedoed.
EMPIRE
HUDSON.
 contd.

My 1904Z. ST. CROIX and COLUMBIA sailed 2135Z.
 Speed 20 knots. (A.C.I.C. 2205/11.)
 If possible trawlers should escort tugs.
 COLUMBIA and ST. CROIX are to proceed independently
 in accordance with my 1853A/11. (C. in C. W.A.
 2105A/11 to A.C.I.C.)
 S.S. MONTANA of Panama observed by aircraft
 torpedoed at 1445 in position 63° 40' N. 35°
 50' W. Crew took to boats. (A.C.I.C. 2313/11
 to C. in C. W.A.)

GORLESTON.

SUTLEJ, GORLESTON report torpedo fired at her
 in 014° 05' N. 018° 38' W. at 2002N/10.
 (C. in C. S.A. 1106N/11 to ENCOUNTER, NESTOR,
 REPULSE, HIGHLANDER, DERBYSHIRE.
 Your 2145/10. After arrival, report all details
 whether quite definite torpedo track was seen
 and how many tracks. (C. in C. S.A. 1131N/11 to
 GORLESTON.)

MUREFTE.

Palestine coast ferry steamer, sunk at 2220/10.
 (See Mediterranean, 2359C/11, 1040C/12.)

Submarines Reported.

1000A.

At 1000A/11 in 071° 30' N. 001° 45' E. passed
 very marked oil track 150° or 330°. (C.S.1
 1037/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C.1421A/11.)

1430

Enemy submarine in 64° 0' N. 34° 54' W.* (A/C H/-
 Sqn. 1430/11.) * course 325 speed 8 knots.

1530.

Enemy submarine in 63° 24' N. 36° 38' W. was on
 surface and was seen to submerge F.369. (A/C H/-
 Sqn. 1530/11.)

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Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.

Am over enemy submarine in 52.25 N., 15.50 W. submarine has now submerged. (A/C E., 1038/11 to 15 Group).
Dropped 2 500 lbs. bombs. No definite indication of damage. (H.Q. 15 Group 1945/11.)

By A/C.

Enemy S/M in 48.00 N., 10.21 W. Enemy S/M now submerged course 300° 10 knots. (A/C J. 1040/11 to 15 Group.)
S/M previously reported was on course 120° 2 knots. Have attacked with dive bombs estimate near miss either side. (A/C duty E., 1050/11 to 15 Group.)
Have attacked enemy submarine 48° 0' N. 10° 30' W. with level bombs and depth charges estimate 2 hits. (A/C duty J. 1100/11, Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1945/11, 2015/11.)
N. continue to hunt to prudent limit.
(15 Group 1100/11 to A/C E.)

By A/C.

Enemy S/M in 52.42 N., 17.34 W. attacked with level bombs, estimate no hits. Enemy S/M now submerged. (A/C duty O. 1115/11 to 15 Group, H.Q.R.S. 15 Group 2045/11.)

By A/C.

Have attacked S/M with depth charges in 64° 0' N. 34° 30' W. Hits unknown. (A/C 9 M.P.K. 2030/11.)
My 2030. Enemy was sighted on course 360° speed 12 knots on the surface and observed submerge.
(A/C 9 M.P.K. 2216/11.)

By VETERAN
LEAMINGTON.

(U-207)

U-Boat sighted on surface at 6 miles in 63° (58) N. 35° 15' W. by VETERAN and LEAMINGTON. Attacked with minor results doubtful. (DOUGLAS 2104A/11.)

H.S. Note. - U. 207 was sunk in this attack.

War Diary.

12.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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Home Commands.

Force L sailed from Seidis Fiord at 2000 A today.

SHEFFIELD carrying the flag of C.S.10 sailed from Greenock at 2314A today for Gibraltar.

A Soviet M.T.B. claims to have torpedoed a transport and a destroyer off Petsamo last night.

Force M.

Aircraft from VICTORIOUS who is operating with C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE and 3 destroyers early this morning sank a 2,000 ton ship in Bodo Fiord and hit and set on fire the aluminium works and possibly hit the power station in Glom Fiord.

British Air Operations.

Attacks were made last night on Rostock (46 aircraft). Warnemünde (24 aircraft), Kiel (51 aircraft), (where 6 aircraft claim direct hits on the Deutsche Werke Shipbuilding Yard), docks at Le Havre (8 aircraft) and Boulogne (5 aircraft). A Beaufort dive bombed Haugesund Docks early this morning.

Coastal Command Patrols off the Norwegian and Dutch coasts last night claim some successes against shipping.

"Benedict"
Force.

R.A.F. fighter aircraft commenced to operate in Russia today.

War Diary.

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Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy E.C.72 was attacked again from 2000/11 until 0330/12. CORMEAD was damaged and anchored in Yarmouth Roads with a U.X.B. on board. JETBLACK had casualties (apparently from a shell during a low level attack) and her D.G. was put out of action. VIMIERA shot down one aircraft and gunfire from convoy and escorts drove off the majority of the attacks.

Convoy F.N.517 escorted by QUANTOCK was bombed this evening in 52° 49' N., 2° 9' E. No hits are reported.

Mining.

19 Hampdens laid mines last night off the Frisian Is., Heligoland and Warnemünde.

Mines were again detonated off Spurn Point today.

South Atlantic.

Eight corvettes from the South Atlantic Station are to be exchanged with eight corvettes fitted with Oropesa sweep from Western Approaches Command.

It is reported from Casablanca dated 11/9, that 3 ships are loading troops and equipment, and also 750 civilians of unknown nationality.

It is reported from Dakar, dated 10/9 that the French Navy is operating under "Alert" conditions

War Diary

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Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

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S.S. ISARCO
sunk.

Netherlands S/M O.21 reports that at 0120/5 she sank the Italian S.S. ISARCO Bona to Naples, in 40° 12' N., 13° 17' E., laden with 8,000 tons of phosphates. Several other ships were unsuccessfully attacked during a short patrol in this area.

Licata,
Ragusa, and
Palermo
bombed.

2 Fulmars patrolling south of Sicily last night bombed and set fire to a munition factory at Licata and a railway station near Ragusa.

9 Wellingtons attacked merchant vessels and dry dock at Palermo from 0137 to 0410 today; sticks were repeatedly laid across the dry dock with a merchant vessel inside, but smoke screen hindered observations.

Air Attacks
on Convoy.

At 0101 today 7 Swordfish attacked a convoy sighted off Kuriat Island southbound at 2250/11. One 6,000 ton merchant ship was torpedoed amidships and believed left sinking and one ship of 8,000 tons is claimed as damaged. At 0215 (or 1215) today 8 Blenheims attacked the convoy still consisting of 6 destroyers with 4 large and 2 medium merchant vessels, but with speed reduced, about 58 miles south of Lampion. One 10,000 ton merchant vessel was hit with two 500 lb. and two 250 lb. bombs and left heavily on fire and is claimed as seriously damaged (later R/C indicated that the ship probably sank) and one 12,000 ton merchant vessel was hit by two 500 lb. bombs and is claimed as damaged. At 2320/12 7 Swordfish again attacked near Zuara with torpedoes; two 6,000 ton merchant ships are claimed as seriously damaged and a third as possibly hit.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

15 Wellingtons bombed shipping and docks in Benghazi harbour last night.

Tobruk harbour was bombed last night and again today. Only slight damage resulted.

Mersa Matruh was bombed today, causing slight damage.

Egypt
and Canal
Area.

About 12 aircraft attacked Suez and Port Said last night. Some damage was caused at the refinery and there were some service casualties. A mine is reported in the Canal which is closed at km. 160.6.

War Diary.

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Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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America & West Indies.

As the result of experience with S.C.42 stronger escorts are to be allotted to S.C. convoys in future.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.C.42.

It is estimated that a large number of U-boats are still pursuing Convoy S.C.42 which was in about 64° N., 30° W., at 1500 today.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Policy.

Flag of
C.S.10.

Transferred temporarily to SHEFFIELD. (C.S.10
0801A/12 to Adty.)

AURICULA,
VIOLET.

Propose to detail AURICULA and VIOLET which are both fitted for Minesweeping to escort EREBUS subsequently joining S.A. Station. If approved, request C. in C. S.A. may be requested to sail 2 Corvettes to U.K. with S.L.87. (C.in C. W.A. 1440A/12 to Adty.)

Iceland.
Provisions
in ALAUNIA.

ALAUNIA is carrying provisions for delivery to Iceland. If possible these provisions should be disembarked and forwarded in D.S.12 to Iceland. (D.O.D.(H) 1925A/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Eight M/S
Corvettes
for Freetown.

Eight corvettes from S.A. Station are to be exchanged with eight corvettes fitted with Oropesa Sweep from W.A. Command.
2. C.in C. W.A. is requested to nominate eight corvettes fitted with M/S and for Tropical Service. Mark I M/S equipment complete should be embarked.
3. C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. S.A. are requested to sail the corvettes as convoy escorts. Owing to existing S/M threat, the convenience of C.in C. W.A. is of first importance.
4. When the exchange has been effected C.in C. S.A. is requested to arrange for the corvettes fitted M/S to work up as a minesweeping flotilla at Freetown. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2122A/12.)

BRIGAND.
ANTWERP.
MALINES.
PRINCE
BAUDOIN.
for
Mediterranean.

Request you will assemble H.M. Ships BRIGAND, ANTWERP, MALINES and S.S. PRINCE BAUDOIN at Londonderry to be sailed to join the next appropriate O.S. convoy breaking off at Ponta Delgada to fuel, BRIGAND is included to assist by towing if necessary.
2. These ships have been allocated to Mediterranean where they are urgently required.
3. They are to proceed in company but independent of the convoy from Ponta Delgada and C's in C. are requested to arrange for their onward passage and routing.
4. The following are particulars of vessels. Details. (D.O.D.(F) 2133A/12 to C.in C. W.A.)
PRINCE BAUDOIN deleted, see 2343/16.

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/CLAESJE

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Policy - contd.

CLAESJE
(Dutch M/S
Trawler)
for Curacao.

Requested that CLAESJE now at Holyhead and ready for sea on or about 20/9 be sailed in Convoy for Halifax for onward passage to Curacao.

4. C.in C. A.& W.I. is requested to sail CLAESJE independently from Halifax to Curacao following as far as possible the American coast line.

5. It is intended that she should be stationed at Curacao for minesweeping duties under S.N.S.O. Curacao. (D.O.D. H. 2150A/12.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Murmansk
situation.

My 2214C/10. Further enemy advances night 11/12 in central sector front where enemy have driven wedge four to five miles in S.E. direction from South end of Zapadnaya Litsa Bay. Enemy hold east short of this bay as far North as Lopatkina Bay 69° 26' N. 32° 25' E. Enemy bringing up reinforcements. S.S. Troops identified but no Finnish troops. Heavy air activity over front today. 8 Enemy A/C destroyed for loss of one Hurricane. "Benedict" force in operation and claim 3. While situation serious, C.in C. confident but would welcome reinforcements. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 2231C/12.)

Movements.

ULSTER MONARCH,
KOENIGEN EMMA,
ROYAL SCOTSMAN,
PRINCESSE
BEATRIX.
LEINSTER.

For your information following commissioned transports are being used for a voyage commencing from U.K. 16/9. ULSTER MONARCH, KOENIGEN EMMA, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and PRINCESSE BEATRIX. They will embark in the Clyde on 15/9.

2. LEINSTER will also be used embarking in Liverpool 15/9. (D.S.T. 0207A/12.)

BERWICK.

Scapa departure. (A.C.O.S. 0637/12.)

KENYA.

Arrival C.S.10 in KENYA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0808A/12.)

SHROPSHIRE,
ARGUS.

SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS, and destroyers arrived Seidisfiord 0700Z. (A.C.I.C. 1024/12.)

/SHEFFIELD

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Movements - contd.

SHEFFIELD.

Intend sailing C.S.10 in SHEFFIELD for Gibraltar passing Clyde boom at 2230/12. Route as in C.in C. W.A. 1020A/12. Code word Branch. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1144A/12.) My 1144A/12. Sailed. S. of A. 24 knots. E.T. of passing into N.A. Station 0400/16. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300/17. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2314A/12.)

EURYALUS.

On completion D G ranging about 0915 tomorrow, EURYALUS is to proceed to Scapa making the passage in daylight. (C. in C. Rosyth 1515/12 to EURYALUS.)

ANTHONY.

Sail at 1100 tomorrow to Scapa. Speed West of Elieness 9 knots, then 25 knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 1601/12 to ANTHONY.)

EREBUS.

EREBUS is urgently required in Eastern Mediterranean. (V.C.N.S. 1721A/12) Note: This signal was cancelled on 14/9. On completion of practice tomorrow proceed to Clyde. (C. in C. H.F. 2201A/12 to EREBUS.)

U.S.A.
Force
INDIGO 3.
"Indigo 3"

Following received from Opanav. Opanav's assumed position of INDIGO 3 at 0700/12 G.M.T. is 53° 17' N. 34° 47' W. The diversion which the Admiralty has recommended has been ordered. Opanav desires to know if Admiralty considers this diversion still desirable in view of the above data. At 2000/6 G.M.T. INDIGO 3 was ordered to join escort in 42° N. 68° 20' W. Speed 12 knots. (Spenavo 1820/12 to Adty.)

Operations.

Force M.
Attack on
Shipping
in Vest Fiord.

Attack carried out. One 2,000 ton ship sunk, 3 ships missed, 2 of which were large and south-bound, 3 other small ships in Bodo attacked, result uncertain. Power station in Glom Fiord possibly hit. Aluminium works hit and fires started. All aircraft returned safely. (C.S.1 0507/12 to C.in C. H.F.) Shadowed. One He.111 shot down. Intend to repeat attack tonight if unobserved. Request information (I) if any re-disposition of aircraft and (II) inform Russian S/M that destroyers may enter Vest Fiord. (C.S.1 0955A/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

/Your 0955A/12

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations.

Force M.
Attack on
Shipping
in Vest
Fiord contd.

Your 0955A/12. It is now too late to inform Russian S/M and this might prejudice security. Ships are to avoid Area within which U.S.S.R. S/M K.One may be met. (Admiralty 1822A/9) (C. in C. H.F. 1353A/12 to C.S.1) (Repeated by C.in C. H.F. 1439A/12.)

My 0955A/12. Still shadowed. Returning. E.T.A. 2000/13. Intend to fly off 832 Squadron to Hatston before arrival. P.C.S. at 1800, 066° 43' N. 000° 55' E. 194°, 20 knots. Request A/S air escort. (C.S.1. 1602Z/12.)

Operation
J.R.

Estimated time of reaching line B C 1225. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0827A/12 to 11 Group.) Cancel J.R. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1127A/12.)

M.T.B's
and
M.G.B's.
Action off
Gris Nez.
M.G.B.43 and
M.T.B.219
damaged.

At 2130 yesterday R.D.F. gave plot of shipping just west of Calais moving west. M.T.B's 38, 218, and 219 on patrol near Varne were sent to intercept. They located 3 armed trawlers close S.W. of Gris Nez at 2230 and fired 4 torpedoes without result. M.G.B. 43 and 46 despatched from Dover in support closed the enemy at 2249 and engaged them for some 20 minutes. M.T.B's 38 and 218 endeavoured to make a second interception without success. Several E/R boats may have been present. All boats report very heavy fire but only M.G.B.43 and M.T.B. 219 slightly damaged. No result of own fire observed but many hits claimed. Casualties 1 officer killed and 2 ratings wounded in M.G.B.43. Wind N.W. 3-4. Sea Moderate. (V.A. Dover 0907A/12.)

→ Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

Arrived LONDON 1030. (A.C.I.C. 1043/12.)

Trawlers
boarded.

Signal to Admiralty for O.I.C. short report on Trawlers boarded in 50° 55' N. 11° 10' W. at 1310/5/9. (C.in C. W.A. 1139A/12 to FOLKESTONE.)

Convoys
"Dervish".
Ocean Escorts.
→ LONDON.

My 2133A/9 and your 1724A/11. In view of delay in sailing of "Dervish" convoy intend providing separate ocean escorts for the two convoys. 2. LONDON is detailed for duty in your 1342A/9 para.one (b), and as ocean escort for return of "Dervish" convoy. (C. in C. H.F. 1155A/12.) My 1724A/11. For DUKE OF SPARTA read GEMSTONE. (D.T.D.1650A/12.)

/Dover

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

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Dover Patrols.

Patrol tonight. 2 M.L's in Dungeness East Roads. 2 Trawlers on O.D.l. (N.O.I.C. Dover 1526A/12 to FERNIE.)

Enemy Destroyer and Transport claimed sunk.

Soviet M.T.B. claimed to have torpedoed one transport and one destroyer off Petsamo night 11/12 Sept. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1814C/12.)

Force "L".

Sailed from Seidis Fiord 2000A/12. (A.C.I.C. 2320/12.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

^{Horn Li}
~~HORNLI~~ in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1116/12.) P.R.U. Bergen, Christiansand now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth. 1504/12.)

Bombing operations.

On Night 11/12 Sept. 44 A/C attacked Kiel where 6 direct hits on the Deutsche Werke are claimed. Havre, Boulogne, Dieppe, and Cherbourg were also attacked. (H.Q.B.C. 1554/12.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy E.C.72
CORMEAD
(British)
2848 Tons.
JETBLACK
(British)
1560 Tons.
damaged.

CORMEAD hole in starboard side of waterline and has U.X.B. Am sending her into Yarmouth with SAPPHIRE as escort. Tug not required. (WIDGEON 0003A/12.)
Enemy A/C dropping bombs convoy "Might", position 52° 56' N. 2° 3' E. (VERDUN 0022/12.)
My 0022. Two bombs no hits. (VERDUN 0111/12.)
Enemy A/C bombing convoy. Position 52° 52' N. 2° 7' E. Course 340° 4 knots. (VIMIERA, 0120/12.)
Enemy A/C bombing convoy. Position 52° 56' N. 2° 2' E. Course 302° 4 knots. (VIMIERA 0235/12.)
CORMEAD damaged by bombs anchored in Roads. One U.B. on board. (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 0755A/12.)
Aircraft singly and in pairs attacked E.C.72 from 2000/11 until 0330/12. Low level bombing by Junkers and Heinkels. CORMEAD damaged. 4 casualties, 1 fatal, in JETBLACK whose D.G. was put out of action. 1 Aircraft shot down by VIMIERA. Commodore's Balloon carried away by another. Gunfire from convoy and escorts drove off majority of attacks. (VERDUN 0833A/12.)

/Am

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy E.C.72
CORMEAD
(British
2848 Tons.)
JETBLACK
(British
1560 Tons)
damaged.
contd.

Am ordering JETBLACK to Humber. E.T.A. H.3
Buoy 1245. (VIMIERA 0838/12.)
JETBLACK arrived in Humber with damage.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1720/12.)
JETBLACK docked Immingham. Apparently hit by
shell during air attack at 2020/12 (?11) near
Hearty Knoll Buoy. One dead, two wounded
landed Grimsby. Degaussing destroyed. Other
damage superficial. (F.O. Humber 2131A/12.)

A/C off
St. Kilda.

Aircraft dropping flares over by me. Position
59° N. 10° W. (NORTHERN CHIEF 0420/12.)
Unidentified A/C dropped flares and circled ship
for 20 minutes in 059° 57' N. 009° 26' W.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 0530A/12.)
NORTHERN CHIEF's 0420/12 and 0530/12. CAPE
PALLISER reports that at 2150/11 in 059° 57' N.
003° 53' W. she saw 2 sets of 2 White Flares with
Gun Flashes and a red glow. She altered to
160° till 2303 when, having seen nothing further,
she resumed course to Faeroes. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes
1612A/12.)

Convoy F.N.517

Enemy A/C have made bombing attempt position
52° 49' N. 2° 9' E. (QUANTOCK 1953/12.)
My 1953. Many bombs. No hits reported.
(QUANTOCK 2024/12.)

Mining.

2 Mines off
Humber on 11/9.

Your 1939A/26/8. Detonated one Mine at 1915/11
and another at 2100/11. Details.
(HOLDERNESS 1250/12.)

WINCHESTER.

Sail at 1000/14 to Tyne, speed on passage East
of Elieness 20 knots with S.A. Gear working.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1325/12 to WINCHESTER.)

Spurn Point.

At 0857/12 one mine detonated by LL Trawlers.
At 1321 one mine self-detonated. Details.
(F.O. Humber 1645A/12.)

/Forthcoming

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining - contd.

Forthcoming
Operations
A, B and C.
MANXMAN.

1. A.L. M/O.D. 2136/41 of 30th August 1941. The proposed positions are concurred in.
2. R.A.(M) is requested to sail MANXMAN to reach Milford Haven by noon/16 to embark mines and proceed to Plymouth.
3. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to allocate a short title and issue the orders for Operation A, on completion of which MANXMAN should be directed to proceed to Portsmouth to embark mines.
4. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to allocate short titles and issue the orders for operations B and C.
5. Supply of mines has been arranged at Milford Haven and Portsmouth. (V.C.N.S. 1647/12.)

Operation
S.N.23 B.

Intend to lay as follows with PORT QUEBEC escorted by CASTLETON sailing 2000/15. (R.A.M.1704/12.) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Intelligence.

→ LÜTZOW.

Your 2155A/11. Cancel my 1446/11. (N.A. Stockholm 1149/12.) *See p. 267*

Kiel.
TIRPITZ.
→ LUTZOW.
HIPPER.

Photographic R/C of Kiel at 1105A/12 shows TIRPITZ in Strander Bucht. (D.D.I.C. 1718A/12.) My 1718A/12. Add LÜTZOW and HIPPER in Nos. 5 and 6 docks. (D.D.I.C. 2149A/12.)

Casualties and Defects.

NORDANGER.

Received 0034 G.M.T. S.S. NORDANGER. Compressor Crankrod port motor badly damaged. Proceeding one motor. Suggest calling Bombay repairing same. Estimate whole work take 7 days. (Portishead Radio 0138/12.)

BENWOOD
HARPERLEY
collision.

O.G.M. 74. BENWOOD, HARPERLEY collided. HARPERLEY seaworthy and able to continue passage. Second report deck stringer number 1 (one) hatch many rivets and deck beams started. Poop, crew quarters damaged. Master reports repairs necessary. Require immediate instructions. (RACER 0944A/12.)

SWEET BRIAR
(Corvette)

Your 1201/11 and 1856/11. Sailing cancelled. D.G. range reports ship unsafe. I have ordered her to return to Smith's Docks. (N.O.I.C. Middlebrough 1550/12.)

/MISCA

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Casualties and Defects. - contd.

MISOA.

Admiralty 2346/30/8 sailing of MISOA in O.S.6. Vessel has reported propellor damaged and wire round shaft. Steps are being taken to dock on earliest possible tide, P.M.13th. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1916A/12.)

Shipping and Convoys.

NOVELIST.

(C.A.M. Ship) in convoy O.N.13 is bound for Jacksonville. Request aircraft be disembarked for servicing when ship calls at Halifax for homeward convoy, replacement aircraft being embarked if delay in sailing would thereby be avoided. (D.T.D. 1713A/12 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

U.S.A.
Force.
INDIGO 3 N.U

INDIGO 3 N.U. Route to Reykjavik. Use best available speed. (Opnav 1815Z/12 to Adty.)

H.X.148

My 0205Z/10 not to all addressees. H.M.S. RICHMOND with FENNEL in company unable to rejoin H.X. 148. Prudent limit of my endurance reached. Proceeding to Reykjavik. Estimated P.C. and S. at 2000Z/12 056° 58' N. 023° 51' W. (B) 008° 12 knots. (RICHMOND 2305Z/12 to C.in C. W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.

French Convoy.

Passing Gibraltar westbound 1145/12. (D.O.R.14/9).

L'OBSTINE
(French Tug).

Arrival 11th Casablanca presumably to escort remaining barges to Casablanca. (R.O. Oporto 1029E/12)

Gibraltar broadcast.

Your 0924B/12. My 1007A/12. Difficulties in reading Gibraltar broadcast are due to main transmitter (?Type) 22 C being out of action while being transferred underground. Anticipate this will be in operation commencing 16/9. Do not consider Admtty 1602/11 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med., should be held up on this account. (II) Re wave length. (F.O.C.N.A., 1312A/12 to V.A. Malta).

S/M
Suspected.

VIMY reports suspected submarine in 036° 40' 009° 10' at 0555A/12. (F.O.C.N.A., 1408A/12 to TRUSTY). *See also p. 306*

Supply of Intelligence to Force H.

Action as follows will be taken to supply Intelligence to F.O. Force H.
1. Information concerning disposition of Italian Fleet.

- (a) C.O.I.S. Alexandria to keep Force H informed as necessary by signal.
 - (b) V.A. Malta to signal all R/C reports of major warships (Cruisers and above) to Force H.
2. Political and economic situation in France, Italy and Iberian Peninsular.
3. Enemy morale.
4. Location of Enemy Air Forces in the area involved.

Admiralty (D.N.I.) to be responsible for items 2, 3 and 4. This will be forwarded by air mail.

5. Immediate Reports of Results obtained of attacks by Naval or Air Forces on Italian Naval Forces, Harbours or Air Bases in the area.

C. in C. Med., and V.A. Malta to repeat all signals dealing with such attacks to Force H.

6. Strength of Air Forces, and Conditions of Aerodromes in Malta.

This is under discussion with the Air Ministry and a further signal will be made.

7. Docks and Dockyard facilities available in Malta.

V.A. Malta to signal this information.

8. Disposition of our own Naval Forces.

This question is under consideration but location of our own forces which may affect the operation will be signalled by Admiralty.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 1521/12 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H., C.O.I.S. Alexandria.)

/Fuelling.....

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic. - Contd.

Fuelling.

Your 1945/11 after delay caused by number of departments involved permission has now been granted providing not more than 3 ships are in port at the same time.
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 1639/12 to Admty).

TRUSTY.

My 1310A/11 Escort is Trawler ARCTIC RANGER.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1808A/12 to TRUSTY).

BRITISH
FREEDOM.

My 0932A/11. BRITISH FREEDOM due 13th in company with INVERLEE and escorts.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2214A/12).

South Atlantic.

REVENGE.

Admty 1159/9 and your 1310/1. Repairs to REVENGE will require 14 days including 10 days in dock, ship can be taken in hand at Durban 28/9.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0942Z/12 to C. in C. E. I.)

Spanish
Schooners.

The following is repeated for information addressed Admty., C. in C. S.A. from Consul.
Auxiliary engined Spanish Schooner MARIA BOMARI* seen off Vermelharía San Nicolau Island A.M./11 and readjusted course for Sal Island. Was seen 11th P.M. en route Sal. Deck was packed with drums and cases Spanish flag painted on side of vessel.
(Consul St. Vincent, 0952/12). ** not identified*

TAI YANG.

Overdue Shipping. TAI YANG due Capetown 7/9 from New York not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1010B/12). *Cancelled p. 320*

MERCHANT
ROYAL.

Steer immediately for new position P., bearing 079° 180 miles from Y then direct to destination.
(C. in C. S.A., 1250/12 to MERCHANT ROYAL).

/Suspicious.....

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. - Contd.

Suspicious
Tanker.

The sighting of a (?moored) tanker (?discarding) (?steam) has been reported by LONE STAR. May be supply ship. Position 025° 53' S., 004° 19' W. Time P.M./25/8. Ship appeared suspicious as she burnt 2 white flares and later showed 1 red light high (?up) amidships no reply was received to LONE STAR lamp signals at a short range. About 315° was tankers course when last seen. (C. in C. S.A., 1409N/12 to S.A. Stn).

French
Ships.

Report graded A.1. that French sloop D'IBERVILLE arrived Tamatave escorting VILLE DE VERDUN and PIERRE L.D. on 31/8 from Dakar. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1423B/12).

HIGHLANDER.

Admty 2358A/7. Intend leaving Bathurst 1600N/12 calling at Gibraltar for fuel. E.T.A. 0900A/16. Intended route 100 miles West of Dakar and inside Canary Islands. HIGHLANDER oiled at Ponta Delgada 5/9. (HIGHLANDER, 1430Z/12).

Vichy
French
Intelligence.

Naval. (ii) Casablanca 11/9. A.one. OREGON and CALEDONIEN are embarking 3250 troops believed to be Colonial Infantry or Foreign Legion and 750 civilians of unknown nationality. Also loading are 50 armoured cars with machine guns in turrets, army trucks and munitions. A 3rd ship name unknown is loading men and material including bombs which are being transferred from 22 railway trucks just arrived from Algiers. Repeated S.O.(I) Freetown and S.O.(I) Gibraltar. (iii) Dakar 10/9. A.one. Navy now operating under "Alert" conditions. (B.A.D. Washington, 1915R/12).

Cruisers,
scarcity.

Remarks on Admty 0001/8. (C. in C. S.A., 2353N/12) See Operations Volume.

/O.S.4.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. - Contd.

O.S.4
positions
4, 5 and 6/9.

Your 0221N/11 P.C. & S. of Commodore O.S. 4 were:-
4th 0900Z 36.07 26.20 157 7½ 2100Z 34.45 25.32
126 7½.
5th 0900Z 33.22 24.13 153 7½ 2100Z 31.32 23.11
180 7½.
6th 0900Z 29.54, 22.34 153 7½ 2100Z 28.22 21.46
180 7½.

Speeds are ordered speeds, but as will be seen as much as 10 knots was made good at times. Admty., 1727A/6, 1728A/6 and 1233A/11 were not received in GORLESTON until arrival Bathurst due to unreliable W/T reception. Investigation not complete but these were overlooked by Consort when checked. B.N. message on day in question. F.O.C.N.A.'s emergency 0704/6 and 1204A/6 indicate state of local enemy activity undefined and in consequence GORLESTON and other escort, one at a time, were at various times on 4th, 5th and 6th searching as far as 40 miles from convoy. The following signal originated by GORLESTON (copies forwarded where necessary) gives indication of convoy air operations at time in question 1345Z/4 not to C. in C. South Atlantic 0830Z/5 ditto 1200Z/7. Estimated positions from situation report bore from true position at time indicated as follows. 4th, 0900Z 114 miles 353° 2100Z 150 miles 334°. 5th 0900Z 190 miles 318° 2100Z 257 miles 318°. 6th 0900Z 283 miles 317° 2100Z 235 miles 269°. -Last sentence your signal taken to mean forward track chart upon return to Londonderry. (GORLESTON, 2359N/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

W/T
Communication
with Gib.

Attempts by Malta W/T Station to read Gibraltar broadcast during past 24 hours have been most unsatisfactory. (V.A. Malta, 0924B/12).

R/C of
Messina.

My 2253B/11. ^{N.T.H.W.D.} 8 inch cruisers are BOLZANO and probably GORIZIA, former still surrounded by lighters. (V.A. Malta, 0934B/12).

/Air.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air attack on Suez.

Night 11/12 Sept. 13 unidentified enemy aircraft attacked Suez. No damage reported to shipping or Military installations.

Air attack on Benghazi.

Night 10/11 Sept. 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour causing an explosion and small fires. 2 Blenheims on offensive sweep of area 80 miles north of Benghazi located no enemy shipping. 1 of them bombed Derna on return journey.

Bombs near Acre.

Night 10/11 Sept. A single unidentified enemy aircraft dropped bombs south east of Acre. No damage or casualties. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.0957/12).

MUREFTE.

Enemy submarine sank MUREFTE at 2220/10 on passage to Iskanderun. D.S.T.O. Port Said to report details of cargo to N.A. Angora repeated C. in C. Med., and G.H.Q.M.E. (C. in C. Med., 1040C/12 to N.A. Angora).

Enemy operations.

Memorandum S.O. 33 para 3. Indications are that contemplated naval operations may take place near future during daylight and that 6 inch cruisers may also take part. Attention is keenly drawn to general description of equipment of these ships in Jane's Fighting ships. Extensive air and surface A/S measures prior to operations. My 0937C/8 Tanker adheres to same route and time but date is 14th. (Capt. 3., Med., 1138/12 to THUNDERBOLT).

Salvage Vessels.

Reply to C. in C. Med., 1710C/6. (Admty 1204A/12) See Operations Volume.

Suez Canal Raid.

Re. C.A.F.O. 587.
(b) High level attack on Suez 0253/12 to 0534/12 by 12 enemy aircraft.
(c) H.E., incendiaries, mines.
(d) 30 H.E. some U.X.B.1 parachute mines in channel k.m. 160.6.
(e) Service damage nil civil damage considerable.
(k) Canal closed at point km. 160.6 one bomb on Port Said no casualties or damage.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1305C/12).

ISARCO sunk.

(A.) S/M O.21 reports:-
(1) Italian S.S. ISARCO sunk in 040° 12' 013° 17' at 0120 5th. (2) Laden with 8,000 tons phosphates. (3) From Bona to Naples. Two consecutive voyages (4) Master and 21 of crew picked up.
(B) Unsuccessful attack on Marcello Class S/M 31/8 in 038° 54' 010° 38' course 70°.

/(C).....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

ISARCO
sunk.
- Contd.

(C) Unsuccessful attack on two ships escorted by A.M.C. on the 6th in 041° 07' 010° 04' course 210°.

(D) Unsuccessful attack on Italian Minelayer FASANA Class on 7th in 041° 12' 009° 49' course 230° Torpedo ran under.

(E) One 7,000 ton ship escorted by A.M.C. sighted 8/9 in 039° 09' 009° 42' course 220°.

(F) Unsuccessful attack on convoy two large merchant vessels one tanker and one A.M.C. on the 8th in 038° 52' 009° 53' 165°.

(G) The number of targets sighted during this short patrol again emphasizes the value of this area for offensive action. (F.O.C.N.A., 1340A/12).

Malta
air raid.
Photo R/C
Palermo,
Messina,
Taranto.

Malta. Night 11/12. Four raiders over A.A. engaged several barrages. No Hurricanes up. Bombs on land no damage or casualties. 11/9. Photos Palermo. 2 Cruisers 4 T.B.s 5 large M.Vs 1 in dock 2 medium M/Vs 1 Tanker. Much oil pouring from 1 M/V 10,000 tons stretching across to Naval basin. Probably result Wellingtons attack 8/9. Messina. 3 Cruisers 4 submarines 8 small M/Vs appear dispersed four miles North of Harbour. Swordfish on shipping sweep found convoy disposition and number unknown off Kuriat Island southbound 2250 hours. 12/9. 0900 hours. Southbound convoy 6 M/Vs 6 Destroyers off Kerkenah. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1810/12).

R/C
Taranto,
Palermo.

(V.A. Malta, 1816A/12 amended 1606/15).

Air
Operations,
from Malta.

A.M.11/9 2 Blenheims failed locate medium M/V southbound off Kerkenah. 2 Fulmars patrolled south Sicily 2300/11 to 0330/12 in bad weather. Dropped 2 small bombs and 2 incendiaries Licata Munition Factory starting fire and clouds white smoke also machine gunned harbour installations. 2 small bombs and 2 incendiaries on railway station near Ragusa starting large fire. 7 Swordfish attacked convoy found by Swordfish (see part 2.) 1 torpedo hit 6,000 ton M/V amidships. Ship left sinking (GM?) 1 hit 8,000 ton M/V causing cloud of smoke and steam claimed damaged. One torpedo exploded in wake of 5,000 ton M/V no results seen from other 2 torpedoes. 9 Wellingtons attacked M/Vs and dry dock Palermo in 3 waves 36,000 lbs bombs from 6,000 feet. 0137 to 0410/12, sticks repeatedly laid across dry dock with M/V inside. Red glow seen in target area and small fire south part of harbour. Smoke screen hindered observation. (H.Q. Malta, 2012/12).

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.
Contd.

8 Blenheims 105 Squadron 1215 hours attacked Southbound Convoy 6 Destroyers 4 large 2 medium M/Vs previously attacked by Swordfish approx. 58 miles South of Lampion. 2 Hits with 500 lbs. 2 hits with 250 lb. bombs 1 large M/V left mass of flames from amidships to stern fire and smoke seen 40 miles away. Another large M/V 2 hits with 500 lb. bombs. One ship claimed seriously damaged second ship claimed damaged. 3 Blenheims missing. All were shot down by intense barrage of A.A. Crew of one seen in Dinghy 12 miles away from Convoy. (H.Q. Malta, 2015/12).

Situation
Report 146.

My 2359/11 para 3. 6 destroyers and aircraft carrying out A/S search. Survivors from MUREFTE (?store carrier) have reached Beirut in S.S. TALODI. (C. in C. Med., 2148C/12, to Admty).

East Indies.

Base
Defences.

Ref. A.M.1329/23. As a result of R/C by M.N.B.D.O. the following assistance is requested from India. To be ready for shipment at Bombay 27/9 or as soon after as possible. (C. in C, E. I., 1812/12 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

GLENROY.

C. in C. E. I., 1814Z/12. See Operations Volume.

China.

Repatriation
of
Annamites.

Admty 1929/11. Decoux has agreed and arrangements can be made to repatriate 200 Annamites if sent Singapore in ship leaving South Africa 20/9. (C. in C. China, 0217Z/12).

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

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PASTEUR.

A.M.1622A/10.

1. Organisation given in my 1807Z/9 requires all R.C.N. Destroyers in N.E.F. for S.C. and ON.S. escort duties.

2. Propose however to make ASSINIBOINE and SAGUENAY available for PASTEUR. This will postpone refit of ASSINIBOINE and weaken group 17 but can be accepted since group 17 will on first East bound convoy S.C.48 be augmented by an R.N. Destroyer and as at present constituted includes two R.C.N. Destroyers.

3. ST. LAURENT also appears to be available but I do not recommend using her because although group 14 could be augmented by one R.N. Destroyer on Eastern passage with S.C.45 there would be no Destroyer with this group on return passage. (C.C.N.F., 0059Z/12).

PRINCE HENRY.

Will be required to transport reinforcement for British Battalion to Dutch W.I. from Jamaica on 19/9. On completion PRINCE HENRY will proceed to Bermuda.

N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica requested to issue necessary instructions. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/12 to PRINCE HENRY).

TULIP, CLARKIA.

Your 0932Q/8. Ships will sail P.M./18 reporting E.T.A. Bermuda to you before sailing. *To whom?* (B.A.R.M., Washington 0948R/12).

A.M.C. for Iceland (C)

Following is a repetition of my 1456P/11 begins: In view of A.M. 1709A/6 and diversion to Clyde of ALAUNIA carrying provisions for Iceland should an A.M.C. be sailed with next appropriate H.X. Convoy to proceed to Reykjavik with provisions in replacement T.O.O. 1456P/11. Ends. (R.A.3 B.S. 1031P/12).

Your 1456/11. It is not necessary to sail another A.M.C. to Iceland with provisions. (D.O.D. (H) 1932A/12 to R.A. 3 etc).

Convoy Escorts.

Request reply my 1424A/10 observing your 0059Z/12 only refers PASTEUR. (C. in C. W.A., 1125A/12 to C.C.N.F.)

LIMOUSIN (French).

St. Thomas ? arrival. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1146R/12.

/MEROPE.....

War Diary.

12.9.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America & West Indies. - Contd.

MEROPE.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0145Z/30/8. Tampico Dep. 7/9 French Tanker MEROPE for Puerto Mexico first voyage of three months time charter Gulf Ports Cuba in Mexican interests. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1151R/12).

CHEVREUIL.

Your 1212Q/28. French Ship CHEVREUIL arrived Kingston intended to depart 20/9 and transit Panama Canal 22/9. Request Admiralty inform A.C.F.N.F.L. and French High Commissioner in LE TRIOMPHANT. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1245R/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DIANTHUS.

Your 1550R/11. DIANTHUS will be delayed until she and GLADIOLUS can arrive U.K. in company. Owing to recent re-routing of convoys date on which GLADIOLUS can arrive is now uncertain. Further signal will be made. (C.C.N.F., 1306Z/12 to B.A.R.M)

MEKONG,
BEARN.

CINCLANT, Comdr. Carib Nav. Coastal Frontier, COMTASK Force 3 for information. French Naval Tanker MEKONG leaves Fort De France for Guadeloupe 12/9. Will disembark Governor Sorin at Basseterre and then will stay at Pointe Apitre and Aux Saintes until 23/9 when will return Martinique. On 13/9 Carrier BEARN will leave for St. Pierre, will take part in festivities of 14/9 until 17/9 and return Fort De France. (U.S. Govt. Washington, 1325Z/12 to Admty).

S/M refits.
FORTH.

^{N.T. in W.D.}
Your 1138A/10. Arrangements for submarines to work up in U.S.A. after refit will probably be approved. If so, advisable for FORTH to visit ports concerned to land ratings and gear as follows. (B.A.R.M. 1400R/12 to Admty).

S. C. Convoys.

Stronger escorts required. (Admty 1638A/12)
See Operations Volume.

S.C.45.

Admty 1638/12 passed to you for necessary action report escorts detailed for S.C.45. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2214Z/12 to C.C.N.F.)

/Task.....

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America & West Indies - Contd.

Task Force 2. Intended movements.
(Opnav, 1758Z/12).

S.S. FORBIN
(Free French). Refitting at Norfolk. Crew not allowed ashore until British declare vessel a naval auxiliary. Asking Min. of Transport to hasten decision. Suggest Free French M.V.s be either declared naval auxiliary before arrival in U.S.A. to refit or not be sent to refit in U.S.A. (B.A.D. Washington 1837B/12).

Vichy French
Intelligence. B.A.D. Washington 1915R/12. See South Atlantic.

T.C. and C.T.
Convoy
escorts. Your 1424A/10 to C.C.N.F. Regret no Canadian destroyers available for T.C. or C.T. convoys other than those allotted to S.C. convoys. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2207Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

Australia.

AKAROA. Have you any news of AKAROA from Balboa due 3/9. (D.T.D., 1321A/12 to N.C.S.O. Auckland).

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War Diary.

12.9.41.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.C.42.

Add to my 2200Z/11 Para. 1 Panamanian S.S.MONTANA observed by aircraft torpedoed in 63° 40' N., 35° 50' W., at 1305/11. Crew took to boats.
(D.D.O.D.(H) 0401A/12, to OPNAV.)

Attack on
S.C.42.

My 1904/11. Sailed tugs RESTIVE, CAROLINE MOLLER for Tortola ships escorted by WASTWATER and SEALYHAM at 0703Z/12.
(A.C.I.C. 0705Z/12 to C. in C.W.A.)
Unless in contact with U boat destroyers of Second group are to proceed with dispatch to Iceland at daylight/13 to fuel subsequently rejoining convoy as soon as possible and escorting to U.K.corvettes in company are to remain with convoy till further orders.
(C. in C.W.A. 1509A/12 to DOUGLAS, SKEENA.)
SKEENA rejoin S.C.42 when fuelled. DOUGLAS detail two corvettes most in need of fuel to proceed at daylight at best speed to Iceland rejoining convoy. When rejoined further two may be detached to refuel as necessary. SKEENA and Corvettes will be relieved by corvettes of 4th escort group in about 13° W.P.M. 16/9.
(C. in C.W.A. 2220A/12 to SKEENA, ALBERNIG, KENOGAMIN, GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA, DOUGLAS, WESTWATER, CHAMBLY, MOOSEJAW.)

GORLESTON.

My 2331N/11. (N.T.in W.D.). For 2002N/11 read 2052N/10.
(C. in C.S.A. 1056N/12 to Adty.)

TREMODA
SAUGOR.
(torpedoed
27/8.)

CHEVREUIL arrived Kingston 12/9 with survivors of S.S.TREMODA and S.S.SAUGOR torpedoed in 053.42 N., 15.43 W., on 27/8. No information available. List of survivors follows.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1533R/12, to Admty.)

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War Diary.12.9.41.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.2101Z/11 &
2120Z/11.

D/F bearings at 2101Z/11 and at 2120Z/11, indicate U-boats to the Northward of Cape San Roque, possibly between 0° and 3° N., and 35° - 40° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0252A/12 to C. in C.S.A., R.A.S.A.D., C. in C.A.W.I., O.P.N.A.V.)

2018Z/11.

D/F Bearings at 2018Z/11, indicate a unit probably a U-Boat in approx., 12° - 13° N., 32° - 34° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0316A/12 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A.)

→0555.

Suspected submarine in 036° 40' N., 009° 10' W. (VIMY 0555/12 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See p. 295*

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1509A/12.)

Submarines Attacked.By A/C.

Enemy S/M attacked in 64°14' N., 31° 10' W., with depth charges result unknown. Submarine observed to submerge.
(? A/C 9 L.U. 0400/12.)

→ By VIMY.

My 0846. S/M contact in 036° 46' N., 009° (?30') W., good attack. Full pattern. No evidence am proceeding.
(VIMY 1215/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By SIDMOUTH.

SIDMOUTH reported attacking submerged submarine at 1450 in 051° 31' N., 005° 13' W. BLACK SWAN 2 A/S Trawlers and 4 motor launches joined search. BLACK SWAN reports attacking stationary contact 051° 31' 40" N., 005° 12' W., with 10 well placed D.Cs., and no visible result. BLACK SWAN and 2 A/S trawlers remaining over position contact which may be a wreck.
(N.O.I/C. Milford Haven 1830A/12.)

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

307

Home Commands.

Force M.

C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE, with SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS, and 5 Destroyers arrived at Scapa at 1845 today from the operation yesterday at Vest Fiord and Bodo.

It is reported today from Stockholm that the ADMIRAL SCHEER is damaged and left Oslo in tow on Wednesday last.

Adty. have asked for information as to the military situation in the Murmansk area from S.B.N.O. Murmansk, who reported at 2251C today that no change had occurred upon that front since his 2231C/12. A/C of the R.A.F. have been in action there.

The Soviet naval authorities report that the Germans attempted to land in force on Oesel Island today and were beaten off, four transports and a destroyer being sunk.

British Air Activity.

The docks at Cherbourg, and St Nazaire were attacked last night.

It is reported today that during daylight yesterday one 3000 ton M/V was sunk and one 2000 ton M/V severely damaged by our A/C off Katwijk.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.517 was bombed at intervals off the Norfolk coast from 1950 until 2020 last night without suffering any damage or casualty. Convoy W.N. 79 was attacked off Montrose at 2021 today; no damage has been reported.

Collier S.S. BLOOMFIELD was attacked and damaged about 0800A today by 2 aircraft about 30 miles east of Thorshavn whilst on passage from Kirkwall to Faeroes. Ship was abandoned, and subsequent search failed to find her, it is presumed she sank.

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

308

Mining.

8 Aircraft last night laid mines off the Frisian Islands and other positions in North Germany and Denmark.

There was some minelaying activity by A/C in the Thames Estuary last night where A/C were seen and a Mine exploded in the air at 2048 over the North Shingles Shoal. One S.A. Mine was detonated by Trawler at 0010 today off B7. Buoy.

The channel through the Nymph Bank Minefield was finally searched by this morning with no results, and the sweeping vessel returned at 0821 A to Milford Haven.

4 Mines were detonated by Sweepers today off the Humber.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Status II".

45 Hurricanes and 7 Blenheims flown off from ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS arrived at Malta today.

O.24.

O.24 reports that she has sunk by gunfire a barque of 1,200 tons and torpedoed a 6,000 ton laden merchant vessel which was last seen with a heavy list and sinking.

Air Attack
on Convoy
renewed.

At 0140 today 7 Wellingtons attacked the Tripoli convoy which was attacked yesterday twice by Swordfish and once by Blenheims. The convoy now consisted of only 8 or 9 ships in place of the original 13. One 10,000 merchant ship was hit 4 times and set well on fire; one 12,000 ton merchant ship was hit, causing a large fire in the hold; 2 medium merchant ships were each hit twice; and one small ship received a hit.

/Libya.....

War Diary.

13. 9. 1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

309

Libya and
Western
Desert.

It is reported that 100 bombs and 6 mines were dropped in an air raid on Tobruk from 0300 to 0530 today. Small military damage was caused, Mersa Matruh was also attacked but no damage is reported.

Syria.

The final Vichy Troop repatriation Convoy B.1. left Beirut today. Admiral Gouton and the remainder of the Vichy French naval personnel were on board.

East Indies.

Operation
"Snip".

Force T., MAURITIUS, HAWKINS, and ANTENOR will be known as Force W for this operation.

China.

Additional areas in the western approaches to Singapore were today declared closed to shipping by mines.

War Diary

13.9.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

310

Australia and New Zealand

At 0800Z/11 ^{M/V} SS SILVERPLANA reported a suspicious vessel in 26° 16' S., 164° 25' W. The message was cancelled in plain language at 1055Z/11, but there was doubt about the authenticity of the cancellation. At 2225Z/11 SILVERPLANA was instructed to break W/T silence and cancel her distress message in code. Nothing further has been heard.

SS DEVON, which left Panama on 15/8 is now 4 days overdue at Auckland.

An area dangerous from British mines is declared in the western approaches to Torres Strait.

War Diary

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

311

Policy.

EREBUS.

Your 1721A/12. Estimate EREBUS cannot arrive Alexandria before late December. Ship is not fitted for hot weather in any way. Original complement of 250 has been increased to 400 borne. Certain guns are due for replacement shortly. Proposals.
(R.A.D., 1245A/13 to Admty.)

ONSLOW.
ORIBI.

When ready for service ONSLOW will join the Home Fleet as leader of the 17th Flotilla of O class destroyers.
2. ORIBI now serving in the 19th Flotilla will join the 17th Flotilla when ONSLOW is worked up.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1247/13.)

WESTCOTT.

Request WESTCOTT may be made available for ^{"Hedgehog"} ~~HEDEHOC~~ trials at first convenient date after 21/9. Two days will be required for fitting out and a subsequent period of about 14 days for trials.
(D.A/S.W., 1546A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

AURICULA.
VIOLET.

Your 1440A/12. Approved.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1615A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

M/S Corvettes
for S.A.
Station.

Admiralty 2122A/12. Intend following M/S Corvettes to join C. in C. S.A.
(A) VIOLET, AURICULA sailing 18/9.
(B) WALLFLOWER, NIGELLA sailing 25/9.
(C) FREESIA, ORCHIS, VERBENA, HOLLYHOCK sailing 15/10.
2. AURICULA, HOLLYHOCK, ORCHIS are fitted type 271.
(C. in C. W.A., 1615A/13.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

North
Atlantic
Trade
Convoy
Escorts.

Beginning with H.X.150 leaving Halifax 16/9, U.S.A. will assume responsibility as follows. Details.
(V.C.N.S., 1145A/13.) See Operations Volume. Adty. 1145A/13. Following are communication arrangements.
(V.C.N.S. 1150A/13.) See Operations Volume.

/Opnav.....

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

312

Co-operation with U.S.A. - Contd.

Opnav reports:-

Change in W.P.L.51: Delete task 7 cast.
Renumber task 7 dog to 7 cast. This change sent to all holders of W.P.L.51.
(Spenavo, 1520/13 to Admty.)

Following from Opnav. To obtain complete flexibility the President has modified instructions given previously with regard to escort and convoy. U.S. Flag Vessels may be escorted by Canadian Ships, and American Warships may now escort convoys in which there are no U.S. or Iceland Flag Vessels. Later instructions will be given to modify W.P.L.51 accordingly.
(Spenavo, 1855/13 to Adty.)

A/C in
Iceland.

Request you will ascertain whether U.S. Authorities intend to base flying boats in Iceland during the winter.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1234A/13 to A.C.I.C.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Convoys
PQ and QP.

Convoys between U.K. and North Russia will in future be given Serial Numbers as follows.
Details.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1230A/13.)
See Operations Volume.

Mission
to Russia.

A.M. 1342A/9 para. 1 B, A.M. 1917A/9, and your 1110A/11.
Now anticipated that departure of this mission will be delayed. Ship should be at 36 hours notice from 16/9.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1307A/13.)

Murmansk
Area.

Request the following information -
A. Numbers and identity of division in Murmansk area.
B. Particulars of any other troops.
C. What reinforcements are available, where they are coming from, and their identity.
D. When these reinforcements are likely to arrive.
(D.N.I., 1725A/13 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

/At.....

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

313

Co-operation with Russia.

Murmansk
Area.
Contd.

At today's meeting Panfilov confirmed presence of S.S. Division in addition to second and third German Mountain Divisions in attack in Murmansk sector. Panfilov stressed difficulty of ground and gave much more optimistic picture than you are getting from our S.N.O.

(No. 30 Mil. Mission, Moscow, 2250/13 to War Office.)

To D.M.I. for Macfarlane.

R.A.F. at Murmansk having been in action the following communique is being issued to British Press here release simultaneously with Russians at 0930 hours Moscow time tomorrow 14th. "A wing of the R.A.F. has arrived in Russia". This was the wording suggested by Chiefs of Staff. Please inform Ministry of Information.

(No. 30 Mil. Mission, Moscow, 2250/13 to War Office.)

My 2231C/12. Murmansk front no change.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 2251C/13 to Adty.)

Movements.

DEWDALE,
ENNERDALE.

R.F.A's. ^{NT n. w. D.} Sailed in accordance with Admty. 1433A/10 para.(iv)
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0304A/13.)

MINERVE.

When ready about 15/9 MINERVE is to be sailed for A patrol in zone C 3 and C 4.
(F.O.S., 1021A/13.)
My 1021A/13. In view of suspect enemy minelaying to eastward of QZX 395, MINERVE is to be routed as follows.
(F.O.S. 1839A/13 and 2136A/13.)

U.S.A.
Force
"Indigo 3."

Opnav's 1820/12. Pending further information consider diversions should be maintained for the present.
(D.T.D. 1025A/13 to Spenavo.)

P.34

Intend to sail P.34 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE to 290° Bishop Rock 5 miles at 0800A/16. E.T.A. 2200A/17.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1154A/13.)

WINCHELSEA.

My 2243A/12 and 0019A/13. On completion of escort WINCHELSEA is to proceed to Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A., 1552A/13.)

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

314

Operations.

Eastern
Channel
Patrol.

4 A/S Trawlers on patrol between Portsmouth and Beachy Head.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1507A/13.)

Operation
J.R.
(ATHERSTONE)

Propose to convert from day to night operation as from Night 15/16. Reasons.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1553A/13.)
See Operations Volume.

Dover
Patrol.

Three M.T.B's at 1830 and two M.G.B's at 1900 leave Dover to patrol near C 2 and C 1 buoys respectively, returning to Dover after 0100/14.
(V.A. Dover, 1631A/13.)

Force M.

Scapa arrivals C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE with SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS, SOMALI, MATABELE, PUNJABI.
(A.C.O.S., 1845/13.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

^{"Hornet"}
~~HORNET~~ in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1416/13.)
P.R.U. Kristiansand South in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1444/13.)

One 3000-Ton
M/V claimed
sunk and one
2000-Ton M/V
damaged.

On 12/9 off Katwijk two A/C attacked a 3000 ton M/V. Each scored a direct hit. The ship was left listing to port and is claimed as a total loss.

Cherbourg
bombed.

Two further Blenheims attacked a 2000 ton M/V and the ship is claimed as severely damaged. During Night 12/13, sixteen A/C attacked the Docks at Cherbourg, starting fires.
(H.Q.B.C., 1654/13.)

Nore Command.
Night
Fighters.

Your 1012/5/4. Request confirmation that Night Fighters may operate above 3000 feet in the Estuary East only of a line Warden Point - Shoeburyness and South of Walton on the Naze. May this area be extended Northwards to cover the Harwich Area.
(H.Q.F.C., 1755/13 to C. in C. Nore.)

A/S Patrol "Cast"
CAST.

My 2330/11/6. Add A/S Patrol ^{"Cast"} ~~CAST~~ as follows. Details.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2136/13.)
See Summaries Folder.

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

315

Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown Ship.

Automatic A.A.A.A. signal heard at 0343 G.M.T. bearing 012° strength 5 from this station. (North Foreland Radio, 0448/13.)

Convoy F.N.517 bombed.

Convoy bombed from 1950/12 to 2020/12 in 052° 49' N. 002° 09' E. At least five enemy aircraft. Eight separate attacks by individual aircraft. Six attacks 2000 feet, two low level. Many bombs, no damage or casualties to any ship. (WHADDON, 0810A/13.)
My 0810A/13. HARROGATE, rear ship in convoy, reports seeing plane crash astern. This was not witnessed by either of rear escorts. SHELDRAKE reports that one A/C jettisoned bombs one mile away on her starboard side. (WHADDON, 0907A/13.)

Convoy W.N.79 bombed.

Enemy A/C are bombing convoy "Might", whose position is 56° 44' N. 2° 2' W. (CURACOA, 2021/13.)

BLOOMFIELD.

Complete crew landed at Klaxvik at 2100A/13th by Faeroes fishing ship. Report ship attacked by 2 aircraft at 0800A/13th about 30 miles east of Thorshavn. Ship abandoned sinking at 1530A/13th 1 man wounded. (N.O.1/c Faeroes, 2226A/13.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

1 S.A. mine detonated by S.A. Trawler at 0010/13. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 0806/13.)
Between 2046 and 2055/12, plots showed enemy planes over Knob Channel and South Edinburgh Channel. At 2048 a mine exploded prematurely in mid air over North Shingles Shoal. Between 2025 and 2055 GOLDEN EAGLE engaged six targets in Edinburgh Channels area. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness, 1313/13.)

Operation "Tincture"

Your 1207A/10. Vessel returned. Operation completed. Negative result. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0821A/13.)

/Operation.....

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

316

Mining - Contd.

Operation
H.F.

Your 1647A/12. Short title for operation A is H.F.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1026/13.)

Portsmouth
H.D.A. Unit.

Request MAY be sailed for Portsmouth to lay H.D.A. unit in that area provided vessel has no immediate commitment at Portland. MAY is to return to Portland on completion of laying unit.
(D.A/S.W., 1245A/13 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Spurn
Point.

The following four mines were detonated by Sweepers today. Details.
(F.O. Humber, 1815A/13.)

QZX 395.

Enemy minelaying suspected to Eastward of QZX 395.
(F.O.S. 1839A/13.)

Enemy Intelligence.

ADMIRAL
SCHEER

Damaged. Left Oslo in tow 10/9. Graded C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1837/13.)

Casualties and Defects.

VENOMOUS

Arrived with defects.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0745A/13.)

SOUTHERN
PRINCE.

Intended to sail SOUTHERN PRINCE 1900A/16 to arrive Barry Roads 0530A/18. Escort WOOLSTON and 2 trawlers as SOUTHERN PRINCE is unable to anchor. N.O.I/c Liverpool, is requested to sail one tug to arrive Belfast by 1800A/16 to accompany SOUTHERN PRINCE on passage.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0921A/13.)
Belfast's 0921A/13. Intend sailing Tug AMSTERDAM from Holyhead to arrive Belfast 1800/16 for duty with SOUTHERN PRINCE to Barry Roads.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2109/13.)

COWSLIP.
M.M.S. 50.

Arrived COWSLIP with defects. M.M.S. 50 with engine defects.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0950A/13.)

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

317

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

SWEETBRIAR.

My 1550/12. Degaussing now satisfactory.
(N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough, 1040/13.)

SUNFLOWER.
SABRE.
NORTHERN
DAWN.

SUNFLOWER returning to harbour, defective plumber block, escorting straggler. SABRE has contaminated fuel and can only stay course on one Boiler. NORTHERN DAWN has defective W/T and has dropped astern.
(KEPPEL, 1230Z/13.)

NORTHERN
PRINCESS.

My 2115A/12. Delayed with Dynamo defect.
(F.O. Humber, 1345A/13.)

DUCHESS OF
ROTHESAY
(Paddle
Minesweeper)

Tug DIVERSION left Harbour 1355 and returned 1530. Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER left Harbour 1515 and returned 1530. Both to assistance of DUCHESS OF ROTHESAY with defective steering gear.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1601A/13.)

SYLVIA DE
LARRINAGA.

My 0941A/12.
Returned with defects.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 2130A/13.)

SACONY VIII.
(?socony 8)

SOCONY 8

(TUG) 215

24/9/43

Tug BASCOBEL arrived Reykjavik. Left Sydney C.B. 30/8 with SACONY VIII (? in tow) with S (?C) 42. SACONY slipped tow at (?20)00/3 in approx. 300 miles N.E. Belle Isle due to heavy weather. BASCOBEL searched all night but could not locate ship. After daylight BASCOBEL proceeded independently to Iceland.
(A.C.I.C. 2225/13.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy
I.3.

Information received that U.S. Convoy I.3 has been diverted through the following positions:-
S. 56° N. 27° W.
T. 63° N. 19° 30' W.
thence to Reykjavik, using best available speed.
(D.O.D.(H) 0004A/13 to A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., R.A.3.)

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

318

H.X.147.

Congratulations on the success of your convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1831A/13 to Vice Adm. F.A. Marten.)
H.X.147 had 49 British and 15 Allied ships,
and included 28 tankers.
(D.S. 741, 15/9.)

S.D.
Convoys.

It is proposed that in future S.D. convoys
should be routed by C. in C. W.A. Request
your remarks.
(D.T.D., 2119A/13 to C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

319

North Atlantic.

SAMUEL D.
INGHAM.
(C.G. Cutter)

Suggested route to New York from Lisbon.
(D.O.D.(F) 0123Z/13 to Opnav.)

ESCOLANO.

ESCOLANO from Fernando Po 8/9 to Las Palmas reported to have on board (A) five enemy nationals as passengers (B) six German stowaways including Nazi agent named Hillman (C) Lieut. Roger and 2nd mate Lelong both deserters from Free French Forces. (F.O.C.N.A. 1122A/13 to N.A. Stn.)

R/C aircraft.

Unless immediate steps are taken to reinforce long range R/C aircraft here we shall not be able to meet commitments in sight in near future. 200 group 1630/12 and 1635/12 to Air Ministry and my 1848A/29/8 refer. (F.O.C.N.A. 1324A/13 to Admty.)

Destroyers.

Your 1806/11 (Hush, N.T.in W.D.) With very limited numbers of destroyers at our disposal, their allocation between Gibraltar and Freetown must always be regarded as adjustable to meet varying situations. For reasons given in C.in C. S.A's 0159/3, the present indications of U-boat activity, and the strengthening of Force (H) destroyers, decision in Admty. 1433/10 must stand. BOREAS, BRILLIANT, VANSITTART, VELOX, VIMY WILD SWAN, WIVERN and WRESTLER are to form 18th Flotilla. DUNCAN, VIDETTE and WISHART with attached corvettes form 13th Flotilla. (D.O.D.(F) 1325A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Convoy
Speeds.

My 1941B/28/6. H.G. and S.L. Convoys only. Declared speeds should in future be included in sailing telegram Part II. These figures should be shown as a prefix before each ship's name in column (9). (D.T.D. 1911A/13 to N.C.S.O's Gibraltar, Freetown.)

MANCHESTER
FIREDRAKE.

Departure MANCHESTER, FIREDRAKE routed South of Azores through approx. 035° 00' N. 040° 00' W. If MANCHESTER can oil FIREDRAKE after passing 040° W. ships will proceed to approx. 038° 00' 060° 00' and thence independently to refitting port. (E.T.A.) If oiling not possible both ships proceed to Bermuda. Local escort HEYTHROP until 025° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1930A/13 to Admty. etc.)

/812 Sqdn.

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

320

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

812 Sqn.

Request (FAA) No.812 Sqn. be instructed to R/V at 0900A tomorrow Sunday in position 265° Alboran 35. (S.O. Force H., 2045Z/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

TAI YANG.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1010/12 TAI YANG arrived Capetown. (Capetown, 0959B/13 to Admty. etc.)

Spanish Schooner.

Following is passed for information addressed (?S.O.(I) Freetown, C.in C. S.A. and Admty, from British Consul (?Cape Verde Islands). My 0952/12. Spanish Schooner reported now discharging aviation petrol Sal Island. (? S.O.I. Freetown, 1017/13 to Admty.)

WINDSOR CASTLE.
BRITANNIC.
NEA HELLAS.
defects.

Your 0338/31/5 para.2 (B) Convoy W.S.10. WINDSOR CASTLE. Extensive collision damage sustained at Freetown. Repairs estimated require 2 months. BRITANNIC. Minor collision repairs to stern which it is recommended should be undertaken at Bombay. Estimated time 10 days. NEA HELLAS testing of condensers on return to U.K. 10 days. Remainder no defects. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1126B/13 to D. of S.T.)

AURICULA.
VIOLET.

C. in C. Western Approaches 1440A/12. Request you will comply. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1619A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

TOMBOCTOU.

At 0630 G.M.T./13 whilst off Fernand~~o~~ Po S.S. TOMBOCTOU suffered violent explosion in number 2 hold. Believed cause spontaneous combustion of reserve coal bunkers in bottom of hold. Fire is still burning brightly. Hold contains military lorries and motor cycles for Pointe Noire (? and) which it will be necessary to discharge here possibly reloading later. (N.C.S.O. Duala, 1637/13.)

/NESTOR

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

321

South Atlantic - contd.

NESTOR.

NESTOR's 2200Z/11. Report if repairs to turbine feet are within capability of Simonstown Dockyard. (D.O.D.(F) 1651A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

S.L.87.

Your 1440/12. S.L. 87 sails early 14/9. Reason for proposal is not given but GARDENIA will sail in S.L. 87 for U.K. to refit, Admty.1844/5 refers. Not possible to arrange for any other corvettes to sail for U.K. with S.L.87. (C. in C. S.A. 1715N/13 to C.in C. W.A. amended 1945N/13.)

W.S.11

Arrived 1200/13 REPULSE, ENCOUNTER, VELOX, WRESTLER, STARWORT, GUARDIAN with Fast Portion W.S.11. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1805N/13 to Admty.)

Facilities
Bathurst.

Your 0421/10. Confirmed that sloops and cutters carry 3 months supplies. (C. in C. W.A., 1828A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

Walrus
aircraft.

Your 0127/1/8. Regret acute shortage of Walrus prevents any being made available for Free French in West Africa nor could crews be spared. Request will be kept in mind. Air Ministry consulted and confirm no other suitable aircraft available. (Hd. of Air Branch, 2021A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

Dispositions.

Weekly State 13/9. (C. in C. S.A., 2301N/13)
See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.

ROYAL EMBLEM.

Your 2026A/10. Arrived Great Bitter Lake 10/9. (N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik, 1026C/13 to Admty.)

/Italian

328A

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

2301N/13 September IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic

Date 14. 9. 41.
Recd. 1134

Naval Cypher (D) by W.T.

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

Weekly state September 13th.

Freetown, H.M.S. REPULSE, H.M.S. GUARDIAN,
H.M.S. VINDICTIVE, H.M.S. CILICIA, H.M.S. CHESHIRE,
H.M.S. MILFORD, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S. BRILLIANT,
H.M.S. VELOX, H.H.S. WRESTLER, H.M.S. ENCOUNTER,
H.M.S. NESTOR, French sloop ~~COMMANDANT~~ DUBOC, H.M.S. ALBATROSS.
9 Corvettes. Bathurst, H.M.S. CHALLENGER, ~~CORLESTON,~~
~~LULWORTH, BIDEFORD,~~ A.L.C.A. Bathurst to Gibraltar H.M.S.
HIGHLANDER. United Kingdom to Bathurst. QS.5 escorted by
three sloops. United Kingdom to Freetown, FARA, HOXA, ROMEO.
MMNG (ISLA) LDKZ (KOS VII) L.C.A.U. (KOS IX), 8 boom
trawlers, and B.D.V.

Freetown to United Kingdom, S.L.86 escorted by 3 sloops.
Freetown area, H.M.S. DUNEDIN, H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE,
H.M.S. DERBYSHIRE, H.M.S. SUTLEJ, H.M.S. SENNEN, H.M.S.
TOTLAND escorting W.S. 11, H.M.S. VANSITTART and 5 Corvettes
with O.S.4, H.M.S. CALENDULA escorting ECHODALE, H.M.S.
ANCHUSA. Takoradi, H.M.S. MIGNONETTE. Lagos, H.M.S. CLEMATIS
H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, H.M.S. COLUMBINE, H.M.S. SURPRISE.
St. Helena area, H.M.S. DORSETSHIRE, H.M.S. EAGLE,
H.M.S. BULOLO, H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE proceeding to Capetown.
Simonstown to Freetown H.M.S. EDINBURGH. Capetown,
H.M.S. REVENGE.

Simonstown, H.M.S. DRAGON, H.M.S. JANUS.

Simonstown to Durban AVON VALE, ERIDGE.

Durban H.M.S. EXETER, H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE,
H.M.S. RANCHI.

Plate area H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM.

Rio de Janeiro area H.M.S. ALCANTARA.

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

North Atlantic H.M.S. NEWCASTLE, and H.M.S. QUEEN OF
BERMUDA, Aden DURBAN CASTLE.

United Kingdom ports H.M.S. CANTON, H.M.S. CATHAY.

2301N/13.

Advance copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

1st Lord	N.A.1st S.L.		
1st S.L.	Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.	Movts.	D.T.M.
5th S.L.	Ops. 3.	I.P.(3)	D. of L.D.(2)
V.C.N.S.	O.D.(5)	D.A/S.W.	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)	O.D.8.	W.D.	D.M.S.
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	M.(2)	D.T.D.(4)	D.M.S. Base
A.C.N.S.(H)	O.I.C.(2)	D.T.D.(M)	D.B.D.(2)
Naval Section Mails		D.T.D.(C)	D.N.A.D.
			D.P.S.

10W

War Diary.13.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Italian
destroyers
sold to
Bulgaria
(report)

My 1507/11 and my 1733/10. Russian Assistant N.A. has similar reports from sources he states are close to Saracoglu. Alleges Italian vessels have been purchased and will pass Straits in pairs by (? Esenberg) Fiord. Turkey will be given notice under usual Straits convention terms, since Bulgaria claims to be non-belligerent (Greece and Yugo-Slavia headed by Governments which are not at war with her. (S.O.I Istanbul 1130/13 to S.O.I Med.) N.I.D. Comment. Early in July, Soviet Ambassador to Turkey stated that he had heard a report that Italians had sold six Destroyers to Bulgarian Gov. If a spurious sale of Italian Warships has been arranged with the Bulgarians, it would be possible under the terms of the Straits Convention for these vessels to demand passage, as Bulgaria and the Soviet are at present not at war. On 10/9 the Soviet Foreign Minister warned the Bulgarian Gov. that they had adopted an unfriendly attitude towards the U.S.S.R. and amongst other things were preparing their Black Sea ports as bases for the operations of German and Italian Warships. Two other reports of a similar nature have been received from S.O.(I) Istanbul, graded C 3. and D 4 respectively.

Operation
"Status 2".

"Status 2". First flight arrived 1130B, number will be confirmed after check. (V.A. Malta, 1150B/13, to S.O. Force H.)
Second flight arrived 1245B. (V.A. Malta, 1251B/13 to S.O. Force H.)
7 Blenheims and 45 Hurricanes arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 1526B/13 to S.O. Force H.) (See also end of 2030/13.) *See also pp. 340, 342.*

UTMOST.

3 Blenheims being sent to assist, continue search until nightfall then return to Malta. (Capt. S.10, 1205B/13, to UTMOST.)

Situation
report 147.

Four destroyers carrying out A/S sweep off Palestine and Syrian Coasts. Syria. Final repatriation convoy B 1 has left Beirut with Adm. Gouton and remainder of Naval personnel. Western Desert. 100 bombs and 6 mines dropped in air raid on Tobruk lasting from 0300 to 0530 on 10/9. Small Military damage.
(C. in C. Med. 1233C/13 to Admty.)

/Suez

War Diary.

13.9.1941.

Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Suez Raid.

Details damage from raid on Suez night 11/12. No service damage, total service and civilian casualties, 7 killed and 11 wounded. Western Desert night 11/12. 15 Wellingtons dropped nearly 15 tons of bombs on shipping and docks in Benghazi harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1357/13.)

Benghazi bombed.A/C attack on enemy convoy.

Summary action against convoy arrived Tripoli morning 13/9. 6 M/Vs 7 Destroyers sighted by Swordfish 2050 hours 11/9 speed 12 to 15 knots. Attacked by 7 Swordfish 0101 hours 12/9, M/V 6000 tons believed left sinking. M/V 8000 tons damaged. R/C 0700 hours 12/9 6 M/Vs 7 Destroyers in line 8 knots. Reduction of speed indicates hits. 8 Blenheims attacked 0215 hours 12/9, 1 M/V 12,000 tons left on fire. 4 hits M/V 10,000 tons. R/C 1510 hours 12/9 5 M/Vs 7 Destroyers 8 knots. Saw large patch oil 2 miles wide wreckage etc. where Blenheims attacked. Swordfish sighted convoy 5 M/Vs 6 Destroyers 2225 hours 12/9. 7 Swordfish attacked 2320 hours 12/9 1 M/V 6,000 tons left on fire. 1 M/V 6,000 tons stopped. 1 M/V 6,000 tons probably hit stopped. 7 Wellingtons attacked 0140 hours 13/9 only 8 or 9 ships left. 1 M/V 10,000 tons hit 4 times well on fire. 1 M/V 12,000 tons hit big fire in hold. 2 medium M/Vs each hit twice. 1 small ship hit once. Summary, 1 M/V 6,000 tons seriously damaged, 1 damaged, 1 M/V 12,000 tons sunk by Blenheims, 1 damaged. 1 M/V 6,000 tons on fire, 2 damaged by Swordfish. 1 M/V 10,000 tons well on fire, 3 others damaged by Wellingtons. Later news follows after tonight's attack. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/13.)

LISBOA (German)

Arrived. (Valencia T.H.I. 1830/13 to D. of S.T.)

Enemy Convoy.

Leaving position Z 032° 55' 013° 12', a small valuable escorted convoy should reach 098° Z. 340 miles on 15th. (Capt. S.1. 1847C/13 to THUNDERBOLT.)

/ A/C attacks

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

324

Mediterranean - contd.

A/C Attacks
on Enemy
Convoy.

830

Odero

RAF

Operation
"Status".

7 Swordfish attacked convoy 5 M/Vs 6 destroyers resighted by R/C Swordfish after Blenheim attack (see my I.117 12/9.) Attacked at 2320 hours near Zuara 6 torpedoes released 1 M/V 6,000 tons hit stopped and on fire seen by all aircraft. M/V 6,000 tons stopped and much black smoke coming from her and destroyer alongside. Both M/Vs claimed seriously damaged. Possibly hit third M/V 6,000 tons, all returned safely. 7 Wellingtons attacked convoy previously attacked by ~~Swordfish~~ and Blenheims. Low-level and gliding attacks. Total bombs dropped 24,500 lbs. 2 M/Vs left on fire hits on 3 others. Opposition slight, all aircraft returned. Operation "Status" 46 Hurricanes 7 Blenheims started, 45 Hurricanes 7 Blenheims arrived. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2030/13.)

THUNDERBOLT
THRASHER

Owing to unavoidable delay in sailing of relief you will be required to remain on patrol until p.m./15. On that day return to Alexandria to enter sanctuary 0500B/20. (route) THRASHER expects to enter your area 16th (route) (Capt. S.1. 2030C/13 to THUNDERBOLT.)

Further my 1.117 12/9 (Attack of Blenheims on Southbound convoy) Crew of missing Blenheim rescued safe by Naval Unit today. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2110/13.)

MOST SECRET

MOST

IN

2320/13th September.

FROM: No.30 Military Mission Moscow.

Date: 14.9.41.

Recd: 0115.

CYPHER.

ADDRESSED: The War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

43338. MIL 772 cipher 13/9.

To C.O.S. from Macfarlane.

Panfilov gave me latest Russian views on German-Turkish situation today. Russians have now come round to our view although they credit enemy with larger forces now available against Turkey than we do. Russians estimate following enemy forces available against Thrace. German. One division Varna one division Burgos four divisions Thrace frontier. Bulgarian. Six divisions and one armoured division. Italian. Two divisions. French. Some 3000 or 4000, originally destined for Syria. Russians now consider above insufficient for an attack on Turkey. They now think that the role of these troops is as follows.

(a) To intimidate Turks either to allow passage of German troops or to influence economic conversations.

(b) To participate in possible future combined operations against Russia.

Russians have information that collection of barges by Germans in Black Sea is increasing but give no details. Russians admit German origin of many recent rumours of German intentions against Turkey.

2320/13.

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F)

D.D.I.C.

Recd by Hand from War Office at 1400

1st Lord.

D.O.D. (H)

1st S.L.

D.D.O.D. (H)

V.C.N.S.

D.N.I. (4)

A.C.N.S. (F)

I.P. (2)

A.C.N.S. (H)

W.D.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.C.

P.A.S. (S)

Hd. of M.

D. of P. (2)

D.D.I.C.

D.O.D. (F)

N.I.D. 10.

D.D.O.D. (F)

E.P.S.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Operation
"Ration".Admty. 0057A/13.
See Operations Volume.Red Sea
Shipping
Instructions.My 0614/19/8 para. 2 (A) Amend to read 090°
Shadwan Light 6 miles.
(C. in C. E.I., 0542Z/13 to Admty.)HILDA
(Italian)BHADRAVATI escorting prize ship HILDA arrived
1312Z/11, departed for Chabbar to recover HILDA's
anchor and cable 0832Z/12.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0635Z/13 to Admty., etc.)Minesweepers.C. in C. Med. 1620/8. (? Unless) (? I) receive
instructions (? to the) contrary these (? ships)
will be sailed on 15/9 for onward passage to
Persian Gulf.
(C. in C. E.I., 0708Z/13 to Admty.)Operation
"Snip",
Force W.(i) Operation object interception of Vichy French
convoy in Indian Ocean will be known by code
word ~~SNIP~~ "Snip". (ii) Force T, MAURITIUS, HAWKINS,
ANTENOR will be known as Force W for operation.
(C. in C. E.I., 0754Z/13 to E.I. Sqdn.)Mines.Following additional areas closed to shipping
by mines.
(Bombay Navy Wireless, 1336Z/13 to Admty.)Norwegian
Minesweepers.My 1233/4 and my 1945/11. Following from
B.N.A. Lisbon. -
"Your 1945/11. After delay caused by number of
departments involved permission has now been
granted providing not more than 3 ships are in
port at the same time".(Ends)
(Head of M. 1734A/13 to C. in C. E.I.)China.Port W.
CLAN FORBES.C. in C. Med. 1325/11 appears to contemplate
landing 23 officers 400 other ranks and 370 tons
stores at port W., CLAN FORBES then proceeding
to Calcutta. This is most undesirable until
water facilities have been provided anti-malaria
measures instituted.
(C. in C. China, 0352Z/13 to Admty.)

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Use of
Danish
lighters,
Bangkok.

Your 0853/10. Are you satisfied that proposed employment is the best use for these lighters? If so, no objection is seen and required assurance in respect of any lighters taken by the Thai Navigation Co. can be given. Request report if any of the lighters will be useful at Singapore or elsewhere as it is believed East Asiatic Co. might be willing to make them available to us if approached by H.M. Representative, Bangkok. (Head of M. 1050A/13 to C. in C. China.)
Reply: 0411Z/14.

America and West Indies.

NEWCASTLE
A/C.

In view of shortage of Walrus aircraft at Bermuda and better facilities for maintenance there suggest NEWCASTLE should disembark her Walrus at Bermuda en route Boston after parting company from Convoy C.F.2.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/13 to Admty.)
Concur. (D.N.A.D., 1605A/15.)

STRATHEDEN.

Your 1036A/8 and D. of S.T's 1733A/12. CIRCASSIA available to escort STRATHEDEN leaving Halifax (date) if speed of 15 knots can be accepted. PRINCE HENRY available to escort from Trinidad to 040° W. if higher speed is required. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1022Q/13 to Admty.)
Reply: 1716/14.

R.A.3.

Your 1431/9. Approved to haul down your flag on 30/9 and for return as proposed. Request confirmation of date R.C.N. will take over SEABORN. If this is confirmed as 31/10 request report as to responsibility for ship after paying off on 30/9. (Head of M. 1049A/13 to F.O.C. 3 B.S.)

LIMOUSIN.

St. Thomas departure 12/9 LIMOUSIN French for Martinique. Capacas reports cargo for St. Thomas 4000 tons U.S. Navy Fuel, for Martinique 3000 tons Bunker Fuel 800 tons Diesel. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1245R/13 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., D.N.I. Ottawa.)

327

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- S.C. Convoys. Reply to Admty. 1638/12 re stronger escorts.
(C.N.S. Canada, 1403Z/13).
See Operations Volume.
- TRUANT. Completes working up programme p.m./18.
Intend to sail her a.m./19. Request
destination.
(C.C.N.F., 1509Z/13 to F.O.S.)
- PASTEUR. Your 1622A/10. Assume it is intended that
PASTEUR should embark for U.K. the complement
of Canadian troops, R.A.F. etc., originally
laid down in D. of S.T. 1725A/22/8.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1513Z/13 to Admty.)
Confirmed. (D.S.T., 0256A/15.)
- BUXTON. ^{H.T.A.W.D.} Your 0950R/12. BUXTON should proceed to Halifax
in first instance to pick up stores and personnel
awaiting ship. Subsequent movements will
presumably be ordered by Admiralty.
(R.A.3, 1542P/13 to B.A.R.M.)
- CALIFORNIA. Your 1726P/11. Suggest CALIFORNIA arrives
Boston at 2000Z + 5 on 22/9 if convenient.
(R.A.3, 1636P/13 to B.A.R.M.)
- NEWFOUNDLAND. Your 1614Z/11. (Route for Hospital ship
NEWFOUNDLAND.) Concur in your arrangements.
(D.O.D.(F) 1847A/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
- FORBIN
(French) Your 1837B/12. M. of W.T. state that FORBIN
cannot be declared Naval Auxiliary. They have
instructed Sparks to urge State Dept. to grant
leave facilities for Free French crews generally
and have also acted through N.A. London and F.O.
Unless American Authorities can make this
concession alternative (iii)b in your message
will be adopted.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2007A/13 to B.A.D.)
- Convoy
Routes. Opnav 121825. Intend continuing Northern route
whenever practicable, as this has advantage of
bringing meeting points for escort reliefs closer
to Iceland than is possible by more Southerly
routes. Airplane Patrols from South Greenland
would be a great help. U-Boat concentrations on
Northern route may cause us to use more Southerly
routes temporarily, but we would hope to revert
to Northern route after short intervals.
(1st S.L., 2235Z/13 to Spenavo.)

War Diary.13.9.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.Mines.

Western Approaches to Torres Strait. Waters enclosed in following areas are dangerous due to British Mines. Area A: Northern limit, the parallel of 10° 43' S., southern limit, the parallel of 11° 00' S., eastern limit, the meridian of 142° 16' E., western limit, the meridian of 141° 52' E. Area B: Northern limit. The coast of New Guinea, southern limit, the parallel of 10° 30' S., western limit, the meridian 141° 52' E., eastern limit, from 10° 30' 142° 09' E. In the vicinity of N.W. Reef in a 354° direction from 6.8 miles to the southern extremity of Hawkesbury Island, thence in 287° direction for 5 miles to S.W. extremity of West Island, continuing round the western coast of the Island to N.W. extremity, thence in a 360° direction to coast of New Guinea. Vessels disregarding this warning do so at their peril. (A.C.N.B., 0204Z/13 to Admty., etc.) Northern part of Great Barrier Reef, all entrances to Great Barrier Reef between Arlington Reef 16° 42' S. 146° 00' E. and anchor Cay 9° 22' S. 144° 06' E. are dangerous due to British Mines. Vessels wishing to enter to leave the Great Barrier Reef in this area should use either the Great North East Channel or Grafton Passage. Vessels disregarding this warning do so at their peril. (A.C.N.B., 0229Z/13 to Admty., etc.)

New Zealand.→ S.S. DEVON.Due Auckland p.m./9 not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 0949M/13.)→ "Q" Report
SILVAPLANA,
DEVON
overdue.

At 0800Z/11 SILVAPLANA made QQQQ position 026° 16' S. 164° 25' W. Suspicious vessel. Message was cancelled in P/L at 1055Z/11. Note and frequency entirely different from first signal. No apparent difference in operating. D/F bearing of first signal was 050° from Napier doubtful. At 2225Z/11 SILVAPLANA was instructed to break W/T silence and cancel distress message in code. Nothing further heard. DEVON which left Panama 15/8 is now 4 days overdue at Auckland. (N.Z.N.B., 1035M/13 to Admty., etc.)

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War Diary.13.9.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.MONTANA.
(torpedoed
11/9.)

U.S.State Dept., is very anxious to know any further details of sinking of MONTANA particularly as regards survivors. Admiralty pass to A.C.I.C. (B.A.D., 1241R/13, to Admty.) Replies: 1305/14, 1537/14.

EINVIK.
(torpedoed
5/9.)

Your 0721/5 to NIAGARA. 12 survivors all Norwegian landed today at Westmann Isle ex Norwegian EINVIK. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1558/13 to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C.42.
(attacked
10/9, 11/9, etc.)

Arrived SKEENA 0930. (A.C.I.C., 1022/13, to C. in C.W.A.)

ORILLIA.
(S.C.42.)

SKEENA assumes nothing has been heard of ORILLIA since she was ordered to return to convoy P.M./10. (A.C.I.C., 1650/13, to C. in C.W.A.)

Submarines Reported.Convoy
"Indigo 3"

"Indigo 3" was probably sighted and reported by U.Boat at 0635 G.M.T./13. (D.D.I.C. 1012A/13 to O.P.N.A.V.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
Pursuit of S.C.42 continuing.
(D.D.I.C. 1545A/13.)

1530.

Am investigating oil patch in 64.09 N., 23.40W. (A/C B.J.9K. 1530/13 to 18 Wing H.Q.)

1600.

One U-boat in approx., 049° N., 008° W., at 1600/13 homeward bound. (F.O.S., 1836A/13, to SEALION.)

1600/12.

Unidentified submarine sighted 16 hours Sept.12th sailing in northerly direction to North Praia da Lua between Ponta Das Salinas and Baia Dos Elafantes. Confidential from Maritime Department. (C.G.Loanda 1925/13. N.S.O.(I) Capetown, N.S.O.(I)Freetown.)

/1500 G.C.T...

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

330

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1500 G.C.T. Plane reports sighting Sub. submerging in 60° 45' N., 30° 03' W., at 1500 GCT/13.
(Opnav., 2120/13, to Admty., etc.)

1300/10. Trawler TOR. 2 arrived Fleetwood reports sighting Submarine unidentified 15 miles North of Butt of Lewis at 1300/10.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool 2241/13 to Admty., C. in C.W.A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate one hit in position 64.02 N., 24.10 W.
(A/C U., 1510/13 to A.O.C.Reykjavik.)

By A/C.

Following has been read, Addressed Reykjavik A.O.C. from Aircraft BJ9K. Am over enemy submarine in position 62.40 N., 24.24 W.
(A.C.I.C., 1805/13.)
Enemy previously reported, periscope only sighted.
(A/C BJ9K, 1810/13, to Reykjavik A.O.C.)
Have attacked with bombs.
(A/C BJ9K, 1820/13 to A.O.C.Reykjavik.)
A/C reports attacking S/M in 62° 40' N., 24° 24' W.
(C. in C.W.A., 2051A/13, to Escort S.C.42.)

By SIDMOUTH
12/9.
(? non-sub.)

My 1830A/12. Contact has been stationary and has been under A/S watch for 29 hours. 5.7 attack carried out with only result slight trace of oil. Decrease of depth over contact by 6 fathoms observed. Consider contact is wreck heading E., and W. Position confirmed 051° 31' 40'' N., 005° 12' 00'' W. Operation abandoned 1930/13.
(S.O.I., Liverpool, 1959A/13 to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

331

Home Commands.

Force L.

SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS and 3 destroyers arrived at Scapa this morning from operations in northern waters.

Force A.

The Flag of Rear Admiral Vian was struck in NIGERIA at sunset today.

Soviet operations.

The Soviet S/M MOLODKI 172 claims to have sunk a loaded transport at 1730 today between Kirkenes and Petsamo.

British Air Operations.

Last night, 137 aircraft attacked the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU and, 10 the PRINZ EUGEN, at Brest. Results were not observed. The inner docks at Le Havre and Lorient were also attacked.

Enemy Air Operations.

Faeroes.

Two enemy aircraft attacked the Faeroes and Nolso Lighthouse this afternoon. No damage or casualties were caused.

F.N.518

Convoy F.N.518 was bombed at 2044 in 54° 22' N., 0° 19' W.

E.C.73.

Convoy E.C.73 was twice bombed this afternoon in 52° N., 1° 44' E., and 52° 8' N., 1° 58' E., respectively. No damage was caused.

H.G.72

A bomb was dropped 1½ miles from Convoy H.G.72 at 1238, off the southwest of Ireland.

Warning is given that H.E.111 and H.E.115. aircraft are known to be fitted for carrying torpedoes.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

332

Mining.

Mines were detonated off Sheringham Buoy today.

There was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames last night. Two mines are thought to have detonated on Foulness Sand and Dengie Flats respectively, but there was no evidence of minelaying in any other part of the Estuary.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Status II"

S.O. Force H., in NELSON arrived at Gibraltar at 1940A today with ARK ROYAL, FURIOUS, HERMIONE and destroyers.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

7 Wellingtons attacked Spanish Quay and shipping at Tripoli from 0100 to 0245 today, obtaining probable hits on shipping in the harbour and lying at the quay.

4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

Egypt and
Canal Area.

About 12 aircraft attacked Suez from 0222 to 0525 today. Mines are suspected. No Naval damage was caused but there was considerable civilian damage.

Traffic in the Canal was resumed today.

U-boat Campaign.

Convoy H.G. 72. See C. in C. W.A. 1205A/14.

Convoy
S.C. 42.

DOUGLAS reports that S.S. JEDMOOR (attacked 9/9) has rejoined the convoy and is undamaged.

War Diary.

14.9;1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

333

Escort situation in W.A.

C. in C. W.A. 0051A/14. See Operations Volume.

HARRIER.
HALCYON.
SALAMANDER.

Proposal re. (Admiral Miles 1548C/14).
See Operations Volume. 14/9 - p. 245 -

1st M.S.F.

It will be necessary to take 1st M/S Flotilla in hand for conversion for service in Arctic, two ships being taken in hand at a time.
2. BRAMBLE and SHARPSHOOTER, now in dockyard hands, will be converted for Arctic service before rejoining the Flotilla. (Controller 1628A/14 to C. in C. W.A., S.O. 1st M.S.F.)

Destroyers for Arctic.

Request you will make proposals for taking in hand necessary destroyers for conversion for service in Arctic.
2. Probable that the conversion will take 3 or 4 weeks. (Controller 1629A/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

S/M's in Far North.

It is required for reasons of supply to estimate now the probable duration and extent of our submarine activities in the Far North.
2. Request your opinion, particularly from the point of view of:- (a) Local climatic conditions including availability of bases.
(b) Continuation of sufficient targets into the winter to warrant allocating British submarines to Murmansk area.
3. Russian authorities should not be directly consulted. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1851A/14 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

3 Swedish ships.

GULMAREN, BORELAND and BALBOA from Gothenburg for America may be expected 15/9 at about 4 hour intervals and may be allowed to proceed after usual boarding for identification. Report each sailing to C. in C. H.F. A.C.O.S. H.Q.C.C., and Adty. (D.E.W.D. 2326A/14 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

334

Co-operation with U.S.A.

At 0001 G.C.T./16 execute the words previously excepted and place W.P.L. 51 in full effect. The above is from O.P.N.A.V. and has been sent to all holders of W.P.L. 51. (Spenavo No T.O.O. to Adty. Rec. 0743).

Proposed
Tug Pool.

Formation of a Tug Pool manned by Navy crew has been proposed by the Navy Department. This pool is to furnish service to the Army, Navy and Merchant Vessels engaged in trans-shipment of Lend-Lease materials to U.K. Suggest that until arrival of Navy Salvage Vessel and Navy Tug two of British Tugs manned by British crews be held in Iceland. (Spenavo. Recd 0758/14 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Oban.

Your 1251/29/8. Owing to necessary rearrangements of duties of A/S Trawlers at Oban in order to strengthen escort Forces in my command early arrival of Seine Net vessels to guard the A/S F.D. at this important Convoy Anchorage is a matter of urgency. When may they be expected? (C. in C. W.A. 1658/14 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

EREBUS.

Cancel A.M. 1721A/12. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0007A/14)

TRUANT.

Your 1509Z/13. Gibraltar for onward passage rejoining 1st S.F. (F.O. S/Ms. 1129A/14 to F.O.C. N.F.)

4th M.L.F.

Your 1805A/11. 4th M.L. Flotilla will be ready sail for U.K. on or after 16/9. 2 Vessels are able to steam on one engine only. Intend these 2 and 2 others start from Westmann Island. Escort and remainder start from Hvalfjord calling Westmann Island to refuel. (A.C.I.C. 1130/14 to Adty.)

NIGERIA.

Flag of
R.A. Vian.

A.M. 1531A/12. Flag is being struck at Sunset/14. (F.O. Force A. 1531A/14).

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations.

Oilers.

Request oilers ALDERSDALE and OLIGARCH complete with bunker cargo (?and) provisions. After period for rest they may be used for fleet attendant duties at Hvalfjord pending further instructions. BLACK RANGER with cargo of furnace fuel will be required for an operation about (date). Report if Oiler ALDERSDALE and Oiler OLIGARCH have experienced any major difficulties in recent operations. Oiler OLIGARCH has 100 tons of Norwegian and Russian property which should be unloaded and shipped to U.K. as convenient steps being taken to make a careful check of inventory. (C. in C. H.F. 0919/14 to A.C.I.C.)

Operation
"Graph".

Operation "Graph". Request you will report.
(a) If wireless is working and between what limits can it be tuned.
(b) If charts for passage to a West Coast port can be supplied from Iceland (C). (D.O.D. (H) 1054A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

Operation
J.R.

V.A. Dover 1122A/14, C. in C. Portsmouth 2203A/14.
See Operations Volume.

NIGERIA.

Request you will cause an examination of damage to stem of NIGERIA to be carried out with a view to gathering any evidence which will help to establish nature of object which NIGERIA rammed.
2. Report should be signalled.
(D.O.D.(H) 1514A/14 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

S.S. INGERTO
(Norwegian.)

NIGERIA reports:- INGERTO joined S.C.41 from Hvalfjord as a prize about a week ago ends. Request information whereabouts of this ship. (C. in C. W.A. 1546A/14 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

Return
Convoy
"Dervish".

Details. (Admiral Miles 1551C/14).
See Operations Volume.

S/M's in
Far North.

F.S.H. 52. (B) Consider that this restriction should now be relaxed. Intend freedom of action for British S/Ms to enable them to attack many small tankers and other suitable targets by gunfire. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 2241C/14th).

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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British Air Operations.

Patrols.

"Hornli", "Bert", "Stab", "Trost" now being flown. Also a Rover Patrol in Stand Area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1136/14).
My 1136/14. "Bert" and "Rover" Patrol effectiveness nil no cloud cover. "Hornli" 100% nothing to report. (C. in C. Rosyth 1922/14).

Flying boats in Iceland.

Your 1234A/13. Present plan is that Flying Boats will remain in Iceland during winter. (A.C.I.C. 1307/14 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. BLOOMFIELD As N.O.I.C. Faeroes 2226A/13.
(A.C.O.S. 1015/14).

My 2226A/13. Search carried out today in maximum visibility by LORD LLOYD has failed to find any trace of BLOOMFIELD and ship is presumed to have sunk. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1544A/14).

H.M.T. CHASSIRON.

→ Air attack on shipping.

Air Attack on shipping. (1) 2255/7/9. (2) CHASSIRON. (5) In company with H.M. T. COMITATUS, REHEARD, and LORD DARLING. (6) None. No damage to aircraft observed. (7) 55° 00' N. 01° 12' W. approx. (8) L.L.B. by one Heinkel 111 - 4 bombs 500 lbs impact fire opened with 12 pounder 2 Hotchkiss and twin Lewis. Aircraft turned away on sighting ships balloons. (C. in C. Rosyth 1229/14).

Cancelled - see below -

H.E.111, H.E. 115.

Attack by aircraft. Both H.E.111 and H.E.115 are now known to be fitted for dropping torpedoes. It is probable the enemy will try to attack from inside 1000 yards and below 100 feet. (ii) Escort and convoy are to be warned accordingly. (C. in C. Plymouth 1248/14).

Convoy E.C.73.

Enemy bombing Convoy. My position 52° 0' N. 1° 44' E. (WALLACE 1354/14).
My 1354 2 D.O. 8 bombs no hits. (WALLACE 1419/14).
1 Aircraft shadowing Convoy. My position 52° 8' N. 1° 58' E. (WALLACE 1521/14).
My 1521. One Ju. 88, three bombs no hit. (WALLACE 1531/14).

→ Air Attack on shipping.

Cancel my 1229/14 (~~N.O.I.C. W.D.~~) transmitted to you in error. (C. in C. Rosyth 1521/14 to Adty.)

See above

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

H.G.72.

My 1427A (N.T. in W.D) F.W. dropped one bomb at 1238 through clouds $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from convoy. (PHILANTE 1611A/14).

Faeroes attacked.

2 enemy aircraft carried out attack on Faroe Islands today, 1 dropped 2 bombs in Trangisvaag Fiord Sydero at 1305. 1 Machine Gunned Nolso Lighthouse 1320. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C., Faroes 1728/14).

Convoy F.N518.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Consequence" my position $54^{\circ} 22' N. 0^{\circ} 19' W.$ (VERSATILE 2044/14).

Mining.

S.N. 23B.

Intention. (R.A.(M) 1127A/14) See Operations Volume.

Thames Estuary.

There was considerable enemy air activity over Thames Estuary for night of 13th/14th Sept. Between 2040 and 2300 enemy planes were engaged by ships in the Oaze and Southern Barrow Deep. One plane was definitely distinguished as a large four engined aircraft. Visibility was poor and planes appeared to be about 3000 feet. Two mines are thought to have detonated on Foulness Sand at about 2119 and on Dengie Flats at about 2256. There was no evidence of minelaying in any other part of the Estuary. (S.O. Thames L.D. Flotilla Sheerness 1156/14).

Sheringham Buoy.

Following 4 mines detonated today by L.L. off Sheringham Buoy. (F.O. Humber 1810/14).

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Trawlers.

About 12 French or Spanish fishing Trawlers have been reported on approx. line from $051^{\circ} N. 013^{\circ} 10' W.$ to $050^{\circ} 35' N. 010^{\circ} 30' W.$ As this is an unusual number opportunity should be taken to Board and examine as many as possible if circumstances permit. (C. in C. W.A. 0048A /14 to PHILANTE).

/Transports.....

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Transports.

Norwegian information. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1021/14). N.I.D. Comment. "There is no confirmation that these Movements are taking place. Information from Oslo has recently been unreliable".

T.L.C.

Aircraft reports Tank Landing Craft in 052° 27' N. 004° 36' W. at 1533/14 200° 8 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 1758/14 to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN).

Main units.

Distribution. (D.D.I.C. 1847A/14)
See Lion Copy.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.11X.

Your 1252/10. RODNEY should be sailed to R/V with W.S.11X, a.m./21 in approx. 042° N. 022° 30' W. Admty. has been requested to signal R/V. (S.O. Force H., 1043A/14 to C, in C. A.W.I.). See also North Atlantic, Operation "Halberd." Admty. 1011A/6 para 4. Capt. (D) 19th D.F. in LAFOREY with LIGHTNING and ORIBI have been detailed. (C. in C. H.F., 1359A/14 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Convoy
Escorts.

Revised arrangements to allow escort groups more time in harbour for rest and training. (C. in C. W.A., 1639A/14 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Greenock, etc.) See Lion Copy.

H.X. 148.

WHITEHALL reports following ships in H.X. 148 not present at 1000/12. ARGOS HILL, GREY COUNTY, TUSCAN STAR, CELTIC STAR, MIRLO. (C. in C. W.A. 1956A/14 to Admty.)

ODERIN.
EMBERLY.

Your 1359A/12. ODERIN and EMBERLY to be sailed to Lyness to fit guns. Sailed with SKEENA for S.C.42. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2212/14 to Admty.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

1847A/14 September

OUT

Date 14.9.41

338 A

~~838 A~~

To A.I.G.62
A.I.G.21
F.O.S.
E.Q.C.C.
H.Q.B.C.
S.O. Force H.

Naval Code Z one

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT

German Main Units

TIRPITZ Manoeuvring in Kiel Bay 13th Sept.
GNEISENAU }
SCHARNHORST) At Brest in dry dock 14th Sept.
PRINZ EUGEN)
LÜTZOW }
HIPPER) At Kiel in dry dock 13th September
ADMIRAL SCHEER Left Oslo 7th September
SEYDLITZ At Bremen completing, 3rd September
LEIPZIG Left Copenhagen between 1st and 4th
September
NÜRNBERG At Flensburg 4th September
KÖLN At Travemünde 1st September.

One of these last three was in floating dock at Kiel 13th September.

SCHLESSEN At Aarhus 4th September.
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN At Copenhagen 9th September (B.2).
GRAF ZEPPELIN At Stettin completing, 8th September.

1847A/14
D.D.I.C. (Green Line 8)

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

338^B

~~338B~~

SECRET

MESSAGE

1639A/14th September

IN.

From
C. in C. Western Approaches

Date: 15.9.41

Recd: 0139.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed: F.O.I.C. Liverpool. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Oban, Captains D
Liverpool, Londonderry, Greenock, Repeated Admiralty,
N.O.I.C. Aultbea, F.O.I.C. Belfast.

NOTE

468. In order to allow escort groups more time in harbour for rest and training, the following arrangements for escorting various portions of ocean convoys are to come into force forthwith:-

1. Outbound convoys.

(A) Liverpool portion. F.O.I.C. Liverpool to detail special escort to escort Liverpool portion to join main convoy when ocean escort is detailed from Greenock or Londonderry. When ocean escort is detailed from Liverpool 1 ship of the escort is to be detailed by Captain D. Liverpool to escort Liverpool portion.

(B) Clyde portion to join main convoy without escort

(C) Oban portion to be escorted to join main convoy BU 1 A/S trawler detailed by N.O.I.C. Oban.

(D) Loch Ewe portion to be escorted to join main convoy by 1 ship of the escort to be detailed by S O of escort concerned.

2. Homewardbound convoys.

(A) Liverpool portion. F.O.I.C. Liverpool to detail special escort to escort Liverpool portion from main convoy when ocean escort is detailed from Greenock or Londonderry. When ocean escort is detailed from Liverpool, 1 ship of the escort is to be detailed by S.O of escort concerned to escort Liverpool portion.

(B) Clyde portion to proceed to Clyde without escort.

(C) Oban portion to be escorted by 1 ship of the escort to be detailed by S.O of escort concerned.

(D) Loch Ewe portion to be escorted by 1 ship of the escort to be detailed by S.O of escort concerned.

1639A/14.

Advance copy Ops., O.D. & Trade.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops (4)
O.D. (5)
O.D. 8
O.I.C. (3)

I.P (3)
D.S.D. 9
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D (M)
D.T.D.(C)

M (2)

339

14.9.1941.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.M/Vs sunk
by O.24.

Your 1136A/13 P.C. and S. 0013A/14 041° 53' 004° 49' 231° 14 knots. (?Sunk by gunfire) barque 1,200 tons. Torpedoed merchant ship 6,000 tons last seen heavy list and sinking. Both ?south-bound fully laden, A/S activity highly increased. Fired 6 torpedoes and 28 rounds of ammunition.

Request time of arrival.
(S/M O.24 0130A/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0130A Adjust speed to pass through position (X) at 0700A/15 and arrive off Europa Point 0700A/16. (F.O.C.N.A., 0906A/14 to O.24)

LISBOA
(German).

Arrived Valencia. (F.O.C.N.A., 0730A/14 to S.O. Force H).

ESCOLANO.

My 1122/13. If ship is encountered men should be interrogated and baggage examined. If identity is established as stated, they and their baggage should be removed. Possibly two further Officer deserters from Free French are on board. ESCOLANO has ship Navicert. (F.O.C.N.A., 1053/14 to N.A. Stn).

W.S.11 X.
Operation
"Halberd".

Your 1232/10, not to Admty. RODNEY should be sailed to R/V with W.S.11 X A.M./21 in approx. 042° N., 022° 30' W., Admty., has been requested to signal R/V. (S.O. Force H., 1043A/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Operation "Halberd". Proposed movement west of Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H., 1055A/14 to Admty)
See Operations Volume.

EGRET.

E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0900Z/15. Requirements. (EGRET, 1110Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

B.D.V.s

My 1232A/10 Boom Defence Vessels BARMILL, TEAL, PRINCE DE LIEGE, and JAN DE WAELE, due Horta near future are to be routed as in my 1958A but add position (C) 013° 55' N., 018° 10' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 1202/14 to R.O. Horta).
My 2115/13 BARMILL, TEAL, PRINCE DE LIEGE, JAN DE WAELE, completed with fuel, departures 14th in accordance with routing instructions contained in F.O.C.N.A., 1958/9. (R.O. Horta, 1624/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/French.....

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War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

French Convoy.

Gibraltar 1540/13 unidentified French armed trawler, French ships CAP BLANC, laden, MONT CASSELL, KERYADO both full, ALGERIE light, Westbound. (S.O. (I) Gib., 1415A/14 to Admty).

Operation "Status 2".

"Status 2" completed without incident. Aircraft flown off from 038° N., 004° E. Blenheim escort proceeded from Gibraltar in formation, this greatly facilitated homing. One Hurricane crashed taking off from (?FURIOUS) Pilot Killed. Enemy air R/C appears more thorough and effective. Aircraft keep low to avoid R.D.F. (S.O. Force H., 1612A/14 to Admty). *See also p. 342*

Force H.

Arrival F.O. Force H in NELSON, ARK ROYAL, FURIOUS, HERMIONE, ZULU (corrupt group) LANCE, LIVELY, LEGION, FORESIGHT, FORESTER. (F.O.C.N.A., 1940A/14 to Admty etc).

South Atlantic.

Bathurst supplies.

In view of the present limited facilities for watering at Bathurst request O.S. convoy escorts be instructed to arrive with fresh water tanks as full as possible distilling whilst on passage if fuel considerations permit. (C. in C. S.A., 0349N/14)

S.L.87.
S.L.88.

Your 1619/13 and my 1715N/13. Admty 2122/12 was not received until late 13/9 S.L.87 sailed early A.M./14. It was not possible to adjust escort arrangements to include additional corvettes without reducing Freetown escort for O.S.5 below limit desirable. One in any case will be sailed with S.L.88. (C. in C. S.A., 1449N/14 to Admty). Departure 0900/14. BRILLIANT, AMARANTHUS, GARDENIA, SARABANDE, ASPHODEL, with convoy S.L.87. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1557N/14 to Admty etc).

Intelligence.

Following changes in Intelligence Organisation taking place forthwith. (C. in C. S.A., 1721N/14) See Lion Copy.

/SPONDILUS.....

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

IN
1721N/14th September

~~339A~~
340A

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 15.9.41.
Recd. 1125

BASEGRAM. NAVAL SHORE CODE N.2 by Cable. CORRECTION

Addressed:- S.O. (I) Montevideo. All Reporting Officers and Consular Shipping Advisers East Coast, South America.

repeated: Admiralty, R.A.S.A.D., B.N.A. Rio de Janeiro
B.N.A. Buenos Aires, S.O. (I) Freetown.

NITE.

258. Following changes in Intelligence organization are taking place forthwith.

(I) Montevideo is raised to status of full Intelligence Centre within South Atlantic Command and will be responsible for co-ordination of Intelligence and Coast Watch in his area.

(II) Assistant Naval Attache Rio de Janeiro is appointed to S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro being a Sub Intelligence Centre for S.O. (I) Montevideo. His duties will be to contact personally Reporting Officers in Brazil but routine instructions for these Reporting Officers will be disseminated by S.O.(I) Montevideo. S.O. (I) Rio de Janeiro will retain title of Assistant B.N.A. Rio de Janeiro.

(III) Mr. W.H. Fowler has been appointed Assistant S.O. (I) Montevideo but resident in Buenos Aires. He will contact Reporting Officers in Argentina.

(IV) Attention is drawn to N.I.(S) and (U) Article 10. It is emphasized that Consular Reporting Officer is the recognized Officer for Intelligence reporting and all requests for Intelligence should be addressed to him. Consular Shipping Advisers are responsible for VESCA work and routing (Reference A.M. 1537 19th July passed to Consular Shipping Advisers only refers).

(V) All Intelligence is in future to be passed to S.O. (I) Montevideo but enemy reports are to be repeated to S.O.(I) Freetown by quickest means available vide N.I.(S) and (U) Article No. 73.

(VI) The new organization will not in any way affect present method of report by VESCA system.

(VII) As S.O.(I) Montevideo does not hold Naval Code and Cypher routine, instructions from Admiralty will continue to be passed to all concerned by C. in C. South Atlantic and S.O. (I) Freetown.

1721N/14

Advance Copy D.N.I.

A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
D.N.I.(4) (N.I.D.02631/41)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
D.S.D.(2)

O.I..C(2)
M.(2)
I.P.(3)
W.D.
D. of S.T.
H.W.R. (2)

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

SPONDILUS,
suspicious
convoy.

SPONDILUS on 6/9 at 1445 in approx. 022° 11' S., 005° 10' W., sighted convoy steering 310° consisting of one large tanker and five ships escorted by cruiser or large destroyer which was hull down and could not be clearly seen but had two funnels and considerable superstructure. Convoy was sighted 3 points on starboard bow, SPONDILUS steering 130°, Speed 7 knots, and convoy took 1½ hours to disappear. Remaining ships consisted of 4 cargo vessels and one passenger type motor vessel of about 15,000 tons all in peace time colours. Escort and convoy took no notice of SPONDILUS. At 1315 same day an unusual disturbance in the sea was observed distant one mile which could have been submerged S/M. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1755B/14 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

Bardia
bombed.

Night 12/13 7 F.A.A. Albacores bombed Bardia dumps and Gambut landing ground. One aircraft on ground destroyed by direct hit at Gambut. Day 13/9. Hurricanes and Tomahawks made 35 sorties on covering patrol over forward landing grounds. No engagements. 9 Sorties on reconnaissance Benghazi Cyrenaica and sea Recco between Crete and Libya.

Crete
bombed.

Crete night 12/13, 10 Wellingtons dropped 19 tons of bombs on Heraklion and Maleme aerodromes. Many bombs burst on main runway at Heraklion where it is believed ammunition dumps were ignited. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1031/14).

Suez
Mines.

C. in C. Med., 1850C/25/7. Report B for 12th and 13th. LL and S.A. on suspected mines in Suez Bay and at km. 160.6 canal. In addition diving and trawling at 160.6. No result. Mines in Canal have always been treated for ~~3 days~~ for a considerable time. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 1035C/14 to Admty).

/BALCIC.....

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

342

Mediterranean. - Contd.

BALCIC.

My 1714/11 BALCIC again. Now expected to sail approx. 18/9 for Trieste. (S.O. (I) Istanbul, 1131/14 to S.O. (I) Med). *see p. 467.*

Libya.

Appreciation of enemy reinforcements, losses in convoy. (C. in C. M.E. 1200/14 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

THRASHER,
Italian U/B.

P.M./15 expected to enter port 60 miles 110° from Y, one Italian U-boat from 040° 30' 017° 15' route not known. (Capt., S.L., 1226C/14 to THRASHER).

Shipping for
Military
supplies.

To meet urgent military requirements for stores to Palestine and Syria NYMPHE and BANTRIA have been taken over for sea transport service. In addition propose allocating NICOLA'S G. CULUCUNDIAS, CAPÉVERDE, OLIVE BANK, MOUNT OLYMPOS, CHARLTON HALL, additional tonnage may be necessary. Vessels required for about three months. (2) Every endeavour will be made to replace large vessels as soon as possible by small sea transport ships at present fully committed in Mediterranean and Red Sea. Agreed MEDMAST. "Medmast". (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1245/14 to D. of S.T.)

Suez Raid.

Ref. C.A.F.O., 287 (A) Night 13/14 calm, slight cloud (B) high level attack by 12 planes on Suez, 0222 to 0525 (C) H.E., incendiary, suspect mines (D) 30 H.E. 4 U.X. (?B) few incendiaries (E) Service damage nil, military casualties, civilian damage considerable. (F) 6 fighters up, no interception, A/A active (G) balloons up. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1331C/14).

Operation
"Status 2".

Report second phase "Status." Fuel remaining average 56 gallons. Minimum 20 gallons. Maximum 70 gallons. Average time in air 3 hours, 45 minutes. Average height 5,000 feet. Average speed 160 M.P.H. 45 aircraft left carrier, 45 arrived Malta, two damaged landing. 10 left for Middle East 14/9, intend dispatching remaining 14 to M.E. 15/9. (H.Q. Malta, 1635/14).

/Tripoli.....

MOST SECRET

342A

342A

From C. in C. Middle East.

1200/14/September.

Date 14.9.41.

CYPHER

Time 1900.

Addressed The War Office.

I./02796 cipher 13/9. 43585

D.M.I. from Shearer. Most Secret.

First. Our paper "enemy offensive against Egypt from Libya", with its five appendices (taken to you by General Smyth about 10th Sept.) also recent events Libya necessitate modification if not alteration J.I.C. draft "possible Axis action in Western Desert".

Second. Recent events Libya.

(A) Now appears likely that from 29th June to 5th August shipping consisting of 29 large/medium freighters (of which 4 sunk) and 6 troopships may have carried German troops. Neither ships between before and after these dates are known to have had Italian freights. Some of 29 large or medium freighters mentioned above may have carried Italians not Germans but weight of evidence favours latter. Even at M.I.14 figure for ship loading arrival complete armoured division improbable. Ankara. Last remaining known medium tank carrying ship completed two trips in this period before being put out of service. 60 M.13 tanks believed arrived about this time therefore possibility up to 200 German or French tanks also arrived but consider half this figure more probable especially as Ankara and other ships remained in Tripoli for 12 days each trip which compares equally with GIULIA convoy of 18th August. Latter remained 12 days Tripoli and carried 80 - 100 M.T. per ship. Except for two anti tank battalions one attached 15 Armoured Division and one about Tobruk there are no identifications 5 Light Motorised Division since 17th June. P.W. statements suggest this division due rest and relief. Original composition this division experimental. Consider therefore in view recent identifications H.Q.55 infantry regiment also 21 Armoured Division and in view lack sufficient shipping that 5 light motorised division was withdrawn after Battleaxe for rest refit replacement reinforcement or relief. 15 Armoured Division has also had refit and replacement. Result of reinforcement 5 Light Motorised Division is to make it equivalent to an armoured division (less units sunk) plus two M.G. battalions which may become second lorry borne regiment vide your 89362 (M.I.14) of 10/9. As 5 Armd. Division already exists only natural to re-name 5 Motorised Division as 21 Armoured Division. Tank situation now that both divisions may be up to new three battalion establishment although total number of German tanks in Cyrenaica not yet believed to exceed 340. Return of OCEANIA convoy of 20th August (concerning which there is no evidence as to the numbers of men brought over to Libya) within 36 hours to usual port Taranuo by unusual route via Naples suggests return carrying relieved personnel. Between arrival German reinforcements 29th June - 5th August and departure OCEANIA convoy there was sufficient time for relief German personnel of 5 Light Motorised Div.

Conclusion. German troops now in Libya nucleus of Panzer Gruppe H.Q. with three A.A. batteries as corps troops 15 and 21 armoured divisions.

(D). Probable/

(B) Probable that from 18th August to 4th September shipping consisting of 20 large or medium freighters and 3 troopships also part accommodation of 3 other troopships carried all the personnel of Triests or Bis motorised division. Although personnel probably complete sinkings and bombing of Tripoli Spanish quay may have deprived division of forty per cent of all vehicles and guns. This quick arrival of an Italian division (shown possible in our appreciation page 6 para. 7 (A) (111) because no other shipments during period of its crossing and because arrival possibly preceded by Autocentro.

(C) GRITTI convoy of 5 escorted ships arrived Tripoli on 15th August and departed within 4 days instead usual 10 days. Usual sources showed Italian supply M.T. being carried and quick turn round suggests little else being carried. Possible therefore up to 520 supply M.T. or 650 (if BARBARA not a tanker) arrived. This might at first prove theory that Axis are willing to waste shipping space in order to run M.T. ships with fast turn round and consequent fast rate of reinforcement but fate of same well escorted GRITTI convoy (believed again carrying M.T.) due Tripoli 4th September (in which GRITTI and another sunk 2 badly damaged and unknown if reached Port Rialto possibly sole survivor remained only 3 in Tripoli) may possibly deter repetition such convoys.

Conclusion. Equivalent of an Autocentro (less one and a half tonners) that is 648 three tonners and 212 five tonners arrived in August and early September 3rd. Your draft (A) Paragraph 3. In view present Axis forces in Libya suggest possibility they may appreciate that the only future army reinforcement now necessary is one German armoured and one German motorised division necessitating some alteration to calculations but would like your comment before proceeding further with detailed comment except for following. (B) Paragraph 4 and 5. In view limitations Benghazi Port which probably cannot even in face of occasional air action on our part maintain greater average intake than 950 tons a day (but shows indications of increasing to that figure) and without much work on roads (which has not been begun except in one case) consider it unlikely that within next two months daily total of more than additional 400 tons could be received at other ports east of inclusive Marsa El Auegia 3055 lat. 1750 long. The building up and maintenance of supplies in the forward area for operational purposes must be and is therefore very big factor necessitating large amount of mechanical transport and petrol being used always from Buerat and site and certainly from Tripoli until ports in Cyrenaica additional to Benghazi are used or Tobruk falls. Present use other ports negligible. Would you therefore consider reinforcement by 5 Armoured Division commencing mid September from Naples on lines our Appendix E. It gives most economical method of reinforcement with greatest dispersion of units amongst ships whilst arrival supply M.T. continue at same time. It also allows time for desert modifications to tanks and some vehicles and is only one week slower than M.I.14 figure. Kirkmans method could not be applied with advantage until much additional supply M.T. had been transported to Libya and had been working at dumps for at least two months or until Cyrenaican ports or Tobruk were in full Axis use.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

E.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.N.I.(4)

D.D.I.C.

D. of P.(2)

E.P.S.

I.P.(2)

W.D.

N.I.D.10.

1200/14

Advance Copy D.N.I.

Received from War
Office 1240/15th Sep

War Diary.14.9.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Tripoli
bombed.*N-Odero*A/C crew
rescued
by UTMOST.

Night 13/14. 7 Wellingtons attacked Spanish Quay and shipping Tripoli 0100 to 0245, 27500 lbs bombs on shipping in harbour and lying at Spanish Quay. Probable hits on the ships against the quay. Wellingtons observed large ship aground blazing furiously 30 to 40 miles West of Tripoli, 0230 hours, large explosion seen on board. Probable victim previous night, by Swordfish and Wellingtons. 1 Blenheim crew shot down 12/9 arrived back Malta 0800 hours in submarine. Magnificent effort by submarine. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1635/14 amended 2128/14.)

ADANA.

Turkish ADANA (1158 tons) on charter to U.K. Commercial Corporation for carrying relief stores Turkey to Greece may leave Istanbul about 21st. Turkish Red Crescent which will be illuminated at night is painted on each side and on bridge. Do not molest. (Capt. S.1. 1709C/14 to TORBAY).

Suez
mines.

C. in C. Med., 1850C/25/7. Report B for 14th. Mine at Kms 161 has been located. Hoped to salve it to-morrow. LL and SA on suspected mines in Suez Bay and at kms 160.6. In addition diving and (?trawling) at 160.6. (?no) results. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1917C/14 to Admty).

REGELE PAV.*Not identified in
Lloyd's Reg*

Roumanian. B.3. report states sunk in Black Sea first week of September. No ship of this name can be traced, but REGELE CAROLE I, 2369 tons, was last reported at Constanza on 2/6. (D.S.740, 14/9).

Situation
Report 148.

No change in general situation. 2. S/M See F.O.C.N.A. 1340A/12.
3. (?Malta) aircraft. See H.Q., R.A.F. 1730/13. (C. in C. Med., 2232/14).

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

344

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Iraq Bases.

Scale of development. (W.O. 0400/14 to C. in C. India).

HILDA
(Italian).

My 0635/13 BHADRAVATI departed Chahbar 1230Z/14, cable and anchor recovered. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 1316Z/14 to Admty etc).

Iran
requirements.

S.N.O.P.G. has been asked by Minister Teheran to proceed to Teheran in connection with a.m. 2005/5. I have instructed him to endeavour to obtain use of BandarShahpur Floating Dock either by requisition or by hire. This to be included under Naval Clause 4. (C. in C. E.I., 1640Z/14 to Admty).

China.

Use of
Danish
lighters.

Your 1050/13. Proposed employment of lighters only considered practical proposition until N.E. Monsoon breaks. After that risks would be excessive. In any event these lighters would be of great value for use in Malayan Ports. (C. in C. China, 0411Z/14 to Admty).

ANHUI.

Ambassador Tokyo 181 13/9. My original intention was for ANHUI to call at Hong Kong after leaving Yokohama for a few hours to replenish provisions only. Consider evacuation from Shanghai unless on a large scale could best be carried out by making use of normal shipping facilities. As regards disembarkation of passengers for Canada and Australia Hong Kong Govt. are anxious that it should not take place here as if Europeans are allowed to land probable that many Indians will also wish to do so. If however it is considered essential for passengers to Canada to disembark here it must be clearly understood that no others will be allowed to land. (Cdre. I/C Hong Kong, 0425Z/14 to C. in C. China).

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

345

America & West Indies.

LIMOUSIN
(French).

Following is a repetition of my 1646R/10 (begins)
My 0028R/2. Ship sailed Guiria 8/9 for Martinique
(ends). (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1040R/14 to Admty).

BUXTON.

You are to sail after dark on 22/9 and proceed
Halifax to pick up stores and personnel awaiting
you. Subsequent movements will be ordered by
Admiralty. (B.A.R.M., 1156R/14 to BUXTON).

DIANTHUS
CANDYTUFT.

My 1252Z/8 and my 1306Z/12. DIANTHUS urgently
required for further convoy duty. She will
probably be replaced by CANDYTUFT at present out
of action. (C.C.N.F., 1319Z/14 to B.A.R.M.)

FORTH

Proposed programme. (C.C.N.F., 1348Z/14).
See Operations Vol. 24⁵ Concur. (F.O.S. 1058A/15)
Admty reply (A.C.N.S., 1925A/15 to C.C.N.F.)

Routeing
Offices.

Reply to C. in C. A.W.I., 1501/2 re proposed
reorganisation of routeing offices. (A.C.N.S. (T)
1536A/14) See Lion Copy.

STRATHEDEN.

Your 1022/13. Speed of 15 knots for STRATHEDEN
from Halifax to Trinidad is acceptable.
Fast escort from Trinidad is not considered
essential. (D.O.D. (F) 1716A/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

345 A

SECRET

MESSAGE

1536A/14 September

OUT

To C. in C. America and West Indies 226
repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 888

Date 14. 9.41.

~~345 A~~

Naval Cypher (X)

From Admiralty

Proposals contained in your 1501/2 have been fully examined but it is not considered desirable to adopt them for reasons of longer voyages and cumulative delays which they would entail. Also in view of the changes now being made as regards protection of trade in North Atlantic vide A.M.0029A/10 it is desired to keep the arrangements for routeing as flexible as possible. Every endeavour has been made to make routeing instructions as clear and concise as possible and it should be within the capabilities of all N.C.S.O's and C.S.A's to route ships to any port in the world without difficulty. If you consider any of existing staffs are inadequate or incompetent request you will report accordingly. If it would be of assistance, arrangements could probably be made for Commander Legatt R.N. who until recently appointed to the staff of B.A.D. Washington was Assistant Convoy Officer in Trade Division to visit you and discuss matters in this connection.

1536A/14

D.T.D.
(172)

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

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

P.W.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

346

Ships Attacked.

S.C.42
(attacked
10/9, 11/9).

Indicate P.C. and S and whether TAHCHEE is in tow.
(C. in C. W.A., 0052A/14 to ORILLIA)

ALBERNI and KENOGAMI sailed 0830.

(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0831/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
2 Motor Launches leaving Vestmann for 062° 00' N., 020° 00' W., to sweep West. Ordered to keep clear of convoy.

(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1031/14 to escort of S.C.42).
Your 1650A/13 and SKEENA 1700Z/11. Request you arrange air search for ORILLIA in vicinity of 061° 15' N., 041° 00' W. Three ships may also be still afloat in this vicinity.

(C. in C. W.A., 1125A/14 to A.C.I.C.)
Following is a repetition of my 2130/13 (begins)
C. in C. W.A., repeated escort S.C.42 from N.O.I.C. Iceland. SALADIN sailed 1745 SKATE 1830. (ends). (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1139/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

On reaching Cape Reykjanes leave convoy and proceed at best speed to Reykjavik complete with fuel then join S.C.42. Trawlers in company are to escort convoy to destination. (C. in C. W.A., 1153A/14 to SALISBURY).

When SALISBURY has joined ships addressed are to return to Iceland. (C. in C. W.A., 1246A/14 to SKEENA, COLUMBIA, ST. CROIX.)

When ALBERNI and KENOGAMI have joined S.C.42 detach Newfoundland Escort Corvettes and trawlers BUTTERMERE and WINDERMERE to Reykjavik to fuel and await orders. When Corvettes from O.N.14 have joined S.C. 42 detach ALBERNI and KENOGAMI to Reykjavik to fuel and await orders. Corvettes report positions of convoy and E.T.A. when well clear of convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1625A/14 to DOUGLAS).

Report if SKEENA or DOUGLAS have any information regarding survivors of S.C. 42.

(C. in C. W.A., 1627A/14 to A.C.I.C.)

C. in C. W.A.'s 1627/14. My 2023/14 refers.

115 further survivors known to be in ORILLIA and MOOSEJAW. Further signal will be made landing in Iceland. (A.C.I.C., 2118/14 to Admty).

A.M.2200Z/11. It is thought that some boats with survivors may have made for Greenland coast between 61° N., and 62° N. Would it be possible to arrange any search of this area?

(A.C.N.S. (H) 2341Z/14 to Opnav).

MONTANA
(torpedoed
11/9).

B.A.D. Washington's 1241R/13. 2 good boats with all possible survivors seen leaving MONTANA 1 hour after torpedo attack at 1540Z/11 in 063° 40' N., 035° 50' W.

(A.C.I.C., 1305/14 to Admty, D.D.I.C., 1817Z/14 to Opnav).

Your 1241R/13. Only news so far received of sinking of MONTANA is that ship was observed by an aircraft to be torpedoed at 1445/11 in 63° 40' N., 35° 50' W., and crew were taking to boats. (D. T.D., 1537A/14 to B.A.D.)

/JEDMOOR..

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

347

Ships Attacked - Contd.

JEDMOOR
(attacked
9/9).

Merchantman JEDMOOR rejoined Convoy and is undamaged, no (?further) attack.
(DOUGLAS, 1530/14 to A.C.I.C.)

Submarines Reported.

0211 G.M.T.

By D/F at 0211 G.M.T. U-boat in area within a radius of 50 miles from 56° 40' N., 12° W.
(D.D.I.C., 0358A/14).

0915

Am over enemy S/M in 61.57 N., 21.35 W. enemy S/M previously reported has dived.
(A/C E., 0915/14 to Reykjavik, A.O.C.)

0950.

Am over enemy submarine in 48.34 N., 8.45 W. enemy submarine previously reported was periscope only sighted course 030 True.
(A/C F. 0950/14 to 19 Group H.Q.)

Use of
German
A/C.

C. in C. W.A. 1205A/14 to escort of H.G.72.
See Operations Volume.

1440.

Am over enemy submarine in 56.15 N., 12.00 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 270° estimated speed 10. (A/C duty R., 1440/14 to 15 Group)
Aircraft reports enemy U-boat in 56.15 N., 12.00 W., at 1440A. U-boat dived.
(C. in C. W.A., 1520A/14 to WINCHELSEA, WITCH, WHITEHALL).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1500A/14).

1516.

Am investigating suspicious oil patch and possibly periscope in 51° 19 N., 10.36 W.
(A/C V Home 1516/14 to 19 Group H.Q.)
A/C reports suspicious object (oil patch and possible periscope) in (position), 1516/14.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1548/14 to PHILANTE).

2030.

A/C reports U-boat in 58° 00' N., 10° 35' W. at 2030/14. (C. in C. W.A., 2104A/14 to escorts of O.G.74).

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

348

Submarines attacked.

By A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in position 62.25 N., 21.20 W. have attacked enemy with 4 depth charges, estimate no hits. (A/C B., 0915/14 to Reykjavik A.O.C.)

By A/C.

(?Am over enemy submarine in) 56.08 N., 11.50 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C Duty R., 1129/14 1215/14 to 15 Group H.Q.) Detach 2 destroyers, not MONTGOMERY, to hunt U-boat attacked by aircraft 056° 08' N., 011° 50' W. Aircraft co-operating. Ships detached report names when well clear. (C. in C. W.A., 1227A/14 to WHITEHALL). My 1227A/14 U-boat was sighted on surface and submerged when attacked with bombs. Result unknown. (C. in C. W.A., 1243A/14 to WINCHELSEA, WITCH, WHITEHALL).

By A/C

Am over enemy S/M in 56.39 N., 12.22 W. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate one hit. (A/C Duty J., 1515/14 to 15 R Group)

My 1520A/14 (see S/Ms reported) Another aircraft report attacking U-boat with depth charges in 56° 39' N., 12° 22' W. Estimate one hit. Both reports may refer to same U-boat.

(C. in C. W.A., 1548A/14 to WINCHELSEA, WITCH, WHITEHALL).

My 1548A/14. D/F Bearings indicate that position of U-boat given is accurate.

(C. in C. W.A. 1610A/14 to WINCHELSEA, WITCH, WHITEHALL)

Sail PIORUN and GARLAND at best speed to hunt U-boat attacked by aircraft in 56° 39' N., 12° 22' W., at 1515/14. Aircraft and two destroyers of 10th Group are co-operating.

(C. in C. W.A., 1629A/14 to Capt. D. Greenock).

Your 1227A and Admty 1548/14 have searched in 056° 08' N., 011° 06' W., with no result and aircraft not met. Now searching towards 056° 39' N., 012° 22' W. Visibility poor with fog in patches. (WITCH, 1635A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

Have searched around 056° 39' N., 012° 22' W., -since 1715 with no result. Aircraft not met.

FOLKESTONE must leave for fuel by 2359/14 at latest. WITCH can continue search until 2359/15.

WINCHELSEA reports A/S set defective. Request instructions. (WITCH, 1930A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

If not in contact WITCH return to Londonderry at 0001/15. WINCHELSEA continue hunt as long as fuel permits fuelling at Londonderry before returning to base. (C. in C. W.A. 2205A/14 to WITCH, WINCHELSEA).

/U/B.....

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

349

Submarines Attacked. - Contd.

U/B sunk
on 3/8.

(U.401.)

Their Lordships consider that the attacks of WANDERER and ST. ALBANS at 1830/3/8 and of HYDRANGEA at 1957/3/8 were carried out on the same German U-boat and together achieved its destruction. They congratulate you, your officers and ships' companies upon this success. (V.C.N.S. 1630A/14 to WANDERER, ST. ALBANS, HYDRANGEA).

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

350

Home Commands.

Soviet
Operations.

Soviet M.T.B's claim to have torpedoed 2 transports off Petsamo, last night.

U.S.
patrol.

U.S. Task Unit 4.1.2. (5 destroyers) is to operate as a S/M hunting group aided by patrol planes in an area to the south-westward of Iceland (C) until 20/9.

British Air Operations.

Blenheims today attacked shipping off Juist and claim to have sunk a 2000 ton and a 3500 ton ship and to have left a 3000 ton ship sinking. Targets were also attacked at Haugesund and Karm Sund.

Enemy Air Operations.

The Norwegian tanker VINGA a straggler from O.S.6 was bombed and damaged at 0820 today in approx. 58° 1' N. 13° 20' W.

Convoy E.C.73 was bombed again at 2010 off Scarborough. No damage is reported.

Convoy H.G.72 was attacked at 1315. LOCHGARRY received minor damage and returned to Thorshavn with a U.X.B. on board. The convoy was attacked again about 1950 in 51° 59' N. 5° 50' W. S.S. DARU was sunk.

Mining.

Operation
S.N.23B.

PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK left Port ZA at 1954 today.

/Clyde.....

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - Contd.

351

Clyde.

Tugs FLYING KITE and ATLANTIC COCK were blown up this afternoon and seriously damaged apparently by a mine laid prior to 8/4/41, in Dalmuir Basin, and another tug was damaged. The Clyde was closed for a short time.

Tanker PONTFIELD in F.S.594 was mined off the Outer Dowsing in the early hours of today. She is reported to have broken in half but the stern half arrived at Yarmouth in tow at 1315A/16.

Mines were detonated off the Humber and Nab Tower.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar.

A message was sent to the Governor of Gibraltar today regarding air attack.

Mediterranean.

Libya &
Western
Desert.

3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night.

Egypt
& Canal
Area.

Alexandria was bombed by a few enemy aircraft from 0400 to 0500 today. Slight damage was caused.

Aegean.

Many ships are reported loading military stores and personnel at Piraeus. TORBAY has been ordered to establish a patrol in the Aegean.

A press report today states that within the last three days Greek irregulars sank an Italian transport and seriously damaged another by fire, in Salonika harbour.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

352

East Indies.

Force T.
(Force W.
Operation
"Snip".)

MAURITIUS, HAWKINS and ANTENOR left Seychelles at 0515Z today.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. NEWBURY, ex convoy O.N.14, reported that she was torpedoed at 0552 today in 54° 39' N. 28° 4' W.

S.C.42.

Survivors of S.S. BERURY have landed in Iceland, and the ship is presumed to have been torpedoed 10-11 September.

A submarine was reported at 1306 G.C.T. today in 20° 30' N. 72° 30' W. U.S. planes are searching.

*NEWBURY was sunk by U.94 in approx. position
54° 50' N, 27° 10' W. One torpedo was fired at a
range of 400 metres at 0816, and the ship sank
at 0825. An SOS. was made by the ship and the
crew began to man lifeboats. No information available
as to their fate. (N.I.D. 24/X.186/47, from
captured German documents).*

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

353

Atlantic escorts.

In view of Admty. 1638A/12 (see A. & W.I.) request confirmation that destroyers and corvettes detailed in C.C.N.F's 0237Z/8, should proceed to U.K. with H.X.150 and subsequently rejoin Western Approaches Command.
(C. in C. W.A., 1451A/15.)

Channel sailings.

Present policy in Channel and its approaches is to sail ships by daylight with Fighter protection. Normal route for ships coming from Gibraltar is similar to that given recently to WIVERN. It is therefore convenient for them to be sailed if possible, so that their T.O.A. off the Scillies is at dawn, when they can receive Fighter protection for their onward passage up Channel.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1558/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HARRIER,
HALCYON,
SALAMANDER.

Following has been received from Admiral Miles.
(Repeats 1548C/14.)
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1656A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Charts of Norway.

Asking for Admiralty charts of Norwegian coasts for himself and Soviet Union authorities there.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1358C/15.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Needs: Intelligence Division
/S.C.

The following has been received from Opnav. Room. 1.5 sent DESDIV FOUR and planes assist sail cast - 4.2 12th September. No further information received 1736/14.
(Spenavo, 1144/15 to Admty.)

Recognition Signals.

U.S. Signals continue as follows. These signals continue in force as shown in S.P.02414 now in course of distribution and further extracts will not be signalled after 16/10 unless specially asked for.
(D.S.D., 1805A/15 to Admty. General Mge.)

Defence of U.K.

Oban.

C. in C. W.A. 1658A/14. Transfer of Seine net vessels is dependent upon arrival of H.D.M.L's at Scapa. Only H.D.M.L's 1040 and 1064 have so far arrived. Request I may be informed when further boats of this Flotilla may be expected.
(A.C.O.S., 1024A/15 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

733
253A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2221C/15th September IN

From S.B.N.O. Murmansk.

Date 16.9.41.
Recd. 1135.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (ONE TIME TABLE) BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty Repeated Admiral Milos

No change Murmansk front. Fighting continues.
Enemy attack on Rabachi Isthmus repulsed. Strong enemy
air activity over front and bombing of road during today.
14 enemy aircraft claimed for loss of one Soviet aircraft.

Naval C. in C. considers attacks will be continued with
Murmansk enemy objective and will increase with arrival of
enemy reinforcements. Difference of opinion whether winter
conditions will stop all military operations of this front.

2221C/15.

Advance copy sent 1st Lord N.A. 1st S.L. Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (H) D.D.I.C. D.P.D.

1st Lord	A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.S.D.	D.T.S.D.
1st S.L.	A.C.N.S. (W)	D.N.A.D.	D.D.I.C.
2nd S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of L.D.	E.P.S.
3rd S.L.	D. of P. (2)	D.A/S.W.	D.T.D. (2)
4th S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	D.M.S.	N.I.D. 10 Pay.
5th S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)	I.P. (2)	Cdr. Wilson
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D. (F)	W.D.	D.G.D.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.O.D. (F)	Duty Capt.	D.P.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.N.I. (4)	Head of M. (30)	P.A.S. (S).
			D.T.D. (M).

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

P.34.

Intend to sail P.34 a.m./16 for Gibraltar.
Route &c.
(Capt.(S) 3, 0927A/15, 1144A/16.)

4th M.L.F.
withdrawal
from Iceland.

Admiralty's 1805/11. Provided 4th M.L.Flottilla are ready to sail by P.M./16 ESCAPADE will be available to provide escort to Scapa. If Flottilla will not be ready to sail by this time request you will sail ESCAPADE on completion of fuelling.
(R.A.D. H.F., 0940/15 to A.C.I.C.)

MANXMAN.

Provided MANXMAN arrives in time to complete loading p.m./16., Request she may be sailed early a.m./17 to arrive Plymouth by 1500/17.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1333/15 to N.O.1/c Milford Haven.)

GARLAND.

With reference to C. in C. W.A. 1015A/15. Request GARLAND may be allowed to return to Greenock before joining convoy in order that full ship's company (? may be embarked.)
(PIORUN, 1515A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

TRIDENT.

TRIDENT sails Polyarno 1830/16 for patrol between 20° E. 24° 40' E. routed 72° 12' N. to arrive Eastern half area 18/9. TIGRIS leaves patrol P.M./18 through 72° 30' N. 23° E. to arrive (group missing) P 21/9.
Admiralty pass to other addressees.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1801C/15.)

Operations.

SEALION.

A. On completion of operation "Foremost" proceed to patrol in Bay of Biscay South Zone.
B. S.B.R. arranged in Area 56 from 0001A/17 till further notice.
(F.O.S., 1042A/15 to SEALION.)

ATHERSTONE.

My 1753A/8. ATHERSTONE is being temporarily retained for special operations.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1103A/15 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

A/S Patrol.

Cancel my 1803A/9. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1136A/15 to X.D.O. East.)

/Operation.....

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations - Contd.

Operation
J.R.

Your 2203A/14. V.A. Dover is already informed of the special nature of this operation. (D.O.D.(H), 1325A/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Preparative J.R. 1830/15. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1717A/15.)

Return
Convoy
"Dervish".

Re sailing. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1340A/15.) See Operations Volume.

Operation
"Gauntlet".

Request express to trawlers my appreciation their good services during operation "Gauntlet". (C. in C. H.F., 1429A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

Task
Unit
4.1.2.

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 Sept. Upon return Iceland make ready to escort west-bound convoy. (O.P.N.A.V., 1521Z/15.)

Convoy
P.Q.I.

Is it intended that any of the escort for the convoy P.Q.One should remain at Archangel during the turn round period. (Miles, 1528C/15.)

Escorts of
Channel
Convoys.

Revised orders for stationing during dark hours. (C. in C. Nore, 1700A/15.) See Lion Copy.

ARGUS.

To ferry Naval aircraft to Gibraltar. Arrangements. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1847A/15.) See Operations Volume.

A/S Patrol.

Sail available motor launch to carry out A/S patrol between 058° 30' N. and 059° 00' N. and 008° 30' W. and 009° 30' W. until further orders. S.O. to order patrol to harbour if weather becomes unsuitable. (C. in C. W.A., 1904A/15 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

War Diary.15.9.1941.
Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS.British Air Operations.Patrols
& R/C's."Fate V" will be flown daylight hours today.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0214/15.)

Following P.R.U's now flying.

1. Oslo - Kristiansand.
2. Aalborg - Aarhus.
3. Bergen - Haugesund.

"Hornli" and "Trost" will be flown at 1400.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1150/15.)Re-operating
night fighters
near Harwich.

Your A.157 of 13/9. My 1012/5/4 confirmed that Dusk Patrols could operate over Thames estuary above 5000 ft. Is it now desired that low limit for night fighters shall be reduced to 3000 ft. This reduction can be accepted east of a line Warden Point - Shoeburyness and area can be extended to include Harwich area provided fighters do not approach within 4 miles of Landguard Point in any direction. This radius from Landguard Point will keep fighters clear of Harwich balloon barrage and the ships there that are capable of engaging aircraft at greater heights than 3000 ft.

(C. in C. Nore, 1540A/15 to H.Q.F.C.)

Control in
Iceland.

O/326 15/9. With effect from a date in immediate future Iceland will cease to be under the operational and administrative control of No.15 Group and will come for all purposes under Coastal Command Headquarters.

(H.Q.C.C. 1930/15.)

Enemy Air Operations.

?

Your 0347A/15. Tugs are being sent from Yarmouth Fighter protection codeword "Alpha".
(C. in C. Nore, 0543A/15 to MALLARD.)

VINGA.

Norwegian Tanker. Bombed 0820/15 in 58° 1' N. 13° 20' W. Damaged. CAMPBELTOWN picked up 29 survivors, 4 seriously injured, 8 killed.
(VINGA T.O.R. 0822/15, CAMPBELTOWN 1230A/15, 1425A/15, 1458/15, 1515A/15.)

Detail two corvettes to assist CAMPBELTOWN standing by tugs are being sent. On relief by corvettes CAMPBELTOWN proceed to rejoin convoy. Survivors should be transferred if conditions are suitable.

(C. in C. W.A., 1520A/15, to HEATHER, CAMPBELTOWN, 1851A/15 to HERMIONE.)

VINGA cont:.....
/ZWARPE. 2. 2.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Air Operations.

VINGA.
Contd.

ZWARTE ZEE proceeded from Greenock 1735A to assist.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1557A/15, 2055A/15, ZWARTE ZEE, 1735A/15.)

Re landing injured.

(C. in C. W.A., 1646A/15 to CAMPBELTOWN, CAMPBELTOWN 1750A/15.)

1 corvette only is required to stand by VINGA and ZWARTE ZEE and escort them to harbour.

After meeting CAMPBELTOWN the other corvette is to proceed forthwith to join S.C.42 in position given in my 1917A/15. Report name of corvettes detailed for each duty.

(C. in C. W.A., 2156A/15 to HEATHER.)

Convoy
"Camel".

Help Convoy "Camel" in 51° 59' N. 5° 50' W. Course and speed of Convoy 086° 7 knots.

(Convoy "Camel", 1950/15.)

Convoy
E.C.73.

Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Yield" in position PCRU 155.

(WALLACE, 2010.)

My 2010. 1 JU.88. No damage seen.

(WALLACE, 2018/15.)

Mining.

PONTFIELD.

Following has been read. S O S de PONTFIELD. Heavy explosion sinking 0128/15, no position given.

(Lands End Radio, 0237/15, Opanav 1855Z/15.)

PONTFIELD broken in two remaining afloat in 053° 03'00" N. 001° 20'30" E. MALLARD and TURQUOISE standing by.

NEIL MACKAY proceeding with survivors. Request Tug and fighter protection at daylight.

(MALLARD, 0347A/15 to C. in C. Nore.)

Departure DIVERSION and KROOMAN in company at 0628 to assist.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0630A/15.)

Departure Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER at 0715A.

With salvage officer and gear on board.

(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, 0720A/15.)

Position 52° 57'30" N. 01° 08' E. Tugs have stern portion of PONTFIELD in tow proceeding to Yarmouth Salvage Officer in Charge. Fore portion sinking approx. 53° 00' N. 01° 17' E. MALLARD, TURQUOISE served as escort. Request instructions.

(MALLARD, 1210A/15 to C. in C. Nore.)

PONTFIELD cont: ...
/Your.....

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining.

PONFIELD.
Contd.

Your 1210A return to Harwich. TURQUOISE remain with tow.
(C. in C. Nore, 1417A/15 to MALLARD.)
Departure Salvage vessel NESSUS at 1607A/15 to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1700A/15.)

Operations
B. & C.

Your 1647A/12. Short titles for Operations B and C are JT and JU respectively.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1113A/15 to Admty.)

Operation
Q.L.(2)

To take place 16/9. Details.
(C. in C. Nore, 1508A/15.)
See Operations Volume.

Operation
N.L.2.

Intend to carry out tonight. Details.
(V.A. Dover, 1234A/15.)
See Operations Volume.

Tug mined
in Clyde.

One Tug blown up in Dalmuir Basin. Two other Tugs damaged, suspected mine. River Clyde closed both ways to all traffic.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1717A/15.)
My 1717/15. River Clyde now open to traffic, except for entry into Dalmuir Basin.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1756A/15.)
My 1717/15. No mine was reported within one mile of Dalmuir Basin during the May attacks by which date mine watching had been much improved compared to previous occasions. Former attacks occurred on 13th and 14th March and on 7th and 8th April. It is therefore probable that the mine which exploded today was laid not later than 8/4. Details. Casualties (all civilians)
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2256A/15.)

Humber.

Mine exploded by L.L. Trawlers 1039/15 in 095° Humber L.V. 9.4 miles.
(F.O. Humber, 1815/15.)

Portsmouth.

Details of 1 magnetic mine, detonated in 105° Nab Tower 6 miles at 1127/15.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1847A/15.)

S.N.23B.

Departure Port ZA PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 1954/15.)

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

359

QZX.466.

QZX.466 has been searched without result by British minesweepers and declared open by Russians.
(ELECTRA, 2006C/15.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Cruiser &
damaged
Transport.

Cruiser observed moving quickly north at Helsingborg 1445 hours. Badly damaged transport moving slow south stopped there 16 hours.
(B.C. Goteborg, 1645/15.)

Main
units.

Today's P.R.U's.
(D.D.I.C. 2353A/15.)
See Lion Copy.

Miscellaneous.

Iceland (C),
berthing,
arrangements
for H.F.

A.C.I.C. 1938/13 berthing requirements considered necessary to be available for Home Fleet are for one capital ship, one aircraft carrier, 2 large cruisers and 6 destroyers additional to requirements of Western Approaches.
(C. in C. H.F., 1431A/15.)

Casualties and Defects.

ISAAC SWEERS,
BROCKLESBURY.

In collision. No major damage, minor damage only to BROCKLESBURY.
(BROCKLESBURY, 0145A/15.)
Request ISAAC SWEERS may be instructed to signal brief report including statement whether situation report in my 1718/14 was received.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1018/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

MONKSHOOD.

Being towed into Oban by Tug SECURITY with main engine defects estimated to take 5 days.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 0455A/15, 1220A/15.)

VIBRAN.

Your 1129Z/15. Navy Call B B G G P L I Y B L I Y B Broadcast 1322, 1335, 1736 G.M.T. No acknowledgment received from vessel.
(Wick Radio, 1129Z/15 to Admty.)

GRAPH.

(cc-U.570)

HECLA reports GRAPH today carried out successful trials under way of engine motors and steering. Gyro compass is now entirely satisfactory, ends.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2114/15 to Admty.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

2353A/15 September OUT

To A.I.G. 62.
A.I.G. 21.
F.O.S.
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.B.C.
S.O. Force H.

Date 15.9.41.

359A

Naval Code (L one) & P/L BY T/P

From Admiralty.

BASEGRAM to S.O. Force H only.

IMPORTANT.

Today's photographic reconnaissances show
Kiel at 1430.

HIPPER, LÜTZOW and one six inch cruiser still present
in dock.

TIRPITZ not present but her torpedo boom remains in
~~Strander Bucht~~
~~STRANDER BUCHT~~ and it is thought she is probably
exercising in Western Baltic.

Oslo at 1300.

ADMIRAL SCHEER has left since 6th September. EMDEN has
arrived.

Aarhus.

SCHLESSEN present.

Brest at 1735

Both battlecruisers and PRINZ EUGEN in usual
positions.

Travemunde at 1040.

KÖLN has left. LEIPZIG has arrived.

2353A/15.
for D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.	D.N.I. (4)	D.S.D. (2)
1st S.L.	D.T.D. (4)	M. (2)
4th S.L.	D.T.D. (11)	
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D. (C)	
A.C.N.S. (H)	O.I.C. (4)	
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D. of P. (3)	
Nav. Sec.	Cdr. Holbrook.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.A/S W.	
Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.	I.P. (3)	
Cps. (4)	W.B.	
C.D. (5)	D.P.D.	

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.7.
AURICULA
VIOLET.

Cancel my 1440A/12. Intend to sail AURICULA and VIOLET as additional Escort O.S.7. fuelling at Azores.
(C. in C. W.A. 1134A/15 to Admty., etc.)

S.C.41.

Has arrived safely except 1 ship a straggler, torpedoed. 35 British, 25 Allied and 2 neutral ships. Cargoes.
(D.S. 741.)

S.D.
Convoys.

Your 2119A/13 concurred. Request that S.D. route be sent within 24 hours of arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1544/15 to Admty. etc.)

Fishing
Vessels.

Confusion is sometimes caused owing to fishing vessels of different nationalities having the same or similar names. When mentioning a fishing vessel of any kind, the Port Distinguishing Letters and Fishing Numbers should be given in addition to the name.
(D.T.D., 1800A/15 A.Z. Message 527A 2.)

Destinations.

Attention is called to my 1752/23/3 which emphasised that ships are to be sailed for precise destinations.
A ship on the high seas not knowing what port to make for is forced to incur an unnecessary risk. S.S. AMBERTON is now in that situation.
(D.T.D., 1814A/15 to N.C.S.O's.)

S.D.
Convoys.

Your 2119A/13, concur as it is considered that C. in C. Western Approaches has later information of the U-Boat situation.
(C. in C. W.A. 1858A/15 to Admty.)

H.X.150.

C. in C. W.A. 1451A/15. Onward escort for H.X.150 will be as arranged in C.C.N.F. 0237Z/8 (N.T. in W.D.) The question as to which of these ships will return to Newfoundland will be decided later.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2257A/15 to C. in C. W.A., C.C.N.F.)

MESSAGE

1200/15th September.

SECRET.

IN.

From C. in C. Rosyth.

Date 15.9.41.
Time 1602

360A

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

103. Forecast of convoy sailings:-

F.S.599 (M)	PARALLEL	1330 Friday 19th.	WALLACE, VERDUN.
F.S.600 (S)	BOOTY	0830 Saturday 20th	VERSATILE, WOLSEY.
F.S.601 (F)	ARENA	2100 Sunday 21st	WESTMINSTER, VORTIGERN.
F.S.602 (M)	OCEAN	1330 Tuesday 23rd	LIDDESDALE, WINCHESTER.
F.S.603 (S)	PLUMB	0830 Wednesday 24th	SOUTHDOWN, SLEIPNER.
F.S.604 (F)	EVIDENCE	2100 Thursday 25th	VIVIEN, VIMIERA.
E.C.75 (M)	USAGE	0700 Friday 19th	WINCHESTER, QUANTOCK.
F.N.521 (F)	RADIO	0700 Saturday 20th	VIVIEN, WHADDON.
E.C.76 (S)	PADDLE	0700 Sunday 21st	VALOROUS, VIMIERA.
F.N.522 (M)	LUNCH	0700 Monday 22nd	WALLACE, VERDUN.
E.C.77 (F)	YIELD	0700 Tuesday 23rd	VERSATILE, WOLSEY.
E.C.78 (S)	MIGHT	0700 Wednesday 24th	WESTMINSTER, VORTIGERN.

Time Table as in my 1100/8/9.

1200/15

Advance Copy for Ops., O.D., Trade,

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (R)
N.A. 1st S.L.
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.
Mails
Movts.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

1700A/15th September.

From. C. in C. No. 9.

Date. 15.9.41.

Reed. 1721 360A

P/L BY SECRET T/P

Addressed N.C.S.O. Southend., FERNIE., CATTISTOCK.,
Repeated S.O.M.B.B. M.L. 113., V.A. Dover.,
N.O.I.C. Ramsgate., C. in C. Portsmouth.,
Admiralty., D 1., D 2., D 16.,

IMPORTANT.

951. Previous orders for stationing escorts of Channel convoys during dark hours are cancelled.
2. Commencing with C W 50 and until further orders escorts are to be stationed as follows during dark hours:-
- (A) Minesweepers 2 miles ahead of leading ships of convoy.
- (B) M L's one acting as link between minesweepers and Commodore. Two on landward side of convoy. Remainder on seaward side of convoy at visibility distance up to a maximum of 1500 yards. The leading M L is to be abreast the second ship from the van and the rear M L abreast the second ship from the rear the remainder being spaced equally between them.
- (C) Destroyers. One zig-zagging ahead and to seaward of the leading M L. One zig-zagging astern and to seaward of the rear M L. If a third destroyer is present she is to take station on the landwards side of the convoy adjusting her position as circumstances and the probable form at attack require. All destroyers are to be ready to move out and engage E-boats. Generally it is best for only one destroyer to pursue each E-boat.
3. Unless there is enemy air activity balloons are to be close hauled during dark hours when convoy is between Foreland Buoy and Beachy Head.
4. Is M L's part company to engage the enemy they are to keep clear of the convoy until daylight.

1700A/15.

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.D. 8.
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D. 9.
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Basement.
D.D.T.M.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.T.S.D.
D. of P. (3)
D.D.O.D. (G)
A.H.Q.H.F.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

361

SAMUEL D.
INGHAM.

North Atlantic.

SAMUEL D.
U.S.C.G. ^AINGHAM directed proceed route suggested your 0123Z/15 departing Lisbon 15/9 at 1400 estimated 19 knots to be made good until reaching 30th/Meridian and 17 knots thereafter. Admty. pass to F.O.C.N.A. (Gibraltar) for additional action. (Opnav 0115Z/15 to Admty.).

PROTEUS.

Report P.C. and S. forthwith. Noreply to my 2136A/14 received. Catalina aircraft and one destroyer leave Gibraltar at dawn to search along your track. (F.O.C.N.A., 0236A/15 to PROTEUS).
Cancel my 2000A/14. ^{NT NWD} PROTEUS has returned with W/T defect. (F.O.C.N.A. 0840A/15 to C. in C.Med.)

Operation
"Status".

Your 2236/10. Escort A/C are ? flying off Homed on carrier. On this occasion W/T conditions very bad and escort well separated.
(2) With consumption figures available for time it was not justifiable retain spare escort until second flight Hurricanes could be ranged and started, as this left no margin for unforeseen accidents or delay while flying off.
(3) Hudsons referred to are those with extra tanks which made passage Bathurst from Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H., 0947A/15 to Admty.)

German
Aircraft.

New types, may attack Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S.(F) to F.O.C.N.A., 1141A/15) See Lion Copy.

NINA
(Portuguese)

Arrival 1400 ALOUETTE, departure 1546 SCOTTISH to patrol and endeavour to intercept Portuguese schooner NINA off Viana thence Y.I. (F.O.C.N.A. 1650A/15 to Admty.)

Operation
"Halberd".

S.O. Force H., 1659A/15 to V.A. Malta. (See Operations Volume.)

Rio Strait.

Your 1740/6 (re no engine or engine spare parts for submarine in CONTREMAESTRE CASADO) Informed that used motor is Ex Submarine intended for standby in new Naval Base at this Port. (Las Palmas, 1700/15 to N.A. Madrid).

/CROOME.....

MOST SECRETAddress ~~F.O.C.N.A. 852~~ Date 15.9.41. ~~664.~~Repeated C.in C. Mediterranean 363 B2
S.O. Force H 652
NAVAL CYPHER D ONE TIME TABLE.

From Admiralty.

Indications received that German K.G.40 are to be re-equipped with H.E.177. and D.O.217 aircraft having the following considerably improved characteristics over the FOCKE WULF Condor and D.O.17 which they replace.

2.(a) H.E.177. Midwing Monoplane Single Tail
Max. speed 300 M.P.H. at 18,000 feet
Max. bomb load 5 to 6 tons. Can carry two 2500 kilo bombs, Operational range 1800 miles with full bomb load.

(b) D.O.217. High wing Monoplane Twin Tail.
Max. speed as for H.E.177
Max. bomb load 4 tons. Largest bomb 1800 kilos.
Operational range at least 1000 miles.

(c) Both types reported capable carrying torpedoes.

3. Both types already flying but not repetition not yet known when they may be brought into operational use.

4. It must be considered that Gibraltar may be attacked by those aircraft.

5. F.O.C.N.A. please inform Governor Gibraltar.

1141A/15.

for D.N.A.D.

(Tel. No. 181).

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

1st Lord.

D.O.D. (F).

1st S.L.

D.D.O.D. (F).

2nd S.L.

D.N.I. (4).

3rd S.L.

D.S.D.

4th S.L.

D.N.A.D.

5th S.L.

D. of L.D.

V.C.N.S.

D.A./S.W.

A.C.N.S. (F)

D.M.S

A.C.N.S. (H)

I.P. (2).

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

W.D.

A.C.N.S. (W)

Duty Capt.

N.A. 1st S.L.

Hd. of M.

D. of P. (2).

D.T.S.D.

D.O.D. (H).

D.G.D.

D.D.O.D. (H).

D.O.I.C.

MOST SECRET

L.S.

D.T.D. (S).

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

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

362

→ CROOME.
→ HIGHLANDER.

Repairs to CROOME cannot be completed before "Halberd". Can HIGHLANDER be retained? I appreciate however urgent need for destroyers in Western Approaches. (S.O. Force H., 1734A/15 to Admty.)

Operation "Halberd".

ASD/102, 15/9. If imperative for operation "Halberd" three long range Hudsons might be made available. Signal considered opinion and dates if required. (H.Q.C.C., 1825/15 to 200 Sqdn., amended 1250/16).

Destroyers.

Admty. 1325 (N.T. in W.D.) VIDETTE is quite unreliable as condensers are so defective that trouble ensues whenever she fires a gun or drops a depth charge.
2. She is accordingly being taken in hand for (?retubing) by fleet labour assisted by dockyard and will be out of action until about 6/10.
3. WISHART is in U.K. and DUNCAN only effective destroyer left in 13th D.F. is detailed for employment (?in accordance with) your 1730A/5 (Hush N.T. in W.D.)
4. HIGHLANDER has recently fuelled in Azores so will be unable to remain with H.G. 73 throughout. (?CROOME) in dock approx. date completion 6/10.
5. There will be therefore no destroyer available for any local commitments that may arise or for O.G. convoys. (F.O.C.N.A., 1842A/15 to Admty. etc.)

South Atlantic.

French Shipping.

Report A.2 that VILLE DE VERDUN, PIERRE L.D. CAP VARELLA, CAP PADARAN will leave shortly from Diego Suarez escorted by French Sloop D'IBERVILLE for Indo China. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1043B/15 to Admty. etc.)

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.

Admty. 1036A/8 ^{N.T. in W.D.} and D. of S.T. 1733A/12. ^{N.T. in W.D.} DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be available from 40° W. speed 14 knots. (C. in C. S.A., 2107N/15 to Admty. etc.)

/Convoys.....

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic-Contd.

Convoys.

Your 2255/5/9. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and SOBIESKI arrival has coincided with W.S.11 and other convoys in port. They cannot be fuelled and watered to sail before 19th. (S.S.T.O. Freetown 2157N/15 to D. of S.T.)

Mediterranean.

PHOEBE.

Admty. 1343A/5. Temporary repairs to render PHOEBE fit for ocean passage will be completed during second week of October. Suggested that if replacements of gunnery, electrical and other material can be made available at Durban in time, repairs should be undertaken there, thus effecting a substantial saving of time over passage to and from U.S.A. (C. in C. Med., 0909C/15 to Admty.)

Alexandria
Raid.

Air raid 0400 to 0500/15, 5 enemies, 15 H/E. 3 sticks on land 2 in sea, civilian casualties. Balloons, searchlights, smoke guns, 8 fighters no interceptions. Cloud 1. (R.A. Alexandria, 1011C/15 to Admty.)

Bulgarian
Ships.
Dardanelles.

My 1130/13. Possible passage of Straits by 12 Bulgarian vessels, which rumour alleges bought from Italy, is now discussed in Turkish press. Conclusion drawn that Bulgaria being at war with Greece, ships cannot pass, (nevertheless?) doubtful on subject. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1040/15 to S.O.I. Med.)

Suez
Raid.

Egypt night 13/14. Suez bombed by about 18 enemy aircraft. No service damage but 1 officer and 7 O.R. wounded. 6 Hurricane sorties sighted no enemy aircraft.

Alexandria
Raid.

Night 14/15. Alexandria bombed by 5 enemy aircraft, slight damage resulted. 7 Hurricane sorties made no interceptions. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1059/15).

/Air.....

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

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Air R/C.

Available R/C 1 Blenheim only. This A/C arriving vicinity of Zante at 1100B/15 then searching to 8 knots furthest on position for ship sailing from Brindisi on evening of 14th. (V.A. Malta, 1103B/15 to C. in C. Med.)

MUREFTE.

Sinking (N.O.I.C. Syria, 1105C/15)
See U/Boat Campaign.

Suez Mines.

C. in C. Med. 1850/25/7 weekly report. 5 U.X.O.S. remain in Suez Bay and 2 U.X.MS. in canal at K.m. 160.6 and 161, parachutes seen with both canal mines. Mine at 161 is located and it is hoped to recover it. No result from L.L. or S.A. or Sammy Minesweeping operation nor from diving and trawling in addition on mine at 160.6. 2. Traffic in canal was resumed 14/9. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1212C/15).

TORBAY.

Proceed forthwith to establish Patrol between 037° 00' and 038° 30' and West of 025° 40' operate in accordance with memorandum S.O. 34. Many ships reported loading Military stores and personnel at Piraeus. (Capt. S.L., 1252C/15 to TORBAY).

Port T.

*(Adm Atoll)
see p. 362*

Arrangements, GLENROY, etc. (C. in C. Med., 1259C/15) See Operations Volume, p 250

R/C
Taranto,
Palermo.

From enlargement of photographs my 1816/12 for 2 Italian Battleships LITTORIO and one CAVOUR in outer harbour read one Italian Battleship LITTORIO and 2 CAVOUR. (V.A. Malta, 1606B/15 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 13/14, 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour, 1 bomb falling near ship at Outer Mole. One of these Wellingtons also bombed Barce, destroying fuel storage building. 2 Blenheims carried out offensive sweep for enemy shipping in area 100 miles north of Benghazi. No shipping seen. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1608/15).

? ST. BRIEUC intended.
ST. GABRIEL.
FRONSAC.
(French).

Departures 13/9 and 15/9. (Barcelona, 1653/15 to M. of W/T).

/Minesweepers.....

Ref. Sec. ✓

Re inclusion in Mediterranean Station. (C. in C. Med., 1615C/15) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

364 A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
1615C/15 September.

From C.in C. Meditteranean

Date 26.9.41.
Recd. 1748

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T

RECIRCULATION

Addressed C.in C. East Indies.

Passed to Admiral for information.
Now that the Red Sea is (?again) a war area I am not altogether happy about present arrangements. You will remember that dividing line between out stations was shifted to an arbitrary position further South (?so that) ships waiting to be called forward to Suez should be within the one Command. The arrangement is no longer sound as it means a divided responsibility for safety of a ship on passage between Southern Red Sea and Suez and this appears to me undesirable. I should therefore be (?very) glad of your views on the subject.

2. The following possible solutions which you may care to consider.

(a) The whole of the Red Sea including Suez and ports in Gulf of Suez to come under S.N.O. Red Sea being as (?nearly) as possible an independent Command.

(b) As the dangerous area is in North rather than South S.N.O. Red Sea might shift his centre of gravity to Suez and have base organization there.

(c) In order to free S.N.O. Red Sea to move about his Station a N.O. i/c Port and Anchorage in Gulf of Suez could be instituted. (This I consider most desirable in any case). This Officer could possibly act as S.N.O. Red Sea's Chief of Staff and would provide continuity in the absence of S.N.O. Red Sea as well as providing the link with S.B.N.O. Suez Canal who has many important interests in Suez

(d) The question of Aden is a difficult one and you might consider it preferable that it should be outside the (?proposed) Red Sea (?area). This is logical in a sense as Aden is not in the Red Sea.

1/3. IN
1615C/15 September.

[Reply to this 0554/21 page 517A]

3. The remaining problem is that of S.N.O. Red Sea's position in relation to you and to me. Personally I view with dismay any idea of adding to my commitments by taking over Red Sea. (?The) (?difficulty) is that Red Sea is the life line of (?the) Middle East which is directly concerned in its problems and on whom any delays have immediate repercussions. In consequence the other 2 services are continually pressing to include the Red Sea in the Mediterranean Command so as to be able to deal directly with the Persian Gulf on whom the ultimate responsibility would then be falling.

4. I do not think Admiralty would agree to create entirely separate Red Sea Station and it appears therefore S.N.O. Red Sea must be ultimately responsible to one of us. Whatever is final decision I feel it is sound to put him in position of as great freedom as possible within his Command and to ensure that he has adequate forces so that calls do not continually have to be made on Mediterranean and East Indies Fleets.

1615C/15.

Note Circulated in connection with 1355/23 from C.in C. Mediterranean.

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./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)

N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson

D.G.D.

Ad Palliser

IH.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

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Minesweepers
for Persian
Gulf.

Your 1620C/8. As minelaying threat to Persian Gulf may occur at very short notice, necessary to augment sweeping force there now. A further 11 fitted 'LL' vessels should arrive Alexandria within next 30 days. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1719A/15 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Ships
and Mines.

Expect at 0500B/17 2 ships on course 200° will arrive position 311° from 032° 07' 020° 04' distance unknown. These ships and one destroyer probably in 038° 00' 020° 00' at 1100B/15. Steering 160° 10 knots. THUNDERBOLT reports mines laid between estimated positions 032° 16' 019° 53' and 032° 17' 019° 58'. (Capt. S.I., 2220C/15 to THRASHER).

Port and
Base
Resources.

Proposals from U.S.A. for provision in Middle East. (W.O., 2340/15 to C. in C. M.E.) See Lion Copy.

East Indies.

Force T.

(?) Force T left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 0515Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

Port T.

(add add)

C. in C. China's 0351/13. Commander 1st R.M. Group M.N.B.D.O. states M.N.B.D.O. operation at Port T cannot be undertaken unless both GLENROY and CLAN FORBES remain there throughout the initial stages. (C. in C. E.I., 1414Z/15 to Admty.)

Caspian.

A.C.N.S. (F) 1720A/15. See Operations Volume.

Ceylon
Stocks;

Your 0726/11. Approved. Action to be taken locally regarding certain stocks. Additional quantities of victualling stores normally supplied from U.K. will be shipped in due course. (4th S.L., 1854A/15 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET

724
365A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2340/15th Sept. IN

From War Office.

Cipher

Addressed C. in C. Middle East, repeated C. in C. India.

90196 Cipher Q (Ops) 15/9

1. U.S. War Department have suggested to H.M.G. that U.S.A. should

(a) establish and operate installations in Middle East to deal with the assembly of, and base repairs to, aircraft, warlike stores, tracked and wheeled vehicles of U.S. design and supply and the instruction of British personnel in operation and maintenance thereof,

(b) provide any port railroad and truck facilities necessary to make delivery of these items effective.

2. British needs will govern location, size and character of installations and transport facilities. Plan will include housing for personnel.

3. Alternative methods of operation shortly to be discussed between U.S. and British representatives may be:

(a) By American Companies, existing or to be organised under contract to American War Dept.

(b) By American or other companies under contract to British Authorities.

4. Major portion of costs to be discharged by British in sterling or local currencies, with grants from U.S.A. for dollar expenditures. British to be responsible for supply of local materials and pay of local personnel.

5. It is desired to make fullest use of U.S. offer which is outcome of Cabinet 19/10/124/1 paper No. 2 dated 30th July 1941.

6. Following basis suggested here for planning specific U.S. tasks for maintenance:

(a) Provision of personnel equipment and workshop buildings for:

(i) Complete periodic overhaul U.S. tanks every six months

(ii) Complete periodic overhaul U.S. tank engines every three months

(iii) Overhaul of other U.S. major and minor assemblies.

(b) More....

- 2 -

(b) More extensive use of existing Ford and G.M.C. repair facilities and similar application for other U.S. type wheeled vehicles.

(c) Provision of miscellaneous workshop for servicing signal equipment armament and other warlike stores of U.S. design and supply.

7. Following considered here most suitable field for U.S. assistance in transportation facilities.

(a) Complete servicing, repair and overhaul of 52 Baldwin Whitcombe Diesel-electric main line locomotives on order ex U.S.A. for Middle East. Suggest by contract with Baldwin Locomotive Co.

(b) Servicing and maintenance of wharf cranes for ports. 110 required 55 on order. Hoped to obtain balance by rebuilding and reconditioning.

(c) Construction and equipment of new port Safaga and metre gauge railway to Nile Valley.

8. Proposed that standard type British equipment and vehicles manufactured in U.S.A. should be excluded from this scheme.

9. You should consider all aspects including political and cable your views. Information also requested regarding.

(a) Location and size of installations required under 6 and 7 above.

(b) Numbers of personnel required phased over next 6 months and suggested locations.

(c) Method of provision of spare parts to U.S. installations.

(d) Extent to which these installations can be utilised to deal with equipment and vehicles of U.S. design and supply provided for use of R.A.F. in Middle East.

2340/15.

Received from War Office 1544/16.

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

jf

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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China.

LE CONTE
DE LISLE.
(French).

Left due Shanghai 18th. (N.C.S.O. Manila 0243Z/15).

GLASGOW.

My 0723/2. GLASGOW completed satisfactorily after repairs trial. Speed $23\frac{1}{2}$ knots without paravane. (C. in C. China, 0413Z/15 to Admty.)

HONGHIN.

HONGHIN sank 0200/15 at Laidup Moorings, Singapore Harbour. Presume sudden leakage but cannot yet confirm. (Superintendent's estimate cost lifting). Suggest we endeavour sell wreck as she lies for Underwriters' credit. Cargo aboard Nil. (N.C.S.O. Singapore 0739Z/15 to Admty.)

Miri
Precautions.

Your 1630/29 and my 0439/31. LEES, Masters, TOONE returned from Miri reports as follows. (C. in C. China, 0901Z/15 to Admty.)

Christmas
Island.

Charts affected Nos. G.41A and 3504. Position $10^{\circ} 30' S. 105^{\circ} 40' E.$ (approx) Instructions for vessels approaching Island (A) no vessel is to approach the island between sunset and sunrise. (B) No vessel is to approach within $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the island until permission to do so has been given by the Signal Station at Smith Point. (C) Any vessel disregarding the above is liable to be fired on without warning. (R.A. Malaya, 0911Z/15 to China Stn.)

S.S. JERSEY.

Have you any news of JERSEY from Aden due 11/9? (D.T.D. 1225A/15 to N.C.S.O. Singapore) Reply: 0229/16.

BERNARDIN DE
ST. PIERRE.
(French).

Departure Trufillo. (Shanghai, 2359Z/15 to M. of W.T.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

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PASTEUR.

Your 1513/13. Assumption confirmed.
(D.S.T. 0256A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.
C.F.2.

Adverse winds have been met by convoy C.F.2 and R/V with A/S escort being now in 026° 30' W. QUEEN OF BERMUDA will be at limit of fuel endurance on reaching Bermuda. Continuous bad weather may therefore render it necessary to proceed to St. John's N.F. for fuel in absence of other instructions. NEWCASTLE transmitting this message after parting company with convoy. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 0955Z/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

O-WE-RA
Examination
vessel.

Regret to report a fire occurred in stokehold of O-WE-RA during fuelling operation on 10/9. Time required to make good damage approx. 14 days subject to satisfactory test of boiler. Cause of fire is subject of board enquiry ordered by C. in C. A. and W.I. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1017Q/15 to Admty.)

FORTH
programme.

C.C.N.F. 1348Z/14. Concur.
(F.O.S., 1058A/15 to Admty.) *See also next page.*

LA CARRIERE.

Called here for instructions yesterday en route to Barbados. Five of crew refused to take ship on. Arrested these men who received sentences to-day, 3 ten weeks jail, 2 six weeks. Ship proceeding to Barbados delay 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1242Q/15 to Admty.)

S/M's
working up
in U.S.A.

B.A.R.M. 1400B/12, concur generally in these arrangements. (F.O.S., 1307A/15 to Admty.)

CARADOC.

Bermuda departure CARADOC in accordance with my 1002Q/13. (N.T. in W.D.) (C. in C. A.W.I., 1603Q/15 to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE.

Your 0942Q/13. Concur. NEWCASTLE is to disembark her Walrus at Bermuda. (D.N.A.D. 1605A/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

CALIFORNIA.

Can be received on 22/9. (B.A.R.M. 1702R/15 to R.A. 3.B.S.)

/TRUANT.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

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TRUANT.

(A) Intend to sail TRUANT at 1200Z/19 (route).
(C) A.O.C. E.A.C. is requested to arrange T.B.R. thirty miles (group missing ?either) side of route in para (A) from St. Johns to 43° W. from 1200Z/19 to 2200Z/21. (D) TRUANT has been informed she will meet no friendly submarine on A. and W. I. station. (C.C.N.F., 1744Z/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

RODNEY.

Bermuda departure RODNEY in accordance with my 0942Q/13. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1803Q/15 to Admty.)

FORTH.

Your 1348Z/14. This programme cannot be approved until definite approval for British submarines to work up from an American port is received. 2. B.A.R.M. 1400R/12 refers. 3. Request you will signal revised programme when approval is received. C.O.A.C. pass to FORTH. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1925A/15 to C.C.N.F.)

See previous page

Greek ships to operate under French Flag.

(v) Dakar 12/9 A.1. The Director of Maritime Transport has informed Greek Cons^{ult} that French Admiralty intended to operate following Greek ships under French flag: MOUNT PRIONAS, CAPE CORSO, AFROESSA, MOUNT ITHOME, AD~~ELFOI~~, CHANDRIS. Repeated to S.O. (I) Freetown and S.O. (I) Gibraltar.

(vi) Dakar 13/9 A.O. MONTAIGNE, CONDE, ~~CHEVENNES~~, LE GRAND QUERVILL~~E~~ and CAPITAINE LE DIABAT left for Casablanca p.m./12. They may have been joined by CHEF MECANICIEN ARMAND BLANC. Repeated to S.O.(I) Freetown and S.O.(I) Gibraltar. (B.N.L.O. Washington 2015R/15 to Adty.)

STRATHEDEN.

Your 1735A/12. Beatty asks whether possible to load any cargo on STRATHEDEN at Halifax and if so for what ports. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2032Z/15 to D. of S.T.).

H.X. 150.

Local A/S escort H.M. Canadian Ships ANNAPOLIS, BRANDON, ALGOMA to western R/V in 055° W. ANNAPOLIS returning to Halifax. Corvette to St. John's N.F. B.A.D. pass to Opnav. (C.O.A.C., 2047Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Australia.

Free French
Ships.
Signals.

My 0441Z/6/8. Can reply now be given re
secret call signs for Free French Merchant
ships? (A.C.N.B., 1146Z/15 to Admty.)

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

370

NEWBURY.

(see also
page 352)

Following received from Camperdown addressed C.O.A.C. Halifax (begins). Intercepted on 500 Kcs at 0655 G.M.T. from Cape Race "SSSS NEWBURY 54.39 N. 28.04 W. Torpedoed 0552/15. Due to heavy static ship not heard directly at Camperdown therefore no bearing obtained. (Halifax N.S. T.H.I. 0440/15) (NEWBURY, 0552/15). British, 5102 tons, left Belfast 8/9 for Buenos Aires with coal. Had been in Convoy O.N.14. (D.S.741).

Proceed to assist NEWBURY torpedoed in 54° 39' N. 28° 04' W. at 0552/15. (C. in C. W.A. 0739A/15 to ARAB).

Your 1720A/15 (N.T. in W.D.) Continue search for NEWBURY survivors as long as fuel permits. Report your position and limit of endurance. (C. in C. W.A. 2125A/15 to ARAB).

Cancel my 2125A/15. (C. in C. W.A. 2217A/15 to ARAB).

Following intercept from ARAB addressed C. in C. W.A. repeated HEATHER (Begins) Unable pass B.N. 851 to O.N.14. Your 0739A/15 my position 55.28 N. 20.30 W. 4½ days fuel remaining, request immediate instructions 0815A/15 (Ends).

ALISMA detached all to-day endeavouring to pass this signal. Your 1022A/15 P.C. and S. of O.N. 15 at 2100A/15 55.45 N. 26.00 W. Weather report. (KEPPEL, 2130A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

Detail 1 trawler to proceed forthwith to assistance of NEWBURY torpedoed in 54° 39' N. 28° 04' W. at 0552/15. Trawler detailed is to report name when well clear of convoy. Remaining corvettes and trawlers are to sweep through this position when returning to harbour after convoy disperses. (C. in C. W.A. 2234A/15 to KEPPEL, ALISMA, DIANELLA).

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

Following received from Opnav "Ref. Admty. 2341A/14, a single destroyer from escort for THOMAS H. WHEELER, DALLAS, and ROANOKE has been directed conduct search East Coast Greenland between latitudes 61° and 62°. When search is completed destroyer has been directed resume escorting". (Spenavo, 0635/15 to Admty.) (D.O.D.H., 1646A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 0635/15. Please pass following to Opnav "Thank you. Your help is much appreciated". (A.C.N.S. (H) 1806A/15 to Spenavo).

Arrived (CGQN) (No trace in Shipping Lists) with TAHCHEE. (A.C.I.C. 1845/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 2118/14. Following 95 survivors arrived today. In ORILLIA (a) 39 ex BARON PENTLAND. (b) 11 ex WINTERSWIJK. (c) 17 ex TAHCHEE. 28 still on board TAHCHEE. (A.C.I.C., 2205/15 to Admty.)

My 2205 /15. Following 12 D.E.M.S. gunners arrived. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2211/15 to Admty.).

/MUREFTE.....

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Ships Attacked-Contd.

MUREFTE.

British S.S. MUREFTE sunk by gunfire from enemy S/M at 2220/10 in 034° 12' N. 034° 55' E. Casualties. (N.O.I. Syrian Ports, 1105C/15 to D. of S.T.). (W.D. Note. Lat. differs from former report.)

EMPIRE ELLAND.

SSSS 54.11 N. 30.17 W. EMPIRE ELLAND sighted submarine at 2000 local time. (Liverpool W/T, 2150/15).

Submarines Reported.

0826 G.C.T.

MCDUGAL, escort CITY OF DALLAS, CITY ROANOKE, WHEELER, reports extremely probable contacted Submarine sound at 0826 GCT in 55.23 N., 45.08 W. Ottawa inform O.N.S. Action Spenavo. (Alusna 0505/15 to Admty.)

0552 G.M.T.

Ref. Admiralty message AF. position 54° 39' N. 28° 04' W. 0552 G.M.T./15. (D.D.I.C. 0708Z/15 to G.B.M.S. Area 1).

1306 G.C.T.

American S.S. DEL RIO 20° 30' N. 72° 30' W. at 1306 G.C.T./15 reports submarine course 285°. Search being made by planes from Guantanamo. (Opnav, 1148/15 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1520A/15)

1410 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1410/15 G.M.T. U-boat in approx. 48° 20' N. 9° 40' W. probably inward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1633A/15).

1445.

Coast guards report sighting S/M 8 miles east by south of Fair Isle course N.W. speed 10 knots at 1445. Graded C.3. (A.C.O.S. 1650A/15).

1810 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1810/15 G.M.T. U/Boat in approx. 49° 40' N. 10° 30' W. probably inward bound. (D.D.I.C. 2017A/15 to SEALION).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Submarines Attacked.

By WINCHELSEA. WINCHELSEA obtained doubtful contact and fired snowflake. WITCH saw torpedo track by light of snowflake subsequently heard hydrophone effect. Contact lost but am continuing (? search). -(WITCH, 0005A/15 to C. in C. W.A.) (C. in C. W.A. 0315A/15 to PIORUN, GARLAND). My 0005A 15th. Have searched for 2 hours without result. WINCHELSEA must return for fuel and I am returning in accordance with your 2205A/14. Ships are in company. (WITCH 0201A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

By A/C.
1515/14.

My 1629A/14. Amended position of U-boat is 055° 58' N. 012° 53' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1322A/15 to PIORUN, GARLAND).