

MOST SECRET

391  
356

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2011R/15 Oct.  
IN

From B.A.D. Washington. Date 16.10.41.  
Recd. 0615.

NAVAL CYPHER D by T/P

Addressed Admiralty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa repeated C.O.A.C.  
Halifax.

IMPORTANT

766.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1549 Z/8. Following are revised arrangements (a) ?20 thousand troops embark in U.K. in 9 British transports to arrive Halifax 7th November to tranship into 6 U.S. transports: (b) U.S. will provide escort from mid ocean meeting point to Halifax. No repetition no cargo or vehicles or guns will be carried apart from baggage and equipment to be loaded as follows: quantity in tons deadweight.

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Baggage</u>	<u>Equipment</u>
WEST POINT	200	150
? WOODFIELD WAKEFIELD	200	210
MOUNT VERNON <i>intended</i>	180	220
<del>ORIZABA</del> ORIZABA	60	90
J.T. DICKMAN	70	80
LEONARDWOOD	50	70

(ii) Request transshipment programme including time and date U.S. transports should arrive Halifax and proposed date and time of departure may be signalled by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to B.A.D. Washington for communication to U.S. authorities.

(iii) Request Admiralty inform N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and C.O.A.C. Halifax distribution of army units in transports and requirements for distribution in U.S. transports.

(iv) 2 Bofors guns for each U.S. transport will be sent from U.K. Request N.S.H.Q. Ottawa arrange for them to be mounted at Halifax without delaying sailing of convoy.

2011R/15

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

1st Lord	D.O.D.(F)	W.D.
1st S.L.	D.D.C.D.(F)	Duty Captain (2)
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D.(H) for	Head of M.(13)
A.C.N.S.(H)	action	D.D.I.C.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.D.O.D.(H)	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S.(T) (2)	D.N.I.(4)	D.T.D.(2)
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.A/S.W.	D.T.D.(M)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.G.D.	D. of S.T.
D. of P.(2)	I.P.(2)	N.I.D.10 (Pay Cdr Wilson)

War Diary.

15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

S.C.47 U.  
O.N.26.

As Loch Ewe is full S.C.47 U. is to be escorted to Oban. Estimate S.C.47 U. will meet O.N.26 at about 0330A/16. (C. in C. W.A. 2349A/15 to EGLANTINE.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Intelligence. Supplementing 2035A/7 and 1205A/10.  
(D.D.I.C. 1827A/15 to Cs in C.)  
See Lion Copy.

SECRET.

1827A/15 October,  
MESSAGE.

OUT.

357A

To C. in C. Home Fleet. 536. Date: 15.10.41.  
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 384.  
New Zealand Naval Board. 616  
BRITMAN. 942.  
F.O.C. North Atlantic. 456.  
C. in C. South Atlantic. 583.  
N.O.I.C. Simonstown. 635.  
R.A. South America Division. 459.  
C. in C. America & West Indies. 769.  
Australian Commonwealth Naval Board. 930  
C. in C. China. 75.  
C. in C. East Indies. 248.  
ALUSNA.  
SPENAVO.

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

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From Admiralty.

NITE.

My 2035A/7 and 1205A/10.

(1) R.F.A. BROOMDALE heard gunfire near Abrolhas Rocks on 12th October. H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM proceeded to investigate. No further report received.

(2) U.S. WARRIOR over-due since 2/10 at Capetown from Trinidad. Equally likely Raider or U-boat casualty.

(3) No confirmation that STAMATIOS G. EMBIRICOS was raider casualty except Swedish PACIFIC overdue since 9/10 at Colombo from Aden. This ship very old and may still arrive.

(4) Large unidentified 2 funnelled vessel sighted off Samoa 0430Z/4 and of Niuafoou Island, 375 miles N.E. of Suva 0040Z/9. Two squat funnels, 2 masts, straight bow, cruiser stern. Hull painted dirty white. If this vessel is German there must be two units in Western Pacific, one possibly a supply ship, in view of my 2035A/7 Para. 4. One funnel probably dummy.

(5) My 1857A/30/9. Para. 3. No silhouette of STEIERMARK available. 9,400 tons, 524 feet length. Raked bow, probably half-cruiser half-counter stern. Flush decked from break of forecastle to stern.

Two masts,/.....

Two masts, fairly fat round funnel close abaft square bridge superstructure. Four pairs tall typically German sampson posts, two forward, two aft but these probably removed or cut down. General impression similar to ANTELLA 1940 ~~TALBOT BOOTH~~ No. 50.

~~Talbot Booth~~

1827A/15.

for D.D.I.C.

(Green Line 8)

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

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

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

A.C.N.S.(W)

Nav. Sec.

N.A.1st S.L.

Capt. Pim, Admiralty House.

Ops.(3)

O.D.(5)

D.N.I.(4)

D.T.D.(4)

D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(C)

O.I.C.(4)

D. of P.(3)

D.A/S.W.

I.P.(3)

W.B.

D.P.D.

D.S.D.(2)

M.(2)

A.E. (3) and to pass to SPENAVO.

DR.

War Diary.15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Sink-at-sight  
Zones.

A.C.N.S. (F), 0044A/15 to F.O.C.N.A. (See Med).

LOCH OSKAIG  
(damaged by  
A/C).Departure 0100 SENNEN, TOTLAND. Your 1923/14.  
(N.T. in W.D.) Arrival LOCH OSKAIG.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0210A/15 to Admty).Italian  
2-Man S/Ms.My 0928A/9. A second Italian 2 man submarine was  
recovered by Spanish diving party a.m./13 in  
342° 12.6 cables North Mole Light.  
Craft appeared similar to one recovered on 8/10  
but close observation was prevented by  
Spanish authorities.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1122A/15 to Admty).JONQUIL,  
COREOPSIS.Departures JONQUIL, COREOPSIS escorting Norwegian  
tanker SANDAR until dark/19, thence to R/V  
Norwegian tanker VELMA <sup>942</sup> escorted to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1212A/15 to Admty)MARON,  
HILARY.MARON patrol U.1 V.1 east of 020° west. HILARY on  
patrol H.X.3.  
Situation report no. 3 at 1956A/15.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1228A/15 to N.A. Stn).CROOMEMy 1540A/12 para. 3. Departure 1227/15 CROOME.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1412A/15 to Admty) See also U-boat  
Campaign.SEVERNSailed for Freetown routed East of (?Canary  
Island) through 020° 48' 018° 00' 13 knots,  
thence as ordered by C. in C. South Atlantic.  
SEVERN sailing with 10% fuel shortage owing to  
leaky tank. (F.O.C.N.A., 1630/15 to C. in C. S.A).GERMANIA.German tanker GERMANIA ready to leave Teneriffe  
any moment. Source special observer. B.2.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1649/15 to Admty).Enemy  
Destroyer.Air report one destroyer 045° 13' N., 008° 06' W.  
050° 30 knots at 1227A/15. (F.O.C.N.A., 1734A/15  
to Admty).

/German.....

War Diary.

15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

German  
Report of  
Convoy.

U.S. Charge D'Affaires has received reliable information from a secret source that local German secret agents have ascertained that a convoy composed of American (sic) ships is due to pass through Straits of Gibraltar (course not stated) between 15/10 and 18/10. Ships thereon proceeding at night. There can presumably be no convoy of "American" ships so this may refer to one of our convoys?  
(Consul General, Tangier, 1820/15 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

South Atlantic.

CHANTILLY.

Your 1911/11 (?) No objection to CHANTILLY being diverted via Pointe Noire if it is impracticable to provide for movement from Pointe Noire to Freetown. Suggest one of vessels referred to in my 1227/1 to C. in C. S.A., only might be used on her return voyage to Freetown. (D.S.T., 0650A/15 to C. in C. S.A.)

MAURETANIA.

Your 1626/13. Consider it most desirable to take this opportunity of carrying out docking and repairs to MAURETANIA. (D.S.T., 0744A/15 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

"R"  
report  
M/v. RIPLEY.

RIPLEY made an R R R R message in 030° 50' S., 015° 54' E., at 0935/15. Coded cancellation received considered genuine.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1247Z/15)  
RIPLEY Raider Report. This was JUMNA.  
(JUMNA, 1030/15 to C. in C. S.A.)

EAGLE.

Your 1235/26 (N.T. in W.R.). Is it the intention that EAGLE should return to South Atlantic Station on completion of refit?  
(C. in C. S.A., 1143N/15 to Admty).

/Minesweepers....

War Diary.

15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Minesweepers  
for  
S. Africa.

My 1303/14 (para 4) (A) Contact M/S., for 31 read 37. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1147B/15 to Admty).

Convoy  
Escorts.

WS12

Following escort arrangements are intended:  
(1) Durban portion W.S.12 to Durban, DEVONSHIRE.  
(ii) Capetown portion W.S.12, Cape to Durban, DERBYSHIRE.

→(iii) 24 Gold Coast Brigade, Durban to Cape, ALCANTARA.

→(iv) 24 Gold Coast Brigade, Cape to Takoradi HAWKINS.

DEVONSHIRE requires quick docking at either Durban 2/11 or Simonstown about 4/11 if possible.

→ 24 Gold Coast Brigade convoy to be known as C.F.3 from date of leaving Durban.

(C. in C. S.A., 1345N/15 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

DEVONSHIRE.

Will form part of South Atlantic Command and will be administered by C. in C. S.A. Stn. (C. in C. S.A., 1351N/15 to S.A. Stn).

S. L. 90

Departure October (15th) with VANSITTART, ASTER, ARMERIA, STARWORT, CYCLAMEN, (?GURKHA) (S.O.(I) Freetown 2211N/15 to Admty).

W.S.12

My 2201N/14 (N.T. in W.D.) Your 2153A/15 to S.O.(I) Freetown only. For convoy W.S.14 read convoy W.S.12. (S.O.(I) Freetown 2345N/15 to Admty).

War Diary.

15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Genoa  
Sink-at-sight  
Zone.

Your 1058/7. Question of extending zone off Genoa is under constant review, but politically the moment is not opportune for raising the question. Only with difficulty has consent been obtained to attacks on Spanish vessels within existing Mediterranean zones.

2. Any new extension to existing zones must be declared owing to possibility of French or Spanish vessels being attacked therein. Inclusion of Corsica in any declared extension is likely to have serious political repercussions in Vichy, which might go so far as active countermeasures by French Fleet. This is unacceptable under present conditions.

3. Permission is, however, being sought to apply instruction in para. 5 of A.T. 2021/20/2 to territorial waters of Metropolitan France and Corsica.

4. A consolidated version of Sink-at-Sight instructions for the Mediterranean will be issued shortly.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 0044A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TALISMAN,  
TETRARCH,  
REGENT.

Your 1425B/2. Examination of TALISMAN port engine show that cracks have extended slightly in last patrol but vessel is still considered fit for service. Propose therefore that TETRARCH should proceed to U.S.A. for refit leaving Alexandria 17/10 to Malta direct carrying stores thence on to Gibraltar after one or two days, thence direct to U.S.A. Further propose that REGENT on completion of rest period after present patrol should sail about 5/11 with stores for Malta thence to Gibraltar thence to U.K. as necessary to embark special gear for silencing thence to U.S.A.

(Capt. S.L., 0851B/15 to C. in C. Med)  
Approved. (C. in C. Med., 1129B/16).

Tobruk.

Minesweeping summary week ending 12/10. One minelaying raid, two non parachute mines laid outside harbour. Mines swept. Two red magnetic together 5/10 by LL double pulsing thought laid 30/9.

(S.B.N.O. Tobruk, 1032B/15).

/A.2.....



War Diary.15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.A.2 and A.7  
Sunk.

My 2304/12, para. 2.  
Lighters A.2 and A.7 left Tobruk at 1900/11 after unloading and have not been reported since. Air search has revealed no trace. Both lighters now presumed sunk probably to enemy U-boat or aircraft during night 12/13. Fear no survivors. Recent Italian claims may refer. (C. in C. Med., 1033B/15 to Admty).

New type  
mine.

N.L.O. Black Sea reports new type of enemy mine found near Odessa. Said to be fired either by magnetism or shadow by means of photo-electric. Details have been asked for. Russian ask whether we have information of any other new type enemy mine. (Adm. Miles, Moscow, 1054C/15 to Admty)

Enemy Units  
THORN.  
REGENT.

My 2317B/14 to THORN only. Confirmed convoy of two ships with destroyer escort will pass through following position at time stated. 1900 B/15, 284 midday 106. 0500B/16 241 midday 110. E.T.A. 032° 02' 020° 04', 0001B/17. (Capt. S.1., 1100B/15 to THORN, REGENT).

OTUS.

OTUS with cargo of fuel sailed from 32° 05' 20° 01' 14th for 32° 45' 22° 40'. (Capt. S.1., 1121B/15 to TORBAY).

Benghazi  
bombed.

Night 13/14. 11 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour. Day 14/10. 5 Blenheims attacked a landing ground near Gambut. 6 Marylands bombed Benghazi Harbour in afternoon causing explosion and large fire on Juliana Mole between coal store and seaplane base. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1123/15)

P.31  
UNIQUE.  
UPRIGHT.

P.31 adjust speed to make passage 038° 00' 011° 44' to 037° 16' 012° 56' submerged on 19th thence direct by N.W. (?) passage to arrive Marsamxett before dark on 20th. UNIQUE leaves patrol p.m./17 through 038° 40' 011° 50' to make same passage as above on 20th to arrive 21st. UPRIGHT leaves Malta p.m./18 making N.W. passage through Q.B.B. 65 during daylight 19th then to operate West of 012° 00'. P.31 to attempt S.S.T. communication to 19th. Movements of RORQUAL follows. (Capt. S.10 1255A/15 to UNIQUE P.31).

/LE TRIOMPHANT...

War Diary.

15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

LE  
TRIUMPHANT,  
LEOPARD.

LE TRIUMPHANT 1900M/9 and previous signals. Following programme for LE TRIUMPHANT has been agreed between Admty and Adm. Comdg. F.N.F.L. for passage from Pacific to Mediterranean. Auckland 28/10 - 1/11, Noumea 4 - 9/11, Brisbane 11 - 12/11, Port Darwin, 18 - 19/11, Batavia 23 - 24/11, Singapore 25 - 28/11, Colombo 2 - 4/12, Aden 10/12, Suez 13/12. C. in C. China is requested to arrange for the call at Batavia with N.E.I. authorities. Adm. Comdg. F.N.F.L. requests that on arrival in Mediterranean LE TRIUMPHANT should visit Alexandria and Beirut. F.F.S. LEOPARD will also leave U.K. on completion of repairs in December for Eastern Mediterranean where she and LE TRIUMPHANT will form a division under orders of C. in C. Med. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1412A/15 to C. in C. Med., etc).

LL Sweepers.

-Your 1837A/13. Vital importance of Abadan oil supplies and difficult local conditions for sweeping make it essential that a nucleus LL force should be established there before the threat develops. Such a force is now either there or on the way, SNAPDRAGON has been ordered to join you by A.M.1543A/14. Until situation deteriorates it is not intended to divert any more to that area. Passage of reinforcements has been delayed largely by breakdowns and following is the actual situation today:-  
Whalers CALM and HAILSTORM "LL" S.A. no tails arrived Aden 12/10.  
Trawlers, CORDELA and NORSE "LL" S.A. arrived Durban 6/10.  
Trawler LORD IRWIN "LL" S.A. left Capetown 9/10.  
167 Group "LL" due to complete in South Africa 15/10.  
Whaler FIRMAMENT "LL" S.A. no tail left Lagos 10/10.  
Whaler DAYBREAK "LL" S.A. no tail arrived Lagos 12/10.  
Group 168 comprising NOBLE NORAH, EGELAND, JOHN WILLIAMSON and TRANSVALZIA on passage to fit out in Mediterranean. A further 12 "LL" trawlers are due to leave U.K. this year for the East and will be allocated later.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1756A/15 to C. in C. Med).

/Return.....

War Diary.

15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Return of  
Aircraft to  
fleet.

Your 1409B/5 to F.O.H. As a result of recent experience in Mediterranean, what amendments are proposed to para 13 of S.P. 02312(2)? (D.S.D., 1810A/15 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Raid.

Night 14/15 Oct. 1 alert 0212 to 0327 hours, 9 raiders approached, only 4 crossed Coast, bombs on land and in sea, no damage or casualties. Hurricanes up no illuminations no interceptions. (R.A.F., Malta, 1830/15).

M/V  
believed  
torpedoed.

4  
Day 15/10. 34 Swordfish despatched attack 7000 ton M/V (see my 1.180 14/10) sighted same towed by tug 0600 hours 012° Zuara 70 miles, course S.W. One A/C launched torpedo 0025 hours result unobserved remaining A/C saw tug only 0050 hours. All aircraft returned. This M/V not seen today's Reccos. (R.A.F., Malta, 1830/15).

Rioting in  
Yugoslavia.

Information good diplomatic source (?Germans) (?Italians) evacuated Montenegro in face of (?local) rioting. Bar bombarded from sea. German Air Force co-operated all reprisals Bosnia. Continuous bombing completely destroyed Uzice. (?Montenegro) rioting 1abbc west of (?Belgrade) (M.A. Ankara, 2022/15 to W.O.)

Guerilla  
forces.  
Yugoslavia.

Following for C. in C. from Chiefs of Staff No. 182.  
1. King of Yugoslavia has made a personal and urgent appeal to the Prime Minister for assistance to be given to guerilla forces now fighting in his country.  
2. From our point of view revolt is premature, but patriots have thrown their caps over the fence and must be supported by all possible means.  
3. Help can only come from M.E; important you should do all you can as quickly as you can. Please inform us what you are already doing and what further help you can give without prejudice to other operations, also whether we can do anything from this end. Patriots report that aerodromes at Preljina, Chachak, and Pozega are in their hands, and their headquarters is at Suvobor. (V.C.N.S., 2206A/15 to C. in C. Med).

365

War Diary.15.10.41.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Co-operation  
with Russia.

Your 0606Z/8 (N.T. in W.D.) See my 14438/G of 3/10. According to information received from Tiflis Mission useless sending Officer until Russians agree. To War Office only. In view of probable importance naval situation Caspian request you obtain early sanction from Russians. (C. in C.India, 0035/15 to C. in C.E.I., repeated W.O.)

Troop  
Transport,  
S.A. to M.E.,  
C.M. 18.

Your 1852/14 para. 3. Para. 1, concur with your proposals. Escorts can only be provided from Durban or vicinity of Durban in each case. Para. 2. Intend ARONDA and STRATHEDEN to be known as convoy C.M.18. (C. in C.E.I., 0800Z/15 to P.S.T.O., Simonstown.)

AUSTRALIA,  
escort of  
monsters.

Your 1626/13 either alternative suits providing 20-knot convoy is not run before 14/11. (C. in C.E.I., 0802Z/15 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

SNAPDRAGON.

Admty., 1543/14. (i) Comply. (ii) Report intended programme for SNAPDRAGON. (C. in C.E.I., 0804Z/15, to S.N.O.P.G.)

DRAGON.  
TEVIOTCBANK.

Your 0634Z/13/10/41. Intended programme leave Cape of Good Hope P.M./16, leave Durban P.M./21, leave Mauritius P.M./28, arriving at Colombo 6/11. (DRAGON, 1412B/15 to C. in C.E.I.)

*Cancelled 20/10 - See 10,483*Red Sea  
Command.

C. in C. Mediterranean's 1950/10. Do you concur in change taking place on 21/10? (A.C.N.S.(F) 2200A/15 to C. in C. E.I.)  
Reply: Yes (1336Z/16.)

China.SCHARNHORST.  
(German.)

Now reported (A.1) that though rumours of departure have been prevalent recently, no signs of taking fuel or stores, nor has ship been docked for over 2 years. (D.S., 771, 15/10.)

/Japanese.....

**MOST SECRET**~~M E S S A G E~~

2320/15th October.

MOST SECRET

IN

From C. in C. India.

Date 16.10.41.

Recd. 0845.

CIPHER.

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Addressed The War Office.02282 SD/15315/G cipher 15/10. Most Secret  
Increases Force Iraq. Our 11434 Q of 20 August

and subsequent interchange of telegrams.

First. In planning for increased forces in Iraq to total four British Divisions and six Indian Divisions and thirty squadrons R.A.F. certain major problems discussed following paragraphs are involved.

Essential decisions are reached as early as possible and India authorised to place necessary orders and assemble reserves to implement this scheme owing time lag between placing orders and the arrival of stores requirements of increase of garrison cannot be met in near future unless action is taken now to prepare for operation of the scheme.

Action already taken in respect supplies.

Second. This telegram is intended to give a resume of the stages reached in planning the various items involved. Each item will be the subject of a detailed telegram which will follow in near future.

Third. Personnel. Proposal for increase has considerable bearing on Indian ceiling for man power. This is subject of our 4608 of first Oct. to which early reply is requested.

Further to enable adequate planning and placing of orders essential to know how many of British Divisions will be Armoured.

/Fourth.....

Fourth. Transportation Units. Sanction for requirements of docks railway and I.W.T. Units received. Revised organisation I.W.T. under compilation and early reply our 13616/Q of 22 Sept. essential. Requirements for Iraq and India have been considered in calculations up to date. Requirements for Russian project and trans-Persia Route under consideration and will be subject of separate telegram.

Fifth. Base installations and base and L. of C. Troops. India is providing full quota of base and L. of C. Troops less Third Line Workshop Maintenance with each Indian Division. Understand you will make full provision with each British Division. Require information concerning provision additional base Units which may not be considered part of Divisions e.g. Base Workshops and anti-aircraft Units etc. in order that India may have clear picture request full details of complement of Units included in normal British Divisions and details of Base and L. of C. and non Div. Units over and above these which it is proposed to send. As regards number of M.P.V.s per Div. details required separately of those requiring aviation spirit, motor spirit and fuel oil. In view British man power implecation question of reducing certain British Units which would accompany Divisions with equivalent Indian Units now being considered.

Sixth. Reserves of foodstuffs and lubricants. Provision of additional accommodation for reserves in expansion of the base in India has been sanctioned in your 94740(Q(Ops)) of Ninth Oct. action being taken for provision.

/Seventh .....

# MOST SECRET

Seventh. Reserves of motor spirit and containers.

Requirements of reserves to be held in Iraq and India now being examined see 14196/Q of first Oct. and 14361/Q of Second Oct.

Eighth. Reserves of ammunition. War Office policy not yet ascertained regarding scales and location. Question of additional storage accommodation and location of reserves dependent on H.M.G. policy.

Ninth. Reserves Ordnance Stores Indian Origin. Provision for Indian Divisions arranged. C.P.O. have been approached concerning provision for four British Divisions. Will address you separately on subject of four British Divisions after consulting C.P.O.

Tenth. Reserves Ordnance Stores U.K. origin. Confirm that action being taken by you for provision these reserves.

Eleventh. R.E. Stores. No authority yet for placing orders these stores and provision additional storage accommodation. This is now being asked for in separate telegram.

Twelfth. Aviation spirit and aero lubricant. Responsibility for arranging reserve and maintenance supplies does not devolve on India and no action taken. Consider that system of coordinating petrol supply organisation Middle East,

Iraq and India necessary and letter was sent to Intendant General on subject. Our 58498/Q of 15 Sept. refers not to Troopers. No replies received to either.

Thirteenth. Additional accommodation. Requirements for expanded base India for M.G.O. services calculated but no authority yet for construction. Separate telegram will be sent asking for this.

/Fourteenth .....

Fourteenth. Additional R.A.F. Squadrons. Arrangements including Hospital and all medical personnel not our responsibility.

Fifteenth. For placing orders for reserves consider that calculations for additional forces should be based on the scales at present laid down for Iraq. Is this agreed to.

Sixteenth. Medical reserves for British Divs. Our No. 14724/G of 8/10 refers.

2320/15.

Received from War Office 0105/18

War Office circulation:

S. of S.	A.G.L.	F.L.
C.I.G.S.	D.D.G.A.M.S.	D.Plans. Admiralty.
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M.O. 1, 5, 12(10)	E.(Ops)(3 copies)	War Cabinet Office (Lt.
D.P.	D.G.A.E.	Col. Jacob).
D.M.I.	Q.(O.S.) 2, 3, 4.	M.O. 1, J.P. (Lt. Col.
D.D.M.I.(O)	D.Q.	Thompson).
M.I. 2.	D.Tn.	D.S.D.
D.S.D.(W)	D.D.Tn.(O)	D.D.S.D.
D.D.S.D.(W)	Tn. 1, 2.	S.D. 1, 2.
S.D. 8, 12.	D. Mov.	D.F.(C).
D.A.A. & C.D.	Q(M) 3.	W.F.
A.A. 4.	D.S.T.	D.D.A.E.
D.A.F.V.	S.T. 2, 3, 6.	
A.F.V.I.	D.W.S.	
D. of O.	D.O.S.	
D.D. of O. (L)	D.M.M.	
D.D. of O. (P)	D.F.W.	

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

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

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

A.C.N.S.W.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D. of P.(2).

D.O.D.(H).

D.D.O.D.(H).

D.O.D.(F).

D.D.O.D.(F).

D.N.I.(4).

D.S.D.

D.N.A.D.

D. of L.D.

D.A/S.W.

Admiral Palliser

D.M.S.

I.P.(2).

W.D.

Duty Captain.

Hd. of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D.(2).

N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr.

Wilson.

D.G.D.



War Diary.

15.10.41.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China Contd.

Japanese  
Ship stopped  
by M.T.B.

Ref. Cdre i/c Hong Kong's 1501/12. You should register a protest with Japanese S.N.O. on grounds that vessel refused to stop when ordered and refused permission to board, such action being liable to lead to unfortunate incidents. It should be pointed out that Japanese ship was wearing no colours and Cdre i/c Hong Kong confirms that she was carrying no other distinguishing marks or flag. The incident (?was) (?particularly) aggravated in that it took place inside British territorial waters.  
(C. in C. China, 0211Z/15, to N.L.O.Shanghai.)

N.E.I.Navy  
and R.D.F.

Enquiry has been received from (? C. in C.) N.E.I., Naval Force, as to practical use and technical details R.D.F., together with request for instruction course for N.E.I. personnel. He states Dutch Ministry for Navy informs him that R.D.F., sets are being bought in England. Request confirmation and instructions as to how much information may be given.  
(C. in C. China, 0915Z/15, to Admty.)

Mines.

Your 0833/7 and 0133/13. Supply of mines will be arranged accordingly.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1614A/15 to C. in C. China.)

War Diary.15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.PASTEUR  
Convoy  
C.T.4.

Your 1554/11. Call at Halifax is still necessary to disembark bulk of passengers although a few may remain on board for Quebec. (D.S.T. 0743A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

CIRCASSIA.  
WORCESTER-  
SHIRE.

B.A.D. Washington 1801R/14. In redistribution of remaining A.M.C's request consideration be given to allocation of one vessel to A. & W.I. Station to work as a pair with CIRCASSIA. I would prefer WORCESTERSHIRE in view of her high endurance, which would be of great value should it be necessary to employ this pair in the Pacific. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1031Q/15 to Admty.)

Leeward Is.

Governor Leeward Islands No. 352 of 4/10 to Chapelries, London. Consider that proposal to provide dredged channel and deep water quay is well worth immediate examination and putting into effect if at all possible. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1241Q/15 to Admty.)

Task  
Force 2.

Cancel A.M. 1834/14 and 1303A/12.  
Reorganisation of Task Force 2.  
Group 2.5. RANGER, PHILADELPHIA, LANG, WILSON, assigned Bermuda Group.  
Group 2.6. YORKTOWN, BROOKLYN, SAVANNAH, WAINWRIGHT, MAYRANT, TRIPPE, RHIND, ROWAN, assigned Argentinia Group.  
Group 2.7. WASP, NASHVILLE, STACK, STERRETT, assigned Hampton Roads Group.  
Group 14.3. Composed of NEW MEXICO, ANDERSON, HAMMANN, HUGHES and Group 2.6. (D.O.D. (F) 1647A/15 to C.in C., A.W.I., etc.).

A.M.C's.

A.M. 1248A/6/9, 1603A/10 and B.A.D. 1801R/14. It has been decided that AURANIA, WORCESTERSHIRE, ALAUNIA, AUSONIA, MONTCLARE, ASCANIA and CALIFORNIA will cease to form the Halifax Escort Force.  
2. These ships will be allocated to other foreign stations after giving leave in U.K.  
3. In addition CHITRAL already allocated to E. Indies will also return to the U.K. to give leave.  
4. A further signal will be made when arrangements for A/S escorts have been completed. (A.C.N.S.(H) and (F) 1655A/15 to C.in C. A.W.I. etc.)

/Suspicious .....

War Diary.

15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Suspicious  
Ship report  
9/10.

Your 1534Z/12 (N.T. in W.R.) Your 1618Z/30/9 and 1404Z/2/10. Reported (Norg) FERNGLEN due Balbao 9/10 from Los Angeles routed approx. 100 off Acapulco. Ship did not arrive until 10/10. Suggest this possibly ship sighted. Ship due Boston 21/10. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1734R/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

NORSELAND.

Your 1248R/5. NORSELAND. Owners report vessel repairing Balboa. Please confirm. (D.T.D. 1758A/15 to S.O.I. Jamaica).

DIOMEDE.

Esquimalt departure DIOMEDE for San Francisco. (S.O.I. Esquimalt 1832Z/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

ROODE ZEE

Your 2208A/6. Can any date for release of ROODE ZEE now be given? (D.T.D. 1833A/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Reply: 1622/16.

BACININ  
PADRE.  
(ex Italian)

Venezuelan Govt. has moved from Caripito to Puerto Cabello where she arrived on 14/10. (D.S. 771 15/10).

Australia.

CHIOS.

My 0103Z/14. Vessel arrived Fremantle 14/10. (A.C.N.B. 0126Z/15 to Admty.)

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War Diary.15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.A.2, A.7.

Lighters, presumed sunk off Tobruk. (C. in C. Med., 1033B/15) See Mediterranean.

S.C.48.  
first  
attack,  
2 ships  
torpedoed.

Convoy S.C.48 attacked 053° 36' 030° 00'. (WETASKIWIN 0705Z/15).  
 My 0705Z/15, attacked at 0700Z by submarine in 053° 34' N. 029° 57' W. 2 ships torpedoed. Have only four corvettes with escort. Am acting on your (203 or 02) 41Z/14 will be 4 hours late at M.O.M.P. Visibility good, wind N.W. 4 convoy together but 10 stragglers including Commodore. (WETASKIWIN, 1001Z/15 to U.S. Chief of Naval Operations).  
 D/F bearings at 0840Z/15, 0943Z/15, 1046Z/15, 1158Z/15, 1244Z/15 and 1358Z/15 indicate that Convoy S.C.48 is being shadowed and reported by one or more U-boats. (D.D.I.C. 1558A/15 to Opnav, C.C.N.F. etc.)  
 Admty. 1558A/15 and WETASKIWIN's 0705Z/15 now being passed to all addressees. COLUMBIA S.O. escort and only destroyer with S.C. 48 is short legger. May have already parted company or shortly may be obliged to do so. (C.C.N.F. 1710Z/15 to Admty. U.S.C.N.O.)

S.C.48  
second  
attack.

S.C. 48 attacked one ship torpedoed in 054° 55' N. 027° 15' W. (COLUMBIA 2330Z/15 to Admty.)

S.S. VANCOUVER  
ISLAND.

Following received via Liverpool W/T: SSSS 53.37 N. 25.37 W. VANCOUVER ISLAND torpedoed, received two torpedoes. (VANCOUVER ISLAND, 2057/15) British, 9472 tons, torpedoed about 550 miles W. of Slyne Head. Bound independently from Montreal for Belfast and Cardiff with general cargo. (D.S. 772, 16/10).  
 Following received from Admiralty. "VANCOUVER ISLAND independently routed to U.K. torpedoed at 2057/15, 053° 37' N. 025° 37' W. Suggest DIANTHUS and ACONIT~~X~~ from O.N. 24 be sent to her assistance". Concur. Direct vessels named if still in company to proceed. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa pass to DIANTHUS and ACONIT~~X~~. (U.S. C.N.O. 2345Z/15 to Comdr. Task Unit 4.1.4., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Submarines Reported.

0959.

One submarine bearing 350° distance 7 miles course unknown. My position 36° 15' N. 9° 45' W. (CROOME, 0959/15 to Whitehall W/T).  
 My 0959. Submarine previously reported has dived. (CROOME 1006/15).

0959 cont: - - - -  
/F.O.C.N.A.....

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War Diary.15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported-Contd.

0959 F.O.C.N.A.'s 1101 (N.T. in W.R.) My position 035°  
-Contd. 21' N. 009° 47' W. (CROOME, 1203/15 to  
TOTLAND, SENNEN).  
My 0959, contact not obtainable. Asdic temporarily  
out of action, am proceeding. (CROOME 1227/15  
to F.O.C.N.A.)

0709Z D/F bearings at 0709Z/15 indicate U/Boat  
possibly in your vicinity. Very indefinite  
position. (D.D.I.C. 1046/15 to Escorts for  
H.G. 74, CILICIA, BRADFORD).

0921C. Bearing by D/F at 0921C/15 position of enemy  
U-Boat was 068° 25' 042° 10' Reliable fix.  
Admiralty pass to SUFFOLK, HARRIER. (S.B.N.O.  
Murmansk 1056C/15 to Admty.)

0840Z. D/F at 0840Z/15 indicates indefinite position  
of U/Boat. Approx. 54° N. 27° W. (D.D.I.C.  
1142A/15 to S & A. W. App).

1046Z. D/F Bearings at 1046Z/15 indicate U/boat within  
50' of 54° 40' N. 30° W. (D.D.I.C. 1233A/15  
to A.I.G. 62 etc.)

White Sea.

From D/F reports received of U-Boats during  
October, 2 appear to be operating approaches  
White Sea. One within 30 miles radius 69°  
08' E. and second between Svytoi Nos and Cape  
Kanin. Admiralty pass to SUFFOLK.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1309C/15 to Admty.)

1158Z. D/F bearings at 1158Z/15 indicate U-boat in  
approx. 53° 30' N. 31° - 32° W.  
(D.D.I.C. 1330A/15 to A.I.G. 62 etc.)

Estimated dispositions of U/B's in Atlantic.  
(D.D.I.C. 1432A/15).

1615Z. 1 S/M submerged bearing 254 12 miles course  
350° position 13° 20' N. 17° 6' W.  
(A/C E., 204 Sqdn. 1615Z/15).  
Have lost touch with enemy submarine last seen  
in 13° 20' N. 17° 6' W. P.C. and S. of enemy  
are SFXX 2693 (indecipherable) 350° 6, am pro-  
ceeding as ordered. (A/C E. 204 Sqdn. 1700Z/15  
to Freetown W/T).

S/M situation 15/10.  
(U.S.C.N.O. 2120/15 to C. in C. A.F.)

" /2057.....

War Diary.

15.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

2057 G.M.T.

Admty. message A.F. Position 53° 37' N. 25° 37' W. at 2057/15 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2145Z/15 to G.B.M.S. Area 1.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C and  
VASCAMA.

25/8.

U. 452

(C.M.D. 6843.)

T.L. consider that the attacks carried out on a German U-boat on 25/8/41 first by Aircraft "J" of 209 Squadron and then by VASCAMA probably achieved its destruction by cumulative damage. (1st S.L. 1903A/15).

*(Confirmed by comd 6843 - 1946.)*

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

WOLFE and MALOJA on arrival in U.K. about 22/10 are to be re-converted to trade.

Co-operation.

Several signals yesterday and today illustrate the difficulty of co-operation between allies (Great Britain and U.S.A) without unified command.

E.C. and E.N. convoys.

E.C. convoys are to be suspended and E.N. convoys and reinstated about 1 November, for the period of winter.

Operations by TIGRIS.

TIGRIS has returned from patrol off Svaerholt-havet. She expended all her torpedoes but only observed one certain hit on a merchant ship in escorted westbound convoy on 14/10.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, who has been repairing at Glasgow, arrived at Scapa today and will join the Home Fleet temporarily.

British Air Operations.

Bad weather caused operations last night to be curtailed. A minor attack was made on Boulogne Docks.

8 Hurricanes on offensive patrol this morning attacked and damaged vessels at Flushing.

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S.521 was bombed at 1859 in 53° 20' N. 1° 1' E. No damage is reported. Fighters shot down the attacker.

Some damage to Naval Offices ashore was caused by air raid on Yarmouth last night.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the mouth of the Humber.

North Atlantic.

With the present convoy routes F.O.C.N.A. wishes a rescue tug to be stationed at the Azores or Funchal.



War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

18 Wellingtons bombed the harbour and shipping at Benghazi last night.

9 enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk harbour last night. No damage is reported. The shelling of Tobruk by shore batteries has increased.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy  
S.C.48.

This convoy is still being pursued by several U-boats. The position of the convoy at 1100 was about 56° N. 27° W. At 1725A today an aircraft attacked a submarine on the surface in 55° 58' N. 26° 59' W. and estimates one hit. The convoy was attacked at 2220 and 2330 (see 17/10).

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TIGRIS.

My 1041C/16. Spare torpedoes are not expected to arrive from Archangel before 22/10. Do you approve for TIGRIS to return to U.K. with no torpedoes on board. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1309C/16 to F.O.S.)

TRINIDAD.

The following programme of sea trials is proposed. (TRINIDAD, 1651/16).

13th M/S  
Flotilla.

A.M.1859B/18/6. Request information when the 13th M.S.F. will join my Command. (C. in C. Plymouth 1714/16).

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Information  
of U.S.  
Forces  
movements.

Your 2230/15. I was not aware of departure of U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP. Request you will give me earliest possible information of movements of U.S. forces and of their dispositions. (C. in C. H.F., 1123A/16 to A.C.I.C.) Replies to my 1739/15 show that carrier has been withdrawn from Iceland, and Denmark Strait Patrol discontinued, without my being informed. This illustrates unsatisfactory nature of present arrangement. At first sign of activity by enemy units I intend to institute patrol of Denmark Strait by 8 inch cruisers supported by one battleship and VICTORIOUS, and patrol of Iceland Faeroes Passage by 6 inch cruisers (supported by one battleship). Admiral Giffen was informed of this. He was obviously anxious to co-operate but is handicapped by necessity to consult Opnav and is not allowed to communicate direct with me. It is essential that I should be kept constantly informed of U.S. patrols maintained and forces available to support them, and of intended alterations. Request urgent steps may be taken to ensure this. (C. in C. H.F., 1332A/16 to Admty). Your 1123A/16. This will be done in future. (A.C.I.C., 1714/16 to C. in C. H.F.) It would appear that our information of U.S. forces operating in the North Atlantic is not very complete. 2. In order that our combined forces may be constantly prepared to co-operate I feel it is essential that we should keep each other mutually informed by daily signals of the movements of our respective forces in the Atlantic. 3. I should be most grateful, therefore, if you would give consideration to keeping me informed and I would then be responsible for seeing that all our forces concerned receive all information that is necessary.

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Information  
of U.S. Forces  
movements -  
Contd.

4. Would you like to have information as to important movements of H.M. Ships east of the Western Hemisphere Defence Zone?  
(V.C.N.S., 2308A/16 to C.N.O. Washington).

Demonstration  
of British  
A/C  
Methods.

Reports received from our observers with the U.S. Navy show the great desirability of demonstrating our methods of organisation and conduct of air searches, and of accuracy of aircraft navigation, enemy reporting and shadowing. It is possible that this might be arranged in INDOMITABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS, and FORMIDABLE, who it is hoped will work up for a week or ten days at Bermuda for gunnery and day flying followed by two weeks at Jamaica for night flying starting with INDOMITABLE at the end of October. 2. Perhaps you may find a suitable opportunity to tell the U.S. authorities that we hope to send our carriers to work up in these waters and that if they would care to send suitable officers to study our methods we would welcome them, since we too would benefit by their presence. (D.O.D. (F), 1631A/16 to B.A.D.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Iokanskie  
Harbour  
as M/S  
Base.

I.S.T.S. report dated 11/8/41 on Kola Peninsula etc. page 41/43. If circumstances permit investigate possibilities of using Iokanskie harbour as an alternative base for minesweepers and other escorts. (C. in C. H.F., 1047A/16 to 1st M/S Flotilla).

Movements.

SUFFOLK.

My 1914Z/15. SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE, ESCAPADE returned to Archangel in accordance with Admty 2223A/15. (SUFFOLK, 0007Z/16).  
Your 2223A/15. Request estimated duration of stay here to enable decision between navigational operational disadvantage of going again above river bar and A/S security advantage.  
(SUFFOLK, 1341Z/16 to Admty).

/NORMAN.....

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

NORMAN.

Expect to arrive Seidis Fiord 1200N/20.  
(NORMAN, 0900C/16).

P.36.

Amend my 1650A 15th one hour late.  
(WHITE BEAR, 0931A/16),

H.31.

Intend to sail H.31 for Rothesay Southabout on 20/10, escorted by one destroyer to Dungeness passing Sand Head Buoy at dusk 20th thence diving by day to rendezvous with escort in vicinity Lizard Head.

(C. in C. Nore, 1024A/16).

My 1024A/16 and my 1020A/16. Sailing of H.31 from Sheerness is now amended to 21/10.

(C. in C. Nore, 1426A/16).

Your 1024A/16. H.31 to R/V with BREDA at 0730A /24. (S.7., 1456A/16 to C. in C. Nore).

A.F.D.14.

My 1800/13. Delays during tests prevent A.F.D. XIV being ready to sail until 20th. Request arrangements for escort may be postponed accordingly. Admiralty confirm that crane will not be fitted. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1058/16).

Admiralty's 1724A/13 and F.O.I.C. Tyne's 1058/16.

(1) F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail A.F.D.

XIV towed by Tug EMPIRE HENCHMAN a.m. 20th (if weather conditions are suitable) to Scapa escorted by 2 12-pounder Trawlers from Tyne Sub-Command.

(2) A.C.O.S. is requested to provide 2 A/S Trawlers to relieve the Tyne trawlers at 32 Buoy at time and date to be signalled by F.O.I.C. Tyne. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1755/16).

INDOMITABLE.

Admiralty's 0005/3. INDOMITABLE will now leave U.K. on 17/10. (D.O.D. H., 1256A/16).

INDOMITABLE arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1808A/16).

CANTON.

Will be ready for service 17/10.  
(S.O.W.P., 1540A/16).

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

TIGRIS  
report.  
One M/V  
torpedoed  
on 14/10.

TIGRIS arrived from patrol Svaerholthavet with all torpedoes expended. Following attacks. Details.  
(c) At 1040C/14 in about 71° 5' N., 27° 3' E., 3 Merchant vessels 3,000 to 5,000 tons westbound escort 4 trawlers 4 aircraft. 3 torpedoes fired at second ship, one hit certain, 2 torpedoes at rear of ship, result unknown. Small number of depth charges dropped subsequently during 2 hours hunt. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1041C/16).

W/T signals  
in Atlantic.

The rapidity and reliability of W/T communication -during the heavy weather experienced recently in the Atlantic reflect credit on the W/T and Coding Staffs of Escorts many of whom were working under new and exacting conditions. KEPPEL, NORTHERN GEM, MALCOM, SUNFLOWER and SARDONYX were noted particularly. SARDONYX maintained W/T communication using Jury rig after losing her foremast.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1646A/16).

GRAPH.

(ex-U.570)

See Oct 3, p 54

I should like to send my official photographer to obtain interior photographs of GRAPH for the immediate instruction of boarding parties of my escort vessels. If you concur, it is proposed for him to arrive P.M./17 and to work during the night. (C. in C. W.A., 1831A/16 to F.O.S.)

Your 1831A/16. Certainly. GRAPH has been informed. (F.O.S., 1931A/16).

Northern  
S/M patrol  
zones.

Your 1824A/15. Submarine patrol zones in use by Soviet and British S/Ms. are established off North Coast of Norway between 20° E., and 26° 30' E., and also in Varanger Fiord. Seven zones exist in this area at present time, but limits and number of zones in force are frequently altered to meet changing situation and number of S/Ms. available. Zones are under revision at present time. S/Ms. proceeding to and from patrol zones are at present routed between 72 North and 72 30 North.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2210C/16).

Cable Laying.

Intend to proceed 1400A/17 if MARIE LOUISE MACKAY considers weather has moderated sufficiently.  
(WOOLSTON, 2210A/16). See p. 381

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

North "Stand" in operation.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0729/16).  
"Bert" now in operation.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1047/16).  
"Bert" and "Stand" in operation.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1505/16).  
Request photographic R/C of Hamburg, Kiel, and Oslo at earliest opportunity.  
(D.D.I.C., 1736A/16)

Beaufort II  
A/C.

Beaufort II aircraft have been released for service in the R.A.F. and will be seen flying in all areas forthwith. These aircraft bear Coastal Command Operational camouflage colouring and marking. Request confirmation of notifications to all pilots and A/A Defences.  
(Air Ministry, 1103/16).

Havre and  
Boulogne  
bombed.  
12,000 ton  
tanker  
destroyed.

On 15/10 twelve A/C attacked shipping at Havre and destroyed one 12,000 ton tanker. On night 15/16 three A/C bombed the Docks at Boulogne.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1240/16).

Enemy Air Activity.

Yarmouth  
bombed.

Yarmouth bombed night 15/16. Pay Offices and supply stores in Bloomfields Building badly damaged by near miss. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0725A/16 1510/16).

H.S.Ls 112  
and 145  
attacked on  
15/10.

At 1247/15 H.S.L. 112 from Portsmouth and H.S.L. 145 from Newhaven were attacked by enemy aircraft in V7272. Casualties in both boats.  
(H.Q. No. 11 Group 1200/16). See p. 353

Convoy  
F.3521.

Enemy aircraft are bombing convoy "Plumb" in 53° 20' N., 1° 1' E.  
(VERDUN, 1859/16).

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweep of  
Q.Z.S.117 and  
151.

My 1807A/15. Intend to postpone movement 24 hours to allow weather to moderate sufficiently for sweeping. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1253A/16)

Firth of  
Forth.

My letter 90/016 dated 4/10. Clearance completed. All mines swept with exception of No. 3. Check "A" sweep carried out today has failed to locate this mine and it must be considered to have been a married failure to have sunk or to have gone adrift. (Capt. Port Edgar, 1757/16).

4th M/S  
Flotilla.  
Clearing  
operation.

My 2053A/13. If collier LAKELAND too late substitute LESTO. (D. of S., 1929A/16 to A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian  
Coastal  
shipping.

Report graded B.2. states following ships arrived from North at 1700Z/15. One ship 18,000 tons loaded, now lying at south side of Naeroy 61° 38' N., 04° 59' E. Two ships each 4,000 tons, one of which is loaded, now lying in Floroy harbour 61° 36' N., 05° 02' E. (D.D.I.C., 0315A/16).

Northern  
Coasts.

TIGRIS reports frequent traffic in both directions by 200 to 300 ton coasters. Eastbound Convoys leave Floodningsvaag at dawn every third day, through 71° 2.5' N., 27° E., thence close round Nordikin. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1041C/16)

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE  
WATERHEN.

Is anchored in 57° 42½' N., 6° 53' W., with SALISBURY standing by. Proceed with all despatch. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1135A/16 to MARAUDER)

Tug (?JAVA) has now arrived. EMPIRE WATERHEN Will have steam for working cable and steering gear by 1600. (SALISBURY, 1315A/16).

Your 1210A/16. EMPIRE WATERHEN is to be towed to Oban. On arrival Oban, and when no longer required to assist, return to Stornoway. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1625A/16 to MARAUDER)

*X cancelled P.427*

/MARIE.....

War Diary.16.10.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.MARIE LOUISE  
MACKAY.

<sup>Lough</sup>  
Aground ~~Loch~~ Foyle. Tug is standing by.  
(WOOLSTON, 0442A/16).  
MARIE LOUISE MACKAY refloated. No damage.  
Intend to proceed in accordance with programme  
when weather moderates. (WOOLSTON, 1103A/16)

*See p. 378*BEAVERBRAE  
EMPIRE  
WATERHEN

Am standing by BEAVERBRAE now anchored in 057°  
42' and 1/2 N. 006° 53' W. Am endeavouring  
inform tug. (SALISBURY, 0815A/16)

*See previous page. BEAVERBRAE struck Rock 1941. (B.R. 1337)*→ CASTLETON.

Arrived CASTLETON with defective steering gear.  
(TRELAWNEY, 0855/16).

SUPERMAN.

Sheltering at Lough Foyle attending minor  
repairs. D.G. Burned out. Request instructions.  
(SUPERMAN, 1330/16)  
Your 1330/16. Return to Greenock.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1523A/16 to SUPERMAN)

MANXMAN.

MANXMAN's 1012/15 and your 1413/15.  
1. MANXMAN can be taken in hand for oil fuel  
heater defects by Messrs. Thornycroft Southampton.  
2. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to  
arrange accordingly on completion of operation  
J.X. (D.D.O.D. M., 1345A/16).

AGHIOS  
SPYRIDON.

Departure tug SABINE at 1420 to assist AGHIOS  
SPYRIDON. (F.O. Humber, 1434A/16).

Shipping & Convoys.W.S.12 Z.  
C.T.5.

My 0729/7. Revised position as to Troopships.  
(D.S.T., 0737A/16) See Lion Copy.

S.D.14.

LANCASTER's 2110/15. Expect to effect repairs  
to CASTLETON and sail her for Hvalfjord for  
duty with S.D.14 by 1900 today.  
(R.A.M., 1039A/16).

/C. T. 4.....



**MOST SECRET**

0737A/16 October.

~~MOST SECRET~~

OUT

To P.S.T.O. West of Scotland.

Date 16. 10. 41.

D.S.T.O. Greenock.

D.S.T.O. Glasgow.

381A

D.S.T.O. Liverpool.

D.S.T.O. Avonmouth.

D.S.T.O. Cardiff.

D.S.T.O. Newport.

Naval Cypher (A.1 One Time Table)

From Director of Sea Transport.

My 0729/7 not to last two addressees. Following is revised position in regard to troopships allocated to W S 12 Z.

2. Following ships are to be prepared for convoy C T 5.

<u>Proposed Embarkation Date.</u>	<u>Liverpool</u>	<u>Clyde</u>	<u>Avonmouth</u>
27. 10	A.13	-	A.15
28.10	A.16	A.7.	-
	-	A.20.	-
29.10.	A.1	A.17	-
	A.19	-	-

3. A.11 in Liverpool and A.2. in Clyde are also to be prepared to sail with this convoy. Primarily they are to serve as reserve ships in case any of above ships are unable to sail. If they are not required for this purpose one of them preferably A.11 may be required to sail with C T 5. with additional personnel.

4. Request earliest possible reports whether above vessels will be ready in time.

5. No cargo other than equipment and no vehicles etc. will be loaded in these ships.

6. A.20 will move from Liverpool to Clyde on 19.10.

7. Embarkations in Clyde will be at Gourock.

8. Following ships will be included in convoy W S 12 Z. In Liverpool A.5. A.6. A.8. A.14 and NATAROA code number A.27. In Clyde A.9. A.10. A.12 ARUNDEL CASTLE

/code....

code number A.3. will now proceed to Cardiff to discharge and is due about 25.10. After discharge she will move Newport for embarkation which will probably take place on 4.11. In Avonmouth A.18 embarking 4.11.

9. Embarkation of Liverpool and Clyde ships will take place on 4.11 to 6.11.

10. A.4 will not now be ready in time for W. S 12 Z

11. If not included in C T 5. A.11 and/or A.2. will be included in W S 12 Z.

Q737A/16.

for Director of Sea Transport  
(Ext. 2187)

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

BIW

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

C.T.4.  
CANTON.

Reference C.T.4 and Admty 2213A/8 ANDALUCIA STAR / will  
not be ready before 24/10. (N.C.S.O. Mersey,  
1040A/16).  
Cancel A.M.1748A/15. CANTON is to be sailed  
with C.T.4 parting company at position B thence  
proceeding independently to Freetown, as ordered  
by C. in C. W.A. (A.C.N.S. H., 1906A/16)

White Sea  
Convoys.

Your 0247A/15. Please confirm standard procedure  
laid down in your 1859A/30/8 para. 3 is still  
in operation for convoys proceeding to White Sea.  
Both messages have been passed to C.S.I.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1043A/16 to Admty)

→ O.N.26.

Asdic defect and provisioning should be complete  
by 1500 today. Intend sailing independently  
shaping course for noon position O.N.26 17th,  
speed ten knots. Understand ARAB not sailing.  
NORWICH CITY has not arrived here.  
(LADY MADELINE, 1130A/16).

P.Q.2.

HARTLEBURY has engine room defect. Propose  
postponing sailing P.Q.2 until 1700/17th.  
(A.C.O.S., 1319A/16)  
Your 1319. Approved.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1614A/16 to A.C.O.S.)

O.G.  
Sailing  
Telegrams.

In view of the original route and all subsequent  
diversion signals of O.G. convoys being repeated  
to F.O.C.N.A. it is intended in future to omit  
the route from O.G. convoy sailing telegrams  
para. 5. (C. in C. W.A., 1559A/16)

H.G.74.  
T.C.14.

2 submarines escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE left  
Barrow at 0815A/16th speed 12 knots may be met  
during night. Warn ships you are escorting  
before dispersing.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1750A/16 to Escorts)

→ O.N.26.

? FARENHOLT  
Ocean escorts O.N.26 MAYO, ~~PAREN JO PAREN~~  
SCHENCK, LEARY, BROOME, BABBITT X ends.  
(Opnav, 1930Z/16).

/ E.C.....

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

E.C. and  
E.N. Convoys.

It has been decided to suspend E.C. Convoys for the winter months and to reinstitute E.N. Convoys changing over about 1/11. The arrangements now in force between Admiralty and C. in C. Rosyth, for proposing and promulgating E.C. Programmes will be continued for E.N. Convoys. (D.T.D., 2006A/16)

H.X. 153. U.

Arrived 1800/16/10. Less CHESAPEAKE anchored outside. Tug ROMSEY standing by. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 2041A/16)

Information  
from  
America.

A.C.I.C. 1404Z/10, para 6 F. Suggest following arrangements. (D. of S.T., 2054A/16)  
See Lion Copy.

S.C.49.

Change route as follows.  
(U.S. Chief of Naval Ops. 2143/16)

383A

M E S S A G E

SECRET

2054A/16th October

Addressed D.S.T.O.Reykjavik Date 16.10.41.

OUT

Following for Harvey.

NAVAL CYPHER (AOTT)

From D. of S.T.  
 Following from Ministry War Transport Cass Forty Reference  
 A.C.Iceland Signal 1404Z/10th October, paragraph 6F. We  
 are experiencing difficulty in obtaining information from  
 America as to programme and sailings. Suggest following -  
 We send you and S.T.O. information as to fixtures and  
 sailings from U.K. You should obtain Icelandic civil  
 fixtures and sailings from America through Vilhjalmsson.  
 U.S. General to obtain programme and sailings U.S. Forces  
 account. Combined programme and sailings could then be  
 considered in Iceland and if fulfilment programme appears  
 likely cause congestion agree there as to which cargoes should  
 be postponed. Do you or S.T.O. get H.X. and S.C. convoy  
 anticipated and post sailing signals these should give you  
 11/14 days notice of arrival of all ships from America, if  
 not we will have these repeated. Presume you are satisfied  
 with information of Convoy departures from U.K. Reference  
 your Telegram Cassa fortyseven shortage of labour apparently  
 aggravating congestion should be glad to have your further  
 observations as to total increase in labour required.  
 When replying please state anticipated date your return  
 London for consultation.

2054A/16

for D. of S.T. (Ext. 2222).

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Controller.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- A.C.N.S. (F).
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops (3).
- O.D. (5).
- M. (2).
- D. of S.T. (2).
- D.T.D. (4).
- D.T.D. (M)
- Admiral Bailey.
- D. of P. (3).

- E.P.S.
- D. of S.
- I.P. (3).
- W.D.

1845/16/October, 1941.

FROM: Dickens.

DATE: 19/10/41.

383 B

TIME: 1722.

C Y P H E R.

ADDRESSED: Air Ministry.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

WX. 4271 Part 1.

YAG. 39 16/10.

Following for War Transport.

From MacLay Archangel.

Repeated Moscow, for Ambassador.

Part 1. Your MAST 10.

(1) I will send details shortly although you can obtain much recent information from Admiralty and M.E.W. am however anxious to give immediate broad recommendation maximum workable size convoy to enable you to plan for next few months. Views are based on personal contact here information as to probable date of ice. Number of ice breakers promised at conference. Have also considered importance of not choking ports as railways can now only load between 2 and 3 thousand tons per day (?corrupt) and that weather proof storage is limited about 20 thousand tons.

(11) Convoys arriving here delivery now to end of November should be maximum 12 ships each every 10 days requiring 14 days to discharge and load. 9 ships can discharge at Bakharitsa with rail facility balance at Timber wharf without rail facilities all up to 22 foot draught this balance should have preferably cargo which can be man handled on quay. End first section.

1845/16.

(Advance copies sent Ops. O.D., O.I.C. & Trade).

Recd. from Air Min. 0126/20.

1st Lord.	D.E.W.D. (3).	
1st S.L.	I.P. (3).	Air Min. Circulation:-
3rd S.L.	W.D.	Min. of War Transport (Action)
4th S.L.	Adml. Herman	C.A.S.
V.C.N.S.	Hodge.	V.C.A.S.
A.C.N.S. (H).		D.C.A.S.
A.C.N.S. (T). (2).		A.C.A.S. (1).
A.C.N.S. (W).		D. of Plans.
N.A. 1st S.L.		D.A.F.L.
D. of P. (3).		A.I.3.A. (1).
O.D. (5).		Plans 1.
D.N.I. (4).		D.O.N.C.
M. (3).		D.O.O.
D.T.D. (4).		D.G.O.
D.T.D. (M).		D. of Signals.
Ops. (3).		Admiralty.

8/20/41

~~MOST SECRET~~ **MOST SECRET** MESSAGE

2105/16 Oct.

IN

From. Party 'A'.

Date. 19.10.41.  
Time. 2141.

CYPHER.

Addressed. Air Ministry.

MOST  
IMMEDIATE.

WX. 4271 Part 2.

Second section of Part 1 of my YAG 39

(iii) From early Dec. until mid-Jan. ice conditions govern number. If severe ice breakers can only bring in up to 3 ships at once and Captain Wyburd thinks it would be difficult now to find adequate (protection?) (and?) free anchorage. Unless ice conditions abnormal suggest 8 ships every 14 days with 14 days turnabout at Economia where all ships will discharge and load cargo or (ballast?) draughts 22 feet all lifting must be by ships derrick.

(iv) From mid Jan. on will depend on ability to give naval and air protection. Ships awaiting ice breakers (who?) may take up to 14 days for round trip.

(v) All ships from now on should be fully stored as if proceeding 3-4 months Polar expedition drinking water fresh provisions etc. only obtained with difficulty and delay.

(vi) Sugar and grain respirators in bags if crowded tons of such cargoes additional to that covered para. No. (ii) could be made available delivery here (6th November?). Would suggest to Soviet Authorities run up weather-proof storage for it at various (corrupt group) wharves six ships more in each convoy up to 18 ft. draught could then be handled but they must only repeat only carry cargo that can be man-handled. Such extra supplies could be railed to interior during remaining winter months.

Immediate decision necessary.

End second section and part one third section follows.

2105/16.

Note: Third section Part 2 already circulated  
T.O.O. 2130/17.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(H), D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.	D. of L.D.	Air Min. Distribution:
1st S.L.	D.A/S.W.	Min. of War Transport
3rd S.L.	D.M.S.	(action), C.A.S., V.C.A.S.,
4th S.L.	D.G.D.	D.C.A.S., A.C.A.S. (I)
V.C.N.S.	I.P. (2)	D. of Plans, D.A.F.L.,
A.C.N.S. (H)	W.D.	A.I.3.A.1., Plans 1.,
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.C.	Admiralty, D.O.N.C.,
A.C.N.S. (W)	Hd. of M.	D.O.O., D.G.O., D. of S.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.I.C.	
D. of P. (2)	E.P.S.	
D.O.D. (H)	D.T.D. (2)	Received from A.M.
D.D.O.D. (H)	N.I.D.10	0625/20/10.
D.N.I. (4)	(Pay. Cdr. Wilson).	

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

GERMANIA.  
(German)

Ready to leave Teneriffe any moment.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0528A/16 to N.A. Stn.)

AURORA.  
PENELOPE.  
Operation.

Pass through position (?20) miles west of Spartel at darkness 18/10 then proceed high speed to anchor in following berth. All bearings and distances from flashing light at head of South Mole. A. AURORA 282° 5 cables. B. PENELOPE 214° 4½ cables. 2. High buoy 271° 6 cables has been removed. 3. Oilers with orders will come alongside on arrival. Following stores will be placed alongside each ship in lighters. (a) 15 aircraft torpedoes boxed, (b) One Oerlikon gun and ammunition. (c) 200 rounds 4 inch in boxes. As much of above as practicable is to be embarked without impairing fighting efficiency unduly. 4. There is to be no communication with shore. No signals to be made unless absolutely essential. Ships' companies to be warned no information to be divulged to oilers. 5. Should operation be postponed you will be ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to remain to westward and arrive as in para.1 on 19/10. (S.O. Force H. 0818A/16 to AURORA, PENELOPE.)

Owing to S/M activity in Western Approaches to Gibraltar speed at least 22 knots is to be maintained when eastward longitude 012° W., fuel permitting. (F.O.C.N.A. 1746A/16 to PENELOPE, AURORA.)

Boom Vessel.

Request very early despatch of one Boom working vessel to supplement MOORHILL, no suitable local craft available. Vessel will be manned locally. (Ref. your 2222A/7 Para (B)). (F.O.C.N.A. 1022A/16 to Admty.)

BURRA.

Completed repairs sailing 16th in accordance with routeing instructions contained F.O.C.N.A. 1942A/10 (N.T. in W.R.) (R.O. Horta, 1548/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S  
Searches.

Your 1044/13. Searches as follows. 10/10 FORESTER from 1315 until dark on H/F D/F bearing obtained by ROCHESTER. 11/10, FORESTER, LIVELY, till dark, BN cut obtained at 0953A from Gibraltar W/T and ROCHESTER.  
2. No result from these searches. ROCHESTER H/F D/F was subsequently found to be defective. A report will be forwarded.  
3. No A/S contacts obtained throughout the voyage. (F.O.C.N.A. 1758A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Rescue Tug.

A.M. 2321A/29/9. In view of present convoy routes there is an urgent need for a seagoing rescue tug to be stationed Azores or Funchal.

(ii) Will manning of SUPERMAN and SEAMAN admit of their being based at foreign ports?

(iii) Will their W/T installation allow of communication with them up to 1000 miles from Gibraltar? (iv) Would it be acceptable for SEAMAN and SUPERMAN to be based alternately at Azores or Funchal and Gibraltar?

(F.O.C.N.A. 1802A/16 to Admty.)

ALOUETTE.

Your 1657A/16th. Y.3 Patrol can be maintained until a.m./22. (ALOUETTE, 1928A/16 to F.O.C.N.A)

H.G.75.  
A/S Sweep.

Sailing of H.G.75 is to be postponed. Convoy will probably sail on 22/10. Meanwhile escort forces may be used for A/S sweep as arranged by you. (V.C.N.S. 2209A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.

Following bearings obtained at 0001Z/16 (list) T.O.O. 0051/16. 54 Groups. 4-letter code. Considered that this transmission was from a surface vessel. (D.D.I.C. 0201A/16 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.) O.I.C.Comment.- Further bearings indicate a position within 200 miles of 11° N. 21° W. As this position is near a submarine area, the vessel is thought more likely to be a supply ship than a raider.

Admty. 0201A/16. DORSETSHIRE and DUNEDIN proceeding to cover S.L.90. DEVONSHIRE and VIMY to patrol focal area at seaward end of sector through which independents sail close routed.

(ii) Further interceptions, however, indicate that unit referred to is U-Boat.

(C. in C. S.A. 0901N/16 to Admty)

/Force Q. ...

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Force Q.

ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ~~R.F.A.~~ PRINCE BAUDOUIN are to join Force Q. (C. in C. S.A., 1307N/16 to QUEEN EMMA.)

S.S.DOMINE.

(Spanish) Sailed from Fernando Po 14/10 for Teneriffe. Has on board 2 Italian and 2 German passengers. If encountered ship is to be boarded (? and if) enemy nationals normally within category given in A.M. "A" 751 of 13/10/39 (A.F.O. 277/40), 816A of 11/11/39, 827A of 18/11/39 and 630A of 3/10/41, they are to be removed. Ship has Navicerts. (C. in C. S.A. 1507N/16 to Ships in Area P.)

SEVERN.

Your 1630/15. I assume SEVERN will arrive in 020° 48' N. 018° 00' W. at 1900A/19. (C. in C. S.A. 1709N/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Movements.

Summary 2000/16. (C. in C. S.A., 1723N/16)  
See Lion Copy.

DRAGON.

DRAGON's 1412/15. Departure of DRAGON delayed on account of condenser trouble. TEVIOT BANK has been sailed independently in hopes that DRAGON will be able to catch up, my 1943/16 refers. Further signal will be made. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1957Z/16 to C. in C. E.I.)

Convoy.

Ref. A.G.M. 573 AZ (1149/13) Estimated P.C. and S. 0100Z/17. ETHIOPIAN, WALLFLOWER, NIGELA, 010° 35' N. 018° 50' W. 111° 10½ knots. Weather. (WALLFLOWER 2300Z/16 to C. in C. S.A.)

**MOST SECRET**

386A.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1723N/16th October.  
IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 16.10.41.

Recd. 2330.

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY I/T & T/P.

Addressed South Atlantic Stn. Squadron negative  
Corvettes. Repeated Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

\*?S.L.90

758. Movements summary 2000/16 October  
H.M.S. GURKHA with S L\*42? 010 degrees 00' North,  
016 degrees 36' West. 326 degrees. 7½ knots. (BURDOCK)  
006 degrees 30' North, 012 degrees 05' West, 307 degrees,  
7½ knots. H.M.S. MILFORD 006 degrees 05' North, 012  
degrees 10' West, 318 degrees, 7 knots. H.M.S. DERBYSHIRE  
027 degrees 40' North, 015 degrees 30' West, 322 degrees,  
14 knots, to patrol K 34 B, K 35 A. H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE  
023 degrees 20' South, 013 degrees 30' West, 110 degrees,  
13 knots. H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE in position 022  
degrees 10' S. 016 degrees 50' W. at 0800/16 proceeding  
to patrol I 35 A I 34 B.  
H.M.S. BULOLO K 32 C and D L 32 A and B.  
H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM near Albrolos Rock.  
SOUTHERN GEM on passage Lagos to Freetown, approx.  
position 003 degrees 30' N. 007 degrees 30' W.  
H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE H.M.S. VIMY left Freetown 1130/16  
to patrol in Sector G about 300 miles from Freetown.  
H.M.S. DORSETSHIRE H.M.S. DUNEDIN left Freetown  
1200/16 to overtake and cover S L 90.

1723N/16.

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

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D. of P.(2)  
D.O.D.(F)  
D.D.O.D.(F)  
D.O.D.(H)  
D.D.O.D.(H)  
D.N.I.(4)  
D.A/S.W.  
I.P.(2)  
W.D.  
D.C.(2)  
N.I.D. 10  
Head of M.  
D.D.I.C.  
E.P.S.  
D.T.D.(2)  
D.T.D.(M)

**MOST SECRET**

War Diary.16.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Aircraft.

S.O. Force H's 0947/4. The sooner the Albacores arrive the better but I do not wish to press S.O. Force H. to operate under unfavourable conditions. (C. in C. Med. 1010B/16 to Adty.)

→ TETRARCH.

Please show Capt. S.1. 0815B/15 to F.O.(S) and tell him that no action is being taken here regarding TETRARCH proceeding direct to U.S.A. from Gibraltar. (C.S.O. to F.O.(S) 1044A/16 to Capt. S.10.)

From F.O.S. in Malta. Capt. S.1's 0851A/15. From personnel aspect it is strongly urged that TETRARCH should proceed to U.K. on her way to U.S.A. (Capt. S.10 1820A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

→ TALISMAN.

Your 0851B/15 approved. (C. in C. Med. 1129B/16 to S.1.)

→ TETRARCH.→ REGENT.Docks.

Your 1914/8. Sabang Dock has already been taken up for Admiralty service at Singapore. It is considered practicable to move Stanbul Dock to Alexandretta provided Turks can be persuaded to do so. (C. in C. Med. 1152B/16 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

→ THORN.  
→ REGENT.

My 1105B/15. Amend E.T.A. to read 1300B (? 17th) (Capt. S.1. 1201B/16.)

U/B  
attacked.

Day 15/10. Of 3 Blenheims on R/C for shipping between Crete and Libya, 1 sighted a submarine on surface about 150 miles north of Gazala and attacked with four 250-lb bombs. 2 direct hits and a third near target. Submarine considered severely damaged. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1221/16.)

Station  
Limit. E.

As from 21/10 the Eastern limit of the Mediterranean station will become 045° 05' E.  
2. S.N.O. Red Sea with H.Q. at Suez will be responsible to C. in C. Med. His title becomes F.O.C. Red Sea. 3. Aden W/T station will remain operatively under C. in C. E.I. (Head of M. 1237A/16 to C.'s in C. etc.)

/MAURO ...

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

MAURO CROCE  
(Italian)

Departure 15th at night for Barcelona.  
(Valencia T.H.I. 1250/16 to M. of W.T.)

BALKAN  
(Bulgarian)

x  
My 1245B/16 (N.T. in W.D.) BALKAN sailed 1130 G.M.T. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1526B/16 to S.O.I. Med.) W.R. Note: Received via N.I.D. W.D. Note: BALKAN, Bulgarian, last reported arrived Istanbul 27/9 for Trieste.

VENDETTA.

Intend following programme for VENDETTA (from Alexandria to Singapore) (C. in C. Med. 1634B/16 to Admty.)

BALCIC  
(Roumanian)

x  
My 1245B/16. BALTHIC (? BALCIC) will sail 18 hours G.M.T. A.I. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1825B/16 to S.O.I. Med.)  
My 1245B/16. BALCIC sailed 19 hours G.M.T. T.O.O. 21.31 B.?16. (S.O.I. Istanbul, No T.O.O./16 to S.O.I. Med.)

Situation  
Report 158.

3 enemy cruisers and 6 destroyers sighted by aircraft at 1045/13 steering N.W. in 038° 10' N. 018° 26' E. Battle Fleet returned to harbour p.m./14 without other incident than air attack reported in my 2030/13.  
2. Western Desert. Operation "Cultivate" continues. Shelling of Tobruk by shore battery has increased. During month September there were 37 daylight and 31 night air raids on Tobruk. Only heavy raid was on 1/9 but over 100 machines directed principally on harbour. 2 "A" lighters lost, see my 1033/15. Another Caique with 18 British soldiers and 3 Greeks has reached vicinity of Mersa Matruh.  
3. R.A.F. report 2 certain and 1 probable direct hit with 250 pound bomb on U-Boat at 1430/15 in 034° (?21') N. 023° 11' E. and consider U-Boat probably sunk. Swordfish attack on convoy see H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1900/14.  
4. Levant. Corvettes carrying out A/S sweep in area between Cyprus and Syria.  
(C. in C. Med. 1901B/16 to Admty.)

RORQUAL.

Will be ready to sail P.M./17.  
(V.A. Malta, 1925A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

/TETRARCH ...

War Diary.16.10.1941  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.TETRARCH.

Sails 1700B/17 for Malta routed through

- (a) 032° 30' 028° 36'
- (b) 033° 50' 025° 00'
- (c) 035° 30' 017° 00'

thence as ordered by Capt.(S) 10, who is also requested to issue onward routeing instructions to Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue routeing instructions for passage to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, U.S.A. TETRARCH will be diving for trimming in Alexandria S/M exercise Sanctuary. (Capt.S.1. 2225B/16 to C.in C. Med.)

Enemy  
M/V's.

R/C suggest merchant ships may leave vicinity 032° 22' 019° 52' shortly. Destination unknown but probably some north-bound through THORN's area. (Capt. S.1. 2311B/16 to REGENT, THORN.)

East Indies.Flying Boat  
Base, Addu  
Atoll.

Ref. my 487/4 of 2/9, Addu Atoll is suitable. A.O.C. F.E. will arrange for an advanced base for one flying boat Squadron to be constructed in anticipation of your approval. 2. Do you concur? Pass to Admiralty. (Easfar, 0800/14 to Air Ministry.) 487/4 2/9. In view of developments at Addu Atoll (see Admty. 1330A/23/8) to C. in C. China, number 651, facilities for operation of 1 complete flying boat squadron should be provided there if this is found practicable. 2. A.O.C.F.E. will report results of R/C as early as possible. (Easfar, 0430/16 to Air Ministry)

CLAN FORBES.

My 0612/1. Following is intended programme. (C. in C. E.I. 1146Z/16 to F.O.C.R.I.N., S.N.O. Port T.) See Lion Copy.

Red Sea  
Command.

Your 2200/15. Yes. See my 1300/14. (C. in C. E.I., 1336Z/16 to Admty.)

/AUSTRALIA ...

# MOST SECRET

389A

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

1146Z/16 October IN.

From: C. in C, East Indies.

Date: 17.10.41

Recd: 1039

Naval Cypher A2 by C. and W.

Addressed: F.O.C.R.I.N. S.N.O. Port T repeated Admiralty,  
R.A. Alexandria, C. in C. China, N.O.I.C.  
Calcutta, P.S.T.O. Egypt,

877. Most Secret. My 0612 1st not to

all addressees. (1) Following is my intended programme for  
GPGB (CLAN FORBES).

(a) October 20. Leave Addu Atoll. Before sailing M.N.B.D.O.  
equipment is to be restored ready for installation defence at  
Nancowry. Personnel are to remain at Addu Atoll.

(b) October 25. Arrives Calcutta. Disembarks commercial  
cargo. Embarks following

(1) 700 tons of Indian Army stores. F.O.C.R.I.N. 0645 10th  
and 1617 14th to C. in C. East Indies only refers.

(2) Tubular scaffolding asked for in my 0610 3rd to F.O.C.R.I.N  
only. F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to confirm that this will be  
ready

(3) 2 30 cwt lorries for Diego Garcia. Arm India's S D 5  
T O O 1020 14th not to all addresses refers

(4) 1 Liaison officer and 7 British other ranks. Arm  
India's S D 5 T O O 0715 14th to C. in C. East Indies only  
refers.

(5) One Artisan Company. F.O.C.R.I.N's 1617 14th to C. in C.  
East Indies only refers. N.O.I.C. Calcutta is requested to  
increase GPGB (CLAN FORBES) temporary accommodation by  
five officers and 120 ranks while ship is at Calcutta.

(c) November 2nd .....

SECRET

-2-

- (c) November 2nd leaves Calcutta.
- (d) November 6th arrives Colombo. Embark one four inch gun and miscellaneous stores and provisions for Addu Atoll and two six inch guns for Diego Garcia.
- (e) November 7th leaves Colombo.
- (f) November 9th arrives Addu Atoll. Lands Indian Army advance party and one 4 inch gun. Embarks M.N.B.D.O. personnel for Nancowry.
- (g) November 10th leaves Addu Atoll.
- (h) November 12. Arrives Diego Garcia. Lands 2 six inch guns and 2 30 cwt lorries.
- (i) November 14. Leaves Diego Garcia.
- (j) November 20. Arrives Nancowry. (2) Authorities concerned are requested to inform me as soon as possible if they do not concur in above programme.
- (3) F.O.C.R.I.N. pass to Arm India. R.A. Alexandria pass to G.H.Q. Middle East for Commander 1st R.M. Group M.N.B.D.O. S.N.O. Port T pass to Defence Commander and N.O.I.C Port T.

1146Z/16

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.T.D.

1st Lord	E.P.S.
1st S.L.	D. of P. (2)
4th S.L.	D.N.I. (4)
V.C.N.S.	D. of S.T.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)(2)	D.T.D. (M)
N.A. 1st S.L.	Admiral Palliser
D.C. (2)	D.A/S.W.
D.O.D. (F)	D.C.O.
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.T.S.D. (C.O.)
D.D.I.C. (2)	Hd. of M. (12)
	I.P. (2)
	W.D.



War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

AUSTRALIA,  
special  
cruise.

AUSTRALIA is being sailed for Durban now with a view to visiting Crozet and Kerguelen Island as planned in my 1428/15/8. (2) Cruise will be between about 26/10 and 12/11.  
-(C. in C. E.I., 1340Z/16 to Admty.)

ANTENOR.

Leaves Colombo a.m./17. E.T.A. Sandheads 1030Z/21. Anticipated draught 20 feet forward 24 feet 9 inches aft. (C. in C. E.I. 1356Z/16 to F.O.C.R. I.N.)

SNAPDRAGON.

Your 0804/15. Intend SNAPDRAGON leave Basra p.m./17 arrive Aden 25/10, leave 26/10 and arrive Suez 31/10. (S.N.O.P.G. 1950Z/16 to C. in C. E.I.)

Ceylon.

One Ceylon. Scale of possible attack on Ceylon assessed at maximum two Divisions under Naval Situation as given in para 6 of Ceylon Joint Naval Army and Air Force appreciation 1940 forwarded under 49911/M.O.1 of 16/12/40. Two. Reinforcements have been calculated and defensive works being planned to meet the scale of attack given in para 10 of appreciation. Three. Confirm that Naval situation remains unaltered, that two divisions is a correct estimate of scale of possible attack and that defence works should be constructed accordingly. (C. in C. India 2126/16 to W.O.)

America and West Indies.

EMPIRE  
FULMAR  
defect.

Diverted to loading of planes at Los Angeles sailing six hours late. Arrived Balboa 1800Z/14 unable to commence transit of canal until 1030Z/15. Left Colon 0100Z/16. E.T.A. off Cape Henry 1430Z/20. (2) Submit arrangements for D.G. Trials may be made before entering harbour. (3) Suction Manifold of Port Feed Pumps fractured. Require repairs or renewal. (EMPIRE FULMAR, 0100Z/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/LIVERPOOL ...

War Diary.16.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.LIVERPOOL.

Admty. 1822A/8. LIVERPOOL will arrive Mare Island about 23/10 arriving Bermuda about 7/11. When definite dates are known B.A.D. Washington will concert sailing and fuelling arrangements with C. in C. A.W.I. (B.A.R.M. 0854R/16 to Admty. etc.)

PANDORA.

My 1718R/9. Completion date PANDORA ex trials is 12/11. (B.A.R.M. 1022R/16 to Admty.)

MANCHESTER.

My 1242R/7. MANCHESTER completion date is 6/4 1942 ex trials. (B.A.R.M. 1024R/16 to Admty.)

SHEDIAC.

*/N.T. in W.D.*  
Your 1630Z/15. Confirm name of her as SHEDIAC. (C.C.N.F. 1155Z/16 to A.C.I.C.)

EMPIRE WAVE.

EMPIRE WAVE due Halifax 10/10 has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1409Z/16 to Admty.)

ROODE ZEE.

Your 1833A/15. No date for release can yet be given. Every endeavour is being made to obtain suitable tug to replace. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1622Q/16 to Admty.)

Suspicious Ship, 14/10.

Report from AAGTEKERK. (a) 14/10 0900 (b) 008° 30' N. 051° 30' W. (c) 282° 15 knots. Suspicious ship same course 18 to 19 knots on Port quarter (d) 13 miles (e) altered to North, increased to 16 knots, ship followed. Altered to East, ship followed and overtaking. Sent out RR RR at 0940. Suspicious ship slowed down. Altered to North, ran 30 miles, left ship behind (f) (description) (g)(?) High ship or raider (h) ship certainly suspicious. A.1. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1626Q/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Troop Convoy.

Your 1955/15. Request composition and accomodation troop convoy leaving Canada approx. 2/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1704Z/16 to Admty.)

Halifax W/T.

Admiralty message GY. Admiralty message GU, Para. 3 (a) (b) (c) and (d). Amend call sign of Halifax W/T Station to read "CFH". (D.S.D. 1841A/16 to G.B.M.S. all areas.)

War Diary.

16.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Naval  
Strength.

British requirements for 1942 etc. Reply to Admty. 1735A/10. (B.A.D. 2037R/16 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Supplies for  
U/Bs.

My 1738R/14 (N.T. in W.D.) Havana has replied, (begins) A. Hohenlohe's job is to arrange fuel supply for U.29 and U.143. B. Both S/MS are in the vicinity of the Caribbean Sea (ends). Enquiries being made Ciudad Trujillo and Mexico. (S.O.I. Kingston 2056R/16 to Admty.) These boats not in Western Atlantic, see 1923/19.

Refits,  
Atlantic  
Coast.

Your 1711Z/20/9 and 1450Z/15/10. In order that Admty. may be fully informed it would be of assistance if following information concerning refits of vessels on Atlantic coast could be signalled when a ship is taken in hand.  
(a) Name of Port. (b) Date taken in hand.  
(c) Anticipated date of completion.  
2. Request you will signal this information now in respect of NIAGARA and HAMILTON.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2208A/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Australia.

Destroyers.

My 1218Z/24 (re disposal STUART, VOYAGER, VAMPIRE and VENDETTA) would appreciate early reply. (A.C.N.B. 0741Z/16 to Admty.)

CHIOS.

Your 1845A/14 to D.N.I. Melbourne. Please refer to my 0126Z/15. (A.C.N.B. 0803Z/16 to Admty.)

MANOORA.  
KANIMBLA  
exchange.

Ref. Admty. 1331A/24. Propose MANOORA sail from Sydney 18/11 arriving Colombo 6/12. A.C.N.B. would appreciate information concerning return of KANIMBLA. (A.C.N.B. 1216Z/16 to C. in C. E.I.)

**MOST SECRET**

392A

~~MOST SECRET~~ ~~M E S S A G E~~ 2037K/16 October IN

From B.A.D. Washington.

Date 17/10/41  
Recd. 0910

Naval Cypher O.T.T. by cable

---

Addressed:- Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

779. Your 1735A/10.

We assume commitments govern assessment of British requirements given in Annex 1 of B. H (41) 14 are those involved in areas of responsibility allocated to British Commonwealth under A B C - one, Annex 2.

(ii) We assume also that these estimates rely on assumption by U.S. Navy of commitments in North Atlantic area, described in A B C - one, Annex 3 paragraph 57, in whatever strength is necessary at time of assumption.

(iii) In para. 7 (A) of B H (41) 14, the next step in procedure is additional full U.S. requirements to be added to British figures given in Annexes. The recommendation add, "the basis of estimation must, of course, be similar in each case."

(iv) To proceed it is possible however that basis of calculations for U.S. Navy requirements will be the "2 - ocean navy" programme which has already been authorized and is under way. The present programme figures will make U.S. Navy totals to complete by January 1947: Battleships 32, Battle Cruisers 5, Aircraft carriers 18, 8 inch cruisers 26, heavy 6 inch cruisers 34, light 6 inch cruisers 19. To complete by January 1944 destroyers 316 S/ms 155.

(v) The basis of estimation for both U.S. requirement is understood to be blackest proposition, namely that British Empire has ceased to fight, the British Fleet is not available and U.S. is facing a 2 - ocean war alone.

(vi) Assuming however that British Empire and U.S. both fight against Axis powers and assuming that we continue to aim at the total shown in column 2 of enclosure one to Annex one of B H (41) 14 and U.S. continues to aim at production of 2 - ocean navy already authorized, there will in main categories of naval vessels, be an excess over total of forces required for the full performance of strategic tasks that can be envisaged. This excess would represent a waste of ship - building effort. On the other hand until position of U.S. is clearer I appreciate that/

that it is considered politic to aim for our requirements in full irrespective of U.S. needs.

(vii) Should it be impossible owing to lack of capacity or other reasons for U.S. to build, on our account, the ships listed as deficiency column 12 of enclosure one to Annex one of B H (41) 14 there remain 3 ways of covering the gap in British requirements.

- (a) to transfer further areas to U.S. responsibility and when they enter war, so as to reduce our own commitments.
- (b) To persuade them to attach to our forces in various areas for which we are responsible U.S. ships manned by U.S. navy to make up our deficiencies.
- (c) To transfer some of the ships building on U.S. account to British flag, to be manned by Royal Navy under Lend Lease terms.

(viii) Procedure 7 (c) above would entail raising and training the necessary men to man these ships in anticipation of their transfer and may result in duplication of effort in raising and training the necessary U.S. crews as well previous to the decision to transfer.

(ix) To avoid the waste of production and personnel suggested above it would seem necessary to rely on full U.S. belligerency to adopt one or both of the expedients outlined in para (vii) (a) and (b) above and to reduce British programme until total of naval forces under combined programme does not exceed strategical requirements unless we can persuade the U.S. to reduce their own programme.

(x) Alternatively it might be possible to approach the whole subject from a new angle and to undertake jointly with U.S. Naval Staff the expansion of A B C - one Annex three, so as to allocate forces required to every area on strategic consideration thus arriving at a joint U.S. - R.N. total navy requirement. This would demonstrate the logical necessity for a two Ocean Navy Programme and might conceivably have that result or at least give some ships in it a lower priority.

2037R/16

1st Lord	D. of P. (2)	
1st S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	W.D.
2nd S.L.	B.D.O.D. (H)	D.C.
3rd S.L.	D.O.D. (F)	Hd. of M.
4th S.L.	D.D.O.D. (F)	D.T.S.D.
5th S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	D.D.I.C.
V.C.N.S.	D.S.D.	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.N.A.D.	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D. of L.D.	N.I.D. 10 Payr. Cdr
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.A/S.W.	Wilson
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.M.S.	D.G.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	I.P. (2)	Adl. Baild
		Sec.
		P.A.S. (S)
		Adl. Bellaf

War Diary.16.10.1941.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.C.48.(attacked  
15/10.)EMPIRE HERONILASILVER CEDAR.

My 2330Z/15. Ref. W.A.C.I. 102.

(a) No contact obtained. Area illuminated by star shells.

(b) Starboard correctly signalled.

(c) Escort in position A D G J of N E

(corrupt groups) A S V ahead.

(d) S.S. EMPIRE HERON, British, rear ship starboard column, sank immediately.

(e) 2330Z/15 in 054°55' N., 027° 15' W.

(f) 034° since 1500(?/15. Evasive (?courses) had been ordered for 0200Z and 0600.

(g) Weather report 4472 9964

(h) A submarine (?originally) observed on surface about 7 miles on port beam of convoy by COLUMBIA and attacked at 1400Z(?/15 while joining convoy. Result unknown. Night attack apparently by single Submarine. Ref. C. in C. W.A., 1706A/8/9 para. 3.

(a) No boats or rafts were got away.

(b) Sole survivor found raft and was picked up by GLADIOLUS. Remainder unaccounted for.

(c) Due to shortage of escort GLADIOLUS did not remain in vicinity.

(COLUMBIA 0930/16 to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C.48.

My 1018A/6. (N.T. in W.R.) WETASKIWIN reported two ships torpedoed 0705Z/15 in 053° 34' N., 029° 57' W. Four Corvettes with convoy.

COLUMBIA and other escort not in company. 10

Stragglers including Commodore. HIGHLANDER,

BROADWATER BROADWAY from T.C.14 and VERONICA, ABELIA from

O.N.25 should join convoy P.M. today. U.S.

Destroyers GREER, KEARNY, DECATUR, PLUNKET, and

LIVERMORE from O.N.24 have been ordered to join.

(C. in C.W.A., 1142A/16, to BULLDOG, AMAZON,

RICHMOND, GEORGETOWN, HEARTSEASE, ANGLE,

CAPE WARWICK.)

Now known that the 3 ships torpedoed in S.C.48 on 15/10 and 16/10 were:-

EMPIRE HERON, British, 6023 tons, Freeport to Manchester.

ILA, Norwegian, 1583 tons, Boston to Glasgow.

SILVER CEDAR, British, 4354 tons, New York to

Liverpool. (D.S.774, 18/10.)

Rejoin O.N.25 forthwith. DIANTHUS and ACONITE

have proceeded to assistance of VANCOUVER ISLAND.

(C. in C.W.A., 2338A/16 to PICTOU.)

War Diary.16.10.1941.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's Reported.

- 0001Z. Enemy transmission, possible U/B. (C. in C.S.A., 0901N/16.) See South Atlantic.
0750. One submarine bearing 240° distant 5 miles approx., course 090° my position 55.48N., 08.22 W., at 0750.  
(A/C using V 9 G R., 0750/16 to 15 Group.)  
Enemy submarine previously reported has dived. Unable attack, sea too rough distinguish wake.  
(A/C V.9.G.R. 0810/16 to 15 Group.)  
A/C reports U/boat dived in 55° 48' N., 08° 22' W., at 0750/16.  
(C. in C.W.A., 0952A/16 to CILICIA, FORTH, CAIRO LANCASTER, all escorts of H.G.74, amended 1046A/16.)
- 0427C. Bearing by D/F at 0427C/16 position of enemy U-boat(s) was 067° 52' N., 042° E., reliable fix. Admiralty pass to SUFFOLK.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0946C/16 to Admtly.)  
Admiral requests minesweeper be sent to search for U-boat sighted by aircraft in 067° 53' N., 042° 10' E., at 0427C/16. Flying boats type M.B.R.Z. will co-operate. They will circle position if U-boat sighted and fire 2 white Very lights.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1042/16 to SUFFOLK.)
- 0824Z. D/F bearings at 0824Z/16 indicate U.boat still shadowing Convoy S.C.48.  
(D.D.I.C. 0959A/16 to A.I.G.62 etc.)
1320. Am over enemy S/m in 55°36'N., 9°05' W.  
(A/c using call sign G9V-O. 1320/16 to 15 Group.)  
Un-confirmed report from Aircraft of Periscope in 55° 36' N., 9° 05' W., at 1320.  
(C. in C.W.A., 1354A/16 to Escorts H.G.74 and T.C.14. CILICIA.)
- Estimated U.Boat dispositions in Atlantic.  
(D.D.I.C.1456A/16.) (U.S.C.N.O., 2056/16 to C. in C.A.F.)
- 0001/15. Trawler entering Leixoes reports at 0001/15 it encountered s/m 4 miles due West of that port.  
(R.O., Oporto, 1847/16 to S.O.I., Gibraltar.)

War Diary.16.10.1941.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

1603. Daily Op. Sum. From Bathurst. 204 Squadron. Sunderland detailed to locate S.S.GARD finding enemy submarine in position 13.20 N., 17.06W., at 1603/16. Aircraft attempted attack but bomb circuit (?group omitted). Submarine escaped. GARD? not located. Further Sunderland despatched to search for U boat 1928/15. Waterborne 0635/16 - nil report. (Freetown, 1900/16, to Air Ministry.)

Submarines Attacked.

By COLUMBIA. At 1400Z/15. (COLUMBIA, 0930/16.) See Ships Attacked.

By A/C. Blenheim A/C attacked U/B north of Gazala 15/10. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1221/16.) See Mediterranean.

By IMPERIALIST. One submarine on the surface (unknown) 36° 50' N., 6° 28' W. (IMPERIALIST, 0400A/16, to Gibraltar W/T.) My 0040, position 300 TRA 80. (IMPERIALIST, 0520A/16 to Gibraltar W/T.) 0345A sighted submarine on the surface closed attempted to ram unsuccessful. Submarine made off on surface. High speed. Opened fire 4-inch, submarine seen diving, fired depth charge pattern, lost contact 0420. Still searching the area. (IMPERIALIST, 0540A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

15/10. U/B hit and damaged by Blenheims off Gazala. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1221/16.) See Mediterranean.

By A/C.  
1725. Am over enemy S/M in 55.58N., 26.59W. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on the surface and was observed to submerge on a course 060° 6 knots. (A/C U, 1725/16, to 15 Group.) Catalina A/C of 240 Sqdn. (D.S., 773.)

Enemy S/M sighted and attacked by A/C at 1725A/16 in 55° 58' N., 26° 59' W., on surface course 060° 6 Kts. One hit estimated. (D.C.1821A/16 to Opnav, Escorts of S.C.48.)



War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

INDOMITABLE left U.K. today to work up in the West Indies.

The convoy cycle of O.S. and S.L. convoys is being extended to 12 days commencing with O.S.10 sailing on 25/10 and S.L.91 on 27/10.

Soviet S/M D.3 returned from patrol off Tana Fjord today and claims to have sunk 4 ships.

R.D.F.

Recent experience has emphasised the lack of effective means of detecting low flying aircraft.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command..

13 aircraft attacked Dunkirk last night and 4 Ostend.

Fighter Command.

8 Hurricanes this afternoon attacked 2 armed trawlers off Zeebrugge and severely damaged them and set them on fire.

Mining.

Aircraft laid mines last night at Brest, Lorient and St. Nazaire.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected in the Thames Estuary. Mines were detonated today in the Estuary.

In the Bristol Channel two mines were exploded near Flatholm Light.

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Convoys.

The Admiralty have ordered the sailing of convoy H.G. 75 to be postponed until 22/10 (later altered to 21/10) the escort forces being used for A/S sweep as arranged by F.O.C.N.A. The latter points out that this will entail some 17 additional ships lying in the exposed outer anchorage at Gibraltar during the dark period during which he has information that another attack is to be made on these ships.

Mediterranean.

16 Wellingtons from Malta bombed Naples last night and report the Silurificio Torpedo Factory probably destroyed.

6 Blenheims with Hurricane escort bombed the seaplane base at Syracuse at 0850.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

S.S. PASS OF BALMAHA and SAMOS were torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat at 0400/17, 50 miles west of Alexandria whilst proceeding to Tobruk with petrol and stores respectively. The latter was Greek manned and some survivors have been picked up. PASS OF BALMAHA was manned by Merchant Service and it is feared there are no survivors as ship exploded.

Odessa  
evacuated.

The Russians announced tonight that the evacuation of their troops from Odessa is completed. The operation occupied 8 days.

M.V. CLAN MACDONALD, on passage unescorted, from Malta to Gibraltar was twice attacked this afternoon by Italian aircraft, with bombs and torpedoes. Successful avoiding action was taken in the first/ and the second was driven off by gunfire. <sup>attack</sup>  
CLAN MACDONALD reached Gibraltar undamaged.

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

The Free French wish to set up a Naval Base at Zeila to watch a loophole in the blockade of Jibuti. C. in C. E.I. considers it most undesirable to set up a Free French Naval Base within 25 miles of Jibuti, as the participation of any Free French Force will only serve to strengthen resistance.

Operation "Ration" was stopped at dusk today. No interceptions have been made.

Kerguelen.

AUSTRALIA is to visit Crozet and Kerguelen Islands. The Admiralty suggest that C. in C. E.I. should consider AUSTRALIA laying magnetic ground mines there.

China.

It is reported in the press that the U.S.A. Govt. today ordered all American shipping in the northern Pacific to return to port. It is not known whether the ships are to return to U.S.A., British or other friendly port.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy  
S.C.48.  
U.S.S.  
KEARNEY and  
S.S. BOLD  
VENTURE.  
BARFONN.  
W.C. TEAGLE.  
ERVIKEN.  
EVROS.  
RYM.

The convoy was attacked four times last night and 6 more ships were torpedoed, of which 5 sank. U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY (one of those ordered to join S.C.48 from O.N.24) was torpedoed near the convoy at 0200/17. The first attack last night occurred at 2220/16 in 56° 58' N., 25° 4' W. Further attacks took place at 2330/16, 0145/17 and 0300/17, by at least 2 U-boats, probably attacking singly. Ships torpedoed are BOLD VENTURE (U.S.A.-cf B.A.D. Washington 1907R/23/8/41. BARFONN (Nor. Tanker) Sunk, W.C. TEAGLE (Tanker) Sunk. ERVIKEN (Norw) Sunk., EVROS (Greek) sunk. RYM (Norw) Afloat and abandoned 1114Z/17 in 57° 1' N. 24° 20' W. Times and dates of attacks are not known.

/S.C.48.....

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign. - Contd.

S.C.48  
(contd.)

PICTOU and BROADWATER carried out attacks on 2 U-boats sighted on the surface.

VERONICA also reports that she carried out 5 attacks on a U-boat sighted at 1503Z in 57° 1' N. 22° 10' W., and considers she destroyed it.

PASS OF  
BALMAHA,  
SAMOS.

See Mediterranean.

Annobon I.

See South Atlantic. (P. 431. 18/10/41).

War Diary.17.10.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.A.M.C's.

A.M. 1655A/4. On arrival in U.K. RANPURA will be taken in hand for re-arming by Messrs. D. & W. Henderson & Co. Glasgow. (D.O.D.(F) 1239A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

RANPURA and AURANIA are due to arrive Clyde about 23/10.

2. On arrival maximum leave should be granted in accordance with A.F.O. 4374/41.

(D.O.D. (H) 1652A/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

My 1655A/15. ALAUNIA and ASCANIA are to be taken in hand to be fitted for tropical service. Any outstanding A's and A's and defects which can be dealt with in time required for tropicalisation should also be taken in hand.

2. A further signal will be made.

(D.O.D.(F) 1805A/17).

R.C.N.  
Corvettes.

Commodore WESTERN ISLES strongly recommends that R.C.N. Corvettes should be sailed to Greenock to complete with oil fuel and to give night leave to each watch prior to working up at Tobermory. (C.C.C.S. 1435A/17 to N.S.H.Q.)

S/M spare  
crew at  
Polyarno.

Your 1501C/7 received and being passed to Capt. (S) 5. Yes. (F.O.S. 1808A/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

INDOMITABLE.

As it appears unlikely any attendant destroyers will be available during working up period it is requested arrangements may be made for at least one seaworthy craft to be available at Bermuda Jamaica and Trinidad. It is preferable these should be fast but if of even moderate speed they would be of great value.  
(INDOMITABLE 1910A/17 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.S/M 175.

Molodki class S/M 175 arrived from patrol of Vardo area 16/10. One merchant vessel estimated 3000 tons torpedoed and sunk at anchor alongside newly constructed quay at Havningberg 70° 32' N. 30° 38' E. on 8/10.

Sightings. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1309C/17).

Russian  
torpedoes.

Your 1329C/13. Torpedoes may be embarked in any suitable ship. (D.T.D. 1933A/17 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

/Murmansk.....

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia - contd.

Murmansk.

(2) Murmansk itself is suitable port for convoy of 8 ships but rail connections not fully working and could only pass small volume traffic storage there in quantities would invite air attack.

(3) My personal view is that route should not be considered except for emergency convoy message ends. (? 2130/17 to Air Min.)

Movements.

JAY, MYRLAND,  
KENNET.

Your 1758/15th to Admty. Route to Freetown. (C. in C. W.A. 0018A/17 to N.O.i/c Greenock)

TIGRIS.

Your 1309C/16. Yes. (F.O.S. 0929A/17 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

HESPERUS.

My 2139A/13, 1052A/14 and 1240A/16. Please add 48 hours to all times. (F.O. Humber 0956A/17.)

AUDACITY  
O.G.76.

AUDACITY will be required to escort O.G.76 to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 1146A/17.)

H.31.

My 1426A/16/10. Sailing of H.31 from Sheerness is postponed until 22/10. (C. in C. Nore 1146A/17 to S.7.)

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD's 1651/16 approved so far as Plymouth Command is concerned except that it is intended that ship should sail p.m./25 after swinging. 2. Delay in programme is due to completion of outstanding work. (C. in C. Plymouth 1322/17.)

S/Ms.

C. in C. H.F. has concurred with my 1734A/13.\* A.C.O.S. is requested to sail submarines accordingly on completion of gunnery exercises and fuelling. (F.O.S. 1503A/17 to A.C.O.S.)

\* Most Secret distribution. N.T. in W.D.

*Programme for SEAWOLF & SEALION passage Portsmouth to Murmansk by sea route  
leaving Portsmouth 20th. 22nd Oct. departure*

*6/8/47*

/Escort ...

War Diary.17.10.1941.  
FridayHOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.Escort of  
FORTH.

2 Destroyers to provide escort for FORTH during passage from Clyde to Rosyth. Arrangements. (C. in C. H.F. 1712A/17 to R.A.(D) H.F.) ANTELOPE, ANTHONY detailed. (R.A.(D) H.F. 2316A/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

NORMAN.

Return to Archangel forthwith. Report E.T.A. (SUFFOLK 2056Z/17 to NORMAN.)

O.14  
MINERVE.

Intend to sail O.14 and MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH at 1400A/16 for patrol in (areas) (arrangements) T.O.O 1825A/14/10. 1321A/16 follows:- From S.9. My 1825A/14/10 sailing of all three vessels delayed 24 hours. Amend times and dates accordingly. T.O.O.1321A/16. (S.9 2151A/17 to Adty.)

Operations.Operation  
"Pilgrim".

My 0556/20/9. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE and BANFORA have now been allocated to operation "Pilgrim".  
2. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE is now in Clyde and will be available on completion of repairs etc.  
3. BANFORA is now in Liverpool and will move to Clyde when ready in a few days time. (D. of S.T. 0456A/17.)

British Air Operations.P.R.U.

Now in operation to Kristiansand and Oslo. (C. in C. Rosyth 1130/17.)  
Cancel my 1130/17. Aircraft returned owing icing conditions. (C. in C. Rosyth 1146/17.)

R/C.

(C) Two A/C of 407 Sqdn. to carry out shipping R/C tonight on Dutch Coast from the Hook to 06° E. A/C between 0230 and 0330 hrs. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1255/17.)

Mining.Operation  
H.G.

Postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Plymouth 1130/17.)  
Para.17 for 050° 10' N. read 049° 10' N. (C. in C. Plymouth 1152/17 to WELSHMAN, MANXMAN.)

/Operation ...

403

War Diary.17.10.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.Operation  
N.P.25.

Intend to carry out operation N.P.25 tonight Friday. (V.A. Dover 1155A/17.)  
My 1155 postponed owing to weather.  
(V.A. Dover 1558A/17.)

Bristol  
Channel.

Exploded red mine at 0820A/17 centre in 170° 1.7 miles Flatholm Light. Exploded blue mine at 0935A/17 van in 221° 1.7 miles Flatholm Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1230A/17.)

Liverpool.

As from 0001A/19 Port of Liverpool including QZS 298 QZS 215 and QZS 303 will be closed from  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour after sunset until sunrise each day. Ships for Liverpool are not to enter swept channels unless they can pass Rock Light, River Mersey before time of closing port. Cancel my 1531A/10. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1837A/17.)

For information:-C.in C.W.A.from CAIRO. At 1330/16, when in 56° 20' N. 08° 50' W. two heavy underwater explosions followed. Upheaval of water occurred about 2 miles astern of CAIRO who was in rear of convoy T.C.14. No aircraft was over the position at the time and as there was a heavy sea running, it is considered that explosions were probably caused by mines. T.O.O. 1045A/17. Ends.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2309A/17 to Adty. R.A.(M))

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy  
Convoys.

TIGRIS returned 16/10 from patrol Svaerholthavet reports eastbound convoys left Honningsvaag at dawn/11 and /14 passing through 71° 02' N. 27° 00' E. thence close round Nordkin. Admty. informed. Adty. pass to SUFFOLK.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0944C/17.)

Navigational.Weather  
Forecast.

Please pass following to Norwegian N.A. Weather Forecast for 24 hours from 1400/17.  
(Adty. 1231A/17.)

/Vaternish ...



War Diary

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational - contd.

Vaternish Light.

BRIGHTON reports Vaternish Light Skye not burning at 0640/17. Duntulm W.S. reports mist prevents certainty but it is thought that Vaternish Light still out. (R.A.(M) 2113/17 to Admty.)

Vaternish Light extinguished at 2120.

(C.G. Duntulm THI 2135/17.)

869QZH - Greenock area. Vaternish Light reported extinguished. (Hydr. 2255A/17 Q.Z.H. not to S/Ms at sea.)

New inshore Channel.

Your 1158A/14. It is considered that proposed new channel should run from No.56 Light-buoy to No.57B, thence direct to Sheringham. Arrangements proposed. (D. of N. 2319A/16 to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties and Defects.

S.S. LINGFIELD.

LINGFIELD sunk after collision. Wreck not visible? low water in 052° 28' 20" N. 002° 02' 00" E. BASSET with all survivors 22 in number landed at Harwich. (F.O.1/c Gt. Yarmouth 0510A/17, 0605A/17, 0635A/17. VERDUN 0703A/17, 0731A/17 BADGER 1515A/17.)

M/V HEENVLIET.

POZARICA reports Dutch M/V HEENVLIET sunk in collision with S.S. VESTLAND at 0200/17. VESTLAND in BB 89 bound Barry Docks has all of crew of HEENVLIET on board. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1204/17.)

<sup>10</sup>  
AGHOIS SPYRIDOM.

In F.S.521 towed into Humber with engine disabled. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1510/17)

L'IMPASSIBLE.

Arrived 1720 in tow of tugs GOLIATH and RECOVERY escort, by ARCTIC EXPLORER. (C. in C. Plymouth 1744/17.)

A/ST NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE.

My 0947A/17. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> Repairs will take at least 6 days. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1814A/17.)

INDOMITABLE.

My 0027A/15. Arrestor wires are now satisfactory and with assistance of signal school officers R/T sets are also working correctly. (INDOMITABLE 1916A/17.)

/MARIE ...

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

MARIE LOUISE  
MACKAY.

Reports bow sheaves damaged by tanker leaving harbour. Requires repairs before commencing operations. E.T.D. will be signalled on receipt of further particulars.  
(N.O.i/c Londonderry 2315A/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

EMPIRE  
WATERHEN.

Your 1045A/17. Flexible steam pipe unobtainable. Continue to stand by EMPIRE WATERHEN who should slip cable and proceed when weather moderates.  
(F.O.i/c Greenock 2339A/17 to MARAUDER.)

Shipping and Convoys.

F.N533  
F.S624

My 1750A/13. No A/S trawlers available for F.N533 and F.S624. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1000A/17 to C. in C. Nore.)

O.S. and  
S.L.convoy  
cycle.

Convoy cycle of O.S. and S.L. convoys is being extended to 12 days commencing with O.S.10 sailing on 25/10 and S.L.91 on 27/10.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1122A/17.)

Air pro-  
tection for  
White Sea  
convoys.

LONDON reports at least three enemy A/C detected in vicinity of convoy Q P one when off Cape Gorodetski but no attack developed owing to low visibility.  
Request possibility of affording air protection to convoys entering and leaving White Sea be urgently examined. A possible landing ground on Chayachi Island is described on page 43 of I S T S report dated 11/8/41 on Kola Peninsula and Archangel. (C. in C H.F. 1217A/17.)

Code words  
for E.N.  
convoys.

Your 2006A/16. Request early allocation of code words for E.N. Convoys. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1224/17 to Adty.)

W.N.convoys.

In future request you will repeat all pre-sailing and sailing telegrams of W.N. convoys to R.A.F. 14 group. (C. in C. W.A. 1305A/17 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

/White Sea ...

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17.10.1941.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - contd.

White Sea  
Convoys.

Your 1043/16. It is not intended that Admiral Miles' 1829/14 shall modify the standard procedure laid down in para. 3 of my 1859/30/8.

2. Ships should only act in accordance with Admiral Miles' 1829/14 if their time of arrival varies considerably from time given in convoy sailing signal.

3. Admiral Miles, if circumstances permit and he thinks desirable, is requested to continue to arrange the necessary lights based on the information signalled in para.2 (d), (e) and (f) of my 1859/30/8.

4. At the present time, however, while Admiral Miles is temporarily out of touch, S.B.N.O. Murmansk is requested to be responsible for the arrangements in para. 3 of my 1859/30/8.

5. When Admiral Miles is again in communication, he is requested to inform Admiralty and S.B.N.O. Murmansk whether he or the latter is to undertake this duty in the future.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1649A/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

H.X.152.

H.X.152. All ships arrived except SVEND FOYN straggler, torpedoed but reached Iceland (C). (D.T.D. 2025A/17 to Opanav.)

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

H.G.75.  
congestion  
at Gibraltar.

Admty 2209/16. Presume there must be very cogent reasons for cancelling Convoy H.G.75 and trust due consideration has been given to the fact that this entails some 17 additional ships lying in exposed outer anchorage during this dark period.

(ii) Para. 4. My 1930/29/9 refers.

(iii) Information graded B.3. There is to be another attempt on these ships during this dark period.

(iv) Admty 2002/7. Presume this risk was also considered when decision to lengthen convoy cycle to 29 days was made. Extension will necessitate ships being in unprotected anchorage for considerably longer period.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0914A/17 to Admty).

→ French  
Shipping.

Passings 16/10. French eastward ARCTURUS, FORT-DE-SOUVILLE and unknown trawler all full. (V.A.C.N.A., 0917A/17 to Admty).

SURVILLE  
(French).

Departure 17th SURVILLE cleared for Faro Lexecoos and Oran. (Lisbon, 1216/17 to M. of W.T) Informing S. & A., N.A. Stn. (F.O.C.N.A., 1223A/17)

German  
report of  
Convoy.

Tangier's 1820/15/10 is being passed to you for information. (V.A.C.N.A., 1216A/17 to Admty).

Spanish  
Tankers.

Your 1630/16. (N.T. in W.D.) Spanish Tankers with Ship Navicert are not to be sent in unless definite grounds for suspicion of any particular ship, for example one reported by Consul Teneriffe, vide my 1252/11/7. (D.E.W.D., 1243A/17 to C.C.S.O. Gib).

Portuguese  
mission.

Commander Uva left Lisbon by air today for London with Colonel Rolls on special mission arranged in great secrecy by Portuguese Govt. (N.A. Lisbon, 1308/17 to Admty).

→ French  
Shipping.

Gibraltar 1025, French armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE French Ships IMERETHIE II, laden cattle on deck, MAROC full armoured lorries on deck, RHEA light, trawler MEN-GWEN, Tug L'OBSTINE, westbound. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1727A/17 to Admty).

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

LOCH  
OSKAIG.

Your 2314A/13. Report details of Casualties sustained, present condition, and whereabouts. (Hd. of N. Branch, 2121A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

SEVERN.

Following is a repetition of my 1709/16. (C. in C. S.A., 0301N/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CAP VARELLA,  
VILLE DE  
VERDUN.

My 1140/2 para. 3. CAP VARELLA and VILLE DE VERDUN reported sailed eastward from Diego Suarez escorted by French Warship, date not known but probably previous to 13/10. Chesor Mauritius T 0495/14, refers. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1012/17 to Admty).

PRINCE  
BAUDOIN.

Your 1307N/16. Request confirmation that you intend to expedite onward passage to Mediterranean of PRINCE BAUDOIN in accordance with A.T. 2133A/12/9 and 2343A/16/9. (D.O.D. (F), 1054A/17 to C. in C. S.A.) Your 1054A/17. BAUDOIN is being sailed in W.S.12 19/10 to obtain (YA/S) protection, leaving convoy in about 001° 30' N., and proceeding independently at best speed via St. Helena thereafter. (C. in C. S.A., 1823N/17 to Admty).

AZALEA,  
SPIREA.

<sup>? Sailing</sup>  
Sailed AZALEA and SPIREA at 1200/18 (as in signal) to comply with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1620A/9. (C. in C. S.A., 1117N/17 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

Freetown  
use of port.

A.T. 1548A/14/8 proposals contained in telegram to Governor are being implemented and M.W.T.R. is gradually taking over shore side of port from N.O.I.C. (C. in C. S.A., 1851N/17 to Admty).

GURKHA  
ISAAC SWEERS.

Your 1835N/14. Request you will sail GURKHA and ISAAC SWEERS direct to Gibraltar at best speed after they fuel at Bathurst in order that they may be available for escort duties at Gibraltar as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2022A/17 to C. in C. S.A.)  
Cancel my 1835/14, not to Admty. After fuelling at Bathurst GURKHA and ISAAC SWEERS are to proceed to Gibraltar, direct at best speed. (C. in C. S.A., 2215N/17 to GURKHA, ISAAC SWEERS).

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TORBAY,  
TETRARCH.

Enemy S/M sighted in 031° 15' 028° 47' at 0400B/17. Destroyers and aircraft are carrying out A/S search in vicinity. Amend route forthwith to pass through 032° 06' 027° 20' and 032° 00' 028° 45', thence direct to Sanctuary. TETRARCH leave end of searched channel and pass through 032° 15' 029° 27' and 033° 50' 025° 00'. (Capt. S.1., 0901B/17 to TORBAY).

UNIQUE,  
P.31,  
RORQUAL,  
P.34.

My 1255A/15 cancel reference to UPRIGHT. RORQUAL and P.34 proceed from 037° 16' 012° 56' to 038° 00' 011° 44' during daylight/19 RORQUAL then proceed to Cavoli and P.34 to operate East of 012° 00' and South of 038° 40'. Submarines (?encountered) during nights of 18th to 20/10 inclusive are not to be attacked. (Capt. S.10, 1145A/17 to UNIQUE, P.31)

Benghazi  
Bardia  
bombed.

Night 15/16 Oct., 18 Wellingtons bombed Harbour and shipping Benghazi and Berka Aerodrome. Bombs also dropped on Martuba Aerodrome. 6 Albatrosses bombed suspected petrol dump South of Bardia-Tobruk Road. Further 1 Albatross unable to reach objective bombed Wadi at Bardia where M.T. and stores are concealed. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1152/17).

BALKAN.  
BALCIC.

My 1245B/16. Both ships passed to Aegean approx. 9 hours G.M.T. Destination Trieste. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1224B/17 to S.O.(I) Med). BALKAN, Bulgarian; BALCIC, Roumanian.

PASS OF  
BALMAHA,  
SAMOS.

Torpedoed and sunk by U-boat 50 miles west of Alexandria at 0400/17 while proceeding to Tobruk with petrol and stores respectively. SAMOS Greek manned, 8 survivors so far. PASS OF BALMAHA manned by Merchant Service, feared no survivors as ship exploded. Details of casualties follow. (C. in C. Med., 1235/17 to Admty).

/Axis.....

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Axis  
Shipping.  
Istanbul.

My 1028A/1/9. Following is further appreciation by M.E.W. of latest shipping developments on Istanbul - Trieste service :- Ships at present employed:- ABBAZIA, ALBA JULIA, BALCIC, BALKAN, CAPO ARMA, VIRGINIA.<sup>S</sup>(reported transferred to -German Flag) CAPO PINO. About to be employed:- (A) Four "Adriatica" line ships, just sailing from Trieste mid-October; (B) One unidentified ship (possibly named BUTZ or derivative) sailed from Trieste 5/10 with cargo of coal. One unidentified Italian ship loading at Trieste and Fiume (20/10) for Piraeus and Istanbul. Both these ships may be included in (A). (C) Two further Italian ships, one of which is SPARTIVENTO. My 1028A/1/9 and this message not passed to S.O.(I) Istanbul. Please pass by first available "safe hand". (Admty. 1244A/17 to C.O.I.S. Alexandria).

ARCHIMIDIS.

Greek auxiliary sailing ship ARCHIMIDIS 149 gross tons, arrived Istanbul cargo Sulphuric Acid from Piraeus. Agents D.L. consignees on economic warfare suspect list. Grade B.2., 5 more similar vessels at present expected. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1540/17 to S.O.(I) Med).

LL Vessels.

Your 1756/15. Request information whether vessels comprising groups 156 and 157 have been renamed. (C. in C. Med., 1707B/17 to Admty).

MAURO CROCE,  
Italian.

Arrival 16th. (Barcelona, 1746/17 to M. of W.T.)

Enemy Convoy.

4 merchant ships, 5 destroyers 037° 34' 012° 10' course 180° speed 8 knots. 1 destroyer 150° Marittimo 10 miles course 330° 15 knots. All at 1540A/17. Swordfish will attack convoy before dawn. (Capt. S.10 1759A/17 to 10th S.M.F.)

Malta Raid.

C.S.R. Malta. Night 16/17 1 alert, 2 raiders dropped bomb on West coast and in sea, no damage or casualties. Hurricanes up, no illuminations or interceptions. (H.Q. Malta, 1800/17).

/Naples.....

**MOST SECRET**

410<sup>A</sup>

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1552/17th October

IN

From S.O.(I) Istanbul.

Date 18.10.41.

Recd. 0604.

Interdepartmental Cypher (14) by Cable

CORRECTION & RECIRCULATION REQUEST OF D.N.I.

Addressed S.O.(I) Mediterranean (Please inform Middle East) Repeated D.N.I.

In amplification of 1745 October 8th.

(a) New Ploesti Giurgiu pipeline pumping minimum of 100,000 tons monthly; no alternative pumps to those in ASTRA installations at present, and if destroyed, several months to replace. This is principal single target.

(b) 10,000 tank waggons, exclusive of those for internal circulation being actively reconditioned in preparation for winter traffic when Danube frozen. Brasov railway believed doubled to frontier. Czernowitz line now open and turn round of trains on all lines much accelerated.

(c) Petrol consumption Russian front from Roumania reliably estimated at 90,000 tons monthly; half in tank waggons half in smaller containers.

(d) Credit Minier and petrol block plants producing Iso Octaine; probably 10 tons daily each.

(e) Crude oil production Roumanian 15,500 tons daily rising to 16,000.

(f) View of great reliance of Germans on Roumanian supplies for Russian front. Standard oil experts stress opportunities ham-stringing German effort by effective repeat effective bombing of means of transport.

1552/17

Advance copy D.N.I.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

Naval Sec.

D.N.I.(4)

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D. of P.(2)

D.D.I.C.

D.S.D.

M.(13) for A.M., W.O., F.O. and M.E.W.

D.N.A.D.

D.T.D.(2)

D.E.W.D.

E.P.S.

W.D.

D.S.D.9

D.T.D.(M)



War Diary.17.10.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Naples  
bombed.

Night 16/17 Oct. 16 Wellingtons bombed Naples. Total bombs dropped 36,000 lbs, including 3 - 4000 - pounders and 16 - 1000 - pounders. 100,000 leaflets dropped. Time over target 2312 to 0103 hours. 2 aircraft returned early engine trouble. Silurificio torpedo factory probably razed by 11,000lbs. of bombs.  
(H.Q. Malta, 1838/17) W.D. Note. Further details of damage given in 1854/17.

Syracuse  
bombed.

Day 17/10. 6 Blenheims with Hurricane escort bombed seaplane base Syracuse approx. 0850 hours. Bursts seen on target. (H.Q. Malta, 1854/17)

THUNDERBOLT.

Remain West of 024° 30' E., after 0400B/19.  
-(Capt. S.l., 1855B/17 to THUNDERBOLT).

THORN.

Leave your area p.m./19 and proceed Alexandria passing through 036° 22' 021° 23' and 034° 30' 024° 10' and 033° 12' 028° 08'.  
Endeavour to pass through position 259° Sapienza Is. 28 about noon/20. Adjust speed to arrive Alexandria sanctuary (corrupt group) 0500R/24. (Capt. S.l. 1901B/17 to THORN)

RORQUAL.

My 1130A/17 (N.T. in W.D.) RORQUAL has returned to Malta owing to defect.  
(V.A. Malta, 1920A/17 to F.O.C.N.A. etc).  
My 1920A/17 and my 1130A/17. RORQUAL will sail at 1630/18 and will leave 038° 00' N., 011° 44' E. at about dusk/19 as originally arranged.  
(V.A. Malta, 2310A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
RORQUAL has returned to Malta. Swordfish will attack convoy before 0200A/18. (Capt. S.10 2045A/17 to URSULA, P.34)

HANS SCHMIDT.  
(German)

Arrived Mazarron from Garrucha on 13/10 to load ore. Expected to sail 16/10 for Marseilles.  
(D.S. 773, 17/10)

TAMPICO  
(Italian)

Due 17/10 from Black Sea in transit to Aegean.  
(D.S. 774, 18/10)

ALBA JULIA.

Now reported (B.3) in Piraeus, is due about 19/10.  
(D.S. 774, 18/10).

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

M.L. Flotilla. My 1145A/4. (Eight 72 ft. M.Ls comprising 110th M.L. Flotilla to be put at disposal of C. in C. East Indies) Request early reply. (D. of L.D. 1147A/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

AUSTRALIA.  
Special  
cruise.

Your 1340Z/16. 2. Suggest you consider laying magnetic ground mines in Gazelle Basin and off Long Island Kerguelen by AUSTRALIA, mines being embarked from A.S.I.S. PROME at Trincomalee. 3. Further details will be signalled if you concur in this proposal. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1739A/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

*Cdr Burton  
This is the signal  
remained for.*

Zeila.

Re Proposed Free French Naval Base. (C. in C. E.I., 1910Z/17 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

HOHENFELS  
(German)

Sunk in Bandar Gulf on 25/8, has been salvaged by KANIMBLA and left on 11/10 in tow of 2 tugs for Karachi. (D.S., 773, 17/10, D.O.R. 17/10)

China.

KHAI DINH.  
GOUVENEUR  
GENERAL  
PASQUIER.  
(French)

Arrival 15/10. Departure 16/10 for Singapore. (Saigon T.O.O. 0214Z/17 to M. of W.T.)

Raiders.

Admty. 1827/15 last paragraph. Attention is called to similarity between ANTILLA and photograph of MANYO MARU, German raider, taken Emirau Island December 1940. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0304Z/17 to Admty.)

DAUNTLESS.

Hong Kong departure 14/10 DAUNTLESS for Sandakan. (S.O.I. Singapore 0921Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

**MOST SECRET**

412A

1910z/17th October

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

Date 18.10.41

Recd. 0117

From C. in C. East Indies

Naval Cypher D by W/T

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean,  
S.N.O. Red Sea.

IMPORTANT AIDAC

896.

(i) The arrival of F.N.L.O. Aden has complicated Djibuti situation. He has (? made the) following signal to S.N.O. Pointe Noire repeated Admiral Muselier (Begins) Aden Southern route into Djibuti has been patrolled by British since September 24th, but it is possible for Native sailing vessels to evade patrol through Islands close to shore. Propose forming base at Zeila from which small craft can operate under the command of Andre Grideau late Harbourmaster Djibuti He is attached to Colonel Palewski and has been Enseigne de Vaisseau reserve (? company) (? for) 15 (? years). (? Request) he be given Honorary Commission as Lieut. de Vaisseau. Personnel will be (? provided) from (? Free) French and native sailors. One launch is available now and others are in view. If approved request you will represent matter to British Admiralty who will issue instructions. All craft will (? fly) Free French (? flag) (? and) act under the orders of S.N.O.R.S. who has seen and agreed above. T.O.O. 1229Z 15 Sept. Ends.

(ii) My observations on this are as follows

(a) I consider it most undesirable to set up a Free French Naval Base within 25 miles of Djibuti.

(b) If it is intended to capture Djibuti by assault or to induce the Governor to surrender (? as at present) certain participation of any Free French Force will only serve to strengthen (? resistance)

(c) At same time it has to be borne in mind that (? craft) which F.N.L.O. proposes to use for his patrol were intercepted in Gulf (? subsequently) (? and) detained by (? us) and that the Free French (? do not) desire us to (? appropriate) them for our own use.

(iii) /....

**MOST SECRET**

SECRET

-2-

(iii) I therefore suggest it would be advisable to hand over tugs to the Free French on condition they are not used in Djibuti area and to watch Zeila loop hole ourselves.

(iv) C. in C. Mediterranean may be able to suggest some use for the craft concerned manned by Free French.

1910z/17

Advance copy to Ops. O.D. M.

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
P.A.S.(S)  
D.O.D.(F)  
D.D.O.D.(F)  
D. of P.(2)  
Duty Capt.(2)  
E.P.S.  
Hd. of M. (10) for action  
I.P.(2)  
N.I.D.10 Paym.Cdr. Wilson  
W.D.  
D.N.I.(4)  
Admiral Palliser  
Admiral Chalmers.

FP

SECRET

C.

~~MOST SECRET.~~

M E S S A G E. 2355/17th Oct. I N.

From C. in C. India.

**MOST SECRET**

Date. 18.10.41. 4128

Recd. 1248.

C Y P H E R.

Addressed The War Office. Repeated General Iraq.

02834. 15472/G cipher 17/10/41. MOST SECRET.

M.O.4. Your 94506 (M.O.12) of 8/10.

Protection oil installations Bahrein. Our views are.

One. Refinery easily damaged. Blast and splinter proof walls required.

Two. Oil wells. Peace time precautions adequate but if field under great pressure special precautions will be necessary against bombing. Further detailed examination is required.

Three. Tanks. Bricking of tanks is recommended and fire fighting equipment on scale provided for similar installations in England.

Four. Power House. Blast and splinter proof walls required.

Five. Understand Company not prepared bear cost of structural precautions. Approximate estimate based on photographs is from five to eight lakhs rupees.

Six. Agreed that building material and labour may present difficulties but if adequate protection is to be afforded these should not be allowed to stand in way.

Seven. Following action is now proposed. Chief Inspector Explosives India to visit Bahrein and examine measures suggested in one to four above in detail. R.E. Officer from Iraq to accompany who would be in charge of any work immediately practicable and make preliminary arrangements for labour and material required for remaining work. Presume H.M.G. agree to meet cost of structural precautions. If above proposals agreed to suggest H.M.G. give immediate authority up to eight lakhs rupees to enable work to be put in hand without delay.

Eight. We also propose send Chief Inspector Explosives to Abadan to examine what protective arrangements could usefully be undertaken there.

2355/17.

Copies circulated by War Office to:-

1st Lord.		D.M.O. & P.
1st S.L.		D.D.M.O. (0)
3rd S.L.		M.O.1. 12 (6)
4th S.L.		M.I.10.
V.C.N.S.		G.S.(P)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D. of P. (2)	S.T.2.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D. of L.D.	F.1.
N.A. to 1st S.L.	Hd. of M.	D. of Plans, Army.
D.O.D. (F)	D.T.S.D.	D. of Plans Air Ministry.
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.G.D.	India Office, Col. McCay.
D.C.	W.D.	Petroleum Department.
D.D.I.C.	I.P. (2)	(Mr. Starling).
D.N.I. (4)	N.I.D.10.	

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

DIANTHUS.

My 1321Z/6. Anticipate DIANTHUS will arrive Charleston 26/10. Confirmation follows. (C.C.N.F. 0357Z/17 to B.A.R.M.)

Suspicious Ship 14/10.

N.O.i/c Trinidad 1626Q/16 being passed to CIRCASSIA, PRINCE HENRY, Admiralty and B.A.D. Washington. W/T break silence to report whether this was CIRCASSIA. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0932Q/17 to CIRCASSIA.)  
Your 0932Q/17. Not CIRCASSIA. (CIRCASSIA, 2220Z/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

S.C.50.

My 1146Z/13. S.C.50. Task Unit 4.1.13. S.O. ST. CROIX, RESTIGOUCHE, ALYSSE, AGASSIZ, ALBERNI, WINDFLOWER, BITTERSWEET, COLLINGWOOD. (C.C.N.F. 1147Z/?17, to Comdr. Task Force 4, Admty. Opanv.)  
My 1146Z/13. S.C.50. W.S.C junction for (B) read(Q) (C.C.N.F. 1503Z/17.)

Refits. Atlantic Coast.

Instructions for reporting (repeats A.C.N.S.(H) 2208A/16. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1340Z/17 to C.O.A.C. etc.)  
Your 2208/16. (1) This is arranged by my 1340/17. (2) N.S.H.Q.'s 1340/17. *N.S.H.Q. Ottawa*  
PRINCE DAVID Halifax 21/9 Uncertain  
ASSINIBOINE Halifax 14/10 25/11  
HAMILTON Pictou N.S. 17/9 Approx. 21/10  
NIAGARA Halifax 20/9 15/11  
ST. CLAIR St. John N.B 31/7 10/11  
FENNEL Halifax 13/10 10/11  
HEPATIC HALIFAX 7/10 19/11  
RIMOUSKI Halifax 3/10 19/11  
Sub O.15 Halifax 12/10 21/10  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1445Z/17 to Admty.)

Signals.

Your 1325R/12. Provided grid signal is passed in Type X could arrangements be made for Navy Department to re-transmit the groups direct to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa? (D.T.D. 1527A/17 to B.A.D. Washington.)

DIDO.

My 1228R/13. DIDO completes ex trials on 25/10/1941. No reply received to the signal quoted. (B.A.R.M. 1648R/17 to Admty.)

/Chilean ...

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Chilean  
Warships.

Re proposals to purchase. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1728A/17 to N.A. Santiago). See Lion Copy.  
Reply: (N.A. Santiago de Chile 1320/17 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

U.S.Pacific  
Fleet liaison.

Cdr. Parry reports not much more he and Lt.Cdr. Martell can do in way of advising regarding mistakes in training in Pacific Fleet. Recommended that Cdr. Parry, recently nominated as Liaison Officer designate; should now be appointed as Observer until outbreak of war, instead of Assistant N.A. Admty. 1642B/18/7 and my 1315R/23/7 refer. Recommended that Lt. Cdr. Martell be withdrawn without relief but that occasionally when a suitable officer is available he should visit Pacific Fleet. (B.A.D. 1813R/17 to Admty.) *Concur (Hd. of M., 2152A/29)*

Australia and New Zealand.

LE TRIOMPHANT  
CAP DES PALMES

B.C. Papeete's No.1414 to LE TRIOMPHANT only and my 1900W/9 (i) Only fuel oil available at Suva which is similar to that provided at Tahiti gives LE TRIOMPHANT endurance of not more than 1850 miles and does not allow voyage Rarotonga and back to Fiji as intended.  
(ii) No fuel oil available at Pago Pago.  
(iii) For convenience of (? official) reception High Commissioner Suva would prefer your arrival should be delayed until 27/10 or better 29/10 Fiji time.  
(iv) Following programme intended for LE TRIOMPHANT.  
(vi) Suggest CAP DES PALMES may sail from Papeete with LE TRIOMPHANT as escort.  
(LE TRIOMPHANT 1620M/17 to CHEVREUIL. etc.)

/Destroyers...

SECRET.

MESSAGE

1728/17th October.

OUT

To N.A. Santiago.

Date 17.10.41.

Interdepartmental Cypher (OT).

From Admiralty.

Your 1736/24/9.

1. We have decided not to proceed with this transaction. An old battleship is now of very much less use to us than it would have been a few months ago. Reason to be given to Chileans should however, be that as it is not possible to forecast the situation at the end of the war, we do not feel able to commit ourselves to giving them option of 2 - 8" gun cruisers.
2. We are, however, extremely anxious to get good destroyers such as the six SERRANO Class and would like to obtain the Depot Ship ARAUCANO. Oiler MAIPO and Tugs of SOBENES Class. Are these ships in reasonably good condition.
3. You should at present say nothing to Blair or Chileans but report whether you consider Chileans likely to part with any of the above on cash basis preferably, but alternatively on basis of part cash, part replacement with modern vessels smaller than cruisers after the war. Further, do you consider it would be possible to link up this question with that of ALMIRANTE LATOQUE, and to get Blair to continue negotiations.

1728A/17.

for Head of M. (808).

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

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.  
 2nd S.L.  
 Controller.  
 Vice Controller.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F).  
 A.C.N.S. (H).  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 Secretary.  
 P.A.S. (S).

P.A.S. (F).  
 D. of P. (3).  
 D.P.S. (2).  
 O.D. (5).  
 Ops. (3).  
 D.N.I. (4).  
 M(4) (M. 022996/40) (and for F.O.)  
 W.G.F.  
 M.F.  
 I.P. (3).  
 W.D.



414B

SECRET

MESSAGE

1320/17th Oct.

IN

FROM N.A. Santiago de Chile.

Date. 18.10.41.  
Recd. 2313

Inter-Departmental Cypher 4 by Cable

ADDRESSED. Admiralty.

Your 1728 A Oct. 17th whereas there were some hopes of negotiating sale of <sup>ALMIRANTE</sup> LA TORRE as certain members of Chilean Government and (? public) have always regarded her as an expensive white Elephant and such a sale would have produced (? a) considerable sum of ready cash, I do not consider prospects of acquiring naval units mentioned in paragraph (2)

Your 1728 A Oct. 17th are favourable. As regards the six SERRANO class destroyers although recognized that this type is not suitable for weather conditions off southern coast of Chile the Chilean Navy is short of commands for Officers of commander rank hence there would be great opposition.

(2). If three of these destroyers could be replaced by three of U.S. coastguard cutter type of 2,000 tons this (? difficulty) word omitted (? could be) overcome. Such (? vessels) would be invaluable for efficient patrol of the southern Channels and in the event of Japan entering the war I think we could count on loyal (? cooperation) on the part of Chilean Naval Authorities. This idea (? Chilean Government) imparted to my American colleague and I bring it forward now as a suggestion to obtain the release of the three destroyers.

(3) I think chances of obtaining (? Oiler) MAIPO are nil and very doubtful for ARAUCANO and small craft.

(4) Condition of all ships mentioned reasonable.

(5) I am sure Blair would give every assistance in any of these/.....

of these negotiations. I await your further instructions before informing him of contents of your 1728 A Oct. 17th and taking any action myself.

1320/17

1st Lord  
1st S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
Controller  
Vice Controller  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Secretary  
P.I.S. (S)  
P.A.S. (F)  
D. of P. (3)

D.P.S. (2)  
C.D. (5)  
Ops. (3)  
D.N.I. (4)  
M. (4) (M. 022996/40) for  
action (and for F.O.)  
W.G.F.  
C.S.F.  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.  
M.F. } Bath  
S.W.R. }

L.C.

415

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - contd.

Destroyers.

Your 1218/24/9. Future disposition of these ships is under consideration here and further signal will be made. Meantime it is considered VENDETTA should be refitted and she will be sailed from Mediterranean about 20/10. If possible we would prefer refit to take place in Australia rather than Singapore. Request if this can be arranged. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2203A/17 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

NAILSEA  
MANOR.  
(torpedoed  
10/10.)

LONDONDERRY'S 0535/10. Ship torpedoed was NAILSEA MANOR, 4926 tons bound for Suez. At time of being torpedoed was about 10 miles (astern of convoy?) and was being escorted by LONDONDERRY and VIOLET.  
(C. in C.S.A., 0455N/17 to Admty.)

S.C.48.

S.C.48 attacked four times last night, eight ships sunk. Full report follows when situation has been clarified.  
(HIGHLANDER, 0930Z/17, to C. in C.W.A.)  
(D.T.D., 1124Z/17 to Opnav.)

RYM. (S.C.48.)

RYM afloat and abandoned in 057° 01' N., 024° 20' W. Bow practically cut off and twisted with 40° list. Loaded with timber. Possibility of salvage good. Ship from S.C.48.  
(VERONICA, 1114Z/17, to C. in C.W.A.)  
RYM, Norwegian, 1369 tons, Rimouski to Londonderry with lumber. (D.S., 774.)  
D/F bearings have been obtained of a number of transmissions indicating that several U-Boats are still in vicinity of Convoy S.C.48.  
(D.D.I.C. 1141A/17 to A.I.G.62, O.P.N.A.V., A.C.I.C., C.C.N.F., H.Q.C.C.)

KEARNY.  
(S.C.48.)

U.S. Destroyer KEARNY torpedoed about 0200/17 in vicinity of S.C.48. U.S. Destroyers GREER and MONSEN standing by. Ship still able to steam. S O P A informed salvage tug available.  
(A.C.I.C., 1157/17 to Admty.)  
S S S - Composition 9 DRS, 4 EVS 32MVS 1 CAM 12 Stragglers or sunk.  
(A/C F/240 1315/17 to 15 Group.)  
Following received from E.A.C. Gander (begins). To C.O.A.C. Halifax, following received from LIBRATOR 9 A.P.O. W/B from U.K. 0300 G.M.T. we sighted red glow on cloud about 20 miles off Port which appear like ship on fire 057° 20' N., 024° 02' W. (ends) 1150/17.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1345Z/17 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)  
(44 Group, 1720/17 to D.O.N.C., Whitehall.)

BOLD VENTURE,  
BARFONN, W.C.S.  
TEAGLE.  
ERVIKEN  
EVROS.  
(S.C.48.)

W.A.C.I. Part 102.  
(a) 4 attacks carried out on S.C.48 at 2220, 2330, 0145, and 0300 during the night 16-17 in 056° 58' N., 025° 04' W., at 2220.  
(b) At least 2 U.boats attacked probably singly.  
(c) BOLD VENTURE, BARFAM, (?BARFONN) (?ICTEAGLE) (?W.C.TEAGLE) ERVIKAN (?ERVIKEN) EVEROS (?EVROS.)

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War Diary.

17.10.1941.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BOLD VENTURE 42 survivors in WETASKIWIN, 11 in BROADWATER,  
BARFONN W.C.V. unknown number in possibly U.S. Destroyer  
TEAGLE. KEARNY, and PICTOU. Possibly more in other  
ERVIKEN. corvettes not yet rejoined.  
EVROS. (d) No report yet received.  
(S.C.48.) (e) GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA, ROSTERN not yet rejoined  
(Contd.) after looking for survivors.  
(f) HIGHLANDER and BROADWATER delayed by weather  
did not sight convoy until second attack and  
joined before third attack. It appears probable  
that U-boats fired torpedoes from inside convoy.  
Attack carried out on 2 U.boats sighted on surface  
by PICTOU and BROADWATER.  
Am retaining WETASKIWIN, MIMOSA, BADDECK, CAMROSE  
until 0800/18. Following is uncyphered weather  
report.  
(HIGHLANDER, 1500Z/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

BOLD VENTURE. (ex Danish ALSSUND), 3222 tons, Panamanian,  
Baltimore to Liverpool.  
BARFONN. (Norwegian tanker) 9739 tons, Texas City to  
Old Kilpatrick.  
W.C. TEAGLE (British tanker.) 9551 tons, Aruba to Swansea.  
ERVIKEN (Norwegian), 6595 tons, Tampa to Garston.  
EVROS. (Greek), 5283 tons, Victoria, Brazil, to  
Ardrossan.

SILVERCEDAR Ref. W (?A) C I part 102. (A) Searched astern  
ILA. and on starboard quarter. No contact (B)  
(S.C.48.) starboard plus both cases (C) G. N.E. and D.E.  
(D) SILVERCEDAR British, number 72 sank in 3  
minutes. ILA now Norwegian number 74 sank  
immediately. (E) SILVERCEDAR between 0630Z and  
0640Z. ILA about 065° (F) 064° 9 hours.  
(G) Misty moon. (H) None. SILVERCEDAR, one  
boat one raft got away at once. ILA no (?boats)  
got away. SILVERCEDAR, 26 picked up. ILA 9  
picked up 1 dead 12 missing. Aircraft passed  
over Convoy 0530Z. COLUMBIA met 1900Z, position  
054° 38' N., 028° 02' W.  
(WETASKIWIN, 1738Z/17 to C. in C.W.A.)  
Ships in company now, BULLDOG, AMAZON, RICHMOND,  
GEORGETOWN, BROADWATER, WETASKIWIN, CAMROSE,  
MIMOSA, latter 3 leaving daylight to-morrow.  
(HIGHLANDER, 1950Z/17 to C. in C.W.A.)  
Your 0930Z/17, report not yet received.  
What is the situation regarding escorts on  
S.C.48?  
(C. in C.W.A., 1958A/17, to HIGHLANDER.)  
D/F bearings between 1741 and 1848 G.M.T. indicate  
that U.Boats are still in vicinity of S.C.48.  
(D.D.I.C. 2034A/17 to A.I.G.62. Opanav, A.C.I.C,  
C.C.N.F. H.Q.C.C.

/PASS OF BALMAHA.....

War Diary.17.10.1941.  
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.Contd.PASS OF  
BALMAHA  
SAMOS.Torpedoed off Alexandria.  
(C. in C. Med. 1235/17.)  
See Mediterranean.EMPIRE WAVE.  
(torpedoed  
1/10.)29 survivors landed to-day ex EMPIRE WAVE  
torpedoed 059° 08' N., 032° 26' W., on 1/10.  
21 merchant service, 1 R.A.F. officer, 4 R.A.F.,  
other ranks, one R.N. gunner, 2 R.N. R.D.F.,  
ratings. Names of R.A.F., and R.N., forwarded  
in my 1912/17.  
(A.C.I.C., 1917/17, to Admty.)  
EMPIRE WAVE, British, 7463 tons, Clyde to  
Halifax in Convoy O.N.19. Is presumed sunk.  
(D.S.774, 18/10.)Submarines Reported.

0058C.

Bearing by D/F at 0058C/17 position of enemy  
U-Boat was 067° 45' N., 041° 12' E.  
(S.B.N.O., Murmansk, 0152C/17.)

1230.

Following has been read. Addressed Naval  
General Call Sign, from ROSTHERN. One enemy  
submarine, 60.40N., 18.36 W.  
(Iceland W/T, 1230/17.)Estimated U/B dispositions in Atlantic.  
(D.D.I.C. 1410A/17.) (U.S.C.N.O., 2025/17.)Submarines Attacked.By  
VERONICA.Am returning to Londonderry with 30 survivors  
from torpedoed ships, and for fuel, depth charges  
and star shells before joining H.X.154 (four  
survivors require medical attention.) Sighted  
U-boat at 1503Z in 057° 01' N., 022° 10' W.,  
carried out five attacks, consider destroyed it.  
(VERONICA, 2107Z/17 to C. in C.W.A.)By PICTOU,  
BROADWATER.

(HIGHLANDER, 1500Z/17.) See Ships Attacked.

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

One or more U-boats and several enemy A/C having recently been detected at the entrance to the White Sea, the Russian Authorities are to be asked to afford suitable A/S and A/A protection to our Convoys in those waters, but S.B.N.O. North Russia considers little result can be expected from Soviet A/S patrols (1801C/21) A/S Trawlers are being prepared at home for Arctic service.

An enemy Coast Battery fired one round at 2220 last night without effect at Convoy C.W.54 off Dover.

Rescue tug ASSURANCE went ashore in Lough Foyle at 2320 today and is considered to be beyond salvage.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today on account of bad weather.

Mining.

Operation  
H.G.

The minelaying operation off Lorient by WELSHMAN and MANXMAN was postponed today for a further 24 hours on account of the weather.

Thames  
Estuary.

In the Thames Estuary there was some enemy minelaying activity last night. 6 Mines were detonated by sweepers yesterday, and at 1508A today the British MAHSEER (7911 tons) and EMPIRE GHYLL (2011 Tons) were mined and sunk off the Gunfleet.

Bloody  
Foreland

R.A.M. considers it most unlikely that the Explosions in 56° 20' N. 8° 50' W. reported yesterday by CAIRO as having occurred at 1330/16 in the rear of Convoy T.C.14 were due to premature firing of British Mines, and suggests that they may have had a deeper significance.

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

AUDACITY.

AUDACITY, (auxiliary aircraft carrier) proposes that she should operate from Gibraltar during the winter months, escorting H.G. and O.G. Convoys.

South Atlantic.

There have been reports that U-boats may be using Annobon Island as a centre for rest and recreation if not for fuelling. It is proposed that PRESIDENT HCU DUCE should carry out a R/C of the island and surrounding waters.

Mediterranean.

Operation  
"Callboy".

11 Albacores have arrived at Malta. One Swordfish is missing.

Attacks on  
shipping.

Swordfish at 0018 today attacked an escorted convoy 15 miles south of Pantellaria and claim to have torpedoed two ships of 5000 and 6000 tons respectively.

URSULA attacked a convoy at 0802A today in 35° 25' N. 11° 39' E. and thinks she sank 2 ships.

At 2005 today 6 Swordfish attacked with torpedoes a southbound escorted convoy of 4 merchant vessels 85 miles N.W. of Tripoli and report 3 hits; one 6000 ton merchant ship was stopped and a second ship was probably damaged.

It is possible that all the above attacks refer to the same convoy. Air R/C showed that only one merchant ship of the convoy arrived at Tripoli.



18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Shortage of  
long range  
R/C A/C.

C. in C. E.I. reports that the present lack of long range R/C A/C on the station is serious. The two Catalinas now available at Colombo are unable to meet his present requirements and will be totally inadequate in the event of a Far Eastern war.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.C.48.  
BROADWATER  
torpedoed.

HIGHLANDER reported at 0400Z today that BROADWATER one of the escort of S.C.48 had been torpedoed in 57° 1' N. 19° 8' W., BROADWATER sank at 1341Z today.

Attack on  
U-boat by  
VERONICA.

VERONICA <sup>on 17/10</sup> ~~today~~ carried out several attacks on a U-boat in 57° 1' N. 22° 10' W., and considers the U-boat was possibly destroyed.

See p.p. 418 & 442

It is reported that the Russian S.S. ARGUN was torpedoed today in position 90° Cape Gorodetski 5 miles.

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

2nd M/L  
Flotilla.

The Free French Division of the 20th M.L. Flotilla is to be transferred to HORNET to reinforce the 2nd M.L.F.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1516A/18).

SWORD DANCE  
conversion.

Request that conversion of SWORD DANCE to combined A/S and M/S be carried out in Belfast area on the next occasion of refit.  
(D. of D., 1547A/18)

Reykjavik.  
Shipping  
congestion.

Your 2054A/16. Harvey in London will explain situation. Americans have programme of anticipated arrivals. We have some information of anticipated sailings of British ships from U.K. Submit requirements here are not to determine incidents of congestion but to defer or control loading to prevent it.  
(D.S.T.O. Iceland, 1550/18).

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Convoy  
Escorts.

Address to escort Task Unit Commander or to Commander Task Force 4 for escort Commander yet to be designated will be given serial number buried in the text beginning at 0000 G.M.T. /20 with number one for each convoy including convoy already organized example quote "serial one H.X.152 etc".  
{U.S. Chief of Naval Ops. 1645X/18}

Co-operation with Russia.

Movements.

Embassy and Mission left Moscow for Kuibyshev 15/10. Have not established communication with them yet. Inform (corrupt group) amounts to one wing.  
2. Torpedoes and five personnel leaving for Murmansk via Kandalaksha today.  
3. Group Captain Bird requests you signal instructions given by Air Ministry for disposal of wing and keep him informed of their movements.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1031C/18 to Admty).

/Communications...

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

Communications. Propose following arrangements be made for Admiralty General Messages for S.B.N.O. Murmansk and Archangel. Details. (D.S.D., 1247A/18 to C. in C. H.F.) Can arrangements be made to read Rugby "GA" routine in order that general messages made by W/T on the Home Station may be received. (D.S.D., 1248A/18 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk)

British A/C handed over.

All A/C handed over to Soviet P.M. today. (151 Wing 1802/18 to Air Ministry)

U-boats off White Sea.

D.F. Bearing appears to indicate constant presence of one, and sometimes two, U-boats off entrance to White Sea. A/S patrols are clearly desirable but British Force in area will be fully employed on Minesweeping and local A/S escorts for Convoys. Request Russian Authorities may be urged to take offensive action against this potential menace to our Convoys. Admiralty pass to Admiral Miles and S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (C. in C. H.F., 1824A/18 to Ad. Miles).

Movements.

NORMAN.

Cancel my 0900C 16th. (NORMAN, 0200Z/18 to A.C.I.C.) Expect to arrive Archangel 1500C/19. (NORMAN, 1710B/18)

VERITY.  
BADSWORTH.

Sailed VERITY and BADSWORTH in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2220/15. <sup>NT N.W.D.</sup> (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0615A/18).

PETUNIA.

PETUNIA report tugs not met in Tunugdjarrik PETUNIA now at Julianehaab. (A.C.I.C., 0946/18, to C.C.N.F.)

JAY.  
-MYRLAND.  
KENNET.

My 1758/15. Sailing delayed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0959/18).

/CHICOUTIMI.....

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

CHICOUTIMI.

Request CHICOUTIMI be diverted in accordance with my 1435A/17 on recommendation received by telephone from Commodore WESTERN ISLES. (C.C.C.S., 1127A/18)  
If convenient request you will comply with C.C.C.'s 1127A/18 informing F.O.I.C. Greenock. (C. in C. W.A., 1925A/18 to Commodore WESTERN ISLES).

VICTORIOUS,  
LAFOREY,  
LIGHTNING.

Intend sailing VICTORIOUS escorted by Capt. (D) 19 in LAFOREY and LIGHTNING passing Clyde Boom at 1330A/19. E.T.A. Scapa exercise area 0800A/20. Codeword "Eager". (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1148A/18).

13th M/S  
Flotilla.

My 1253A/16 and 1737A/17. Sailing of 13th M/S F. postponed for further 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1223A/18)

4th M/S  
Flotilla.

Admiralty 2053/13. Propose sailing S.O.4th M/S Flotilla in FITZROY, with ELGIN, ROSS, LYDD in -company with CAVA, RONALDSHAY, and CAPE NYMETSKI as Danlayers, collier LAKELAND, and store carrier STAR OF FREEDOM to arrive Skaalefiord daylight 21. (A.C.O.S., 1805A/18)

L.27.

To avoid convoy amend route as follows. (C. in C. W.A., 2215A/18 to L.27).

Operations.

Convoy  
C.W.54  
shelled.

An enemy coastal battery fired one round at 2220 yesterday Friday in the vicinity of C.W.54. No damage or casualties have been reported. (V.A. Dover, 0743A/18)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

P.R.U. Bergen to Stavanger in operation. -(C. in C. Rosyth, 1147/18)

Bombing  
operations.

Night 17/18. All operations were cancelled owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C., 1200/18)

/Mosquito.....

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. - Contd.Mosquito  
A/C.

My A.906 dated 19.9.1941. the following Mosquito aircraft are flying. Description. (Air Ministry, 1600/18)

White Sea  
Convoys  
Air  
Protection.

Following received from C. in C. H.F. Begins: LONDON reports at least three enemy A/C detected in vicinity of convoy Q.P. one when off Cape Gorodetski but no attack developed owing to low visibility. Request possibility of affording air protection to convoys entering and leaving White Sea be urgently examined. A possible landing ground on Chayachi Island is described on page 43 of I.S.T.S. report dated 11th August 1941 on Kola Peninsula and Archangel. 1217A/17. Ends. Request you will take the necessary action and report. (A.C.N.S.H., 1637A/18 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

A/C in  
Russia.

All aircraft handed over to Soviet p.m. today. (151 Wing 1802/18 to Air Ministry).

Mining.Operation  
H.G.

My 1130/17. Operation H.G. postponed a further 24 hours on account of weather. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0948/18)

Thames  
Estuary.

4 Magnetic mines detonated by Sweepers on 17/10 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1001/18 and 1030/18)  
One magnetic mine detonated at 2155/17. Details. (-Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1035/18)  
One S.A. mine detonated at 1927/17 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1701/18)  
There was some activity over Estuary during early part of night of 17/18. 2015. Loud explosion (bomb or mine) Northern end of East Barrow Sand.  
2017 Mine reported dropped in 51° 34' 54" N., 01° 10' 27" E. Position buoyed. (S.O. T.L.D.F., 1723/18)

Liverpool.

Your 0924. Port including Q.Z.S. 298 is closed until 0745/19. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1102A/18)

/Explosions.....

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Explosions off Bloody Foreland. CAIRO. In view of your 0952/16, it appears possible that the explosions reported in your 2309/17 may have had a deeper significance. No reports of any prematures in these fields have reached me for many months and I consider it most unlikely that any would occur more than a year after the field was laid.  
(R.A.M., 1200/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy F.3622 MAHSEER British (7911 tons) EMPIRE GHYLL, (British, 2011 tons) sunk. WESTMINSTER reports ship mined in position 165° Gunfleet 3½ miles. MANSFIELD standing by. (C. in C. Nore, 1508A/18)  
EMPIRE GHYLL sunk in about 221° B.7 buoy 4.5 cables. (MANSFIELD, 1830A/18)  
Your 1743. EMPIRE GHYLL and one other ship sunk. One of these is approx. 051° 40' 32" N. 001° 18' 50" E. Other wreck is close to this position but has not been located. (WOLSEY, 1850A/18)  
Your 2015 and my 1850. It now appears that MAHSEER and EMPIRE GHYLL were the only 2 ships sunk. (WOLSEY, 2059A/18)  
(C. in C. Nore, 2015A and 2323A/18)

Casualties and Defects.

COLLEGIAN. O.N.S. 27 inform Commodore that COLLEGIAN is returning in tow to Liverpool with defects. (C. in C. W.A., 0032A/18)

NARVA. Your 2200A/17. <sup>N.T. R. W.D.</sup> Is NARVA in company. (C. in C. W.A., 0122A/18)  
Your 0122A/18. Lost touch with NARVA night of 14th October. (LADY ELSA, 0200A/18)

MARIE LOUISE MACKAY. My 2315A/17. Damage to MARIE LOUISE MACKAY cannot be repaired at Londonderry. Intend sailing her escorted by WOOLSTON, STELLA POLARIS, and INDIAN STAR to Belfast P.M. today if weather moderates. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1157A/18)

/LAURENT....

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

?Belgian  
LAURENT  
MEEUS.  
(British  
tanker  
6429 tons)  
grounded.

S.O.S. In 53° 55' N., 3° 09' W., Stranded in dangerous position. (LAURENT MEEUS, 1510/18)  
S.O.S. Send immediately tugs. Stranded by the stern. (LAURENT MEEUS, Recd. 1637/18)

EMPIRE  
WATERHEN.

Cancel my 1625A/16. EMPIRE WATERHEN is to be towed to Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1853A/18)

ASSURANCE  
grounded.

ASSURANCE aground on Bluick Rock, North Channel, Lough Foyle. Tug FRISKY standing by. (N.O.I.C., Londonderry, 2320/18)

Shipping & Convoys.F.S623.

In view of weather Destroyers for F.S623 are cancelled. (C. in C. Nore, 0934A/18)  
No M.Ls. from Humber joining F.S623 owing to weather. (F.O. Humber, 1145A/18)

F.N533.

As gale likelihood of veering request permission to route F.N. No.533 via A.M. Q.Z.S. 287 and so obtain shelter from land. Anticipate Haisborough could be passed in daylight and E.T.A. Sheringham 2100. F.N. No. 33 is only 6 ships. (VALOROUS 1147A/18)  
Your 1147A/18. Not approved. Proceed by normal channels. (C. in C. Nore, 1351A/18 to VALOROUS)  
Sailing of P.W. 52 and W.P. 54 is postponed 24 hours on account of weather. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1158/18)

S.L.89.

Request confirmation that S.L.89 will be met by a local escort of destroyers R/V of which will be passed by CLEMATIS. (WELLINGTON, 1200Z/16)

Convoy.

Unless able to arrive before dark reduce speed to arrive daylight 19th. Shoreham ships to be detached to arrive A.M.19th high water sweepers are proceeding towards Portsmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1243/18 to BLENCATHRA)

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

P.Q. 3.  
O.N. 29.

P.Q. 3 will sail from Iceland and will consist of CAPE RACE, WANSTEAD, CAPE CORSO, TREKIEVE, BRIARWOOD, COCLE. *SAN AMBROSIO. P.452.*  
2. Ships from U.K. are to be sailed for Iceland in O.N. 29.  
3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to arrange escort from Iceland to Archangel and if possible provide additional escort for O.N. 29 with orders to break off with Iceland portion.  
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail U.K. ships as necessary to join O.N. 29.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 1343A/18)

"Cargo"  
→ C.T. 5.  
T.C. 15.

Convoy "Cargo". 6 ships will be ready to sail 24/10. EMPIRE CONDOR and EMPIRE CURLEW cannot sail before 30/10 in ballast or 2/11 loaded.  
(2) Navy Department wish that escort of "Cargo" shall on return passage form part escort of convoy C.T. 5 if M.O.M.P. and dates can be suitably arranged.  
(3) Propose therefore that convoy "Cargo" sails 24/10 less EMPIRE CONDOR and EMPIRE CURLEW.  
(4) As maritime commision attaches special importance to safety of ships of this type propose EMPIRE CONDOR and EMPIRE CURLEW complete loading and proceed to Halifax for (?inclusion) in convoy T.C. 15.  
(5) Request immediate reply.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 1935R/18)

Convoy  
F.N 333.  
SPEEDFAST.

SPEEDFAST making little headway, position near 55A buoy. Am standing by.  
(VERDUN, 2053/18)

→ Convoy  
C.T. 5.

Composed of 8 ships will leave U.K. on 30/10. Details. (A.C.N.S.(H), 2231A/18) See Lion Copy.



MOST SECRET

**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE 2251/18 October OUT

42FA

Repeated To C. in C. Western Approaches 658  
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 466  
B.A.D. Washington 988  
O.P.N.A.V.  
C.O.A.C. Halifax  
F.O. i/c Liverpool  
F.O. i/c Greenock  
F.O. i/c Cardiff  
F.O. i/c Belfast  
N.O. i/c Avonmouth  
N.C.S.O. Mersey  
N.C.S.O. Clyde  
N.C.S.O. Milford Haven  
C.C.N.F.  
C. in C. America and West Indies 765  
C. in C. Home Fleet 603  
R.A.(D) Home Fleet 142  
H.Q. Coastal Command  
H.Q. Fighter Command

DATE 18.10.41.

Naval Cypher A and One Time Table

From Admiralty

Convoy C.T. 5 composed of 8 ships will leave United Kingdom on 30th October.

2. Embarkation will take place as follows:-

From Liverpool

- ANDES
- ORCADES
- REINA DEL PACIFICO
- WARWICK CASTLE
- DUCHESS OF ATHOLL
- SOBIESKI
- DURBAN CASTLE
- ORONSAY

From Clyde

From Avonmouth

3. Troops will embark in ORONSAY on 27th October and she should be sailed to Clyde in time to attend Convoy conference.

4. Speed of slowest ship 16 knots.

5. Escort to Halifax from M.O.M.P. will be provided by the U.S.

6. Escort to M.O.M.P. will consist of one A/A cruiser and 6 destroyers.

7. Admiralty will arrange route and M.O.M.P. with O.P.N.A.V.

8. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to (a) arrange sailing of ORONSAY as in paragraph 4.

(b) Sail Liverpool and Clyde....

1.

2.

- (b) Sail Liverpool and Clyde portions to rendezvous off Oversay Light.
- (c) Provide one A/A Cruiser and 6 destroyers to return after meeting U.S. escort.

9. Main Convoy conference will be held at Clyde and arrangements should be made for C.O's of escorts to attend.

2231A/18

D.O.D. (H)

Approved by 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)  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D. of P. (2)  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 D.O.D. (H)  
 D.D.O.D. (H)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 E.S.D.  
 D. of L.D.  
 D.N.A.D.  
 D.A/S.W.  
 D.M.S.  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.  
 Duty Captain (2)  
 Head of M.  
 D.T.S.D.  
 D.D.I.C.  
 E.P.S.  
 D.T.D. (2)  
 D.G.D.  
 N.I.D. 10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)

429

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Operation  
"Call Boy"

See Mediterranean.

SURVILLE  
(French)Arrival 17th. (? Porto, 1128/18 to D. of S.T.)  
*01000. P 505*Convoys H.G.  
report of  
sailing.

Following is an extract from R.O.P. on H.G.73 rendered by FOWEY (begins). It is for consideration that H.G. convoy should be sailed after dark to prevent their time of departure being accurately reported by enemy agents in Spain. (Ends) Request your remarks. (C. in C. W.A. 1128A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Return of  
Aircraft in  
ATHENE.

Air Ministry have asked that the following R.A.F. aircraft should be returned to U.K. in ATHENE (details of 6). Request you will investigate possibility of shipping these aircraft in ARGUS, as well as any other damaged aircraft and components, as it is not desired that ATHENE should call at Gibraltar on her homeward voyage. (D.N.A.D. 1348A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

H.G.75.

A.M.2209/16 and 2022/17 F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail H.G.75 on 21/10 or at earliest date thereafter when at least two destroyers of Force H. can be made available to supplement the escort. F.O. Force H. is requested to arrange for destroyers of Force H. accordingly. Present intention is that they should return to Gibraltar in time for "Chieftain". (A.C.N.S.(T) 1620A/18 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H.)

RORQUAL.

On completion of operation off Sardinia proceed through position (M) 038° 40' 008° 00' (N) 039° 00' 004° 00' E. (P) 036° 20' 002° 15' W. to Gibraltar. At your discretion report P.C. and S. of A. on crossing 007° E. (F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/18 to RORQUAL.)

AUDACITY.

Consider AUDACITY should operate from Gibraltar during winter months escorting H.G. and O.G. convoys, changing over as requisite. If approved spare Martlets will be required at Gibraltar. Propose embarking eight aircraft and all 802 Sqdn. for passage out with O.G. 76. (AUDACITY 1625A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Portuguese ...

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Portuguese  
Trawlers.

Neutral Master reports belief that following Portuguese Trawlers intend to join the Bayonne Trade: TREVO PRIMEIRO 198 G.T., TREVO SEGUNDO 202 G.T., TREVO TERCEIRO 296 G.T. owned by Sociedade De Pesca Cesteira Ltd. (S.O.I. Gib., 1632A/18 to D.N.I.)

Wounded from  
Gibraltar.

Evacuation of wounded from Gibraltar.  
1. Agreed most desirable from point of view of morale of the Garrison that occasional evacuation of casualties should take place when siege conditions arise. 2. The smallest Hospital ship in commission has a capacity for 399 patients. Not considered possible to load this ship fully in a single night from beaches by Motor Landing Craft. 3. Only method which appears practical is to evacuate small numbers by occasional fast ships. This would entail a small R.A.M.C. staff embarking in ship before its departure from U.K. 4. Your views are requested to enable necessary arrangements to be made. (W.O. 1745/18 to Govr. Gibraltar.)

French  
Shipping.

Gibraltar 1645. French armed trawler L'AJACCIEUNE, JAMAIQUE LILLOIS, PARAME, CARIMARE, all French eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1753A/18 to Admty. etc.)

South Atlantic.

GURKHA.  
ISAAC SWEERS.

Arrival 1700/17, departure 0815/18.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 0931N/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

O.S.8.

S.S. HARTISMERE dropping astern of O.S.8 due to engine trouble a.m./17 and unaware of new route. Weather. Ocean escort can remain in company until a.m./25 and arrive Bathurst noon/26, having 5% useful fuel remaining. Minimum of (24 or 30?) hours in harbour is requested to make good minor (defects?). O.S.(?8) E.T.A. position (C) 1600N/20. Passed through FLEETWOOD. (BLACK SWAN 1001M/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

/Closing ...

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.Closing Down  
R.Os.  
Saldanha etc.

F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1418B/24/9/41. Request your views on proposals. Please see S.O.(I) Capetown's 0915B/13 reporting arrival of PANTELIS at Capetown. M. of W/T representative in Capetown reported this vessel on 9th as bunkering at Luderitz Bay and sailing that day. This information was not known apparently by S.O.(I) Capetown.  
(D.N.I. 1152A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)  
*Letter, (C in C. S.A., 2044 N/25)*

Navigation  
Marks.  
Gambia.

New positions in your area of dam floats and buoys placed in accordance with Admty. 1404A/7.  
(CHALLENGER, 1210N/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

U/Bs  
Annobon.

Reports that U-Boats may be using Island of Annobon as a centre for rest and recreation if not for refuelling. Some confirmation obtained from prisoners. Request you will consult S.N.O. F.N.F.L. with a view to PRESIDENT HONDUCE carrying R/C of this island and surrounding waters. (C. in C. S.A. 1355N/18 to B.N.L.O. West Africa.)

English Bank  
L/V.

New position English Bank Light Vessel is 172° (? 53.2) miles from Isle de Flores Light 35° 06' S. 055° 54' W.  
(R.A.S.A.D. 1513Z/18 to BULOLO.)

Docks,  
South Africa.

Please see H.C. Pretoria's Q 0545 of 15/10 to Dominions Office. Requests are substantially in accordance with my recommendation to Union Govt. Floating dock proposal is long term but not so long as project of constructing graving dock at Capetown, which Union Govt. are not inclined to further unless skilled labour and plant can be provided from external sources. My impression of congestion in Union ports is that situation was gradually deteriorating, but steps being taken locally may arrest deterioration. Proposals in H.C.'s telegram should lead to improvement and put Union ports in better case to cope with increased volume of shipping which must be expected as forces in Middle East grow.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1545N/18 to Admty.)

/Task ...

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Task Group  
3.6.

A.M. 2115/11. Future movements Task Group 3.6. Leave San Juan 20/10 to Trinidad area, thence to Pernambuco 28/10 via positions (J) 10 N. 53 W. and (I) Equator 35 W. (D.O.D.(F) 1621A/18 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

AQUITANIA.

D.O.S.T's 1243/18 (N.T.in W.D). This ship cannot be handled at either Capetown or Durban, vide my 0956/16 to C. in C. S.A. only. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1703B/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Convoy.

Position of convoy at 2317/17 036° 32' N. 012° 02' E. Course at 0013/18 160°. (V.A. Malta 0104/18 to 10th S/M Flot.)

Landing  
Craft.

Your O/98358 dated 1/9. 20 twin screw T.L.Cs have arrived in M.E. of which 13 have been destroyed by enemy action. 15 triple screw T.L.Cs have been shipped of which two have been sunk on passage. A further 25 will be -shipped. Assuming no more are lost, this should give you 45 by Spring 1942. In addition, India has been asked to build 17 T.L.Cs and 22 Z craft, but this is still under investigation, and may not prove possible. Question of sending additional T.L.Cs from U.K. on completion of above programme is under consideration here in light of revised building programme and Home requirements. (W.O. 0700/18 to C. in C. M.E.)

Operation  
"Callboy"

11 Albatrosses have arrived. There is no indication of approach of further aircraft. (V.A. Malta 0710A/18 to S.O. Force H.) My 0710. One Swordfish now arrived. Crew missing Albatross Sub. Lt. Davison and Jones, crew missing Swordfish Sub. Lt. Bunyan and Denby. (V.A. Malta, 0937A/18 to S.O. Force H. ARK ROYAL.)

/V.A. Malta's ...

433

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation  
"Callboy"  
contd.

V.A. Malta's 0937/18. 11 Albacore and 2 Swordfish took off from 037° 28' N. 006° 00' E. at 0140A. Albacore crew referred to by V.A. Malta safe, aircraft was unserviceable. No reason can be suggested of non-arrival of 1 Swordfish. Weather conditions appeared to be very favourable.

(ii) Fighter shot down 1 Cant shadower at 1408A/17 in 038° 00' N. 003° 20' E. and 1 B.R.20 at 1042A/18 in 037° 05' N. 003° 45' E. Both interceptions very nice work. Enemy air R/C appears to be extensive over Western Mediterranean.

(iii) V.A. Malta's 1857A/17 and 1925A/17 not received until 0625A/18 and 0928A/18 respectively. Reason for delay not known.

(iv) 3 Fulmars arriving North Front 1400A/19 to take distinguished visitor to ARK ROYAL to witness flying practice of R/C aircraft.

(v) This message is also intended as wireless diversion to indicate withdrawal west. (S.O. Force H. 1557A/18 to Admty.)

Air Report.

Night 16/17 Oct. No bombing operations. Day 17/10 10 R/C sorties Bardia area, Piraeus, Suda Bay and Eastern Mediterranean no shipping at sea, weather bad all day with heavy cloud and dust storms. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1145/18.)

S/Ms.

Any S/Ms encountered during the nights of 18th to 20th inclusive are not to be attacked. Local movement summary follows. (Capt. S. 10. 1205A/18 to P.31, 10th S/M F.)

C. in C. Med.  
takes over  
Red Sea.

From 0001Z/21 the Red Sea including Aden will form part of the Mediterranean Station whose Eastern Limit will become Longitude 045° 05' E.

2. The Red Sea Division of the Station will be principally between the above Longitude and Suez but exclusive of the Port of Suez itself.
3. Rear Admiral R.H.C.Hallifax will take the Command of the Red Sea Area of the station on 21/10 with the title of F.O.C. Red Sea (F.O.R.S) He will normally fly his Flag ashore at Suez. The date of transferring to Suez will be promulgated later.
4. Aden W/T station will remain under the operational control of C. in C. E.I.
5. F.O.C. R.S.F. is authorized to deal direct with Army, R.A.F. and Civil Authorities within the Area of his command on matters other than those of major policy keeping C. in C. Med. informed of actions taken as necessary.

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.C.in C. Med.  
takes over  
Red Sea  
contd.

6. C. in C. E.I. is requested to inform all East Indies and Red Sea Authorities concerned of this reorganization.

All H.M. Ships while within limits of the Red Sea as defined in para.2 and H.M. Ships at Suez will be regarded as belonging to Red Sea Force for communication purposes.

7. The actual Red Sea Force will consist initially of PARYAMATTA, FALMOUTH, SHOREHAM and such forces as C. in C. E.I. details from existing Red Sea Forces. [see p. 512]

8. The title N.O.i/c Port Tewfik will be changed on 21/10 to N.O.i/c Suez. N.O.i/c Suez will be in command under S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area of Canal Ports in Bitter Lake and Ataka as well as of Port Tewfik and Port Ibrahim.

9. In absence of F.O.C. Red Sea Force from Suez N.O.i/c Suez will act for him.

10. Changes in Intelligence and communications organization will be promulgated separately. (C. in C. Med. 1219B/18.)

[see amendment in  
1944B/24  
para 615.]

COETLOGON  
(French)

Arrival 18th. (Barcelona 1259/18 to D. of S.T.)

Dhows  
policy.

Governor of Aden's telegram of 5/10 (R) Cairo No.164 and C. in C. E.I. No.4; F.O. telegram to Cairo No.93 Prior, (R) Aden No.522 and C. in C. E.I. No.20. It is considered that the following instructions should be issued - (a) That, owing to the dubious legality of sinking dhows, they should when possible be captured rather than destroyed; (b) but, if for practical reasons, it is not possible to send in a particular dhow, it should be destroyed, proper provision being made for the safety of the crew. 2. C. in C. Med. pass to Minister of State. (Head of M. Approved by 1st Lord 1303A/18 to Cs in C. Med., E.I., S.N.O.R.S.)

M.T.Bs.

R.A.(D) Med. is co-ordinating the arrangements for M.T.B. bases in Eastern Med. except at Malta and will administer M.T.Bs when they arrive. (?Accounts) of all M.T.B. personnel will be carried in H.M.S. NILE. Request correspondence and signals may be addressed accordingly. (C. in C. Med. 1404B/18 to Adty.)

/S/Ms ...



War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

S/Ms.

Positions (G) (H) and (J) established. Local S/M Movements summary. (Capt. S.10, 1531A/18 to P.31, 10th S/M Flot.) See Lion Copy.

U-Boats.

U-Boat sighted close north of Amorgo Island 0800B/18. Further sighting suggested U-Boat patrolling line from Levitha to Scarpanto. (Capt. S.1. 1551B/18 to THUNDERBOLT, TRIUMPH.)

THUNDERBOLT  
TRIUMPH.

Proceed Malta through following position (a)  $036^{\circ} 00' 023^{\circ} 10'$  and (b)  $035^{\circ} 54' 016^{\circ} 00'$  thence as ordered by Capt.(S) 10. Leave your patrol 21st in time to pass through position (a) shortly before diving a.m./22. TRIUMPH is to remain northward of  $38^{\circ}$  until 0001/22. Enemy are reported to be using barges towed by tug transporting petrol from Salonika to Piraeus. (Capt. S.1. 1621B/18 to THUNDERBOLT.)

Malta Raid.

Night 17/18 0302 hours 7 raiders approached. None crossed coast. All bombs in sea, Hurricanes up, no illuminations or interceptions. (H.Q. Malta 2023/18.)

885 Sqn.  
(Fulmars)

R.A.(A) Med's 1606/10/9 Fulmar flight has been increased to a squadron of 12 I E and it is intended that it should be known as 885 Sqn. This number was originally allocated to Gladiator flight in EAGLE which has now been disbanded. Request confirmation that this number has not been already allocated to another Squadron. (C. in C. Med. 2104B/18 to Adty.)

435A

SECRET

MESSAGE 1531A/18th October.

IN

Date 18. 10. 41.  
Recd. 1847.

From Capt. (S) 10.

Naval Code (02) by W/T.

Addressed H.M.S. P.31. 10th sub. Flotilla repeated C. in C.  
Mediterranean Capt. (S) 1.

IMPORTANT

Positions (G) 036° 06' 014° 16' (H) 037° 16' 012° 56' and  
(J) 038° 00' 011° 44' established. Following is local  
submarine movements summary read in 5 columns submarine,  
leaves, through, arrives, thence to.

~~H.M.S.~~ P.34 035° 48' 012° 56' noon 18, H dawn 19th, J dusk  
19th, North East.

~~H.M.S.~~ URSULA, 035° 39' 011° 43' noon 18th, 036° 17' 014°  
31' A.M. 19th, 035° 51' 015° 15' P.M. 19th, North East.

~~H.M.S.~~ RORQUAL G. P.M. 18th, H dawn 19th, J dusk 19th, North  
West.

~~H.M.S.~~ P.31, J dawn 19th, H dusk 19th, G A.M. 20th Malta

~~H.M.S.~~ UPRIGHT, G P.M. 19th, 036° 30' 013° 30' p.m. 19th and  
H. dawn 20th, J dusk 20th, North east.

~~H.M.S.~~ UNIQUE, J dawn 20th, H dusk 20th, G A.M. 21st, Malta.

~~H.M.S.~~ UNBEATEN, Malta 1750 19th, 036° 00' 014° 53', - 035°  
51' 015° 15' 2130 19th, North East.

~~H.M.S.~~ TRUSTY Malta 1700 19th, ditto, ditto 2030 19th,  
North East.

~~H.M.S.~~ THRASHER and ~~H.M.S.~~ TRUSTY exercising in searched  
channel from Grand Harbour to Zonkor point A.M. 19th.  
Passages through Q B B 65 to South East and North West  
are to be made North and South respectively of line between  
H and J and submarines are to communicate by S S T.

1531A/18.

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

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- Ops. (3)
- O.D.(5)
- O.D.8.
- O.I.C.(3)
- I.P.(3)
- D.S.D.9.
- D.4/S.W.
- W.D.
- M.(2)
- Movts.
- E.P.S.
- D.S.D.(2)
- F.C.S. by courier.

MW

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SNAPDRAGON.

Departure for Aden 17/10. (N.O.I.C. Basra, 0650Z/18 to S.N.O.R.S.)

SOLI.  
water  
tanker.  
Red Sea.

Your 2252/8. Norwegian Tanker SOLI has been examined at Colombo. She is unsuitable for a water carrier. Request another tanker be allocated as soon as possible for Red Sea. (C. in C. E.I. 0744Z/18 to D. of S.T.)

R/C  
Aircraft.

The present lack of long range R/C A/C on E.I. Station is serious. The two Catalina now available Colombo are unable to meet my present requirements and will be totally inadequate in the event of a Far Eastern war.  
(ii) Request urgent consideration be given this matter and that immediate steps be taken to implement programme outlined in A.M. 2148/24/1.  
(iii) I appreciate that Army H.G. Far East are unable to assist me at present in view of their own commitments and lack of trained crews. (C. in C. E.I., 1144Z/18 to Admty.)

HERMES.

My 0716/13.  
(i) Before HERMES commences this refit I propose to order her back to Colombo to disembark her 12 Swordfish with crews.  
(ii) This torpedo bomber R/C squadron would be (2 corrupt groups) (?addition to) air defence of Ceylon in absence of G.R. land plane squadron referred to in 2148/24/1.  
(iii) After HERMES has completed her refit I further suggest she should embark as many dismantled Swordfish Walrus and spare engines from ~~WYNBERG~~ *Wynberg* as possible and that these should be landed China Bay to form part of aircraft reserve mentioned in A.M. 1352/18/9. HERMES could then reembark her original 12 Swordfish and crew on arrival back at Colombo unless it has been found possible to replace these crews before leaving. In latter event I could then retain a torpedo striking force at Colombo. (C. in C.E.I. 1206Z/18 to Adty.)

/Operation.....

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Operation  
"Ration".

Your 0106/8. Operation "Ration" was stopped at dusk yesterday 17/10. No interception.  
(ii) CORNWALL and ENTERPRISE patrolled between Saya de Malha and Nazareth Banks from dawn/12 until dark/15 when ENTERPRISE was detached to refuel at Mauritius. CORNWALL remained on patrol sweeping further eastward.  
(iii) Catalina flying boat carried out demonstration flight in vicinity of Reunion on 12 and 13/10  
(iv) ENTERPRISE continued (?patrol between) Mauritius and Cargados Carajos on 17th. Catalina searches South of Mauritius and between Mauritius and Cargados Carajos were carried out on 16 and 17/10. (C. in C. E.I.1220Z/18 to Admty.)

AUSTRALIA  
CORNWALL.  
U.S.13.

AUSTRALIA has been diverted to Colombo for mining referred to in your 1739/17.  
(2) A.C.N.B. have now requested East Indies cruiser escort for U.S.13 from Fremantle, due presumably to CANBERRA's projected refit. A.C. N.B's 0744/19/5 refers. (3) Alternatives are AUSTRALIA or CORNWALL. (4) Use of CORNWALL would mean 2 8-inch cruisers being detached on distant service simultaneously to which I am reluctant at present time.  
(5) It appears therefore that Kerguelen cruise must once again be cancelled and AUSTRALIA do escort unless A.C.N.B. are able to provide escort part of way from Fremantle. (C. in C. E.I. 1330/18 to Admty.)

KANIMBLA.

Your 1216/16. Subject to your concurrence intend KANIMBLA to leave Colombo on relief by MANOORA about 6/12. KANIMBLA would then arrive Fremantle about 15/12. (C. in C. E.I. 1452Z/18 to A.C.N.B).

DALHOUSIE.

Have you any news of DALHOUSIE due Calcutta 8/10 from Capetown?  
(?D.T. D., 1626A/18 to S.O.I. Colombo).

*Arrived Calcutta 7/10 P. 483*

War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ZUIKAKU.

Japanese aircraft carrier ZUIKAKU is in vicinity of Bako. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0458Z/18 to Admty.). N.I.D. Comment. ZUIKAKU is Japan's latest A/C Carrier and is shown in C.B. 1815 as completing. She was launched in November '39 and this is the first report that has been received indicating she is at sea. Probably at Bako, in Pescadores, either doing trials or on "working up" cruise. Believed to be about 16000 tons and may carry about 50 aircraft.

Allied Shipping.

My 0313/6. Add New Paragraph:  
(f) If stopped at sea by Japanese warship after signal "seek refuge port" has been made, C.Bs. are to be destroyed and immediate W/T message sent in P/L giving cumulative details as time permits. If and when released further report to be made. (C. in C. China, 0529Z/18 to F.O.C. Singapore, etc.)

Raiders.

Your 0304Z/17. ANTILLA seized by Dutch and ARAUCA by Americans so neither can be Raider B. Suggest possible identity of B might be NORDDEUTSCHER EMS. (D.D.I.C. 1204A/18 to C.O.I.S. Singapore).

Japanese Threat to Hong Kong.

My 1099 of 17/10. 1. Same source reports 700 artillery men, 12 mechanised Field Guns, and 200 horses landed Bocca Tigris on 16th and further reinforcements expected. 2. S.I.S. sources confirm previous reports that Japanese are garrisoning villages along Bocca Tigris-Namtau highway and repairing bridges. 3. Estimate total of Japanese troops in East river and Hong Kong border districts about 20,000 of whom over half would be available at short notice in event of attack on colony.  
(G.O.C. Hong Kong, 1615/18 to W.O.)  
Comment:- Previous information regarding preparations in East River District, in G.O.C. Hong Kong's 1735/10 circulated 13/10.  
Bocca Tigris-Namtau highway is the coast road leading from the entrance to the Canton River to the Hong Kong border.

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U/B's in  
Mexico  
Gulf.

S.O.(I) Jamaica 1758/14. Following now received from P.C.O. New York "Informed through same source 2 more submarines U.172 and U.263 in Gulf Mexico off Yucatan". (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0410Z/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.) (S.O.I. Kingston 0826R/18 to Admty.)

SHEHERAZADE  
(French).

Master (U.S.) ALCOA <sup>CUTTER</sup> at Barbados from Martinique reports probability SHEHERAZADE proceeding shortly dry dock U.S. Gulf Port. A.1. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1028R/18 to Admty. etc.)

POLYPHEMUS.

Dut. POLYPHEMUS due Balboa 14/10 from Auckland not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1034R/18 to Admty. etc.)

NORSELAND.

Admty. 1758A/15 to S.O.I. Jamaica only. Cancel my 1248R/5, Colon reports vessel arrived 14/10, now under repair. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1058R/18 to Admty. etc.)

Shipping  
calls at  
Batavia.

In view of time taken on passage by ships proceeding from Balboa and West Coast America ports to Singapore suggest that these ships which do not call at a N.C.S. Port en route should be ordered to call at Batavia for latest information before proceeding to Singapore. Request your remarks. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1112Q/18 to C. in C. China).

FORMIDABLE.

Re Admty. 0052A/4/10, type of R.D./F. (B.A.R.M. 1212R/18 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

CIRCASSIA.  
VAN  
KINSBERGEN.

D.S. VAN KINSBERGEN leave Curacao 25/10 and proceed to Trinidad so as to arrive 27/10 and top up with fuel. CIRCASSIA and VAN KINSBERGEN Leave Trinidad 28/10 and patrol in company in Northern half of Square G.32. Object interception enemy raider and supply ships. Leaving patrol 5/11, CIRCASSIA proceeding to Trinidad to refuel and thence Bermuda, VAN KINSBERGEN to Curacao to refit. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1212Q/18 to CIRCASSIA, D.S. VAN KINSBERGEN).

PRINCE  
HENRY.

Following is future programme for PRINCE HENRY. Trinidad 22-24/10 Fuel; Bermuda 28-30/10 (? Gunnery) Practice on arrival; Halifax 1/11 Installing R.D.F. N.O.I.C. Trinidad is requested to sail PRINCE HENRY in due course to comply. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1222Q/18 to PRINCE HENRY).

**MOST SECRET**

From B.A.R.H. Washington.

Date 19.10.41.

439A

Recd. 0637.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS.

874. Your 0032A/4/10.

It has been represented to me by the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. FORMIDABLE that type 281 is unsuitable for fighter direction purposes for the following reasons.

(1) Identification of friendly aircraft both R.A.F. and Fleet air arm is essential. This will not be possible until the Mark three I.F.F. set is universally fitted in all aircraft and the appropriate interrogator fitted to type 281. The interim policy as stated in Admiralty letter S D 02117/41 dated 18/9/41 while satisfactory for Fleet Air Arm aircraft when Mark 11N sets are in full supply does not provide for identification of R.A.F. aircraft.

2. The slower speed of rotation of the aerials in type 281 will prejudice the operational efficiency of fighter direction. Since fighter direction is the primary function of R.D.F. carriers and it is essential to be able to change quickly from one "Echo" to another E.G. from "Enemy" to "Own fighter" and it is equally essential to be able to distinguish groups of friendly aircraft on the screen, it is requested that the decision to fit type 281 in carriers may be reconsidered

in view of the foregoing.

		1212R/18	
1st Lord.	A.C.N.S. (W)	D.A/S.W.	D.S.D. for action )E
1st S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.I.P. (2)		Hd. of S.W.R. )A
2nd S.L.	D. of P. (2)	W.D.	D.D.I.C. D. of D. )T
3rd S.L.	D.O D. (F)	D.C.	E.P.S. D. of S. )E
V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D. (F)	Hd. of M.D.	N.I.D.10.D.E.E. )E
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.N.I. (4)	D.T.S.D.	D.N.O. Dep. Contr. Bath.

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies-Contd.L.27.

Capt. (S) 7's 1501A/13. Report time of arrival (b) 048° 00' N. 046° 00' W. as soon as accurate forecast possible. Unless otherwise ordered proceed direct from (B) to St. Johns N.F. Escort will not be provided but T.B.R. will be arranged 30 miles either side of your course. (C.C.N.F. 1228Z/18 to S/M L.27).

SURCOUF.

Request whether it is intended that SURCOUF should continue to operate under my command on completion of refit or whether she will proceed to Pacific vide A.C.F.N.F.L. No. 1280 of 23/7 to SURCOUF. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1232Q/18 to Admty.)

N.E.F.

(1) My 1544Z/13 (N.T. in W.R) Urgently request confirmation that ships are being sailed as requested. (2) Request also what ships of N.E.F. were sailed from Q for O.N.S. 25. (C.C.N.F. 1251Z/18 to S.O. present Afloat, Iceland).

Casablanca Intelligence.

Meter, Casablanca 16/10 A.1. Arrived 9/10 Spanish ships: CRISTINA cleared for Bilbao 15/10 with 3600 tons phosphates; BRIQUETAS, ZORROZA, from Canary Islands cleared for Huelva 13/10 with 2000 tons of phosphates; \*DIOCHU from Cartagena cleared for Bilbao 14/10 with 1430 tons of phosphates. Arrived 10/10 French ships; ARIZONA with coal, pharmaceuticals and 13 military cars, she has not yet finished loading for Dakar; STRABON from -Marseilles with 1100 tons of torpedo net wire, 22 military trucks and trailers, 311 tons 1932 model 8 millimetres ammunition. Arrived 12/10. Portuguese SILVA GOUVEIA in ballast from Lisbon. Arrived 11/10. French CARIMARE from Marseilles with cement, champagne and cord. (B.A.D. 1329R/18 to S.O.I. Freetown etc.)

*\* Not identified.*NASTURTIUM.

Charleston returned NASTURTIUM, minor boiler trouble. May possibly sail 20th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1513Z/18 to Admty. etc.) My 1302R/14. NASTURTIUM has returned to Harbour with a broken fan shaft and will not be ready to sail until about 23/10. (B.A.R.M. 1544R/18 to C.C.N.F., etc.)

BURNHAM.....



War Diary.

18.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

BURNHAM.

My 1242R/30. BURNHAM will leave Newport, Rhode Island, p.m./28. Intend to sail her for Halifax with passengers. (B.A.R.M. 1518R/18 to Admty.)

PORT DARWIN  
on fire.

Following has been read. 1715G.M.T. S.O.S. PORT DARWIN on fire 47° 34' N. 39° 53' W. bearing 71 R 75°. (Halifax W/T, 1745Z/18). Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 1721 G.M.T. De Valentia Radio S.O.S. PORT DARWIN on fire in 47.41 N. 39.59 W. 1718/18. (Plymouth 1821/18 to Admty.) Note different position. PORT DARWIN to WINAMAC. Fire has spread to magazine and just had some explosions. (Valentia Radio 1740/18) PORT DARWIN to BCNJ. Cancel you GTAC coming. (Signal letters not known) (Valentia Radio, 1750/18). PORT DARWIN on fire. Am proceeding to her assistance. Am 22 hours from her position. Please advise. (GALT, 1844Z/18 to C.C.N.F.)

DIDO.

Your 1732A/10. DIDO will be ready to sail for Bermuda p.m 1/11. (B.A.R.M. 1850A/18 to Admty.)

Suspect  
Spanish  
Ships.

Ref. S.W.I. 833/627 of 10/9 intercepted letter from Lisbon to New York Branch, American Joint Distribution Committee, indicated that Spanish ISLA DE TENERIFFE due to sail on 20/10 from Barcelona for Cuba is being used for same purpose and on same lines as Spanish NAVEMAR, entire affair believed to be German controlled. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2212Q/18 to Admty.)

SHERBROOKE.  
CHICOUTIMI.

C.C.C.S. 1435A/17. 1. If no objection intend in future sailing Corvettes to Greenock for fuel and night leave before proceeding Tobermory. 2. C.C.C.S. 1127A/18. Request SHERBROOKE believed in company with CHICOUTIMI be similarly dealt with. (C.C.N.F., 2341Z/18 to Admty.)

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.C.48  
(attacked  
17/10)

Patrol planes report no unusual activity vicinity S.C.48. Escorts were ten surface and two British air.  
(Opanav, 0115/18 to Admty.)

BROADWATER  
(escorting  
S.C.48.)

H.M.S. BROADWATER torpedoed, still floating, send tugs 057° 01' N. 019° 08' W.  
(HIGHLANDER, 0400Z/18 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)  
BROADWATER, ex U.S. destroyer MASON. Proceed Moville, when joined by WELLARD from Londonderry proceed in company to assist BROADWATER torpedoed and floating in 57-01 N. 19-08 W.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0653A/18 to FRISKY, ASSURANCE.)  
My 1124Z/17. Following signals received.  
(D.T.D. 1008Z/18 to Opanav.) See Lion Copy.  
Your 0400A/18. Who is standing by BROADWATER? Trawlers or corvettes should be used for this if available, and not destroyers.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1011A/18 to HIGHLANDER.)  
ANGLE and CAPE WARWICK standing by BROADWATER. In amended position 057° 01' N., 018° 42' W.  
ANGLE reports chances of towing slight. One officer and 12 men remaining on board. 83 survivors, 4 anticipated casualties including Captain. P.C. and S. of convoy 056° 57' N. 016° 16' W. 096° 7½ knots.  
VERONICA reports promising attack on U.boat in 057° 01' N., 022° 10' W., at (?15) 21Z/17.  
As she only has 12 charges left and 30 survivors on board I ordered her to Londonderry, before joining H.X.154.

ERVIKEN.

ABELIA reports 3 survivors from ERVIKEN on board. Now proceeding to join H.X.154. No other attacks on convoy during the night. Escorts in company, BULLDOG, AMAZON, RICHMOND, GEORGETOWN, HEARTSEASE. Have been unable to get into touch with GLADIOLUS. One unknown straggler was 7 miles astern of convoy yesterday now out of sight.  
Weather report. (HIGHLANDER, 1130Z/18 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)  
CAPE WARWICK reports BROADWATER's back broken. CAPE WARWICK and ANGLE proceeding to Londonderry. ST. APOLLO who has arrived since my 1130Z/18 standing by. One casualty in CAPE WARWICK died. CASTALIA reported to be 16 miles astern of convoy. (HIGHLANDER 1306Z/18 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
BROADWATER sank 1341Z/18. (ST. APOLLO, 1343Z/18 to Admty.)

/RYM ....

# MOST SECRET

442A.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1008Z/18th October OUT

From <sup>2</sup>.O.P.N.A.V.

Date 18.10.41

Type X U S Settings.

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

In amplification of my 1124Z/17, following signals have been received.

1. From H.M.C.S. COLUMBIA.  
S.S. EMPIRE HERON sank immediately 2330/15 in position 54 55'N 27 15'W T.O.O. 0930/16.
2. From H.M.S. VERONICA.  
S.S. RYM afloat and abandoned in 57 01'N 24 20'W T.O.O. 1114Z/17.
3. From H.M.S. HIGHLANDER  
4 attacks at 2120/16, 2230/16, 0045/17 and 0200/17. S.S. BOLD VENTURE, BARFANN, ERVIKEN, EVROS, W.C. TEAGLE sunk 42 survivors in WETASKIWIN, 11 in H.M.S. BROADWATER, unknown number in U.S. Destroyer KEARNNY and PICTOU. Possibly more in other corvettes not yet rejoined. T.O.O. 1500Z/17.
4. H.M.C.S. COLUMBIA.  
H.M.C.S. COLUMBIA left SC.48 at 1200Z/17 in position 57 00' N. 21 00' W. for Iceland to refuel SC.48 steering 090 degs. 7 knots 31 ships.  
H.M.S. CAMROSE left <sup>Co.</sup>COMMODORE in CASTALIA with one ship in company at 0800/16 in position 56 49' N. 29 41'W steering (047 degs.) or (087 degs.) 7 knots. H.M.S. ROSTHERN and 9 other stragglers not heard of . T.O.O. 1615Z/17.
5. From H.M.C.S. WETASKIWIN.  
SILVERCEDAR sank in three minutes at 0630/15. ILA, Norwegian, sank immediately at 0650/15. T.O.O. 1738Z/17
6. From H.M.S. HIGHLANDER.  
Ships in Company now BULLDOG, AMAZON, RICHMOND, GEORGETOWN, BROADWATER, WETASKIWIN, CAMROSE, MIMOSA, latter 3 leaving daylight to-morrow. T.O.O. 1950Z/17
7. From H.M.S. HIGHLANDER.  
H.M.S. BROADWATER torpedoed still floating send tugs 57 01' N. 19 08' W. T.O.O. 0400Z/18.
8. From H.M.C.S. ROSTHERN.  
One enemy submarine in position 60 40' N. 18 36' W. T.O.O. 1250Z/17.

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

9. Attacks on U/Boats.

H.M.C.S. COLUMBIA when rejoining Convoy at 1400/15 sighted U/Boat at 7 miles and attacked. Result unknown. During night attacks of night 16/17 H.M.S. PICTOU and BROADWATER attacked U/Boats sighted on surface. H.M.S. VERONICA made 5 attacks at 1503/17 on U/Boat sighted in 57 01' N. 22 10' W. and claims to have destroyed it.

1008Z/18.  
for D.T.D. (1240).

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Duty Capt.
- D.O.D.(F)
- D.D.O.D.(F)
- D.O.D.(H)
- D.D.O.D.(H)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D.T.D.(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- W.D.
- I.P.(2)
- Admiral Bailey.
- D.A/S.W.

MAF/MFG

MOST SECRET

War Diary.18.10.1941.  
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. Contd.RYM.(S.C.48.)  
(torpedoed  
17/10.)

Your 1114Z/17. Is any escort vessel standing by RYM?  
(C. in C.W.A., 0546A/18, to VERONICA.)  
Your 0546. BADDECK arrived as I left and I told him ship was abandoned. I had crew and was proceeding to rejoin. Weather report. (VERONICA, 0631Z/18, to C. in C.W.A.)

BOLD VENTURE  
reported  
torpedoed  
17/10.)

S.C.48. Did BOLD VENTURE sail in this convoy? (D.T.D. 1106A/18 to N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.)  
Your 1106A/18. Yes.  
(N.O.I.C. Sydney, 1538Z/18.)

BROADWATER

Sailed ROXBOROUGH, WELLARD, FRISKY and ASSURANCE. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1358A/18.)  
Position of BROADWATER at 1129 today 57°01'N., 18°42' W., ANGE and CAPE WARWICK, standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1607A/18 to FRISKY, ASSURANCE. FRISKY, ASSURANCE and WELLARD are to return to Lough Foyle and remain at short notice on arrival. ROXBOROUGH is to proceed to Iceland. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1709A/18 to ships named.)

ARGUN.

Russian steamer ARGUN is reported as torpedoed today in approx., 090° Gorodetski 5 miles. Admty., pass to S.B.N.O. North Russia. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1800C/18 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

0024 G.M.T.

Following intercept by Humber Radio at 0024 G.M.T. on 500 kc/s strength 3 (begins) - D.C.41 D.R. Submarine steering N.E. crossed stern 0020(ends.) (F.O. Humber, 0139A/18, to Admty., C. in C. Nore.) Also received from Land's End. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1005/18 to Admty.)

0800B.

Capt. S.1, 1551B/18. (See Mediterranean.)

Submarine estimate 18/10.  
(U.S.C.N.O., 2350Z/18.)

Submarines Attacked.By CARNATION.

CARNATION attacked S/m 35.48N., 6.56W., Lost contact. (ROCHESTER, 0330A/18, to F.O.C.N.A.) My 0330 have swept 7 miles east of position. Resuming westerly course. ROCHESTER, 0500A/18, to F.O.C.N.A.)

By VERONICA.

At 1521Z/17. (HIGHLANDER, 1130Z/18.)  
See ships attacked.

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE and ESCAPADE sailed from Archangel today to carry out an operation in Svaerholthavet on the night 21/22 October, then to U.K.

Visit to  
Spitzbergen.

HARRIER, BRITOMART, SALAMANDER and HALCYON on their way home from Archangel visited Spitzbergen p.m./today and found that a German airborne meteorological party had arrived at Longyearby. Captured orders indicate that their object was to establish a W/T Station. Work had not started, however. The Germans, who apparently arrived today, escaped by aircraft, but some of their equipment was seized.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night on account of bad weather.

In view of the present naval strategic situation it is most important that every effort be made to continue the immobilization of the enemy heavy ships in Brest.

Mining.

Several mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary.

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation  
"Callboy".

Force H.(RODNEY, ARK ROYAL and HERMIONE)  
escorted by 7 destroyers returned to Gibraltar  
this evening.

South Atlantic.

As there does not now appear to be any U-Boat  
activity off South America south of the  
Equator C. in C. S.A. wishes to recall LAVENDER  
and BERGAMOT and use them or their equivalent  
to form part of a hunting group to search  
St. Pauls Rocks area, where there are indications  
of U-Boat supply ships.

Mediterranean.

AURORA and PENELOPE left Gibraltar a.m. today  
for Malta and to join the Mediterranean Fleet,  
accompanied by LANCE and LIVELY.

Malta.

A few bombs were dropped on Malta last night.  
No naval damage is reported.

Directorate  
of Opposed  
Landings.

The formation of a Directorate of Opposed  
Landings is approved.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last  
night.

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

INVERLEE  
sunk.

British Tanker INVERLEE escorted by LADY HOGARTH and STELLA CARINA was torpedoed and sunk at 0200 today about 15 miles west of Cape Spartel. F.O.C.N.A. reports that the use of territorial waters by independently routed ships is limited by French reaction to any ship within 20 miles of their coast, and it also is extremely probable that Territorial waters are used by U-boats when charging batteries, who would not hesitate to attack.

BARON KELVIN  
sunk.

S.S. BARON KELVIN on passage from Lisbon to Gibraltar was torpedoed and sunk near Cape Trafalgar about 0900 today.

U.S.S.  
LEHIGH sunk.

American ship LEHIGH is reported to have been torpedoed without warning at 0900 today in 8° 26' N. 14° 37' W. She was in ballast from Arica to Takoradi for ore. Some men were wounded; the whole crew was picked up.

Caribbean.

With reference to the recent reports of U-boats in the Caribbean the Adty. state that at present there is no evidence of any U-boats.



War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

R.N.O.  
Aberystwyth.

A.L. M/L.D. 02795/41 of 10/10. If you concur it is proposed to terminate the post of R.N.O. Aberystwyth.  
Terminating date proposed is 1/11.  
(D. of L.D. 1917/19 to C. in C.W.A.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Communications Your 1247/18. Concur. (C. in C. H.F.0009A/19 to Adnty.)  
Your 1248A/18. Arrangements can not be made at present. It is hoped to obtain additional high frequency receivers from 151 Wing R.A.F. which will enable G.A. routine to be read. Further signals will be made when this set is installed.  
(2) It is assumed that G.A. routines are as laid down in A.F.O. S.1/41 Part 3 Table 2 Line 10. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1519C/19 to Adty.)  
Archangel communication situation is as follows. Details. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1301C/19 to Ad. Miles) See Lion Copy. *p. 447A*

Movements.

O.14.  
MINERVE.

O.14 and MINERVE left Lerwick proceeding in accordance with S nine 1825/14 and 1321A/16. (A.C.O.S. 0803/18).  
O.14 and MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH left Lerwick for 061° 30' N. 000°, then parting company and proceeding unescorted to Patrol areas. (A.C.O.S. 0805A/19).

LAFOREY.  
LIGHTNING.  
MALAYA.

When relieved by BEDOUIN and PUNJABI, LAFOREY, LIGHTNING proceed to R/V with MALAYA off Hoxa and provide escort to Clyde. It is anticipated MALAYA will pass Hoxa about 0900/20. (R.A.D.H.F. 1042A/19).

MURAT REIS.  
H.31.

(1) Intend to sail MURAT REIS escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE at 1800A/22 routed North Isle of Man for Barrow. E.T.A. Lightning Knoll Buoy 1200A/23.  
(2) Thence LA CAPRICIEUSE to R/V with H.31 at 0730A/25 in 180° Lizard Head 5 miles and escort her to Rothesay. E.T.A. 0700A/27.  
(4) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. (Capt. S.3. 1131A/19).

/PETUNIA.....

447A

1301C/19th October

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

FROM:- S.B.N.O. Archangel

DATE:- 19.10.41.

RECD:- 2009

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER ONE TIME TABLE BY W/T AND T/P

CORRECTION AND RECIRCULATION

ADDRESSED:- Admiral Miles repeated Admiralty S.B.N.O. North Russia

(1) Archangel communication situation is as follows.

(a) Naval communication as in my 1245C/16 amended by my 1250C/19 communication to Murmansk also established. Communication between my office and Archangel W/T station at present unsatisfactory and unlikely to improve. Consider it necessary to keep one Minesweeper at Archangel as W/T link when cruiser is anchored down river.

(b) M I 6 set is installed in my office.

(c) R.A.F. set moving to my office shortly when officers move out to new (?accommodation).

(2) Recommendations.

(a) Type 65 with appropriate crystals and complete receiver for reception of (?16) KC/S to be supplied from home and installed in my office. 3 (?telegraphists) at present here to operate instead of Archangel W/T station.

(b) M I 6 set to remain with one operator for communication with mission and War Office.

(c) R.A.F. station to close down when type 65 arrives. 2 above sets left available can make adequate provision for R.A.F. traffic including arrival and departure of aircraft.

(3) If approved suggest cypher staff should consist of Pilot Officer B 1 2 cypher sergeants and one naval cypher officer latter to be sent from your headquarters or home.

(4) Colonel Exham and Group Captain Bird concur.

(5) Admiralty pass to Admiral Miles and S.B.N.O. North Russia.

1301C/19

\* Message being passed to S.B.N.O. North Russia, but not to Admiral Miles.

Advance copy sent D.S.O. D.S.D.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- Naval Spc.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops. (6)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- M. (6)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D.S.D. 9.
- D.P.S. (2)

- D.S.D. (2)
- H.W.R. (2)
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S. (Basement)
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- Admiral Herman Hodge.

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

PETUNIA.

If PETUNIA is delayed at Julianehaab request that arrangements may be made to fuel from American Oiler believed due Tunugdliarrig about 23/10. Copy of this signal has been passed in Anglo American Cypher to Senior U.S. Naval Officer IVIGNUT repeated U.S. ship NORTH STAR now at Tunugdliarrig. (PETUNIA 1037Z/19 to A.C.I.C.)  
A.C.I.C. 0946/18. Request PETUNIA may be ordered to proceed to Iceland unless tugs are expected at Julianehaab shortly.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1237A/19 to C.C.N.F.)

*See also p 460.*

→ SUFFOLK.  
NORMAN.

For operation and U.K. at 1600C/19 sailed SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE, ESCAPADE without T.U.C. delegates of whom no further news. (? E.T.A.) Scapa P.M./25. NORMAN arrived. 1430C. (SUFFOLK 1301Z/19) (NORMAN 1500C/19).

VICTORIOUS.  
LAFOREY.  
LIGHTNING.

My 1148A/18/10 sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1348A/19).

MALINES.

My position is observed as 50° 20' N. 20° 46' W. Have done utmost unsuccessfully to R/V with O.S.9. Fuel capacity critical. Proceeding direct at economical speed 9 knots. If adverse weather continues, outlook poor. (MALINES 1400A/19).

4th M/S  
Flotilla.

Your 1805/18. Concur. I attach great importance to operations of this force not being reported by enemy aircraft. (C. in C. H. F. 1409A/19 to A.C.O.S.)  
Request ships of 4th M.S.F. may be sailed direct to Thorshavn Faroes to join British Ports as they become available and not to Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 2318A/19 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

→ TIGRIS.

TIGRIS sails from Polyarno 0930C/20 routed as follows to R/V with BREDA at 0800A/26 in 61° N. 3° 30' W. for onward escort Holy Loch. Estimate TIGRIS will be west of 25° E. by 0001/22 and she has been warned of your operation. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1431C/19 to SUFFOLK).

/CURACOA.....

War Diary.19.10.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.CURACOA.

2 A/P Trawlers are patrolling astern of you up to 32 Buoy tonight.  
Expect 2 (joining?) from abeam. (?Aberdeen).  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1949/19 to CURACOA).

VERITY.  
BEVERLEY.  
BADSWORTH.  
(INDOMITABLE)

VERITY, BEVERLEY, BADSWORTH remain with INDOMITABLE -to prudent limit of endurance. Cancel R/V with MENESTHEUS. (C. in C. W.A. 1955A/19 to INDOMITABLE).

Operations.

Soviet  
S/M D.3.  
Patrol  
Report.  
1 Tanker  
and 3 M.V's  
claimed  
sunk.

Soviet S/M D.3 arrived 17/10 from patrol off Tana Fjord with claim to have sunk 4 ships as follows:-  
(a) 26/9, unescorted eastbound vessel 1,500 to 2,000 tons. One hit. 3 torpedoes fired.  
(b) 27/9, unescorted 1,500 tons tanker westbound. One hit. Two torpedoes fired.  
(c) 30/9, unescorted (? small) vessel 2,000 tons. One hit. 3 torpedoes fired.  
(d) 1430/11 in 70° 47' N. 29° 47' E. fired one torpedo at one vessel eastbound estimated 6,000 tons escort one destroyer or large trawler. No evidence to establish claim to have sunk.  
Escorted convoys sighted eastbound 1512/30/9 and 1330/14 and heavily escorted passenger liner westbound 1200/1.  
(Two) D.3 is 1st Soviet submarine to have used British salvo firing and time interval methods.  
(Three) Consider vessel attacked in (d) may be remainder of convoy attacked by TIGRIS at 0800/11/10, vide my 1041C/16. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1041C/19).

Spitzbergen.

Your 1542A/14. Germans had occupied Longyearby, and have now retired to aerodrome. Have captured some equipment.  
Am endeavouring to prevent escape of Germans by air without much success.  
Am remaining until dark when I must leave owing to insufficient fuel. (HARRIER 1545B/19 to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 1545B/19. All Germans now appear to have escaped by plane. Am proceeding Seidis Fiord with BRITOMART. Germans apparently arrived today. From captured orders object was to establish W/T station. Work had not started. No trace of occupation at Barentsburg. (HARRIER 1725B/19)

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

PRU of Bergen - Horten - Stavanger and "Stab" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1145/19).  
"Hornli" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1331/19)

Brest.

X.587. 19/10. Confirming telephone conversation today S.A.S.O. and D.C.A.S. In view of present Naval strategic situation it is most important that every effort be made to continue the immobilization of enemy heavy ships in Brest. Request you take advantage of all suitable weather to attack these ships. Considered that surprise concentrated night attacks by say twelve heavy aircraft employing large number of flares in conditions of clear visibility even in non-moon periods might overcome difficulties of smoke screening experienced. (Air Ministry 1200/19 to Bomber Command).

Bombing operations.

Day 18th Oct. and night 18/19. No operations took place owing to unsuitable weather. (H.Q.B.C. 1300/19).

Faroes.

Numerous reports of unidentified aircraft have been received from Coast Watchers today. Reports indicate some friendly and some enemy aircraft. No hostile act reported. In order to minimize interference with sailing ships and with work being carried out request I may be informed when our own aircraft patrols are in the vicinity. Admiralty 1907/16 and 1805/19 from A.C.O.S. indicate probable concentration of shipping in Faroes on 21/10. Request fighter protection accordingly. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2230A/19 to A.C.O.S.)

Mining.

Operation H.G.

My 0948/18. Operation H.G. postponed a further 24 hours on account of weather. (C. in C. Plymouth 1026/19).

Harwich.

At 1225/19 one Green Mine detonated by Sweeper. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1756A/19)

Sweep off Portland.

Intend to sail M/S Trawlers HOY and MULL in accordance with your 1520A/19, leaving Portland at 0800/20. Sweepers will carry out search of channels east of VZ 3294 and R/V with P.W. 53 at 1330/20 at No. 1 Buoy, afterwards sweeping ahead of convoy and returning to Portland before dark.

/Request.....

451

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweep off  
Portland -  
Contd.

Request fighter protection be arranged to R/V position and after leaving convoy. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1917A/19 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Spurn  
Point.

Following four mines detonated today by Sweepers. Details. (F.O. Humber 1957A/19).

Enemy Intelligence.

U-boats.

U-boats on passage may cross your track in either direction. (D.D.I.C. 1055A/19 to L.27).

Casualties and Defects.

ASSURANCE  
(Grounded  
18/10).

My 2320/18. Considered ship is not salvable. FRISKY is standing by. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0120A/19, 1826A/19).  
My 0120A/19. ASSURANCE apparently badly holed and half flooded 2 hours after low water lying on her side on rock ledge. C.B.S. and other valuable equipment removed to FRISKY. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0435A/19).

SUFFOLK.

Will require cleaning 4 boilers on return to Scapa. (SUFFOLK 1303Z/19).

PALOMARES.

PALOMARES was in collision yesterday with S.S. SILVER COAST in Victoria Channel. Temporary repairs in hand will be completed p.m./22nd. Ship will then be seaworthy, but without port anchor. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1701A/19).

EMPIRE GROVE.

EMPIRE GROVE Ex. P.W. 51 ashore near Long Peak 3 miles South Hartland Point. Crew safe. (C. in C. Plymouth 1714/19).

TAMWORTH.

Beached in 241° 7 cables from Garrison Point after collision with S.S. TARON. Inspection at 1700 today shows extensive damage. Details. Propose to embark 6 inch motor pump at 0700 tomorrow in attempt to refloat in midday high water and berth at Rochester to discharge cargo. (A.S.O. Sheerness 1825/19).

/PUNJABI.....

War Diary.

19.10;1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

PUNJABI.

My 1600A/18/9. Request detailed instructions of work required in destroyers for service in the Arctic my be forwarded to A.S. Rosyth so that work can be completed in PUNJABI during forthcoming refit. (R.A.D. 1903A/19 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.89.

Your 2007Z/18. No local escort available. (C. in C. W.A, 0946A/19 to Escorts S.L.89).

DURBAN  
CASTLE.

My 1052A/18. Sailed 1026 unescorted. E.T.A. Clyde 0200A/20. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1120A/19).

SCOTTISH  
AMERICAN.

Your 1732Z/9 and my 0006/14. Oiler SCOTTISH AMERICAN escorted by ELM and WINDERMERE arrive Seidis Fiord A.M. 21st. (A.C.I.C. 1153/19 to C. in C. H.F.).

C.T.5.  
EMPIRE  
CONDOR.  
EMPIRE  
CURLEW.

Your 1935R/18. C.T.5 loading arrangements necessitate sailing date should remain 30/10 and R/V at M.O.M.P. 2/11.  
2. In order to utilise same U.S. escort, first 6 ships of "cargo" should be sailed to conform to this arrangement by route already suggested.  
3. Route and M.O.M.P, for C.T.5 will be suggested  
4. EMPIRE CONDOR and EMPIRE CURLEW should be sailed to Halifax, loaded to arrive in time to sail for U.K: with destroyer escort not later than 4/11.  
5. Please confirm that these arrangements are suitable. (A.C.N.S. H. 1248A/19 to B.A.D. Washington).

W.P.M.53.

No M/V's sailed owing to weather. Escorts as in my 1128A/18 have sailed to R/V. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1304A/19).

P.Q.3.

A.M. 1343/18 <sup>1428</sup> para. 1. Add S.S. SAN AMBROSIO. (D.O.D.H) 1523A/19).

Ships for  
St.  
Lawrence.

All ships sailing for Gulf of St. Lawrence after 31/10 should be routed to Sydney (CB) for orders. (D.T.D. 1725A/19).

/F.S. 23.....

War Diary.

19.10.1941;  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

F.S.623.

QUAYSIDE~~R~~not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Harwich  
1740/19).

Q.P.2.

Intend sailing Q.P.2 on first or second November.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1800C/19).

F.S. No. 524.

Is not to arrive Sunk Buoy before 0900/20 and  
is to remain astern of sweepers. Great care  
is to be taken to avoid wrecks between B.5.  
and B.7 Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 2135A/19 to  
WINCHESTER).



War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

AURORA.  
PENELOPE.

Arrivals after dark 18/10 AURORA, PENELOPE. Dep., A.M./19 AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE, LIVELY. (F.O.C.N.A., 0658A/19 to Admty).

BESSEL  
German.

Arrived Vigo 1400/19.  
(Consul, Vigo, 1427/19 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar)  
BESSEL left Ferrol 19/10 for Vigo.  
(Guyatt Coruna, 2345/19 to D.N.I.)

MARON.

Assume N.Z.5 and N.Z.6 patrol.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1804A/19 to MARON)

LAMERTON.

Your 1441/(N.T. in W.D.) Assume Force N. continue remain N., of 036° N., tonight and E. Cape Trafalgar. Request information whether X and L patrols are being manned. Intend sweeping out Cabezos Passage occasionally after dark. (LAMERTON, 1817A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation  
"Call Boy".

Arrival RODNEY, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, COSSACK, SIKH, ZULU, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, FURY, LEGION. (F.O.C.N.A., 1840A/19 to Admty).

Sailing of  
H.G.  
Convoys after  
dark.

Your 1128/18.  
A. On account of volume of other traffic in the Straits consider it undesirable convoys form up at night.  
B. Close proximity of commercial anchorage to Spanish territory where it is known that there are enemy agents precludes sailings of convoys from being kept secret whether they sail by day or by night.  
C. Varying times of sailing during daytime may in some measure affect enemy intelligence, but in view of B. this is not considered important. (F.O.C.N.A., 1924A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.24.

P.C. and S. at 2000A/19 040° 32' 002° 39' E., 231° 14 knots. Good lose. Very little shipping sighted. One unsuccessful attack report blank. E.T.A., 0800A/21. (O.24., 2015A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FREESIA,  
VERBENA.

For British Consul, Ponta Delgada. Corvettes FREESIA and VERBENA expect to arrive Ponta Delgada 3/11 and will each require approx. 140 tons of oil fuel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2148A/19 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Force Q.,  
PRINCE  
BAUDOIN.

My 1307/16. Delete PRINCE BAUDOIN.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0840N/19 to QUEEN EMMA)

DRAGON,  
TEVIOTBANK.

My 1957/16. (1943Z/16 intended) DRAGON will ?(not) be ready to leave Simonstown before Tuesday 21/10 at earliest. Request instructions whether TEVIOTBANK is to remain at Durban to await DRAGON or proceed to Mauritius independently. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0953Z/19 to C. in C. E.I.)

AZALEA,  
SPIREA.

AZALEA and SPIREA are to proceed 1509/19 through position (a) 014° 45' N., 019° 10' W. (b) 022° 30' N., 017° 55' W., (c) 030° 38' N., 011° 15' W. (d) 033° 50' N., 009° 20' W., thence to 61B, S. of A., 11 knots, E.T.A. Gibraltar A.M./26. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1245N/19 to AZALEA, SPIREA.) *Cancelled 20/10 - See p. 478*

WOODRUFF,  
enemy  
aliens.  
from  
DOMINE.

Corvette WOODRUFF E.T.A. Takoradi 22/10 with following Enemy Aliens on board. Request WOODRUFF be met on arrival and further request that circumstances of these seizures may be investigated and facts reported to me in due course. (C. in C. S.A., 1249N/19 to Govr. Gold Coast.)

Corvettes to  
be recalled  
from S.A.D.

As there does not now appear to be any U-boat activity off South America South of the Equator it is desired to recall LAVENDER and BERGAMOT and use them or their equivalent to form part of a hunting group to search St. Pauls Rocks area where there are indications of U-boat supply ships.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1321N/19 to Admty) Reply: 1955/20.

DOMINE.

C. in C. S.A. 1507/16. If enemy nationals in Spanish DOMINE do not come within categories mentioned their baggage and that of the 2 French passengers should be examined for despatch or illegal mail, ref. my 1924/3, and the 2 Frenchmen are not to be removed.  
(D.E.W.D., 2055A/19 to H.M. Ships etc).

/ANTWERP.....

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ANTWERP,  
MALINES,  
BRIGAND.

Request you will route ANTWERP, MALINES and tug BRIGAND through positions (A) 20° 00' N., 23° 20' W. (B) 17° 00' N., 21° 10' W. (C) 9° 25' N. 18° 20' W., thence to Freetown. N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0750A/15 refers. (?C. in C. S.A., 2057N/19 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada)

AQUITANIA,  
handling  
at Capetown.

C. in C. E.I. 0400/16 F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1703/18, P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1610/19 and D. of S.T. 1243/18. Difficulties of handling AQUITANIA at Capetown are appreciated. In view, however, of great importance of transporting maximum number of troops to M.E. at present request you will give further consideration to this urgent matter. 2. If this voyage cannot be arranged no other employment for AQUITANIA until U.S. 14 sailing from Australia in January. 3. Owners consider it is possible to handle ship at Capetown. If so, she could leave Capetown in company with MAURETANIA mid-November. 4. Pending final decision AQUITANIA should be sailed for Colombo in accordance with P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1610/19 (D.O.D. (F) 2245A/19 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A. etc).

Mediterranean.

OTTO  
LEONHART.  
(German)

Arrival 18th. (Valencia, 0100/19 to M. of W.T.)

Opposed  
Landings.

Ref. C. in C. M.E.'s SD/13590 of 13/10. Chiefs of Staff have approved formation of Directorate of Opposed Landings subject to proviso that personnel required can be made available from M.E. resources. Request whether suitable officers are immediately available on Station for these appointments, and if not what increase in establishment is desired. (1st S.L., 1106A/19 to C, in C. Med) Reply 1233/20.

/THORN.....

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

THORN.

Cancel my 1901B/17. Remain area P. Further orders follow. (Capt. S.l., 1115B/19 to THORN)

PORPOISE,  
TETRARCH.

PORPOISE leaves 035° 20' 014° 14' p.m./20 direct to arrive 033° 35' 025° 00' dusk/24. Proceed through 035° 51' 015° 15' 036° 00' 014° 53' to arrive Grand Harbour 0630 A/23. (Capt. S.10, 1135A/19 to TETRARCH.)

Red Sea  
Command.

My 1219B/18. Correct para. 3 to read: Rear Adm. R.H.C. Hallifax will take over command of the Red Sea Area of the Station on 21/10 etc. (C. in C. Med., 1140B/19)

Water  
Tankers for  
Red Sea.

C. in C. E.I., 0744/18. This is most unsatisfactory. The tankers so far detailed for this service have either proved unsuitable or been reallocated to other services. Meanwhile MYRIEL and PETRELLA are employed in Western Desert. Port Sudan is severely rationing water although STAGPOOL is working there to full capacity. There is no water carrier for Suez or anchorages in Straits of Jubal. (C. in C. Med., 1201B/19 to D. of S.T.)

COETLOGON (?)

<sup>COETLOGON.</sup>  
Departure 18th ~~COETLOGON~~, French, Sete. (Barcelona, 1244/19 to M. of W.T.)

URSULA  
attack on  
convoy.

URSULA attacked convoy at 0802A/18 in 035° 25' N., 011° 39' E. Thought 2 ships sunk. (Capt. S.10 1313A/19 to UPHOLDER, URGE.) \*Note - a.c. Med., 2025B/13/11 mentions only one.

TALISMAN.

TALISMAN sails 1700B/20 and proceeds end of Searched Channel through (a) 032° 06' 028° 30'. (b) 033° 00', 025° 00'. (c) 032° 058° 022° 32' and thence as necessary for Patrol in area B south of 033° 20' N., between 021° 54' (?and) 022° 40' E. E.T.A. in Area (corrupt group) 23/10. (Capt. S.l., 1545B/19 to C. in C. Med).

/TRUANT.....

War Diary.19.10.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.TRUANT,  
THORN.  
TRUSTY.

Operation B.S. Appendix 1 recreation patrol line. 3 - 037° 30' N., 019° 05' E., - 090° - 12 - 000° - 20. Position (a) 037° 30' 019° 05' - Control position: position (b) TRUANT; position (c) THORN. Positions are to be taken up as follows, TRUANT as convenient p.m./20. TRUSTY as early as possible on 21st. On 20th THORN is to patrol in vicinity of 036° 55' 020° 30' until dark and then proceed position (c). From noon B/20 until further orders no S/M is to be attacked. S/Ms. are to endeavour to establish S.S.T. communications when safe to do so. (Capt. S.1., 1731B/19 to TRUANT, THORN, TRUSTY).

Free French  
at Djibuti.

Fully concur with C. in C. E.I. view in para.2 of his 1910/17. Free French Naval Forces on bases near Djibuti would cause most undesirable complications. Ref. para. 4, I should welcome the tugs at Port Sudan as this would allow relief of tugs from there for Mediterranean, where such craft are at a premium. Alternatively tugs could be sent back (?Djibuti) when we are in possession. (C. in C. Med., 1931B /19 to Admty).

Malta Raid.

Night 18/19 Oct. 9 bombers approached, 2 crossed island. Bombs in sea and on land. Slight damage to civilian property. Civilians 5 killed 1 seriously wounded and 1 soldier. Hurricanes up no illuminations or interceptions. Night Oct. 18/19, 1937 hours. Special Wellington search sighted convoy 85 miles north west Tripoli southbound 8 knots. Dropped flares for 6 Swordfish attack 2005 hours. 1 returned engine trouble. Convoy 2 M/Vs 5,000 tons 1 M/V 6,000 tons 1 M/V 3,000 tons 4 destroyers. 3 direct torpedo hits 1 M/V 6,000 tons stopped. 3 fires visible 10 miles. Second M/V probably damaged, opposition intense. (H.Q. Malta, 2233/19)

Convoy  
Attacked.U/B

One submarine 034° 32' N., 023° 14' E., course 170° speed 5 knots at 0830A. (Capt. S.10 2255A/19 to S/Ms on patrol etc)

REGENT.

Leave patrol and return to Alexandria through following positions (X) 033° 32' 020° 24' (Y) 033° 32' 024° 04' (Z) 031° 58' 028° 26'. Pass through position (Y) at about 0400B/24. Leave patrol as necessary on 22nd. Adjust speed to arrive Alexandria sanctuary 0500B/26. (Capt. S.1., 2311B/19 to REGENT amended 1921B/20)

War Diary.19.10.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.N.O. for  
Tiflis  
Mission.

Chiefs of Staff, on advice of Foreign Secretary, have agreed not to pursue further the matter of obtaining Russian sanction for attachment of a Naval Officer to Tiflis Mission, as it is unlikely that Russians would agree under present circumstances. (W.O., 1800/19 to C. in C. India.)

Guns for  
M/Vs.

Your 1720/12. Arrangements now made to forward 100.30 Savage Lewis equipments, for Aden Shuttle Service. Small supplies of .30 Tracer have been arranged for Port Said and should be drawn upon until stocks permit of despatch to Aden and other ports abroad. Intended to distribute single mountings with gun shields to ports abroad for permanently mounting any surplus guns of this type not required for shuttle service purposes. (D.T.D. 2044A/19 to C. in C. E.I.)

Kerguelen  
Operation.

Your 1330/18. It is considered that one 8" Cruiser should be employed in Kerguelen Operation. She could always be recalled if the situation deteriorates. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2136A/19 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.HERMOD.  
(German)

Arrival 19/10. (Penang 0301Z/19 to M. of W.T.)

Allied  
Shipping  
Instructions.

Your 0313Z/6 para (d). The fact that the information is given verbally and that it will not necessarily have been given to all allied masters may lead to uncertainty of correct action being taken by all ships at sea if the signal "Seek refuge port" is made in the near future. Request you will consider making a G.B.M.S. Message in the sense of para (b) (1) in addition to the signal mentioned above. This should not give away too much information concerning merchant shipping movements but should ensure that all ships proceed clear of dangerous waters as early as possible. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1818A/19 to C. in C. China)

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Arming of  
Panama Ships.

According to apparently reliable reports, the new Cabinet in Panama on 18/10 reversed the decision taken some time ago by the Cabinet of the former President Arias, and resolved to allow ships under the Panamanian registry to be armed. Of the 270 ships in Panama's merchant marine, 82 - 70 of them being oil tankers - are owned by United States interests. (The Times, 20/10/41)

SURCOUF.

It is expected SURCOUF will complete working up practices at New London about 18/11. Request confirmation that she is to proceed to Bermuda. (B.A.R.M. 0858R/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DESPATCH.

To leave Bermuda p.m./21 and proceed to Kingston, Jamaica, via Turks Island and Windward passage so as to arrive a.m./24. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0932Q/19 to S.O. W. Indies Force)

Corvettes.

A.M.1346A/7/10. Arrangements for refits of 10 Canadian-manned R.N. corvettes. (D.O.D.(H) 1101A/19 to B.A.R.M., C.C.N.F.) See Lion Copy.

PETUNIA.

C. in C. W.A. 1237A/19, being passed to you. Request appropriate action may be taken as I have insufficient knowledge of this movement to interfere. JAMES H. HUGHES and BARWICK are still at St. Anthony N.F. and will proceed Julianehaab when weather moderates. (C.C.N.F. 1449A/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)  
*See p 448*

DIANTHUS.

My 0357Z/17. DIANTHUS sails St. Johns, Newfoundland 20/10 to arrive Charleston p.m./26 with similar arrival instructions as POLYANTHUS vide your 1534R/29/9. (C.C.N.F. 1509Z/19 to B.A.R.M.)

SPIKENARD.

N.S.H.Q's 1340N/17. Following from S.D.Y. - SPIKENARD CY 599 being taken in hand at Liverpool, N.S. p.m./20. Anticipated time required to complete defects &c 5 to 6 weeks. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1715Z/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/Supplies ...

SECRET

MESSAGE

1101A/19th October OUT

Date 19. 10. 41.

To. B.A.R.M. 829  
C.C.N.F.

460A

Repeated: C.N.S. Ottawa  
B.A.D. Washington. 993  
C.O.A.C.  
C. in C. Western Approaches. 670.  
Naval Cypher (X) Secret

From Admiralty.

A.M. 1346A/7/10. It is intended that on the conclusion of refit of DIANTHUS and GLADIOLUS at Charleston their place should be taken by two of the ten Canadian manned R.N. corvettes of the Newfoundland Escort Force. Remainder of these ten corvettes would follow.

2. C.C.N.F. is requested to report names of the first pair to be detailed.

3. During these refits it is desired to carry out concurrently the extending of the after end of fore-castle and modifications to bridges in accordance with A.F.O. "A" series 646/41 item 173. Work also to be carried out on certain alterations and additions.

4. Drawing for all As and As approved for Flower class corvettes are being sent or have been sent to B.A.R.M.

5. A.M. 2324B/12/5 to B.A.R.M. only requests that time required for work should not exceed 8 weeks.

6. B.A.R.M. and C.C.N.F. are requested to arrange dates for corvettes to be taken in hand and to issue sailing directions accordingly, keeping Admiralty informed.

7. A.M. 1346A/7/10 has been repeated to C.C.N.F. for information

1101A/19  
for D.O.D. (H)

1st Lord	N.A. 1st S.L. (2)	D.T.S.D.	
1st S.L.	Ops. (3)	I.P. (3)	
Controller	O.D. (5)	W.D.	
Vice Controller	O.D.S.	Dep. Contr. (3)	} Bath
V.C.N.S.	N.A.S.	D.A/S.W.	
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. of P. (3)	D.N.C. (2)	
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.A/S.W.	D. (4)	
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.57.O.B.l.	E. in C.	
Nav. Sec.	M.36. (M. 01544D/41) (3)	S.W.R.	
Ad. Bailey.	D.N.C.		
Ad. Brock.	E. in C.		



War Diary.19.10.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - contd.Supplies for  
U/Bs.

Your 1738R/14 and 2056R/16. The U-boats mentioned are not in Western Atlantic. There is at present no evidence of any U-boats in the Caribbean. (D.N.I. 1923A/19 to S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica.)

HIGHLAND  
PRINCESS.

Your 1653/17. Propose HIGHLAND PRINCESS should proceed from New York to Halifax sailing thence about 24/10 with CHITRAL, WORCESTERSHIRE, AUSONIA and MONTCLARE to U.K. 2. If desired you may use her up to her full complement in accordance with A.M.1936A/25/9 only. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1939A/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

A.M.Cs.

A.M.1655A/15. CHITRAL, WORCESTERSHIRE, AUSONIA, MONTCLARE and S.S. HIGHLAND PRINCESS should leave Halifax for U.K. on 24/10. 2. Ships will sail in convoy at best speed to meet destroyer escort at M.O.M.P. 3. C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to arrange as requisite for A.M.Cs to proceed to Halifax. 4.C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail ships to conform with route and R/V to be promulgated by Admiralty and to signal estimated S. of A. 5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide and sail A/S escort as necessary to meet convoy. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1944A/19 to C. in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. W.A.)

Australia and New Zealand.OISEAU DES  
ILES.

Three-masted Schooner OISEAU DES ILES with crew has been requisitioned, armed and placed in service by Free French Naval Forces. Ship is commanded by Lieut. De Vaisseau Praud and will normally be stationed in French Oceania. (High Commissioner France in Pacific 0335Z/19 to Admty.)

War Diary.

19.10.1941.  
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

INVERLEE.

INVERLEE torpedoed and sunk in approx. 270°. Spartel 15 at 0200 19. (F.O.C.N.A. 0410A/19) British tanker 9158 tons, independent from Trinidad to Gibraltar. (D.S. 775, 19/10) Daily Summary Ops 202 Sqdn. One Catalina A/S search West, 0700 to Dusk, sighted torpedoed tanker INVERLEE 0744. 35.97 N. 06.15 W. broken in 2. Photographs taken of sinking. 1 Catalina A/S Hunt around INVERLEE, 1030 to Dusk. (200 Group 1835/19 to Air Min.)

BARON KELVIN.

My 1216A/ (Nt.in W.D) INVERLEE now reported sunk. BARON KELVIN on passage from Lisbon to Gibraltar torpedoed and sunk in vicinity of Cape Trafalgar at about 0900. Some survivors from both ships. Three destroyers, six corvettes one sloop hunting area. (F.O.C.N.A. 1748A/19 to Admty) BARON KELVIN, British, 3081 tons.

S.C.48  
(attacked  
17/10)

Ships in company MIMOSA, CAMROSE, E.T.A. 0030Z/20. Survivors, BOLD VENTURE 9 Officers 7 men; BARFONN 3 Officers 19 men; ERVIKEN 2 men; EVROS one man, ship sunk in 057° 00' N. 024° 30' W. Survivors on board MIMOSA. SILVERCEDAR 23 men 3 Officers. ILA 5 men 2 Officers, ship sunk in 053° 34' N. 030° 10' W. One cot case, 5 walking cases. (WETASKIWIN, 1131Z/19 to A.C.I.C.)

ARGUN  
(reported  
torpedoed  
18/10.)

Your 1800C/18. Please confirm if possible whether U.Boat or mine. Presume SUFFOLK informed. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1559C/19 to S.B.N.O. Archangel) Reply: 1550/20.

VANCOUVER  
ISLAND.  
(torpedoed  
15/10.)

Request following may be passed to C.C.N.F. through Opnav from C. in C. W.A. (Begins) - Request you will investigate reasons for apparent delay in DIANTHUS reporting that she and ACONITE were unable to proceed to assistance of VANCOUVER ISLAND in accordance with U.S.Chief Naval Operations 2345Z/15. (C. in C. W.A. 2301A/19 to Admty.)

War Diary.19.10.1941.  
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

- 1114 G.M.T. By D/F at 1114 G.M.T. U.Boat in area 53° to 53° 30' N. 17° 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 1329A/19)
- 1215 G.M.T. By D/F at 1215 G.M.T. U.boat in 51° N. 17° 30' W. unreliable fix.  
(D.D.I.C. 1401A/19)
- Estimated U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1443A/19.)
- 0200 U-Boats in 036° 05' N. 006° 03' W. a.m./19 and 035° 38' N. 006° 17' W. at 0200/19.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1555A/19 to S. and A., N.A. Stn.)
- 1430C. Bearing by D/F at 1430C/19 U-Boats 069° 05' 041° 30'. Admty. pass to SUFFOLK.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1652C/19 to Admty.)
- 18/10. Your 1811A/18. Please state dates, particulars, nature of source and grading of the two U-boat reports referred to.  
(D.N.I. 1704A/19 to C. In C.W.A.)

Submarine situation 19th Oct.  
(U.S. C.N.O., 2226Z/19)

Submarines Attacked.By A/C.

Am over enemy submarine in 47.22 N. 8.30 W.  
(A/C using call sign Z7RU 1159/19 to 19 Group)  
My 1157. Enemy Sub. was sighted on surface and then observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 250° speed 7 knots.  
(A/C, Z7RU 1215/19 to 19 Group)  
My 1157. Enemy Submarine has dived. Have lost touch with Submarine last position 47.22 N., 8.30 W. (A/C Z7RU 1230/19 to 19 Group)

By MALLOW.

MALLOW attacked a (?good) contact at 2100A/19 276°. Spartel 11. She is remaining in the vicinity till daylight.  
(ROCHESTER, 2330A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Position 35.48 N., 6.10 W., 11' W. of Cape Spartel. (D.S.776)

War Diary.

20.10.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Gale damage.

A gale today caused some damage and delay to shipping. At Aultbea oiler WAR PATHAN was -damaged, drifter JESSIE TAIT was sunk, and 6 other minor war vessels were damaged and put out of action. RICHMOND was damaged and -put into Londonderry. VICTORIOUS suffered some damage and the two destroyers with her had to heave to off Tiumpan Head and the carrier entered Scapa alone. LAFOREY arrived at Greenock with defects due to the gale which required dockyard assistance.

KING GEORGE V.-  
class.

The recent operations in the Mediterranean showed that the KING GEORGE class is unsuitable for personnel in hot climates. Evaporator power is inadequate for long periods at sea and there is every reason to expect failure of V.S.G. pumps for 14 inch turrets which is liable to have a serious effect on the efficiency of the main armament.

British Air Operations.

Bad weather last night restricted operations.

3 Hudsons of Coastal Command this afternoon successfully attacked a seaplane base in Thisted Bay, Denmark.

A Blenheim of Bomber Command secured a hit on a Flakship off Ijmuiden this afternoon.

Two Spitfires of Fighter Command gunned a Flakship this morning near Le Havre and left it sinking after an explosion.

Enemy Air Operations.

Norwegian steamer RASK is reported to have been bombed and sunk by 3 H.E.115s at 1930A/~~today~~, 12 miles S.E. of the Tuskar.  
/19

War Diary.

20.10.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

The Humber was closed at 2043A today, but after being reopened it was closed again at 2350A on account of minelaying.

Thames Estuary.

Enemy aircraft were active over the Thames Estuary last night, and mines were apparently laid. Mines were detonated today.

Liverpool was closed on account of minelaying at 2321A today.

M.F.A. CORDELIA detonated an acoustic mine at 1100 off Great Castle Head (Milford Haven) and was damaged.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious Tanker.

HERMIONE sailed from Gibraltar to intercept a tanker, possibly German from Bordeaux which was sighted by a civil aircraft at 1057A today in 44° 7' N. 10° 7' W. steering 260°. Air R/C has been arranged for today and tomorrow.

Mediterranean.

Operation B.S.

TRUANT, THORN and TRUSTY are to carry out an operation off Zante.

C. in C. Med. reports that TORBAY, on a short patrol for a special mission bombarded Apollonia at 1800/15 and obtained several hits on a hangar before being driven off by a shore battery.

/All ...

War Diary.

20.10.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

All light forces are being employed in bombardments. Operation "Cultivate", supply of Tobruk and A/S sweeps. A destroyer bombardment of Marsa Likh last night was abandoned on account of HAVOCK grounding: She was escorted back to Alexandria. GNAT bombarded enemy battery near Tobruk last night and on the previous night; shelling by the battery had recently been on an increased scale.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

17 Wellingtons bombed targets at Tripoli last night. A 3000 ton ship off Castello was set on fire. Fires were visible 150 miles.

3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour.

U-Boat Campaign.

BRITISH MARINER (Tanker) reported at 0400Z today that she was torpedoed in the engine room in 7° 43' N. 14° 20' W.

C. in C. S.A. reports that at 1100/7 LAERTES rammed a possible U-boat in 6° 10' S. 3° 23' W.

An aircraft reported a hit with a depth charge on a U-boat at 8 A.M. today, 120 miles W.S.W. of Cape Verde.

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Use of Irish  
Territorial  
Waters.

Your 1811/18. Admiralty General Message 664 A.Z. (A.M.1918/6/7/40) states Government policy. Admiralty message 1648/13/7/40 to F.O.I.C. Belfast is also being passed to you. (Adty.1318A/20 to C. in C. W.A.) Admiralty message 1648/13/7/40 to F.O.I.C. Belfast is passed to you for information. Begins :- "Your telephone enquiry of 8th July concerning Admiralty General Message 664AZ. Eire Government are aware of the instructions, but it is important that they should not be embarrassed by these instructions becoming public or by their knowledge of them being divulged to the Ulster Government." Ends. (Head of M. 1319A/20 to Cs in C. H.F., Plymouth, W.A., A.O.C. in C.C.C., and Air Ministry)

36th and  
37th Escort  
Groups.

1. When new O.G. and H.G. cycle is in full operation 36th and 37th escort groups will be absent from base about 7 weeks and will spend about 19 days at Gibraltar. Recent experience has shown that it is essential that boilers should be cleaned both at Gibraltar and Home bases.
2. I shall be grateful if you will not use these ships for local duties except in emergency. Request if possible boiler cleaning may be arranged so that each group as a whole will have one week available for group exercises to include A/S practices with a submarine. (C. in C. W.A. 1722A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Co-operation with RussiaWhite Sea  
Approaches.  
A/S and A/A  
Defences.

- C. in C. H.F. 1824A/18 and 1217A/17. Both matters receiving earnest consideration by Soviet Authorities.
2. Only forces at present available A/S patrols are 3 SHTORM Class destroyers and number of converted trawlers who patrol area and are based Iokanskie. At recent Moscow Conference believed Soviet requested U.S. Government for ten destroyers for these waters. Suggest for consideration laying of deep minefield from Kanin Nos in direction Svytoi Nos. C. in C. Northern Fleet concurs but has no mines available. Field should be laid before December when ice conditions will render laying impossible. Deep mines once laid would not be affected by ice conditions.
  3. New landing ground now completed Ponoï and Fighter Aircraft from Archangel will shortly be stationed there and could then afford Fighter protection for arrival and departure of British Forces.
  4. Recommend Q P Convoys should pass 66° 30' N.

/to ...

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia.White Sea  
Approaches.  
A/S and A/A  
Defences.  
contd.

to 67° 30' N. in dark hours to avoid possible sight by enemy aircraft. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. and N.C.S.O. Archangel. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1833C/20.)

Movements.QUORN.

Have been ordered to return south. My position 21 B Buoy, speed 12 knots. Request instructions. (QUORN 0434A/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

LAFOREY  
LIGHTNING.

LAFOREY and LIGHTNING have torpedoes and warheads boxed and stowed on deck. In gale LIGHTNING lost two torpedoes overboard. Consider it inadvisable to proceed through Pentland Firth with this deck cargo if gale persists. LAFOREY A/S set out of action. (Capt. D.19 0815/20 to R.A.D. H.F.)

A.F.D.14.

Your 1755/16. Sailing postponed until weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0913/20.)

HOLDERNESS.

On parting company with CUMBERLAND return to Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore 0956/20 to HOLDERNESS.)

4th M/S.  
Flotilla.

My 1805/18. Sailing postponed until weather moderates. (A.C.O.S. 1049/20.)

MALAYA.

Scapa departure MALAYA for Greenock escorted by LAFOREY and LIGHTNING. E.T.A. 1030/21. (A.C.O.S. 1059/20)

CASTLETON.  
MENESTHEUS.

CASTLETON proceed Greenock with S.D.14 and await MENESTHEUS probably arriving 23. Escort her to Port Z A after she has discharged cargo. (R.A.M. 1147A/20.)

VICTORIOUS.  
LAFOREY.  
LIGHTNING.

My 0137/20. Destroyers hove to off Tiumpan Head. VICTORIOUS E.T.A. 1445A. (VICTORIOUS 1151/20.) Scapa arrival VICTORIOUS. (A.C.O.S.1735A/20.)

/BERWICK ...



War Diary.

20.10.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

BERWICK.

Comply with my 1737/19 with all dates and times  
24 hours late. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1622/20 to BERWICK.)

MAORI.

My 2258A/15/8. On completion of refit request  
you will sail MAORI for Scapa for short working  
up period.  
2. MAORI will be required as part escort for  
W.S.12Z leaving Clyde about 7/11 subsequently  
joining Force H.  
(D.O.D. H. 1735A/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

DULVERTON.

Will be required as part escort for W.S.12 Z  
leaving Clyde about 7/11 subsequently joining  
Mediterranean Fleet.  
2. Request you will sail her for the Clyde  
accordingly.  
(D.O.D. H. 1740A/20 to R.A.D. H.F.)

L.27.

S/M L.27 submerged by day, surface by night, is  
approaching 050° N. 020° W. thence to 048° N.  
022° W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1754A/20.)

VERITY.  
BADSWORTH.  
BEVERLEY.

On completion of escort duty proceed to  
Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1758A/20 to VERITY, etc.)

TENACITY.

Intend sailing TENACITY at 0700A/21 for Stornoway  
to embark (corrupt group) E.T.A. 1900. Request  
you sail TENACITY in time to R/V O.N. in 058°  
50' N. 006° 07' W. at 1300A/22.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1841A/20)

GLADIOLUS.

Report P.C. and S.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2018A/20 to GLADIOLUS.)

ELECTRA.

Cancel my 1120A/20 para 2. Request ELECTRA may  
be sailed for Scapa as soon as possible.  
(R.A.D. H.F. 2209A/20.)

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation  
H.G.

My 1026/19. Operation H.G. postponed a further 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 0950/20)

MARSDALE  
Patrol.

MARSDALE to patrol E.Z.one, F.Z.one, until 2000A/28. Thence to H.X.3. E.T.A. on patrol A.M. 24th.  
(S.O.W.P.1510A/20)

Kola  
Peninsula.  
A/S Searches.

After sweeping SUFFOLK out, minesweepers carried out A/S search off Gorodetski last night and this will be repeated tonight. NORMAN sails tomorrow to carry out similar night searches returning Wednesday. No signs of T.U.C. delegates yet. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. and S.B.N.O. North Russia.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1942C/20 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

British Air Activity.Operation  
"Rover"

Carry out operation "Rover" tonight with three A/C of 407 Squadron between Texel and Borkum. First two patrols at discretion of station Commander. Last patrol to be on Datum between 0230 and 0530.  
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1125/20)  
6 A/C of 500 Squadron are to stand by tonight to take off if favourable information is received from A/C of 407 Squadron on ROVER. Attack to be carried out at first daylight or later if cloud cover permits.  
(Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1135/20.)

Operation  
"Nomad".

Carry out operation "Nomad" tonight with two A/C of 59 Sqdn. between Walcheren and Texel.  
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1145/20.)

Camouflage  
Trial at  
Worthy Down.

Subject to your concurrence it is intended to carry out a camouflage trial of Scorpions at Worthy Down in the near future for the information of the Defence of Aerodromes Committee.

2. The following procedure for the trial is desired. Details.
3. Request you arrange for concentrating 10 Scorpions at Worthy Down by transferring as necessary from Lee-on-Solent.  
(D. of L.D. 1843A/20 to RANAS)

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.S.S. RASK  
sunk.

Norwegian steamer <sup>RASK. P464</sup> probably ~~being~~ reported bombed night 19/20 when 6 miles South of Tuskar. Ship sunk. 3 dead, remainder of crew saved by WALLACE ROSE.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1434A/20)

Spitzbergen.

Information from Russian Sources graded B one indicates that JU 52 aircraft recently landed at Spitzbergen with equipment and personnel for short wave DF station. Flights made from Banak on October 8th, 11th, 14th and 18th returning from Spitzbergen on following days.  
(D.D.I.C. 1633A/20)

MiningOperation  
S.N. 24 C.

Intend to carry out as follows with PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK on 22/10. Details. (R.A.M. 0934A/20)  
See Lion Copy.

Thames  
Estuary.

One S.A. Mine detonated at 1221/19 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0955/20)  
ARISTOCRAT reports that at 1129/20 when 2 cables S.E. of J. buoy a mine exploded 002° 2 miles approx. from ship. No ships in vicinity.  
(X.D.O. Sheerness 1232A/20)  
At 1000/20 one Ground Mine exploded in 51° 44' 54" N. 1° 24' 54" E. Details.  
(WINCHESTER 1500/20)  
At 1927/17 one S.A. Mine detonated as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1601/20)  
Enemy planes were active over the Thames Estuary during the night 19/20 from 1920 to 2050. Explosions which appeared to be premature mines occurred as follows :- 1940 two on Shingles Shoal, 1944 two near entrance to Colne River, 1948 two on Maplin Sands. Aircraft at times flew below cloud level when over convoy, and were very heavily engaged by all ships.  
(S.O. T.L.D.F. 1759/20)

CORDELIA  
(British  
Tanker  
8190 Tons)  
damaged.

Received 1004 G.M.T. de CORDELIA. Begins. CORDELIA S.13 mined. Send tugs. Anchored outside Milford Haven, ends.  
(Burnham Radio 1104/20)  
Acoustic Mine detonated by M.F.A. CORDELIA at 1100 in position 141°. Great Castlehead low light 6.3 cables.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1835/20)

/Clyde ...

**MOST SECRET**

471A

MOST SECRET                      M E S S A G E    09344/20 October    IN

From R.A.M.

Date 20/10/41  
Reed. 1314

NAVAL CYPHER A1 BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Rosyth, Group 18. Repeated  
A.C.O.S., C. in C. Home Fleet, C. in C. Western Approaches,  
A.C.I.C., N.O.I.C. Stornoway, F.O.S., H.M.S. PORT QUEBEC,  
H.M.S. NEWARK, Air Ministry, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.

IMPORTANT

- Intend to carry out operation S.N.24 C as follows
- (a) deep minefield
  - (d) H.M. Ships PORT QUEBEC, NEWARK
  - (e) air anti-submarine escort is requested from first light until about 1100 October 22 when Southward Butt of Lewis
  - (f) from 058 degs. 35' 00" North 006 degs. 46' 48" West through 058 degs. 31' 12" North 006 53' 06" West and 058 degs. 35' 24" North 007 degs. 02' 42" West - 058 degs. 31' 36" North 007 degs. 09' 00" West
  - (g) 2230 October 21
  - (j) through 058 degs. 24' North 005 degs. 45' West
  - (k) 13 knots
  - (l) 0640 October 22
  - (n) direct
  - (o) and (p) Port Z A 1700 October 22
  - (q) None
  - (w) 16.5 miles 10 knots
  - (x) Mark 19/XIX set to 80 120 and 160 feet in rotation
  - (y) 664 units combined depth to form a standard line
  - (z) as for single line ship in Area B.

09344/20

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(H), D.D.O.D.(M)

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.O.D.(H)  
D.D.O.D.(H)  
D.D.O.D.(M)  
D.C.(2)  
D.D.I.C.  
D.A./S.W.  
D. of P.(2)  
Hd. of M.  
I.P.(2)  
W.D.

War Diary.20.10.1941  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - contd.Clyde.

An explosion almost certainly a mine occurred at 0600 this morning in about 55° 56.7' N. 4° 39.8' W. A few windows on shore were broken. During the night there was a full gale. (Comm. M/S Greenock 1635/20)

Off Ventnor.

One drifting German mine type T. sunk in 50° 36' 54" N. 01° 01' W. Weather made recovery impossible. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1735A/20)

German Float.

A German conical float type 2 has been washed ashore at Druid Stone Sands, St. Bride's Bay. It showed signs of having been in water a considerable time. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1836/20)

Humber.

Humber closed to navigation. Minelaying. (F.O. Humber 2043A/20)  
Cancel my 2043A/20. (F.O. Humber 2216A/20)  
My 2043A/20. Minelaying not suspected. (F.O. Humber 2248A/20)  
Humber closed to navigation. Minelaying. (F.O. Humber 2350A/20)

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool closed due to minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2321A/20)

Enemy Intelligence.Northern Norway.

My 1402A/15. Following enemy Naval Forces are now in North Norway: 4 German torpedo boats JAGUAR class Torpedo Boats. 4 "M" class Mine Sweepers, about 4 U-Boats, "R" type Boat, "E" type Boat, and Armed Trawlers. (ii) Reported (B One) Junkers 52 aircraft from Banak landed equipment and personnel for short wave D/Fs at Spitzbergen on 8th, 11th, 14th, 18th October. (C. in C. H.F. 1916A/20 to SUFFOLK)

Navigational.South Shipwash Buoy.

South Shipwash Buoy. Light reported extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0437A/20) (Hydrographer 0821A/20)

/Thames ...

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational - contd.Thames  
Estuary.  
Proposed  
new channel.Ref. Q.Z.H.882 and 883. It is considered desirable to alter the existing channel to avoid these wrecks. The following new channel is proposed. Details.  
(C. in C. Nore 1604A/20)Technical.Signals.At 0001 G.M.T./1/11 recommence S.P. 02296K with November as first month on Home and N.A. Stations.  
(D.S.D. 1606A/20)Casualties and Defects.VASSILDOS A.  
POLEMIS.  
(Greek 3429  
tons.)S O S 25 north east Tory Island. Helpless.  
(Liverpool W/T 0508/20)  
Detach one destroyer to investigate and stand by. (C. in C. W.A. 0624A/20 to BULLDOG.)RICHMOND.Sustained following gale damage. E.T.A. Londonderry 1430A/20.  
(RICHMOND 1010A/20)EMPIRE  
WATERHEN.  
(Broke down  
15/10)Arrived Rothesay Bay Tug MARAUDER towing EMPIRE WATERHEN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1115A/20)  
The successful tow of EMPIRE WATERHEN to Rothesay in the present weather conditions is most creditable.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1117A/20 to MARAUDER)JESSIE TAIT  
(Drifter)  
sunk.  
BERKSHIRE.  
WAR PATHAN.  
Gate Vessel  
T.L.C. 21  
SECUTA.  
DALE CASTLE.  
NANCY GLEN  
MAY II  
damaged.Following is report of damage to H.M. ships during gale. Drifter JESSIE TAIT was in collision last night badly holed and has sunk. Salvage may be possible. Trawler BERKSHIRE grounded and Asdic gear damaged, now refloated. Oiler WAR PATHAN fouled and damaged in bows. Oiling serviceable. GATE vessel damaged and dragged moorings. T.L.C. 21. Engines out of action. Yacht SECUTA superstructure and port side damaged P.C. DALE CASTLE strained and leaking. M.F.V. NANCY GLEN damaged stem. M.F.V. MAY II damaged stem. All the above except WAR PATHAN are out of action.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1437A/20)

/LAFOREY ...

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.LAFOREY.

Machinery defect which can be dealt with by ships staff requires 12 hours in harbour. Other defects due to gale damage require dockyard assistance and can be dealt with in due course except for temporary repair to motor cutter. (Capt. D.19 1642A/20)

KING GEORGE V. class.

The recent operations in the Mediterranean made it clear that, when under way, ventilation in KING GEORGE V. Class is most inadequate in a hot climate and health and efficiency of ships' company will be seriously affected, which will be aggravated by lack of awning and side screens in harbour. Evaporator power is inadequate for long periods at sea and another serious matter is unreliability of V.S.G. pump for 14-inch turrets any further failure of which, which there is every reason to expect, is liable to have a serious effect on efficiency of main armament. (C. in C. H.F. 2251A/20 to Adty.)

Shipping and Convoys.S.C.48.

HIGHLANDER 1740Z/19. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> East coast ships should be escorted to Loch Ewe. (C. in C. W.A. 0011A/20 to HIGHLANDER.)

F.S625.

Your 0434/20th. Act as additional escort with F.S625, to Harwich due to pass 20.C. Buoy 0900. (C. in C. Nore 0603A/20 to QUORN)

W.N.U.95.

Ship did not sail owing to stress of weather. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 0934A/20)

Norwegian Coastal Shipping.

Following are recent movements. (N.A. Stockholm 1105/20) See Lion Copy.

ALAUNIA. ASCANIA.

My 1134A/10. ALAUNIA and ASCANIA departure delayed. (S.O.W.P. 1110/20)

Northbound Coastal Convoys.

Forecast of Northbound Convoy sailings from Southend. Details. After 31/10 all northbound sailing will be F.N. Convoys. (C. in C. Rosyth 1203/20)

/E.C.87 ...

SECRET

MESSAGE

1105/20th October IN

Date 20. 10. 41.

From N.A. Stockholm.

Recd. 2330

Interdepartmental Cypher (I.T.T.) by Cable

Addressed. Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

Following are recent Norwegian Coastal shipping movements.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Whence</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
AIMORA	Left Trondjhem	Oct.16th.	unknown	K M D
ERLING				
LINDOE	Arrived Salangen	Oct.16th.	unknown	K M D
FELIX	Arrived Christensand	Oct.14th.	North Norway	Salt
FERNDALE	Called Herfol	Oct.14th.	Rotterdam	Iron ore
FJELD	Arrived Hommelvik	Oct.14th.	unknown	K M D
GRANA	Left Boda	Oct.17th.	Tromso	K M D
GRAZ <del>FRISBILLA</del>	Arrived Bergen	Oct.14th.	unknown	K M D
HAUKEFJELL	Arrived Lodingen	Oct.17th.	unknown	K M D
HAVBRIS	Left Kirkenes	Oct.13th.	Germany	Ore
HEDVIG 7	Left Herfol	Oct.16th.	Svolvaer	Salt.
HEILO	Arrived Larvik	Oct.15th.	unknown	K M D
KAUPANGER	Arrived Petsamo	Oct.15th.	unknown	K M D
KARMA	Arrived Ballaangen	Oct.14th.	Germany	Pyrites
KLOVEREN	Left Aalesund	Oct 17th	Bergen	Unknown
KRONPRINS	Left Kirkenes	Oct.15th.	Germany	Ore
OLAV				
LOVAAS	Left Finneid	Oct.15th.	Germany	Pyrites
MITRA	Arrived Oslo	Oct.14th.	Unknown	K M D
RYGJA	Arrived Fredrikstad	Oct.14th.	Unknown	K M D
STOREFJELD <sup>NT.</sup>	Arrived Tromso	Oct.16th.	Unknown	K M D
SVODER <sup>NT.</sup>	At Oploaska	(corrupt group)	Irenep	
	Delfzyl			
TORAFIRE	Left Arendal	Oct.17th	Unknown	K M D
TORRIDAL	Arrived Rodsoyvag	Oct.17th.	Unknown	K M D
TRANSPORT	Arrived Bergen	Oct.16th.	Unknown	K M D
TRIANON	Left Jumna	Oct.14th.	Germany	Iron Ore
TRONDJHEMSEFJORD	Left Oslo	Oct.14th.	Unknown	K M D
TUGELA	Arrived Tromso	Oct.17th.	Stettin	Iron Ore
STENSAAS	(corrupt group) due to load + VBP at Lauvsnes for Delfzyl on Oct.25th.			

A 2 repeat A 2.

1105/20

+ as received

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

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.N.I. (4)

O.I.C. (3)

Ops. (3)

O.D. (5)

W.D.

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (O)

D.E.W.D. (3)

M. (2)



SECRET

MESSAGE 1201/20.Oct.

474 B.

IN

From C. in C. Rosyth.

Date. 20.10.41.

P/L BY T/P.

Recd. 1605.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Nore, S.E.E.C.C.D., H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.,  
11, 12, 13 groups. repeated P.O.I.C. Aberdeen N.O.I.C. Loith Capt. M.  
Granton, N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.

NOTWT.

684. Forecast of convoy sailings.

F S629 (M) OCEAN 1330 Friday 24 WALLACE, WINCHESTER.  
F S630 (S) PLUMB 0830 Saturday 25 VALOROUS, VANITY.  
F S631 (F) EVIDENCE 2100 Sunday 26 WESTMINSTER, VIMIERA.  
F S632 (M) ATTACHE 1330 Tuesday 28 VIVIEN, WHADDON.  
F S633 (S) BREAST 0830 Wednesday 29 VERSATILE, VERDUN.  
F S634 (F) MERIT 2100 Thursday 30 LIDDESDALE, SLEIPNER.  
F N536 (M) PRIZE 0700 Friday 24 VIVIEN, QUANTOCK.  
E C 90 (F) USAGE 0700 Saturday 25 VERSATILE, VERDUN.  
F N537 (S) RADIO 0700 Sunday 26 LIDDESDALE, WOLSEY.  
F N538 (M) PILOT 0700 Monday 27 WALLACE WINCHESTER  
E C 91 (F) PADDLE 0700 Tuesday 28 VALOROUS VANITY.  
F N539 (S) ATTEMPT 0700 Wednesday 29 WESTMINSTER VIMIERA, COTTESMORE.  
Timetable as in my 1100/C/9.  
After passing May Island, E C 90 will run as a slow convoy.

1201/20.

Advance copy Ops., Trade.

N.A. 1st S.L.  
Ops. (3).  
C.D. (5).  
C.I.C.  
D. of S. 2A.  
D.T.D. (4).  
D.T.D. (M).  
D. of S.T.  
I.P. (3).  
D.A/S.W.  
W.D.  
Movts.  
O.D. 8.  
D.S.D. (2).  
Mails.

War Diary.

20.10.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - contd.

E.C.87.

Delayed by gale. E.T.A. Pentland Firth 0100/21.  
Request lights. (FOXTROT 1230A/20)

W.S.12 Z.

Your 0729A/7 para.(iv). A.15, sea speed 18  
knots. (S.T.O. Avonmouth 1445A/20)

S.C.49.

Following received from BEAGLE begins -  
Corvettes are covering trawlers until dark, then  
sweeping towards S.C.49 keeping East of 026°  
00' (?thence) subsequently sweeping area from  
20 miles ahead of Convoy until 1400Z/22. Ends.  
(U.S. Chief of Naval Ops. 1925/20)

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Carriage  
of Aircraft.

Your 1348/18. Impracticable load large aircraft in carriers. 2. Blenheim and Beau-fighter cannot be stripped light enough in time but will be shipped by merchant vessel first opportunity. 3. ARGUS already loaded with seven damaged Naval aircraft plus twelve uncased R.A.F. engines. 4. Intend loading two French Dewoitines in EAGLE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1004A/20 to Admty.)

Suspicious  
Tanker.

Civil Aircraft sighted a tanker in  $44^{\circ} 07' N.$   $10^{\circ} 07' W.$  Course  $260^{\circ}$  at 1057A/20. This may be German tanker from Bordeaux. (D.D.I.C. 1146A/20 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)  
A.M. 1146/20. HERMIONE may be used to endeavour to intercept enemy tanker. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1427A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Your 1146A/20. Request air R/C between latitude  $043^{\circ} 00' N.$  and  $045^{\circ} 00' N.$  and longitude  $015^{\circ} 00' W.$  and  $018^{\circ} 00' W.$  during daylight hours 21/10 HERMIONE sailing to intercept. (F.O.C.N.A., 1452A/20 to Admty.)  
Your 1452A/20. Following R/C has been and is being flown today and tonight 20/21st. One Catalina ordered to shadow and report tanker last reported in  $44^{\circ} 7' N.$   $10^{\circ} 7' W.$  course  $260^{\circ}$ , speed 12 knots, at 1050/20, arrived on patrol at 1250/20 and left at 1900/20.  
2. A second Catalina now on patrol with orders to search south of  $44.07 N.$ ,  $10.07 W.$ , keeping clear of Spanish coast but closing Portuguese coast, will leave patrol at 0330/21.  
3. Nothing yet sighted.  
4. Further air R/C is impossible. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2149A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S  
Searches.

Admty. 1945A/19 (N.T. in W.D).  
-(i) 37th escort group, LAMERTON, DUNCAN and VIDETTE carrying out A/S search west of Gibraltar. On 17 and 18 ships worked towards latitude Cape St. Vincent, on 19 and 20 in vicinity of entrance of Straits as far as  $007^{\circ}$  West. Catalina co-operating.  
(ii) Intend delaying sailing of convoy until P.M./22 so as to carry on with search.  
(iii) Corvettes sent to escort VELMA have not met. Both reported, defects and unlikely therefore to contact. DUNCAN and two trawlers sailed A.M./20 to provide escort. Catalina with VELMA. *See also next page -*  
(iv) In view of present situation suggest retaining WILD SWAN until arrival of WISHART.  
(v) Request relief for FLEUR DE LYS may be sent forthwith and any other A/S forces that can be immediately spared. (F.O.C.N.A., 1220A/20 to Admty.)

War Diary.

20.10.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

CLAN  
MACDONALD.

Request you will convey congratulations of Board of Admiralty to master and crew of CLAN MACDONALD on her most successful voyage. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1514A/20 to F.O.C.N.A). CLAN MACDONALD whilst on passage unescorted from Malta to Gibraltar was attacked at 1520/17 by 5 Italian aircraft when about 120' S.S.W. of Cagliari. The aircraft fired torpedoes and dropped bombs, but successful avoiding action was taken. 2 hours later she was again attacked by a torpedo bomber which was driven off by gunfire. (D.O.R. 21/10/41).

MARON.

Situation at 2001A/20. MARON patrols N.Z.5., N.Z.6. (F.O.C.N.A., 1418A/20).

DOMINE.

Spanish DOMINE left Fernando Po 14/10 for Teneriffe has on board 2 Italian and 2 German passengers. If met ship is to be boarded and if enemy nationals come within categories given in A.M. 751 A, 15/10/1939 (A.F.O. 277/41) 816 A, 11/11/1939, 827 A, 18/11/1939 and 650 A, 5/10/1941, they are to be removed. Ship has navicert. (F.O.C.N.A. 1652A/20 to N.A. Stn).

Portuguese  
movements.

Portuguese M/V SERPA PINTO sails 22/10, 10 hours for Cape Verde with troops. Portuguese Sloop BARTOLOMEU DIAS sails 24/10 for Madeira where will remain ten days returning Lisbon 15/11. (N.A. Lisbon, 1702/20, 1207/25 to Admty.)

VELMA  
escort.

Departure DUNCAN, ST. NECTAN, ARCTIC RANGER to R/V tanker VELMA as additional escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1754A/20 to Admty.) W.D. Note:- Of interest in view of Admty. 1728/20 on torpedoing of tanker INVERLEE.

*See previous page.*

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.U-boats.Sightings and contacts during last 14 days.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0235N/20). See U-boat Campaign.W. S. 12.Convoy W.S.12 departure 1400/19 local escort  
VELOX, WRESTLER, ANCHUSA, MIGNONETTE, CALENDULA.  
Ocean escort DEVONSHIRE joins 0700/20. (S.O.I.  
Freetown, 0821N/20 to Admty.)AZALEA.  
SPIREA.Cancel N.O.I.C. Bathurst's 1245N/19. Comply  
with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1132A/18<sup>W.T.</sup> (C. in C. S.A.  
0959N/20 to AZALEA, SPIREA.)Search of  
C. Verde Is.My 1301/11 and 1307/13. Intend carrying out  
this operation 23, 24, 25/10 with DUNEDIN, VIMY,  
BRILLIANT and two Sunderlands with overload  
petrol and no bombs or depth charges. Operation  
to be known as "Corridor" and Force as Force  
'F'. (C. in C. S.A. 1649N/20 to Admty.)JANUS.Admty. 0041/14. C.O. JANUS represents fighting  
efficiency of ship seriously affected by decision  
that alterations and additions item 41 (fitting  
of cross levelling gear) should be a B.H. item.  
Damage suffered by JANUS in action with French  
Flotilla leader attributed by C.O. directly to  
tactical limitations imposed by lack of cross  
levelling gear.  
(ii) Request reconsideration with a view to items  
being undertaken at Simonstown. Gear required  
from U.K. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1752B/20 to Admty.)Handling  
AQUITANIA  
at Capetown.Your 2245/19. Matter now under further urgent  
consideration by harbour authorities who have  
arranged to take new sounding. Further report  
will be made as soon as possible. P.S.T.O.  
Egypt is requested report probable loaded draught  
fore and aft. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1746B/20  
to Admty. etc.)Service  
Personnel.Following movements are required on West African  
Coast. (D.O.D.(F) 1855A/20 to C. in C. S.A.  
amended 1251A/21) See Lion Copy.

/Corvettes....

**MOST SECRET**

18551/20 October.

478A.

**MOST SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

OUT

To C. in C. South Atlantic. 682. Date 20.10.41.  
 Repeated G.O.C. in C., West Africa.  
 S.T.O. Freetown.  
 S.T.O. Takoradi.  
 Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos.  
 Commander Nigeria Area Lagos.  
 Commander Gold Coast Area Accra. } Through  
 Commander Sierra Leone Area Freetown) W.O.

Inter-departmental Cypher (14).

From Admiralty.

Reference G.O.C. in C. West Africa's Q.M/27073 cypher  
 15.10. not to all addressees. Following movements are  
 required on West African Coast.

<u>Movement.</u>	<u>Africans</u>	<u>Europeans.</u>
(a) Takoradi/Lagos	350	-
(b) Lagos/U.K.	-	100
(c) Lagos/Freetown	300	-
(d) Lagos/Takoradi	100	-
(e) Takoradi/Freetown	200	50
(f) Takoradi/Freetown	-	200
(g) Freetown/Takoradi	-	450

2. (f) and (g) are movements of urgent R...F.  
 personnel to and from Freetown to connect with MS 12 Z  
 arriving Freetown about 21.11.

3. Propose INDRAPOERA be used for (a) as in Force  
 H.Q. West Africa's Q.N. 22941 cypher 8/10 and that  
 at Lagos she embark personnel of (b) (c) and (d)..

4. At Takoradi personnel of (b) (c) and also (e)  
 can be distributed over INDRAPOERA NEA HELLAS and  
 VOLENDAM.

5. Propose NEW NORTHLAND be used for (f) and (g).

/6. Request.....

MOST SECRET

-2-

6. Request your views as to possibility of escort for above movements. Alternatively in view of coastal nature of passages you may prefer to allow the ships to proceed unescorted other than by A/S escort ~~when~~ *(delete 125)* ~~approaching Freetown.~~

18551/20.

1st Lord. for D.O.D.(F).  
 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.L. 1st S.L.  
 D. of P.(2).  
 D.O.D.(H).  
 D.D.O.D.(H).  
 D.O.D.(F)  
 D.D.O.D.(F).  
 D.N.I.(4).  
 D.S.D.  
 D. of L.D.  
 D.A/S.N.  
 D.M.S.  
 I.P.(2).  
 W.D.  
 Duty Capt.  
 Hd. of M.  
 D.T.S.D.  
 D.D.I.C.  
 E.P.S.  
 D.T.D.(2).  
 N.I.D. 10 Paymr. Cdr. Wilson.  
 D.G.D.

BIW

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.Corvettes  
from S.A.D.

Your 1321/19. Concur that there does not appear to be any U/B activity off South America South of the Equator. Admty. have no information to indicate presence of supply ship in St. Paul's Rocks area but it is requested you will use these corvettes as you see fit, recalling them to Freetown if you consider this desirable. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1955A/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

W.S.12.

Sailed 19/10. List and details. (S.S.T.O. Freetown, 2255N/20) See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.Tripoli  
bombed.

Night 19/20 Oct. 17 Wellingtons bombed selected targets Tripoli. Time over target 2025 hrs. to 0001 hrs., hits Custom House, road junction Dock area, Civil seaplane station, Spanish Mole, and on shipping in harbour. Warehouse near Castello burnt out. 3,000-ton ship off Castello set on fire by 1000 lb. (H.Q. Malta, 0345/20).

UNBEATEN.  
URSULA.

If possible establish patrols as follows from dusk tonight 20/10. UNBEATEN, 073° 7.5 miles, URSULA 118° 11.5 miles both from Murro De Porco. Large destroyers might pass to south-east during night. After attack or at 0430A/21 proceed in execution of previous orders. (Capt. S.10. 1041A/20 to UNBEATEN, URSULA).

Benghazi.  
Sollum  
bombed.

Night 18/19. 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour causing large fire and explosions at suspected petrol dump on Cathedral Mole, small fires also on Juliana Mole. Two F.A.A. Albacores bombed suspected ammunition dump at Sollum starting small fire on edge of it.

U/B  
attacked.

A Beaufort attacked Italian submarine 60 miles S.S.W. of West Coast of Crete, bombs falling near submarine. Damage unobserved. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1114/20).

Opposed  
Landings  
Directorate.

Your 1106/19. Officers are available on the station. (C. in C. Med., 1233B/20 to Admty.)

/Enemy.....



# MOST SECRET

479A.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2255/20 October IN

From S.S.T.O. Freetown. Date 21.10.41.  
Recd. 0735.

Naval Cypher "X" by W/T & T/P

Addressed P.S.T.O. Capetown. Repeated N.L.O. Durban,  
C. in C. East Indies, P.S.T.O. Egypt,  
D. of S.T. C. in C. South Atlantic.

Convoy W S 12 sailed 19th October.  
First nine ships for Capetown, remainder Durban.

Name of ship.	Water supplied.	Fuel supplied.	Total fuel on Board.	Estimated maximum draft sailing South Africa.
EMPIRE PRIDE	250	450	1195	25' 6"
EMPRESS OF CANADA	300	3413	4153	30'
MENDOZA	600	1128	1278	22'
LEOPOLDVILLE	300	1505	2025	25' 6"
DOMINION MONARCH	650	502	2352	28' 6"
CLAN CAMPBELL	250	733	1111	28' 6"
EMPIRE TRUST	160	933	1405	25' 6"
PERTSHIRE	250	615	1190	29' 8"
SARPEDON	200	400	2055	29'
ALMANZORA	1330	1309	1700	27'
CITY OF PARIS	400	900	1580	26' 6"
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	800	2180	2489	27'
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA	600	2550	3558	30'
HIGHLAND BRIGADE	Nil	1170	1700	24' 6"
SAMARIA	200	1655	2350	29'
STRATHAIRD	1000	1406	2581	29'
FRANCONIA	500	2018	3050	29' 6"
ORMONDE	1010	1454	1880	28' 6"
CLAN LAMONT	200	9(9?)6	1114	29'
PERSEUS	Nil	600	1765	1'

Capetown

Durban

Embarked in DUCHESS RICHMOND 1 rating Naval  
5 Officers, 8 (others?) Military, 1 Admiralty  
Civilian. PERSEUS 4 Civilians. STRATHAIRD  
3 Civilians. All for South Atlantic PRINCE  
BAUDOUIN also sailed with Convoy carrying 5 Officers,  
30 Ratings Naval for C/T.

2255N/20

Advance copies D.C. D.O.D. (F) & D.T.D.

1st S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	D.T.D. (2)
V.C.N.S.	D.A/S W.	D.T.D. (M)
A.C.N.S. (F)	I.P. (2)	N.I.D. 10.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	W.D.	D. of S.T.
N.A. 1st S.L.	Duty Capt.	
D. of P. (2)	Hd. of M.	
D.O.D. (F)	D.D.I.C.	
D.D.O.D. (F)	E.P.S.	

War Diary.

20.10.1941.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Enemy Sweepers.

Two enemy minesweepers sighted close off Cape Carbonara and two further minesweepers N.N.E. of Cape Carbonara 20 miles. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1330A/20 to RORQUAL).

Axis Shipping.

A. Two German transports and three Italian cargo vessels full of German troops left Piraeus in direction Fleves at 1420 G.M.T. yesterday.  
 B. Above vessels were convoyed by two Destroyers.  
 C. German S/M UENEA left the Naval Dockyard. Source B.2. (N.A. Istanbul, 1335/20 to Admty.)  
*(No Gen: st of this name.)*

S/M UENEA.B.S.

Operation B.S., para 19, bring into force condition A at 0001B/21. (Capt. S.1, 1421B/20 to 1st S.F. on patrol W. of 023° E.)

R.D.F.

Recent experience has emphasised the gap that exists in aircraft detection methods owing to lack of effective means of detecting low flying aircraft. This can be overcome to some extent by day by vigilance of (?look) out escorts but at night or in low visibility this (?does not) apply and aircraft (?have been) able to deliver attacks at close ~~(?range)~~ ~~(?at night)~~ without being + by any type of R.D.F. at present fitted in the Fleet.

(ii) It is realised that Admiralty are aware of this state of affairs but matter is one of such importance that I feel it desirable to stress urgent need for solving this problem and to request that this aspect of R.D.F. development may be given most immediate attention. I would also urge that priority in fitting any new gear produced for this (?purpose) may be given to ships operating in Mediterranean where conditions are advantageous to Aircraft and where there is a heavy (5 groups missing) ~~spent~~ ~~spent~~. (C. in C. Med. 1444B/20 to Adty.) *(as corrected)*  
 + ~~z~~ Word omitted = "detected".  
*of concentration of torpedo aircraft.*

REGENT.

Advise setting torpedoes 10 feet to 12 feet in anticipation important light enemy Naval unit which may be expected from N.W. at about 1300/21. (Capt. S.10, 1520A/20 to REGENT.)

THRASHER.

My 1525A/18. THRASHER leaves position 036° 13' 016° 13' before 0200A/21, and proceeds to Benghazi arriving A.M./25. If torpedoes have been fired she will return to Malta. (Capt. S.10, 1529A/20 to TETRARCH, REGENT.)

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.S.B.N.O.  
Iskanderan.

Far Consular Shipping Adviser. In event of active military operations developing in Southern Turkey you will be appointed Senior B.N.O. Iskanderun. Keep in touch with military R/C parties about to visit Iskanderun and Mersin and give them benefit of your Naval advice. You should take an early opportunity to visit Beirut to consult with Capt. Morse on best methods of organizing a Naval Base organization quickly. (C. in C. Med., 1638B/20 to Consul, Iskanderan).

UPHOLDER.  
URGE.  
UPRIGHT.

R/C show 3 destroyers, one merchant ship, one tanker, speed 10 knots northbound. UPHOLDER proceed to 034° 48' N. 012° 25' E. URGE 035° 40' N. 012° 07' E. UPRIGHT 038° 15' N. 012° 10' E. Convoy may be expected to pass positions at 0300/21, 0800/21, 0130/22 respectively. (Capt. S.10, 1645A/20 to 10th S.F.) My 1645. Swordfish will attack after 0400A/ and before dawn. One merchant ship following at 8 knots should pass you about one hour after convoy. (Capt. S.10 1945A/20 to UPHOLDER). My 1645/20. Amend position and time to UPHOLDER 034° 40' 012° 20' at 0300A, URGE 035° 40' 011° 54' at 0900A. One merchant ship speed 8 knots passes first position about one hour after convoy. (Capt. S.10, 2105A/20 to UPHOLDER, URGE).

Axis  
Ships.

Departure 19th MAURO CROCE Italian - Genoa.  
Arrival 20th ATLAS German, from Genoa.  
(Barcelona, 1732/20 to M. of W.T.)

TETRARCH.

Your 1135A/19. Owing to head wind E.T.A. Grand Harbour 0630A/24. Weather report 647/1074.  
(?TETRARCH, 1744A/20 to Capt. S.10).

M.N.B.D.O.

Admty. 2333/4/3/1941. A.A. units to be reformed. (D. of L.D. 1931A/20 to C. in C. Med.)  
See Lion Copy.

AURORA.  
PENELOPE.  
LANCE.  
LIVELY.  
munitions.

Your 1942A/13, your 1023A/14 and your 1532A/17. Aircraft torpedoes have been sent to Malta, 17 in each of AURORA and PENELOPE and 2 in each of LANCE and LIVELY. 200 rounds of 4 inch XVI S.A.P. embarked in each of above ships. Total 38 torpedoes and 800 rounds ammunition.  
(A.S. Gibraltar 1934A/20 to Admty.)

/OTTO.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

1931A/20th October OUT

Date 20. 10. 41.

To C. in C. Mediterranean 333.

## Naval Cypher (X)

From Admiralty.

Reference Admiralty 2333/4/3/41. Following has been sent by War Office to C. in C. Middle East, begins.

Reference 54726 cypher A.A. 4 5/3. Admiralty anxious to reform M.N.B.D.O. as soon as possible in case required for special operations.

A.A. units M.N.B.D.O. will be reformed on the same organisation as stated in above quoted cypher with exception that all heavy A.A. batteries will be armed with 3.7 mobile equipments. No.3" A.A. guns will be provided.

It is desirable to build these units up to following scale of instruments. Vickers Predictors on two gun basis and six G.L. Mk.II. Realise this cannot be done immediately. When required for special operations scale of instruments must be decided in the light of other commitments. Presume this scale will be as agreed between you and C. in C. Mediterranean.

Pending these units being required for special operation request that they man full scale equipment as soon as possible. Please report date you anticipate units being provided with equipment.

Admiralty are sending copy of above to C. in C. Mediterranean for information. Ends.

1931A/20  
D. of L.D. (800)

1st Lord.	I.P. (3)		
1st S.L.	W.D.	Dep. Contr. (3)	} Bath
Controller	M. (2)	D.N.O. (4)	
Vice Controller	D.T.S.D.	S.W.R.	
V.C.F.S.	O.I.C. (2)		
A.C.F.S. (F)	E.P.S.		
N.A. 1st S.L.	A.G.R.M.		
D. of P. (3)	D.N.O.		
Ops. (3)	D. of L.D.		
O.D. (5)	(Pm. 2306/95/400S) (2)		
D.N.I. (4)			

War Diary.

20.10.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-contd.

OTTO  
LEONHARDT.  
(German).

Expected sailing tonight 20th for Tarragona.  
(Valencia, T.H.I. 1940/20 to M. of W.T.)

UNIQUE.

UNIQUE is proceeding from 037° 16' 012° 56' to 036° 07' 014° 16' to arrive Malta A.M./21 and may be encountered on the surface or submerged after daylight. (V.A. Malta, 2009A/20 to Force K).

Service  
Cargoes.

List and particulars of ships carrying Service cargoes to Suez. (D.S.T. 2033A/ to P.S.T.O. Egypt) See Lion Copy.

Situation  
report 159.

Western Desert. All light forces are being employed in bombardments, operation "Cultivate", Tobruk supply and A/S sweeps. Destroyer bombardment of Marsa Lakh night 19/20 abandoned due to HAVOCK grounding. Force escorting HAVOCK back at 11 knots. Extent of damage not yet known. 7th C.S. at sea today 20th. Further bombardment by cruisers and destroyers intended nightly. GNAT bombarded enemy battery near Tobruk nights 18/19 and 19/20. Shelling by battery had lately been on increased scale.

2. Intensive hunt by destroyers and A/S craft did not locate U-boat which sank SAMOS and PASS OF BALMAHA as in my 1235/17. Other U-boats reported and attacked in area west of Alexandria but no killings so far other than that reported in my 1906/16. A/S measures in Cyprus-Syria area have had to be curtailed temporarily to provide escorts for important shipping to and from Alexandria.

3. Small enemy convoy sighted noon/19 in 34.53 N. 21.30 E. steering for Benghazi. Striking force despatched but failed to intercept.

4. Submarines, TORBAY on short patrol for special mission bombarded Apollonia at 1800/15 and scored several hits on hangar before being driven off by 6-in. battery. URSULA reported to have sunk two ships in convoy at 0802/18 in position 035 25 N. 011 39 E. no details. (C. in C. Med. 2036/20).

482A

# MOST SECRET

0330720 October

MESSAGE

OUT

MOST SECRET

Date 20.10.41.

To: P.S.T.O. Egypt

NAVAL CYPHER (O.T.T.)

From: Director of Sea Transport.

MICHAEL J. GOULANDRIS operating Line Westcott sailed U.K. October 4th speed 9 knots expected date of arrival Suez December 15th with following Service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 830 plus 5 Tank Wagons, 58 vehicles & 2 C.Lighters also following commercial cargo in D.W. tons for Alexandria 5344 coal account Egyptian State Railways and 6 cases acid.

MALYAN PRINCE sailed U.K. October 4th speed 13½ knots expected date of arrival Suez December 3rd with following service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 3340 plus 263 vehicles. No (repeat no) commercial cargo.

ADVISER sailed U.K. October 4th speed 14 knots expected date of arrival Suez December 1st with following service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 1970 plus 86 vehicles, 2 Fulmars and 1 Sea Gladiator aircraft. No (repeat no) commercial cargo.

BURDWAN sailed U.K. October 4th speed 14½ knots expected date of arrival Suez December 1st with following service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 2440 plus 169 vehicles, 2 Albatrosses and 1 Fulmar aircraft. No (repeat no) commercial cargo.

COPACABANA sailed U.K. October 4th speed 13½ knots expected date of arrival Suez December 1st with following service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 3960 plus 197 vehicles plus 3 Albatross aircraft. No (repeat no) commercial cargo.

GAASTERKERK sailed U.K. October 4th speed 13½ knots expected date of arrival Suez December 1st with following Service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 4020 plus 265 vehicles 62 guns 5 Swordfish 2 Fulmar and 1 Sea Gladiator Aircraft no (repeat no) commercial cargo.

SILVERWILLOW sailed U.K. October 4th speed 13½ knots expected date of arrival Suez December 1st with following Service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 3060 plus 191 vehicles 8 guns and 4 Albatross aircraft. No (repeat no) commercial cargo.

HARMALA:.....

(2)

HARMALA sailed U.K. October 4th speed 10 knots expected date of arrival Suez December 10th with following service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 3380 plus 113 vehicles 2 locomotives and 2 tenders. No (repeat no) commercial cargo.

BOLTON CASTLE sailed U.K. October 4th speed 11 knots expected date of arrival Suez December 7th with following Service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 2950 plus 151 vehicles and 1 A.Lighter. No (repeat no) commercial cargo.

HOPECREST sailed U.K. October 4th speed 11½ knots expected date of arrival Suez. December 6th with following Service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 4530 plus 80 vehicles plus 22 transportation vehicles 2 C.Lighters and 3 Fulmar Aircraft. No (repeat no) commercial cargo.

MERCHANT PRINCE sailed U.K. October 4th speed 11½ knots expected date of arrival Suez December 7th with following service cargo in D.W. tons for Middle East 110 plus 6059 coal 553 patent fuel 127 vehicles and 1 A. Lighter. No (repeat no) commercial cargo.

Please circulate Barker.

2033A/20

for Director of Sea Transport

1st Lord	E.P.S.
1st S.L.	D.T.D.(2)
2nd S.L.	N.I.D.10 (Payr.Cdr.Wilson)
3rd S.L.	D.G.D.
4th S.L.	D. of S.T.
5th S.L.	
V.C.N.S.	
A.C.N.S.(H)	
A.C.N.S.(F)	
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	
A.C.N.S.(W)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	
D. of P.(2)	
D.O.D.(F)	
D.D.O.D.(F)	
D.O.D.(H)	
D.D.O.D.(H)	
D.N.I.(4)	
D.S.D.	
D. of L.D.	
D.N.A.D.	
D.A/S.W.	
D.M.S.	
I.P.(2)	
W.D.	
Duty Captain (2)	
Head of M.(7) for War Office (Lt.Col.Kirkness Q (M)7b)	
D.T.S.D.	
D.D.I.C.	

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.DALHOUSIE.

Your 1626/18 DALHOUSIE arrived Calcutta 7th and left 18th due Chittagong 20th. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 0344Z/20 to Admty).

Persian Gulf.

Re defence requirements. (C. in C. E.I., 0736Z/20 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

AUSTRALIA  
Kerguelen,  
Cruise,  
mining  
operations.

Your 2136/19.

1. AUSTRALIA will carry out Kerguelen cruise from Colombo calling Mauritius for fuel.
2. CORNWALL has been diverted to Colombo and could escort U.S. 13 from Fremantle after storing. She could not do Kerguelen cruise without causing unacceptable delay to convoy arrangements.
3. AUSTRALIA arrives Colombo P.M./21 and commences loading mines ex PROME A.M./22. To avoid delay to PROME's docking on 21st, 60A mark 1 mines are now being loaded into lighters in readiness.
4. Request early details referred to in your 1739/17. (C. in C. E.I., 1028Z/20 to Admty) Your 1028/20 and A.M.1739/17. Details for laying mines. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1935A/20 to C. in C. E.I.) *See also p.487.*

LEONARDO DA  
VINCI.

Overdue left Mombasa 7th due Bombay 18th. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 1243Z/20 to S.O.(I) Colombo)  
*Arrived Bombay. p.542.*

Padli  
Ex-Sultan.

Governor Aden has recommended deportation of ex-Sultan of Padli to Seychelles. No objection is seen here. You should keep in touch with Governor for progress of events. (Head of M., 1321A/20 to C. in C. E.I.)

DRAGON.

Cancel my 1412B/15. Intended programme. Arrive Mauritius p.m./30. Arrive Colombo 8/11. (DRAGON, 1521Z/20 to C. in C. E.I.)

HERMES.

Your 1206Z/18. Para. 1 approved.  
2. Admty 0540A/4/9 addressed Commodore in Charge, Hong Kong, It is understood that additional petrol tanks for HERMES should reach Colombo within the next few days. If these arrive in time they should be embarked by HERMES for fitting during forthcoming refit or for progressing the work if date of completion would otherwise be delayed. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2357A/20 to C. in C. E.I. amended 1259A/21)



**MOST SECRET** IN.

From C. in C. East Indies:

Date 20.10.41.

483A

Recd. 1241.

NAVAL CYPHER (F) BY W/T.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

922.

I propose to make following signal to A.O.C. in C. Middle East and A.O.C. India but request I may first be informed whether Their Lordships are in agreement with views expressed therein. Begins.

1. The apparent deterioration of situation in Far East brings to the fore the defence requirements of Persian Gulf against attack by Japanese Naval Forces .

2. The chief threat is that of attack by surface raiding forces or air attacks by ship or carrier borne aircraft.

3. The defence measures required are:-

- (a) Constant patrol by surface forces in or near Straits of Hormuz, or
- (b) Long range air reconnaissance in Gulf of Oman supported by an air striking force based at Sharjah Peninsula or South Iran, or
- (c) a combination of (a) and (b)

4. Requirements of (a) are considerable observing force must be sufficient (?in numbers) to maintain an effective patrol and sufficiently powerful to ensure eventual destruction of enemy Naval dispositions in the event of Far Eastern War cannot allow a (?force) of this size being made available.

5. I shall be glad therefore if you will inform me extent of air support which can be expected in this eventuality.

6. I would also request (?dividing ) line between Air H.Q. Mid East and Air H.Q. India in Gulf of Oman, i.e. 056 degs. East (vide Arm India's number 5714 T.O.O. (?OO)35 July 22nd. not to all addressees), should be reconsidered in light of this increased threat.

7. From naval point of view Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf must be regarded as one for operational purposes (this is especially so if convoys have to be (?instituted) as a result of Axis penetration into Iraq, or Persia). Under present arrangements Naval Authorities concerned will have to co-operate with two separate R.A.F. commands. This in my opinion should be avoided if possible and I recommend that dividing line should now be adjusted so that both Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf are placed under control of one R.A.F. Authority. Meridian 060 degs. East would appear to fulfil this requirement. Ends.

0736Z/20.

P.T.O./....

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

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D. of F.(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.W.A.D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.A/S.W.
- D.H.S.
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- Duty Captain.
- Hd. of H.(2) for action.
- 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.
- P.A.S.(5)
- Admiral Bellairs.(2)
- Admiral Palliser.

**MOST SECRET**

1942/10/21 October

c  
483B

~~MOST SECRET~~

~~MESSAGE~~

IN

Date 21.10.41

From C. in C. Middle East

Recd. 0005

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office, repeated C. in C. India, General  
Iraq.

IMPORTANT

03563.

527

O./16403 cipher. 20/10.

Following for Petroleum Dept. from Lees Masters begins.  
General position of schemes very satisfactory. All  
scheduled wells Iraq fields have been plugged and junked  
important parts drilling material removed remainder in  
progress. Tripoli stocks now made up to one years supply  
and pumping stopped. Stations T.1 T.2 and T.4 have already  
been immobilised by removal important parts similar treatment  
for T.3 being considered. In Iran Naft Khanah scheme has been  
extended to include Naft - I - Shah and scheme being prepared  
for Kermanshah no such schemes are considered necessary by  
Gen. Iraq for South Iran fields or Abadan except for  
preparation special well plugs which is proceeding. We return  
to report earliest opportunity. Ends.

1625/20

Received from War Office 1135/22

1st Lord

E. P. S.

1st S. L.

D. T. D. (2)

4th S. L.

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

V. C. N. S.

A. C. N. S. (F)

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

A. C. N. S. (W)

N. A. 1st S. L.

D. of P. (3)

D. O. D. (F)

D. D. O. D. (F)

D. N. I. (4)

D. of L. D.

D. G. D.

I. P. (2)

W. D.

Duty Capt.

Hd. of M.

D. D. I. C.

War Office Distribution

D. M. O. & P

D. D. M. O. (0)

D. P.

M. O. 1, 5, 12 (6 copies)

D. M. I.

D. D. M. I. (1) (0)

M. I. 2, 2a, 10c.

G. S. P.

Lt. Col. Jacob.

D. of Plans (Admiralty)

D. of Plans (Air Ministry)

India Office (Col. McCay)

Foreign Office (Mr.  
Crosthwaite)

Petroleum Department (Mr.  
Starling).

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.VAMPIRE.

VAMPIRE will be ready for service about 15/11.  
To what station should she proceed?  
(C. in C. China, 0243Z/20 to Admty)

Allied  
Shipping.

Your 1112/18. In view of arrangements detailed  
in my 0313/6 para. B., prefer ships obtained latest  
instructions at Thursday Island subject to  
concurrence of A.C.N.B. (C. in C. China,  
0351Z/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

S.B.L.O.  
Singapore.

Your 1339/13. Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster  
is in full agreement with my proposal and that  
it should be carried into effect now. Request  
action may be taken to make Col. Burkhardt  
available. (C. in C. China, 0833Z/20 to Admty)

Dutch  
C. in C.

Ref. Batavia tel. 217 16/10 to F.O.  
Essential that new C. in C. should be known  
and trusted by his colleagues of the A.D.B.  
Discussions Ter Poorten meets these requirements,  
is excellent co-operator, and is fully  
conversant with our mutual problems and plans.  
I should welcome his appointment.  
(C. in C. Far East, 1240/20 to W.O.)

America & West Indies.

WORCESTERSHIRE. Your 1939A/19 and my 1031Q/15. Request  
confirmation that WORCESTERSHIRE is to proceed  
to U.K. Leave was last given June-July 1941.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1022Q/20 to Admty)  
Confirmed, (D.O.D. (F) 1154A/21 to C. in C. AW.I.)

DIANTHUS and  
VANCOUVER  
ISLAND.

Repeating C. in C. W.A., 2301A/19. (see U-boat  
Campaign, 19/10)  
(D.T.D., 1114Z/20 to Opanav).

/Convoy.....

SECRET SECRET

0015/20th October.

WFLA

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From The War Office.

Date. 20.10.41.

C Y P H E R.

Addressed C. in C., Far East.

IMPORTANT.

96696 Cipher (M.C.10) 19/10.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

In continuation of War Office Telegram No. 94796 Cypher (M.O.10) dated 9th October, the following telegram has been received from the Joint Staff Mission in Washington.

Begins. In a letter to Admiral Little the Chief of Naval Operations has drawn attention to publicity in Far East that has been given to visit by Air Chief Marshal Brooke-Popham to Manila. Not only has his visit been publicised but purpose has been exaggerated. Chief of Naval Operations states same is true about other talks between our respective commanders.

(ii) The Chief of Naval Operations states his belief, concurred in by C. in C., U.S. Asiatic Fleet, that as time is on our side it is preferable to complete quietly and without publicity the necessary steps for strengthening Anglo-Dutch-American partnership.

(iii) He asks that appropriate action may be taken to handle publicity concerning our joint conferences in Far East in accordance with this policy.

(iv) Comment in Tokyo draws comparison between apparent warlike consultations between United States and British Authorities in Far East and fact that United States is simultaneously conducting negotiations in diplomatic field with Japan.

(v) This question undoubtedly also affects naval views of A.D.B.-2, concerning which we are communicating separately. Ends.

We would emphasise the care which is at all times essential when granting interviews to the Press, in order that distortion and consequent misrepresentation may be avoided. In particular no reference should at any time be made to Government policy or questions of higher strategy and expressions of opinion on controversial topics as, for example, American participation in the war, should be avoided.

You and all officers under your command should bear the above points constantly in mind.

0015/20

/Copies circulated.....

## Copies circulated by War Office to:-

S. of S. (2)  
 C.I.G.S. (2)  
 V.C.I.G.S. (2)  
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 D.D.M.O. (0)  
 M.C.1,2,10.  
 D.M.I.  
 D.D.M.I. (1)  
 N.I.2 (5)  
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 J.P.1, 2.  
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 Colonial Office (Lt. Col. Barlow) (4)  
 Burma Office (Mr. Walton).  
 Burma Office (War Staff).  
 Lt. Col. E.J.C. Jacob (5)  
 Col. G.S. Thompson (M.O.I. (J.P.))

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 N.A. to 1st S.L.  
 P.A.S. (S)  
 D.O.D. (F)  
 D.D.O.D. (F)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 D.C. (2)  
 E.P.S.  
 Hd. of M. (10)  
 I.P. (2)  
 N.I.D.10. Paym. Cdr. Wilson.  
 W.D.  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 Admiral Bailey.  
 Admiral Palliser.  
 Admiral Bellairs (2)

MMC. D.P.D.

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Convoy.

Your 1248A/19.

(1) Convoy "Cargo" less EMPIRE CONDOR and EMPIRE CURLEW will sail A.M./25 by original route, arriving M.O.M.P. 1200Z/2/11.

(2) M. of W.T. is requested to sail EMPIRE CONDOR, EMPIRE CURLEW, to Halifax as soon as they are loaded and to report if they cannot arrive there in time to sail for U.K. on 4/11. (B.A.D., 1123R/20 to Admty).

DESPATCH  
C. in C.

Intended to transfer my flag to DESPATCH and leave Bermuda P.M./21, arriving Kingston (?Jamaica) A.M./24. Leave Jamaica P.M./25, arrives Bermuda 28/10. Routine communications should continue to be sent Bermuda where all tables will be held. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1214Q/20 to Admty).

C.T.5.

Your 1248/19. Confirmed these arrangements are suitable. 2. Request confirmation that destroyers mentioned in para, 4 are R.N. and no request should be made to U.S. (B.A.D. 1221R/20 to Admty)

Flag of  
C. in C.

Flag of C. in C. will be transferred to DESPATCH from p.m./21 to /28 incl. Only urgent communications requiring C. in C's (personal?) attention should be sent to DESPATCH. (?Remainder) to Squadron as usual. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1224Q/20 to A.W.I. Station).

MOUNT  
KITHERON  
(Greek).

Ex. O.N.S. 23 for Wabana developed leak in one, two and three bilges and boilers respectively ordered St. Johns N.F. by Commodore for Repairs. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1436Z/20 to Admty).

U.S.  
Transports.

Your 2011R/15. Request U.S. transports arrive Halifax a.m./5/11 for necessary inspection and arrangements for transshipment programme. Anticipate 48 hours will be required for transshipment at Halifax and that U.S. Transports will be ready to sail a.m./9. C.O.A.C. Halifax will report any revision of above programme. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1626Z/20 to B.A.D.)

/U.S.N.....

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.S.N. Communications. Your 1527/17. Navy Department will retransmit Groups to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa direct by W/T. Request necessary passing instructions may be inserted in preface using cable groups.  
(B.A.D., 1711R/20 to Admty).

ROODE ZEE relief.

Admiralty 2208/6/10. Re most suitable tugs available to relieve ROODE ZEE.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1843Z/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Enemy Unit.

By D/F at 1443Z/20, Bearings of enemy surface vessel, 76 groups 4-letter code. T.O.O. 1547/20. (D.D.I.C., 1917A/20 to Alusna for Opnav, etc)  
O.I.C. Comment. These bearings indicate a position within 300 miles of 30° S., 122° W.

HIGHLAND PRINCESS.

Your 1939/19. Midship New York embarking up to 150 civilian personnel for passage U.K. in HIGHLAND PRINCESS to arrive Halifax p.m./23. Anticipate less than 100 service personnel, 100 civilian technical corps, and 100 civilians including women will embark Halifax.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1933Z/20 to Admty).  
My 1933/20. Midship, New York, reports HIGHLAND PRINCESS sailing delayed, machinery defects, but will sail to arrive Halifax 0900Z/24 and can proceed immediately after embarking personnel.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2123Z/20 to Admty).

EXCAMBION.

Following for C.C.S.O. from M.E.W.  
EXCAMBION 17/10 Lisbon for Bermuda has one case of commercial documents covered by EXPASS 1086. Ship must be detained during examination of case on board unless Master should elect voluntarily to land case to avoid delay. Understand case is accessible for removal.  
(D.E.W.D. 1936A/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/Kerguelen.....



War Diary.

20.10.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Kerguelen  
Cruise.  
Escort of  
U.S.13.

In view of frequent reports that Kerguelen Island is used by enemy raiders C. in C. E.I. has been asked to send AUSTRALIA there in near future. She will also lay magnetic mines in likely anchorages. She will not therefore be available to escort U.S.13. CORNWALL could be made available to provide this escort from Fremantle but it would be of great assistance if you were able to provide escort for a portion of the route and so avoid two of C. in C. E.I. 8" cruisers being detached on distant service simultaneously (A.C.N.S. (F) 1956A/20 to A.C.N.B.)

See p 483

War Diary.

20.10.1941.  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BRITISH  
MARINER.

Following has been read S S S S 7.43 N., 14.20 W.  
BRITISH MARINER torpedoed engine room.  
(Freetown W/T, 0400Z/20.)  
British, tanker, 6996 tons. Trinidad to  
Freetown.

ARGUN.  
(torpedoed  
18/10.)

Admty. 1559C/19 (S.B.N.O. Murmansk's) SUFFOLK  
informed. Russian staff confirm that ship was  
sunk by torpedo.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1550C/20 to Admty.)

INVERLEE  
(torpedoed  
19/10.)

Your 0410A/19 and A.T.2209A/16.  
Request if any special steps were taken for  
safety of this valuable ship in view of known  
concentration of U-Boats in approaches to  
Gibraltar and considerable A/S forces available.  
Consideration should be given to the occasional  
use of territorial waters when it is not  
possible to provide an adequate escort.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1728A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Reply 2240/21.  
INVERLEE has sunk. (D.O.R., 21/10.)

LEHIGH  
(torpedoed  
19/10.)

Have picked up 22 survivors 4 Spanish stowaways  
from American Ship, LEHIGH in 008° 47' N.,  
(?014°) 00' W. Ship torpedoed 0900/19 in 008°  
26' N., 014° (?37') W.  
Two more boats with wounded personnel not  
located. Am proceeding Bathurst 21 knots.  
No men killed as result of torpedoing.  
(VIMY, 2100N/20, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

South  
Atlantic.

The following sightings of U boats and A/S  
contacts have been reported on S.A. Station  
during the last 14 days.

<u>Date and time.</u>	<u>Reported by.</u>	<u>Position.</u>	<u>Nature of Report.</u>
1705/6	WRESTLER.	08.44 15.25	Possible c/t at 4 miles.
1100/7	LAERTES.	06.10 03.23	rammed possible U-boat
1600/15.	A/C.	13.26 17.07.	Sighting U boat Co. 350°6knots
1801/17.	WALLFLOWER.	09.35 16.02	A/S con- tact attacked with two patterns.

489

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

<u>South Atlantic. Contd.</u>	<u>Date and time.</u>	<u>Reported by.</u>	<u>Position.</u>	<u>Nature of Report.</u>
	0500/19.	VIMY.	04.50 15.05	D.F.U. boat (?Homing.) signals.
	0300/20.	BRITISH MARINER.	07.43 14.20.	torpedoed.
	0823/20.	A/C.	14.31 19.53	sighting, estimate one hit.
	0940/20.	A/C.	07.15 15.37	sighting on surface. later submerged.

All positions N., and W., all times Z + 1.  
(C. in C.S.A., 0235N/20, to Admty.)

0315N. Following has been read from TURCOMAN. 1 S/M bearing distance and course unknown, position 231C SL 68S03.  
(Freetown W/T, 0315N/20, to Admty.)  
Position indecipherable.

0940. Am over enemy submarine in 007° 15' N., 015° 37' W.  
(A/C B Sqdn., 0940/20 to C. in C.S.A.)

0700C. Bearing by D/F at 0700C/20th position of enemy U-Boat was 070° 55' 038° 12' reliable fix.  
Admty., pass to SUFFOLK.  
(S.B.N.O., North Russia, 1025C/20 to Admty.)

1210C. Bearing by D/F at (?1210C)/20 position of enemy U-boat was 068° 34' 039° 52', reliable fix.  
Admty., pass to SUFFOLK.  
(S.B.N.O., North Russia, 1246C/20 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1426A/20.)

1730C. By D/F at 1730C/20 position of U Boat was 068° 44' 038° 10', unreliable fix.  
(S.B.N.O., North Russia, 1825C/20, to Admty.)

490

War Diary.20.10.1941.  
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.By A/C  
S.Atlantic.

The following have been read by Freetown W/T.  
Am over enemy S/M in 14.31 N., 19.53 W.  
(A/C duty E, 0800/20.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate  
1 hit.  
(A/C duty E., 0802/20.)

By A/C.

Daily Op. Summ., No. 95 Sqdn. 1 Sunderland anti-  
submarine air patrol sighted U boat in position  
7.15 N., 15.37 W., 9 miles away. No attack  
made. No focusing point. No.200 Sqdn.  
1 Hudson patrol, sighted U boat in 14.31 N.,  
19.53 W. 4 bombs dropped estimated 1 hit.  
Airborne 0700 remained in the area until relieved  
by Sunderland. Landed 1345 Sunderland airborne  
1051 still on patrol. Times G.M.T.  
(Freetown, 2000/20, to Air Ministry.)

By VERONICA  
18/10.

U/B possibly destroyed in 57.01N., 22.10 W., at  
1543/18. Details of attack. (Capt. D.  
Londonderry, 2214A/20 to C. in C.W.A.)  
See Lion Copy.

By A/C  
19/10.

Italian U/B attacked by Beaufort off Crete.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1114/20.)  
See Mediterranean.

SECRET

MESS AGE

2214/A/20 October IN.

From: Capt. (D) Londonderry

Date: 21.10.41.

Recd: 0120

P/L BY T/P

Addressed: C. in C. Western Approaches, Capt. D. Greenock,  
Capt. D. Liverpool. D.A/S.W.

Preliminary report of attack on U boat by VERONICA.  
Position 57 degs. 1 min. north 22 deg. 10 min. west wind W N W  
cloudy, visibility 7, moderate sea long heavy swell.  
At 1500/18 steering S 40 E U boat surfaced bearing S 45 E  
range 5000 yards. Before fire could be opened U boat dived  
but at 1513 contact was gained S 50 E 1400 yards opening  
inclination. Contact was intermittent being 1 st at 1200, 600,  
and finally at 200 yards. Clear echo in phones but little  
trace on recorder SO 10 charge pattern setting C fired by stop  
watch at 1518. 2nd attack echo faint moving slowly right  
closing inclination. Recorder broke down for 4 minutes  
no trace SO 10 charge pattern setting C fired at 1531 by stop  
watch 26 seconds after contact lost at 300 yards. 3rd attack  
good echo moving slowly right opening inclination. H E  
heard at 500 yards. At 1539 5 charge pattern setting D fired  
from poor recorder trace. 1543 heavy under water explosion.  
1546 doubtful echo which faded almost immediately. 1550  
5 charge pattern setting D by recorder on stationary target  
fired over position of 3rd attack. 1556 fired 4 charge pattern  
setting H by recorder on same position. - Heavy deep charge of  
starboard thrower brought up dark oily substance and there  
was a distinct smell of oil. Box sweep carried out from 1600  
to 1830 but apart from smell of oil at 1700 nothing further  
was found. Consider U boat was possibly destroyed by 3rd  
attack.

2214/A/20

Advance copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C. DA/S.W.

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

War Diary.

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Search for  
U-boat and  
trawlers.

KRAKOWIAK left Falmouth at 2356 today to R/V with KUJAWIAK from Convoy P.W. 53, to intercept and destroy a U-boat believed to be operating with 4 trawlers, probably Spanish, which were sighted at 1400 today in approx. 50° 50' N., 10° 15' W., and to send the trawlers in to Penzance. 6 aircraft of 19 Group are to sweep to S.W. of Scilly Isles a.m./22. Nothing was sighted and the destroyers were ordered to return at 0730A/24.

Force G.

PRINCE OF WALES (Flag of Admiral Sir Tom Phillips, C. in C. Eastern Fleet) will leave U.K. shortly escorted by ELECTRA and EXPRESS, for Singapore via the Cape. For security reasons this force will be known as Force G from 1200/24 until further orders. The Flag of V.A. 2 will be transferred from PRINCE OF WALES to RENOWN at 0900/25.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command last night resumed its raids on enemy objectives. 181 aircraft attacked Bremen, Wilhelmshaven, Emben and Antwerp. Minor attacks were made on Hamburg and Wesermünde areas, and the docks at Rotterdam.

Blenheims with fighter escort attacked a convoy today off IJmuiden and apparently damaged two ships.

War Diary.

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Bombs were dropped on Merseyside last night, but no naval or shipping damage is reported.

Enemy aircraft dropped 8 H.E. and some I.Bs. in Dover at 1855 causing considerable civilian but no naval damage or casualties.

Mining.

Mines were laid by aircraft last night off the Frisian Islands and Sassnitz.

The Humber was re-opened at 1016A today. Liverpool was opened at 1325.

South Atlantic.

LAVENDER and BERGAMOT are to search the Fernando De Noronha - St. Pauls Rocks area for possible enemy supply ships and U-boats, on their way from South America to Freetown.

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.C. in C. Med.,  
takes over  
Red Sea.

As from today the eastern limit of the Mediterranean Station is extended to 45° 5' E., S.N.O. Red Sea with headquarters at Suez is to be responsible to C. in C. Med., his title being changed to F.O.C. Red Sea. Aden W/T Station is to remain operatively under C. in C. E. I.

The Red Sea Force will be formed by RATNAGIRI, BATHURST, INDUS, LISMORE and NETRAVATI from East Indies Command and FALMOUTH, PARNAMATTA and SHOREHAM detailed by C. in C. Med.

AURORA and  
PENELOPE.

AURORA and PENELOPE arrived at Malta at 0915A today with LIVELY and LANCE. These 4 ships will be known as Force K and will be operated by V.A. Malta whilst based at Malta.

Air  
Operations.

6 Blenheims at 1210 attacked a merchant ship marked with the name of S.S. DIVONA (French) and left her on fire, and also blew up a 600 ton schooner, believed to be carrying petrol, both near Ras Maamura.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

GNAT was torpedoed by a U-boat at 0445 today in 32° 6' N., 25° 30' E., whilst returning from Tobruk. GRIFFIN took her in tow and she was brought safely to Alexandria. 23/10.

4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night. 18 Marylands of S.A.A.F. bombed the harbour and shipping this morning.

AJAX, HOBART and GALATEA bombarded a battery east of Tobruk last night, but shelling of Tobruk continued.



War Diary.

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Kerguelen.

AUSTRALIA arrived at Colombo to load mines to lay in likely anchorages at Kerguelen.

China.

The Japanese Navy is now on a war footing.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy S.L.89 S.L.89 was attacked at 2105A today in 51° 28' N., 18° 55' W., S.S.SERBINO was torpedoed and sunk. TREVERBYN is missing.

AURANIA  
torpedoed.

AURANIA was struck by a torpedo in about 50° 45' N., 18° 48' W., about 0240Z today but was able to proceed to the Clyde where she arrived at 1544A/23.

GLADIOLUS  
missing.

Nothing has been heard of GLADIOLUS since 16/10, when she was with Convoy S.C. 48 which was attacked by U-boats. It is thought she may have been torpedoed, but there is no evidence.

A Catalina on special patrol attacked a U-boat with depth charges at 1830 today, 380 miles west of the Fastnet and estimates one hit.

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Motor  
Boat  
from  
Sweden.

A fast motor boat left Sweden for U.K. p.m./18. If encountered, any assistance asked for is to be rendered. (C. in C. Nore 1430A/21).

AUDACITY.

AUDACITY's 1625A/18. Intend to operate AUDACITY from Gibraltar during winter with O.G. and H.G. convoys and also Sierra Leone convoys when escort situation permits. 2. Concur in AUDACITY's proposal to embark 8 aircraft. Consider a further 4 Martlets should be shipped to Gibraltar for AUDACITY at first opportunity and that disembarked aircraft and personnel of No. 802 Squadron should also be based on Gibraltar. (C. in C.W.A. 1834A/21 to Admty.).

A/S Trawlers  
for Arctic  
Service.

Admiralty 1902A/10. Request dates on which trawlers will be ready for service. (C. in C. H.F. 2245A/21)

Co-operation with Russia.

Communications. War Registry has been notified that communications have been re-established with Admiral Miles' Mission, but that they are not too good and signals should be kept down to as few as possible. H.W.R. 21/10.

Ice at  
Archangel.

Ice now forming on river, but Russians consider too early to last. Ice reports will be made regularly in future. (SB.N.O. Archangel 0920C/21) See Shipping.

Operational  
Situation.

Following is co-ordinating signal of operational situation and developments since communication with you has been interrupted.

2. (A) SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE and ESCAPADE sailed from Archangel 19/10 to carry out operation in Svaerholthavet on night 21/22, then to U.K.

(B) NORMAN waiting at Archangel to embark T.U.C. delegation for return to U.K. No present knowledge of whereabouts of delegation.

(C) LEDA, GOSSAMER, and HUSSAR at Archangel. Carrying out M/S and A/S sweeps.

(D) HARRIER, BRITOMART, SALAMANDER and HALCYON sailed Archangel 14/10, HARRIER and BRITOMART reconnoitring Spitzbergen en route. These two ships arrived Longyearby p.m. 19th and found German air borne meteorological party which had arrived same day. HARRIER captured some equipment but all German personnel escaped by air. These 4 British minesweepers now returning to U.K.

/(E).....

k95A  
~~524~~

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1831R/21st Oct.

From:- B.A.D. Washington

Date. 22.10.41.

Recd. 0612

Naval Cypher (D) by cable

---

Addressed:- Admiralty, repeated C. in C. China.

831. Your 1055 19th August and my 0935 8th October. Official reply has now been received from Navy Department and will be sent to Admiralty by air. Following is a summary referring to the points contained in ref.1055/19 August from Admiralty:-

- MP
- (a) U.S. (?Navies) consider area proposed satisfactory as to definition.
  - (b) No decision as to declaration by U.S.A. will be taken before outbreak of hostilities.
  - (c) As a general proposition U.S. policy is substantially the same in regard to unrestricted warfare as that of the U.K. but justification for unrestricted warfare, whether by S/MS or by A/C, need not necessarily depend upon prior similar action in that area by an enemy of the U.S.A. Nevertheless the U.S. Chiefs of Staff consider this subject should not repetition not be raised with U.S. Government at present time since it would be impracticable for that Government to adopt any policy other than the one which has heretofore been set forth on numerous occasions.
  - (d) U.S. Government has adopted phrase "strategical areas" meaning area from which it is necessary to exclude merchant ships and merchant aircraft to prevent damage to such ships and aircraft or to prevent such ships and aircraft from obtaining information which, if transmitted to the enemy would be detrimental to our own forces.

(ii) The U.S. Chiefs of Staff recommend no further action except to acquaint appropriate military authorities in the Far East with these decisions.

1831R/21

1st Lord	D.N.I.(4)	
1st S.L.	D.O.D.(F)	Adl. Bellairs
4th S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F)	E.P.S.
V.C.N.S.	D.C.	N.I.D.10
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.D.I.C.	
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	Hd. of M.(35)	China Dist.
Sec.	D.of P.(2)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	I.P.(2)	
P.A.S.(S)	W.D.	
	Adl. Bailey	

495-B

MOST SECRET ~~SECRET~~ 1000/21st October. IN

FROM: ~~Bird Archangel.~~ Date 22.10.41.

CYPHER

TO: Air Ministry Whitehall Repeated 30 Mission.

VX.4732 YAG.47. 21/10.

Reference my 45 20/10.

Preliminary investigation shows radiator burst on 6 out of 12 Prime Movers and 4 out of 6 Diesel Generators. Damage to cylinder block cannot yet be ascertained as most vehicles already loaded on train.

Suggest you issue immediately instructions to all despatch authorities that drain of radiator must be certified on load for this destination.

1000/21.

Received from Air Ministry 2155/22  
Air Ministry distribution:

1st Lord.	D.D. Mov.
1st S.L.	D.W.O.(Action)
4th S.L.	D. of Sigs.
V.C.N.S.	Plans.1.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.A.F.L.
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	A.F.L.2.(R)
N.A.1st S.L.	Additional Circu. 22/10/41.
D. of P.(2)	Authy. Plans.1. A.M.S.O., A.M.P.,
D.O.D.(H)	C.A.S., V.C.A.S., D.C.A.S.,
D.D.O.D.(H)	A.C.A.S.(1) D. of Plans.,
D.N.I.(4)	A.1.3.A.1., D.G.O., D. of O.,
D.M.S.	D.G.E., D.S. M., D. of P., W.O.9.,
I.P.(2)	W.O.5., S.6., Plans 1., Admiralty
W.D.	Brig. Firebrace(War Office),
Duty Capt.	Mr. Coote (For. Office).
Hd. of M.	
D.T.S.D.	
D.D.I.C.	
E.P.S.	
D.T.D.(2)	
D.T.D.(M)	
Admiral Herman Hodge.	

MFG

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia.Operational  
Situation -  
Contd.

(E) Convoy P.Q.2. left Scapa for Archangel 17/10 expects to arrive entrance to White Sea 0700A/28. Escort NORFOLK, 2 destroyers, and three fleet minesweepers.

(F) Convoy Q.P.2 sails for U.K. about 2/11.

(G) TIGRIS left Murmansk for U.K. 20/10.

(H) S.B.N.O. North Russia is urging C. in C. Northern Fleet to take more active A/S and A/A steps in White Sea area.

3. In view of poor communications it is not intended to pass you the actual signals covering para. 2 above.

4. For same reason as in para. 3 request you will report if you wish S.B.N.O. North Russia to become responsible for standard procedure laid down in para. 3 of A.M. 1859/30 August.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 1633A/21 to Ad. Miles).

White Sea  
Approaches.  
A/A and A/S  
Defences.

My 1833C/20, para. two and C. in C. H.F. 1824A/18. Consider little result can be expected from Soviet A/S patrols.

(Two) Intend to visit Archangel in the near future to investigate this matter.

(Three) Up to date no enemy mines have been found and weather makes laying mines by A/C increasingly difficult. Consider submarines operating White Sea approaches a greater potential danger at the moment than mines.

Recommend that British minesweepers, after refuelling and rest at Archangel, proceed Iokanskia -sweeping channel en route and carry out A/S patrols from there, re-sweeping channel prior to arrival or departure of a convoy, leaving intermediate sweeping to Soviet minesweepers. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1801C/21).

Movements.JAY.  
MYRLAND.  
KENNET.

Sailed in company for Freetown calling Azores approximately 31/10 for fuel. JAY and KENNET coaling at Fayal and MYRLAND oiling Ponta Delgada. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0814A/21).

My 0814A/21. Ships have put into Campbeltown due to JAY being unable to keep steam with poor coal supplied. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1749A/21).

/SEALION.....

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.SEALION.

Intend to sail SEALION at 1500/22 diving by day to R/V with WHITE BEAR at 0715/24 off Lizard Head for escort to Scapa arriving a.m./28 thence in accordance with F.O.S. 1734A/13. (Capt. S.5. 0915A/21 to A.C.O.S.) My 0915A/21. Route in English Channel as follows. (Capt. S.5. 0917A/21).

4th M/S Flotilla.

Scapa departure 0801, 4th S.O. M/S Flotilla in FITZROY with ELGIN, LYDD, ROSS, and minesweeping trawlers RONALDSAY, CAVA, CAPE NYEMETZKY. (A.C.O.S. 0925A/21).

H.31.

S/M H.31 passing Sand Head Buoy at dusk 22nd diving by day through following positions to R/V at 0730A/25 October in 180° Lizard Head 5 miles. (Capt. S.7 1014A/21).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Admiralty's 1248A/14. To allow a small margin for bad weather at Greenock intend to sail ROYAL SOVEREIGN to arrive Greenock p.m./26. Ship should be ready for docking on 28/10; (C. in C. H.F. 1157A/21).

PETUNIA.

Your 1037Z/19th approved. (A.C.I.C. 1202/21 to PETUNIA).

TIGRIS.

At 1400A/24 intend to sail BRED A to meet TIGRIS in 269° Muckle Flugga 5 miles at 0800A/26 and escort her thence by same route to arrive Clyde 0600A/28. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange Fighter protection for return passage at S. of A. of 11 knots. (Capt. S.7. 1221A/21).

A.F.D.14.

Your 1755/16 and my 0913/20. A.F.D. XIV requires deperming. Weather permitting intend vessel enters Tyne Dock p.m. tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1330/21).

/PRINCE.....

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.PRINCE OF WALES.  
(Force G.)

PRINCE OF WALES, wearing the Flag of Admiral Sir Tom Phillips, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, and escorted by ELECTRA and EXPRESS will leave U.K. shortly for Singapore via the Cape.

2. For security reasons this force will be known as Force "G" from Noon/24 until further orders. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1648A/21).

3 A.M.C's.

Admiralty 1158A/16 and C. in C. Portsmouth 1037A/18. Escort can be provided from Clyde to Lizard Head for 3 Armed Merchant Cruisers leaving Clyde 26/10. Request confirmation that onward escort can be arranged from Lizard Head to destination. (C. in C. W.A. 1912A/21).

EAGLE.  
FURY.  
FORESTER.  
FORESIGHT.

Admiralty's 1332A/13. EAGLE is to proceed to the Clyde, where she is to disembark all air-worthy aircraft to Machrihanish for disposal as in R.A.N.A.S. 1211/14.

2. FURY, FORESTER and FORESIGHT will also proceed to the Clyde.

3. EAGLE is to be sailed from the Clyde to arrive at Liverpool in time to dock A.M./1/11. Ship will be taken in hand for urgent defects.

4. Date of completion is to be 15/11. (Controller 1944A/21).

PICTOU.

Is anything known of whereabouts of PICTOU. (C. in C. W.A. 2012A/21 to C.C.N.F.)

Your 2012A/21. No definite information. From CHAMBLY's 0852Z/20 we assumed she was joining. O.N.S. 25. (C.C.N.F. 2214Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

HAVELOCK.  
HARVESTER.

Request you will sail HAVELOCK and HARVESTER at 0900/22 to Merville. (C. in C. W.A. 2134A/21 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

VANQUISHER.  
WITCH.

VANQUISHER and WITCH sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1911A/21 and 1730A/21. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2225A/21).

LONDON.

LONDON is to sail from Scapa as necessary to pass 22 A. buoy at 1100A/ and Tyne Pier Head at 1600A on 25th(2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide S.A. escort from 22A buoy. (C. in C. H.F. 2242A/21 to LONDON).

War Diary.21.10.41.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Anti  
E-Boat  
Patrol.

Intend 3 M.L's - 192 (S.O.) 267 and 268 - to carry out anti E-Boat Patrol tonight on line between 220° St. Albans Head 4 miles and 120° Anvil Point 4 miles. M.L's to leave Harbour at Dusk and return at Dawn. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1152A/21).

East  
Coast  
Patrols.

Patrol tonight.

(i) Two M.G.B's Q.E. (iii) Shift to Q.E. (ii) at 0001/22.

(ii) Three M.L's Q.E.4 (A).

(iii) Two M.L's and 3 M.G.B's returning to Harwich from Eastward at Daylight.

(C. in C. Nore 1603A/21).

Departure M.L's 105, 106.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1714A/21).

Departure M.G.B's 61, 63, 58. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1731A/21).

Dover  
Patrols.

Two M/L's on O.D. 5. Three M/L's leave Dover at 2240 in an Easterly direction returning at 0425/22 from the same direction.

(V.A. Dover 1721A/21).

My 1721A. Add two M.T.B's leave Dover at 2045/21 on a southerly course returning about 0230/22.

(V.A. Dover 2055A/21).

Interception  
of 4 Trawlers  
and possible  
U-boat off  
Mizen Head.

Your 1730A/21. Aircraft reports four trawlers believed Spanish in 50° 51' N. 10° 16' W., course 120°, 6 knots, at 1400/21. Trawlers fired white Very's lights. A swirl was then seen 1½ miles to Northward of trawlers. Possible U-boat. (C. in C. Plymouth 1944A/21).

Four trawlers sighted in about 050° 50' N. 10° 15' W. at 1400/21. Two steering 120° approximately, two steering west speed 6 knots. One pair fired Very's lights after which swirl of possible U-boat nearby. Object. To intercept and destroy U-boat and secondly send trawlers into Penzance. KUJAWIAK is to leave P.W. 53 and proceed north of Scilly Isles to pass through 049° 35' N. 7° W. at 0600/22. KRAKOWIAK is to proceed to be in 49° N. 6° 10' W. at 0600/22. Ships are then to proceed to R/V in 049° 15' N. 060° 45' W. at 0730/22. If no contact with enemy by this time proceed north westward. 19 Group carrying out sweep to south west of Scilly Isles a.m./22 with 6 aircraft. (C. in C. Plymouth 2033/21 to KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK).  
Departure KRAKOWIAK. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2356/21).



War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.To intercept  
Tanker.

3 Catalina Q/209 shadow and report tanker.  
1455 airborne Pembroke Dock 20/10/41.  
1845 WDCJ 4547 message from base "HERMIONE  
attempting interception". 2055 JDGA 4720 message  
from base "Abandon patrol".  
(R.A.F. Pembroke Dock 0953/21).

Patrols.

P.R.U. Oslo and Kristiansand has taken off.  
Also "Hornli". (C. in C. Rosyth 1138/21).  
"Stab", "Bert", "Stand" now in operation.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1519/21).

Bombing  
operations.

On day 19th and Night 19/20 no operations  
owing to weather. On Night 20/21 Bremen,  
Wilhelmshaven, Emden, Antwerp and Cuxhaven  
were bombed. (H.Q.B.C. 1430/21).

Escort  
for  
S.N.24C.

Your 0934/20, para. (E). Provided by one  
Whitley A/C. (C. in C. Rosyth 1611/21 to R.A.M.).

A/C in  
ARGUS.

My 1332/13. On arrival in Clyde ARGUS is to  
disembark damaged aircraft and stores and  
prepare to load 24 R.A.F. Hurricanes for a  
further ferry trip. The two Swordfish of  
818 Squadron are to be retained for this opera-  
tion. (A.C.N.S. H. 1942A/21 to ARGUS).

Enemy Air Activity:SUFFOLK  
reported.

You have probably been reported by enemy A/C  
who report ship with destroyer escort in  
071° 35' N. 034° 30' E. at 0930C/21.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1221C/21 to SUFFOLK).

4 Bombers  
from Banak.

4 aircraft 70° N. 25° E., course northerly.  
(Murmansk W/T 1330C/21 to SUFFOLK).  
My 1330C, 4 enemy bombers left Banak at 1330C  
Northbound. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1346C/21  
to SUFFOLK).

RASK  
(Norwegian  
613 Tons),  
presumed  
sunk.

RASK abandoned and presumed sunk after direct  
hit during attack by three H.E. 115's at 1930A/20  
(corrected later to 1930A/19) twelve miles S.E.  
of Tuskar. Four survivors including army gunner  
landed at Newport, sick second mate and three  
bodies landed at Rosslare by Steamship WALLACE  
ROSE. Five of crew including Master put off in motor  
boat and landed near Blackwater. Five others  
drowned. One Army gunner lost.  
(N.O.I.C. Newport 2054A/21) See also N.O.I.C  
Newport 1303A/22.

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool will open at 1300 today.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0927/21).  
Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1325/21).

H.G.

Carry out operation H.G. Dates amended to read 21/22 October. (C. in C. Plymouth 0933/21).  
Sailed 1330 WELSHMAN, MANXMAN.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1406/21).

N.P.25.

Intend to carry out operation N.P. 25 tonight.  
(V.A. Dover 0951A/21).

Humber.

Humber is open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1016A/21).  
At 0714 today Sweepers detonated magnetic mine.  
Details. (F.O. Humber 1845A/21).

Thames Estuary.

2 S.A. Mines detonated on 19/10 as follows.  
Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1041/21).  
1 magnetic mine detonated at 2000/19. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1132/21).

Q.K.3.Q.K.4.Q.K.9.Q.K.10

(1) My 1042A/14. Carry out Operation Q.K. (3) tonight, alternative operations Q.K. (4) (9) (10).  
(2) Supporting force one unit of M.G.B's patrolling between Thornton Ridge and Flushing.  
(3) On return from their respective operations M.L's and M.G.B's must use full recognition procedure. (C. in C. Nore 1108A/21 to BEEHIVE.)

Operation "Tincture".

Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m./23 in the manner described in my 1207A/10/9. (D.M.S. 1849A/21 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

S.N. 24C.

Departure PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 2245/21).

Enemy Intelligence.German Destroyer.

My 1751/16. Learn from interception that another German destroyer length 416 feet is expected to dock for examination at Akers yard shortly. Graded A.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1631/21)

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Navigational  
aids to  
East Coast of  
Iceland.Request you will reply to A.M.1559A/3 at your earliest convenience.  
(D.O.D. H., 1252A/21 to C. in C. H.F.)South  
Shipwash  
Buoy.South Shipwash gas buoy relit.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1556A/21).Technical.Signals.A.F.O.S. 2/41 Table 6 Line 9 insert VIK  
(Iceland)(~~ICELAND~~(c)) MXO.Casualties & Defects.Workington.Port of Workington is closed to all vessels exceeding 500 tons owing to stranding of S.S. TOWER FIELD in Workington Channel.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0938A/21)M.L. 303.

Sustained slight damage at 0710 today when leaving Imperial Dock, Leith. Vessel is seaworthy. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1234/21)

SANCTA  
BRIGIDA  
(Motor Boat).

Cancel my 1554/20. N.A.B. SANCTA BRIGIDA delayed by recurrence of defect. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1254/21)

VICTORIOUS.VICTORIOUS has sustained following damage due to heavy weather.\*(C. in C. H.F., 2358A/21)  
\*Ship is seaworthy.Shipping & Convoys.E.C. 87.Proceeding via route P.  
(FOXTROT, 0040/21)  
Cancel my 0040. E.C. 87 now proceeding via route "G". (FOXTROT, 0105/21)  
2 ships of E.C. 87 proceeded route P unescorted. Pentland Race too much for escort COTILLION to get through. (FOXTROT 0430/21)

/Q.P.2.....

War Diary.

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Q.P.2.  
P.Q.2.  
P.Q.3.

(One) (1) Ships in Q.P.2 will load 7,000 tons chrome ore and 2,000 tons magnesite.  
(2) Russians indicate possibility further supplies chrome ore, which would be very useful for putting ships propellers well down for ice protection. Please advise if Ministry of Supply intend negotiating further supplies for shipment this year. (Maclay, Archangel, 0915C/21)  
Ice now forming on river but Russians consider too early to last. Do not anticipate escorts from P.Q.2 will have difficulty in proceeding up harbour. Escorts from P.Q.3 may have to use Murmansk or Iocheva.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0920C/21)

O.N.28.

Proceed forthwith to Loch Ewe and refuel. In view of defects in VENOMOUS you are to take over temporary duties of S.O. first escort group escorting O.N.28.  
Convoy documents are in SABRE.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1324A/26 to WESTCOTT).

Destroyer Escort.

Your 1221R/20. Confirm that destroyers referred to in A.M. 1248/19 are R.N.  
It is proposed that destroyers at present escorting C.T. 4 should return to U.K. as escort for PASTEUR, EMPIRE CONDOR and EMPIRE CURLEW. (D.O.D. H., 1652A/21 to B.A.D. Washington)

Atlantic Convoys.  
Points for discussion.

A.M. 1755A/17. Request following items be included in agenda.  
1. Fuelling at Azores.  
2. Convoys escorted by U.S. Authorities:-  
(A) Promulgation of situation reports for Western half of Atlantic.  
(B) Are their escorts complying with procedure laid down in 573A Z?  
3. Daily U-boat signal desirability of promulgating in areas as for Western Approaches situation report.  
4. Present rules for breaking W/T silence by independents require revision: lack of information by owners of expected time of arrival entails loss of shipping time (E.G. Colombo and Calcutta)  
5. Vital importance of D/F Bearings obtained by D/F Guardships needs stressing to the latter and to Commodores.  
6. Importance of N.C.S.O's at home and overseas informing escorts which merchant ships are available for D/F Guards and whether Commodore is fitted with R/T  
7. Promulgation of new diversion orders in I.C.O.C.25 to all escorts in Western Approaches North Atlantic and South Atlantic commands and American and Canadian escorts.  
8. Distribution of reports of interviews with survivors by casualty section to Cs. in C.

/concerned....

War Diary.

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Atlantic  
Convoys.  
Points for  
discussion.  
- Contd.

concerned.

9. Instructions in N.C.S.I. 251 to be stressed to N.C.S.O's at home and oversea.
10. Use of North Channels for inward and outward convoys as well as the Minches.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2019A/21 to D.T.D.)

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.Intelligence.

My 1827A/15.

1. Civil Aircraft sighted tanker in 44° 07' N., 10° 07' W., course 260°, speed 12 knots, at 1050/20. Possibly outward bound supply ship for raiders or U/Boats.
2. AAGTEKERK sighted unidentified ship at 1900/14 in 08° 30' N., 51° 30' W., course 282° 18 knots. Possibly U.S. BRAZIL.
3. Nothing to confirm WARRIOR as raider casualty. Probably sunk by U-boat vicinity St. Pauls Rock.
4. PACIFIC now seriously overdue Colombo
5. \*POLYPHEMUS overdue Balboa since 14/10 from Auckland. Possibly attacked about 26/9.
6. D/F at 1443Z/20 of unit within 300 miles of 30° S., 122° W. Equally likely raider or supply ship. (D.D.I.C., 2342/21 to Cs. in C. etc).

*\* arrived p.542.*North Atlantic.ANTWERP,  
MALINES.  
BRIGAND.

C. in C. S.A.'s 2057N/19 not to Admiralty. Please instruct ANTWERP, MALINES Fleet Tug BRIGAND to pass position 027° 00' N., 025° 30' W. Then as ordered. (F.O.C.N.A., 0950A/21 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

O.24

F.O.C.N.A., 1010A/21. See Med.

SURVILLE  
(French).

Departure 20th for Albufeira to complete loading Cargo Beans and Fish meal. (R.O. Oporto, 1129/21, to M.E.W., 1017/21 to D. of S.T.)

French  
Shipping.

Gibraltar 0845/21. French minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE French ships ASTREE, NANCEEN, STRASBOURGEOIS, DAHOMEY all laden eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1703A/21 to Admtty C. in C. Med).

/Motor.....

War Diary.

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Motor  
Launches.

A.T.1943/8. Out of 15 Motor Launches at Gibraltar it has only proved possible to maintain nine and sometimes ten serviceable. Main causes of unserviceability are continual engine defects owing to unsuitable design, lack of spares, absence of base repair staff and shortage of skilled labour in Dockyard.

2. Fixed beam oscillators and limited Asdic endurance make them inefficient A/S craft. Hunting and attacking is matter of difficulty in perfect weather and in any seaway is impossible owing to yaw of boat.

3. They have been used chiefly as local patrols, where they are of great value solely as surface lookouts. They are good seaboats but owing to light construction decks leak badly as unseasoned timber of which they are made is too light to hold caulking.

4. Consider their usefulness is limited and their maintenance requires large skilled staff additional to crew. (F.O.C.N.A., 1802A/21 to Admty).

French  
Ships.

Gibraltar 21/10 1130 survey ship SENTINELLE armed trawler BISSON, OUED TIFLET, ILE ROUSSE, THISBE, JOSEPH ELISE, CAPITAINE ST. MARTIN light SCHIAFFINO FRERES light deck cargo of cork westbound.  
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 2357A/21).

South Atlantic.

WILD SWAN.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1220/20 (?2010/13 intended) P.4. I hope this will not be necessary. My 2019/13 refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1128N/21 to Admty).

DOMINE.

Your 1632/20, not to C. in C. S.A., German and Italian passengers have been removed from DOMINE and taken to Takoradi.  
(D.E.W.D., 1133A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Service.....

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.Service  
Personnel.

A.M.1855/20, Para 6. Delete words "When approaching Freetown." (D.O.D. (F), 1251A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

Corvettes.

Your 1321/19. Admty 1955/20.  
Consider corvettes should show themselves on Bahia - Pernambuco route on passage to Freetown. If time permits visit to one of these ports desirable but could not be arranged before 27th. They could fuel Pernambuco should this suit your plans.  
(R.A.S.A.D., 1309Z/21 to C. in C. S.A.)  
My 1321N/19 and Admty 1955A/20, neither to LAVENDER or BERGAMOT. Request you sail LAVENDER and BERGAMOT for Freetown as soon as convenient, routed through position (a) 004° S., 031° W., (b) 002° N., 031° W., thence direct to Freetown. Ships are to be spread in Fernando De Noronha - St. Paul's rock area to search for possible enemy supply ships and U-boats. (C. in C. S.A., 1355N/21 to R.A.S.A.D.)

B.D.Vs.  
for E.  
Indies.

Departure 1200/21 B.D.Vs. BARSTOKE, BARONIA, BARBOUR, CONSBRO, East Indies Station. Secret position ~~009° 10' N., 013° 15' W.~~<sup>009° 10' N., 013° 15' W.</sup>  
E.T.A. Freetown 0800/24.  
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1331N/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

Distress  
Message.

Following reading Jacobs W/T station at 1515/21 (begins) Distress seem position bearing from H 246° 345 miles 20/10 T.O.O. 2223G.M.T., Master, OLIVIA (ends).  
(2) Ship failing to clear (corrupt group) subsequently broadcast.  
(3) Position H is 003° N., 060° E.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1632Z/21 to Admty etc).

WARRIOR.

American, <sup>7551</sup>~~1461~~ tons, overdue at Capetown since 2/10 and presumed lost. (D.S. 777, 21 /10)

Signals.

My 0235N/21 (N.T. in W.D.) Details of signals intercepted by VIMY. (C. in C. S.A., 1655N/21 to Admty).

/Shipping.....



War Diary.

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Shipping  
Diversions.

A.M. 1150A/10. Following instructions are to come into force at 0001G.M.T. on 23/10. "Admiralty will divert all ships sailing independently in North and South Atlantic to avoid known or suspected dangers, with following exceptions:-

1. C. in C. S.A., within the limits of his Command, will divert such ships bound to and from West African ports.
2. F.O.C.N.A., within the limits of his Command, will divert such ships bound to and from Gibraltar.
3. C. in C. S.A., and F.O.C.N.A., will when necessary divert ships bound for West African ports and Gibraltar respectively, whilst still in C. in C. A.W.I. Command, keeping the latter informed."

A.M. 0001/1/5 will be amended accordingly. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1714A/21 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)

W.S.12.

Proposals for transshipment in South Africa. (D.S.T., 1809A/21) See Lion Copy.

S.L.91.

W.R. your 2303A/16 and C. in C. W.A. 1122A/17 Request confirmation S.L. 91 should sail on 27/10. In view of conflicting signals and date of R/V for Vinegar clarification required. (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 2111N/21 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

Black Sea.

Following received N.L.O. Black Sea. Evacuation of Odessa very successfully carried out. Fleet employed on convoy and evacuation also occasional support of 9th Army near Taganrog. T.O.O. 1804/20. (C. in C. Med., 0223B/21 to Admty).

/Turco-German...

To. P.S.N. Simonstown.  
Repeated P.S.T.O. Egypt.  
P.S.T.O. India.

Date 21/10/41.

559

**MOST SECRET**

508A

- C. in C. East Indies.
  - C. in C. South Atlantic.
  - C. in C. Mediterranean.
  - F.O.C.R.I.N.
  - S.T.O. Durban.
  - C. in C. Middle East
  - C.G.S. Pretoria
  - Impeon, Durban
- } Through War Office.

NAVAL CYPHER A.2.

From Director of Sea Transport.

Following are proposals in regard to transshipment of W.S. 12 in South Africa.

2. Total of approximately 3,000 ox DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, EMPRESS OF CANADA, HIGHLAND BRIGADE, DOMINION MONARCH and ORMONDE require onward conveyance from Durban to Middle East.
3. Following accommodation will be vacant at Durban in ships of W.S. 12. (a) To Middle East 243 in ALMANZORA. (b) To Middle East or India 404 in EMPRESS OF RUSSIA (c) To India 1015 in DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.
4. Propose 1352 personnel for India remaining in ORMONDE be transferred to vacant accommodation in EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND at Durban. This will release ORMONDE for return to U.K.
5. After allowing for 3 (a) Net requirement for onward conveyance to Middle East is approximately 2750.
6. Proposals in your 1852/14 not to all addressees cover this requirement.
7. 66 R.I.N. ratings for JUMNA now in STRATHAIRD should be transferred at Durban to one of ships bound for India.
8. Agreed.

1809A/21.

1st Lord.	Director of Sea Transport.		
1st S.L.	M.W.T. - Extn. 2187.		
2nd S.L.	A.C.N.S. (W)	D.S.D.	Hd of M.
3rd S.L.	N.A. 1st S.L.	D of L.D.	D.T.S.D.
4th S.L.	D of P. (2)	D.N.A.D.	D.D.I.C.
5th S.L.	D.O.D. (F)	D.A/S.W.	E.P.S.
V.C.N.S.	D.D.C.D. (F)	D.M.S.	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.O.D. (H)	I.P. (2)	N.I.D. 10. Payr. Cdr. Wilson
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.C.D. (H)	W.D.	D.G.D.
A.C.N.S. (E) (2)	D.N.I. (4)	Duty Capt (2)	D of S.T. to pass to War Office for last three addressees - no action taken by War Reg.

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.- Contd.Turco-  
German  
Agreement.

Following addressed Mideast received from Britmilat, Ankara, No. 09820 T.O.O. 2309/18 Germans agreed to give following War Material under Commercial Agreement just signed, includes:- 2 Submarine Engines, Diesel. 4 Periscopes and other unspecified material. (Mideast, Cairo, 0645/21 to Admty).

AURORA.  
PENELOPE.  
Force K.

Arrival 21st, AURORA, PENELOPE, LIVELY, LANCE, UNIQUE. (V.A. Malta, 0915A/21 to Admty). AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE and LIVELY known as Force K are to be administered and operated by V.A. Malta while based at Malta. Copies of reports from the cruisers on subjects common to other cruisers of the class are to be sent to C.S.15. Similar reports from the destroyers are to be sent to R.A.(D) Med. (C. in C. Med., 1911B/21 to V.A. Malta).

U/B

P.C. and S. U-boat sighted 0600B/21, 035° 40' 020° 56', 160° 12 knots. Enemy has lately increased his S/M patrol on North French African coast. (Capt. S.1., 0941B/21 to TALISMAN, PORPOISE).

Operations by  
O.24

O.24 reports unsuccessful attack on escorted southbound 5,000 ton tanker in 41° 35' 12° 19' at 1745A/13. Ineffective light counter attack. Heavy southbound rail traffic observed along Italian coast. At end of raid party of one Army Officer and one private landed by Folbot in 044° 12' (?25") N., 009° 33' E., at 2200/17. O.24 remained position for 4½ hours but raiding party failed to return. Nothing seen or heard to indicate their fate. Very little shipping seen during patrol either on Sardinian or Italian coast. (F.O.C.N.A., 1010A/21 to C. in C. Med).

Handling  
AQUITANIA  
at  
Capetown.

Your 1846B/20 (1746/20 intended). Deepest loaded draught when fully bunkered and watered 36. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1020B/21 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/Soviet.....

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Soviet  
ships from  
Black Sea.

Admty 1238/10, N.A. Angora's 1237/11 and your telegram of 14/10. Following received from C. in C. Med., (quotes 1327/13) Approved to proceed as proposed by Adm. Kelly and C. in C. Med. Request you complete arrangements as soon as practicable with Soviet and report details at once to C. in C. Med., and Admty who will pass to N.A. Angora. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1111A/21 to Adm. Miles).

Benghazi.

Night 19/20 Oct. 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour. Results awaited. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1156/21).

U/Bs.

Submarines sighted by aircraft. One diving on course 110° in 035° 10' 011° 42' at 0820A. One on surface on course 360° in 037° 00' 015° 25' at 1005A. (Capt. S.1Q1232A/21 to URGE, UPHOLDER, UNBEATEN).

Surveying  
Ship.

The amount of hydrographic work in Eastern Med., and Red Sea now justifies the employment of a surveying ship. At moment ARPHA is employed on this duty with 2 survey officers but ship is not entirely suitable and is required for other services. Request consideration may be given to sending a survey ship which must have adequate A.A. armament. (C. in C. Med., 1321B/21 to Admty)

GNAT.

GNAT torpedoed by U-boat at 0445/21 in 032° 06' N., 025° 30' E., while returning from Tobruk. Ship immobilised but still afloat with bows blown away. GRIFFIN and JAGUAR in company endeavouring to tow. (C. in C. Med., 1701B/21 to Admty).

PERSEUS  
THRASHER.

Request you will sail PERSEUS P.M./25 to operate in Area C (West) South of 032° 45' and west of 017° 30'. THRASHER will be ordered to operate east of 017° 30' after 2359B/27 until ordered to leave Area for Malta about 6/11. PERSEUS will then take over whole of Area C. until ordered to Alexandria, leaving probably P.M./10 to arrive A.M./14. (Capt. S.1., 1923B/21 to Capt. S.10)

/HANS.....

War Diary.21.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.HANS  
SCHMIDT.  
German.

Arrival 21/10. (Cartagena T.H.I. 1930/21 to D. of S.T.)

REGENT.  
destroyers  
attacked.4 destroyers entered principal port <sup>? Benghazi</sup> at 1430B/21 by 311° swept channel, fired 6 torpedoes, all misses. (REGENT, 2015B/21 to C. in C. Med).Mined  
Area.

Area dangerous due to mines following limits: 320° 2.9 330° 3.6 285° 11.8 289° 12.2, red conical buoy position 290° 5.8 all bearings and distances in miles from Northern Breakwater Light. (?) 0200/17 convoy passes through P.C. and S. 032° 59" (?59') 020° 05', 120, 8. Constant air patrol, slight surface activity. (REGENT, 2036B/21 to Capt. S.1)

Area H following limits 320° 2.9 330° 3.6 285° 11.8 289° 12.2, red conical buoy position -290° 5.8 all bearings and distances in miles from Northern-most breakwater Cape Coast Castle. 0200/17 convoy passing through P.C. and S. 032° 59" 020° 05' 120, 8. Constant air patrol slight surface activity. (REGENT, 2036B/21 to Capt. S.1).

PORPOISE.

After passing through 035° 20' 014° 14' and 034° 14' 020° 56' proceeding through 033° 50' 025° 53' and 032° 32' 028° 44' to arrive searched channel 0800B/26. (Capt. S.1. 2215B/21 to PORPOISE).

THRASHER.

Your 1701B/21, not to REGENT (N.T. in W.D.) THRASHER was sailed with despatch 3 hours early to attempt interception of unit referred to in my 1520A/20 to REGENT. As no E.T.A. has been received from her indicating expenditure of torpedoes, anticipate THRASHER crosses 032° 45' at 0001A/23. Orders for THRASHER were as in my 1529A/20 to TETRARCH. (Capt. S.5., 2220A/21 to Capt. S.1.)

War Diary

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Red Sea  
Force.

Ships addressed are to form part of Red Sea Force under orders from F.O.C. Red Sea Force as from today 21/10.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1152Z/21 to FALMOUTH, RATNAGIRI, SHOREHAM, BATHURST, INDUS, LISMORE, NETRAVATI. )

MAURITIUS  
W.S. 11.

MAURITIUS now escort for convoy W.S. 11 should arrive from vicinity Ceylon 29/10 to Singapore preparatory to being taken in hand for refit.  
(C. in C. E.I., 1310Z/21 to C. in C. China.)

Diego Garcia.

Your 0544Z/10. Concur generally with your proposals. As regards:-  
A. In view of limited resources, it is not considered provision of further guns would be justified.  
C. Navigation difficulties render entrance by submarine highly improbable. B. 2. indicator nets will be supplied if desired for laying from boats.  
F. As provision of D.E.L's would involve many extra stores and maintenance personnel, and in view of navigational difficulty of finding the entrance at night, it is not proposed to supply these, subject to your further remarks.  
1. Para 3. Mauritian troops will be provided and are expected to be ready in February, 1942.  
(A.C.N.S., (F) 1348A/21 to C. in C. E.I.)

Kerguelen

Following information is available.  
(D.D.I.C., 1755A/21 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

China

French  
Ships.

Arrival 20/10. BOUGAINVILLE, GOUVERNEUR GENERAL ALEXANDRE VARENNE.  
(Saigon, 0751Z/21 to D. of S.T.)

/Vichy.....

# MOST SECRET

1755A/21st October

512A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

To. C. in C. East Indies.

Date. 21. 10. 41.

349.

Repeated Australian Commonwealth Naval Board. 955.  
H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA.

NAVAL CYPHER (C).

RECIRCULATION.  
~~PREVIOUSLY "MOST SECRET."~~

From. Admiralty.

Following information about Kerguelen is available.

- (1) Visited by Raider 16 mid December 1940 to give crew run ashore and effect repairs. Ship ran ashore entering Gazelle Basin and ripped 12 feet out of outer skin of bottom and damaged shaft. Repairs took four weeks. Look out station, but not guns, established ashore. Air reconnaissance flown when possible. Graded A.1.
- (2) Visited by Raider 33, ALSTERTOR, and 41 in March 1941 as weather too bad to transfer stores at sea. Probably remained 3 to 4 days. Exact anchorage not known. Graded A.1.
- (3) My 1646A/16/8 paragraph 1. This information now graded D.3 repeat D.3.
- (4) Possibility of base at Crozet graded D.3.

1755A/21.

for D.D.L.C. (Green Line 8.)

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

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

EC.

War Diary21.10.1941.  
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSChina-Contd.Vichy  
Interference.

Chungking tel. (?543) to F.O. I fully concur we should prepare retaliatory measures for use in the event of further Vichy interference. I have consulted with Governor Straits Settlements who agrees in principle but does not consider there are any Vichy French in Singapore against whom such measures could be taken. Governor Hong Kong will doubtless not overlook Commander Henry's remarks.  
(C. in C. China, 0901Z/21 to Admty.)

F.E.W. 53.

Japanese Navy now on a war footing.  
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 1013Z/21 to Admty.)

Free French  
Movement.

Proposing that duty of sponsoring the movement in F.E. be transferred from him to some political authority.  
(C. in C. China, 1025Z/21) See Lion Copy.

Eastern  
Fleet.

Re appointment of Ad. Sir Tom Phillips, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, with flag in PRINCE OF WALES.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1648A/21 to C. in C's) See Home Commands, Movements.

BERNARDIN DE  
ST. PIERRE

Arrival. (Shanghai, 2352Z/21.)

America & West IndiesWORCESTERSHIRE

Your 1022Q/20. It is confirmed that WORCESTERSHIRE is to be sailed for U.K.  
(D.O.D. (F) 1154A/21 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

LORRAINE

S.O. (I) Jamaica's 1104R/19. U.S. Naval Aircraft reported French SS LORRAINE at 1359Q/5 in 30.58 N., 63.48 W., course 078° 12 knots.  
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1203Q/21 to Admty.)

/Pacific.....



513A

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN.

1025Z/21st October.

FROM C. in C. China.

DATE 22.10.41.

RECD. 1841.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER 14 BY W/T AND T/P.

ADDRESSED Admiralty repeated Governor Strait  
Settlements C. in C. Far East, Governor  
Hong Kong, British Embassy (Corrupt group)  
957. British Ambassador Chungking.

430. I feel time has now arrived when duty of  
- sponsoring Free French movement in Far East should  
be transferred from Naval C. in C. China, to some  
political authority. I assumed **this duty**  
voluntarily in first place because I was asked  
to do so by local Free Frenchmen and because I had  
ready means, through Far East Intelligence  
organization, of judging prospects of survival  
(?and) tracing growth of this infant organization.  
In spite of some setbacks, the survival and steady  
growth of movement now appears assured, and problems  
which confront it are becoming more and more  
political. Moreover, the developments in prospect  
in Far East situation **make it** desirable to effect  
this change without delay. I have consulted  
~~(corrupt group)~~ of Duchy Lancaster who entirely  
concur in proposal to send out Colonel Burkhardt  
whose presence will be useful whatever final  
decision may be taken with regard to dealings with  
Free French. Both Chancellor of Duchy and I agree  
that duties should not normally be carried out by  
C. in C. China but he would prefer that I should  
continue to carry them out pending decision on his  
reports which he hopes to present next month.  
I have also consulted Governor who concurs but has  
no one available who would undertake this work.

? Chancellor

1025Z/21.

Advance copy Ops.O.D. M. Branch.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
P.A.S.(S)  
Ops.(3)  
O.D.(5)  
D.N.I.(4)  
N.A. (F) 2nd S.L.  
O.I.C.(3)  
D. OF P.(3)

M.(6)(for action)  
I.P.(3)  
W.D.  
Ad. Bellairs.  
Ad. Chalmers.  
Ad. Palliser.

MP

War Diary

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Pacific  
Routeing.

Your 1555R/16/8. and A.M. 1926/23/8. When final agreement has been reached with U.S. Authorities request you will promulgate it to Admiralty, C. in C. China, A.C.N.B. and N.Z. N.B. (D.T.D. 1349A/21 to B.A.D.)

VANCOUVER  
ISLAND.  
(Torpedoed  
15/10.)

Opnav's 2345Z/15. Request all possible information re survivors as majority of crew are Canadian. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1517Z/21 to Admty.)

Corvettes,  
Refits.

Your 1101A/19. C.C.N.F. Advises (begins)  
(A) Ref. para 2. MAYFLOWER and EYEBRIGHT detailed.  
(B) Ref. para 1. Four of ten R.C.N. manned "FLOWERS" are already refitting in Canada, viz., TRILLIUM, FENNEL, HEPATICA, SPIKENARD. WINDFLOWER has completed. Of the three remaining ARROWHEAD and SNOWBERRY are now overdue for refit and leave and cannot wait their turn to go to Charleston. It was intended to refit them in Canadian Ports mid-November on completion. Corvettes now under refit. BITTERSWEET is due for refit in January. (Ends.) Request concurrence. Propose Free French Corvettes now with N.F.L.D. Forces be refitted in U.S.A. Request decision. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1559Z/21 to Admty.)

DIDO

Ref. Admty. 1732A/10. Navy Dept. has been informed that DIDO will not be available to Augment escort of troops convoy owing to extra time required for dockyard work. (B.A.D., 1723R/21 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

H.X. 156

H.X. 156 ocean escorts BENSON (?SOP), NIBLACK, N.P. JONES, REUBEN JAMES, TARBELL. (Opnav, 1907/21 to Admty.)

Salvage  
Red Sea.

Following from B.A.S.R. for Salvage Dept. Ref. Lonus 41 para 3. U.S. Navy are sending salvage officer by air from Honolulu. They request any available information by cable concerning ships sunk in Red Sea area that will be of value in planning salvage operation. U.S. Navy particularly ask for information about Massawa. Request information as to amount of salvage gear available in Red Sea and possibility of obtaining native labour conversant with work of this type and names of reliable labour contractors. (B.A.D., 1917R/21 to Admty.)

/T.C. 15.....

War Diary

21.10.1941.  
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

T.C. 15.

Admty. 1913A/16. To ensure maintaining dates for transshipment and sailing request early decision re storing of ships in T.C. 15. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2033Z/21 to D. of S.T.)

BARFLEUR, A.M.C.  
(French)

Leaves Martinique 22/10, for French Guiana and will return about 1/11. (U.S.C.N.O. 2108Z/21 to Admty.)

U.S.  
Movements.

My 2128/30/9. CONCORD departed Balboa 0800/20. same track and elapsed time between points as for TRENTON, arriving Callao 0800/31, departing 3/11, passing Galapagos 8/11, arriving Balboa 0800/11. Two D.Ds. of Panama naval coastal frontier continue patrolling area vicinity Galapagos to Panama. (Opnav, 2120Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

EMPIRE ELAND.

British, 5613 tons, overdue at Mobile since 2/10 and presumed lost. (D.S. 777, 21/10.)

New Zealand

Your 1620N/17. Amended programme approved. 2. A.T. 1412A/15. Is it proposed to delete visit to Auckland and maintain remainder of programme? If not request your revised proposals. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2223A/21 to LE TRIOMPHANT)

War Diary21.10.1941.  
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedGNAT

Torpedoed at 0445/21 returning from Tobruk.  
(C. in C. Med., 1701B/21) See Mediterranean.

AURANIA

Following has been read. My position now is  
050° 45' N., 018° 48' W.  
(AURANIA, 0205/21.)

Following has been read. AURANIA struck by  
torpedo on port side amidships probably able  
proceed 10 knots 050° 50' N., 019° W.  
(WOLFE, 0240Z/21.)

Torpedoed in 050° 45' N., 018° 48' W. Proceeding  
(? course) 062° steering 12 knots.  
(AURANIA, 0301Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

My 0240Z, TOTLAND standing by.

(WOLFE, 0324Z/21 to Admty.)

Sail ABERDEEN as escort to ZWARTE ZEE proceeding  
to assistance of AURANIA torpedoed in 050° 50' N.,  
018° 48' W. at 0200A/21 probably proceeding 062°  
10 knots. (C. in C. W.A., 0546A/21 to N.O.I.C.  
Londonderry.)

Expect Catalina aircraft escort about 1100A/21  
(C. in C. W.A., 0550A/21 to AURANIA, TOTLAND)

On arrival of ABERDEEN at Moville you are to  
proceed escorted by her and with despatch to  
assistance of AURANIA torpedoed in 50° 50' N.,  
18° 48' W. At 0200 today. AURANIA is probably  
proceeding under her own steam steering 062° at  
10 knots. TOTLAND standing by.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0605A/21 to ZWARTE ZEE)

My 0605A/21 amend position to 050° 45' N., 018°  
48' W. AURANIA proceeding at 12 knots.

(N.O.I.C., Greenock, 0859A/21 to ZWARTE ZEE)

My 0546A/21. Tug will not be sailed unless  
assistance is requested.

(C. in C. W.A., 1020A/21 to AURANIA, TOTLAND)

LEHIGH

(Torpedoed  
19/10.)

My 2100N/20. 2 other boats with Master and 3  
wounded probably further South, steering E.  
Ship torpedoed without warning abreast No. 5  
hatch starboard. In ballast Arica to Takoradi  
for ore. (VIMY, 0300N/21 to C. in C., S.A.)  
(D.C., 1420Z/21 to Opnav.)

U.S.A. Ship LEHIGH was torpedoed in 08° 26' N.,  
14° 37' W. 0900/19. VIMY picked up one boat of  
survivors at 2100N/20. Two other boats missing  
being searched for. Understand no one killed by  
explosion but some wounded.

(C. in C. S.A., 0929N/21, to Admty.)

Following received from VIMY. (Quotes 2100N/20)

(D.C., 1223Z/21 to Opnav.)

/ My 0929N/21...

MOST SECRETWar Diary21.10.1941.  
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedLEHIGH  
(Torpedoed  
19/10)  
-Contd.

My 0929N/21.  
Whole crew of LEHIGH picked up. 22 taken to Bathurst on VIMY and 22 brought to Freetown. Bathurst survivors believed uninjured, Freetown survivors uninjured except (2,1 serious) (C. in C. S.A., 2132N/21 to Admty.)

S.C. 48  
GLADIOLUS

My 2231A/18. Am now in anxiety over GLADIOLUS. After interrogation of escorts due tomorrow Wednesday a further signal will be made. (C. in C. W.A., 1449A/21 to Admty.) Enquiries from COLUMBIA produced following information about GLADIOLUS. WETASKIWIN was in definite communication with GLADIOLUS at 1930Z/16. At 2200Z/16 WETASKIWIN received signal purporting to be from GLADIOLUS asking for signal on 325 kc/s presumably for D/F purposes. WETASKIWIN doubted authenticity of this signal and asked for identification. Thenceforth no further signals were received from GLADIOLUS by WETASKIWIN or by other escorts who tried to obtain communication with her. COLUMBIA considers GLADIOLUS may have been torpedoed but has no evidence. (A.C.I.C., 1646/21 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Attack on convoy has taken place. (WELLINGTON, 2000Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.L. 89BRITISH  
MARINER.  
(Torpedoed  
20/10.)

BRITISH MARINER now in tow being brought to Freetown.  
(C. in C. S.A., 2136N/21 to Admty.)

INVERLEE  
(Topedoed  
19/10.)

Your 1728A/20. INVERLEE was escorted by LADY HOGARTH and (?STELLA CARINA) and in addition Catalina air escort during daylight hours. (ii) A/S sweep by 37th Escort Group and 3 destroyers in Western Approaches to Gibraltar Strait on 17th (? 18th) and 19th with Catalina co-operating. (iii) Use of territorial waters limited by French reaction to any ship within 20 miles of their coast also extremely probable they are used by U-Boats when charging batteries, who would not hesitate to attack. (F.O.C.N.A., 2240A/21, to Admty,)

/Unknown Ship....

War Diary21.10.1941.  
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked-Contd.Unknown  
Ship.

Following received:- Intercept at 2127 G.M.T. unknown station strength of signal 2/3 begins:- (un-read) Attacked port side torpedo missed D.E. 812 (Remainder jammed). At 2129 G.M.T. same station sends still attacked port side. (Ends) Unable obtain any further particulars. No broadcast made, should this be done? (Scapa W/T, 2241/21 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

0600B Capt. S. 1., 0941B/21, See Mediterranean.

0820A Capt. S. 10., 1232A/21, See Mediterranean.  
1005A

2310Z/20. By D/F at 2310Z/20. U-Boat is approx. 50° 30' N. 21° W. May have reported Convoy S.L. 89. (D.D.I.C., 0146A/21 to Escorts S.L. 89, WOLFE, AURANIA)

0310Z Ref. Admty. Message AF. Position 50° 50' N., 19° W. at 0310Z/21. (D.D.I.C., 0350Z/21 to G.B.M.S. Area 1.)

0920 Following reported from Portreath. Periscope sighted 295° Portreath 2000 yards course S.W. at 0920/21. Consider report grade C. 3. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1121/21)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1412A/21)

1424 G.M.T. At 1424/21 G.M.T. a U-Boat made a sighting report. Possibly reporting S.L. 89. (D.D.I.C. 1634A/21 to Escort S.L. 89)

1755 Following bearings of U-Boat obtained at  
1810 1755/21 and 1810/21 G.M.T. Position to westward of Gibraltar, probably 07° 00' W., - 09° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 1941A/21)

/Possible...

War Diary21.10.1941.  
TuesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.Possible  
U-Boat  
operating  
with  
Trawlers.

50° 51' N., 10° 16' W. KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK to search. (C. in C. Plymouth 1944A/21, 2033/21, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2356/21) See Operations.

U-Boat situation 21/10.  
(U.S.C.N.O., 2038/21)

2200C

Bearing by D/F at 2200C/21 Position of enemy U-Boat was 069° 05' 042° 40' Reliable fix Admiralty pass to NORMAN. (S.B.N.O., N. Russia 2316C/21.)

Submarines Attacked~~By A/C~~  
~~1458Z~~  
By Ak  
1515ZOne submarine bearing 090° distance 7 miles, course unknown, my position. 51.05 N., 19.55 W. (WELLINGTON, 1458Z/21.)  
My 1458Z/ S/M has dived after attack by aircraft. (WELLINGTON, 1515Z/21 to Admty.)By A/C  
1830.Am over enemy submarine in 50.58 N., 20.06 W. Submarine previously reported has now submerged, course 033° speed 6 knots. (A/C A., 1610/21 to 15 Group.)  
My 1610. Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges, estimate one hit.  
(A/C duty A., 1830/21 to 15 Group.)

War Diary

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE and ESCAPADE last night carried out an operation in Svaerholthavet. Nothing was sighted.

British Air Operations

95 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Bremen last night.

Eight Hudsons of Coastal Command attacked the petrol harbour of Aarhus in Jutland last night. Six Hudsons attacked PRINZ EUGEN at Brest and 3 Beauforts Lorient.

Enemy Air Operations

Swedish tanker CAPELLA was unsuccessfully bombed at 1031 today in Nobrasco Fiord, Faeroes.



War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation  
Q.K. (5).

M.L's from Harwich carried out a minelaying operation off the French coast last night, supported by M.G.B's.

Operation  
S.N. 24 C.

PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK carried out a minelaying operation west of the Hebrides in the early hours of this morning.

Operation  
H.G.

WELSHMAN and MANXMAN last night carried out a minelaying operation off Belle Isle.

Kiel.

Aircraft of Bomber Command laid 12 mines in Kiel harbour last night.

Tyne  
Area.

Enemy aircraft were engaged in minelaying in the Tyne area last night.

North Atlantic.

Rescue tug SALVONIA is to revert to merchant status, whilst retaining her defensive armament, and is to be based at Azores or Funchal.

It appears from a signal from F.O.C.N.A. today that sailings from Lisbon, Huelva, Cadiz and Seville to Gibraltar were suspended on 19/10, presumably as the result of U-boats off Gibraltar and may be resumed today. Ships are to proceed inside territorial waters.

War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

DARKDALE  
sunk.

R.F.A. DARKDALE was sunk by explosion at 0015 today at St. Helena. The cause of the explosion is not known, but pending further evidence C. in C. S.A. is assuming it to be a U-boat and all shipping was therefore diverted well clear of St. Helena.

Suspicious  
Ship.

U.S.S. PATOKA sighted a suspicious vessel at 1500 today in 6° 44' S. 34° 26' W. 25 miles east of Natal. The ship disappeared in sun glare and smoke screen.

Mediterranean.

Yugoslavian  
revolt.

The Yugoslav authorities have made a further most pressing appeal for arms for their guerilla bands, which now number 80,000 to 100,000 men fighting in Yugoslavia. The Admiralty urge on C. in C. Med. the importance of doing anything which is in any way possible to help them.

Air raid  
on Naples.

24 Wellingtons from Malta attacked the storage depot at Naples last night; flames are reported up to 1000 ft. The railway station was set on fire and great destruction is reported by 4000 lb. bombs.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

Captain D. with 3 destroyers bombarded the Bardia harbour area last night, the bombardment is reported to have been successful.

URGE reports that she has hit with torpedoes 2 ships off Kuriat.

3 Italian aircraft bombed shipping 10 miles N.E. of Damietta today, but caused no damage.

/Admiralty....

War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.-Contd.

Admiralty cable ship BULLFINCH was bombed and machine-gunned by two enemy aircraft a.m. today in  $31^{\circ} 38' N.$   $31^{\circ} 58' E.$  but incurred only very slight damage and no casualties.

A Sunderland attacked an enemy S/M 50 miles N.E. of Aboukir this morning. Two 250 lb. bombs fell near the U-boat, but results were not observed. During the afternoon an aircraft sighted a very large patch of oil about 110 miles north of Alexandria.

U-boat Campaign.

It is reported that BROADWATER attacked and possibly destroyed a U-boat at about 0430/17 in  $57^{\circ} N.$   $24^{\circ} W.$ , but all records were lost when the ship was torpedoed.

S.L. 89 was shadowed today by 4 F.W. aircraft co-operating with U-boats, but no attack developed although 4 or 5 U-boats were near.

A Liberator A/C attacked a S/M 290 miles N.W. of Achill Head today and estimates one hit.

War Diary22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.A/S Trawlers  
for Arctic  
Service.

Your 2245/21. Completion ex trials storing and ammunitioning is 24/11/41.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0953A/22)  
Admiralty 1902A/10. C. in C. H.F. 2245A/21.  
Trawlers HUGH WALPOLE, CAPE ARGONA, STELLA CAPELLA refitting at Belfast for Arctic service will be completed ready to sail A.M.1/11/41.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1152A/22)

PRINCE  
CHARLES.

Should be made fit for service as soon as possible and sailed for Inverary.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1200A/22 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow)

PRINCESS  
ASTRID.

Should not be taken in hand for refit until relieved by PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE about the end of November.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1210A/22)

Corvette for  
N.A.Command.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for the early transfer of a tropically fitted corvette to the North Atlantic Command to replace FLEUR DE LYS.  
(V.C.N.S. 1435A/22)

EAGLE.

A.M.1944A/21. Extensive action repairs to other aircraft carriers combined with heavy demands for these ships at the present time make it essential to prepare EAGLE for sea at the earliest possible date.

2. It is therefore necessary to curtail the leave which it was intended to grant to your ship's company.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1849A/22 to EAGLE) *See also p. 526*

D.A/S.W.  
Sub-Committee  
Meeting.

Admiralty's 1423A/16. Request following items may be included in Agenda:-  
1. Promulgation of full information about Whales including photographs.  
2. Winter employment of fighter catapult ships.  
3. Consideration of attack on convoy by torpedo carrying A/C bearing in mind limited range of merchant ship A/A armament.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1928A/22 to D.A/S.W.)

/PETUNIA ...

War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - contd.

PETUNIA.

Your 1605A/22. May PETUNIA now be released for escort duty in Western Approaches. (C. in C. W.A. 1937A/22 to Adty.)

PRINCE OF WALES.

PRINCE OF WALES, wearing the flag of Admiral Sir Tom Phillips, C. in C. Eastern Fleet designate, will leave the U.K. shortly for Singapore via the Cape.

2. Request you will inform C.N.O. (A.C.N.S. F. 1952A/22 to B.A.D. Washington)

Torpedoes for North Russia:

To ensure stock of torpedoes and avoid further possible delays to S/Ms proceeding to patrol, consider that (?further) 24 torpedoes should be shipped forthwith. Torpedoes from (?convoy) P.Q.one have not yet arrived from Archangel. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2015C/22 to F.O.S.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Responsibility for Standard Procedure.

Your 1633A/21 most helpful.  
2. Request you will make arrangements in paragraph 4 with Bevan.  
3. Please use normal book cyphers again. (Ad. Miles 1216D/22 to Adty.)  
A.M.1633/21. Message has been received from Admiral Miles requesting S.B.N.O. North Russia to become responsible for procedure laid down in para.3 of A.M.1859/30 August. (D.O.D.(H) 1751A/22 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Russian Loading and Liaison Officers.

Your 1220C/14. This is approved. Please wire names. Are these three to be in addition to Captain Morozovski and Chekin who are already in this country ?  
Admiral Kharlamov has been asked if Soviet Naval Transport Officers can be appointed as Liaison Officers to the convoys proceeding to and from Archangel. Such Soviet Officers to be in addition to the Soviet Officers at the ports of loading. (A.C.N.S. T. 1420A/22)

/T.U.C. ...

War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia - contd.NORMAN.  
T.U.C. delegation.

T.U.C. delegation is here and probably flies to Archangel tomorrow to embark in NORMAN.

2. Pass to S.N.O. Archangel.  
(Ad. Miles 1517D/22 to Adty.)

My 1517D/22. Delegation leaving here Friday.

2. Pass to S.B.N.O. Archangel.  
(Ad. Miles 2301D/22 to Adty.)Russian  
Persomel  
for U.K.

(1) Kouznetsov and party of 5 other men are to be given permits for (corrupt group) passage to U.K. in NORMAN.

(2) Ouspenskaia and another woman are to go in Q.P.2.

(3) These 8 persons have been ordered to make touch with you.

(Ad. Miles 1936D/22 to Adty. for S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Movements.O.9.

At 2000A/23 intend to sail Netherlands S/M O 9 escorted from Rothesay to Londonderry to arrive Lough Foyle 0800A/24A. N.O.i/c. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection. No Liaison Officer. (Capt. S.7 1044A/22)

EAGLE.

A.M.1944A/21. You should arrive at Bar Light vessel at noon 31st where pilot and two tugs will meet you two more tugs will meet you at Rock Light. Berth at Princes Stage for the night and keep steam. You will be required to leave the Stage at 0845/1 and proceed to Gladstone Dock. Six Tugs will be sent to assist you. Speed in Searched Channel must not exceed 9 knots.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1128A/22 to EAGLE)

~~1-524~~P.36  
SEAWOLF.

(i) Intend to sail P.36 escorted by CUTTY SARK at 1800A/24 for 342° Bishop Rock 7 miles, E.T.A. 2000A/26.

(ii) Thence CUTTY SARK to R/V with SEAWOLF in 180° Lizard Head 5 miles at 0715A/27 and escort her to Scapa, E.T.A. 0900A/31.

(iii) Thence P.36 dived by day through 50° N. 15° W. to patrol in Area enclosed by latitudes 50° and 51° N. and Longitudes 015° and 017° W.

(iv) P.36 will leave patrol area after dark on 2/11 November and proceed as ordered by Capt.

(S) 5th. (Capt. S.3. 1411A/22)

War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

H.31.

Sheerness departure H.31 at 1232 escorted by COTTESMORE to Dungeness. (C. in C. Nore 1524A/22)

A.F.D.14.

My 1330/21. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1616/22)

AURANIA.

Acknowledge E.T.A. 1400/23. Request Tug and Pilot. (AURANIA 1712A/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

4th M/S  
Flotilla.

Arrival S.O.4th M/S Flotilla in FITZROY with LYDD, CAPE NYEMETZKY, and CAVA and ELGIN. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1855/22 and 2135A/23 to A.C.O.S)

RAMILLIES.

RAMILLIES is to be ready to sail from Liverpool on 7/11. 2. Deck armouring is to be progressed as far as possible in the time available. (Controller 1902A/22.)

BADSWORTH.

Your 1853A/22. <sup>N.T. W.D.</sup> Unable to comply. Am proceeding fuel Merville. P.C.S. at 2000A, 054° 56' N. 010° 20' W., 069° 14. (BADSWORTH 2010A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

SALAMANDER.  
HALCYON.

Arrived Seidisfiord. (A.C.I.C. 2125/22.)

Force G.

1. (a) C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail Force G. from the Clyde to Freetown when stores and personnel have been embarked, which will not be before p.m. 24th, and to provide one additional long endurance destroyer as A/S escort to the vicinity of the Azores.  
(b) It is intended that ELECTRA and EXPRESS be detached to fuel at Ponta Delgada and that this additional destroyer should remain until they rejoin.  
(c) She should then fuel at Ponta Delgada, subsequently returning to U.K. as requisite.  
2. (a) F.O.C.N.A. is requested to detail one Fleet destroyer accompanying H.G.75 to break off as necessary and R/V with PRINCE OF WALES in 44° N. 27° W. at 1200 G.M.T./28th October.  
(b) Destroyer detailed should remain with PRINCE OF WALES while ELECTRA and EXPRESS are absent fuelling at Ponta Delgada.  
(c) When ELECTRA and EXPRESS have rejoined PRINCE OF WALES destroyer detailed should return to Gibraltar, fuelling at Ponta Delgada if necessary. (A.C.N.S. H. 2256A/22)

War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Interception  
of Trawlers  
and possible  
S/M.

Proceed with KUJAWIAK at 20 knots toward 050° N. 010° 20' W. where (?aircraft) is carrying out A/S patrol.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1038/22 to KRAKOWIAK)  
Attention is called to 510 A Z 6th Sept. Shift Watch to read Broadcast B.N. at 2300/22 at which time C. in C. W.A. is requested to take these Destroyers under his orders.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1328/22 to KRAKOWIAK, etc.)

Operation in  
Svaerholthavet.

SUFFOLK reports operation completed. Nothing sighted. Enemy air reconnaissance active to 75° North, but no striking force.  
(D.O.D. H. 2229A/22 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

British Air Activity.Patrols.

Catalina S.209 on return flight to U.K. is to be routed along Portuguese Coast, outside territorial limit during dark hours, for R/C of shipping to arrive Finisterre at dawn thence along Northern coast of Spain to 007° W. and thence to base.  
(H.Q.C.C. 1040/22 to 20 Group.)  
P.R.U. Oslo in operation.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1133/22)

Special  
Recognition  
Flares.  
(Operation  
"Newton")

1. Final trials of a new type of flare to be used by Naval vessels for identification purposes between ships and aircraft will take place on 29/10 or on the first suitable day thereafter.
2. The flares will be ignited from a destroyer or corvette. The effect is to be observed from an A/C. Details.  
(H.Q.16 Group to Bircham Newton)

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy  
S.L.89.

Long range aircraft may be operating in your vicinity. Attack may be expected.  
(D.D.I.C. 0957A/22 to Convoy Escorts.)

Dover bombed  
on 21/10.

Enemy aircraft dropped eight H.E. and some incendiary bombs in Dover at 1855 yesterday. One civilian killed and five seriously injured. Considerable damage to house property. No naval damage or casualties reported.  
(V.A. Dover 1008A/22)



War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - contd.CAPELLA  
attacked.(Swedish) Attacked by single enemy A/C in Nobracso Fiord at 1031 today. 4 bombs dropped, no apparent damage.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1042A/22)RASK  
(Norwegian)  
presumed  
sunk.My 2054A/21. Approximate position and time of attack should be 52° 12' N. 6° 16½' W. at 1930A/19, not 1930A/20.  
(N.O.I.C. Newport 1303A/22.)Scapa.At 1334 two gun sites identified E/aircraft over Flow at 20,000 feet, course E. Fighters failed to intercept. First plot received at 1344 when E/A was 54 miles E.S.E. of a buoy flying E. E/A would have seen into Flow.  
(A.C.O.S. 1535/22.)Lowestoft  
bombed.South Lowestoft bombed at 2040A/22 by single aircraft. A - D. Nil.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 2150A/22.)Mining.Sweeps in  
Straits of  
Dover.Sweeping carried out to 0800/22.  
In Q Z S 190 by S.A. Trawlers one mine exploded at 2108/21 within circle one mile radius about position 050° South Foreland 3.6 miles. Explosions heard but not seen.  
In Q Z S 191 by S.A. Trawlers negative result.  
In Q Z S 238 Oropesa and S.A. search in progress. Two acoustic mines detonated at 0850 in position 208° Dungeness 3.8 miles. Area is being reswept.  
(V.A. Dover 1021A/22.)Operation  
H.G.Arrived 1000 MANXMAN and WELSHMAN.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1033/22.)Forthcoming  
Operation.Sailed 1816 WELSHMAN MANXMAN.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1850/22 to C. in C. Portsmouth)  
My 1850. Add routed as follows to arrive outer end of QZS 169 at 0645/23.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 2022/22.)  
My 1850. E.T.A. point of arrival 0730.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 2233/22 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

/Clyde ...

War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Clyde.

River Clyde above Port Glasgow will be closed to navigation for a trial sweep between 0530 and 1130 tomorrow. No interference to normal traffic will result.  
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1127/22)

Bristol Channel.

Exploded red mine at 0828/22 in 314° 2 miles 2.6 cables from Flatholm Light.  
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1144A/22 and 1440A/22)

Minefield completed if final test is correct.  
(MANCHESTER CITY 1410/22 to D.T.M.)

S.N.24 C.

Arrival PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1720/22.)

Navigational.

Derelict.

Aircraft reports sighting wreckage of timber ship floating bottom upwards with stern blown off almost completely submerged constituting a danger to navigation in 56° 50' N. 23° 30' W. at 1433/21.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0021A/22)

Technical.

M/Vs as  
W/T Guards.

A.M.1640A/6/9. It is the intention that merchant ships in convoy fitted with suitable apparatus may be used for W/T Guards on the following services. Details and instructions.  
(Head of M. 0938A/22)

Anti-Oil  
Boiler  
Compounds.

With regard to escorts for O.G. and H.G. convoys, it is necessary to extend period between boiler cleanings of corvettes beyond that laid down in art. 239 E.M. and it may be necessary to extend period still further during winter. Trouble is being experienced with oil in boilers and it is strongly urged that early consideration be given to the use of boiler compounds for counteracting oil deposits on heating surfaces.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1931A/22 to Adty.)

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War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.POSEIDON.Sailed 0330/22. Vessel unable to anchor.  
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 0346A/22)ALDER  
(M/S Trawler)  
ashore.ALDER ashore Cairnbulg Briggs 0200/22. Crew taken off by Fraserburgh Lifeboat. No casualties. Tug EMPIRE ASH instructed by GLEANER to investigate. ABEILLE IV will endeavour refloat ALDER high water p.m. today.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0357/22)  
ALDER heavily ashore on Boulders, half a cable West of Cairnbulg Beacon. 15 degrees list to Starboard. Bows on to beach. Wind N.W. 6-7, heavy surf. Prospects of salvage dependent on weather conditions next 48 hours.  
(Salvage Officer, Aberdeen 1031/22)HARTINGTON  
(British,  
5496 Tons)Making second attempt to tow HARTINGTON from Lee Shore. Request tug be despatched forthwith. Position 214° Cape Wrath 10 miles. Close inshore.  
(MAZURKA 0601A/22)  
Second tow rope parted at 0650. HARTINGTON using both anchors in attempt to keep off lee shore. Position 215° Cape Wrath 8 miles.  
(MAZURKA 0715A/22)  
Sail FREEBOOTER to proceed with all despatch to assist HARTINGTON.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0715A/22 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)  
Sailing FREEBOOTER. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0810A/22.)  
HARTINGTON (?holding) well to both anchor positions at entrance Loch Inchar. Standing by waiting for Tug. (MAZURKA 1031A/22)  
HARTINGTON in tow. HARTINGTON reports extensive repairs required. Am therefore proceeding Clyde unless otherwise ordered.  
(FREEBOOTER 1315/22.)  
Situation satisfactory. Proceeding at utmost speed to rejoin convoy. (MAZURKA 1401A/22)CHERBOURGEOIS.  
SEINE.Rescue Tug CHERBOURGEOIS 3 immobilised till 2000/23, when temporary repairs will be completed. SEINE has sustained minor damage during towing operations. Ship apparently seaworthy but not considered advisable for SEINE to operate in heavy weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1231/22.)AMAZON.

Clyde arrival with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1549A/22.)

War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.ALAUNIA.

A.M.1158/16. ALAUNIA can be taken in hand for fitting for tropical service at Southampton, on 27/10.

2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ALAUNIA for Southampton in company with WOLFE and MALOJA if adequate arrangements for escort can be made.

3. Alternatively ALAUNIA should be given priority of sailing.

(A.C.N.S. (H.) 1147A/22)

H.X.155

Recommend convoy proceed at utmost speed during next 48 hours. (U.S. C.N.O. 1230/22.)

H.X.154.PORT AUCKLAND.

My 1137A/22. Report forthwith time at which PORT AUCKLAND left for Oban.

(C. in C. W.A. 1254A/22 to Escorts.)

Your 1254A/22. 1245A/22.

(VETERAN 1353A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

CARMENNA.

A.M.2022A/20. CARMENNA will be manned by civilians (over age).

(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1254/22.)

→ P.Q.3.  
Escort.

C.S.10 in KENYA, with 2 destroyers, is to provide ocean escort for convoy P.Q.3 and will be required to sail for Seidisfiord on about 29/10.

(C. in C. H.F. 1255A/22.)

P.W.D.54.

Arrived EMPIRE SPRING. PORTZIC towing MACADAM.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1302/22.)

→ P.Q.3.  
P.Q.4.

800 Polish Airmen now ready for passage to U.K. Request suitable ship may be included in P.Q.3 or P.Q.4.

(2) Since it takes about 3 weeks to assemble these men at Archangel, request early information of arrangements made.

(Ad. Miles 1526D/22 to Adty.)

War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

O.N.29.  
P.Q.3.

Sailing of CAPE CORSO and TREKIEVE for O.N.29 and P.Q.3 is delayed.

2. It is intended that these two ships shall sail for Hvalfiord escorted by two trawlers of 73rd M.S.F. Remaining trawler of this group is to R/V with O.N. 29 as arranged.

3. R/V for CAPE CORSO and TREKIEVE and the two trawlers is  $58^{\circ} 08' N.$   $005^{\circ} 43' W.$  at 0700/26.

4. A.C.O.S. is requested to detail and sail trawlers of 73rd M.S.F. as necessary.

5. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail CAPE CORSO and TREKIEVE as necessary.

6. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to arrange additional escort for ships for Iceland (C) breaking off from O.N.29.

7. A.C.I.C. is requested to delay sailing of P.Q.3 until CAPE CORSO, TREKIEVE and trawlers are ready.

(D.O.D.(H) 1414A/22)

E.C.89

Will not arrive Sheringham before 0230 and 62 D. buoy before 1530 tomorrow if present weather continues. (VIMIERA 1626A/22)

O.N.28.

Ships for Gulf of St. Lawrence are not to use Belle Isle Strait but are to be detached at V. (C. in C. W.A. 1706A/22.)

C.E.51.

Convoy completed passage without incident. (C. in C. Nore 1735A/22.)

S.L.89.

C. in C. Plymouth 1242A/22. S.L.89 is steering for (D) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles and thence as in my 1518A/22.

(C. in C. W.A. 1747/22 to KRAKOWIAK)

Take KUJAWIAK and KRAKOWIAK under your orders on joining S.L.89.

(C. in C. W.A. 1847A/22 to VANQUISHER.)

Not met. Searched 20 miles back along course line then 10 miles to southwards. Now searching along course line Latitude  $51^{\circ} 16'$  Longitude  $15^{\circ} 20'$ . (VANQUISHER 2001A/22)

/Convoy ...

War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Convoy.

Not met. In radio telephony communication.  
Convoy 30 miles (corrupt group) (corrupt group)  
me. (BEAGLE 1800A/22.)

O.N.28.

My 0900A. <sup>N.T. & W.T.</sup> Repairs completed. Intend sailing  
0930 to overtake O.N.28.  
(VENOMOUS 1839A/22)

East Coast  
Southbound  
Convoys.

Request escorts of Southbound convoys may be  
instructed not to pass B.8 buoy before 0930  
until after 26/10.  
(C. in C. Nore 2325A/22 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Sailings  
to  
Gibraltar.

My 1530/19 / sailings to Gibraltar may be resumed but strict instructions are to be given to masters to proceed inside territorial waters including passage through Cabezos passage if possible. (F.O.C.N.A. 1204/22 to Consuls Lisbon, Huelva, Cadiz, Seville).  
/ Not to Admiralty 1027A/23 from F.O.C.N.A. says this message is passed for information.

Convoy  
H.G. 75.

My 1620A/18. Date of sailing H.G. 75 should be selected so that maximum A/S escort can be provided. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1233A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.) Departures ROCHESTER, ARIGUANI, LAMERTON, BLUEBELL, HELIOTROPE, CARNATION, CAMPION, MALLOW, LA MALOUINE, COMMANDANT DUBOC with H.G. 75. Local escort until prudent limit of endurance, COSSACK, LEGION, VIDETTE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1702A/22). Your 1233A/22 convoy has formed up 17 ships. Escorts (as 1702A/22). (F.O.C.N.A. 1720A/22 to Admty.)

Rescue tug  
SALVONIA.

In view of present convoy routes there is urgent need for seagoing rescue tug to be stationed at Azores or Funchal. Only tugs suitable have recently been in commission. Proposed to return SALVONIA to her owners for management in order that she will revert to merchant status. SALVONIA will retain her defensive armament but her crew will be discharged from Naval Service and D.E.M.S. ratings would wear plain clothes in port. Request you will confirm there is no objection to basing SALVONIA at Azores or Funchal. (Hd. of M. 1237A/22 to N.A. Lisbon).

FRONSAC.  
~~RUONOT BRETIC.~~  
COETLOGON.  
~~SANT BRIEUC~~

Arrival 22nd. (Barcelona 1253/22).

Patrol.

Situation 1959A HILARY patrolling H.X.3.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1306A/22).

DOMINE.

Fernado Po 14/10 for Tenerife or Las Palmas and probably Cadiz. First Class Spanish passenger Ursula De Armas suspected of carrying German (? Italian) mails. Search thoroughly baggage and quarters. (F.O.C.N.A. 1547A/22 to S & A., N.A)

/EUGENIO C.....

War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.EUGENIO C.

My 1913/21, Italian vessel referred to arrived Bilbao 22/10 date of departure and destination unknown.

2 German armed trawlers sighted from Bilbao Harbour 21/10 22/10 apparently on patrol. (Bilbao (Graham) 1725/22 to Admty.)

Part of  
German  
torpedo  
recovered.

BLUEBELL recovered part German Torpedo in 310 Spartel Four. Is detailed report required. (F.O.C.N.A. 1816/22 to Admty.)

A/C's for  
AUDACITY.

C. in C. W.A. 1854A/21 para 2.

1. Formation of new 802 Squadron will entail provision of additional accommodation, equipment and stores which are not available at Gibraltar.
2. Request proposed complement be signalled so that matter can be investigated. (F.O.C.N.A. 1852A/22 to Adty.)

Signalling.

Based on experience in "Callboy" it is considered desirable delivery groups to be used on Gibraltar broadcast as follows. (F.O.C.N.A. 1858A/22).

South Atlantic.

R.F.A.  
DARKDALE.

R.F.A. DARKDALE exploded spontaneously at 0015/22 turned over and sank in 5 minutes. There are 9 survivors of whom 2 were on board at the time. Names and details follow together with such evidence as can be obtained. (General St. Helena 0300/22 to Adty.)

Captain of DARKDALE was ashore and considers loss of vessel may be due to enemy action. Latter impossible to confirm until evidence has been examined. (General St. Helena 0345/22).

/Distress.....



War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

Distress  
message.

My 1632/21. Amend para. 2 to read:-  
(2) Ship failed to pass message by direct method on H/F. Message read Jacobs W/T Stn., from Ship's broadcast on H/F.  
(N.O.I/C Simonstown 0459Z/22 to Adty., C. in C.E.I.)

Convoy  
W.S.12.

My 1249N/18 to DEVONSHIRE only. (N.T. in W.D.)  
Fuel is not now available at St. Helena and U-boat suspected off that island. If fuel permits you should continue with convoy fuelling at Simonstown. If this not practicable you should fuel at Walvis Bay.  
PRINCE BAUDOIN has been ordered to reduce speed as necessary to proceed to Walvis Bay direct.  
(C. in C.S.A., 0953N/22, to DEVONSHIRE.)

LAVENDER  
BERGAMOT.

Your 1309/21 approved.  
(C. in C.S.A.1058N/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)  
Visit to Pernambuco (A) LAVENDER and BERGAMOT (B) 1230 G.M.T./27 (C) 24 hours or till repairs complete (D) shore assistance to remetal one spare main crank head bearing (E) nil (F) 30 each I contractor to board. Please inform Consul Pernambuco.  
(R.A.S.A.D., 2037Z/22 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)

Frequency  
for U.S.  
escort.

C. in C.S.A., 1125N/22 to B.A.D. Washington.

BIRMINGHAM.

Visit (a) R.A.S.A.D., in BIRMINGHAM (b) 1230 G.M.T./30. (c) 48 hours if Ambassador thinks desirable. (d) defects to main circulators. (J) R.A.S.A.D., BIRMINGHAM, ARNDALE, ASTURIAS.. Understand POTARO due 30/10 has mails.  
Corvettes proceeding to North with BROOMDALE have had engine defects. Possible S.O. may ask permission to visit Bahia or Pernambuco.  
(R.A.S.A.D., 1203Z/22 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)

BALTAVIA.

Expect to complete discharge BALTAVIA by A.M./24, ship will be sailed same day for Freetown in accordance with your 1439N/23/9.  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 1418Z/22 to C. in C.S.A.)

/PANTEGLIS.....

War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.PANTEALIS.  
South  
African.  
R.O.'s.

Admiralty 1152/18. Failure of R.O. to report PANTEALIS was due to fact that R O had gone on leave without informing S.O.(I). Since outbreak of war this was only the second time. A vesca should have been made from Luderitz. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1737B/22.)

Troop  
movements.

Following appears to be position in regard to movement from South Africa to M.E., up to middle November.  
(D. of S.T. 1819A/22.)

U boat  
sightings.

Your 0235/20. The 3rd 6th and 8th reports were the only ones already received in Adty. Value of such reports would be much enhanced if they could be passed to us here as early as possible.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1907A/22 to C. in C.S.A.)

SEVERN.

Arrival 1610/22. Nothing to report.  
(NO.I.C. Freetown 2349N/22.)

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET      M E S S A G E      1752/22 October      IN

From Gov. & C. in C.      Date      22/10/41  
Gibraltar.      Recd.      2055CYPHER

Addressed The War Office.

IMMEDIATE

04031. 9718 cipher. 22/10.

I am finding difficulty in assessing my responsibilities for North Front Aerodrome. In your 85572 (M.O.4) of 22/8 am instructed to expect 120 aircraft per month and maximum daily No.20. Now hear privately it is the intention of Air Ministry to pass up to 175 aircraft per month through here but have had no cable informing me personally about this proposed increase. I have also seen another cable from C. in C. Western Approaches in which he speaks of intention to base a new 802 Sqdn. on Gibraltar as well as disembarked personnel from AUDACITY. As these and other kindred proposals almost inevitably entail additional accommodation and other arrangements I should be grateful if I might be kept informed of these plans in good time so that I can express my views. It was for this reason that I despatched my 7882 on 5/8.

1752/22

Recd. by hand from War Office  
at 1140/23.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(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 P.(2)

D.N.A.D.

E.P.S.

Hd. of M.

W.D.

I.P.(2)

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

To:- S.D.4 (for action)

Copies circulated by War Office:-

C.I.G.S.

V.C.I.G.S.

D.M.O. &amp; P.

D.S.D.

D.D.M.O.(O)

D.D.S.D.

M.O.1.4.5.

S.D.4.

F.W.3.

Air Ministry (6)

War Reg. Admiralty.

War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Air Raid  
on Naples  
16/17 Oct.

Photographs. Bomb damage Naples caused night 16/17 Oct. Royal Arsenal 4 wings main building destroyed by fire. Small adjoining building burnt out. Other buildings damaged. Torpedo factory 2 craters near S.E. corner. Buildings probably damaged by blast. No damage I.M.A. M. Factory or marshalling yards roundhouse roof damaged by blast.

S/M sighted  
0720/21.  
S/M sighted  
0855/21.

0720 1 submarine 29 miles N.E. Kerkennah course E.S.E. dived on aircrafts approach. 0855 hours 1 submarine half mile east Syracuse heading Augusta 5 knots. 0720 hours 1 M/V 4000 tons 1 probable tanker 5000 tons N.E. Ras Maamoura. (Cape Boh) north east course along coast 6/8 knots. 6 Blenheims despatched attack above M/V and tanker sighted and attacked 1210 hours 2 ships closer in shore 1 M/V 1500 tons 1 schooner 600 tons possibly carrying petrol 5 miles behind. Position 7 miles N.E. Ras Maamoura heading north 5 knots. Total bombs dropped 6000 lbs.

French  
S.S. DIVONA  
(1530t)  
sunk.

Direct hits M/V schooner. Schooner blew up tremendous explosion sank 2 minutes. M/V left blazing amidships. Bridgework giving off column black smoke. M/V identified French DIVONA markings on reverse side to attacks. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 0147/22.)

Raid on  
Naples  
21/22/10.

24 Wellingtons attacked storage depot Naples 1917/21 to 0043/22. Total bombs dropped 38 tons. Incendiaries started fires in target area later increased by H.E. bombs to 1 enormous fire 400 yards square with flames up to 1,000 feet and smoke 12,000 feet visible 80 miles away. Squadron newly arrived from operations over Germany State biggest they have seen. Other smaller fires started round target area many buildings demolished railway station well on fire great destruction by 4,000 lb. bombs. Return journey started fires Catania Nicosia and centre Sicily. Opposition ineffective. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 0925/22.)

CAPO PINO.

Reported Italian S.S. CAPO PINO 5,000 tons sailed from Trieste for Istanbul about 10/10, Grade B2. (N.A. Istanbul 1307/22.)

/Assistance....

War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.Assistance  
to Yugoslav  
Guerillas.

Following from C's of S., No. 186 to C's in C M.E., and Med.

1. Since the despatch of C's of S. No. 182 to which we have as yet received no reply, Yugoslav Authorities have made a further most pressing appeal for despatch of arms to their guerilla bands numbering from 80 to 100,000 men now fighting in Yugoslavia. Request is for 400 Bren Guns, 70 Trench Mortars, 100,000 hand grenades, revolvers, together with ammunition, medical stores for 10,000 wounded urgently required.
2. Transportation difficulties are realised, but we urge the importance of doing anything which is in any way possible for these people who are fighting for their lives.
3. Telegraph urgently what you propose and if we can help.  
(See to 1st. S.L. 1357A/22 to C. in C.Med.)

TETRARCH.

TETRARCH is to proceed to U.K. calling at Gibraltar as necessary. Further instructions as to destination will be issued by Admiralty.  
(Capt.(S) 1645B/22 to Capt.(S) 10.)

Orders for  
TRUANT  
TRUSTY  
THORN.

Cancel my 1731B/19. Operation B.S. Para. 19, bring into force Condition B. S/M's are to proceed as follows H.M.S. TRUANT to patrol in Adriatic in accordance with orders issued by Capt. S.10. TRUSTY to area P 037° 08' 020° 05' 340° 80 70 remain west of 019° 12' until 2200B/22. THORN to proceed Alexandria through following positions.  
(a) 034° 30' 024° 12' (b) 034° 07' 026° 22'  
(c) 033° 02' 028° 48'.  
THORN endeavour to pass position 036° 18' 021° 28' and position (c) about noon 23rd and 26th respectively and adjust speed to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 0500B/27. PORPOISE is routed to Alexandria through positions 033° 50' 025° 53' and 032° 32' 028° 44' arriving A.M./26.  
(Capt. (S) 1 1651B/22 to THORN, TRUANT, TRUSTY.)

VENDETTA.

Your 0241Z 20 not to Admiralty. VENDETTA is proceeding to Singapore to refit in accordance with Admiralty instructions.  
(?C. in C. Med., 1716B/22 to C. in C. China.)

/URGE .....

541

War Diary.22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.URGE  
2 ships  
hit.Moving East. 2 ships hit off Kuriat.  
(URGE 1910A/22 to Capt. (S) 10.)TYNEFIELD.

My 0927B/5 Canal Company are ready to proceed with cutting away and removal of stern of TYNEFIELD in co-operation with Fleet Salvage Officer. They await guarantee of indemnification in advance for cost of work. Engines are in stern portion and believed to be in good condition.

-N.O.I.C. pass to Fleet Salvage Officer.  
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1945B/22 to Adty.)JUPITER.

Your 2029B/22. Position, Course and speed 031° 36' N., 029° 35' E., 180° 20 knots. Intend continuing. (JUPITER 2113B/22 to C. in C.Med., KANDAHAR.)

Air  
Operations.21/10. 6 Enemy raiders approached Island 1735 hours. Two crossed coast dropped bombs land and sea. No casualties or damage. 1141 hours approximately 12 raiders over Island great height. 4 Macchi 200's dived and machine gunned Ta Kal Aerodrome from 1,000 feet. 2 civilians and 1 airman very slightly wounded. No other damage. Damage to Tripoli recent raids. Many buildings especially Spanish Quay area damaged. Crater on road near Spanish Mole caused certain damage to surrounding buildings. Night Oct. 21/22. Six Blenheims high altitude attack barracks Homs. Total bombs dropped 4,780 lbs. Burst seen among buildings in target area.  
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 2125/22.)Soviet ships  
from Black  
Sea.My 1111/21. H.M. Ambassador should be kept fully informed of all arrangements.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2132A/22 to N.A.Angora for Ad.Kelly.)OTTO LEONHARDENow loading iron ore and Aniseed expected sailing any time possibly direct possibly via Taragona for Genoa.  
(Valencia 2145/22 to M. of W.T.)Transports  
Malta to  
Gibraltar.Following transports sailed 1000/22 for Gibraltar - EMPIRE GUILLEMOT no passengers or cargo has oil for 30 days steaming. Will require water and provisions. CITY OF LINCOLN passengers for U.K. no cargo. Has oil for 10 days steaming, will require oil and water. DUNEDIN STAR passengers all for U.K. Has Diesel Oil for 26 days' steaming.  
(D.S.T.O. Malta 2350A/22 to D. of S.T., F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary22.10.1941.  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesM.V. PACIFIC  
(Swedish)

- (1) left Aden 20/9 for Calcutta.
  - (2) A ship resembling her was reported off Cochin on 12/10 flying not under control signal.
  - (3) Passing ships were informed and a Catalina Aircraft sent to search. PACIFIC has also been called by W/T. All without result.
  - (4) Ship must be regarded as missing no corroborative evidence of raider.
- (C. in C. E.I., 0644Z/22 to Admty.)

LEONARDO DA  
VINCI.

<sup>P.483</sup>  
My 1243/20. Ship arrived.  
(S.O. (I) Bombay 0846Z/22.)

POLYPHEMUS

<sup>P.205</sup>  
A.M. 2342A/21. POLYPHEMUS arrived.  
(D.D.I.C. 1134A/22)

AUSTRALIA

Colombo departure 1005Z/22 (1005Z/22)  
(S.O.(I) Colombo 1206Z/22.)

ChinaContraband  
Control in  
event of  
War with  
Japan.

- Cancel my 1956/13/4. In event of war with Japan compulsory Ship Navicert system will not be introduced in Pacific until after consultation and agreement with U.S. Govt.
2. For purposes of Contraband Control enemy territory will be whole Japanese Empire, Indo China and whole China coast excluding Macao and the International Settlement and French concession at Shanghai.
  3. Ships bound for or carrying cargo consigned to enemy territory as defined in para 2 or to Thailand, Macao, the International Settlement or the French concession at Shanghai should be sent in to a British port for Contraband Control.
  4. Philippines, N.E.I. and French Pacific Islands should be treated in the same way as Hong Kong, Sarawak, North Borneo and British Pacific Islands for which shipments should be allowed without restriction as to consignee or quantity provided circumstances do not suggest they will fall into Japanese hands, Pacific ports of U.S.S.R. will be left for decision at the time.

War Diary22.10.1941.  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSChinaContraband  
Control  
in event of  
War with  
Japan.  
-Contd.

5. Enemy export control will only be exercised if and when reprisals order in Council is extended to Japan. Until that time ships found carrying goods of enemy origin are to be reported to Admty. at first opportunity giving details of such goods. Nothing in this alters instructions now in force regarding Vichy ships sailing from Indo-China to Madagascar.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2133A/22 to C. in C. China & E.I.)

America & West IndiesPASTEUR

Sailed U.K. 17/10 with following personnel on board.  
(D. of S.T. 0746/22 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

S. & R.  
Class S/M's.

Your 1151A/11 addressed B.A.R.M. Spare gear for submarines is ready awaiting shipment as follows. Request instruction.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 1031R/22 to Admty.)

PORT DARWIN

(British) ex O.N. 24. Destination Melbourne caught fire No. 5 hold 19/10. arrived St. Johns 21/10. Fire under control some damage to cargo slight damage to vessel.  
(N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F. 1325Z/22 to Admty.)

ROSTHERN

N.O.I.C. Greenock 1826A/21 and C. in C. W.A. 1943A/21 not to all addressees. Request ROSTHERN may be sent to Tobermory to replace MOOSEJAW.  
(C.C. Newfoundland, 1409Z/22.)

EMPIRE MORN  
BRITISH  
INDUSTRY.

ex S.C. 50 arrived 21/10. Minor damage due to heavy weather.  
(N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F. 1458Z/22.)

/HARDWICKE....



War Diary.

22.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

HARDWICKE  
GRANGE.

(9000 tons) Ran ashore Diamond Rock Northern entrance of Gulf of Paria a.m./21. Ship was got off in evening by Naval craft and harbour tug and is now in Port of Spain anchorage bow aground drawing 40 feet forward. Cargo of 9000 tons meat, number 1 and 3 holds flooded, Fear most of cargo will be lost.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1640Q/22).

Frequency for  
U.S. escort.

Your 1125/22. U.S. Authorities concur and have informed escort accordingly.  
(B.A.D. Washington, 1809R/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

JAMES<sup>E</sup> HUGHES.  
BARWICK.

Your 1605A/22. These tugs are now due Julianehaab 23/10 and are being instructed by G.B.M.S. to remain Julianehaab for further orders.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1943Z/22 to Admty.)

PASTEUR  
Convoy  
T.C. 14 A.

Your 1652A/21. Request approval for embarking full capacity of military and air force personnel in PASTEUR at Halifax 3/11 to sail for U.K. 4/11. If CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS can be completed in time is she to sail with this convoy, using only accommodation for 100. Propose designating this convoy T.C. 14 A.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2011Z/22 to Admty.)

ASTURIAS.  
DERWENTDALE.

My 1632Q/15 ASTURIAS and DERWENTDALE will not sail from Trinidad until 25/10.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2122Q/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

NEWCASTLE.

When ready for sea B.A.R.M. is requested to sail NEWCASTLE to Bermuda manned in accordance with A.M. 2217/3.  
2. C. in C. A. and W.I. is requested to arrange for NEWCASTLE to work up at Bermuda for seven days and then sail her for U.K.  
3. One Walrus aircraft only should be embarked at Bermuda.  
4. On arrival in U.K. intend that ship should, if circumstances permit, give 21 days' leave in one watch to personnel remaining in ship. Some adjustment to complement will then be effected.  
5. Ship will then work up at home with H. F.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2142A/22).

War Diary22.10.1941.  
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNew ZealandLE TRIOMPHANT

- (i) Intend leave Suva a.m./31 arriving Auckland, p.m./2/11.
- (ii) During stay Auckland it will be necessary to make good following additional defects recently developed: Estimated time about 8 days.
- (iii) Suggest opportunity to call at Singapore may be taken for hull scraping after 5 months out of dock and make tight oil tanks which are seriously leaking. Estimated time 4 or 5 days.
- (iv) Request programme may be amended accordingly. (LE TRIOMPHANT 0500Z/22)

WAITAKI

Have you any news of WAITAKI due Bluff 14/10 from Melbourne.  
(D.T.D., 1820A/22 to D.N.I. Wellington)

War Diary22.10.1941.  
WednesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedAURANIA  
(Torpedoed  
21/10.)H.M.S. AURANIA's P.C. and S. at 1400A/21 051°  
38' N., 016° 21' W. 062° 10 knots.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0056A/22 to BADSWORTH)Convoy  
S.L. 89  
ASPHODEL SERBINO  
Sunk.  
TREVERBYN  
Missing.Convoy attacked 2105A/21 in 051° 28' N., 018°  
55' W. by one S/M TREVERBYN sunk. Some  
survivors in ASPHODEL. ASPHODEL looking for  
survivors (f) U-Boat was sighted twice at 2155  
and 2227 at which time one torpedo was reported  
to have passed through convoy.  
(WELLINGTON 1201A/22)  
My 1201A/22 SERBINO torpedoed and sunk not  
TREVERBYN ASPHODEL has 47 survivors. No sign  
of TREVERBYN.  
(WELLINGTON 1431A/22 to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)VANCOUVER  
ISLANDYour 1517Z/21. No information re survivors or  
vessel. Will signal when news received.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1324A/22)Submarines Reported0955 G.M.T.  
near S.L. 89.D/F at 0955/22 G.M.T. on 10510 kc/s indicates  
that U-Boat is in vicinity of convoy S.L. 89.  
(D.D.I.C. 1145A/22 to escort of S.L. 89.)

1210C/20.

Bearing by D/F on 5882 kc/s at 1210C/20 U-Boat  
068° 34' 039° 52' Admty. pass to SUFFOLK.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1246C/20 to Admty.)

1201 G.M.T.

By D/F 57° 50' N., 7° 20' E. unreliable fix,  
probably Northward bound.  
(D.D.I.C., 1421A/22.)

1445

Am over enemy submarine in 51° 30' N., 16° 0' W.  
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on  
surface and observed to submerge when first  
sighted was on course 150° speed 3 knots.  
(A/C 9 G.X.F. 1445/22)Estimated U-Boat dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1504A/22)

/Am over....

War Diary22.10.1941.  
WednesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.

Am over enemy submarine in 51° 28' N., 16° 19' W  
(A/C 7 L.Z.A. 1525/22.)

0600

Master of Portuguese trawler ACOR reports sighting U-Boat on surface 300° Cape St. Vincent 6 miles steering N.W. speed 9 knots at 0600/22 also 4 engine German bomber in same position same time. F.O.C.N.A.  
(IMPERIALIST 1630Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A.,/1757A/22 to S. and A., N.A.S.)

Submarines AttackedBy A/C  
1040

In 52° 23' N., 16° 18' W. Estimate hits nil.  
(A/C 7 L.Z. 1040/22)

By A/C  
1150

In 52° 18' N., 17° 49' W. hits nil.  
(A/C 7 L.Z.F. 1150/22.)

By BROADWATER  
17/10.

Preliminary report of attack on U-Boat by BROADWATER in 57° N., 24' (°) W. at Approx 0430/17. All records were lost when BROADWATER was torpedoed and facts were obtained verbally from C.O.  
At 0400 BROADWATER on Port Beam of Convoy, Course 090° Speed 6½ knots. Tanker 2 miles on Starboard Beam torpedoed. 0426 H.E. bearing 190° held for 2 minutes. Altered towards and increased to 12 knots. 0429 U-Boat sighted bearing Green 60. U-Boat was turning to Starboard inside BROADWATER turning circle but at 0430 straightened up and steered away on a zig zag course at approximately 18 knots. 0431 U-Boat started diving one cable ahead turning to port. BROADWATER passed over swirl hand to starboard to throw stern over U-Boat. Dropped 3 depth charges set to 100 feet. Charge from port thrower appeared well placed and four explosions were distinctly heard, last being loudest. Failed to regain contact and three Corvettes, just arrived names unknown also failed. Patch of oil 75 yards diameter appeared over position of depth charges. BROADWATER rejoined convoy at 0930. Consider this U-Boat was possibly destroyed. (Capt. (D) Londonderry, 1930/22.)

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      |
| <br>             |                             |
| 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.

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Equipment  
for U.S.S.R.

Owing to the bursting through frost of radiators in prime movers, landed at Archangel from U.K. in temperatures as low as 12° F. without being drained, orders have been given that all vehicles, prime movers and generators in ships of Convoy P.Q.2 are to be examined and if full are to be drained.

RAMILLIES.  
R. SOVEREIGN.

These ships are to proceed to the Indian Ocean after 7/11.

Co-operation  
with U.S.A.

(U.S.) C. in C. Atlantic has issued instructions that in case Axis heavy raiders should gain open sea without prior detection, U.S. heavy covering groups at Bermuda, Argentia (2 groups) and Iceland at 6 hours notice, shall take up positions to cooperate with the British Fleet.

Convoys.

Revised instructions were issued today regarding evasive alterations of course by ocean convoys.

C.E. 54  
shelled.

Convoy C.E. 54 was behind time and a large part of it passed Dover in daylight this morning. Visibility was occasionally extreme. Enemy batteries fired some 19 rounds at the convoy, but no ships were hit although 15 rounds fell amongst the convoy.

O.S.9  
scattered.

Convoy O.S.9 has again been badly scattered by a violent northwesterly gale. ANTWERP is proceeding to the Azores, short of fuel, and the fuel situation of all the other escorts is becoming serious. The position of the convoy is approx. 45° 52' N. 23° 18' W. at 1500Z.

S.L.89.  
Attack by  
enemy  
destroyers  
possible.

It is reported (B.2) that PRINZ EUGEN is due to leave Brest today. Two destroyers were sighted at sea off La Pallice at 1230 today; this, combined with reports of mine sweeping activity lends colour to correctness of the report. Alternatively, attack on S.L. 89 by destroyers alone may be intended.

War Diary.

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

5 aircraft attacked the enemy battlecruisers at Brest last night and 18 aircraft attacked the docks at Le Havre.

North and South Atlantic.

Diversion of independent ships.

Fresh instructions regarding the diversion of ships sailing independently in the North and South Atlantic, to avoid known dangers, came into force at 0001 G.M.T. today.

North Atlantic.

The Spanish authorities are objecting to the measures taken to protect Gibraltar harbour against a repetition of attack by submarines.

The Admiralty today emphasise the value of the trawler patrol employed on Contraband Control off the coast of Portugal.

South Atlantic.

Operation "Corridor".

Force F (DUNEDIN, VIMY, BRILLIANT) and 2 Sunderlands commenced today a search of Cape Verde Islands for U-boats.

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

5 Blenheims attacked Cotrone Chemical Works this morning.

Italian  
A.M.C.  
sunk.

C. in C. Med. reports that at 1314/14 UNIQUE *claimed* torpedoed an armed merchant cruiser of the CITTA DI GENOVA class in 40° 26' N. 14° 20' E. The vessel appears to have sunk later. *(Not confirmed.)*

At 1028 today 4 Blenheims attacked and report having seriously damaged a 2000 ton merchant vessel 50 miles 300° Marittimo.

One Wellington bombed Naples last night and reported fires from previous raids still burning.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

U-boats are active along the Western Desert coast and on the Alexandria - Port Said shipping route but operations by destroyers have not yet succeeded in disposing of any of them.

4 Wellingtons attacked shipping at Tripoli last night, apparently with some success.

4 Wellingtons attacked the harbour works at Benghazi last night.

Greece.

C. in C. Med. today declared an area dangerous due to British mines, in the approaches to the Gulf of Aegina (Piraeus).

U-Boat Campaign.

H.G. 75  
COSSACK  
torpedoed.

COSSACK was reported torpedoed at 2255Z today in 35° 36' N. 10° 4' W. The forward part was completely wrecked; the after part was taken in tow but sank on 27/10. COSSACK was engaged in escorting Convoy H.G.75 at the time.



War Diary.

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of  
V.A.2.H.F.

The Flag of V.A.2 is to be transferred from PRINCE OF WALES to DUKE OF YORK at 0900/24. (C. in C. H.F. 1057A/23).  
Your 1057A/23. All accommodation in DUKE OF YORK is required for trial parties. Suggest, as no accommodation is available for V.A.2 and staff that they proceed on leave, joining DUKE OF YORK at Scapa about 5/11. (C. in C. Rosyth 1815/23 to C. in C. H.F.)  
C. in C. Rosyth's 1815/23. Request approval for V.A.2 to hoist his flag in RENOWN. (C. in C. H.F. 2309A/23 to Admty.)

BEAUFORT.

On completion of satisfactory trials request you will sail BEAUFORT for Scapa to work up prior to joining Mediterranean Fleet. (D.O.D. H. 1250A/23 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

COLTSFOOT.

Allocation COLTSFOOT to Liverpool is cancelled and ship is to join North Atlantic Command. COLTSFOOT is to proceed to Greenock on completion of working up and F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to report earliest date ship will be ready to proceed abroad. (C. in C. W.A. 1501A/23).

Norwegian  
Liaison  
Officer.

Norwegian Naval authorities have suggested that a Norwegian Liaison Officer might be acceptable to you on your staff. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1804A/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

INCHKEITH.  
SANDA.  
KILLEGRAY.  
SCARBA.

When worked up and ready for sea, request you will sail Trawlers INCHKEITH, SANDA, KILLEGRAY and SCARBA to New Zealand. Route. Ships are expected to be ready to sail late December. (Head of M. 2020A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Co-operation  
in event of  
heavy units  
breaking out.

The C. in C. Atlantic has issued instructions to his major subordinate Commanders that in case Axis heavy raiders should gain open sea without prior detection U.S. heavy covering groups on 6 hours notice shall initially proceed toward positions in readiness upon receiving code words KASKASKIA SANDUSKY namely Bermuda group lat. 40 long. 40 both Argentinia groups lat. 50 long. 40 and Iceland Group lat. 60 long. 30. He assumes that under such circumstances similar British Groups based in Home waters will probably proceed initially toward positions in readiness 1 to southwestward another either to westward or southward. (Opnav 22524/23 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2035/23rd October IN

FROM: No. 50 Military Mission, Russia. Date 23.10.41  
Recd:2335

**MOST SECRET**  
~~CIPHER~~

ADDRESSED: The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE

04331 K.33. cipher 23/10.

Chiefs of Staff from Macfarlane.

You should see Ambassador's telegram 14 to Foreign Office at once. It puts the situation from this angle very clearly. These points stand out.

- (a) The tragic pity that Iskay and I did not (repeat not) get our talk with Stalin and Shaposgnikov.
- (b) The fact that Russians cannot or will not understand what they regard as our inactivity in this crisis.
- (c) The fact that Molotov and Kremlin run all higher (? direction of ) war and strategy is dealt with between Molotov and Ambassador at a meeting arranged primarily for Sir. W. Citrine.

Ambassador has naturally discussed whole question fully with me and I am in complete agreement with him. I give you my opinion which reflects the local situation and our psychology. I give it only as an opinion to help you appreciate. Message ends.

2035/23

Received from War Office 1145/24.

Advance copies sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H) D.D.I.C.  
War Office Distribution:-

1st Lord.	Copies to: S.of S.
1st S.L.	C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	V.C.I.G.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.M.O.& P.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.D.M.O.(O)
N.A. 1st S.L.	M.O.1.5.12.
P.A.S.(S)	S.D.1.
D.O.D.(F)	D.M.I.
D.D.O.D.(F)	D.D.M.I.(I)
D.O.D.(H)	M.I.3.3c.14.(J.I.C.).6.(2).
D.D.O.D.(H)	(3)
D. of P.(2)	Brigadier Firebrace. (Room09)
Duty Capt.(2)	Col.Thompson.M.O.1.JP.
E.P.S.	Col.Shoosmith (Cabinet Offices)
Hd. of M. (10)	(2)
I.P.(2)	Col. Jacob. (Cabinet Offices)
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.	Foreign Office. (Mr.Cavendish
W.D.	Bentinck).
D.N.I.(4)	Admiralty (War Registry).
D.D.I.C.	C.N.S.Admiralty.
	N.I.D.16 Admiralty.
	Air Ministry AI.3A(i) for
	S/L Williams).

War Diary.

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

ALAUNIA.  
WOLFE.  
MALOJA.

My 1912A/21. Request you will sail ALAUNIA, WOLFE, and MALOJA to Southampton.  
2. Capt. D. Londonderry is to sail IBIS and ABERDEEN to R/V with these A.M.Cs as arranged by F.O.i/c Greenock.  
3. A.M.Cs are to be sailed to arrive off Lizard at daylight 28th when IBIS will be relieved by a Destroyer detailed by C. in C. Portsmouth.  
4. On relief IBIS is to return direct to Londonderry at best speed and boiler clean.  
5. ABERDEEN is to provide escort to Needles if required returning direct to Londonderry.  
6. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to order ABERDEEN to part company and return to Londonderry as soon as circumstances permit.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0013A/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Your 1912A/21 and 0013A/23 and A.M.1147A/22.  
One destroyer from Portsmouth will be available to reinforce escort off Lizard for passage up Channel. Request time of R/V. Ships should be routed through 180° St. Catherines 20 miles to arrive at the end of Q Z S 169 at dawn.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1103A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

PRINCE OF WALES.

Scapa departure V.A.2. in PRINCE OF WALES with ELECTRA and EXPRESS.  
(A.C.O.S. 0707A/23)

Force G.

Admiralty 2256A/22.  
(i) Para.(1) (a) HESPERUS detailed.  
(ii) S.O. A/S Escort. ELECTRA.  
(iii) Route. (a) 055° 45' N. 008° W. (b) 055° 45', 017°. (c) 050° 20', 026°. (d) 044° 027'.  
(vi) N.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Londonderry are requested to sail ships accordingly.  
(vii) F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue onward route from position (d).  
(C. in C. W.A. 1249A/23.)

RAMILLIES.  
ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

RAMILLIES and ROYAL SOVEREIGN are required to proceed to the Indian Ocean.  
2. Stores and provisions are to be embarked by 7/11 to maximum capacity, subject to not interfering with fighting efficiency.  
3. A Minimum of 44 days' sea victualling is to be included.  
(4th S.L. 1622A/23.)

PICTOU.

Repeat your P.C. and S. (C. in C. W.A. 2230A/23 to PICTOU.)  
When CHAMBLY leaves convoy O.N.25 she is to report movements of PICTOU and orders given to latter.  
(C. in C. W.A. 2244A/23.)

War Diary.23.10.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.C.E.54  
shelled.

C.E.54 was behind time table and a large part of it passed Dover in daylight this morning. Visibility was variable and occasionally extreme, so that a target was provided for enemy Coastal batteries. About 0900 4 rounds were fired which fell short of rear of convoy when near Goodwin Fork, and between 1045 and 1120 15 rounds fell amongst convoy off Ramsgate. No damage reported.  
(V.A. Dover 1157A/23.)

M/V off  
Scillies.

Proceed to investigate 600 ton M/V reported by air in 049° 30' N. 006° 10' W. course 080°, 6 knots, at 0800/23.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1204/23 to ATHERSTONE.)  
My 1204. If M/V is brought in, she should be taken to Penzance.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1314/23 to ATHERSTONE.)

"Hedgehog"  
Trials.

F.O.S. 0929A/14/10 and Admiralty Docket M W D 0351/41 of 29th September 1941, trial VII para.5. Request very early information as to probable date of trial so that other commitments can be met.  
(Capt. S.3. 1457A/23 to D.A/S.W.)

British Air Activity.Patrols.

Pru-Bergen-Oslo-Stavanger-Haugesund and "Hornli" in position.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1245/23)

Bombing  
operations.

On Night 22/23 five A/C claim to have identified the docks at Brest where SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU lie; and bombs were dropped and fires observed in the dock area. The docks at Havre, Dunkirk and Ostend were also bombed.  
(H.Q. B.C. 1600/23.)

Enemy Air Activity.CAPELLA  
attacked  
22/10.

Enemy A/C attacked Swedish Tanker in Thorshavn roads at 1030/22. Encountered strong A/A fire. All bombs missed. No casualties or damage.  
(O.C. Troops, Faroes, 1050/23 to War Office.)

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation  
J.X.

Your 1850/22. Arrived WELSHMAN, MANXMAN.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0955A/23)  
Details of operation. (C. in C. Portsmouth  
1907A/23) See Lion Copy.

Sweeps off  
Dover.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/23. By S.A. Trawlers  
in Q.Z.S 238 and Convoy Route as in my 1931/5.  
Two Acoustic Mines detonated as reported in  
my 1021. By OROPESA Trawlers in Q.Z.S 238 from  
Cl. to No.10 Buoy nothing found. By S.A. and  
L.L. Trawlers Q.Z.S 191 and between Dumpton and  
Dover in Q.Z.S 190 and 269. Negative results.  
(V.A. Dover 1031A/23.)

WELSHMAN.

1. Request you will sail WELSHMAN for Port Z.A.  
on completion of operation J.X.
2. She will not be required for a further  
operation under C. in C. Plymouth.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1121A/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

S.N.83

1. The proposals contained in your No.433/M.L.  
01000/15 of 12th September are approved.
2. A.C.O.S. has been requested to carry out the  
necessary minesweeping operations vide A.L.  
M/M.S.0817/41 of 14th October.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1122A/23 to R.A.M.)
1. The proposals contained in R.A.(M)'s No.  
433/M.L. 01000/15 of 12th September have been  
approved.
2. It is requested that you will arrange for the  
laying of S.N.83 to be carried out by R.A.(M) as  
soon as practicable after completion of the  
necessary minesweeping operations, using the  
special material originally provided for S.N.87.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1123A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)

S.N.24 C.

Your 0948/22. <sup>NT. H. W.D.</sup> Destroyer escort for PORT QUEBEC  
will be provided if one can be released from a  
convoy. (C. in C. Plymouth 1310/23 to R.A.M.)

Sweep off  
Portland.

Intend to sail HOY, MULL and RYSA at 0700 to  
sweep Q.Z.S 293 from position V Z 0983 to No.1  
buoy where they will R/V with P.W.55 at 1430/24  
and sweep ahead returning to Portland before  
dark. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1801A/23.)

MOST SECRET

554A

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1907A/23rd October IN

From C. in C. Portsmouth Date 24.10.41.

Recd. 0309.

NAVAL CYPHER (A.1) BY W/T

Addressed H.M.S. MANXMAN H.M.S. WELSHMAN Repeated  
Admiralty, F.O.(S), H.O.C.C., N.O.I.C. Dover, N.O.I.C.  
Newhaven, N.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Plymouth.

AIDAC

831.

Operation J X.

1. Object (?corrupt group) to lay mines between (a) 049 degs. 52' North 000 degs. 30' East and 049 degs. 56' North 000 degs. 41' East (b) 050 degs. 11' North 001 degs. 07' East and 050 degs. 18' North 001 degs. 16' East mines being laid in groups on a zig-zag course across line joining above positions.

2. Mines Each outfit consists of a mixture of mark XVII/XVII and mark XVII/XVIII units all with flooder set to 40 days, and mark XVIII delayed release sinker set to operate at intervals spread over middle 20 days of life of minefield. 6 feet below chart datum.

3. Intelligence Sent to H.M.S. MANXMAN and H.M.S. WELSHMAN only.

4. Execution H.M.S. WELSHMAN is to lay (a) H.M.S. MANXMAN (b). They are to leave Portsmouth passing gate at 1700 24 October and E A 5 buoy at 1900 and proceed to carry out lay ordered. On completion H.M.S. WELSHMAN is to proceed to Plymouth to re-embark (corrupt group) passing through following positions 050 degs. 15' North 000 degs. 30' West and 180 degs. Start Point 10 miles entering by Q Z S 278 passing breakwater 0830 25th. Speed after laying 30 knots until 0001 25 thence 25 knots to 0500 thence as requisite. On completion of laying H.M.S. MANXMAN is to return to Southampton (Number 26 berth) by inshore convoy route passing through following positions 050 degs. 24' North 000 degs. 54' East 050 degs. 45' North 000 degs. 42' East thence by Q Z S 271 and 169. Speed after laying 30 knots until 0001 25 thence 20 knots to C 1 buoy thence 15 knots, course to be reversed an hour after leaving Shoreham buoy, back to Shoreman buoy thence as requisite to enter Q Z S 169 at dawn.

5. Lights will be shown as follows - Start Point for 5 minutes each quarter hour from 0530 to 0635 25. Beachy Head for 5 minutes each quarter hour from 0130 to 0205 25.

6/.....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

6. Cancellation H.M.S. MANXMAN and H.M.S. WELSHMAN have full discretion to cancel operation or jettison mines if circumstances so require.

7. Communications W/T watch is to be kept on H D routine and on 2300 Kc/s.

8. Books are to be landed in accordance with A.F.O. 149/41.

1907A/23

Advance copy sent D.D.O.D.(M).

1st Lord

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

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

A.C.N.S.(W)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D. of P. (2).

D.O.D.(H).

D.D.O.D.(H).

D.D.O.D.(M).

D.N.I.(4).

D.S.D.

D.A/S.W.

D.M.S.

D.C.D.

I.P.(2).

W.D.

Duty Captain

Head of M.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D.(2).

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

abd

MOST SECRET

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Shipping.

Following are recent Norwegian shipping movements. (N.A. Stockholm 1811/23.)  
See Lion Copy.

PRINZ EUGEN.

Reported that PRINZ EUGEN is due to leave Brest today. Graded B.3. Two destroyers were sighted at sea off La Pallice at 1230 today. This, combined with reports of minesweeping activity, lends colour to the correctness of this report. Alternatively attack on S.L.89 by destroyers alone may be intended. (D.D.I.C. 1900A/23.)

S.L.89.

Attack on S.L.89 by enemy destroyers is possible tonight. (C. in C. W.A. 1910A/23 to Convoy Escorts.)

Navigational.

South Shipwash Buoy.

Light reported extinguished (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1035A/23.)

Technical.

Oiling at Sea.

A meeting will be held at the Admiralty at 1115/30 to consider putting into effect the experience and information gained in recent trials of oiling at sea. C. in C. W.A. and C. in C. H.F. are requested to send representatives, and forward by signal proposed items for inclusion in Agenda. (4th S.L. 1803A/23.)

Casualties and Defects.

AURANIA.

Your 1712A/22. AURANIA is to proceed to Clyde. On arrival the necessary steps should be taken to effect temporary repairs and reduction of draught forward pending the placing of AURANIA for docking and permanent repairs. (D.O.D. H. 0112A/23)  
Arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1544A/23.)

/KING GEORGE V. ...



1811/23rd October.,

555A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

From N.A. Stockholm.

Date 24.10.41.

Recd. 0415.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (One Time Table) BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

Following are recent Norwegian shipping movements.

<u>NAME.</u>	<u>WHENCE.</u>	<u>DATE.</u>	<u>DSTINATION.</u>
BYGDOY	left Bergen	Oct. 18th	Unknown
BJONN	left Kiel	Oct. 18th	Unknown.
FELIX	left Christiansand	Oct. 20th	North Norway
FJELD	arrived Trondjhom	Oct. 19th	Unknown
HAFNIA	arrived Narvik	Oct. 18th	Believed Germany.
HEKTOR	arrived Christiansand	Oct. 20th	Believed northbound
HALLINGDAL	left Herfol	Oct. 19th	Believed northbound
FERDALE	passed Brunsbottel	Oct. 19th	Believed northbound
HEDVIG I	arrived Christiansand	Oct. 19th	Believed North Norway.
GRAZIELLA	arrived Bodo	Oct. 19th	Believed North Norway.
KLOVEREN	left Bergen	Oct. 19th	Believed Southbound
KAPRINO	left Tromsø	Oct. 18th	Unknown
ELSE MARIE	left Christiansand	Oct. 20th	Unknown
MAURITA	arrived Alesund	Oct. 19th	Unknown
NERVA	left Christiansand	Oct. 18th	Unknown
RINGER	arrived Frederikstad	Oct. 19th	Unknown
LISTO	arrived Tromsø	Oct. 20th	Unknown
STANJA	left Christiansand	Oct. 20th	Unknown
STEN	arrived Bukta	Oct. 19th	Unknown
SELJE	left Herfol	Oct. 19th	Unknown
SARFOSS	left Tromsø	Oct. 19th	Unknown
STANDARD	arrived Christiansand	Oct. 19th	Unknown
STORFJELD*	arrived Kirkenes	Oct. 19th	Petsamo
TUGELA	arrived Harstad	Oct. 18th	Believed Germany
TRANSPORT	left Christiansand N.	Oct. 19th	Believed northbound
TROMA	left Brunsbuttel	Oct. 18th	Unknown
THEMIS	arrived Trondjhom	Oct. 18th	Unknown
INGERSEKS	arrived Bergen	Oct. 18th	Believed northbound
TORRIDAL	arrived Brokstad	Oct. 19th	Unknown
VESLA	left Tromsø	Oct. 20th	Unknown
VESTRA	arrived Bergen	Oct. 18th	Unknown
VILMA	arrived Vardø	Oct. 18th	Unknown
EDITH HOWALDT	at Christiansand	Oct. 18th	Unknown.

(German)  
Graded A.2. repeat A.2.

1811/23.

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

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

War Diary.23.10.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

- KING GEORGE V. Your 2251A/20. Request you will send a list of compartments of KING GEORGE V. in which the ventilation is most inadequate, the order being the worst compartment first. Tests will be carried out on these compartments during forthcoming trials of J.1554. (Controller 0140A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)
- T.L.C.24. Request you will sail ST.OLAVES to assistance of T.L.C.24 in position S.E. Chicken Rock Light. DRANGEY standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0445A/23 to N.O.I.C. Campeltown.) ST. OLAVES proceeding. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0446A/23)
- ROYAL STAR. Has fouled 56 Buoy. Require Salvage Tugs. Am standing by her. (SHELDRAKE 0532A/23.) Dep. Tugs ST.MELLONS and KROOMAN at 0730A to assist ROYAL STAR. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0753A/23.) ROYAL STAR under way on starboard engine only. (SHELDRAKE 0929A/23)
- ROSTHERN. C. in C. W.A. 2147A/22. Engine repairs to ROSTHERN will require 14 days to make good before sailing. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1353A/23.)
- MISTRAL. My 1639/16. It is necessary to retube completely all boilers. Time for complete retubing is approx. three months. If tubes not available, alternative would be to complete renewal of the fire rows together with a proportion of the other tubes. This latter would probably mean the acceptance of occasional preparations as has happened during recent weeks. Early decision is requested. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1440/23.)
- EGLANTINE. R.D.F. not repaired. Proceeding according to previous orders. (EGLANTINE 1758A/23)
- VERVAIN. Following from D. Greenock begins:- F.O.I.C. Belfast's 1246A/21. In view of the recent sinking of corvettes it is considered modification to VERVAIN's bridge is of great importance. 1620A/22 ends. Concur. Request this be carried out during present period in hand if at all possible. (C. in C. W.A. 1831A/23.)

War Diary.23.10.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.A.L.C.24  
A.L.C.25

A.L.C.'s 24 and 25 have just developed fresh defects. (PRINCE LEOPOLD 2200/23)

Shipping and Convoys.E.C.89.

Report whether E.C.89 has passed number 5 Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 0101A/23 to VANITY.)

Q.P.2.

If circumstances appear at the time would it be acceptable for convoy Q.P.two to be delayed up to three days while all available British destroyers and minesweepers carried out A/S search in the White Sea. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. and S.B.N.O. North Russia. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 0920C/23 to Adty.)

O.N.29.

Aultbea section of O.N.29 will sail without Snowflakes. None available at this port. (Staff Officer D.E.M. Aultbea 1047A/23)

P.Q.2.

Pass to all ships in convoy P.Q.2. Radiators of all Vehicles, Prime Movers, and Generators etc. embarked are to be immediately examined and if full should be drained forthwith. (D.T.D. 1147A/23 to NORFOLK)

Convoy.

Many congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. the ships of your convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1255A/23 to Rear Admiral C.N. Reyne.)

O.S.9.

Your .2044A/22 passed to Cdre. O.S.9 again badly scattering by violent gale N.W. Cdre.intends to make for position (Q) when weather moderates. He requests ships may be informed by G.B.M.S. message. ANTWERP proceeding Azores short of fuel. Fuel situation of all the rest becoming serious. Dead reckoning position is (?45) 52 (?23) 18, course 160° speed 7½ knots. (EGRET 1500Z/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Convoy H.X.155 ...

War Diary.23.10.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Convoy H.X.155 Following for C. in C. W.A. from VANOC by air-  
CLARE LILLY, LILLEY craft begins. CLARE LILLY and EMPIRE LINK missing  
EMPIRE LINK. T.O.O 1230Z. Ends. (A.C.I.C. 1601/22 to  
 C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.47.

Convoy delayed by head winds and heavy seas.  
 All ships now arrived.  
 (D.T.D.1943A/23 to Opanv.)

H.X. and  
S.C.  
convoys.

Request you will in future pass to N.C.S.O.  
 Reykjavik particulars of ships for or calling at  
 Iceland which are included in Advance Sailing  
 telegrams and Part II of Sailing telegrams.  
 (D.T.D. 1944A/23 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.C.S.O.  
 Sydney, C.B.)

Ocean Convoys.  
Evasive  
alterations  
of Course.

Revised instructions. (D.T.D.2004A/23) See  
 Lion Copy.

P.Q.Convoys.

Present sailing programme and arrangements.  
 Request further information as to discharging  
 facilities. (D. of S.T. 2244A/23 to N.C.S.O.  
 Archangel) See Lion Copy.

SECRET

MESSAGE

2004A/23rd October OUT

Date 23. 10. 41.

558A

To. "A" Message Home 596AZ  
" North Atlantic 228AK  
" South Atlantic 228AG  
" America & West Indies 240 AJ

Repeated: OPNAV

Naval Code (J)

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From Admiralty.  
BASEGRAM  
NITE

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The following revised instructions relating to evasive alterations of course are to be given to Commodore of Ocean Convoys and all ships employed on Ocean Convoy escort duties, begins:-

"The three situations in which convoys may make evasive alterations of course are:-

- (a) Normal - Evasive alteration to frustrate a possible shadower whose presence is not known.
- (b) Shadowed - Evasive alterations when it is known that that convoy is being shadowed or had been reported.
- (c) Diversion - An alteration to divert a convoy from known or suspected danger in the convoy's track.

In all cases it is desirable that the Admiralty and the Commander in Chief of the area should be aware, as far as possible, of the approximate position of the convoy.

2. The action required by the convoy in these three situations is as follows:-

- (2) Normal - When the Commodore and/or the Senior Officer of the Escort consider that there are no extenuating circumstances which render this normal evasion undesirable, the convoy should alter away from the course along the route well before dark and back after dark so as to be once more upon the given route soon after daylight. The convoy should not get more than 20 miles to port or starboard of the route (this gives a 40-mile lane in which to manoeuvre)

This should not be carried out in the North-Western Approaches east of the meridian of 12° West, nor in latitudes where the hours of darkness are negligible.

On occasions it may be desirable, in order that convoys may not meet in the dark, that the alteration should be mainly to one side. In this case the Admiralty or the Commander-in-Chief will signal:-

"Evasive alteration should be made to port/starboard."

It will be appreciated that the primary object of the above is evasion of the enemy under cover of darkness,

/while

while the Admiralty and Commanders-in-Chief retain a knowledge of the position of the convoy within certain limits.

Senior Officers of Escorts and Commodores are, therefore at liberty and advised to vary the manner of evasion within the prescribed limits.

(b) Shadowed - The Admiralty will inform the Commodore through the escort when a sighting report is made by an enemy U-boat. If the Admiralty or the Commander-in-Chief so desire, the direction in which any consequent evasion is to be made will be indicated, or a new route may be ordered.

The alteration is to be more drastic than for (a)

If a new route is not repetition not signalled the route should be regained soon after daylight.

D/F watch should if possible, be set by escorts and/or ships of the convoy so fitted.

In both (a) and (b) the object is to ensure that any shadowing enemy observes and, it is hoped, reports the first alteration, but does not observe the alteration after dark.

(c) Diversion - The Admiralty or the Commander-in-Chief will signal a new route. Having complied with this, the Commodore should normally proceed as for (a) above.

3. Admiralty Messages 169AZ of 15th March, 206AZ of 1st April, and 268AZ of 29th April, are cancelled. Ends.

2004A/23  
for D.T.D. (983)

A.C.N.S.(T) (2)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
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.B.  
D.S.D. (2)  
M. (3)  
W/T Room  
+ A.G.R.M.  
+ A.C.R.  
+ Hydrog.  
A.E. (3) above has been passed to OPNAV  
File X  
+ S.W.R.  
+ D.A.S. } Bath by courier  
+ D.N.O.  
+ D. of V. } + For further promulgation as necessary.

MOST SECRET

**MOST SECRET**

MESSAGE

2244/25th October

OUT

To: N.C.S.O. Archangel.

Date 23.10.41

Interdepartmental Cypher (One Time Table)

From D. of S.T.

Following for MacLay from Basil Sanderson.

Reference your Telegram No.3 of 17th October.

Paragraph 1. Presume 22½ feet fresh water

Paragraph 3. Please repeat and clarify.

Paragraph 7. Please repeat, answer mutilated  
Please advise whether adequate number of lighters are available:  
Are there facilities for discharge of cargoes direct from  
lighters to rail.

Paragraph 15(a) Please repeat. Please advise where is  
Molotovsk tanker berth. Is it within the bar. Should be glad  
of any details as to facilities. Our present arrangements  
for loading in U.K. for discharging in winter at Ekonomiya are  
ships not to exceed 450 feet overall, draft not to exceed  
21ft. 6 ins. salt water. Sufficient ballast to be loaded in  
U.K. to bring ship safely back assuming ship unable to load any  
cargo. 40 days bunkers to be loaded in U.K. plus 500 tons to  
cover emergency. Six months stewards, deck and engine stores  
being supplied. These rules drafted for safety and it is not  
proposed to alter them. The length restriction is primarily  
for Bakaritzka which Masters of Q.P.1 recommend. Details of  
cargo shipped in P.Q.2 and future shipments being telegraphed  
through S.S.T.O. Archangel.

Proposal for putting in any full cargoes of foodstuffs has  
been temporarily abandoned but broken stowage in vessels loading  
U.K. in October only (repeat only) will be filled with bagged  
sugar, and from U.S.A. as regular practice with bagged wheat.  
Reference paragraph 2 your YAG 39 16th October, all vessels  
sailing from U.K. have heavy lifts such as tanks 16 and 25 tons  
and/or fighter aircraft in cases up to 5 tons and/or M.T. on  
wheels, and/or Bren carriers both under 5 tons. P.Q.2 ships  
cannot handle tanks with their own gear but all subsequent  
despatches from U.K. can handle such lifts as are stowed aboard.

Present programmes of sailings are:-

P.Q.3. 5 British Vessels loaded in U.K.  
1 Tanker loaded in U.K.  
1 British Vessel loaded in America  
1 Panamanian vessel loaded in America

P.Q.4. 5 Russian vessels loaded in U.K.  
1 British Vessel loaded in U.K.  
1 Panamanian vessel loaded in America  
1 British vessel loaded in America and probably  
1 Tanker loaded in U.K.

/In order .....

# MOST SECRET

In order to cover priority programme alone it would be necessary to dispatch from this Country and U.S.A. combined about 30 ships per month and under ice conditions it is obvious from your information that this is quite beyond the capacity of Archangel unless there is a large fleet of icebreakers and we understand only 3 available.

We consider desirable that despite your YAG 39 Part 2 possibility of using Murmansk to take whatever balance of those vessels Archangel cannot handle should be fully explored. We are proposing discuss with Russian Government but meantime suggest you make contact with Commanding Officer R.A.F. Wing and ask him if he can arrange to report on practicability of using railway connecting Murmansk to Archangel-Vologda line and obtain information as to traffic it can carry and limit of loads.

2244A/23

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



War Diary.

23.10.1941.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Alleged  
Violation of  
Spanish  
Territorial  
waters at  
Algeciras.

Spanish Authorities demand immediate measures to prevent violation of territorial waters Algeciras Bay (?regularly) every night by M.T.Bs or fast M.Ls dropping D.Cs close to shore especially off La Linea resulting in extreme annoyance alarm disturbance fishing and offence to Spanish sovereignty.

Minister understands necessary after recent Italian attack and does not wish to open question of territorial waters. He is fully aware of explosive risks involved if his M.T.Bs patrol in Bay. But unless some modification takes place he must take action at once.

(N.A. Madrid 0019/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My immediately preceding telegram.

Port Captain Algeciras reports few days ago saw your Secretary and received undertaking to modify areas patrolled and depth charged. No result has been apparent. Minister who stressed great urgency agrees that matter should be settled locally. Affair complicated by unadvised entry other night of British M.T.B. or fast M.L. into Tarita harbour. She inspected tug in harbour and left at once, very lucky not to be fired on. Minister requests reply this report.

(N.A. Madrid 0020/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0020/23.

(i) Nightly dropping of depth charges is confined to British waters and is considered an essential defence measure.

(ii) No British craft of any sort has entered Tarita harbour except two motor launches on 5/9 at invitation of local authorities to recover shipwrecked seamen.

(iii) Meeting was held 22/10 to arrange details regarding existing patrols which had already been agreed in general verbally between Captain of Port Algeciras and Assistant Colonial Secretary. Following were present Spanish Captain of Port Algeciras, Assistant Colonial Secretary Gibraltar, Captain of Port Gibraltar, Commdr Handcock representing me, G.S.O.1 representing Fortress H.Q.

(iv) Friendly agreement having been reached no further meeting appears necessary.

(v) No necessity for you to come down but shall be glad to see you if you care to do so.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1744A/23 to N.A. Madrid.)

N.A. Madrid's 0019/23 and 0020/23. Admty. would like your remarks. In the meantime you need not stop any of the activities that you consider are necessary.

(1st S.L. 1938A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/French ...

560

War Diary.

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French  
Ships.

Passings 22/10. French Eastward, L'OBSTINE.  
(V.A.C.N.A. 0915A/23.)

FAULKNOR.  
question of  
sabotage.

D.N.I. is to be informed (Copy to F.O. Force H.)  
whether there were any grounds for suspicion of  
sabotage in connection with damage to FAULKNOR's  
turbine quoting A.D.N.I. 2065/41/3842 of  
16/9/41.  
(F.O. Force H. 1053A/23 to D.8.)

HERMIONE  
Search for  
tanker.

If nothing is seen by dark tonight 23/10 return  
to Gibraltar. Acknowledge.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1222A/23 to HERMIONE.)  
Your 1224A/23 (?1222A/23 intended) E.T.A. 0730A/  
25 Weather report 281 1564 my position 41° N.  
17° W.  
(HERMIONE 2110A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

German  
torpedo.

Your 1816/22. A short report of circumstances  
only is desired.  
(D.T.M. 1559A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Signalling.

F.O.C. N.A. 1858/22. Concur.  
(S.O. Force H. 1615A/23)

Portugal  
patrol.

Request you will convey to all concerned an  
expression of T.Ls' appreciation of the zeal and  
devotion to duty shewn by the officers and men  
of H.M. Trawlers employed on Contraband Control  
off the Portuguese coast.  
That this arduous service is of great value to  
us and keenly resented by the enemy is clearly  
shown by the recent attack on LOCH OSKAIG.  
M.E.W. has specially asked to be associated with  
this message.  
(1st S.L. 1914A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MALINES.

E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1200 G.M.T./24 estimated  
requirements 450 tons oil fuel.  
(MALINES 1930A/23.)

French  
Ships.

Gibraltar 1012. Minesweeper LA CURIEUSE, Armed  
Fleet oiler TARN, S.S. PROVIDENCE, MONTAIGNE,  
MONT CASSEL. All laden westbound.  
(S.O.H. Gibraltar 2101A/23.)

War Diary.23.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.BULOLO.

Arrived Montevideo 1200 G.M.T./22 for 48 hours visit this extension granted for changing valves C.A.F.O.106/41 refers.  
(BULOLO 0951/23.)

DARKDALE.

Unless contrary evidence is obtained we must assume R.F.A. DARKDALE was sunk by U-Boat. Have therefore diverted all shipping well clear of St. Helena and visits referred to in my 2135/20 will not now take place. (N.T. = W.D.)  
(2) Further I cannot risk GLOUCESTER CASTLE notwithstanding she has stores for you and she will therefore only call Ascension.  
(3) Please let me know what will be effect of non-receipt of these stores and how long you can manage without them. I will in any case endeavour to ship them in more suitable ship from Freetown.  
(4) I am sending ship with divers and diving gear to examine wreck.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1033N/23 to General St. Helena.)  
I am sending MILFORD to St. Helena with divers and diving gear to examine wreck of DARKDALE. In meantime shipping has been routed clear of St. Helena and I arranging to use Pointe Noire and Walvis Bay for fuelling.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1615N/23 to Adty.)

Troop  
Movements.

Your 0800/?5.  
STRATHEDEN with 3500 British troops for M.E. escorted by DUNNOTAR CASTLE will leave Capetown p.m./24 and arrive Durban p.m./27. ARONDA with 1420 Non-European Union troops plus European Officers and N.C.Os will be ready to leave Durban with STRATHEDEN on 28/10. Request name of escort.  
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown 1055B/23 to C. in C. E.I.)

HOXA.  
ROMEO.

Left U.K. 2/9 called at Ponta Delgada on 11/9. Ships were routed via Fayal where coal had been arranged for them.

2. Request you will ascertain from Senior C.O. his reasons for the apparent departure from his instructions.

(D.O.D.(F) 1323A/23 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Reply: 0940 B/9/11.

Entry into  
Freetown.

Instructions for convoys. (C. in C. S.A. 1425N/23.)

# MOST SECRET

361A

MOST SECRET . M E S S A G E. 1425N/23rd October IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 24.10.41

Time 0434.

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

---

Addressed N.C.S.O'S Liverpool and Greenock. Repeated  
C. in C. Western Approaches. Admiralty.

NITE.

864. In order to expedite entry of convoys into Freetown Harbour and reduce the risk to ships stopping outside, request Commodores and Masters of Ships in WS and OS Convoys may be instructed at Convoy conferences that the position for picking up pilots is one mile west of the Fairway Buoy and the ships must come up to this position and not wait for the Pilots to go out to them. It should be impressed on Masters that to stop to seaward of this position increases the difficulties of providing protection.

1425N/23.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.I.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
D. of P. (2)  
D.O.D. (F)  
D.D.O.D. (F)  
D.O.D. (H)  
D.D.O.D. (H)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D.D.I.C.  
D.T.D. (2)  
D.T.D. (M)  
E.P.S.  
N.I.D. 10.  
D. of L.D.  
D.A/S.W.  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
Duty Capt  
Hd of M.

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (F)  
D.T.D.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

561 B

FROM: The United Kingdom High  
Commissioner in the Union of  
South Africa.  
To Dominions Office.

Date. 23.10.41

D. 14th Oct. 1941. 8.32 p.m.  
R. 15th October 1941 1.0. a.m.

ADDRESSED: Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs No. 1238.  
REPEATED: Commander in Chief, South Atlantic Q. 545.

My telegram No. 850 25th July. Admiral Willis Commander in Chief South Atlantic who recently visited the Union communicated semi-officially to the Union authorities his observations on the shipping position at Union ports. He emphasised that the key to the problem of reducing delays at ports was the improvement of arrangements for ship repairs, position as to which caused him considerable anxiety. The Minister for Railways and Harbours has now written to me asking whether certain of the Commander in Chief's suggestions can be pursued.

1. Skilled Labour.

The Minister states that the Union's most pressing difficulties would be considerably eased if they could obtain from outside this country immediate services of the following staff: (a) steel platers accustomed to ship repairs. (b) Six marine fitters skilled in tail shaft and rudder repair work. (c) Four marine fitters skilled in Revelation Engine repairs and (d) eight marine fitters for general marine repairs.

Return passages would be provided. Rates of pay would be 2/7½ per hour with probable employment under bonus work conditions. Weekly hours of duty 48. Week day overtime paid for at the rate of time and a quarter and Sunday time at time and a half. Full pay from period of travelling by ship to South Africa and allowance of 5/- per day for expenses on ship. In South Africa the men will receive the usual medical benefits, rail travelling concessions and the cost of living allowance applicable to Railways and Harbours Administration's regular staff. All men should be medically examined before engagement. It would facilitate matters greatly if men required for tail shaft, and rudder work could bring out with them blocks and tackle of 20, 10 and 5 tons capacity with which they are accustomed to work. The question of provision of skilled labour from the United Kingdom was raised in my telegram No. 530 of 14th May and No. 801 of 16th July.

2. Supervision.

The Commander in Chief felt the provision of adequate supervisory staff for merchant ship repairs to be an urgent requirement and suggested that some individuals with the necessary knowledge and experience to augment the existing staff might be made available from the United Kingdom. From exploratory enquiry through the Admiralty the Commander in Chief gathered that there was every prospect of the Ministry of War Transport being able to find, at all events, suitable supervising marine engineer with at least

one/...

one assistant (Admiralty Signal No. 1524 A/17 to N.L.O Durban). The Minister informs me that recent reorganization under the Controller of Ship Repairs (see my telegram No. 1184 of 1st Oct) has effected an improvement but that he would welcome further expert assistance. He would therefore be grateful if the Ministry of War Transport could now be asked if they could arrange for supervising engineer and one or two assistants to be seconded for service under the Union Government. The intention is that the engineer should assist the Controller in supervisory capacity. The Minister would be glad to have the suggestion of the Ministry of War Transport as to salaries which, would be suitable; the Controller's salary is £1,600 and the salary of the principal technical assistant (appointed under the recent reorganization scheme) £1,050 plus allowance of £200 per annum. The Minister considers the supervising marine engineer could be offered a salary of £1,000 per annum and other assistants lower rates according to the discretion of the United Kingdom authorities.

### 3. Docks.

The Commander in Chief reported that a limited number of graving and floating docks in the Union had already created a bottleneck and suggested that if a medium sized floating docks could be procured it might be possible for it to be installed with little dredging at Port Elizabeth where there is 40 feet of water. The Minister would welcome any information as to the possibility of securing such a floating dock when the question of the provision of necessary repair services and skilled labour at Port Elizabeth could be considered.

The Commander in Chief will I have no doubt be ready to confirm that it is of first rate importance from the point of view of relieving congestion at Union ports that everything possible should be done to act on the above suggestions and I am repeating this telegram to him.

No. T.O.O

1st Lord  
1st S.L  
Cont  
Vice Cont.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)  
Nav. Sec.  
N.A 1st S.L  
Ops (3)  
O.D. (5)  
D. of P (3)  
D. of S.T.  
D.T.D. (4)  
D.E.D. (M)

J.P.S.  
M (2)  
D. 57 O.B.  
D.N.C  
I.P (3)  
W.D.  
Dep Cont (3)  
D (4)  
D.N.C. (2) } Bath  
S.I.R  
M. 36  
M. 38

Additional circulation by M.

Copy also sent to T.G. Jenkins

M.W.

War Diary.23.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Piraeus  
Approaches  
mined.

An area enclosed by the following points is dangerous due to British mines 037° 31' 26" N. 023° 50' 40" E. 037° 51' 48" N. 023° 51' 26" E. 037° 28' 32" N. 023° 52' 48" E. 037° 28' 52" N. 023° 53' 32" E.  
(C. in C. Med. 0941B/23 to Q.B./no number given)

Air  
Operations.

1. Night 21/22. 4 Wellingtons bombed harbour works Benghazi and 1 ship seen in harbour there. Bombs which fell on bases of Central and Cathedral Moles started fire between Telephone Exchange and Customs House, ship not hit. 1 F.A.A. Albacore bombed enemy stores dump concealed in Wadi North West of Bardia results unobserved.  
Day 22/10. No shipping sighted between Crete and Libya, several small M/Vs seen at sea among Islands in Eastern Aegean.

2. 22/10. 3 Savoia aircraft attacked shipping 10 miles North East of Damietta nearest bomb fell 400 yards from vessels.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1126/23.)

Night Oct. 20/21. 4 Wellingtons dropped total 14,000 pounds bombs on Benghazi harbour. Hits made on Juliana Mole and railway sidings but no visible results.  
Day 21/10. During morning 2 S.A.A.F. Squadrons each of 9 Marylands bombed Benghazi harbour and shipping from 17,000 feet dropping total of 136,250 pound bombs. First squadron over hit Juliana Point and Mole with 49 bombs. 1 bomb fell on Outer Mole. Bombing second squadron 3 hours later was hampered by cloud which partly obscured the target majority of bombs falling in sea round Juliana Point. 1 bomb fell near large ship in harbour other bombs near railway sidings. 56 Hurricane 33 Tomahawk 10 Martlet sorties on covering patrol over shipping off Sidi Barrani and GNAT torpedoed on previous evening. GNAT under tow by destroyer and making for Alexandria. 1 Blenheim sighted about 30 miles S. of W. coast of Crete, 1 Sunderland at 50 feet flying north escorted by 1 M.E.109 and 2 M.E.110s. Blenheim crew emphatic flying boat was Sunderland. Matter under investigation.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1206/22.)

2 enemy bombers approached 2136/22, 1 crossed coast. Incendiaries Curmi district no damage. Bombs in sea. Special search Kerkennah Pantelleria and Tunisian coast sighted 0600 hours. 1 submarine submerged 12 miles East Kaliba course N.E. 4/5 knots.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1800/23.)

/Naples ...

563

War Diary.23.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Air  
Operations  
contd.

Naples-Cagliari sighted 0634 hours 1 M/V 2000 tons stationary 300° Marittimo 50 miles; 4 Blenheims attacked above M/V 1028 hours total bombs dropped 4000 pounds 1st aircraft machine gunned before bombing 1 direct hit near funnel causing big black column of smoke and steam confirmed by photographs 2 near misses under bow and stern crew seen mustering as if to abandon claimed seriously damaged. Night 22/23 October 2 Wellingtons despatched attack Naples 1 recalled very bad weather total bombs 4000 pounds dropped through gap in clouds fire started near station hits on buildings round station and railway yards fires from previous raid still burning opposition inaccurate. 4 Wellingtons attacked shipping Tripoli.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1805/23)  
Total bombs dropped 16000 lbs. from 6000 feet hits on Karamanli Mole. 4 500 lbs. burst near shipping causing explosions and black smoke. Day 23/10 5 Blenheims attacked Cotrone Chemical Works. Bombs fell on target area.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1810/23.)

SZEGED.

(Hungarian) Arrived Istanbul from Burgos.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1255/23.)

UTMOST.  
SOKOL.

UTMOST leaves Malta p.m./23 through 036° 20' 012° 00' for area Q 035° 50' 010° 39' - 345 - 40 - 75.  
SOKOL leaves 038° 00' 011° 44' p.m./24 thence through 038° 40' 011° 50' for area N. north of 038° 50' and east of line - Stromboli - Capri.  
(Capt. (S) 10 1320A/23 to UPRIGHT, P.34, URGE.)

THUNDERBOLT.

Proceed through 035° 51' 015° 15' and 036° 00' 014° 53' to arrive off Marsamxett 0630A/25.  
(Capt. (S) 10 1329A/23 to THUNDERBOLT.)

Intelligence.

2 small craft escorted by one destroyer sighted in 031° 50' 017° 22' at 1100B/23 course 080° speed 8 knots.  
(Capt. (S) 1 1611B/23 to THRASHER.)  
My 1307/22. Reported two Italian ships expected Istanbul from Aegean in a few days. Graded A.2. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 1658B/23 to S.O.(I) Med.)  
Aircraft R/C 0700/23 3,000 ton tanker close off Kelibia course N.  
(Capt. (S) 10 1929A/23 to UPRIGHT, P.34.)

/S.S. DIVONA ...



War Diary.23.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.S.S.DIVONA.  
(attacked  
21/10)

I.192 21/10 and Admiralty Signals 1800/2/3 and 0857/6/3 to C. in C. Med. repeated V.A. Malta. Was the small M/V attacked by Blenheims and subsequently identified as French within Tunisian territorial waters. Request immediate reply and any other details available. (Air Min. 1825/23 to H.Q. R.A.F. Malta.)

Orders to  
TRUANT.

Reference secret (? important) (? message) 1327/18. It was not clearly stated in your sailing orders that your object is to sink by the most appropriate means all shipping encountered in Adriatic. The Folboat party is entirely subordinate to main object and should only be employed if conditions are entirely favourable for this diversion without prejudice to your object. The chief usefulness of diversion is to cause increased enemy effort to guard railways on Eastern shores of Italy. (Capt. (S) 10 1900A/23 to TRUANT.)

Situation  
report 160.  
GNAT.

My 1701/21. GNAT has arrived Alexandria in tow (?after) good work by GRIFFIN and effective fighter protection throughout day 21st. Ship is flooded forward to after bulkhead of wardroom. Full report follows after inspection.

HAVOCK.

2. My 2036/20. HAVOCK has returned to Alexandria but not yet docked. Damage apparently confined to propellers and shafts.

Western  
Desert.

3. Western Desert. AJAX, HOBART and GALATEA bombarded battery east of Tobruk night of 20/21 but shelling of Tobruk has continued since. 7th C.S. again at sea today 23/10 with 6 destroyers for further bombardment. Capt.D.14 with 3 destroyers bombarded Bardia harbour area night of 21/22. Bombardment reported successful. Operation "Cultivate" and Tobruk supply continues. 2 daylight raids and Tobruk (corrupt group) 21 by 12 and 25 J.U.87. Damage not serious, 2 J.U.87 shot down.

Canal area.

4. U.Boats are active along Western Desert Coast and on Alex-Port Said shipping route and have been sighted and attacked by aircraft. Subsequent A/S hunts by destroyers have not yet proved successful.

Red Sea.  
KADIO sunk.

5. Canal area. BULLFINCH bombed and machine gunned by two enemy aircraft a.m./22 in position 031° 38' 031° 58'. Only very slight damage no casualties.

A.M.C.  
torpedoed.

6. Red Sea. CARLISLE and FLAMINGO returning to reinforce Suez escort force. KADIO loaded with petrol caught fire p.m./20 in Suez Bay and has grounded in 5 fathoms.

7. Submarines. UNIQUE torpedoed A.M.C. CITTA DI GENOVA class in 040° 26' 014° 20' at 1314/14. Ship appears to have sunk later. (Not confirmed.) (C. in C. Med.1933B/23.)

War Diary.

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

OTTO LEONHARDT. Sailed early a.m./23 latest report says going  
Sagunto for more Iron Ore thence proceeding  
Genoa.  
(Valencia T.H.I. 2010/23.)

566

War Diary.23.10.41.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.M.V.PACIFIC  
(Swedish.)Cancel my 0644/22 and Colombo's 0606/14 ship arrived Calcutta 23/10.  
(C. in C.E.I., 1058Z/23, to Adty.)Addu  
Atoll.Has M/L D.002487/41 of 21.8.41 been received?  
2. Re: Addu Atoll, request anticipated date of  
(a) Completion of laying of Indicator nets.  
(b) Completion of laying of Controlled mines.  
(c) 6" guns ready for action.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1832A/23 to C. in C.E.I.)China.KHAI  
DINH  
(French.)Departure 21/10. Haiphong.  
(No. 36. Saigon 0735Z/23.)CHENONCEAUXIntercepted correspondence shown CHENONCEAUX  
departing France for Indo China 30/10.  
(? C/S Singapore 0801Z/23 to Adty.)America & West Indies.Transport  
officers.We propose to send by air three experienced sea transport officers and a senior technical officer with very wide knowledge of trooping. These officers will be at your disposal to advise and assist in preparation and embarkation of U.S. transports.  
(D. of S.T., 0612A/23 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)Task Force 2.My 1647/15. Reorganisation of Task Force Two. PHILADELPHIA and BROOKLYN have exchanged groups.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1330A/23.)

/S.S.HARDWICKE.....

567

War Diary.23.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.S.S.HARDWICKE  
GRANGE.  
(grounded.)

My 1640Q/22 possibility of saving 3200 tons of frozen meat from HARDWICKE GRANGE. S.S.GAELIC STAR now arrived can take this. Am transferring cargo immediately sailing ship Halifax after loading.  
(N.O.I.C.Trinidad 1414Q/23 to Adty.)

M.V.COLOMBIA.

Swedish M.V.COLOMBIA Vancouver ready to sail for Vladivostock held by owners awaiting Japanese developments. His orders to proceed are received Master wishes to use Dutch harbour as port of refuge if necessary. U.S. regulations forbid foreign merchant vessels using this port unless permission granted by U.S. Secretary of Navy. Can permission be requested for COLUMBIA and other ships on great circle route to use this port in event of emergency, as refuge port.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1529Z/23 to B.A.D.Washington.)

DIDO.

My 1850R/18 and A.M. 1533A/18. Ship will sail about fourteen days after arrival of R.D.F., Gear at New York. In view of working up opportunities at Brooklyn ship will only require 8 days practice at Bermuda of which 5 days at sea.  
(B.A.R.M. Washington 1642R/23.)

AZUMA MARU.

Painted Battleship grey. Bermuda pass to Oiler ORANGELEAF.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1656R/23.)

CLAESJE.

A.M./2150A/12/9. Request you will sail CLAESJE when ready routed through 035° 00' N., 073° 30' W., Crooked Is., and Windward Passages to Curacao.  
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1703Q/23 to C.O.A.C.Halifax.)

BROOMDALE  
and  
Corvettes.

Abrolhos Rock intended departure A.M./24. Oiler BROOMDALE Trinidad 5/11 coastal to (C) 002° S., 040° W., (D) 006° N., 050° W., (E) 011° N., 060° W., knots 10. Escorted by LAVENDER and BERGAMOT to 008° S.  
(R.A.S.A.D., 2123Z/23 to N.O.I/C. Trinidad.)

War Diary.

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

VENDETTA.

Your 2203A/17 refit can be undertaken at Melbourne but in view of extensive work being done on STUART delay will probably occur. (A.C.N.B. 1212Z/23 to Adty.)

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-B CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.C.48  
GLADIOLUS.

Your 1646/21. Please confirm communication between WESTASKIWIN and GLADIOLUS at 1930/16 and subsequent Bogus message were R/T on 2410 kcs. ( C.in C. W.A. 1251A/23 to A.C.I.C.).

COSSACK  
torpedoed.

COSSACK torpedoed in 035° 36' N 010° 04' W. (LEGION 2255Z/23).

Submarines Reported.

H.G. 75  
reported  
2347/22.

German submarine made sight report of H.G. 75 at 2347 on 4796 kc/s. (F.O.C.N.A. 0113A/23 to Escort of H.G.75).

HERMIONE  
EAGLE  
ARGUS.

My 2226A/22 to F.O.C.N.A. only. D/F Bearings suggest possibility of an Italian U-B being in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 0956A/23 to HERMIONE, EAGLE ARGUS).

H.G. 75  
reported  
0144.

German submarine made sighting report of H.G.75 at 0144 249° class 501. (F.O.C.N.A. 0302A/23 to Escort of H.G.75).

1100

1 Submarine bearing 005° distance 6 miles course 350°, my position 35° 47' N 7° 49' E. (ST.NECTAN. 1100/23 to Gibraltar W/T).

MALAYA  
LIGHTNING  
HAVELOCK  
HARVESTER.

5 U-B's have recently operated against Convoy S.L.89. Enemy aircraft are active in vicinity of this convoy. Special vigilance should be observed between latitudes 53° N. and 51° N. (D.D.I.C. 1238A/23 to MALAYA and escorts).

Estimated U-B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1345A/23).

1310Z

By D/F within 60 miles of 53° N 20° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1516A/23).

0956 G.M.T.

Transport aircraft reported ( corrupt group) U-B in 047° N 007° 10' W at 0956 G.M.T./23 at latest easterly course. U-B crash dived on approach of aircraft. (F.O.C.N.A. 1729A/23. to Adty.).

/ D/F.....

War Diary.

23.10.1941.  
Thursday.

U-B CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported -contd.

1358Z  
1330Z.

D/F fix of U-B at 1358Z/23 on 13768 kc/s between 035° and 036° N 009° and 011° W another U-B fixed at 1330Z/23 on 7640 kc/s within 30 miles of 035° 50' N 007° 45' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1905A/23 to Escorts of H.G.75).

1612 G.M.T.  
1700 G.M.T.

By D/F (1) at 1612 G.M.T./23 within 60 miles of 035° 40' N 008° 30' W. (2) at 1700 G.M.T./23 within 30 miles of 036° 00' N 009° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 2035A/23 to Escorts of H.G.75).

Submarines Attacked.

By  
BEVERLEY.

At 0050/23 in 051° 45' N. 014° 02' W. contacted U-B on R.D.F. chased sighted and depth charged on diving then 3 subsequent attacks by Asdic after which contact disappeared without visible evidence rejoining convoy. (BEVERLEY 0300A/23).

By ABELIA  
17/10.

Preliminary report of attack on U-B by ABELIA in 57° N. 24° 16' W. approx. at 0503 N./17. Survivors from S.S. ERVIKEN reported U-B seen at about 0000,N/17. Contact obtained at 0456 bearing 230° 1500 yards H.E. and whistle effect both heard when range was 200 yards. ABELIA turned towards and attacked with 5 charges. A sixth explosion of greater intensity was heard about 10 seconds after the explosion of the five charges. Contact was not lost and attacked again at 0534 N. and 0543 N. with 5 and 8 charges respectively. Contact was not regained after third attack. ABELIA remained in vicinity until 0730 N firing Snowflakes but no trace of wreckage of U-B sighted. (Capt. D. Londonderry 2200/23, 0045/24).

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Certain neutral Consuls are said to have been instructed to make every endeavour to obtain information regarding movements of shipping.

After 0001 G.M.T./28 U.S. S/Ms in the Atlantic will use British identification flares.

Photographic R/C of Hamburg at 1320A today showed that ADMIRAL SCHEER had left No.5 floating dock. Cloud obscured the remainder of Bloehm and Voss Yard.

Minesweepers  
for N.Russia.

After arrival of P.Q.2 at Archangel six fleet minesweepers will remain based in North Russia. They will be available for local A/S and M/S duties and to act as local escort for convoys.

V.A.2.

The Flag of V.A.2 was transferred to RENOWN at 0900 today. (*From PRINCE OF WALES.*)

British Air Operations.

Bad weather restricted operations last night. 69 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the Deutsche and Germania works at Kiel. Small forces attacked the Naval units at Brest and harbour and dock installations at Le Havre and Cherbourg.

A Beaufort of Coastal Command hit and set on fire this evening a 7000 ton merchant vessel 11 miles S.W. of Kristiansand.



War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

CHRYSOLITE was slightly damaged when she was attacked, with GRAMPIAN and CRAFTSMAN by an enemy aircraft 10 miles N.E. of Aberdeen at 1900 today. The aircraft fired the correct flares before and on completion of attack, without being challenged.

Two bombs were dropped at 0638 by one of our own aircraft 30 yards from VIMIERA and a ship of E.C.89, near 18 D.buoy. No damage is reported.

Mining.

Thames  
Estuary.

H.M.T. EMILION was mined and sunk this morning and H.M.T. LUCIENNE JEANNE was damaged this evening and was afterwards beached, but subsequently capsized, and M.M.S.19 was damaged by near mine, all in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic.

The German JOAO PESSOA (3023 tons) arrived at Bilbao today from a French occupied port, to load iron ore. It appears that the enemy are instituting a service of larger ships to carry iron ore from Spanish ports to Bayonne, as EUGENIO C (Italian 4078 tons) began this trade on 18/10. Previously the ore had been carried in 11 or 12 French and Dutch ships of 300 tons and under.

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Malta bombed.

There were two small air attacks on the Grand Harbour area last night. No naval damage is reported.

Naples bombed.

3 Wellingtons bombed Naples last night. 4 Wellingtons attacked again from 1944 to 2308 today.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

4 Wellingtons bombed the docks at Benghazi last night.

H.M. ships carried out a bombardment of Bardia harbour with aircraft co-operation last night.

An empty lighter was sunk by bombing at Tobruk this afternoon.

3 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night.

East Indies.

The necessary instructions to shipping on the station should hostilities with Japan become imminent were issued today.

China.

The Japanese fleet is reported to be fully mobilized.

War Diary.

24.10.1941  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy  
H.G.75.

LEGION reports that CARSBRECK and ALHAMA were sunk last night. S.S. ARIOSTO was reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 0550A today.

It appears probable that a German U-boat working in co-operation with a F.W. was destroyed by LAMERTON in 37° 8' N. 11° 30' W. at 1730A today.  
*(Not confirmed.)*

An aircraft at 1720 today attacked a U-boat in 36° 3' N. 11° 32' W. dropping 4 depth charges, only one of which exploded. One hit the U-boat without exploding.

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Polish  
personnel  
for U.K.

For your information, with reference to the question of despatch of released Polish personnel to U.K. it is understood that the Polish Government has approved the priority of 1000 men for entry into Polish Navy. Polish Naval C. in C. would be grateful for any co-operation you can give when the time comes.  
(D.N.I., 0301A/24 to Ad. Miles).

→ Flag of  
V.A. 2.

Your 2309/23. Approved.  
(1st S.L., 0840A/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

ALAUNIA,  
ASCANIA.

F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2222/22.  
2. Cancel A.M.1147/22.  
3. ALAUNIA is to be taken in hand for fitting for Tropics at Clydebank. ASCANIA will be taken in hand for making good defects and fitting for Tropics at Southampton. Re sailing.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1100A/24 C. in C. W.A., 2137A/24)

DUKE OF  
YORK.

On completion DUKE OF YORK will come under the orders of C. in C. H.F. and will proceed to Scapa for trials and working up as ordered by him. (Controller, 1217A/24).

Signalling  
by ships in  
Atlantic.

Identical with 2045A to F.O.C.N.A. (Admty 2042A/24 C. in C. W.A.)

→ Flag of  
V.A. 2.

Hoist Flag of V.A. 2 at 0900/25.  
(V.A. 2 2110/24 to RENOWN).

Co-operation with U.S.A.

S/M  
Recognition  
signals.

Admiralty 674A/11/10. After 0001 G.M.T./28 U.S. submarines in the Atlantic will use British Identification Flares, colours as laid down in S.P. 02293K.  
(D.S.D., 1855A/24 A. Mge. 733A)

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia.White Sea  
approaches.New Swept Channels (Details)  
(?LEDA, 1050C/24 to Admty).Communication  
between  
Archangel and  
Polyarno.

Your 2350C/22. It is necessary to arrange frequency and W/T routine between Archangel and Polyarno as alternative to teleprinters. Archangel is therefore to establish communication with Polyarno on 6342K/cs per sec. at 0730, 1530 and 2230 G.M.T. commencing 27/10 until further instructions given. Meantime full use to be made of teleprinters.  
(S.B.N.O. N.Russia, 1136C/24 to S.B.N.O.Archangel)

Iokanskie

(?Report) on Iokanka. A.C. White Sea Forces states up to maximum of 5 M.V's and 3 escorts can lie at buoy or at anchor within nets and A/A defences of port but he would prefer only 3 M.Vs. Escorts would have to fuel Murmansk unless A.C. Northern Fleet could send tanker. Further report and confirmation or otherwise will be sent after return of HUSSAR. Admiralty pass\* to C. in C. H.F. and S.B.N.O. N. Russia.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1312C/24 to Admty)  
\*Action taken by W.R.

Fleet  
minesweepers  
for North  
Russia convoy  
Q.P.2

S.B.N.O. Archangel 0920C/23, I intend that the six fleet minesweepers should be based in North Russia, after arrival of escort of P.Q.2. These will be available for local A/S and M/S duties and to act as local escort for convoys.  
2. Under present circumstances, a 3 day postponement of Q.P. 2 and consequent delay in return of NORFOLK and 2 destroyers, is not acceptable.  
3. \* Admiralty pass to S.B.N.Os. Archangel and North Russia. (C. in C. H.F., 1618A/24 to Admty).  
\*Action taken by W.R.

A/C in  
Russia.

No enemy activity. Handing over completed.  
(151 Wing, 1800/24 to Air Ministry)

Molotorsk.

Your 0039A/17 and my 2340C/19. Following is information obtained from visit today.  
Details. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1820C/24)  
See Lion Copy.

/Prohibited....

SECRET

MESSAGE

1820C/24th Oct. IN.

From: S.B.N.O. Archangel

Date: 25.10.41. 576A

Inter-departmental Cypher I.T.T. by W/T Recd. 1123.  
CORRECTION

Addressed: Admiralty.

Following for War Transport from MACLAY telegram No. 10. Your 0039A/Oct. 17th my 2340C/Oct. 19th. Following is information obtained from visit to Molotorsk today.

1. Original oblong berth very primitive tanks piping and berth not yet completed but rushing for arrival P.Q.3.
2. Storage for white oil consists of only (a) 3 tanks 2,000 tons each (b) auxiliary tanker 1,500 ton capacity used as hulk only (c) cargo vessel beached completing joins shortly as oil tanker, capacity about 4,000 tons.
3. After discharge of first tanker dockyard governing factor will be clearance of storage by tank cars ample supply of which I am doubtful, although Russians hopeful.
4. Railway connects Molotorsk. Irwgda line and Archangel.
5. Only other storage is for black oil which comes by railway also river barge to a second 26 feet berth at present too shaky to berth ocean tankers alongside.

Accurate information unobtainable but believe ample storage for black oil in lighters and scattered small storage.

6. No special storage for gas oil or lubricating oil.
7. At least 50,000 tons coal stored.
8. Voyage repairs provision drinking water obtainable but difficult.
9. Port is a wilderness of half finished constructions with no relaxation ashore for crews.
10. Strongly recommend meantime tankers should not exceed about 8,000 to 9,000 tons until installation tested. Message ends.

1st S.L.  
Vice Contr.  
3rd S.L.  
4th S.L.

1820C/24.

Correction in 0035/28.

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.

+ refers to 0039A/17 re oil storage tanks and handling of tankers at Archangel.

D. of P. (3)  
D. of S.T. (2) for action  
Adm. Herman Hodge  
D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)	D. of S	I.P. (3)
D.T.D. (C)	D.N.I. (4)	W.D.
O.D. (5)	P.A.S. (5)	
Ops. (4)	M. (2)	
D. of S. 2A	O.I.C. (3)	
E.P.S.		

577

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia - Contd.Prohibited area.

Nets are being laid in area enclosed by following positions and it is closed to all shipping: 67° 14' N., 41° 28.5' E., 67° 16' N., 41° 28.5' E., 67° 16' N., 41° 43' E., 67° 14' N., 41° 43' E.

2.\* Admiralty pass to S.B.N.O. North Russia and Admiral Miles. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 2241B/23 to Admty). \*Action taken by W.R.

Defence of U.K.Sinking of Invasion Barges.

Soviet Naval Authorities ask whether we have any method of fixing torpedoes shallow enough to hit invasion barges. They had failed in this respect off Oeskholm Island. 2. They reported success by machine gunning water line from M.T.Bs. 3. Request any useful information. (Adm. Miles, 1709B/24 to Admty).

Movements.SEAWOLF.

Intend to sail SEAWOLF at 1500 /25 diving by day to R/V with CUTTY SARK at 0730/27 off Lizard Head for escort to Scapa arriving there A.M./31, thence in accordance with F.O.S. 1734A/13. (Capt. (S) 5., 0910A/24 to A.C.O.S.) My 0910A/24. SEAWOLF's route in English Channel as in my 0917A/21. (S.5., 0912A/21 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

PICTOU.

Cancel my 2244A/23. PICTOU has arrived St. Johns N.F. (C. in C.W.A. 1037A/24 to C.C.N.F., CHAMBLY).

Force G.  
(PRINCE OF WALES Jc.)

A.M. 2256A/22 and 1153A/24. Force G should be sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1249A/23 as soon as pump has been embarked and ships are ready for sea. (V.C.N.S. 1315A/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

TRINIDAD.

Intend to sail TRINIDAD escorted by KUJAWIAK during night of 25/26 only for Greenock leaving Plymouth 1630/25. Code word "Review". (C. in C. Plymouth, 1718/24).

WELSHMAN.

My 1907/23 postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1733A/24 to WELSHMAN).

Information for PALOMARES.

SEALION escorted by WHITE BEAR proceeding Northwards may be met about 2400/24. (C. in C. W.A., 1737A/24 to PALOMARES).

A.F.D. XIV.

Now ready to proceed. Weather permitting intend to sail her in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN and escorted by MORGAN JONES and NORTHNESS at 0900/25 E.T.A. 32 Buoy 1000/27. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1840/24 to C. in C. Rosyth).

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception  
of  
Trawlers.

Return to Base. (C. in C. W.A., 0730A/24 to  
KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK)

HUSSAR.

1. Old programme. 2. Sail 1800C/25.  
3. Proceed as previously arranged by S.B.N.O.  
keeping well clear of Russian S/MS. 4. Join  
me after 0700C/26 as is consistent with para 3.  
(LEDA, 1618C/24 to HUSSAR).

British Air Activity.

E.C.89 and  
VIMIERA  
bombed by  
own A/C.

Hampden returning from seaward at 0638 crossing  
coast 2 miles north of 18 D buoy released  
2 smaller types of bombs which near missed.  
VIMIERA and Commodore by 30 yards.  
(VIMIERA, 0652A/24).

Patrols.

Patrol South "Trost" and P.R.U. of Aalborg,  
Fredrikshaven, Kristiansand, and Stavanger now  
being flown. "Hornli" and North "Stab" taking  
off shortly. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1119/24).  
"Hornli" patrol 100%. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1817/24).  
Four S/E A/C 59 Sqd. are to carry out a patrol,  
by single A/C during darkness tonight outside  
Cherbourg to detect the possible departure of  
two destroyers. Each A/C will patrol for three  
hours. First A/C to be on datum at 1900 hrs.  
and patrol from QMMS 4550 to SGUF 0030 to  
QMLQ 4000.  
First sighting reports are to be sent and the  
enemy shadowed if found.  
(A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1521/24 to Thorney Island).

On Night 23/24 sixty-two A/C attacked Kiel, start-  
ing fires, and seven A/C attacked the Naval  
Units at Brest. The docks at Cherbourg and  
Havre were also bombed.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1630/24).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.S.628

1 aircraft shadowing me, course 180° My position  
54° 3' N., 0° 7' E. (LIDDESDALE, 1818/24).  
Help. "Arena". (LIDDESDALE, 1840/24).

/GRAMPIAN.....



War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.GRAMPIAN,  
CRAFTSMAN,  
CHRYSOLITE,  
(M/S Trawlers)  
attacked.

GRAMPIAN, CRAFTSMAN, and CHRYSOLITE attacked by enemy A/C 10 miles N.E. of Aberdeen 1900. A/C machine gunned and dropped bombs. No casualties. CHRYSOLITE leaking slightly from near miss. All ships returned to harbour. A/C engaged by M/S. A/C fired correct flares before and on completion of attack without being challenged. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2220/24).

Mining.Sweeps off  
Dover.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/24, by S.A. trawlers. QZS. 191 and in QZS. 190 and 269 between Dumpton and Dover. Negative results. 1 acoustic mine detonated by R.A.F.H.S.L. 147 at 1015/23 in position 068° Sandhead Buoy 1 mile. No damage to H.S.L. (V.A. Dover, 1047A/24).

S.N. 83A.  
S.N. 83B.Admiralty 1122A/23. Cancel my 0944/22. Propose S.N.83 be laid in 2 sections.  
(i) S.N. 83A from 62° 33' N., 09° 04' W., to 62° 44' N., 10° 00' 30" W., with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, and WELSHMAN sailing A.M./30 or as soon afterwards as sweeping of S.N.6 and S.N.66 allows.  
(ii) S.N.83B. from 062° 50' N., 009° 54' W. to 062° 58' 30" N., 010° 28' W., with MENESTHEUS, WELSHMAN, and MANXMAN sailing about 5/11. Cruiser escort is requested for both operations and 1 additional destroyer for S.N.83A only. (R.A.M., 1114/24).EMILION  
(M/S Trawler)  
sunk.EMILION sunk by mine at 1007/24 in 39° B.6 buoy 1.4 miles. Ship towed clear of channel. No casualties. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1206A/24 1607/24).  
DALRIADA is to endeavour to disperse wreck of EMILION at first favourable opportunity. (C. in C. Nore, 2055A/24)Thames  
Estuary.

Three mines exploded apparently spontaneously at 0225/24 in 208° West Barrow Beacon 2.95 Miles. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1236/24).

N.P. 25,  
N.P. 18,  
N.P. 7.

My 1019A/22 and 0951A/16 and A.M.1538A/16. Intend to postpone Operation N.P. 25 for the present and to carry out N.P.18 at first opportunity followed by N.P.7. (V.A. Dover, 1731A/24).

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

2 Destroyers  
at  
Cherbourg.

P.R.U. Sortie T/867 date 24/10 time 0830 hours shows in Cherbourg two Destroyers have arrived since 22/10 and are alongside at Gare Maritime in Darse Transatlantique. Otherwise no change in shipping. (P.R.U. Benson, 1115/24) My 1900A/23. Two destroyers located at Cherbourg at 0830/24 have arrived since 22nd. R/C of Brest at 0830/24 showed Battlecruisers and PRINZ EUGEN in usual berths. (D.D.I.C., 1210A/24)

ADMIRAL  
SCHEER.

Photographic R/C of Hamburg at 1320A/24 shows that ADMIRAL SCHEER has left No. 5 floating dock. Cloud obscures remainder of Bloehm & Voss yard. (D.D.I.C., 2340A/24).

Technical.

Oiling at  
Sea.

My 1803A/23. C. in C. H.F. 1035A/23. Meeting on 30/10 will now be of preliminary nature limited to discussion of matters affecting C.in C. W.A.'s requirements. C. in C. W.A. should forward agenda for discussion. C. in C. H.F. should inform Admiralty when sufficient experience has been gained in order that full conference can be arranged. (4th S.L., 2203A/24).

Navigational.

Wreck buoy.

Wreck-marking buoy in 052° 47' 15" N., 001° 50' 40" E., extinguished after collision with ship in F.S. No.6 27. (SHELDRAKE, 0015A/24)

South  
Shipwash  
Buoy.

South Shipwash buoy relit. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1150A/24).

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.Convoy E.C.  
89.  
ROYAL STAR.

Arrived Humber with suspected damage to port shaft through fouling No. 56 buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0850/24).

HARTINGTON.

Arrival H.M. Tug FREEBOOTER, S.S. HARTINGTON in tow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1317A/24).

ASSURANCE.

Your 1010/24. N.O.I.C. Londonderry will arrange for all survivors from ASSURANCE to be landed at Londonderry. On relief by SEAMAN and ST. OLAVES P.M. tomorrow return to Campbeltown with salvaged gear. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1659A/24 to FRISKY).

RENOWN.

RENOWN undocked today. (A.S. Rosyth, 1815/24).

NIGER.  
HAZARD.  
HEBE.  
SHARPSHOOTER.  
SPEEDWELL.

Request dates on which ships will be ready for service. (C. in C. H.F., 2215A/24).

Shipping & Convoys.O.N. 28.

Escort Unit 4.1.6 of five ships, S.O. in SAMPSON, will meet O.N. 28. (Opnav, 0425/24).

P.Q. 2.  
NORMAN.

If delegates not arrived, NORMAN is to form additional escort for P.Q. 2 from position Z. Admiralty pass to NORFOLK and C. in C. H.F. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0921C/24 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Your 1252A/23. This is confirmed. (A.C.I.C., 0949/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X. 153.

Fine weather first 9 days of passage but 8 hours late at M.O.M.P. No stragglers. All ships now arrived. (D.T.D., 1054A/24 to Opnav),

/S.C. 47.....

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

S.C.47.

Many congratulations on again bringing in safely all the ships of your convoy S.C.47. (C. in C. W.A., 1211A/24 to Admiral Sir H.R. Crooke).

H.X.154

Warmest congratualtions on again bringing in safely your Convoy H.X.154. (C. in C. W.A., 1225/24 to Vice Admiral Fairbairn).

D.S.15.

LANCASTER and CASTLETON detailed for D.S.15. (R.A.M., 1421/24).

P.W.55  
W.P.55.

BROCKLESBY, ATHERSTONE are to R/V with TYNEDALE at 1900/24 in estimated position 122° Portland Bill 7 miles and act as extra escort to P.W.55.

(ii) At 0001/25 all destroyers are to turn round and escort W.P.55 till daylight. Estimated position of W.P.55 at 0030/25 will be signalled. If contact is not made destroyers are to patrol South East of convoy route till daylight.

(iii) TYNEDALE and ATHERSTONE are then to proceed Plymouth BROCKLESBY to R/V with P.W.55.

(iv) 2 enemy destroyers now present in Cherbourg. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1422/24). My 1555/24. 1 A/S Trawler, 1 Merchant ship straggling 15 miles astern of W.P.55. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1802/24)

GAELIC STAR.

Shift all possible general cargo with crew so as to cool down refrigerated space for immediate loading salvaged cargo. Owners concur. (D.T.D., 1555Z/24)

P.Q.3.

My 1255A/22. For "Wednesday 29th October" read "Thursday 30th October". (C. in C. H.F., 1626A/24 to C.S.10)

/Information. ..

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.Information  
to Neutral  
Consuls.

Certain Neutral Consuls are said to have been instructed to make every endeavour to obtain information regarding movements of shipping. Harbour Authorities and Shipping Organisations should be warned against giving shipping information to Neutral Consuls or their representatives. Shipowners have been informed accordingly. (D.N.I., 1841A/24)

C.T. 5  
"Cargo".

A.M. 2231A/18. Convoy C.T.5. Route. From position Q. 270° 6 miles from Oversay Light at 0900Z/31/10. to position E. 56° 30' N., 20° 15' W., D. 54° 30' N., 24° 00' W. C. 51° N., 30° W.

2. In position D convoy C.T.5 meets and changes escorts with convoy "Cargo" at 1200Z/2/11.

3. Route for "Cargo" from position D through position E. to F. 56° 30' N., 11° W. Thence to North Channel. (D.O.D. H., 2318A/24).

Owing to unforeseen demands on C. in C. W.A. it is not possible to provide full escort for C.T.5 unless R.A.(M) provides 3 destroyers.

2. As it is however of great importance to carry out operation S.N.83 as soon as sweeping North West of Faeroes is completed C. in C. H.F. is requested to state whether Home Fleet can provide the escort for this operation.

3. If this can be arranged, R.A.(M) is requested to provide 3 destroyers for C.T.5 leaving U.K. on 30/10 sailing them as required by C. in C. W.A.

4. Necessary signals will be passed to R.A.(M) (A.C.N.S. (H.), 2339A/24)

Proposed  
Belfast-  
Heysham  
Ferry.

The Larne-Stranraer route for military personnel is now working at full capacity. To meet additional traffic, the War Office propose to start a service between Belfast and Heysham using a fast ship making one daylight crossing on four days per week.

2. Ships to receive air protection only.

3. Request your views.

(D.O.D. (H.), 2323A/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.WILD SWAN.  
Escorts of  
O.S.9.G.

My 1220A/20. Subject to satisfactory trial intend sailing WILD SWAN p.m./24 to reinforce escort O.S.9.G.

(ii) When may WISHART be expected.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1116A/24 to Adty.)

925 Your 1020A/24 to F.O.C.N.A. only. Detach LAMERTON to refuel at Ponta Delgada so that she can rejoin convoy before VIDETTE has to leave.

(ii) Report via aircraft date of LAMERTON arrival at Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 2246A/24 to LEGION)

WILD SWAN sails 0001A/25 to pass through 037° 22' N. 019° 00' W. at 0600A/27 steering along approach route speed 14 knots to R/V with O.S.9.G. (F.O.C.N.A. 2222A/24 to Escort of O.S.9.)

Alleged  
violation  
of Spanish  
territorial  
waters at  
Gibraltar.

My 1744A/23. Add to para. 3 Spanish Consul General was present at meeting. Para. 4 the objections raised by Spanish authorities were fully investigated and cordial agreement reached Spanish Captain of Port has promised to notify Minister of Marine accordingly. (F.O.C.N.A. 1258A/24 to N.A. Madrid.)

Orders to  
DUNCAN.

My 1700A/23 my 0720A/24 and my 1216A/24. On parting company with CARNATION proceed along H.G. 75's route until in convoy's vicinity. Join H.G. 75 as early as possible during daylight 25th. Remain in company until necessary to comply with my 1920A/24. (F.O.C.N.A. 1326A/24 to DUNCAN).

My 1326A/24. Remain with H.G. 75 until daylight/27. Further signal will be made rejoin O.S.9.G. Cancel my 1326A/24. (F.O.C.N.A. 1830A/24 to DUNCAN).

Entry to  
Gibraltar.

For N.C.S.O.'s. Merchant ships are arriving at Gibraltar without correct entry instructions. Attention is drawn to A.M. 1728/11/4 and in particular to the fact that the Examination Vessel has been replaced by the Examination Station at Rosia. (D.T.D. 1519A/24 to A.I.G. 26,19.) At 1600 DUNEDIN STAR reported by aircraft in position 036° 35' N. 000° 53' W. and CITY OF LINCOLN 036° 29' N. 000° 42' W. E.T.A. Gibraltar about 0700/25. (F.O.C.N.A. 1822A/24 to V.A. Malta.)

/French.....

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.French  
Ships.

Gibraltar 0857 Survey ship ESTAFETTE, FORT ARCHAMBAULT, CEVENNES, FAUZON all full lorries on deck, CAPITAIN DE DIABAT laden, with trawlers. AIGRETTE, LOUP DE MER westbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1657A/24).

Air  
Operations.

Attacked U-boat at 1705 in 36.24 N. 1202 W. Further details to follow. 1 Catalina escort COSSACK torpedoed 2359/23. Still Afloat. (200 Group 1823/24).

DINGLEDALE.

Has Tanker DINGLEDALE's time of crossing 025° (? west) been received by Portishead. (F.O.C.N.A. 1841A/24 to Admty.)

SURVILLE  
(French.)

Reference C.G. Lisbon tel. to M.E.W. no. 2024. SURVILLE reported loading beans and fish oil Faro for Oran. M.E.W. (?Section) British Embassy most anxious for her interception. (N.A. Lisbon 1850/24 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

A/C's  
for  
AUDACITY.

Your 1852A/22. It is not intended to base 802 Squadron ashore at Gibraltar. AUDACITY will leave U.K. with eight or nine Martlet Aircraft of 802 Squadron. Propose to disembark up to three aircraft at Gibraltar and place them in reserve for 802. Three spare pilots and 15 ratings would be disembarked with reserve aircraft. I hope accommodation can be found for these Officers and Ratings. Stores required will be held by AUDACITY. Propose C.O. AUDACITY, should make other arrangements with you on arrival. (D.N.A.D. 1900A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ANTWERP.  
BRIGAND.

E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1000/25. BRIGAND not in company. (ANTWERP 2038A/24).

Signalling  
by Ships.

My 0001/1st May Sect. II para. 16. In view of unlikely reception by Gibraltar or other British shore stations of signals made on 500 K/Cs (600 M) when crossing 25° W., it is proposed that this signal should only be made on crossing this meridian by ships fitted with H/F transmitters and that ships not so fitted should not break W/T silence. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2045A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Movements....

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

Movements  
of 36th and  
37th Escort  
groups.

Your 1722A/20 and my 1928A/12/9. Every opportunity will be taken to exercise groups. The routine Boiler Cleaning of these ships is beyond capacity of local resources unless additional Boiler Cleaning parties are provided. It may be possible to take one or two in hand dependent on local commitments. With present strength of Gibraltar forces use of these ships to assist local commitments is unavoidable. Local forces average six days out of seven at sea excluding Boiler Cleaning periods, and even so, great difficulty is found in meeting commitments. I feel that to leave visiting ships from Home Waters in Harbour whilst local forces work hard (or escorts are inadequate) would be unjustifiable, and inevitably cause discontent. (F.O.C.N.A. 2332A/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.

Suspicious  
vessel  
sighted by  
PATOKA.

U.S.S. PATOKA reports at 1500/22nd 6 - 44 S. 34 - 26 W. vessel estimated 20 knots single mast crows nest forward low bridge amidships high stack aft apparently lying to manoeuvred high speed devious courses intercept this vessel various courses closed range 15,000 then withdrew into sun glare. Answered no signals. Inquiry Recife indicates not American or Brazilian. Ends. (Opnav 0823/24 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I. C. in C. S.A.)  
United States Naval Tanker PATOKA which arrived at Pernambuco 23/10 reported having sighted at about 1500 hours local time/22, 25 miles E. of Natal, a suspicious vessel which may have been German raider. The vessel which had lines similar to a destroyer was about 10 miles inshore of PATOKA and going slow. She increased speed to 20 to 25 knots and headed for PATOKA. Latter changed course first E. then to N. each time other vessel changed course apparently in order to shorten range. Finally PATOKA resumed southern course when other vessel stopped 7 to 8 miles distant. Shortly afterwards she laid down a heavy smoke screen and disappeared Westwards at about 1700 hours. PATOKA made recognition signals and enquired name of other vessel. All signals remained unanswered. (R.O. Pernambuco 1220Z/24 to S.O.(I) Freetown, S.O.(I) Montevideo to R.A.S.A.D. S.A.S.)

/Convoy.....



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War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.Convoy  
C.M.16.Repeats his 1055B/23. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown  
1055B/24 to C. in C. E.I.)Freetown.

Your 2132/27/9. The transfer of troops at Freetown from ship to ship or ship to shore is an ever growing commitment. For instance in a recent case there were over 2000 Officers and men and their baggage to be disembarked from one ship "X" and distributed to four others and this at a time when there were 82 Merchant ships in harbour of which 54 had arrived on the same day as "X" above. There was then the subsequent embarkation of smaller number in X. The normal harbour craft are fully employed working cargo water fuel etc. and are not available for personnel. In any case tugs cannot go alongside the pier reserved for personnel. Transfers were in fact made by using M.L.C's if 2 M.L.C's are sent to Gibraltar in accordance with your 2132A/27/9 it will be necessary to use M.L.C's ex Force Q which appears to be contrary to your 0110/30/8 nor will these craft be available if parent ships are employed elsewhere. Suggest 2 M.L.C.'s should be retained for use of S.S.T.O. (C. in C. S.A. 1158N/24 to Admty.)

Fuel oil  
at Walvis  
Bay for  
MILFORD.  
(sailing  
to St.  
Helena)

There is no furnace oil at Walvis Bay only 1200 tons Diesel Oil belonging to Shell Company. This stock of Diesel Oil is required for internal use ashore and only very small quantity is available for ships. In view of this suggest oiler be diverted to Walvis Bay to supply ships. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1215B/24 to C. in C. S.A.) My 1215/24th, refers your 1615/23rd. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1535B/24 to C. in C. S.A.)

CARNARVON  
CASTLE  
for patrol.

Request you sail CARNARVON CASTLE as soon as ready, best speed to patrol calm area shown on Chart Y 191 to south of St. Helena and between Meridian Greenwich and 15° W. with preference for Northern half of this area. Probable duration of Patrol one week. Further orders will be signalled. Object, interception of possible U/Boat supplying ships. (C. in C. S.A. 1321N/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.) Your 1321/24. Have ordered CARNARVON CASTLE to sail on (corrupt group) A/S patrol weather permitting 0500/25. This will entail complete postponement of practice and gun trials with new ammunition due to be carried out on 25/10 and 26/10. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1945Z/24 to C. in C. S.A.)

/WILD.....

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

WILD SWAN.

As the next W.S. Convoy will not leave U.K. till about 10/11 and in view of the heavy scale of attack now in the Gibraltar area it is considered desirable for WILD SWAN to remain at Gibraltar until arrival of WISHART which should be about 30/10.

2. You can of course sail WRESTLER without waiting for WILD SWAN if you wish.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1352A/24 to C. in C. S.A.)

Corvettes.  
WRESTLER.  
VANSITTART.

Your 1141/9 and 2010/13.

1. Concur in your intentions for sailing of corvettes for refit.
2. WRESTLER should be sailed to U.K. for refit. A.M. 1352/24 para. 2 refers.
3. Request you will make arrangements for docking VANSITTART on S.A. Station informing Admiralty. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1912A/24 to C. in C.S.A)

SEVERN.

Owing to further fuel leaks having developed on passage stowage has been reduced to 65%. No. 1 oil fuel group port leaking badly into main ballast. Group is unusable. No. 3 oil fuel group port, small leak in main exhaust recess but group is usable. (SEVERN 1913/24 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

S.S. DIVONA.  
(attacked  
21/10).

WX. 1238A.229 24/10. Re. your X.914 23/10 and my I.192 21/10 at least 3 miles but not exceeding 4 miles off coast Northeast Ras Maamoura. No further details available other than those contained in my I.192 21/10. (H.Q. Malta, 0100/24 to Air Min.)

/CLAN.....

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

CLAN  
FERGUSON.

(British) leaves Malta a.m./24 passes 036° 35' 012° 30' about 1830A/24 thence to 036° 31' 012° 00' and 036° 40' 011° 15' at about 0001A/25 thence close to coast to Cape Bon and must not be molested. (Capt. (S) 10 1017A/24 to UTMOST). Cancel my 1017A/24. Ship is returning to Malta. (Capt. (S) 10 1850A/24 to UTMOST).

SOKOL  
UTMOST.

Informing Med. Fleet of movements as Capt. (S) 10, 1320A/23. (Capt. S.10 1023A/24)

Information  
required.

On each occasion of Warships or Merchant ships making the passage between Gibraltar and Malta a brief summary of attacks by hostile aircraft, surface craft and submarines is to be signalled to Admiralty for information.  
2. Was Force "K" attacked whilst on passage to Malta. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1059/24 to V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A.)

Air  
Operations.

Night 22/23 Oct. 4 Wellingtons attacked harbour works at Benghazi starting 1 medium fire in buildings east of customs quay and 2 small fires among railway sidings North East of inner harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1214/24).

Soviet  
ships  
from  
Black Sea.

Following from Admiral Kelly. Your 2132A/22. H.M. Ambassador is kept fully informed of all my activities. (N.A. Angora 1259B/24 to Admty.)

Enemy  
convoy.

2 Merchant Ships escorted by one destroyer sighted in 035° 24' 021° 00' at 1047B /24th, steering south. (Capt, (S) 1 1545B/24 to THRASHER).

Monster  
liners.

Your 1944/10 (N.T. in W.D).  
From dates of air attacks it appears that the policy of routeing Monster Liners to arrive at Suez during new moon periods has so far been successful but it is agreed that during moonlit periods a force of the strength you propose represents the bare minimum desirable.

Red Sea  
escorts.

2. The long endurance of sloops makes them more suited for ocean Escort of Convoys, from which essential duties no more can be spared.  
3. As immediate action it is suggested, subject to concurrence of C. in C. E.I, that YARRA should be exchanged for FALMOUTH.

/A.A.....

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

A/A.  
escorts and  
protection.

4. I consider that HUNT class destroyers best meet your requirements for fast A/A Escort vessels. AVONVALE and ERIDGE have reached you, and HEYTHROP and FARNDALE are expected at Suez by 10/11.
5. All practicable steps are being taken to accelerate the departure of your next four HUNTS and it is hoped that building will have progressed sufficiently to allow these to be followed by a further four.
6. The one BANK Class in service is fully employed in the Western Approaches and two smaller vessels in the Irish Sea, all in areas where air attack is a daily expectation.
7. Ships leaving U.K. are provided with all possible A/A weapons and it is hoped that the Aden shuttle service and the visit of Admiral Dreyer will have improved local conditions in this respect. (V.C.N.S. 1600A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Ammunition  
for  
Singapore.

In order to meet urgent operational requirements request you send to Singapore from Eastern Med. reserves 5,000 rounds 5.25 H.E. T.F. ammunition. This will be made good from U.K. (A.C.N.S.(W) 1626A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Operation  
"Halberd".

Pass following to 828 Squadron Hallfar. Your 1040A/23 S.O. Force H's 1557A/18 refers. 11 Albacore and 2 Swordfish started. (ARK ROYAL 1638/24 to V.A. Malta).

REGENT.

Arriving Sanctuary 1100B/25 unless otherwise ordered, acknowledge. (REGENT 1701/24 to S.1)

Possibility of  
Attack on  
Alexandria  
by Boats.

- After the success obtained at Gibraltar we consider it likely that an attack by human torpedoes and/or one-man motor boats will be attempted at Alexandria.
2. To assist in watching the approaches to the harbour one Type 271 R.D.F. set is being despatched by air. Experience indicates that in calm weather the apparatus should have a good chance of detecting even so small a target as a human torpedo on the surface. To give it a fair chance, however, the zone of water being covered should be kept clear of patrol craft.
  3. Re installing and operation. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1840A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

/HANS.....

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

HANS SCHMIDT.

Arrival 24th from Garrucho with some 7,000 tons iron ore. Will load here in general barrels resin and some aniseed. Expected sailing to-night 24th or tomorrow for Tarragona for olive oil. (Valencia, 1910/24)

Air Operations.

Total 4 bombers approached 2136 hours and 0322 hours 23/24th October. Bombs on land and sea slight damage to civil and Government property Grand Harbour Area slight damage R.E. Store and materials Marino Pinto one civilian wounded. Night 23/24th Oct. 3 Wellingtons independent attacks Naples leaflets and total 8,750 lbs. bombs dropped from 8,000 feet. Time over target 2000 hours to 0145 hours. Results not observed. 3 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli. Total bombs dropped 12,000 lbs from 3,000 feet to 8,000 feet. Time over target 1945 hours to 0315 hours. Day 24/10, 6 Hurricanes, bombers escorted by 11 fighters attacked railway and factory Ragusa 0708 hours total bombs dropped 960 lbs. burst target area complete surprise no opposition 5 Blenheims attacked factory Licata 1400 hours as alternative Castel Vetrano aerodrome which was under cloud 5,000 lbs. bombs dropped S.W. target railway line hit fire started in town. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 2200/24).

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Instructions  
to shipping.  
in event of  
war with  
Japan.

N.O.I/C.'s pass to N.C.S.O.'s.

(i) Should hostilities with Japan become imminent the policy in regard to British and Allied except Dutch shipping proceeding from Area 3 to Area 4 will be as follows:-

(ii) When signal "Seek refuge port" is made  
(a) Ships west of longitude Colombo and bound for Area 4 are to call at Colombo for orders.  
(b) Ships between longitude Colombo and 085° E., if bound Area 4, are to turn and proceed Colombo for orders.

(c) Ships east of 085° E., and bound Area 4 are to proceed to the nearest defended port in Burma Malaya or N.E.I.

(iii) Should war with Japan break out or signal "Immobilise" be made necessary steps are to be taken to prevent ships being used by enemy. If capture is inevitable, ships must be scuttled or engines and boilers seriously damaged.

(iv) If stopped at sea by Japanese warships after repeated after signal "Seek refuge port" has been made, confidential books are to be destroyed and immediate W/T message sent in plain language giving such details as time permits if and when released, further report is to be made.

(v) Trustworthy Masters are to be acquainted verbally and confidentially with foregoing and warned that, only maximum number of officers may be informed.

(vi) Dutch shipping is controlled by Dutch authorities but should be requested to conform generally.

(C. in C.E.I., 1218Z/24, to E.I. Station.)

AUSTRALIA.

My 0758/11 and my 0802/15.

One AUSTRALIA will leave Mauritius p.m./26 for Kerguelen and Crozet Island. Estimate she will be in former locality from 1st to 6th Nov., incl., and should arrive Durban 14th.

2. AUSTRALIA has been given discretion in visit to Crozet Island and knows she is required middle of November for convoy. But she has been told if weather is good chance should be taken to make a thorough examination of this group.

3. In fixing date for semi Monster convoy request allowance may be made for above and that she may be given a few days in harbour if possible.

(C. in C.E.I., 1438Z/24, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.TAI SEUN  
HONG.Arrival 29/10. Saigon.  
(N.S.S.O. Hong Kong 0224Z/24.)AWATEA.

A.M. 1654A/10. In view of the altered circumstances request you will provide Cruiser Escort for AWATEA from Manila to Hong Kong. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0553A/24 to C. in C. China.)

R.D.F.

Your 0915Z/15/10. I hope to ship four type 279 at the rate of one per month starting November for fitting in Dutch cruisers.

2. In addition seven sets of Type 290 by end of the year for Dutch destroyers.

3. Dutch may be given general information of R.D.F. vide C.A.F.O. 713/41.

(4) Arrangements have been made for Dutch R.D.F. officers to proceed N.E.I., to supervise fitting and for instruction of ratings locally. (D.S.D. 1704A/24 to C. in C. China.)

Chinese General Staff report.

Japanese fleet fully mobilized and now at Sasebo. (b) 11 transports with Japanese troops including twenty guns (?arrived at) Haiphong 20/10 2 more divisions to follow. (B.M.A. ChungKing 1740/24.)

This is a possibility, and mobilization is confirmed by N.A. Tokyo.

Chinese  
Naval  
personnel.

Re training and employment in H.M. Ships. (Hd. of M. 2002A/24 to C. in C. China.)

See Lion Copy.

America & West Indies.T.C.15.

Your 2033/21. All ships should be stored for Transatlantic voyage in T.C.15 plus a further two months with full complement of troops and crew.

/Essential.....

SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT 593A

2002A/24th October

TO:- C. in C. China 148  
repeated Ambassador Chungking

DATE:- 24.10.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (One Time)

FROM:- Admiralty

Ambassador's No. 16 of 19th August. Their Lordships see advantage in doing as much as possible for the training and employment of Chinese Officers and ratings in H.M. Ships, not only to ensure the help of the Chinese Navy after the war, but to outweigh the influence of the Japanese trained Nanking Navy.

2. In the first place Ambassador is being asked to send you further details of one hundred officers and ratings (not more than 10 Officers), including age, technical and seagoing qualifications. You are then authorised to ask Ambassador to send selected men to Singapore for trial and should report results and recommend to what extent scheme should be pursued.

3. It is, of course, essential that Chinese should not be employed on menial tasks but should be given employment in accordance with their qualifications.

4. Their Lordships envisage taking men in the first place in small drafts with one or two Officers per draft and sending them to A.M.C.'s, Coastguard cutters, or to sloops and gun boats on the East Indies and Mediterranean Stations. Men would probably have to be additional to the complement in the first instance.

5. It will be difficult to place large numbers of Officers but when the six already accepted for training have joined you should have a guide for making recommendations for employment of further batches.

2002A/24

1st Lord	P.A.S. (N.A.)	
1st S.L.	D.P.S. (2)	for Hd. of M. Branch (800)
2nd S.L.	D.T.S.D.	Approved by 2nd S.L.
V.C.N.S.	N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)	Cps. (4)
A.C.N.S. (F)	N.	O.D. (5)
Secretary	C.W. (2)	I.P. (3)
Naval Sec.	N.L.	W.D.
P.A.S. (S)	M. (M. 013646/41)	(30) and for China Distributic
N.A. 1st S.L.		M 67)

D.N.I. (4)  
D. of P. (3)



War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.C.15.  
Contd.

Essential that sailing date of T.C.15 be maintained at 13.11 even if storing not completed.  
(D. of S.T. 0217A/24 to H.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

Suspicious  
Vessel  
sighted by  
PATOKA.

Following received from Opnav for transmission C. in C.S.A.  
Repeats Opnav 0823/24. See S.Atlantic.  
(B.A.D. Washington 0425R/24 to C. in C.S.A.)

LIVERPOOL.

My 0854R/16. Sailing of LIVERPOOL is delayed about one week.  
(B.A.R.M. 1330R/24.)

A.M.C.'s.

Departures CHITRAL, AUSONIA, WORCESTERSHIRE, MONTCLARE for U.K.  
(S.O.(I) Halifax 1921Z/24.)

M.V.  
COLOMBIA.

Your 1529Z/23rd not to C.N.A. U.S.A. Naval Authorities have granted permission to Swedish M.V. COLOMBIA Vancouver to use following anchorage in case of emergency (1) off Iliuliuk Bay (2) anywhere in Unalaska Bay. Matter of granting similar refuge ports to all ships using great circle route is being considered and report will be forwarded later.  
(C.N.O. Ottawa 2112Z/24.)

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. <sup>10° 04' W</sup>COSSACK.  
(torpedoed  
23/10.)

Forward part of COSSACK is completely wrecked. After (?part) floating and fit to tow position is 35 36 N., (?34)(?04) W. CARNATION standing by. (LEGION 0005Z/24 to R.A. Gibraltar.) My 0005Z/24. CARNATION is fast to (? COSSACK) and will endeavour to take her in tow at daylight. LEGION remaining for A/S protection. Request air escort and tug. Weather sea slight wind N.W. three. Approx., number of survivors on board LEGION 43 CARNATION 47 COMMANDANT DUBOC 10.

(LEGION 0248Z/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Tug THAMES escorted by JONQUIL sailing at 0630A for 035° 36' N., 010° 04' W., to tow COSSACK to Gibraltar.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0330A/24, to CARNATION.)

COSSACK sinking. Am rejoining convoy.

(LEGION 0500Z/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Arrival 0230 DUNCAN. Departed 0535 in accordance with my 0720 to R/V with O.S.9 G. Departure JONQUIL with Tug THAMES to tow COSSACK.

(F.O.C.N.A. 0636A/24 to Adty.)

LEGION 2255Z/23 and 0005Z/24 and my 0330A/24 DUNCAN sailed 0530A/24 with surgeon and medical supplies, then in execution of previous orders.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0720A/24 to Adty.)

LEGION rejoining convoy forthwith CARNATION ceased towing providing A/S protection.

Expect escort of Catalina Aircraft at 0930 Call Sign M.9 H.H.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0724A/24 to LEGION, CARNATION.)

Am proceeding to assistance of COSSACK, E.T.A., 1845 in 35 36 ?10 04.

(HERMIONE 0839A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

COSSACK afloat in 35 40 N., 09 50 W.

CARNATION providing A.S. protection. Has steam and pumps keeping water under control. Bows, most of bridge and foremast gone.

Expect Tug will R/V daylight 25th. Weather up to date suitable for towing. About 100 survivors in all.

(F.O.C.N.A., 2330A/24 to Adty.)

S.S. ARIOSTO  
(2176 tons.)ARIOSTO torpedoed and sunk.  
(ROCHESTER 0550A/24 to Admiralty, F.O.C.N.A.)Unknown Ship.

From Wick Radio, Intercept at 2036 G.M.T. on 500 Kcs. DE Unknown Station begins:- S S S S. Signals very weak and interference heavy, nothing further heard. Ends. No bearing obtained.

(Scapa W/T T.O.R. 2154/24 to A.C.O.S.)

/VANCOUVER.....

War Diary.24.10.1941.  
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.Contd.VANCOUVER  
ISLAND.  
(torpedoed  
15/10.)Request you will report result of PICTOU'S search for VANCOUVER ISLAND.  
(C. in C.W.A., 2311A/24 to C.C.N.F.)H.G.75.  
CARSBRECK  
ALHAMA sunk.LEGION reports CARSBRECK and ALHAMA sunk during night 23/24. 57 survivors in COMMANDANT DUBOC.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2356A/24 to Adty.)Submarines Reported.H.G.75.At 1238A/24 F.W.'s homeing U-Boats onto H.G.75.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1254A/24 to Escorts of H.G.75.)  
3 U-boats are probably being homed on to convoy from N.E. 2 of these were (?90) miles away at noon.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1938A/24, to Escorts of H.G.75.)

2252/23.

There were indications of a possible U-Boat within 100 miles 019° S., 010° W., at 2252 23rd. Reliability 60%.  
(C. in C.S.A., 1423N/24 to S.A.Sqn.)Estimated U-boat Dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1443A/24.)1516 by  
HERMIONE.1 Submarine bearing 112° distance 8 miles course 260° my position 36° 37' N., 11° 8' W.  
(HERMIONE 1516/24, 1600/24.)  
My 1556 ? S/M has dived my position (as before.)  
(HERMIONE 1518/24.)

1516A.

036° 45' N., 011° 42' W., at 1516A/24 course 260°.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1559A/24 1739A/24 to S & A., N.A.Stn.)

1035 G.M.T.

By D/F 042° 00' N., 009° 30' W.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1739A/24 to S & A., N.A. Stn.)1142  
1148  
1209  
1153  
1218  
1442German U-boats fixed by D/F bearings. At 1142 within 15 miles of 037° 10' 009° 51'. At 1148 within 60 miles of 037° 40' 010° 00'.  
At 1209 within 60 miles of 037° 40' 011° 00'.  
At 1153 and 1218 within 15 miles of 037° 30' 010° 30'. At 1442 within 15 miles of 038° 00' 012° 00'. All times G.M.T. and all positions N. and W.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1927A/24 to S & A., N.A.)

War Diary.

24.10.1941.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By PICTOU.

Your 0958/23 preliminary report. PICTOU chased U-Boat on surface from 0330/17 until 0430/17 when very promising attack carried out on U crash diving - speed attained by PICTOU 195 RPM to overhaul. During chase two torpedoes certainly and a third possibly fired from stern tubes at PICTOU. Suggest all escorts be warned to avoid wake of U-boats when chasing, further report follows then other escorts return here.  
(Capt. D. N.F. 1402Z/24 to C. in C.W.A.)

By A/C  
1705/24.

See North Atlantic. (200 Group 1823/14.)

By LAMERTON.

Am attacking (?Enemy Submarine) in 37 12 N., 11 30 W.  
(LAMERTON 1830A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Contact lost at 1826 A after 2 attacks. Area thoroughly swept am rejoining convoy.  
(LAMERTON 2000A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.25.10.1941.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Enemy  
Intelligence.

The two German Destroyers reported at Cherbourg at 0830 yesterday were no longer there at 1100 today and are believed to have passed Cape Gris Nez eastwards at 0230 this morning taking a course not previously followed to the Westward and Northward of the Outer Ruytingen Bank.

Two 6000 Ton German supply ships and one 400 Ton Tanker, all loaded and escorted by one Patrol Boat, are reported to have arrived in Floro Harbour from the south at 1700Z yesterday and it is believed that they may round Stadtlandet northbound today.

W.S.12 X.

Convoy W.S.12 X, consisting of 6 American and possibly 1 British Troop Transports and carrying 20,000 British Troops transhipped from Convoy C.T.5, will leave Halifax on 9/11 for the Middle East by way of Trinidad and the Cape, and will be escorted as far as Cape Town by U.S. forces.

Force G.

Force G. (PRINCE OF WALES and 2 Destroyers) with HESPERUS sailed from the Clyde at 1346A today for Freetown and Singapore.

White Sea.

A/S Nets are being laid in the White Sea Approaches and Masters of M/Vs concerned are to be warned against marking the net positions on their charts.

British Air Activity.Yellow  
Warning  
discontinued.

From 1500/28 the "Yellow Warning" on the National Warning system will be discontinued.

The believed position of PRINZ EUGEN at Brest was bombed last night by 6 Stirlings who found the whole town covered by a smoke screen.  
7 A/C attacked Emden.

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 1255 today one A/C attacked two Colliers in Skaalo Fiord, Faroes without result; and at 1816 Convoy E.C.90 was bombed without result off Southwold.

In North Russian waters enemy air R/C is reported today to extend as far as 72° N. and 42° E.

Mining.

Thames  
Estuary.

Mines were detonated yesterday and today by sweepers in the Thames Estuary and C. in C. Nore has ordered two Motor Minesweepers to be sailed as soon as possible to Sheerness from London.

Avonmouth was closed at 2255A tonight owing to suspected minelaying.

North Atlantic.

S.S. CITY OF LINCOLN and DUNEDIN STAR, sailing independently have arrived at Gibraltar. Both were attacked by aircraft and claim to have damaged the enemy.

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE left Capetown this morning to carry out a patrol for a week to intercept possible U-boat supply ships in the calm area south of St. Helena between the meridian of Greenwich and 15° W.

DORSETSHIRE left Freetown today for patrol to intercept possible enemy supply ships.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

24 enemy aircraft approached Malta today. 4 crossed the island and dropped bombs intended for the Grand Harbour and setting on fire the Government fuel dump.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

6 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night. 4 Wellingtons attacked shipping and the harbour at Benghazi last night.

LATONA  
sunk.

Fast minelayer LATONA was attacked by aircraft at 2015 today 30 miles north of Bardia; the after magazine eventually blew up and the ship sank at 2220. Continuous bombing attacks took place during the rescue operations and HERO was damaged whilst alongside LATONA, though perhaps not seriously.

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. SALABANGKA was reported being pursued by a S/M at 1950 today in 43° 41' N. 37° 58' W.

GALILEO  
S/M FERRARIS  
sunk by  
LAMERTON.

At 1240A today <sup>GALILEO</sup>LAMERTON reported that she had sunk Italian S/M ~~FERRARIS~~ in 37° 27' N. 14° 33' W. and was picking up the crew. LAMERTON sustained slight damage from shrapnel.



War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dover.  
Request  
for A.L.Cs.  
and M.G.Bs.

A.L. M/PDO503/41 23 October. It is considered essential that assault landing crafts and crews should be allocated to Dover for combined training as soon as possible. 5 assault landing craft is considered a suitable number and information is requested when these could be made available. M.G.Bs. D type would be invaluable as supporting craft and if necessary 4 boats of 5th Motor Launch Flotilla could be surrendered for 4 boats of this type. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1248A/25 to Admty).

A/S.  
Trawlers  
preparing  
for Arctic  
service.

F.O.I.C. Belfast's 1152A/22 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 0953A/22.  
2. Request you will signal your intentions on the following points:-  
A. From what base are these ships to work? These ships are unable to maintain themselves.  
B. Do you wish these Trawlers to be formed into Auxiliary A/S Groups? If so presumably this should be done in 2 Groups on basis of present refitting ports.  
3. If not required for convoy escort immediately on completion of refit suggest trawlers carry out a few days A/S practices at Tobermory. (A.C.N.S. (H), 1725A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Flag of  
V.A.2.  
(from PRINCE  
of WALES)

Cancel my 1204. Flag of V.A.2 now hoisted in RENOWN. (RENOVN, 1859/25).

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Co-operation  
in event of  
Heavy Units  
breaking out.

Following received from Opnav. Repeats Opnav 2232Z/23. (A.C.N.S. H., 1256A/25 to Cs. in C. H.F., W.A., A.W.I., etc).

Co-operation with Russia.

Communications.

S.B.N.O. North Russia 1136C/24. Request confirmation teleprinter circuit between Murmansk and Archangel is now in operation and what transmitter will be used by Archangel for communication to Murmansk.  
2. Request information what W/T arrangements are in force for communication from ships within about 100 miles of Archangel with that place as institution of a Port Wave appears desirable. Watch on this may be continuous or at Routine periods according to personnel available.  
3. On receipt of your reply, Admty General Message Home will be issued. (D.S.D., 1317A/25 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M014.

Leave patrol after dark/25 through following position diving by day to R/V with LOCH MONTEITH in 135° Bressay Light 7 miles at 0730 A/27 for onward passage to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange for fighter protection from Bressay to Scapa. (Capt. S.9., 0221A/25 to S/M 014.)

A.F.D.14.

My 1840/24. Sailing postponed. Master considers weather unfavourable. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0910/25).

MAORI.

Subject to trials being satisfactory MAORI should now complete P.M./28th. Following proposed sailing programme. (F.O.I.C. London, 1301/25).

D.19.

The present intention is that you should sail on 1/11. (A.C.NS. (H) 1318A/25 to D.19)

Force G.  
(PRINCE OF WALES Etc.)

Sailed Force "G" and HESPERUS routed as in C. in C. W.A 1249A/23. Codeword "Sultan" E.T.A. Freetown 1000Z/5. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1346A/25).

MONTCLARE,  
AUSONIA.

On arrival at Clyde it is intended that MONTCLARE and AUSONIA should proceed to Falmouth and Cardiff respectively to be fitted for Tropics. 4. C. in C. W.A., is requested to sail MONTCLARE and AUSONIA and to arrange escort if necessary with C. in C. Plymouth. (D.O.D. (H), 1401A/25).

SEAWOLF.

Cancel my 0912A/24. SEAWOLF leaves Needles 1700/25 routed as follows to R/V 180° Lizard 5' at 0730/27. SEAWOLF has orders not to proceed beyond position 090° Start Point 10 miles before 0700/26. (Capt. S.5., 1401A/25).

WISHART.

Intend to sail WISHART to Gibraltar leaving Plymouth 1200/26 routed through 044° N., 15° W. Request F.O.C.N.A., issue onward routing instructions to Gibraltar. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1524/25).

/AURANIA.....

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

AURANIA.  
ASCANIA.  
WOLFE.  
MALOJA.

My 0013A/23 and 2137A/24.  
1. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail AURANIA, ASCANIA, WOLFE, and MALOJA in company to Southampton.  
2. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is to sail STORK, IBIS, and ABERDEEN as escort to R/V as arranged by F.O.I.C. Greenock.  
3. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested sail ships to conform with C. in C. Portsmouth's 1103A/23. (C. in C. W.A., 1613A/25).

SUPERMAN.

Intend sailing SUPERMAN for Gibraltar in accordance with Admty 2321A/29/9 in Convoy O.G.76 leaving Clyde A.M./28. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1654A/25).

JAY.  
MYRLAND.  
KENNET.

My 1758/15/10. JAY now at Greenock with engine defects, which will take at least 4 days. Propose delaying sailing of MYRLAND and KENNET now at Campbeltown until JAY is ready. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1858A/25).

Information  
for ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.

SEALION escorted by WHITE BEAR proceeding through Minches to Scapa may be met about 0400A/26. (C. in C. W.A., 1901A/25 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

SUFFOLK.  
IMPULSIVE.  
ESCAPADE.

1500A/25 arrived, Seidisfiord with IMPULSIVE, ESCAPADE. Intend to sail 0800A/26 for Scapa, E.T.A. 1600A/27. (SUFFOLK, 1641Z/25).

LA  
CAPRICIEUSE.

Delayed by landing injured ratings from H.31 at St. Ives. Sailed St. Ives 1820A/25. (LA CAPRICIEUSE, 1831A/25).

M/Ls. on  
Escort Duty.

My 1613A/25. <sup>N.T.W.S.</sup> M.Ls. 146, 145, 149, 150, 151, and 230 returned owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 2144A/25).

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation  
"Pantaloon".  
*(Hurricane  
for Malta)*

Expect possibility considerable delay completion loading. Persistent local fog. If vessels could find suitable berths southside Glasgow might expediate by avoidance long Road/Lighter journeys. (R.A.F.E.O. Glasgow, 1131 /25 to Air Ministry).

R.A.F.E.O. Glasgow, 1131/25. Berthing of ARGUS and ATHENE on South Side of River at Glasgow is not recommended for the following reasons. Loading of ATHENE is proceeding at her present berth at Dalmuir Basin, after trial today which was successful. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1949A/25 to Admty).

Type 63  
Trial.

Intend to carry out type 63 long distance trial on 28/10. PRINCE ALBERT will sail 0930A/28 and check alignment of beacons between seaward end of QZS 215 and Isle of Man. Thence as follows. PRINCE ALBERT will return to Liverpool on completion. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1703A/25).

East Coast  
Patrols.

Patrol tonight (1) Two M.G.Bs. Q.E. three shifting to Q.E. four A at 0200/26th. (2) Two M.Ls. Q.E. four A, shifting to Q.E. six A at 0200/26th. (C. in C. Nore, 1709A/25).

British Air Activity.

"Yellow"  
Warning.

From 1500/28 the "Yellow Warning" on the National Warning System will be discontinued. (D. of L.D., 0941A/25)

Patrols.

"Trost", "Stab" "Bert" "Stand" and "Hornli" are being flown also P.R.U. Kristiansand and Oslo. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1120/25). My 1120/25. Delete "Trost" and "Stab". (C. in C. Rosyth, 1509/25).

821  
Squadron.

821 Squadron is to move to Machrihanish on 28/10. (R.A.N.A.S., 1316A/25 to Hatston)

/Bombing.....

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Bombing operations.

On Night 24/25 six A/C attacked believed position of PRINZ EUGEN at Brest, but cloud prevented accurate observations. After one aircraft had circled Brest for an hour the cloud lifted but the whole town was covered by a smoke screen. The docks at Ostend and Calais were also bombed. (H.Q.B.C. 1615/25.)

Escort for Force G.

You may expect air escort of one Liberator from dawn 26th.  
(C. in C.W.A., 1649A/25 to Force G.)

A/C from EAGLE.

EAGLE, ARGUS, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, FURY, E.T.A., 1000/26. Weather permitting intend to fly off two Hurricanes to Belfast and 18 Swordfish to Machriharish.  
(EAGLE 1905Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Enemy Air Activity.

1 (one) Enemy Aircraft, believed Junkers 88, attacked Colliers LAKELAND and STELLA PEGASI in Skaale Fiord at 1255 today. All bombs missed, and no casualties or damage sustained. Aircraft was engaged by ships and shore defences, and believed damaged.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1515A/25.)

Convoy E.C.90.

Enemy bombing convoy <sup>"Usaqc"</sup> ~~USAGE~~ 52° 19' N., 1° 59' E.  
(VERSATILE 1816/25.)

Reported (B.1) enemy air R/C as far as 72° N., 42° E. Admiralty pass to NORFOLK.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2159C/25 to NORFOLK.)

Mining.

EMILION sunk LUCIENNE JEANNE. (M/S Trawler) and M.M.S.19 damaged.

On 24/10. (1) H.M.T. EMILION sunk by near mine. (2) M.M.S.19 damaged by near mines. (3) H.M.T. LUCIENNE JEANNE damaged and beached by near mine. Details.  
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 0025A/25.)  
LUCIENNE JEANNE damaged by near mine at 1937/24 and beached in about 016° B.4 Buoy 1.5 miles. Vessel subsequently turned over at 0130 and is now under water. Only casualties two slightly injured.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0452/25, 1041/25.)

/Thames.....

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War Diary.25.10.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Thames  
Estuary.

Two S.A. mines detonated on 24/10. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0914/25.)  
One S.A. mine detonated at 1002/20. Details.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1001/25.)  
Two motor minesweepers are to be lent temporarily  
to Sheerness. Request they be sailed as early as  
possible.  
(C. in C. Nore 1007A/25 to F.O.I.C. London.)

Sweeps off  
Dover.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/25.  
By S.A. Trawlers. Q.Z.S.191 and in Q.Z.S.190 and  
269 between Dumpton and Dover. By L.L. Trawlers  
and S.A. Trawlers. Q.Z.S.258. Negative results.  
Q.Z.S.238 and Convoy route as in my 1931A/5 by  
S.A., and Oropesa Trawlers in progress.  
(V.A. Dover 1216A/25.)

Operation  
J.X.

Para. 4 of my 1907/23 amend as follows:  
WELSHMAN is to lay (A) MANXMAN (B)  
They are to leave Portsmouth in company at  
1715/25 and E.A.3 buoy at 1900 and thence by  
Q.Z.S.271, MANXMAN at 20 knots and WELSHMAN at  
15 knots to Shoreham light buoy (C 3), make  
departure from that position at 2000/25 and  
2015/25 respectively. On completion of lay  
MANXMAN is to return to Southampton passing  
south of Q.Z.S. 324 to make Shoreham light buoy  
and by Q.Z.S. 271 arriving E.A.3 at 0700/26, and  
WELSHMAN is to proceed to Plymouth to reembark  
books passing through following positions and  
passing breakwater at 0830/26.  
Attention is called to movements. PRINCE LEOPOLD.  
WELSHMAN should not be west of position.  
(A) above before 0200/26.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1403/25.)  
Sailed WELSHMAN and MANXMAN.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1753A/25.)

S.N.83.

Admiralty 2339/24. It is understood that  
2 destroyers to (? of) 17 division would now be  
sufficient for C.T.5. If this is confirmed  
it would leave one of my destroyers free for  
S.N.83.  
(R.A.M. 2153/25 to Adty.)

Sweep of  
Q.Z.S.293.

N.C.S.O. Portsmouth's 1413/25. 5th M/S Group  
is to be sailed to sweep QZS.293 to eastward  
and westward during daylight hours to-morrow,  
returning to Portland before dark. Route is to  
be swept independently of convoy movement.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1723/25.)

/Avonmouth.....

War Diary.25.10.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.Avonmouth.

The Port of Avonmouth is closed until further orders owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 2255A/25).

Falmouth  
Loops.

F.O.I.C. Falmouth reports "H D A" B and C lined up. "A" defective and will require lifting. Request loop layer may be sent for this purpose, as LASSO is returning to Plymouth in accordance with Admiralty's 1342A/24. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2310/25).

Enemy Intelligence.3 Ships  
at Floro.

Report graded B.2. states two German supply ships each 6000 tons and one tanker 400 tons all loaded and escorted by one patrol boat are lying alongside in Floro Harbour. They arrived from the south at 1700Z/24.

(D.D.I.C., 0039A/25).

Two German supply ships each 6000 tons and one tanker 400 tons all loaded may round Stadtlandet northbound today. Grade B.2. (F.O.S., 0224A/25 to S/M 0.14).

Two  
probable  
Destroyers.

Two vessels plotted by R.D.F. passed Cap Gris Nez at 0230, course easterly, speed 30 knots. (V.A. Dover, 0321A/25)

My 0321A. Course taken by vessels probably 2 destroyers, was close past Number 3 buoy (four miles North of Sangatte) to Western end of Outer Ruytingen Bank and thence along the Northern edge of this bank to W. Buoy where plot faded. Such a course has not been previously followed but has always been considered a likely one for valuable ships. (V.A. Dover, 0923A/25)  
My 1210A/24. The two destroyers were no longer in Cherbourg at 1100/25. There were indications that they passed Cap Gris Nez eastwards at 0230/25. (D.D.I.C., 1705A/25).

E-boats.

Suspect E.boat activities. (C. in C. Nore, 2220/25).

War Diary.25.10.1941.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Methil.

Commodore of E.C.89 reports No. 18 buoy appeared to be drifting with light burning 0200/24. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1004/25).

Dover.

No. 7 light buoy off station. Now in 51° 03' 00" N., 1° 21' 08" E. Request Q.Z.H. (V.A. Dover, 1555A/25)

Moray Firth.

901 Q.Z.H. No. 36 light buoy reported damaged and extinguished. (Hydrog, 2220A/25)

Casualties & Defects.BEAGLE.

BEAGLE arriving Clyde with broken foremast. Request approval to fit 286 P. whilst mast is being repaired. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1221/25).

ST. BRIAC.Your No. 8605B/125 of 13/10. <sup>N.T. n. W.D.</sup> Ten-day work on water tanks of ST. BRIAC approved. (R.A.N.A.S., 1231A/25 to N.A.S. Arbroath).AMHERST.

Your 1449Z/14, your 1222A/15, and C.O.A.C. Halifax's 2050Z/14. AMHERST has not (?had) boilers cleaned internally since she was built and in addition has oil fuel in her boilers. She will be taken in hand as soon as possible. (HECLA, 1534Z/25 to C.C.N.F.)

Barge  
(ARDENZA)

Your 0216/16 and my 0629/16. A/C from Dyce sighted a barge with green tarpaulin covers in 57° 25' N., 3° 59' E., at 1155 today. Barge was drifting South. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1817/25 to D. of S.T.)

Motor Vessel  
(CITY OF  
PRETORIA).

Following received from N.C.S.O. Mersey begins:- CITY OF PRETORIA reports having collided with small motor vessel at 2017/23 about 5 miles West of No. 6 buoy approach Swansea Channel. Ship stopped and turned searched in vicinity with Aldis Lamp and no sign of vessel seen. Search lasted for half hour and then resumed course and speed for Liverpool. T.O.O.1800/25. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2152/25).



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War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

P. Q. 3.

You are requested to ensure that radiators of all vehicles, prime movers and generators, etc. embarked are drained before convoy P.Q.3 sails. (D.T.D., 1108A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

Proposed  
Belfast-  
Heysham  
Ferry.

A.M. 2323A/24. No objection in present circumstances. (C. in C. W.A., 1130A/25).

Convoy.

Not met. VOLUNTEER in company position 058° 50' N., 025° 10' W. (VANOC, 1130Z/25)

ARIGUANI.

My 0810. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup> COMMANDANT DUBOC also in Company (VIDETTE, 1246/25 to F.O.C.N.A.) *see p 640*

W.S.12 X.

Convoy W.S.12 X. consisting of 6 American and possibly one British troop transport, carrying 20,000 British troops transhipped from C.T.5, speed of advance about 14 knots, will leave Halifax on 9/11 for Middle East via Trinidad and the Cape.  
2. U.S.A. are providing escort from Halifax to Capetown. Escort onwards as arranged by C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.I. (D.O.D. F., 1300A/25).

O.G. 76.  
S.L. 92.  
BRADFORD.

BRADFORD is to be sailed with O.G.76 to Gibraltar subsequently return with S.L.92 F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail BRADFORD to join S.L.92. (C. in C. W.A., 1740A/25)

D/F Guards  
by M/Vs.

It is important that Escorts should be aware of arrangements made for D/F Guards by Merchant Ships and Commodores should be informed accordingly.  
2. D/F Guards should be placed close to the Commodore for easy signalling.  
3. Commodores have complained that N.C.S.I.251 is not always complied with. (D.T.D., 1756A/25).

/Nets in.....

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Nets in  
White Sea  
Approaches.

Action is being taken to warn shipping in the sense of your 2241B/23. (D. of L.D., 1932A/25 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Nets are being laid in area enclosed by following positions and it is closed to all shipping.

2. All vessels routed to these waters are to be informed accordingly and warned that information is secret.

3. Masters of merchant vessels to be warned against marking the lines on charts.

4. No Q.Z. message will be issued. (D. of L.D. 1935A/25).

P.Q. 2.

Admiralty 1859A, August 30th para. 3. Arrangements made for arrival P.Q. 2. Fighter protection during daylight between 66° N., and 68° N., to cover arrival.

Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. and NORFOLK. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2201C/25 to Admty).

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

WILD SWAN.

My 2222/24 vessel sailed.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0008A/25 to Escort O.S.9.)

LAMERTON

Your 2246/24 A.M./26.  
(LEGION 0812A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

(E.T.A. Ponta Delgada.)

*See p. 584*

Fuelling at  
P. Delgada.

Request arrangements may be made to fuel  
ELECTRA, EXPRESS and HESPERUS at Ponta Delgada.  
Each ship requires 300 tons and E.T.A. 29/10.  
(N.O.i/c Greenock 1004A/25 to N.C.S.O. Ponta  
Delgada.)

ANTWERP arrived Ponta Delgada 1230 G.M.T./25.  
MALINES left 1200 G.M.T. Ships will proceed  
in company along route laid down when ANTWERP  
has fuelled.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1232/25.)

SAN JUAN.

After further investigation am releasing SAN  
JUAN Seville to Ceuta aviation timber and  
grain.

(SCOTTISH 1210A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Ships.

Gibraltar 1419/25. Destroyer BRESTOIS, S.S.  
SAINTE-MARTIN, LIBERIA, ANDORRE all full.  
SAINTE-LUCIEN laden eastbound.  
(V.A.C.N.A. 1931A/25.)

WISHART.

Route Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2246A/25.)

LISBOA.  
FRONSAC.

Departure 25/10. LISBOA Genoa. Arrival 25/10  
FRONSAC. (Barcelona 1251/25.)

Arrival 25th LISBOA German.  
(Barcelona 1300/25.)

CITY OF  
LINCOLN.  
DUNEDIN STAR.

My 0720A/25. CITY OF LINCOLN and DUNEDIN STAR  
report :-

1. Two "E" boats sighted by CITY OF LINCOLN at  
0145/23 1.5 miles off shore when approaching  
Cape Bon. Boats were stopped, but started up  
engines passed under stern of ship and  
disappeared.

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CITY OF  
LINCOLN.  
DUNEDIN STAR  
contd.

2. At 0800/23 position 37 26 N. 09 25 E. single aircraft believed Breda 88 approached CITY OF LINCOLN from astern and fired three short bursts. Then made off towards DUNEDIN STAR who opened fire scoring several hits. Aircraft last seen losing height and making for African Coast. At this time ships were about 8 miles apart.
3. Italian seaplane believed Cant 506B shadowed ships from 0900/23 until 1523.
4. Three Italian bombers believed Savoia 79 or 85 made unsuccessful low level attack on CITY OF LINCOLN at 1512/23 position 37 13 N. 70 5 E. which was repeated by same aircraft at (1520/23?) only damage sustained by ship was port paravane carried away. Aircraft engaged by ships guns both attacks and hits claimed. One aircraft damaged and last seen being escorted by the shadowing Italian seaplane. Otherwise clear run through for both ships.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1724A/25 to Adty., V.A. Malta.)

South Atlantic.

WRESTLER.

Request arrangements be made for WRESTLER to fuel at St. Vincent 31/10 about 230 tons required.  
(C. in C. S.A. 0407N/25 to B.C. St. Vincent.)

*Casselle 25/10. See 1.633*

CARNARVON  
CASTLE.

Capetown departure 0745Z/25 October, CARNARVON CASTLE for patrol to South of St. Helena in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1321/14 and 2205/24.  
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0932Z/25.)

PRINCE  
BADOUIN.

Your 1215/24 and my 1609/24. Unless you have an oiler handy that you can send to Walvis Bay PRINCE (?BADOUIN) is to fuel from these stocks taking minimum amount required to reach Simonstown. DERBYSHIRE pass to PRINCE BADOUIN on meeting.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1437N/25 to N.O.i/c Simonstown.)

/DORSETSHIRE ...

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

DORSETSHIRE.

Leave Freetown 2200/25 October to patrol in H.33 D.H.34 C. Object possible enemy supply ships.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1547N/25 to DORSETSHIRE.)

Mediterranean.

Information for REGENT.

PROTEUS and KIPLING and 3 M.Ls will be exercising in approx. (? 272° or 340°) Ras-el-Tin 18.5. Trawler AMBER and convoy expected 1200.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 0705B/25 to REGENT.)

KELVINBANK.

With fire in number 3 hold ran aground at Perim 24/10. Ship now refloated and proceeding to Aden. Fire still smouldering.  
(S.N.O. Red Sea 0824Z/25)

Force K.

Your 1059/24 para.2. No.  
(V.A. Malta 0847A/25 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

3 Merchant Ships one auxiliary 039° 30' 011° 25' course 060° 8 knots at 0830A/25.  
(Capt.(S) 10, 1026A/25 to SOKOL.)

CLAN FERGUSON.

If CLAN FERGUSON has not sailed she is to be held at Malta.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1149A/25 to V.A. Malta.)

Air Operations.

4 Wellingtons attacked Naples 1944 to 2308/24. 10/10 Low cloud and rain over target. Some bombs dropped target area remainder over approx. position. No results observed. 1 fire started Sicily by incendiaries. Severe electrical storms. Opposition medium inaccurate. 6 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli 1910/24 to 0250/25. Majority of bombs in target area.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1845/25.)  
Night 23/24 October, 4 Wellingtons bombed docks at Benghazi starting fire on base of Central mole. Further bombs burst on Central and Cathedral moles and near small ships off Italian mole.

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air  
Operations  
contd.

3 F.A.A. Albacores dropped flares over Bardia to illuminate harbour for bombardment by H.M. ships. Bombs also dropped on the north and south headlands at the entrance of the harbour caused explosion on the latter. A Beaufort on sea R/C sighted 2 ships 1000 tons by destroyer and M.E.110 190 miles due north of Tolmeta steering south. Beaufort dropped 2 250 lb bombs 20 yards from the stern of one M.V. and machine gunned its decks subsequently avoiding the attack of the M.E.111.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1226/25.)

Malta. At 0840/25 24 enemy aircraft approached 1053 hours 4 bombers crossed island dropping bombs and intercepted by Hurricanes. 1 enemy bomber probably Cant Z.1007 badly damaged, 1 Macchi 200 smoking wreckage of another Macchi found in sea. Hurricane missing search in progress. Government fuel dump set on fire and 7 houses damaged attack intended for Grand Harbour. 3 slight civilian casualties.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1830/25.)

UNBEATEN.

Established patrol in the vicinity 037° 02' (?029°) 29' in anticipation of similar operation as in my 1041A/20. Enemy forces may return afternoon of 27th.

(Capt. (S.10) 1243A/25.)

C. in C. Med.  
takes over  
Red Sea.

My 1219 18th. Amend para 8 second sentence to read N.O.i/c Suez will be in command under S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area of Ports in Suez Bay and Sidi Barrani local Defence Craft.

(C. in C. Med. 1944B/24 to S. and A. Med.Stn.)

War Diary.

25.10.1941.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Light buoy.

W.C.78 Bahrein South Sitrah Light Buoy not burning.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0422Z/25 to Adty.)

Security of U.S. vessels.

Your 0726Z/23. The question of security of United States vessels being endangered by shipping information despatched by cable in plain language or insecure code has been taken up with Navy Department. Their reply will be promulgated on receipt.  
(Adty., 1331A/25 to C. in C.E.I.)

China.

Dutch Cruiser to join convoy escort.

185 Z.M. has asked that Dutch Cruiser may join escort of first convenient Fremantle - Singapore Troop Convoy in order to give experience to Officers and Men. I am strongly in favour of this proposal. Do you concur?  
(C. in C. China 0249Z/25 to A.C.N.B.)

GOUVERNEUR GENERAL PASQUIER.

Arrival 25/10. (*? Singapore*)  
(Adty., 0445Z/25 to M.W.T.)

AWATEA.

Your 0553/24. This will be arranged.  
(C. in C. China 0531Z/25 to Adty.)

America & West Indies.

AVILA STAR. PIORUN.

AVILA STAR - part company in position U at G.M.T., 1000Z/25. (?My) E.T.A., at Halifax 0830/26.  
(PIORUN 1130Z/25 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

*See also next page*

Ships proceeding from Balboa and W. African Ports to Singapore.

C. in C. China 0315Z/20. Do you concur?  
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1132Q/25 to A.C.N.B.)

617

War Diary.25.10.1941.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.ALCANTARA.  
QUEEN OF  
BERMUDA.

ALCANTARA could be accepted for refit job number S.151. QUEEN OF BERMUDA tentative date of completion is 15/12.  
(B.A.R.M. Washington, 1402R/25.)

T.C.15.

My 1917Z/24. M.W.T., representative states T.C.15 ships will not take any freight which will release ships earlier for embarkation if 13/11 must be maintained. Request very early decision. Arrangements provide for transshipment commence as early as possible 7/11.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1503Z/25 to Adty.)

S.S.AVILA\*  
STAR.  
GARLAND.

Left AVILA STAR at 0930 G.M.T. in 043° 56' 055" 34". O.R.P.GARLAND unable to keep her course and speed owing to weather conditions. My present course 290° altering to course 265° in 044° 059' 01" at 1745 G.M.T.  
(GARLAND 1610Z/25 to C.O.A.C.Halifax.)

*See previous page.*Raider  
report.

Br. ship IDOMENEUS reports 6/10 at 0550 G.M.T. in 039 S., 158 W., heard loud QQQ made once only last Q fading out sender estimated 200 miles distant.  
(S.O.(I)Jamaica 1627R/25.)

DESPATCH.

Intend sailing from Jamaica in DESPATCH p.m./26 arrival a.m./29. *Bermuda.*  
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1831R/25 *to A.W.I. Station.* ~~to C. in C.A.W.I.~~)

Targets.

2 Targets which might possibly have been used by raider have been sighted.  
(1) By SYDNEY 1800Z/3 in 010° 10' S., 104° 50' E.  
(2) By Dutch ~~X~~AGOENG 14/9 in 017° 09' S., 106° 26' W. *not identified*  
(A.C.N.B., 1145Z/25.)



25.10.1941.

Saturday.War Diary.U-B CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

- S.S. VANCOUVER ISLAND  
(Torpedoed  
15/10) Due to a regrettable error in coding in CHAMBLY, PICTOU was sent to the wrong position and failed to find any trace of VANCOUVER ISLAND. Full report being forwarded by air mail. (C.C.N.F. 1458Z/25 to C.in C. W.A.).
- S.S. SALABANGKA, SALABANGKA chased by Submarine 1804/25. (Halifax N.S. 1810/25). Following from Opnav S.S. SALABANGKA is being pursued by a submarine. Position 43 41 N 37 58 W. (Spenavo 1950/25 to Adty).
- S.S. SERBINO  
(Torpedoed  
21/10) ASPHODEL arrived Clyde with 51 survivors from S.S. SERBINO. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 2014A/25).
- COSSACK. My 2330A/24 COSSACK in tow speed 3 knots JONQUIL, CARNATION, providing A/S Escort. STELLA CARINA joining A.M. 26th. (F.O.C.N.A. 2238A/25). *See also next page.*
- Submarines Reported.
- 1116Z/24. Captain of westbound clipper sighted submarine at 1116Z/24 in 38 54 N 14 20 W steering 124° about 12 knots submarine painted unusual light grey and made no signal. (C.in C. A.W.I. 0649Z/25).
- 1055A In 037° 06' N 014° 20' W at 1055 A 25th. (F.O.C.N.A. 1131A/25).
- 1130A U-boats by D.F.B. within 30 miles of 039° 20' N 019° 30' W 1130A/25. (F.O.C.N.A. 1257A/25).
- Estimated U-boat dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1346A/25).
- 1530 One S/M sighted 036° 38' N 002° 10' E course N. 5 knots at 1530/25. (V.A.Malta 1915A/25 to RORQUAL).

War Diary.

25. 10. 1941.  
Saturday.

U-B CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

GALILEO FERRARIS  
sunk by  
→ LAMERTON.

Have sunk submarine by gunfire in 037° 27' N 014° 33' W. Am picking up crew. (LAMERTON 1240A/25). U-boat thought I was corvette remained on the surface. U-boat was Italian <sup>GALILEO</sup>FERRARIS. LAMERTON has sustained slight shrapnel damage on forecastle. No casualties. (LAMERTON 1316A/25).

By BEVERLEY  
0030A/23.

Preliminary report. (Capt. D Londonderry 1654A/25). See Lion copy.

→ By LAMERTON  
1730A/24.

From Survivor's story it appears probable that German U-boat working in co-operation with Ferraris (corrupt group) was destroyed by LAMERTON in 037° 08' N 011° 30' W at 1730 A/24 unless any other Destroyer attacked in this area. (LAMERTON 1735A/25).

202 Squadron 2 Catalinas escort H.G. 75. Dawn to dusk. U-boat sighted 1055. Position 3705 N 1418W. Not attacked. Later surrendered to LAMERTON. Escort area 1400 W to 1520 W. 1 Catalina escort EMPIRE GUILLEMOT. Dawn to dusk. Not met. Area covered Gibraltar to 0400 E.

COSSACK.  
(See p. 100 page)

By A/C  
1720.

209. Squadron. 1 Catalina escort COSSACK in tow with tug THAMES. Dawn to dusk. Area covered 3535 N 0750 W to 3536 N 0748 W. My A 565/24/10 G/202 attacked U-boat 1720 hours position 363' N. 1132' W. On surface when sighted. Crash dived. 4 depth charges dropped. Only 1 exploded 1 hit U-boat without exploding. No damage observed. ~~AVONDALE~~ took up hunt. A/C in area 90 minutes. (200 Group 1840/25). *Should be LAMERTON - See above p. 633*

By A/C  
1622 Z.

A/C reports unsuccessful attack on enemy S/M in 51° 14' N 53° (740') W at 1622 Z/25. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1858Z/25).

SECRET

MESSAGE

1654A/25th October

From Capt. D. Londonderry.

IN  
Date 25.10.41.  
Recd 2040.

619A

P/L BY T/P

Addressed C.in C. Western Approaches repeated D.A/S.W.  
Admiralty, F.O.I.C. Belfast, Capt. D. Greenock.  
Capt. D. Liverpool.

Preliminary report of attack on U-boat by  
BEVERLEY at 0030A/23 in approximate position 51 degs.  
45 min North 14 degs. 02 mins West.

1. BEVERLEY stationed as R.D.F. ship about 3.5 miles on port beam convoy. R.D.F. contact obtained on starboard quarter distant 2 miles of U-boat apparently approaching port quarter of convoy.
2. BEVERLEY altered course towards and chased. Wake sighted at about 1000 yards and then U-boat seen steaming about 18 knots towards convoy. BEVERLEY unable to open fire owing to head sea washing down forecastle and bridge heavily.
3. At about 500 yards U-boat turned to starboard bringing sea on port beam and dived without any apparent reduction of speed. BEVERLEY attacked dropping charges by eye all charges set to 50 feet.
4. BEVERLEY reduced speed opened range and gained A/S contact at 1400 yards inclination marked opening U-boat appeared to be proceeding directly away attacked with 6 charges set to 150 and 350.
5. Contact temporarily lost but regained immediately at 800 yards inclination slightly closing but target then became stationary and contact was lost earlier on run in indication G U-boat was deep. Third attack made with 6 charges set to 150 and 500 feet.
6. This contact was not regained for ten minutes but during period three sharp explosions were heard in quick succession so far as is known no other escort fired charges during this time.
7. Contact was regained at 1600 yards target appeared stationary contact was difficult to hold and was again lost early on run in. Fourth attack made with 6 charges set to 150 and 350 feet.
8. Contact was held while circling target and then gradually faded away.
9. No concrete evidence of destruction but night was very dark and it is unlikely wreckage or even oil could have been seen. Later it was reported that considerable quantities of oil of a type that could be diesel had been found in firemain after attacks and had been cleared by a stoker without reporting and without obtaining samples.
10. Being short of fuel BEVERLEY was unable to remain until daylight in the position and rejoined convoy.

1654A/25  
Advance copy sent Ops., O.D., O.I.C.  
D.A/S.W.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim Admy. House.
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)

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

620

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked shipping off the Dutch coast; 3 ships are believed to have been damaged off the Texel.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy W.P.56 was reported being attacked at 2027 today in 50° 7' N., 3° 1' W. No damage is reported.

Mining.

Operation  
J.X.

WELSHMAN and MANXMAN laid mines off Dieppe last night.

VALOROUS reports that during an attack on convoy F.S630 in 53° 24' N., 0° 57' E., aircraft at 50 feet dropped 2 sticks of bombs near the head of the convoy each stick including a parachute mine.

It is thought that enemy aircraft were engaged in mine laying operations off Yarmouth last night.

Bristol  
Channel.

Avonmouth was closed at 1830A until tomorrow. Owing to suspected minelaying all Bristol Channel ports including those on the Somerset coast were closed at 2218A today.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

It is reported that a convoy of 5 French ships and possibly one German, escorted by a sloop and possibly a S/M left Tamatave on 24/10 or will leave almost immediately for France, C. in C. S.A. has been instructed to intercept them if sufficient forces can be made available.

Mediterranean.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

3 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night and 3 Benghazi. 8 Marylands attacked Benghazi today.

C.S.7 in AJAX and 3 destroyers with 2 Naval Albatrosses dropping flares and bombing the entrance to the harbour bombarded Bardia harbour last night; first reports indicate that the bombardment was effective.

East Indies.

AUSTRALIA left Mauritius today for Kerguelen and Crozet Island.

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Cruiser OMAHA and U.S. destroyer SOMERS are searching for suspected enemy raider reported by U.S.S. PATOKA in 6° 44' S., 34° 26' W., on 22/10.

U-Boat Campaign.

CORABELLA.

S.S. CORABELLA reported being attacked by a U-boat at 1434N today in 4° 9' N., 5° 45' W., CORABELLA apparently defended herself with her gun and at 1650 G.M.T. it was reported that the S/M had disappeared having apparently broken off the action and at 2005Z, CORABELLA reported all well. The Admiralty consider it possible that this U-boat was a minelayer repeating the operation which caused the sinking of ST. ANSELM (30/6/41) at Accra.

COSSACK

JONQUIL reported at 2110A that she had taken off the remainder of COSSACK's crew and the position was critical.

GLADIOLUS  
lost.

GLADIOLUS is now considered to be a total loss. (See 21/10)

H.G. 75  
ARIGUANI  
torpedoed.

Fighter Catapult ship ARIGUANI escorting H.G. 75 was torpedoed in the early hours of today in 37° 46' N., 16° 8' W.

Belle Isle  
Straits.

Two U.S. Fortress aircraft have been sent to search for a U-boat which was reported at 1622/25 70 miles E.S.E. of the Western entrance to Belle Isle Straits.

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of  
V.A.2.

3. C. in C. H.F. 1037A/23. Flag of V.A.2. was transferred to RENOWN at 0900/24. (V.A.2. 0923/26).

Signalling  
by Ships  
in Atlantic.

Your 2042/24. Concur, but in view of the importance of these reports it is proposed that the equipment of fast merchant ships with H/F transmitters should be given high priority. (C. in C. W.A. 1044A/26 to Admty.)

Trawlers  
for  
Arctic  
service.

Your 1725A/25.  
Para. 2 (a). Intend these trawlers with 73rd A/S Group, should be operated from Reykjavik by A.C.I.C. as local escorts for North Russian convoys. Home Fleet charge document H.Y. refers.  
(II) Para. 2 (b). Concur.  
(III) Para. 3. Trawlers HUGH WALPOLE, CAPE ARGONA, STELLA CAPELLA will be required for local escort of P.Q.4 and will not be able to carry out A/S practises if present date of sailing is adhered to.  
(IV) Consider that most satisfactory arrangement for operation of local escorts for these convoys would be for 73rd A/S Group and the 6 large trawlers to be transferred to Iceland Command and for A.C.I.C. to provide inward and outward local escort from total trawler force at his disposal. (C. in C. H.F. 1358A/26 to Admty.)

AKABAHRA.  
(Norwegian.)

AKABAHRA released at 1900 in accordance with S.O.N.T's 1758A/26th and instructed to proceed in accordance with his instructions. (NORTHERN SUN 2130A/26).

Polish  
Airmen  
for U.K.

Your 1526/22. Discussed with Air Ministry. Regret no prospect of sending a troopship specially for these Polish airmen.  
2. Some of cargo ships now at Archangel or en route from U.K. are fitted for small numbers of personnel. If desired this accommodation could be used on return journey but total fitted for in ships of P.Q.2 is only 72 and in P.Q.3. 165. (D. of S.T. 2325A/26 to Ad. Miles.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

10200/26 Oct.  
IN

From, S.B.N.O. Archangel.

Date, 30.10.41.  
Time, 0635.

ONE TIME TABLE BY W/T

Addressed. Admiralty.

For War Transport from Maclay telegram No. 0012 your telegram No. 2244A October 23rd. Depths at bar vary but S.B.N.O. considers ship draught should not exceed 22 feet fresh water to ensure no delay. Telegram No. 0003 paragraph three. Crane facilities Bakharista are almost non existing suggest you obtain details from one of masters or Commodore Dowding Q P One paragraph seven ample supply of lighters all sizes and small tugs but mobility will be curtailed as ice difficulties increase during November lighters can discharge various places in port but there are only two places where they can discharge direct railway truck (A) north end Bakharista with one fixed 6 tons crane (B) Archangel Pristanlein (9 groups missed, being called for) use by floating crane to discharge tanks from barge to railway truck as this is only point where railway approaches Bakharista quayside and is causing congestion. To remedy this Russians now laying double track line along whole length of Bakharista quayside in time P Q Two this should enable ships to discharge direct to railway truck up to limit ships gear and presumably tanks P (?Q) two if wharves prove strong enough (corrupt group) contend (corrupt group) 25 pilots. Reference Molotorsk see my 2229C October 24th also my 1820C October 24th. Reference Broguet railway reply shortly reference your 1102 October 23rd Russian ships in Q P Two have no heavy Derrick maximum lifts are 3 tons all hatches. 3 ships require (corrupt group) ING HALTURIN (3 corrupt groups) for inspection KUDOUGAS for repairs. Obtaining (? exact) hold all ships shortly when will advise you probable number of tanks and aircraft each could carry.

10200/26

N.B. Repetition of corrupt groups has been requested.

- |                  |              |                                |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1st Lord.        | D.D.O.D.(F)  | Head of M.                     |
| 1st S.L.         | D.O.D. (H)   | D.T.S.D.                       |
| 3rd S.L.         | D.D.O.D. (H) | D.D.I.C.                       |
| 4th S.L.         | D.N.I. (4)   | E.P.S.                         |
| V.C.N.S.         | D. of L.D.   | E.T.D. (2)                     |
| A.C.N.S (H)      | D. A/S W.    | D.T.D. (M)                     |
| A.C.N.S. (F)     | D.M.S.       | N.I.D.10.                      |
| A.C.N.S. (T) (2) | I.P. (2)     | D. of S.T.(2) for as necessary |
| N.A. 1st S.L.    | W.D.         |                                |
| D. of P. (2)     | D.C.         | Admiral Herman Hodge.          |
| D.O.D. (F)       |              |                                |



War Diary.26.10.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.TRINIDAD.

My 1756/25. Intend to sail TRINIDAD for Greenock escorted by KUJAWIAK as far as Lundy Island at 0800/26. (C. in C. Plymouth 0020/26). Sailed TRINIDAD, KUJAWIAK. E.T.A. Clyde 0730/27. (C. in C. Plymouth 0840/26).

SCOTTISH AMERICAN.

My 1153/19. Oiler SCOTTISH AMERICAN returned to Hvalfjord. (A.C.I.C. 0104/26).

EAGLE. ARGUS.

Arrived EAGLE and ARGUS escorted by FURY, FORESTER, and FORESIGHT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1136A/26).

JAY.

Your 1858A/25. Approved. (D.M.S. 1203A/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

WISHART.

Sailed 1210. E.T.A. at position (F) 2359/27, destination A.M. 30/10. (C. in C. Plymouth 1228/26). WISHART has been routed through following positions. (C. in C. Plymouth 1725/26).

LOCH MONTEITH. O.14. P.35.

Delayed by weather. Swept (100%) as far as 175° Fair Island 15 miles. E.T.A. 0700/27. (LOCH MONTEITH 1415/26). Your 0221A/25. At least 5 hours late at R/V. (O.14. 1800A/26 to Capt. S.9). Cancel my 1703/26. LOCH MONTEITH is to R/V with Netherlands S/M O.14 090° Out Skerries 7 miles at 0930A/27 and escort her into Lerwick. N.O.I.C. Lerwick is requested to sail LOCH MONTEITH and Netherlands S/M O.14 to arrive Scapa 0800A/28. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail LOCH MONTEITH and P.35 to arrive Dundee 0900A/29 and to arrange fighter protection for both movements. (Capt. S.9. 2207A/26 to LOCH MONTEITH).

PETUNIA.

Have completed with fuel and returned Julianehaab Tug not yet arrived. (PETUNIA 1701Z/26 to A.C.I.C.)

/SUNFISH.....

625

War Diary.26.10.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.SUNFISH.

Anticipated that SUNFISH will be ready for towage from Tyne to Portsmouth on 1/11.  
2. Request you will make arrangements for this passage with C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Portsmouth.  
-3. Tug will be provided by Admiralty. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2119A/26).

NORMAN.

NORMAN sailing from North Dvina L.V. 0900 tomorrow Routed close to coast until longitude 040° 55' thence to northwards keeping West of this meridian. S. of A. 18 knots. Admiralty pass to NORFOLK. (S.N.O. Archangel 2200C/26 to LEDA).

*See p 629.*CAIRO.

Owing to mining of Bristol Channel CAIRO is to proceed into Milford Haven and is not to enter Bristol Channel. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 2239A/26 to CAIRO)

Operations.

Operation  
"Pantaloon".  
(Hurricanes for  
Italia.)

A.M. 1937A/21 and 1942A/21. ARGUS and ATHENE should be loaded and ready to sail by P.M./1/11. (A.C.N.S. H. 1101A/26).  
A.M. 1937A/21. Anticipate completion of loading A.M./30. (ATHENE 1116A/26).

East Coast  
Patrols.

My 1017/26. All patrols withdrawn on account of weather. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1447A/26).

British Air Activity.

Operation  
"Barnowl."

At 1953-2100/25, made 3 runs over Southend Anchorage. Particulars. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0850/26).

Patrols.

"Hornli" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1001/26).

Ship  
bombed  
off  
Egersund.

3000 tons ship attacked by aircraft and left burning in 058° 26' N. 005° 51' E. (C. in C. Rosyth 2204/26 to MINERVE).

Suspicious  
Ship.

Ops. 118, 26/10. Suspicious M/V flying American colours reported in PL/W6/26/10 not to be attacked pending orders from H.Q.C.C. (H.Q.C.C. 2342/26 to 19, 15, 16 Groups).

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Faroes  
bombed.

One or more enemy aircraft carried out R/C over Faroes today. Four bombs were dropped on Klaksvig at 1250 where damage to civilian property is reported but no casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1710A/26).

Convoy  
W.P.56.

"Stencil" being attacked by enemy aircraft in 50° 7' N. 3° 1' W. (Falmouth 2027/26).

→ Convoys  
"Zero" and  
"Plumb".

Following received from VALOROUS. My 1813 and 1835. Attack was by 3 or 4 Dorniers who circled Convoy in broad daylight at 50 feet. Two sticks of bombs dropped near head of Convoy. These fell about 53° 24' N. 0° 57' E. 2102/26. (C. in C. Nore 2259A/26).

Mining.

→ WELSHMAN.

Arrived 0838. (C. in C. Plymouth 0912/26).

Bristol  
Channel.

My 2255A/25. Avonmouth will be open from 1100 today. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0948A/26). The Port of Avonmouth is closed until 1130A/27. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1830A/26). Owing to suspected minelaying all Bristol Channel ports including those on Somerset coast are closed until further notice. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2218A/26).

Thames  
Estuary.

Three S.A. mines detonated on 24/10 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1001A/26). 4 Mines have been detonated in the last 24 hours, namely, 2 S.A. Mines and 2 Magnetic Mines. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1201A/26).

→ Operation  
J.X.

MANXMAN arrived 0830. Nothing to report. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1233A/26).

Thames  
Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 1125/25. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1434/26). Two S.A. Mines detonated at 1116/25 and 1853/25. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1443/26).

→ Off  
Humber.

Following received from VALOROUS. My 1813 and 1835. Attack was by three or four Dorniers. Aircraft circled convoy in broad daylight at 50 feet. Two sticks of bombs dropped near head of convoy. Each contained a parachute mine. These fell about 053° 24' N. 000° 57' E. Mines reported in my 1835 did not detonate. Another dropped near VALOROUS is thought to have done so. 2102/26. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 2259A/26).

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

North  
Russia.

(2 corrupt groups) boat report of White Sea shows they are most likely to be met.  
(a) at night 20 miles of position 300° Cape Kanin 30  
(b) by day within 12 miles of position 070° Gorozinski 15.  
(2) There is no evidence to show more than 2 on patrol indication probably (?only)  
(3) Weather permitting air patrols carry out air patrol to Cape Kanin and three islands area using Ju. 88 and occasional He. 111 formations up to six have been observed so far bombing has been inaccurate.  
(4) Up to present there has been no real evidence that enemy mines White Sea.  
Admiralty pass C. in C. H.F. NORFOLK, and S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1235C/26 to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

Convoy E.C.90  
ENGLISH  
TRADER.

Reported ashore Hammond Knoll. Tug sent from Yarmouth. VESPER investigate and report situation. (C. in C. Nore, 0543A/26).  
Great Yarmouth. Departure Tugs DIVERSION and ST. MELLONS at 0720A to assist ENGLISH TRADER aground Hammonds Knoll.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0721A/26).

Convoy F.S.630  
RINGEN,  
THORE HAFTE.

Norwegian steamer RINGEN from F.S.630 entered Hartlepool, reports damaged in collision with unknown steamer. Norwegian Steamer THORE HAFTE from F.S.630 arrived Tees, also damaged in collision. (N.C.S.O. Middlesbrough, 1020/26)

Trawler  
ashore.

A.C.O.S. 1254/18/10 reference code word "Pulley". Trawler is now ashore off Cairnbulg (QK5487) Request fighter protection until further notice while salvage operations are proceeding.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1140/26 to 14 Group)

ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN escorted by DULVERTON and ANTELOPE arrived Clyde. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1144A/26)  
Serious leaks are being found in A.F.D.IV as tanks are examined. It is, however, hoped to dock ROYAL SOVEREIGN but de-ammunitioning and de-oiling will be essential which, owing to limited facilities for de-ammunitioning, may delay the operation. All necessary efforts are being made. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1316/26)

War Diary.26.10.1941.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.AURANIA.

Chief Salvage officer is of the opinion that, in view of the unknown effect of the barrels which are partly supporting AURANIA, serious consideration should be given as to prudence of exposing vessel to any possibility of bad weather.

2. He recommends that vessel should be patched in Kames Bay and brought back to about original draught before any sea voyage is contemplated. Furthermore vessel cannot sail in convoy in present trim, owing to erratic behaviour. (S.O.W.P., 1200A/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

*see also next page*CORIOLANUS.

Arrival H.M.T. CORIOLANUS with steering defect. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1229/26)

BORDER KING.

Fraserburgh arrival BORDER KING with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1325/26)

TANGO.

Arrival TANGO at 1745 with unspecified damage due to weather. (F.O. Humber, 1830A/26)

Shipping & Convoys.W.N.97  
EDINA.

Your 1120/24. <sup>NT in WD</sup> EDINA arrived. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen, 0340/26).

GLENARTNEY.

Bearing and distance 223° 245 miles from J 0845 G.M.T./26. (GLENARTNEY, 0430 G.M.T./26)

MACBETH,  
HAMLET.

Sailed H.M.T's MACBETH and HAMLET in accordance with your 1414A/22. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0458A/26) Convoy is delayed 48 hours. Return to Stornoway. (C. in C. W.A., 1048A/26 to MACBETH, HAMLET)

C.T.5.

Your 2153/25. As far as can be foreseen at present two destroyers will be sufficient for C.T.5 and it is requested that names of destroyers detailed may be signalled as soon as convenient. (C. in C. W.A., 0910A/26 to R.A.M.) Your 0910. NEWARK and CHARLESTON detailed for C.T.5. (R.A.M., 0929/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

/P.Q.2.....

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

P.Q.2.

NORFOLK (?NORMAN intended) will not be sailing for R/V P.Q.2. LEDA, GOSSAMER, HUSSAR have been ordered to R/V position Z. They have no R.D.F. working. S.B.N.O. North Russia inform NORFOLK. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1046C/26 to S.B.N.O. North Russia) Following received begins. S.B.N.O. North Russia repeated NORFOLK from S.B.N.O. Archangel. Delegates expected very shortly. NORMAN will not be sailed for R/V with P.Q.2. LEDA, GOSSAMER, HUSSAR have been ordered to R/V at position Z. They have no R.D.F. working 1046C/26 Ends. Admiralty pass to NORFOLK. (S.B.N.O., North Russia, 1615C/26 to NORFOLK).

*See p 625 (NORMAN)*

Nets in White Sea Approaches.

A.M. 1935A/25. Cancel para 4. (D. of L.D., 1206A/26).

E.C. 89

S/M ~~Section~~ <sup>SEALION</sup> escorted by WHITE BEAR north bound may be met during the night. (C. in C. W.A., 1646A/26 to Escorts E.C.89)

Cargoes for Russia.

Following ships now loading in U.K. are expected to reach you about 10/11. Full details. (D. of S.T., 1653A/26) See Lion Copy.

AURANIA.

S.O.W.P.'s 1200A/26 (See Casualties) <sup>(P.618)</sup> AURANIA is not to be sailed in present condition. Request you will report action being taken and in due course when ship will be ready to sail. (A.C.N.S. H., 2148A/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

E.C. 90

E.C.90 already 12 hours late due to weather. Sailing arrangements for ships joining this convoy should be deferred until receipt of N.C.S.O. Methil's telegram indicating intended time of sailing from Forth. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2219/26).

/W.P.B.57.....

~~688~~ 5  
629A

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

CPT  
1653A/23th Oct.

To:- N.C.S.O. Archangel

Date. 26.10.41.

Interdepartmental Cypher (One Time Table)

From:- D.of S.T.

Please pass the following to Maclay. Begins.

1. The following ships are now actually loading in the United Kingdom with their approximate bale cubic capacities in thousands of cubic feet and cargo dead weight on 21 feet 6 inches salt water draft:

CAPE CORSO	275	-	4700
CAPE RACE	275	-	4700
TREKIEVE	362	-	5300
WANSTEAD	404	-	6300
BRIARWOOD	264	-	5000

The details of the cargoes carried by these vessels will be given to you by the War Office but most of them have sugar on board as well as military cargo. The total amount of sugar in all these ships is about 5,000 tons.

2. The tanker "SAN AMBROSIO" has loaded 8,200 tons of aviation spirit.

3. The Panamanian "COCLE" has loaded in tons:

Aeroplanes	64
Firearms Parts & Accessories	20
Small Arms	25
Lubricating Oil	513
Aviation Gasolene	1563
Toluol	59
Two General Motors Trucks	13
Graphite Electrodes	13
Aluminium Alloy Rods	390
Machinery	204
Sole Leather Bends	299
Woollen khaki cloth	34
Solid Phosphorus	18
Ceresine Wax	10
Controlling Equipment	33
Steel Bearings	10
Grinding Wheels	11
Electric Motors	16
Isopentane	183

310 packages leather shoulders	2
and butts	15
One Auto & Two Truck Chassis unboxed	5

Approved

American Red Cross Surgical dressings	10
Gangrene serum & Hospital clothing	5
Miscellaneous	21

Total 4164 tons

Cannot be handled by ships gear 2 pieces 6 tons each  
1 piece 7 tons 12 pieces 12 tons each.

4. The "EMPIRE METEOR" has loaded in tons:

9000 boxes 400 lb. bombs	554
1000 boxes 500 lb. bombs	241
1541 boxes detonating fuzes	49
2669 cases cartridges - small	134
arms	
5 unboxed motor trucks & equipment	19
12,500 drums aviation lubricating oils.	2553
2424 Alyt Sole Leather bends	372
77 boxes steel valves	16
28 cases grinding wheels	12
15 bag leather butts & 75 bundles shoulders.	5
518 cases searchlights & equipment & sound location units	391
51 bags & 11 reels telephone wire	7
28 drums ceresine wax	5
Plain hydraulic Grinder & equipment & accessories.	16
5 cartons & 4 boxes trimming press complete with regular equipment.	52
38 pieces electric motor controlling equipment and steel panels.	28
17 drums Barium Peroxide	7
36 cases Thorium & Cerium Nitrate	5
5 cases Hydraulic Vertical Drilling Machines.	16
37 cases spare parts for Pantograph Trolley & Locomotive wheels and axles.	19
7 cases oil engine driven portable compressor units equipment.	6
5 cases forging hammer and equipment	26
Russian war relief	2
American Red Cross 178 cases surgical dressings	11
Miscellaneous	30

Total 4576 tons

Cannot be handled by ships gear 2 pieces 4 tons each  
3 pieces 5 tons each 4 pieces 6 tons each 1 piece  
7 tons 2 pieces 8 tons each 1 piece 34 tons. Her  
cubic and cargo dead weight will be 438 and 6000.



# MOST SECRET

5. All vessels mentioned in para. 1 have ballast on board for the return journey.

6. The above vessels are all expected to arrive with you about the 10th November. The actual arrival date will be given you in due course by the Admiralty. Ives and Cormach will be aboard. If any of the ships miss the convoy I will inform you.

1653A/26

Asst. Director of Ship Management

Ext. 2134

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

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

A.C.N.S.(W)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D. of P.(2)

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.O.D.(H)

D.N.I.(4)

D.S.D.

D. of L.D.

D.A./S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P.(2)

~~WD.~~

Duty Capt.

Head of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D.(2)

N.I.D.10(PaymCdr.Wilson)

D.G.D.

D. of S.T.

Adml.Herman Hodge.

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

W.P.B. 57.

My 1309A/26. W.P.B. 57 will not be sailed owing to extensive minelaying in Bristol Channel. (F. O.I.C. Cardiff, 2314A/26).

W.S.12 Z.  
C.T.6.

Sailing date for W.S.12 Z and C.T.6 will probably now be 10/11. (D. of S.T., 2329A/26)

H.X.3 (patrol)  
S.L.90.

Intend leaving H.X.3 1200A/27. Request I may be informed estimated position of S.L.90 at 1000A/1. My present position is 32° 16' N., 41° 20' W. (HILARY, 2350A/26 to S.O.W.P.)

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Units.

D/F bearings on 5660 Kc/s and 4796 Kc/s between 2253/25 G.M.T. and 0638/26 G.M.T. were all on units in area about 37 N. 16 W.  
(D.D.I.C. 0830Z/26 to A.L.U.S.N.A.)

Ships at Ponta Delgada.

HOLLYHOCK, Fleet Tug BRIGAND, arrived Ponta Delgada 0800 and 1000 G.M.T. respectively 26th.  
ANTWERP left 0700 G.M.T.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0902/26.)  
→ LAMERTON arrived Ponta Delgada 1430 G.M.T./26th.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1300/26.)  
LEGION arrived Ponta Delgada 1915 G.M.T./26th.  
→ LAMERTON, HOLLYHOCK left 1900 G.M.T.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1725/26.)

Escorts of H.G.75.

My 1830A/24. Remain with H.G.75 until limit of prudent endurance reporting in accordance with para.5 my 1730A/21.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1016A/26 to DUNCAN.)  
Your 1405. Rejoin convoy H.G.75 as soon as possible after fuelling. VIDETTE not with convoy.  
→ (F.O.C.N.A. 1628A/26 to LAMERTON.)  
VIDETTE is to rejoin convoy H.G.75 forthwith and remain with it until limit of prudent endurance. (F.O.C.N.A. 1658A/26 to VIDETTE.)  
If my 1658A/26 was not received before 2100 take no action on it.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2211A/26 to VIDETTE.)

S.S. HERMIA.

Your 2316A/25. Following is a repetition of my 1208A/24 to Admiralty. Air photographs of French S.S. HERMIA (1068 gross tonnage) in 36 46 N. 00 36 W. on 18/10 indicates clearly that tricolour plaque before name on Hull has been expunged and replaced with white ball diameter about 2/3 depth of plaque.  
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1046A/26 to Adty. for D.N.I.)

DOMINE.

Your 1547A/22nd <sup>P.535</sup> (N.T. in W.D.) boarded DOMINE. Ursula de Armas was landed at Port Shepstone.  
(ALOUETTE 1125A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Communications.

Your 2042/24 (? 2045 intended). Concur it is undesirable for ships not fitted with H/F to make fruitless attempts to contact Gibraltar on 500 Kc/s.  
2. Suggest that they should be instructed to indicate their P.C. and S. when operator considers ship is in range if not then met by escort.

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War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Communications  
contd.

3. It is also desirable that the routeing authority should report when a vessel is sailed without H/F.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1154A/26 to Adty.)

SURVILLE.

My 1850/24. Every indication that SURVILLE will sail p.m./26.  
(N.A. Lisbon 1154/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
My 1154/26. Final loading delayed. Expected to sail p.m./27.  
(N.A. Lisbon 1701/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

JOAO PESSOA.

Arrived Bilbao 24/10 to load iron ore.  
(Bilbao 1654/26.)

CAUDEBEC.

Have intercepted Vichy French CAUDEBEC Lisbon to Casablanca with wood. Ship's navicert. Request instructions.  
(SCOTTISH 1805A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Recognition  
Signals by  
A/C.

When approaching Gibraltar single seater fighter aircraft which are unable to flash the recognition letter of the period by Aldis or fire pyrotechnics are to rock their wings frequently during the approach to Europa Point. When the aircraft is recognised it will be acknowledged by a series of Rs. These instructions will be included by the Admt. in S.P. 02312 and by the Air Min. in S.D.158(3)  
(D.N.A.D. 1916A/26.)

South Atlantic.

French Convoy.  
"Ration" to  
be carried out.

Report graded A2 that French Ships CAP PADARAN, CAP TOURANE: COMPIEGNE, BANGKOK and COMMANDANT DORISE sailed from Tamatave on 24/10 for France escorted by D'IBERVILLE. Report continues graded A3 (R) A3 that German ship, is also included in this convoy and possibly submarine as additional escort.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0832B/26 to Adty.)

/In ...

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War Diary.26.10.1941.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.French Convoy  
"Ration" to  
be carried  
out.-Contd.

In corroboration of my 0832/26. Censorship Mauritius of personal messages dated 24th October reveals imminent departure of convoy from Tamatave.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1530/26 to C. in C. S.A.)  
S.O.I. Capetown's 0832B/26. Operation "Ration" is to be carried out against convoy of Vichy French ships reported to have left Tamatave on 24/10 if sufficient forces can be made available.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2345A/26 to C. in C. S.A.) ?

WRESTLER.Cancel my 0407N/25. (C. in C. S.A. 1030N/26 to B.C. St. Vincent.) *See p 613*Suspicious  
Vessel. (Sighted  
↳ PATOKA 22/10)

Suspicious vessel sighted by U.S. oiler in 006° 44' S. 034° 26' W. at 1500Z/22 estimated speed 20 knots single mast crows nest forward low bridge amidships high funnel (?raised).  
(C. in C.S.A. 1605N/26 to LAVENDER, BERGAMOT.)

Air Escorts.

3 Catalinas escort H.G.75. Dawn to dusk. Area covered 1700 W. to 1830 W. 1 Catalina escort COSSACK and 2 Tankers (BRITISH FREEDOM) (VELMA) to S.W. dawn to dusk. Area covered Gibraltar to 0730 W. 209 Sqdn. 1 Catalina escort H.G.75. Dawn to dusk. 1 Swordfish 816 Sqdn. escort EMPIRE GUILLEMOT. 60 miles East. 1100 to 1400. Not met. My A565 24/10 for AVONVALE read LAMERTON. Latest information now suggests LAMERTON's attack successful.  
(200 Group 1845/26.)

Convoy.

My 1606N/26th\* <sup>See p.640.</sup> WALLFLOWER and SOUTHERN PRIDE remain with convoy.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1750N/26 to WALLFLOWER, SOUTHERN PRIDE.) \* U-Boat attacking CORABELLA.

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

→ P.34.

Leave patrol p.m./26 through 038° 20' 012° 35' 038° 20' 012° 00' and 038° 00' 011° 44' making passage Q B B 65 during daylight/27 to arrive Malta by north west channel a.m./28.

My 1204A/25th attempt to communicate with TETRARCH by S S T on 27/10. P.34 and UPRIGHT are not to attack S/Ms encountered in area (?L) night 26th 27th Oct. Other movements follow.

Capt. S.10.1046A/26 to P.34.)

→ URSULA,  
UNBEATEN  
→ UPRIGHT,  
UTMOST.

S/Ms mentioned are to leave patrol and return to Malta as follows :-

	Leave P.M.	Through (i)	Through (ii)	Arrive Malta.
URSULA.	26/10	036°57' 016°15'	035°51' 015°15'	0630A/28.
UNBEATEN.	28/10	035°51' 015°15'	036°00' 014°53'	0630A/30.
UPRIGHT.	28/10	Q. B.	B.29/10 65.	North West Channel. A.M.30/10.

→ P.34 - See my 1046A/26th.

UTMOST move to area K. after 0001A/27th.  
(Capt. S.10 1047A/26 to 10th S/M F.)

UPHOLDER  
URGE.

Leave patrol today 26th. to arrive Malta before 1800A/27th or at (?06)30A/28 UPHOLDER through 035° 20' 012° 40' and 035° 38' 014° 07' URGE through 035° 45' 012° 40' and North West Channel other submarine movements follow.  
(Capt. S.10. 1135A/26 to UPHOLDER, URGE.)

Air  
Operations.

22/10 morning. Sunderland dropped 2 250 lb. bombs from 500 feet on enemy submarine sighted breaking surface 50 miles North East Aboukir at same time machine gunning it. Both fell 12 yards from submarine which dived before Sunderland made second run. Further bombs dropped but effect unobserved. Position reported to 2 destroyers. Yugoslav DO 22 on afternoon patrol sighted very large patch of oil about 110 miles North of Alexandria.  
Night October 24/25. 4 Wellingtons attacked shipping and harbour Benghazi. Damage unobserved owing to haze but bombs burst on Cathedral Mole and railway siding.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1149/26.)

/Night ...

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air  
Operations  
contd.

Night 25/26 October 3 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli. 48 250 lb. bombs. Total 12,000 lbs. dropped singly. Time over target 7½ hours. Hits observed Karamanli Mole. Day 26/10. Bad weather. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2013/26)

Assistance  
to Yugoslav  
patriots.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No.187 to Cs.in C. Med. and M.E. With reference to C. in C. M.E. Tel.No.0/17614 dated 23/10 :-

- (1) We have no aircraft available with longer range than Wellingtons with extra tanks.
- (2) According to our information rebels hold certain aerodromes and are in touch with M.E. by wireless. If this is correct, could you not arrange with them to light an aerodrome on agreed night and attempt to drop by parachute at least some medical supplies, and perhaps hand grenades.
- (3) This would be an immense encouragement, and might well justify diversion of one or two Malta Wellingtons from other operations.
- (4) We have not yet received your further cable in reply to our C.O.S.186. (1st S.L. 1153A/26 to C. in C. Med.)

LATONA sunk.

(?LATONA) attacked by A/C at 2015/25 in position (?350 degs.) 30 (?miles) Bardia. Ship hit in after engine room and badly on fire. After magazine eventually blew up and ship sank at 2220. Continuous bombing attacks during rescue operations and HERO damaged by near miss whilst alongside LATONA. HERO returning to Alexandria at 14 knots with damaged steering gear (?escorted by) 2 destroyers. Casualties in LATONA not yet fully ascertained but (?do not) appear heavy.

(C. in C. Med. 1332B/26.)

Your 1327/26 fortunately LATONA was only carrying 38 other ranks to Tobruk remainder to number of about 1000 were in 3 accompanying destroyers. About 15 low bombing attacks between 1900 and 2230. Casualties LATONA Naval Officers 4 missing one wounded. ratings (25) missing, 17 wounded, Army Officers 6 wounded. Other ranks 7 missing, one wounded. HERO no casualties. (C. in C. Med. 1922B/26)

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LATONA missing persons killed 4 RN from 16 ratings.  
(New. Com. 12.5.59)

/Situation ...

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation  
Report. No.  
161.

My 1332/26 LATONA was on passage to (?Tobruk) with ammunition stores and 34 military personnel in last serial of operation "Cultivate". Casualties 4 officers, 26 ratings and 7 soldiers missing. Damage to HERO mainly electrical and may not be serious. Ship was able to return (?at) 22 knots, and had no casualties.  
(ii) ~~2034B/26~~ from here. Operation "Cultivate" completed. 7138 troops were transported (?to) Tobruk and 7234 including 727 wounded returned to Alexandria. About 1000 Australian troops remain in Tobruk as destroyer with LATONA did not complete last serial. C.S.7 and 3 destroyers bombarded Bardia area night 25/26 and first reports indicate bombardment effective. Other bombardments carried out night 23/24. "A" Lighters temporarily withdrawn from action service to refit.  
(iii) All corvettes and A/S craft fully employed in Levant on escort duties.  
(iv) Malta. Force K at sea night 25/26. Report not yet received. (C. in C. Med., 2034B/26)

AJAX etc.

Enemy  
force.

Enemy light force proceeding North at high speed may be encountered during the night. (Capt. S.10 2317A/26 to UTMOST, P.34. UPHOLDER, URGE, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).



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War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

YARRA.  
FALMOUTH.

A.M. 1600/24 para. 3 (i) YARRA is to be sailed to Red Sea forthwith to relieve FALMOUTH (ii) S.N.O.R.S. is requested (a) to state port to which YARRA should be sent (b) to sail FALMOUTH on relief to Persian Gulf.  
(C.in C. E.I. 0714Z/26 to S.N.O.P.G., S.N.O.R.S.)  
C.in C. E.I. 0714Z/26. YARRA sailed from 026° 43' N 050° 55' E for Red Sea at 1045Z/26. Speed 12 knots.  
(S.N.O.P.G. 1044Z/26 to YARRA, C.in C. E.I.)

China.

Sharp Peak  
Island.

Consul Foochow reports Japanese evacuated Sharp Peak Island 25th. Island on which is cable station in possession of Chinese irregulars. Chinese regulars under Admiral Li endeavouring to help. Assistance of British warship requested. I am sending destroyer from Hong Kong.  
(C.in C. China 1203Z/26 to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

MAROPE.

Arrival 26/10 \* <sup>not identified</sup> MAROPE.  
(R.A.F. 120 Tampico 1110/26.)

Ships to work  
up in U.S.A.

Your 2123A/7. (i) U.S. C.N.O. sees no objection to this proposal on the ground of infringement of neutrality and accepts it in principle. (ii) Target services, however, are generally inadequate for U.S. Atlantic Fleet and those used by Pacific Fleet are concentrated in Hawaii

/ waters

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26.10.1941.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Ships to  
work up in  
U.S.A.  
(contd)

waters. In many instances improvised target and towing arrangements have had to be used. (iii) U.S. C.N.O. cannot therefore guarantee to furnish target or training facilities whenever required. (iv) If application is made in sufficient time for individual ships U.S. C.N.O. will judge in each case whether limited target and training facilities can be provided.  
(B.A.D. Washington 1119R/26 to Admty.)

MORDEN. (Corvette)

Your 0510Z/26 (N.T. in W.R.) should have been addressed C.C.N.F. Establish patrol off eastern entrance Belle Isle Strait. Any merchant ships sighted making for Strait are to be escorted into Gulf of St. Lawrence. Area of patrol normally should be west of 055° W and between 051° 30'N and 052° 15'N. Report date you anticipate you will have 30% fuel remaining. Acknowledge.  
(C.C.N.F. 1739Z/26 to MORDEN, C.O.A.C.)

INDOMITABLE.  
CARADOC.

Bermuda arrival, INDOMITABLE, departure CARADOC in accordance with my 0932Q/24. <sup>N.T. in W.D.</sup>  
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1803Q/26.)

STEEL  
ENGINEER.  
(U.S.A)

Due Balboa 19/10 from Honolulu not yet arrived. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 2311R/26 to D.N.I. Ottawa.)

T.C.15.

Your 1503/25 and 1917/24. Confirmed that (a) T.C.15. Ships are not to load cargo and (b) sailing date of 13/11 is essential. Request confirmation that this can be maintained.  
(D.of S.T. 2326A/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

W.S. 12 X.

Reference A.S. 1300/25 B.A.D. Washington has reported fuel and water requirements of W.S. 12 X as follows. At Trinidad 11000 tons fuel 4400 tons water at Capetown 15000 tons fuel 10500 tons water. Separate signal will be made regarding fuel but request confirmation that satisfactory arrangements can be made for water supply. What period of stay will be required at each port.  
(D.of S.T. 2328A/26 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad., P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

LE  
TRIUMPHANT.

LE TRIUMPHANT's 0500Z/22. In view of other urgent commitments at Singapore request you will report if docking defects mentioned in LE TRIUMPHANT's para 3. can be taken in hand concurrently with defects in para. 2. (D.O.D. (F), 1651A/26 to N.Z.N.B.)

War Diary.26.10.1941.  
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.→ ARIGUANI.

ARIGUANI torpedoed in 037° 46' N., 016° 08' W.  
(LEGION 0235Z/26.)  
My 0235Z VIDETTE standing by.  
(LEGION 0405Z/26.)  
My position 37° 50' N., 15° 55' W., ARIGUANI,  
HELIOTROPE and CAMPION in company. Situation  
to ARIGUANI will (?remain) afloat both propellers  
and rudder damaged. HELIOTROPE can steam (?5)  
knots. VIDETTE has 185 tons oil fuel remaining.  
Propose to endeavour to take ARIGUANI in tow.  
Sea swell 56 weather deteriorating.  
(VIDETTE 0810A/26.)

Tug is being sent. Why is HELIOTROPE reduced  
to 5 knots. See para. 11 of my 1730A/21 not to  
Adty.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1246A/26 to VIDETTE.)

Tug ROLLICKER escorted by LORD HOTHAM is being  
sailed p.m. today Sunday to rendezvous with  
COSSACK a.m. tomorrow Monday and take over towing  
from THAMES.

COSSACK→ ARIGUANI

(ii) On relief THAMES is to proceed at best  
speed escorted by JONQUIL to ARIGUANI in 37° 50' N.  
15° 55' W., and tow her to Gibraltar.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1306A/26 to JONQUIL.)

My tow parted ARIGUANI has managed to steam 5  
knots on 1 engine but cannot steer. Endeavour-  
ing to steer her.

(VIDETTE 1330A/26.)

Towing impracticable under present weather  
conditions. Intend screening ARIGUANI with  
COMMANDANT DUBOC, HELIOTROPE, and CAMPION, until  
further orders received. HELIOTROPE'S M.P.  
Piston (corrupt group) weather report 5577 2426.  
(VIDETTE 1815A/26.)

GLADIOLUS.

GLADIOLUS is now considered to be a total loss.  
No information can be obtained which can throw  
any light on her last movements. It might be  
advisable to wait another 48 hours before giving  
up all hope.

(C. in C.W.A., 1014A/26.)

CORABELLA.

CORABELLA reported attacked by U-boat in 004°  
09' N., 005° 45' W., at 1434N/26. CORABELLA  
C. and S. 260° 10 knots proceed to investigate.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1606N/26 to VIOLET.) *See p. 633.*

My 1606N/26. Following received.

1645 004° 09' N., 005° 59' W., course 030°  
speed 10 knots still in action.

(C. in C.S.A. 1710N/26 to VIOLET.)

Following received from Takoradi apparently  
intercepted from CORABELLA begins.

At 1650 G.M.T. 004° 19' N., 005° 41' W., C. and  
S., 000° 11 knots S/M has disappeared apparently  
broken off action ends.

(C. in C.S.A., 2310N/26 to VIOLET.)

/COSSACK.....

War Diary.26.10.1941.  
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. Contd.COSSACK  
(torpedoed.)

My 1306A/26 vessel sailed.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1828A/26.)  
Have taken off remainder of COSSACK crew.  
Position is critical, am standing by.  
(JONQUIL 2110A/26.)

Submarines Reported.

→ 2252 G.M.T/25.  
H.G.75.  
reported.

German U-boat made sighting report on 5660 k/cs bearing 285° Gibraltar 3rd Class at 2252 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 0105A/26. to Escort of H.G.75.) German U-boat by D/F Bearings at 2252 G.M.T., within 60 miles 037° 30' N., 015° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 0219A/26 to S. & A., N.A.)

Belle Isle Strait.

Your 1858Z/25. It is probable that there will be other U-boats in the Belle Isle Strait area. (D.D.I.C. 0156A/26 to C.O.A.C.Halifax.)

1116 G.M.T/24.

Suspected Axis Submarine sighted 38 - 54 N., 14 - 20 W., course 124 true at 1116 G.M.T./24 please inform Spenavo. Ends. (Opnav 0235Z/26 to Adty.)

→ 0248 G.M.T.  
H.G.75.  
reported.

German U-boat on 56 60 K/c's at 0248 G.M.T., made sight report Gibraltar bearing 284° class 2. (F.O.C.N.A., 0409A/26 to Escort of H.G.75.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1440A/26.)

1658Z.

By D/F on 5882 kc/s at 1658Z/26 068° 39' 038° 45'. Reliable fix Admiralty pass to NORFOLK. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2057/26.)

→ 2110Z.  
H.G.75.  
reported.

By D/F on 4,796 kc/s at 2110Z/26 indication that enemy U-boat was still reporting Convoy H.G.75. (D.D.I.C., 2258A/26. Escorts of H.G., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C.W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

War Diary.

26.10.1941.  
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Belle Isle Strait.

C.O.A.C. Halifax 1858Z/25. Following received from C.C.N/F Force begins. From amplification received it appears that submarine was sighted on surface and observed to dive one minute after sighted. (?Commander) Task Four informed. Two U.S. Fortress aircraft departed ~~CANDEB~~ 2016Z for 051° 10' N., 053° 40' W., for A/S search fully armed. 2351Z/25. Ends. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 0322Z/26.)

LAMERTON  
(GALILEO FERRARIS.)

Your 1240A/25 and your 1737A/25. If prisoners are still on board they must be kept closely confined between decks during your stay at Ponta Delgada. On no account must they be allowed to touch the shore. (F.O.C.N.A., 0916A/26 to LAMERTON.) Your 0916A/26. Survivors were transferred to VIDETTE. (LAMERTON 1055A/26, to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C.

U-boat sighted on surface and attacked by B 233 in position 44° 24' N., 7° 44' W., at 1440 hours course 020 - speed 8 knots. - estimate nil hits. (19 Group 1530/26.)

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

S.C.  
Convoys.

C. in C. W.A. proposes a plan for sailing S.C. convoys on the Great Circle in winter, omitting the call of escorts at Iceland.

British Air Operations.

72 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Hamburg and 8 Cherbourg docks last night.

Coastal Command Aircraft last night attacked a 3,000 ton ship and left it burning in 58° 26' N., -5° 51' E (off Egersund) Docks and shipping at Egersund were also attacked but results were not seen.

Enemy Air Operations.

F.N537.

Convoy F.N537 was attacked two or three times today off the coast of Norfolk. S.S. FRIESLAND was sunk in 53° 4' N., 1° 35' E. LORD PLENDER (A/S trawler) had a man killed and her D.G. put out of action by cannon fire. S.S. ANTIOPE was damaged and sank later.

War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Bristol  
Channel.

M.M.S. 9 was extensively damaged by a mine near Flatholm light this afternoon.

South Atlantic.

Operation  
"Bellringer".

CARNARVON CASTLE is to return to Simonstown forthwith to form part of Force F., with DEVONSHIRE, COLOMBO and CARTHAGE for this operation (Operation "Ration" see 26/10) Such A/S Whalers and trawlers as the Simonstown seaward Defence Force can provide will also co-operate.

Mediterranean.

An Italian heavy ship is reported to have left Naples. SOKOL has been ordered to patrol off the port.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

Aircraft bombed Benghazi harbour last night and again this morning.

Two M.T.Bs. entered Bardia harbour last night and carried out a successful minelaying operation.

S.S. GEORGIC.

S.S. GEORGIC (27,759 tons) which was bombed at Suez on 14/7/41 and was considered a total loss, has been refloated and anchored.



War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

WARSPITE.

On completion of repairs WARSPITE will return to the Mediterranean.

U-Boat Campaign.

H.G.75

Convoy H.G.75 was shadowed again today. DUNCAN attacked U-boats unsuccessfully at 0358 and 0713 in 39° 43' N., 19° 16' W., and 39° 37' N., 19° 48' W., respectively.

War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

8th D.F.

Future employment of F. class destroyers of the 8th Flotilla is at present under consideration.  
2. In the meanwhile, and while FAULKNER is still refitting, FURY, FORESTER and FORESIGHT now at Clyde should be temporarily administered by Capt. D. Greenock.  
3. On completion of refit FOXHOUND and FORTUNE should proceed as ordered by C. in C. W.A. (D.O.D. H., 1928A/27).

Your 1354. Spanish trawlers SALMON, SANTA ROSA, TIBURON, and FERNANDO may only be attacked within declared portion of sink-at-sight zone. (D.O.D. H., 1950A/27 to C. in C. Plymouth).

BLENHEIM  
to relieve  
HECLA.

When ready for service BLENHEIM is to relieve HECLA as destroyer depot ship at Iceland.  
2. BLENHEIM is due to complete at North Shields at the end of November.  
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for (a) BLENHEIM to relieve HECLA as early as possible. (b) HECLA to return to the U.K. on relief. (V.C.N.S., 2036A/27)

CHITRAL,  
WORCESTERSHIRE.

Before granting leave to CHITRAL and WORCESTERSHIRE F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to confirm that no dockyard work is required in these ships, observing that they will be required to proceed on Foreign Service in due course. (D.O.D. H., 2048A/27).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian  
Naval Staff  
Personnel.

Have just had interview with Alafuson who is in charge here. Vice Admiral Galla is (?taking charge) as C.N.S. in Moscow. Some of Naval Defence also appear (to be) at Ulianovsk North of here but this may be temporary. Kuznetsov has headquarters in Moscow but is flying to Archangel today to examine whole (?convoy) situation there and at Murmansk. (Ad. Miles, 1144D/27 to Admtty).

/Russian.....

War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

Russian  
Party for  
U.K.

Your 1936D/22. Para. 1. Request rank of Kouznetsov. Paras. 1 and 2. What is the reason for this visit?  
(D.N.I., 1545A/27 to Adm. Miles.)

Movements.

HARRIER.  
BRITOMART.

Proceed in company passing Switha 1200 today. HARRIER to Hartlepool for refit. BRITOMART to Grimsby for refit.  
2. Unless S.A. gear is operated speed between 17 and 21A Buoy is not to exceed 10 knots except in emergency.  
(R.A.D., 0945A/27).

NORMAN.

Reference 2200C/26 S.B.N.O. Archangel. Delayed 16 hours. Request Group 2 light 2100 to 0200 Group 1 (one) Light from 0400. No other authority informed.  
(NORMAN, 1145C/27 to S.B.N.O. Archangel, LEDA)

SUNFISH.

Ref. 2119A/26. H.M.Tugs. CHAMPION to Harwich or Southend as more convenient and STALWART onward can be used for this.  
(C.C.R.T., 1155A/27).

SUPERMAN  
for  
Gibraltar.

Cancel my 1654A/25. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1219A/27)  
Your 1654A/25. SUPERMAN should not be sailed until further orders. (C.C.R.T., 1357A/27)

EAGLE.

Reference 1128/22. Intend to sail passing boom at 1800/30. (EAGLE, 1225Z/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.

A.M. 1248A/14. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to be ready to sail from the Clyde on 10/11.  
(V.C.N.S., 1343A/27)

/"Gause".....

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War Diary.27.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd."Gause".

Code word "Gause" leaves Clyde this week at 1700A/28 arrives Dublin 0700A Wednesday. Leaves Dublin 1700A Wednesday arrives Waterford 1000A Thursday. Leaves Waterford 1700A Thursday arrives Cork 2359A Thursday leaves Cork 1700A Friday expected time of arrival Clyde Boom 2200/1/11 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1416A/27)

SEALION  
for North  
Russia.

Intend to sail SEALION escorted by WHITE BEAR at 1800/28 passing West of Orkneys to 061° N., 003° 30' W.

WHITE BEAR returning to Holy Loch from this position and SEALION proceeding independently through

(A) 067° 30' N., 000° 00'.

(B) 072° 30' N., 010° E.,

(C) 073° 40' N., 024° E., arriving position (C) at 0001/4 and thence as ordered by S.B.N.O. Murmansk.

(iii) Request T.B.R. 30 miles either side of this route from 061° N., 003° 30' W., from 0800A/29 until further notice. Admiralty pass to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.

(A.C.O.S., 1501/27)

RORQUAL.

Your 1108A/27. From position (E) onward route as follows to R/V near Wolf Rock.

2. RORQUAL to proceed submerged by day between positions (G) and (H).

3. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange bombing restrictions 25 miles either side of lines joining positions as follows.

(F.O.S., 1637A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See also p. 655*

BERKELEY.

C. in C. Portsmouth's 1753A/26 and 1647/27.

Intend to sail BERKELEY at 0900/28. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange air protection. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1943A/27 and 2139A/27).

FORESTER,  
FORESIGHT,  
FURY.

A.M.1314A/26. Leave may be extended to 10/11 at your discretion, when ships should be ready to sail. (A.C.N.S.(H), 2040A/27 to Capt. D. Greenock). *See also page 652*

War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation  
"Table".

Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0816A/27).

"Hedgehog"  
Trials.

"Hedgehog"  
If ~~HEDGEHOG~~ trials are not completed by P.M./5/11 a submarine of 7th Flotilla is to be detailed in place of JUNON. OBERON or OTWAY are the most suitable though not essential. JUNON is to be sailed to join 9th Flotilla when ready.  
(F.O.S., 1033A/27).

Operation  
"Pantaloon".

Request information as to numbers of officers and men to be accommodated in ARGUS for operation "Pantaloon".  
(ARGUS, 1247A/27 to Admty).

Anti E-boat  
Patrol off  
Cape De La  
Hague.

F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1224/26. M.Ls. and Chasseurs from Portland and Portsmouth will carry out anti-E-boat covering patrol from 2200/28 to dawn/29 between 49° 57' N., 2° 40' W., and 50° 15' N., 0° 45' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1543A/27).

Exercises  
at Dover.

A.L. M015212/41 of 25th September. Intend that personnel shall return to their units until next dark period beginning 10/11. Sufficient preliminary training has been carried out locally and bad weather in addition to moon light is likely to rule out possibility of operations before the date quoted.  
(V.A. Dover, 1906A/27)

British Air Activity.

Bombing  
Operations.

On Night 25/26 owing to unfavourable weather there were no operations. On night 26/27, 72 A/C attacked Hamburg and 8 A/C bombed the docks at Cherbourg, starting fires in both places.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1100/27)

War Diary.27.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Portland  
bombed. One bomb was dropped by an unspecified A/C third mile east of Portland Bill P.W.S.S, near Royal Marine Battery, at 2141/26.  
(A) (B) (C) and (D) nil.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0920/27.)

Convoy F.N537. Help "Radio" 53° 3' N., 1° 39' E.  
FRIESLAND (LIDDESDALE 1300/27.)  
(Dutch, 2662 HELP "Radio" 53° 5' N., 1° 32' E.  
Tons.) sunk. (LIDDESDALE 1402/27.)  
ANTIOPE Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Radio"  
(British, (WOLSEY 1407/27.)  
4545 Tons) My 1405. 3 Aircraft.  
sunk. (LIDDESDALE 1410/27.)  
LORD PLENDER FRIESLAND sunk in 053° 04' N., 001° 35' E.  
(A/S Trawler) Wreck is not visible but considered a danger to  
damaged. navigation. I have on board 6 survivors including Master and one badly injured man unlikely to live, also LORD PLENDER wounded coxswain. LORD PLENDER has on board 7 survivors. Proposed port disembarkation Yarmouth. One of LORD PLENDER's crew killed and degaussing out of action due to cannon fire. Request instructions. (SHELDRAKE 1549A/27.)  
My 1549. Am proceeding to Yarmouth by Would Channel with LORD PLENDER in company. Request he may be swept in. (SHELDRAKE 1615A/27.)  
Enemy Aircraft bombing. Position 53° 13' N., 1° 3' E.  
(WOLSEY 1749/27.) (LIDDESDALE 1759/27.)  
Proceed to Yarmouth with LORD PLENDER notwithstanding that degaussing is out of action. (C. in C. Nore 1751A/27 to SHELDRAKE.)  
S.S. ANTIOPE damaged by bombs. Tugs required in 53° 12' N., 1° 8' E. WOLSEY endeavouring to tow to Humber. WOLSEY has 2 boys injured from ANTIOPE and 1 from S.S.ALEXANDRA. (WOLSEY 1848A/27.)  
My 1848. Ship is on Fire aft. Have ordered crew to abandon and am standing by. (WOLSEY 1924A/27.)  
Your 1848 and 1924. Tugs from Humber are proceeding to assist ANTIOPE. (C. in C. Nore 2037A/27 to WOLSEY.)  
Have on board all Officers and crew of ANTIOPE except 1 Gunner, believed killed. Intend to stand by until tugs arrive. Request fighter protection at daylight. (WOLSEY 2048A/27.)  
My 2048A/27. ANTIOPE has sunk. Intend to proceed to Tyne with survivors 4 seriously injured. (WOLSEY 2210A/27.)

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War Diary.

27.10.1941.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Thames  
Estuary.One S.A. mine detonated at 0923/24. Details.  
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 0845/27.)WELSHMAN.

Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A., 1547/27.)

Bristol  
Channel.  
M.M.S.9.  
damaged.At 1415/27 one Red Mine detonated by Sweepers  
206° Flatholm Light 1 mile.  
Probably laid night 26/27 October. Extensive  
damage to M.M.S.9.  
(Capt. M/S. Bristol Channel 1815A/27.)Enemy Intelligence.Norwegian  
Shipping.

1. Learn from intercept dated 15/10 that Norwegian Shipping is now being requisitioned by Germans in Norway for voyages to Petsamo. Vessels will be returned to owners at Tromso on completion of charter. Graded A.2.
2. About 22/10 Germans tried unsuccessfully to acquire 2 small steamers in Sweden for traffic in North Norway. Graded B.3.  
(N.A.Stockholm 1804/27.)

Navigational.A/S Nets  
in White Sea  
Approaches.Admiralty Pass to N.C.S.O's.  
My 1735/14 and my 1935/25. Masters of M/V's should not be given positions of A/S nets, but should be warned of the importance of a strict adherence to approach routes supplied by N.C.S.O's.  
(A.C.N.S.T., 2008A/27.)Technical.Escort  
Vessels at  
Gibraltar.F.O.C.N.A.'s 2332A/24. It is essential that W.A., escort vessels especially corvettes be boiler cleaned at Gibraltar. Otherwise these ships will be averaging about 800 hours steaming between boiler cleanings. Such a routine is considered dangerous and will reduce efficiency of escort forces.  
(C. in C.W.A., 1931A/27 to Adty.)

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War Diary.27.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.ENGLISH  
TRADER.  
(Ashore  
26/10.)

Return to Sheerness. Report condition of wreck.  
(C. in C. Nore 0925A/27 to VESPER.)  
ENGLISH TRADER aground on centre of Hammond Knoll. Mast funnel and superstructure above water. Back broken amidships. 44 men rescued by Cromer lifeboat, 5 men lost.  
(C. in C. Nore 1015A/27.)

M.L.1028.

Your 1937A/25. M.L.1028 in collision and sustained damage which will take 1 week to 10 days to repair. Request M.L.1066 may be shipped in her place.  
(Capt. M/L. Clyde 1100/27.)  
Your 1100/27. Approved.  
(D.D.O.D.C.1848A/27 to Capt. M/L. Clyde.)

CATS EYE  
sunk. on  
26/10.

Seine net drifter CATS EYE sunk in 58° 05' N., and 3° 09' W., at 0420/26. Struck by WM.STROUD whilst at anchor. Skipper and 7 hands landed at Aberdeen by colliding vessel at 1730/26. No one missing and survivors unharmed.  
(N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 1220/27.)

ROBINA  
INGLIS. (A.P.V.)

(Motor Boat) Ashore entrance Amble Harbour.  
(F.O.I.C., Tyne 1310/27.)

SILJA.  
(M/S Whaler  
grounded.)

Arrived SILJA. Vessel grounded on Corran Ledge whilst entering Oban, anticipate refloating on flood tide.  
(N.O.I.C., Oban 1521A/27.)

FURY,  
FORESTER,  
FORESIGHT.

A.T. 1314A/26. FURY, FORESTER, and FORESIGHT will be fit for service on completion of boiler cleaning and essential defects which will be completed concurrently by 7/11. Ships however, will require refit in the near future in the above order.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1534A/27.) See p 648

TJALDUR.

Request you will sail ZWARTE ZEE to assist S.S.TJALDUR in 55° 11' N., 05° 20' W., at 1340 making 3 knots to Clyde, and tow her to Greenock.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1545A/27 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)  
Sailed ZWARTE ZEE.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1715A/27.)

/LORD KEITH...



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War Diary.27.10.1941.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. Contd.LORD KEITH.  
(A/P Drifter)  
damaged.Following received from Brightlingsea.  
LORD KEITH in collision with QUEEN EAGLE  
off B6 Buoy. LORD KEITH hull damaged, but  
remaining on patrol until daylight.  
(F.O.I.C., Harwich 2240A/27.)Shipping & Convoys.H.G.75.  
LAMERTON.P.C. and S., 39° 11' N., 23° 25' W., 046°,  
8 knots. Unlikely to rejoin Convoy today  
unless weather moderates.  
(LAMERTON 0818A/27.)B.B.94.F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 2218A/26. B.B.94 can be  
accepted at Milford Haven pending re-opening  
of Bristol Channel ports.  
(F.O.I.C., Milford Haven 1150A/27.)Stationing  
of Escorts.Your 1700A/15/9 para. 2, (C). Suggest that if  
night conditions are unfavourable for "E" boat  
attack but favourable for air attack on convoy.  
S.O. of escort should have discretion to place  
destroyers inside the seaward line of M.L.S.  
if he considers it desirable, in order to  
provide better A.A. defence.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1233A/27 to C. in C. Nore.)  
Your 1233A/27. Concur.  
(C. in C. Nore 2205A/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
My 1700A/15/9 para. 2 (c) add new para. 2 (d).  
On nights when conditions are unfavourable for  
E-boat attack but favourable for air attack  
on the convoy the Senior Officer of the escort  
has discretion to station destroyers inside the  
seaward line of M.L's if he considers it  
desirable in order to provide better A/A defence.  
(C. in C. Nore 2208A/27.)O.G.76.  
AUDACITY.Owing to time required to remove wings of spare  
aircraft AUDACITY will be unable to join  
Convoy O.G.76 until daylight 29/10. Intend  
leaving Greenock at 0800/28, landing on four  
aircraft at 1130 and subsequently proceeding  
to Campbeltown leaving there at 1700/28.  
(AUDACITY 1240A/27.)COPELAND.Cancel my 1135/27. Owing to number of cot cases  
among survivors embarked in COPELAND intend  
sailing her and 2 motor ships escorted by  
ST. CATHAN and AYRSHIRE direct to U.K.to-morrow.  
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1755Z/27.)

/O.G.76.....

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1201/27th Oct.  
IN.

From : C. in C. Rosyth.

Date : 27.10.41.

Recd : 1256.

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.

NOTW/T.

801. Convoy Message.

Forecast of Convoy Sailings.

F.S.635 (M)	PARALLEL	1330	Friday 31st	WINCHESTER, QUANTOCK.
F.S.636 (S)	BOOTY	0730	Saturday 1st	WESTMINSTER, VALOROUS.
F.S.637 (F)	ARENA	1930	Sunday 2nd	WOLSEY, VIMIERA.
F.S.638 (M)	OCEAN	1200	Tuesday 4th	WALLACE, VIVIEN.
F.S.639 (S)	PLUMB	0730	Wednesday 15th	WHADDON, VANITY* VERSATILE
F.S.640 (F)	EVIDENCE	1930	Thursday 6th	LIDDESDALE, SLEIPNER.
F.N.540 (M)	LUNCH	0700	Friday 31st	VIVIEN, WHADDON.
F.N.541 (F)	CONSEQUENCE	0800	Saturday 1st	VERSATILE, VERDUN.
F.N.542 (S)	NUMERAL	0800	Sunday 2nd	LIDDESDALE, SLEIPNER.
F.N.543 (M)	PILOT	0800	Monday 3rd	WINCHESTER, QUANTOCK.
F.N.544 (F)	PRIZE	0800	Tuesday 4th	WESTMINSTER, VALOROUS.
F.N.545 (S)	CASING	0800	Wednesday 5th	WOLSEY, VIMIERA.

Time-Table for F.S.635 and F.N.540 as in My 1100/8/9.

Time-Table for F.S.636 and F.N.541 et seq., as in My 1121/26/1

1201/27

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.(3).
- O.D.(5).
- 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.
- W.D.
- M.(2).
- Mails.
- Movts.
- O.D.8.

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War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. Contd.

O.G.76.  
O.G.M.76.

O.G.76 is postponed until further orders.  
O.G.M.76 is to be escorted to Clyde by Irish Sea escorts.  
(C. in C.W.A., 1235A/27.)

Routeing  
of S.C. and  
O.N.S.  
Convoys.

Proposed amended routine for Escorts.  
Details. (C. in C.W.A., 1616A/27.)  
See Lion Copy.

Routeing  
of Convoys.

Amendment No. 38 to A.M.0001/1st May.  
(D.T.D., 1638A/27.) See Lion Copy.

# MOST SECRET

654A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1616A/27th October

From:- C.in.C. Western Approaches.

Date. 27.10.41.

Recd. 1743

P/L BY T/P

Addressed:- Admiralty.

598. At the Trade Sub Committee on October 23 the question was raised of sailing S.C. convoys on the Great Circle, omitting the call of escorts at Iceland.

2. I have always recognised the advantages of a southern route, particularly in winter.

3. A proposal was made for 'Triangular Escort', whereby an escort group would

- A. bring an S.C. convoy from Canada to U.K.,
- B. sail with an O.N.S. convoy from U.K. to Iceland,
- C. sail with the next O.N.S.O. convoy from Iceland to Canada.

4. This proposal assumed that with the prevailing winds a homeward bound escort could normally make the whole passage with the convoy, whereas an outward bound escort could not do so.

5. This scheme has two grave disadvantages:-

- A. Escorts would visit three ports in turn, with consequent maintenance difficulties.
- B. Most of the long-leg destroyers and corvettes now in Western Approaches would be needed to reinforce Canadian escort, thus entailing entire reformation of escort groups and the restarting of training and esprit-de-corps from scratch.

6. I consider that these disadvantages could be avoided and the additional advantages gained of sailing O.N.S. as well as S.C. convoys on the Great Circle by adopting the following escort routine. S.C. convoys to have

- A. Local escort of short-leg destroyers and corvettes from Halifax to 45 degs west, escort returning empty-handed to St. Johns when relieved.
- B. Mid-ocean escort of long-leg destroyers and corvettes from St. Johns, joining in 45 degs west and leaving in 22 degs west for U.K.
- C. Local escort of short-leg destroyers and corvettes sailing empty-handed from U.K. to meet convoy in 22 degs west and escort to U.K.

SECRET

7. The reverse procedure would be adopted for O.N.S. convoys.

8. Sailing of local escorts empty-handed one way gives considerable latitude in making the 'Meet'.

9. Escort requirements would be:-

A. Existing six Canadian Groups now operating S.C. - O.N.S. convoys would act as Mid-ocean escort, spending about 6 days in U.K. and 10 days at St. Johns.

B. Three groups operating from U.K. as local escort.

C. Three groups operating from Canada as local escort.

10. The remaining groups in Western Approaches would suffice to escort O.N. - H.X. convoys.

1616A/27

Advance copy sent D.C. D.T.D.

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

CUT

**MOST SECRET**

1638A/27/Oct.

654R

To:- A. I. G. ~~21 Negative Dover~~  
 C.in C. America & West Indies 883  
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 606  
 C.O.A.C. Halifax  
 F.O.C.N.A. 758  
 C.in C. South Atlantic 816  
 F.O.I.C. Simonstown 760  
 S.O.(I) Jamaica  
 A.C.I.C. 857  
 B.A.D. Washington 106

Date 24.10.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (C)

From Admiralty Pass to F.O.I.C's and N.C.S.C's.

NITE

Amendment No. 38 to A.M.0001/1st May.

Section I Cancel paragraphs 2,8, 10 and 11. These are now embodied in N.C.S.I's

Section I paragraph 5 Cancel "N.C.S.I. 265 also refers" in sub-para (b) and (c). This N.C.S.I. is being cancelled as being embodied in 0001/1/5

Section I paragraph 9 Cancel and substitute:-

"Admiralty will divert all ships sailing independently in the North and South Atlantic to avoid known or suspected dangers, with the following exceptions:-

1. C.in C. South Atlantic, within the limits of his Command, will divert such ships bound to and from West African ports.
2. F.O.C.N.A., within the limits of his Command, will divert such ships bound to and from Gibraltar.
3. C.in C. South Atlantic and F.O.C.N.A., will when necessary divert ships bound for West African ports and Gibraltar respectively, whilst still in C.in C. America and West Indies Command, keeping the latter informed."

Section IV paragraph 5, sub para 4

Amend to read:-

"Ships requiring bunkers at Hampton Roads are to send a W/T signal on 500 kc/s (600 metres) to Norfolk V.A. (Call sign N.A.M.) after crossing an arc 500 miles from Cape Hatteras. Acknowledgement of signal should be obtained. Ships should call shore station using their own War Call sign, transmit the special sender's instructions - "Pass to BRITE" and then give etc"

For "secret call sign" throughout read "War call sign".

1638A/27

for D.T.D. (983)

1st Lord	N.A. 1st S.L.	D.S.D. 9.	
1st S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	I.P. (2)	D.D.O.D. (F)
V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D. (H)	D.C.	Ad. Bailey
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.D. (12)	Hd. of M.	A.E. (3)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (M)	W.D.	
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.D.I.C.	D.C.D. (F)	

War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RORQUAL.

Intend to sail RORQUAL for Holy Loch P.M./28. S/M will pass through position E 043° 00' 010° 00' about 1200A/31 shifting W/T watch at that time. F.O.(3) is requested to signal onward instructions and arrange bombing restrictions.

RORQUAL is painted blue and has only 8 torpedoes on board. (F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/27 to Adnty). *See p. 648.*

Programme for MIRROR.

Your 1226A/13. Escort situation permitting MIRROR will carry out programme on completion of laying of deep D.G. range cable to be in about weeks time.

(ii) Request position of repairs (a) and (b) may be communicated to facilitate routing. (F.O.C.N.A., 1242A/27 to Adnty).

→ Ships at Ponta Delgada.

Fleet tug BRIGAND, LEGION, left Ponta Delgada 1230 and 1430 G.M.T. respectively 27th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1249/27.

Mails for Canary Is.

My 1837/13. There is no safe hand communication from here with Canary Islands and I understand bags often wait six months in U.K. Submit confidential mail including Foreign Office bags could be sent in escorting vessels scheduled to fuel at Canary Islands. (N.A. Madrid, 1307/27 to Adnty).

LORD HOTHAM. CARNATION. STELLA CARINA.

Ships addressed and ROLLICKER are to return to Gibraltar forthwith. Inform ROLLICKER. (F.O.C.N.A., 1315A/27 to LORD HOTHAM, CARNATION, STELLA CARINA).

Convoy H.G. 75.

2 F.W. shadowing my P. C. and S., 040° 08' 020° 34' 305° 6½. DUNCAN rejoined weather report 2667 7069 0606. (ROCHESTER, 1515Z/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Air Escorts and searches.

202 Squadron. One Catalina located and report. 1 COSSACK, 2. Tanker VELMA - BRITISH FREEDOM, 3 DINGLEDALE, Dawn to 2100 hours. Area covered Gibraltar to 33.00 N., 12.00 W. 1 Catalina escort to H.G. 75. 1 Fulmar search for Fishing Vessel DOGFISH. 1 Swordfish search for EMPIRE GUILLEMOT. (200 Group, 1735/27 to Air Min.)

→ LEGION.

Your 1714A/26. Expected to pass through position D at 1200Z/28 steering 06° R 18 knots. Position 38.25 N., 26.07 W., Weather report follows:- Height of low cloud 6. Amount of low cloud 3 Visibility 8 Weather 0 Pressure 29 Direction of wind 2 Force of wind 5. (LEGION, 1801Z/27 to S.O. Force G).

*N.A.....*

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War Diary27.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.W.A. Escort  
Vessels.

Your 2332A/24. Unless Western Approaches escort vessels can be boiler cleaned it is essential that these should not be employed at Gibraltar. Ref. to para 3 it must be borne in mind that these ships have completed on the average 15 days or more at sea in N.A. weather when they arrive in Gibraltar and with the prospect of the return journey of same length. Any laxness in boiler cleaning is bound to lead to trouble which cannot be accepted in present state of escort strength.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1930A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

S.S. R.F.A.  
DINGLEDALE  
Escorts  
reporting.

Situation reports on 23rd 25th and 26th October stated AZALEA and SPIREA were escorting ~~S.S.~~ R.F.A. DINGLEDALE who made position signals at 1929/24 and 0958/26. Please confirm that orders to escorts direct them to report if ship to be escorted is not met within a few hours of appointed time. Admiralty also requires this information.  
(D.T.D. 2221A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

Operation  
"Bellringer".

(Interception of  
Vichy convoys  
from Larnaca.)

WS12

Adty's. 2345/26. Intend to carry out operation "Bellringer" as follows :-  
(i) DUNNOTTAR CASTLE is to R/V with W.S.12 in 033° 25' S. 017° 10' E. at 1200N/30 and relieve DEVONSHIRE. *Cancelled - See p 65c -*  
(ii) On relief DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to Simonstown with despatch for fuel.  
(iii) CARNARVON CASTLE is to return to Simonstown forthwith.  
(iv) If C. in C. Med, and C. in C. E.I. concur EURYALUS, HEYTHROP, FARNDALE will form Force F. with DEVONSHIRE and CARNARVON CASTLE.  
(v) Force F. sails Simonstown as ordered by N.O.I.C. Simonstown to carry out operation.  
(vi) N.O.I.C. Simonstown to arrange maximum air and surface reconnaissance with Union Gov.  
(C. in C. S.A. 0147N/27 to Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I., N.O.I.C. Simonstown, CARNARVON CASTLE, DEVONSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, EURYALUS, HEYTHROP, FARNDALE.)

/Your ...



War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Operation  
"Bellringer"  
Contd.  
(Interception of  
Vichy convoy  
from Tananarive)

Your 0147N/27. Regret EURYALUS, HEYTHROP, and FARNDALE cannot be delayed for "Bellringer". (A.C.N.S. (F), 1026A/27 to C. in C. S.A.) Request you will conduct this operation with DEVONSHIRE, CARNARVON CASTLE and such A/S Whalers and Trawlers as S.D.F. can provide. Report outline of plan in due course. My 0147/27 and Admiralty's 1026A/27 refer. (C. in C. S.A., 1203N/27 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Visit to  
Falkland Is.

Owing to shortage of ships I have been unable to visit Falkland Islands since March. If I can count on having not less than 2 A.M.Cs. with S.A.D. I consider early visit desirable while you have 2 - 8 inch cruisers in South Atlantic, and while German main units are located in home waters. Subject to your approval propose to visit Montevideo in BIRMINGHAM during second week in November then proceed to Port Stanley for about 4 days. (R.A.S.A.D., 1458Z/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

C. in C. E.I., 1506Z/27 include COLOMBO and CARTHAGE in operation "Bellringer". (C. in C. S.A., 1959N/27 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown)

*See also p. 663*

Force F.

Ships addressed no longer Form Force F. (C. in C. S.A., 1122N/27 to DUNEDIN, VIMY, BRILLIANT).

AQUITANIA.

Your 2245/19 and my 1746/20. Harbour Authorities now consider ship could lie safely alongside during period near Neap tide. Berthing would have to be carried out at half tide on rising tide. On last occasion ship visited Capetown, however, Captain refused to attempt berthing on grounds that margin of safety was too narrow. This conflicts with owners opinion but is a major factor.

- (ii) Limit of draught for a ship at Capetown is 35 repeat 35 feet at L.W. O.S. and loaded draught of AQUITANIA is 36 feet 2 inches.
- (iii) Request very early information if it is decided to accept risk of berthing in order that arrangements for assembling (?troops) may be put in hand.
- (iv) D.S.T. 2327/26 refers. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1257Z/27 to Admty).

/Your.....

War Diary.27.10.41.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.AQUITANIA  
-Contd.

Your 1257Z/27. Concur that berthing of AQUITANIA alongside is undesirable.

2. Cunard White Star did not have this in mind but envisaged ship being anchored in outer harbour where bunkering, embarkation of troops, etc., would take place.

3. Can this be accepted.

(D.O.D.(F) 2219A/27 to N.O.I.C.Simonstown).

STRATHAIRD.

In order to relieve congestion at Durban accentuated by the inclusion of NIEUW AMSTERDAM in W.S. 12 it is necessary to divert one additional ship to Capteown. Intend to divert STRATHAIRD for this purpose so that ratings for JUMNA can be transferred direct to their ship. D.of S.T's 1809/21 para 7 refers. (P.S.T.O.Simonstown 1509B/24 to C.in C.E.I.).

S.S.  
GENERAL FOCH.

Reference H.M.C.G's. Lourenco Marques No.112 Arfar of 21/10, please make necessary arrangements for interception of S.S. GENERAL FOCH if practicable.

(Hd.of M. 1544A/27 to F.O.I.C.Simonstown).

*Cancelled per p.685.*S/M attack  
on CORABELLA.

Your 2310/26 to VIOLET. Possibility exists that U-boat was a minelayer repeating operation which caused sinking of ST. ANSELM at Accra. In view of importance of ACADIA and escort, it may be desirable to sweep them in\* using "LL" trawlers SKUDD VI and ST. MELANTE.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1701A/27 to C.in C.S.A.).

*\*Laqos - 322 4/10 - p.102*WRESTLER.

Adty. 1912A/24 para 2 not to WRESTLER. Intend to sail WRESTLER for refit in U.K. with S.L.91 being detached from convoy to fuel at Bathurst 31/10 then proceeding independently to Ponta Delgada to arrive 7/11. Request C.in C. W.A. will issue onward route from Ponta Delgada but in view of WRESTLER's lack of endurance suggest she proceed Plymouth.

(C.in C.S.A. 1701N/25 to Adty).

/Daily.....

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic -Contd.

Daily S/M  
Disposition  
signal.

Request daily submarine disposition signal may be divided into two parts. Part one submarines North of 30° N part two submarines South of 30° N. Part two only to be addressed to South Atlantic Squadron. This will save much decoding of unwanted information in small ships. (C.in C. S.A. 1835N/27 to Adty).

DERBYSHIRE  
W.S.12  
DUNNOTTAR  
CASTLE.

In view of your 1940Z/25. Cancel instructions in para. one of my 0147/27 neither to DERBYSHIRE. DERBYSHIRE is to R/V with W.S.12. in 033° 25'S 017°. (710) E at 1200 N/30 and relieve DEVONSHIRE as escort to Durban. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE after escorting STRATHEDEN to Durban is to return to Capetown and escort Capetown portion of W.S. 12 (?on). (C.in C.S.A. 1921N/27 to N.O.I.C.Simonstown DERBYSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.) See p 656

S.S.  
CLAN  
FERGUSON.

CLAN FERGUSON with Albacore A/S escort attacked by one torpedo aircraft 30 miles West of Gozo at about 1624A/24 and then machine gunned. Torpedo easily avoided. CLAN FERGUSON recalled and entered harbour at dawn 25th. (N.O.I.C.Malta 1010A/27).

Mediterranean.

TALISMAN.

Return by reverse of your outward route. (Capt S.J 1121B/27 to TALISMAN).

Air  
Operations.

Night Oct 25/26. 3 Wellingtons bombed harbour works at Benghazi from 11,000 feet starting small fires on bases of Juliana and Central Moles.

Day 26/10. 8 Marylands attacked buildings on Juliana Point Benghazi from 17,800 feet in afternoon. Majority of bombs fell on objective, further bombs started fire in harbour. 2,000 propaganda leaflets dropped on each of Benghazi and Sollum. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 1142/27).

/Russian.....

War Diary.27.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.Russian  
ships from  
Black Sea.

My 0002D/22. C.N.S. informs me negotiations with Turkish Government interrupted by evacuation now proceeding again. Turks have not turned down (?proposal) but Russians do not require Admiral Kelly's assistance yet but may want it later on.

(2) Decision about sending 12 trawlers to U.K. for fitting as minesweepers still not taken. This decision ( corrupt group) partly depends on Kuznetsov's visit north. Regret all copies of signals on this subject except your 1722A/30th Sept. were burnt before leaving Moscow but I can remember an outline. Your 1420A/22nd Oct. (?In addition to) these three officers Russians require one naval officer in each convoy containing a Soviet ship of whom Kulizovski and Chekin are 2.  
(Moscow 1259D/27 to Adty.).

Destroyers  
strength.

Your 1600/24th. Real position is in effect that until the 4 HUNTS now building referred to at end of para.5, are available, no forces can be sent to meet the fresh commitments in Red Sea caused by the need to protect Red Sea shipping. It will be appreciated that 4 HUNTS now coming into service are merely normal reinforcements promised to bring Medit. Fleet destroyer force up to strength and cannot therefore be regarded as earmarked for Red Sea. I earnestly hope therefore that every effort will be made to remedy this state of affairs since it means that in either Red Sea or Mediterranean we shall be unable properly to meet our engagements while this situation persists.  
(C.in C.Med. 1515B/27 to Adty.).

Enemy  
Intelligence.

Aircraft report 3 ships in 032° 43' and 014° 53' approx. course 100° speed 7 knots.  
(Capt.(S)1,1621B/27 to THRASHER.).

A/C R/C 27th. 3 Destroyers 5 S/Ms in Augusta.  
(Capt (S) 10 1913A/27 to UNBEATEN).

/ Air.....

War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air  
Operations.

Day 27/10. 6 40 lb. bombs dropped Tripoli town  
2 enemy fighters evaded. 700 ton schooner off  
Cotrone machine gunned.  
Night 27/28 October no operations bad weather.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1820/27.)

GEORGIC.

(mined Suez Canal)  
14/7/41

GEORGIC afloat safely anchored proceeding to  
drain out (?as suggested) making cement box.  
(Fleet Salvage Offr. Suez 1835B/27.)

Italian  
Heavy ship.

Italian heavy ship reported to have left  
Naples. (Capt. S.10 1937A/27 to 10 S/M F.  
TETRARCH.)

Orders to  
SOKOL.

Proceed with despatch to establish patrol in  
the vicinity of 040° 43' 013° 47' until further  
orders. Heavy enemy units on return to Naples  
from South westward are believed to approach  
Imperatore light from W.N.W. then passing close  
to south of Ischia Island.  
(Capt. S.10 2007A/27 to SOKOL.)

Employment of  
Greek Naval  
Units.

Admiral Sakellariou wishes to obtain some new  
ships for his personnel to man. Personnel  
available is given in my 2205/27 which follows.  
For the present he intends the 3 biggest des-  
troyers as soon as their refits and fittings of  
A/S is completed should be available for un-  
restricted service anywhere they may be needed  
in the Medit. remainder of destroyers and T.Bs  
to be used for escort duty.  
3 S/Ms to be available for normal patrols and  
other 2 to be used as A/S targets and for  
training S/M crews.  
Consider this to be a sound arrangement. Morale  
has improved and general news is increasing.  
(C. in C. Med. 2201B/27 to Adty.)  
Personnel details. (C. in C. Med. 2205/27.)

/TRIUMPH ...

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War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TRIUMPH.

?Leave your area ?P.M./30th and proceed to patrol during daylight 31st within 25 miles of Cape Saphi ? Elaphonisos Channel thence proceed through position (a)  $036^{\circ} 08' 022^{\circ} 40'$ . (b)  $034^{\circ} 32' 023^{\circ} 40'$ . (c)  $032^{\circ} 46' 028^{\circ} 40'$  and then direct to Alexandria.

(?Adjust to) (?required) speed to pass through position (b) and (c) at approx. 1500B/1 and 1200B/3 respectively and arriving Sanctuary at 0530B/4.

When (?leaving) your area you are to remain West of  $023^{\circ} 50'$  until south of Kithera.

Intelligence of Vatika Bay area will be signalled later. (Capt. (S) 1, 2215B/27 to TRIUMPH).

War Diary.

27.10.1941.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Massawa.

Latest position. (N.O.I.C. Massawa 0614Z/27.)  
See Lion Copy.

CLAN  
FORBES.

Re 1146Z/16 from C. in C. E.I., Master CLAN FORBES requests information concerning number of days for which to provision the vessel leaving Calcutta.  
(S.T.O. Calcutta 1106Z/27 to Adty.)

Operation  
"Ration".

Re Adty's 2345/26 COLOMBO and CARTHAGE are at your disposal for operation "Ration" Former ready for sea today 27th, latter due Durban today 27th.  
(C. in C.E.I., 1506Z/27 to C. in C.S.A.)  
*see p 657*

YARRA.

YARRA has been sailed from Persian Gulf for service in Red Sea.  
(C. in C.E.I., 1616Z/27 to A.C.N.B.)

CENTURION.

(1) CENTURION will have docked and will be ready on 1/11. At what notice should she remain. (11) Adty's 0027/29 refers.  
(C. in C.E.I., 1620Z/27 to C. in C. Med.)

China.

Sharp Peak  
Island.

My 1203/26. In view of satisfactory report received destroyer has been recalled to Hong Kong.  
(C. in C. China 0431Z/27 to Adty.)

America & West Indies.

Raider  
Search.

U.S. Cruiser OMAHA and U.S. Destroyer SOMERS are searching for suspected enemy raider reported by U.S. Ship PATOKA in 006° 44' S., 034° 26' W., on 22/10.  
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1029Q/26 to ASTURIAS.)

/Corvette.....

SECRET

MESSAGE.

0614Z/27th Oct. In

From:- N.O.I.C. Massawa.

Date. 27/10/41.

Recd. 2113.

Naval Cypher (A2) by W/T.

Addressed:- Admiralty (For D.N.I.).

145. M.E. I. 668/1/26 dated 30th April.  
Latest position Maasawa. Accommodation berths  
(a) alongside Quay number 1 171 feet 20 feet  
depth number 2 489 feet 21 feet depth number 3  
1115 feet 20 feet depth. (B) 2 berths at buoy  
available for ships 500 feet in length draught 28  
feet.

(11). Owing to very restricted entrance channel  
advisable restrict size of ships entering Massawa  
main harbour to 540 feet over all length. Larger  
ships established in 17 fathoms in outer anchorage  
for load or discharge by lighter of which only 8  
available with total capacity of 500 tons.  
In addition 1 250 ton. pontoon is now lent Massawa  
from Port Sudan.

(111) Two 7 ton electric mobile cranes being  
erected.

(IV). Total Warehouse space within half mile of  
dock 160,000 square feet.

(V). Shore transport sufficient to clear only 400  
tons daily at present.

(VI). All (?mines) swept to westward and 1000  
yards to eastward of North swept channel buoys.  
Sweeping commenced southern channel.

0614Z/27.

- 1st. Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Naval Secy.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (3)
- M. (2)

- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- Hydrog. (2)
- D. of N.
- Staff Charts.
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S. Basement.
- D.D.T.M.
- E.P.S.
- D.O.F.S.T.
- ~~W.D. ( )~~
- I.P. (3)
- File X.



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War Diary.27.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.Corvette  
refits.

Adty., 1101A/18 and N.S.H.Q., 1559Z/21.  
 (A) In view of loss of GLADIOLUS intend to substitute EYEBRIGHT. EYEBRIGHT could arrive Charleston about 14/11. (B) Intend that MAYFLOWER and BITTERSWEET follow DIANTHUS and EYEBRIGHT respectively.  
 (C.C.N.F. 1445Z/27.)

INDOMITABLE.

Following is revised programme for INDOMITABLE.

<u>Arrives.</u>	<u>Place.</u>	<u>Leaves.</u>
26/10.	Bermuda.	1/11.
3/11.	Jamaica.	17/11.
19/11.	Trinidad.	22/11.
29/11.	Gibraltar.	-

(C. in C.A.W.I., 1602Q/27.)

S.S. BRITISH  
JUSTICE.

Your 1823A/30/9 not to S.O.(I) Kingston.  
 BRITISH JUSTICE due 25/10. Not yet arrived.  
 (N.C.S.O., Port of Spain 1643Q/27 to Adty.)

Situation  
reports by  
Opnav.

Your 1149/13. 231 AJ. Opnav is now making a daily 1900 G.M.T., situation on report and has instructed escorts under U.S. Control to carry out similar procedure to that carried out by British escorts.  
 (B.A.D., 1825R/27 to Adty.)

STEEL  
ENGINEER.

Your 2311/26. STEEL ENGINEER arrived Los Angeles 10/10.  
 (D.N.I., Ottawa 1904Z/27 to S.O.(I)Kingston.)

Communication  
arrangements  
for U.S.  
Transports.

Cancel my 1551/4 and 1809/7.  
 (B.A.D. Washington 1909R/27 to C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

T.C.15.

D.S.T. 2326 A (26) Congress anticipate sailing date of T.C.15 13/11 will be maintained.  
 D.S.T. is issuing the necessary instructions to Master and (?C.O.) troops to have ships as clean as possible before transshipment (? so that) embarkation of Canadian troops can be expedited. Embarkation dates 9th 10th unchanged and 12 November.  
 (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 2053Z/27.)

/ILLUSTRIOUS....

War Diary.27.10.1941.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.ILLUSTRIOUS.  
FORMIDABLE.  
ARCHER.

Adty., 2217/3, 1533A/7 and 2319A/22.

As far as is known only 12 T.S.R. aircraft (all at Jamaica) are available for protection on passage of ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE, AND ARCHER, (B.A.V.G. One).

(ii) Present policy appears to be for ILLUSTRIOUS and ARCHER to proceed independently to Jamaica each to embark 6 T.S.R. aircraft. This leaves no T.S.R.'s available for FORMIDABLE.

(iii) Suggest for consideration. ILLUSTRIOUS on completion proceed Jamaica and embark all available T.S.R. aircraft and return to Norfolk. These passages would be made at high speed and would constitute an extended trial of engines. ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE then proceed in company to U.K., with 8 T.S.R.'s between them. The remaining T.S.R.'s to be landed at Norfolk and held for B.A.V.G. One.

(iv) Permission to disembark these aircraft would be sought from U.S. authorities.

(v) Estimated earliest dates of sailing are: ILLUSTRIOUS 4/12 FORMIDABLE 10/12 ARCHER 21/12, (approx.)

(vi) Any working up necessary for ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE would be carried out from Norfolk and there will be no necessity for them to call at Bermuda.

(B.A.D. Washington 2101R/27 to Adty.)

WARSPITE.

On completion of repairs WARSPITE will return to the Mediterranean.

2. Full outfit of 4 C.R.H. 15" Shell embarked in U.S.A. is to be exchanged for 5/10 C.R.H. 15" shell at Trincomalee, the 4 C.R.H. Shell thus released forming part of the reserve for the Eastern Fleet.

3. Swordfish float plane is to be retained on board for passage to the Meditn. The unit of two Walrus aircraft will be ready for you at Alexandria, the necessary gear for the change from Swordfish to Walrus is to be embarked before sailing from U.S.A.

4. Subject to their own requirements U.S. Navy are prepared to arrange facilities for working up at Hawaii.

5. WARSPITE is to submit a programme through B.A.R.M., for return to Meditn., including carrying out essential practices at Hawaii.

6. B.A.R.M. is requested to obtain the concurrence of U.S. Navy Office to ship's working up proposals.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2201A/27.)

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27.10.1941.

Monday.War Diary.U-B CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

S.S. HATASU.  
(Torpedoed  
2/10).

Your 1625A/24. 7 survivors as yet unfit for interrogation picked up in 051° 56' N 035° 58' W by U.S. Destroyer CHARLES F. HUGHES 16/10 and landed Reykjavik. (N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 1057/27 to Adty).

→ ARIGUANI  
(Torpedoed  
26/10).

Position 038° 00' N 016° 05' W Captain (ARIGUANI) considers ship will not last to Gibraltar compartments adjacent to engine room slowly filling, if engine room bulkhead goes ship will sink. CAMPION has 170 survivors on board. VIDETTE has fuel to remain in the area until 0800/28. Weather report 4381 2527 sea swell 67. (VIDETTE 1102A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.). Weather permitting CAMPION is to transfer to VIDETTE any survivors not required for working (ARIGUANI). VIDETTE is to return to Gibraltar as late as fuel situation permits. Tug THAMES and JONQUIL should join ARIGUANI by daylight/29. (F.O.C.N.A. 1554A/27, 1840A/27 to VIDETTE).

S.S. CORABELLA  
(attacked  
26/10).

CORABELLA appears to have been in gun action with U-boat from about 1530 until 1650 G.M.T/26 when U-boat disappeared apparently having broken off the action. CORABELLA reported all well at 2005Z/26. (C.in C. S.A. 1120N/27).

COSSACK  
(Torpedoed  
23/10).

COSSACK has sunk.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1302A/27 to Adty).

→ ARIGUANI

JONQUIL and tug THAMES are to proceed in accordance with my 1306A/26th.  
F.O.C.N.A. 1313A/27. to JONQUIL).

Convoy  
S.C.48.

S.C.48. Weather deteriorated after leaving Belle Isle Straits, 11 stragglers including Commodore's ship which sustained damage to steering gear.  
Convoy attacked by U-boats from 15th to 18th October. Following merchant ships torpedoed. BOLD VENTURE, W.C. TEAGLE, ERVIKEN, EVROS, EMPIRE HERON, BARFONN, SILVER CEDAR, ILA, and RYM. (D.T.D. 1723A/27 to Opnav).

War Diary.27.10.1941.  
Monday.U-B CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

- 1508/26. Clipper Pilot reports German S/M at 1508/26 in 038° 16' N. 014° 45' W steering to intercept unknown Portuguese ship. (N.A.Lisbon 1113/27 to D.N.I.).
- 0930/20. Following grade B 2. Submarine sighted 0930/20 in 018°18' N 017° 45' W with 2 sails set one of which completely obscured Conning Tower the other right aft. A dummy cargo Derrick also before Conning Tower. (F.O.C.N.A. 1127A/27 to S & A, N.A. Station).
- 1040Z By aircraft in 51° 28' N. 53° 30' W. at 1040Z/27 course 355°. (C.O.A.C.Halifax 1245Z/27).
- 1234 G.M.T. At 1234 G.M.T. German U-boat made (?sighting) report on 11068 k/cs 291° Gibraltar Class one. (F.O.C.N.A. 1356A/27. to S & A, N.A.).

Estimated U-boat Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1414A/27, Opnav 1952Z/27).

- 1520 G.M.T. U-boat probably sighted Convoy O.N. 28 at Convoy O.N.28. 1520/27 G.M.T. (D.T.D. 1555Z/27 to Opnav).

H.G.75

F.W. appears to be homeing U-boats on to convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1616A/27 to Escort H.G.75).

1334.

At 1334 by D/F U-boat within 60 miles of 040° 20' N 018° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1813A/27 to S &amp; A, N.A.Station).

1809Z  
H.G.75.

D/F on 5660 kc/s. at 1809Z/27, indicates that convoy H.G. 75 is still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 1930A/27 to Escorts H.G.75 F.O.C.N.A. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.).

1547  
1555  
1909  
H.G.75.

German U-boat within 15 miles of (1) 040° 40' N 021° 00' W at 1547 (2) 040° 40' N 020° 30' W at 1555. At 1909 sighting report 290° Gibraltar 3rd class. (F.O.C.N.A. 2038A/27 to Escorts H.G.75).

/1700C....

War Diary.27.10.1941.  
Monday.U-B CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported -contd.

1700C

U-boat by D.F.B. at 1700C in 070° 13' N  
041° 55' E. Admiralty pass to all addressees.  
Immediate. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 2053C/27, to  
NORFOLK, LEDA).

S.C. 50 or  
O.N. 28.

Submarine sighted either S.C. 50 or O.N. 28  
at 1913 G.M.T./27. (Cpnav 2230/27 to Action  
Cdr. Task Unit 4.1.6. Cdr. Task Unit 4.1.13.  
East of 035° W.).

2107

German submarine made sighting report of  
Convoy at 2107 27th bearing 292° class 3.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2231A/27 to H.G.75).

Submarines Attacked.By DUNCAN.

At 0358 and 0713 U-boats were sighted in (I)  
039° 43' N 019° 16' W (2) 039° 37' N 019° 48'  
W unsuccessfully attacked. Continuing hunt with  
MALLOW. Rejoining Convoy before sunset.  
(DUNCAN 0859Z/27 to F.O.C.N.A.).

By U.S.  
destroyer.

At 1210Z/27 (? destroyer escort) 3.5 made asdic  
contact apparently S/M 015° 45' N 030° 00' W.  
Dropped 3 depth charges without known result  
and lost contact after 2nd detonation (?.)  
One hour search by plane and destroyer negative.  
(U.S.C.N.O. 1708/29 to Adty.etc.).

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Weather.

A gale is disorganising the movements of ships. H.X. 155 in the Western Approaches is scattered. Other convoys are much drawn out (O.N. 30 extends over 30 miles) or have to and some ships are sheltering.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today on account of the weather.

Enemy Air Operations.

An enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs in Westmanshavn this morning. No damage or casualties occurred. The aircraft subsequently reconnoitred Skaale Fjord where the 4th M/S F is lying preparatory to sweeping a passage through the Iceland-Faeroes minefield.

Mining.

Bristol Channel.

All Bristol Channel ports except Watchet and River Parrett were opened at 1059 today until 1630. Minelaying by enemy aircraft after dark until 2145/28 was suspected.

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A.H.Q.  
West  
Africa.

It is notified today that A.H.Q. West Africa was instituted on 22/10 under Air Commodore E.A.B. Rice, C.B.E. M.C.

Mediterranean.

Libya and  
Western  
Desert.

4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night.

Red Sea.

Italian destroyer TIGRE and two other vessels are reported to have been beached and scuttled but undamaged 20 miles south of Jeddah.

China.

It has been decided to replace the appointment of C. in C. China by a new appointment styled C. in C. Eastern Fleet. The duties of the C. in C. Eastern Fleet are outlined in Adty. 1719A/28. The C. in C. will fly his flag afloat and his Chief of Staff will deputise for him ashore at Singapore in his absence.

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

H.G. 75.

ULEA was torpedoed at 0012Z today in position reported as 41° 15' N. 21° 38' W. or 41° 17' N. 21° 40' W. and sank later. This is the fourth merchant ship to be torpedoed in this convoy, in addition to COSSACK and ARIGUANI. ROCHESTER reports that the escorting ships are running short of depth charges, illuminants and fuel.



War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Aultbea.  
Additional  
A/P Trawler  
requested.

The two trawlers here have been unable to maintain patrol and examination service on two occasions due to breakdown owing to stormy weather and no relief being available. This causes a serious situation with no means of controlling convoys entering harbour when ships are leaving and no examination services. One other trawler SAON has been allocated but has not arrived. Both trawlers here are due for refit and are not too reliable. If continuous patrol is to be kept it is essential that another trawler capable of keeping the patrol in rough weather should be allocated in addition forthwith. At present there is only one trawler available.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1159A/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Polish  
Airmen  
from  
Russia  
for U.K.

Your 0301A/24. I have just seen Poles. 12 Naval Officers and 95 men will return with next batch of Polish airmen. Doubtful whether more than another 200 to 300 will be forthcoming. 2. Please see D. of S.T. 2325A/26. Difficult for me to ?help here if this attitude is adopted at home. Should be most grateful if you can assist in making a ship available either from Archangel or Murmansk. The Southern route from the Polish camp appears to be very difficult. (Ad. Miles 1204D/28 to Admty:)

Spitzbergen.

Request approx. date when you intend Spitzbergen to be next visited. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1553A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

C. in C.  
Eastern  
Fleet.  
Appointment  
and Duties.

A. It has been decided to replace the appointment of C. in C. China by a new appointment styled C. in C. Eastern Fleet.  
B. While Japan remains neutral the duties of C. in C. Eastern Fleet will be:-  
(1) The command and the administration of the Eastern Fleet (see para. F. below) and of naval forces and establishments on the China Station at present carried out by C. in C. China.  
(2) The preparation of plans and war orders for the whole Eastern Theatre in collaboration with C. in C. Far East, C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., and U.S. and Dutch authorities. The Eastern Theatre is defined in para. H. below.

/c.....

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

C. in C.  
Eastern  
Fleet.  
Appointment  
and Duties  
- Contd.

C. On the outbreak of War with Japan, or when directed by the Admiralty, C. in C. Eastern Fleet will, in addition to the above duties, assume the strategic control of all British and Dutch Naval Forces with the exception of Local Defence Forces in the Eastern Theatre subject to the following:-

(1) While the distribution and General plan of employment of naval forces throughout the Eastern Theatre is the responsibility of C. in C. Eastern Fleet, C's in C. of each Station will retain operational control of the Naval Forces other than the Eastern Fleet operating on their station.

(2) Dominions and Associated Powers have the right to withdraw or withhold forces from the strategic control of C. in C. Eastern Fleet provided prior information is given to the latter.

D. The degree of strategic control exercised by C. in C. Eastern Fleet over the Naval Forces of the U.S.A. should the latter be a belligerent will be governed by such agreement as may be in force at the time between the U.S. and Great Britain.

E. In order that C. in C. Eastern Fleet may fly his flag afloat he will be provided with a Chief of Staff and a Chief Staff Officer. The former will deputise for C. in C. Eastern Fleet at Singapore in his absence; the latter will remain afloat.

F. It is possible that a part of the Eastern Fleet may be assembled in the Eastern Theatre before the outbreak of war with Japan. The disposition of any such units within the Eastern Theatre will be the responsibility of C. in C. Eastern Fleet who will delegate operational control of them while employed on stations other than the China Station as he considers necessary. Units which are to be considered as forming the Eastern Fleet will be promulgated by the Admiralty in due course.

G. The above arrangements will come into force when ordered by the Admiralty.

H. The Eastern Theatre comprises:-

(1) While the U.S. are non-belligerent, the existing E.I, China, Australian and N.Z. Naval Stations.

(2) If the U.S. are belligerent the existing E.I. China Australian and N.Z. naval stations bounded on the N. and E. by the following line:-

/the....

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

C. in C.  
Eastern  
Fleet.  
Appointment  
and Duties  
- Contd.

the parallel of 30° N. from the coast of China to meridian 140° E., down the latter to the Equator along the Equator to 180th meridian, and down the latter. The Pacific Ocean to the east of this line will be an area of U.S. Strategic responsibility.

J. A.T. 0050/11/5, 2024/13/5 and 0533/19/5 are cancelled. (1st Lord 1719A/28).

RENOWN.

On completion of refit RENOWN will come under the orders of C. in C. H.F. and will proceed to Scapa to work up as ordered by him. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1928A/28).

14th and  
15th M/S  
Flotillas.  
Re-allocation  
of M/S  
trawlers.

M/MS 0677/41 dated 8/10/41. 14th M.S.F. will not be based in Dover Command.

2. Now proposed that 14th M.S.F. be based at Aberdeen and that 12 trawlers (0) be surrendered in lieu.

3. Propose also that 15th M.S.F. be based at Granton and that RYDE and SANDOWN be transferred to 8th M.S.F. to make room.

4. If paras. 2 and 3 are concurred in, request you will sail trawlers in groups to ports indicated by C. in C. Nore as follows.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1930A/28 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian  
S/M  
Patrol.

Your 1157A/27/9 and my 1324C/28/9. Soviet C. in C. Northern Fleet proposes Soviet submarine to operate Vestfiord sailing 29/10 subject to your approval. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1629C/28 to Adty.)

Your 1629C/28. Approved.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 2353A/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Movements.

MINERVE.

Leave patrol after dark on 30/10 diving by day (route) to R/V at 0800A/2 in 135° Bressay Light 7 miles for escort into Lerwick. (Capt. S.9 1045A/28 to MINERVE).

P.35.

Intend to sail P.35 escorted by LEICESTER CITY for Dundee at 1700A today. E.T.A. 1100A/29. (A.C.O.S. 1125A/28).

/0.14.....

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.O.14.

LOCH MONTEITH and O.14 are to be sailed to arrive Scapa at 0900A/29. (A.C.O.S. 1230A/28 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).  
Intend to sail your 1230A/28 at 1800A. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1609A/28 to A.C.O.S.)  
Westbound Convoy much drawn out is passing East and North of Orkneys. You may meet during the night. Inform O.14. (A.C.O.S. 1810A/28 to LOCH MONTEITH). *See also p. 680 -*

BURZA.

Intend sailing BURZA 1300A/30 to R/V with EAGLE at Clyde Boom at 1800A/30. On arrival at Bar L.V. BURZA will proceed to R/V with BB 95 in position X at 1800A/31. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1612A/28).

ASCANIA.  
WOLFE.  
MALOJA.

The following berths are allocated at Southampton to A.M.C's ASCANIA, WOLFE, MALOJA. Ships are to proceed to Southampton in that order. MALOJA to arrive 30 minutes after WOLFE. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1627A/28).

SUNFISH.

Admiralty 2119A/26 and 1155A/27. I desire that SUNFISH should proceed from Southend to Portsmouth with a C.W. Convoy about 8/11.  
2. Suggest she should be sailed for Harwich with F.S.638 where Tug STALWART will take over tow from CHAMPION.  
3. If you concur intend to sail one destroyer to arrive Tyne 4/11 and act as escort to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1650A/28 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

SEALION.

SEALION and WHITE BEAR sailed in accordance with my 1501A/27.  
Admiralty pass to S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (A.C.O.S. 1805A/28).

ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.

Admiralty's 1343A/27. Following programme is proposed for ROYAL SOVEREIGN allowing two spare days for weather and other contingencies. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1812/28).

/PETUNIA.....

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.PETUNIA. Tug not arrived. (PETUNIA 2001Z/28).WRESTLER. C. in C. S.A's 2010N/13 and 1701N/25.  
WRESTLER can be taken in hand for refit at Portsmouth. She is expected to arrive mid-November. (D.O.D. H. 2107A/28).Information for  
DEPTFORD.  
JACOB VAN HEEMSKERK.  
CELANDINE.  
ALYNBANK.

S/M SEAWOLF escorted by CUTTY SARK Northbound in Irish Sea may be met during the night. (C. in C. W.A. 2205A/28 and 2307A/28).

Operations.Operation  
"Table".Operation postponed 24 hours.  
If weather moderates programme will be carried out tomorrow, leaving Harwich 0900. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1053A/28).Operation  
"Pantaloon".ATHENE will carry to maximum accommodation 30 officers and 40 ORS. (F.A.R.E.O. Glasgow 1300/28).  
ARGUS 1247/27. Air Ministry report following numbers require accommodation:-  
(a) ARGUS 22 officers 37 N.C.O's 112 airmen.  
ATHENE 20 officers 2 N.C.O's 40 airmen.  
2. From information available in Admiralty there will only be accommodation for a further 13 officers in ARGUS. Please confirm. (D.O.D.F. 1525A/28 to ARGUS, ATHENE).Exercises  
at Dover.

Intention signified in your 1906A/27 is concurred in. O.C. Troop should keep his brigadier informed of movements. (D.C.O. 1351A/28 to V.A. Dover).

Patrol.

Intend sailing M.G.B. 325 to the southward at 1530 to-day, returning Dartmouth dawn/29. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1441/28).

Anti  
E-boat  
Patrol.Cancel my 1543A/27.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1515A/28).

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Bombing operations.

On 27/10 three Blenheims attacked a south-bound convoy consisting of four M/V's of 1500 to 3000 tons and four Flakships, eight miles N.W. of Den Helder. Results unobserved. On night 27/28 there were no operations owing to the weather. (H.Q.B.C. 0035/28).

Patrols.

"Troost", "Stab", and "North Bert" in operation. "Hornli" being flown later in the day. (C. in C. Rosyth 0653/28).  
P.R.U. of Namsos, Trondheim, Bergen, now being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1053/28).  
P.R.U. of Stavanger, Oslo, A.D. Kristiansand now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1121/28).  
My 0653/28. "Troost" 10%. "South Stab" 80%. "North Bert" 10%. (C. in C. Rosyth 1805/28).  
My 0653/28. "Hornli North" 100%. "Hornli South" 50%. (C. in C. Rosyth 1911/28).

821 Squadron.

Cancel my 1316A/25.  
(R.A.N.A.S. 1150A/28 to Hatston).

Enemy Air Activity.Faroes attacked.

One enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs in (?Westman-shavn) Harbour at 1005 today. No damage or casualties. Subsequently reconnoitered Skaale Fiord where S.O. 4th M/S flotilla and attendant ships all lying. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1050A/28).

Mining.Bristol Channel.

My 2218A/26. All Bristol Channel ports with exception of Watchet and River Parrett are open until 1630 today when they will again be closed. It is hoped to re-open for P.M. tide tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1039A/28).

MANXMAN.

F.O.I.C. Southampton 1212/26, which has been repeated to R.A. (M). Request you will sail MANXMAN for Port Z.A. when ready.  
-(D.D.O.D. M. 1052A/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

S.N. 83.A.

Your 1114/24 and my 1212/25. Concur proposal to sail for S.N. 83.A. on 30/10.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1214A/28 to R.A.M.)

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.LILIUM(D.G.  
Drifter)

Sank in No. 3 dock Methil a.m. today after being holed by S.S. CIRCE II manoeuvring in dock. Was lying alongside at time of collision. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1022/28).

DAGENHAM.

F.N. 538. DAGENHAM with broken steering gear. Am standing by to tow if necessary. Tugs have been requested from Humber. Have instructed H.M.S. SHEARWATER to escort to Humber. (WINCHESTER 1023A/28).

Tug SABINE is proceeding to assist DAGENHAM. Order TURQUOISE to stand by. When tug arrives DAGENHAM and TURQUOISE should proceed to Yarmouth unless weather moderates. Fighter protection arranged. (C. in C. Nore 1035A/28). DAGENHAM is reported in danger of going ashore in Sheringham Shoals. Investigate and render any assistance possible. (C. in C. Nore 1041A/28 to WINCHESTER).

Immingham departure SABINE at 1105 to assist DAGENHAM. (F.O. Humber 1109A/28).

My 1109A/28. Tug SABINE returned to Grimsby. Will proceed as soon as weather moderates. (F.O. Humber 1354A/28).

Your 1145. Tug reported unable to face weather. If you cannot make headway instruct DAGENHAM to anchor or proceed Yarmouth at your discretion. SHEARWATER or TURQUOISE is to remain with DAGENHAM. (C. in C. Nore 1409A/28 to WINCHESTER.) DAGENHAM attempting to effect temporary repairs steering gear. Intend her to proceed in company with me during the night to avoid anchoring off Humber in existing weather. (WINCHESTER 1730/28). DAGENHAM now proceeding with convoy with repairs effected. (WINCHESTER 1829A/28).

*See also p 680.*SILJA.

My 1521A/27. SILJA refloated 1230A/28. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1241A/28).

EMPIRE  
MOONBEAM.

Ex. W.N. 98 returned to Oban damaged in collision with MOUNT PELION. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1430A/28).

ROYAL  
SOVEREIGN.

Was docked at 1320 today. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2212/28).

*Date of collision 27/10. Colliding vessel MOUNT TAURUS D.C.L. 7/11/41*

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.O.G. 76.

My 1235A/27. Convoy is to be sailed as soon as possible. N.C.S.O. Mersey is to signal new R/V for other sections and is to report anticipated time of sailing from Bar L.V. (C. in C. W.A. 0807A/28).

O.G. 76 is to be sailed as soon as possible. (V.C.N.S. 0830/28).

Convoy  
"Stratum".

Cancel my 0820A/28 and postpone 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1015A/28 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

H.X. 156.  
O.N.S. 29.

Route of H.X. 156 has been altered to southward to avoid U-Boats. Corvettes on Iceland portion of O.N.S. 29 leave convoy forthwith and steer for  $053^{\circ}$  N.  $022^{\circ}$  30' W. Remaining Corvettes steer for same position on relief. Report E.T.A. at this position on crossing  $057^{\circ}$  30' N. Destroyers proceed at best speed to Iceland on relief. (C. in C. W.A. 1202A/28 to BROKE, etc.)

O.N.S. 29.

My 2141/26. Merchant Ships from Iceland returned having become detached from escort. (A.C.I.C. 1215/28).

A/C  
communication  
with single  
M/V's.

Aircraft have been instructed to obtain the names of single M/V's in the Western Approaches with a view to improving the accuracy of the plot at A.C.H.Q. but difficulty and delays have been experienced in V/S signalling. With a view to standardising and simplifying V/S procedure between ships and aircraft, request following instructions may be issued to Merchant Ships:- Aircraft wishing to obtain the name of a Merchant vessel, will flash the International signal "S.C." (what is the name of your vessel?) and Merchant Ships are to reply by flashing their signal letters. This procedure is established to simplify signalling and to save time. It provides no guarantee of the friendly character of the aircraft and A/A precautions are not to be relaxed merely because "S.C" is received. (C. in C. W.A. 1254A/28 to Admty.)

/O.N.30.....



SECRET

M E S S A G E

1050C/28th October

679A  
IN

Date. 31. 10. 41.

From S.B.N.O. Archangel.

Recd. 1722

Interdepartmental Cypher (ITT) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

Naval 64 for War Transport from MACLAY last paragraphs of your 2342A October 24th. Turn table and ramp discharging gear not practicable for following reasons.

- (a) Height of quay above low water only about 7 feet and 4 feet high water
- (b) Ramp would be dangerously high for handling tanks under ice (and) snow conditions also would interfere with general working of quay.
- (c) If ships gear can handle heavy lifts these can now be placed direct on to railway whole length of Bakharista Quay.

Earnestly hope P.Q.3 will contain more ships with heavy derricks as P.Q.2 has about 200 heavy lifts to be lifted on to barge by 2 floating cranes of which only 1 can properly plumb hatch. These same cranes then periodically required to shift and lift from barge to railway trucks during which time Ship's kept waiting and slow despatch inevitable.

- (d) Intend to try to run tanks from barge on to Quay and up ramp on to railway truck.
- (e) Russians decline offer of fifty ton derrick.

1050C/28

✓ Arrangements for shipment of tanks.

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

D of S.T.  
D.N.I.(4)  
M. (2)  
O.I.C.(2)  
A.E.(3)  
E.P.S.  
Admiral Hermon Hodge  
I.P.(3)  
W.D.

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys-Contd.O.N.30.

NORTHERN GEM reports position at 1040A 092° Barra Head, speed 7. 9 Ships in sight. (ARABIS 1340A/28 to MALCOLM). Report situation when clear of Minches. (C. in C. W.A. 1910A/28 to MALCOLM). Your 1426A/28. O.N. 30 8 hours late. Speed 5 knots. Convoy stragglers 30 miles. Weather report. 57° 58' N. 05° 54' W. (MALCOLM 2001A/28).

E.C.90.

Centre part passing 33 buoy 1600. Speed 5 knots. Convoy much scattered. (GLEANER 1630A/28). Your 1536. Commodore of E.C.90 now reports intention of heaving to off 35 Buoy as many ships are unmanageable and entering Pentland Firth at Pipp. (GLEANER 1830/28 to A.C.O.S.) E.C.90 passing 34 buoy. Commodore intends heaving to leading ships at 35 buoy to allow stragglers to catch up. Propose using route P tomorrow morning. (MAZURKA 1831A/28). Your 1831A/28 approved. Cancel my 1536/28. Noss Head light ordered 5 minutes every half hour. (A.C.O.S. 1919/28 to MAZURKA). My 1810/28. Convoy now heaving to off Noss Head until daylight. (A.C.O.S. 1947/28 to LOCH MONTEITH). *See p 675*  
Your 1919/28. Proceeding vicinity 35 Buoy 0430/29. E. T.A. Duncansby Head 0800/29. (MAZURKA 2218A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

DAGNY.

*N.S. - WD.*  
Your 0941/21/10. DAGNY not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1642/28).

<sup>N.</sup>F.538.

<sup>N.</sup>WINCHESTER 1730. Van of F.S. No. 538 is at 62 C buoy with 7 ships making good 4 knots and unable to rejoin at Reassembly. SHEARWATER indicate number of ships seen on muster in addition to 10 names passed to her by WALLACE. (WALLACE 1835A/28) WALLACE's 1835/28. 6 ships seen. S.S. DAGENHAM in company. Proceeding Humber, S.S. TREHATA, E.T.A. Humber L.V. 2230A/. (SHEARWATER 2007A/28). *See p. 678*

/H.X. 155.....

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

H.X. 155.

H.X. 155 scattered by gale. Commodore and 17 Merchant ships in company. E.T.A. Loch Ewe 1000. Escorted by VANOC. Clyde portion escorted by VOLUNTEER. Liverpool portion escorted by GENTIAN. CAMPANULA and HONEYSUCKLE proceeding independently with 9 and 14 Merchant ships respectively. (VANOC 1915A/28).

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.Raider Situation.

1. A.M. 2342/21 and 1134A/22. U.S.N. Tanker PATOKA sighted unidentified ship 06° 44' S., 34° 26' W., on 22/10. Possibly supply ship.
2. On 14/10 BIRMINGHAM received a transmission possibly from enemy unit within 50 miles of 19° S., 37° W. Possibility that transmission emanated from one of H.M. Ships at much greater distance cannot be ignored.
3. Swedish PACIFIC arrived. Dutch OLIVIA made unspecified type distress message on 20/10 from 01° N., 55° E. No confirmatory evidence of Raider in Indian Ocean.
4. On 6/10 British IDOMENEUS in 39° S., 158° W., heard Q distress message estimated within 200 miles. Only ship known to be in area was EMPIRE STARLIGHT due Panama 28/10. On 1/10 Auckland intercepted probable raider - supply ship intercommunication and 4/10 D/F indicated German unit probably E. of New Zealand.
5. WARRIOR arrived Rangoon without calling Capetown.  
(D.D.I.C., 2142A/28)

FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Lubricating  
oil at  
P. Delgada.

There is no stock of engine lubricating oil at Ponta Delgada. Request ships calling here be warned accordingly.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1034/28 to Admty).

CAUDEBEC.

French CAUDEBEC. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1135/28).

RORQUAL.

RORQUAL sailed 1145A/28 routed through position (A) 350°. Spartel 10 miles (B) 036° 35' N., 007° 00' W., (C) 180° St. Vincent Cape 20 miles (D) 038° 15' N., 010° 40' W., 10½ knots. Estimate position RORQUAL at 2000A/28 is 036° 25' N., 006° 42' W.  
(2) ALOUETTE keep 20 miles Northward RORQUAL's route. (3) ALOUETTE acknowledge forthwith.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1202A to Admty, 1204A/28 to ALOUETTE).

/Following.....

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.RORQUAL  
Contd.

Following movements may affect you.  
 (i) VIDETTE 037° 00' 012° 05' to (Gibraltar?)  
 15 knots.  
 (ii) WISHART 032° 21' 015° 00' through 039°  
 00' (015?) 00' thence 122° 14 knots.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1836A/28 to RORQUAL)

DUNCAN.

DUNCAN by night remains with H.G.75 convoy  
 until prudent limit of endurance (?and) then  
 proceed Ponta Delgada to fuel. E.T.A. Ponta  
 Delgada is to be reported when 100 miles clear  
 of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A., 1228A/28 to DUNCAN)

MALAYA,  
HOEGH HOOD,  
CLAN  
MACDONALD.

When (?entering) harbour MALAYA took a sheer  
 ramming HOEGH HOOD at 53 berth detached mole.  
 (ii) HOEGH HOOD broke adrift rammed CLAN  
 MACDONALD at 52 berth.  
 (iii) MALAYA small holes in forecastle, sheet  
 plating broken repair completes 29/10.  
 (iv) CLAN MACDONALD. Repair to make seaworthy  
 completes 31/10.  
 (v) HOEGH HOOD extensively damaged ?upper deck  
 level. At least 6 weeks work to repair.  
 Fuller report follows.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1230A/28)

TETRARCH.

Pass 037° 00' 001° 00' E., and 035° 42' 003°  
 00' W. Arrive off Europa Point not later than  
 1800 1st. If unable to comply arrive 0800  
 2nd report your intentions on crossing 001° E.  
 At your discretion report P.C. and S. of A. on  
 crossing 007° E.  
 Shift normal W/T watch to Gibraltar broadcast  
 44.8 k/cs at 0600 31st.  
 Total bombing restrictions arranged.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1408A/28 to TETRARCH)

Air escorts  
and Search.

202 Squadron one Catalina escort to Tanker  
 DINGLEDALE (from S.W. to Gib) 0930 to 1700 area  
 covered 35.20 N., 07.50 W. to 35.50 N., 06.40 W.  
 209 Squadron one Catalina escort to C/V OS9G  
 1600 to 2245 area covered 36.46 N., 15.46 W.  
 to 36.35 N., 14.50 W.  
 807 Squadron one Fulmar search for EMPIRE  
 GUILLEMOT. 1930 to 1230. Area covered Gib.  
 to 0200 W. (200 Group, 1720/28)

/SURVILLE.....

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. -- Contd.SURVILLE.

My 1701/26 final loading still delayed due to weather probably sailing 30/10 possibly p.m./29. (N.A. Lisbon, 1758/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Spanish protest.

My 0020/23. Embassy has now received verbal protest against entry into Momifa port night of October 11th of M.L. with no lights. It is stated there were 4 people on bridge one of whom used a hand torch to identify Spanish Naval Tug. R.16. I have been into this thoroughly at Ministry of Marine and seen report which is most positive about whole affair. Minister of Marine informs me he has now received written report from Algeciras on discussions about depth charges etc. and that it was generally satisfactory except on certain points he proposes to explain to me before I leave for Gibraltar tomorrow. (N.A. Madrid, 1803/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.Shipping Routes.

Ref. A.M. 0001/1/5/41 section 4 para, 12 request this instruction may be cancelled. (C. in C. S.A., 1150N/28 to Admty)

Convoy S.L. 91.

My 2220N/26. Seven ships did not arrive. (N.C.SD. Freetown, 1248N/28 to Admty).

Oilers.

My 1431/28. <sup>NT. W.D.</sup> With Oilers now available at Freetown do not consider RAPIDOL can always be available for this service, particularly as ECHODALE may at any time be required for operations in South Atlantic and too great use of DEWDALE and ENERDALE interferes with training. Two latter are not suitable as Mobile Oilers. Also considered important to have Oiler at Bathurst if fuelling of escorts at sea contemplated as a routine. Additional small oiler therefore required at Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1436N/28 to Admty).

/Movements.....

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements of Ships on W. African coast. Your 2855A/20 para. 8. Consider A/S escort should be sufficient but additional cover by a cruiser will be given if not required for more important duties. (C. in C. S.A., 1545N/28 to Admty).

Troop Transport. Proposals re C.M.21, etc. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1707B/28 to D. of S.T.)

WARSPITE Programme. Please pass following to F.O. Force G., on arrival:- "Contents of Admty 2201/27 to WARSPITE". (D.O.D. (F), 1739A/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

Air H.Q. A.H.Q. West Africa came into being with effect from 22/10. Air Commodore E.A.B. Rice C.B.E. M.C. assumed command of R.A.F. West Africa with effect from same date. (Air Ministry, 2022/28).

EURYALUS. HEYTHROP. (?Capetown) departure 28/10 (i) 1507Z, EURYALUS for Mombasa, S. of A. 20 knots, E.T.A. (?06)00Z/3/11 (ii) 1619Z HEYTHROP for Durban, S. of A., 15 knots, E.T.A.0500Z/31. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2207Z/28 to Admty etc).

S.S. GENERAL FOCH. Cancel A.M.1544<sup>2158</sup>A/27. Ship is not to be intercepted on this voyage. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2243A/28 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown)

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.P.31.

P.31 leaves 035° 51' 015° 15' approx. 2000A/29  
on course 30°.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1020A/28 2135B/28 UNBEATEN).

Air  
Operations.

(1) Night October 25/26.

2. F.A.A. Albacores dropped flares to illuminate Bardia Harbour for bombardment by H.M. Ships, aircraft also bombed coast defence and A.A. guns on Southern Headland at entrance to harbour bombs straddling latter.

Night October 26/27. 4 Wellingtons made high level attack on Benghazi Harbour bombs bursting on Cathedral Mole and buildings in town North of it.

Day 27/10. During morning 9 Marylands bombed railway sidings and bases of Cathedral and Central Moles Benghazi from 19,000 feet, bombs burst on railway sidings and workshops starting a fire at latter and straddled Governorate and Military buildings behind Central Mole.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1118/28).

Patrol Cagliari Naples sighted 1205 hours 1 submarine on surface 075°. Cape Carronara 45 miles course 064° 5 knots.

(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 2133/28).

AETOS.

Following programme for Greek Destroyer AETOS is intended. (From Alexandria 12/10 to Aden 17/10) (C. in C. Med., 1134B/28).

CLAN  
FERGUSON,  
SYDNEY STAR.

Reference my 1134A/25 and Admty's 1149A/25. Weather appears to be now breaking. I am not clear whether CLAN FERGUSON is to remain at Malta for an indefinite period. I should be glad of a decision whether SYDNEY STAR now repaired should be sailed as opportunity occurs. (V.A. Malta, 1210A/28) Reply: 0012/29)

Turkish  
defences.

Admty. 1819A/20 to C. in C. Med., anticipate manning Turkish defences by British personnel. This would be an exceedingly delicate proposition to put and a most difficult one to justify. It is considered during peace time Turks should take over control station after training period. (N.A. Angora, 1248B/28 to C. in C. Med) Reply 1602/30.

/TIGRE.....



War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

TIGRE and  
2 other  
ships  
scuttled.

Dutch Charge D'Affaires at Djedda reports three vessels reached (?beached) and scuttled about 20' south of Djedda. One vessel is destroyer TIGRE. Further report is required as to possibilities of salvage. Vessels reported undamaged. Charge D'Affaires says it would be necessary to negotiate with Ibn Saud for acquisition if salvage is considered practicable. (Director of Salvage, 1529A/28 to F.O.C. Red Sea)

Enemy  
Convoy.

My 1621B/27 at 0800B/28. Convoy of 2 (?ships) in 031° 30' 017° 06' course 090° speed 6.5 knots. (Capt. (S) 1, 1541B/28 to THRASHER).

Enemy  
Cruiser.

Italian cruiser believed to be at sea probably from Taranto. (Capt. S.10., 1829A/28 to 10 S.M.F., TRUSTY, THRASHER)

Turkey.

Proposals for delivery of new destroyers and submarines. (N.A. Angora, 1843B/28, from Adm. -Kelly, to Admty). See Lion Copy.

687A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1843B/28 October IN

From N.A. Angora.

Date 29/10/41  
Recd. 0312

I.D.V. BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean,  
H.M. Ambassador Angora.

AIDAC

SAVING.

Following from Admiral Kelly.

For First Sea Lord. Tried to clear up very involved Turkish proposal with Asim Gunduz. It is that we should detach at once two destroyers and two S/MS. Turks would alter contract delaying delivery of remainder for one year, during which time we would probably use them. If this became public they would lodge official protest, and nobody but Government would know our action has been taken with their tacit approval.

They suggest names of ships could be altered so that nobody would know and I cannot say if this would be practicable; if not I see no advantage in this Oriental proposal over a straightforward requisition after we have done our utmost to deliver first four.

I made it quite clear, which he accepted, that immediate delivery would mean as soon as possible, there could be no question of delivering them at about the same time, probably over a period of about six months.

I suggested possibility with the altered contract of four remaining ships being replaced by more or less similar vessels which could be completed by delayed date. Will you let me know whether something on these lines would be feasible.

In his objection to my original proposal Secretary General said most definitely to me that Turkish Government would never accept delivery of vessels after they had been used by us, and now he fathers an exactly similar suggestion.

1843B/28.

1st Lord,	N.A. 1 S.L.	Adv. copy 1st S.L.
1st S.L.	P.A.S. (S)	
2nd S.L.	D. of P. (2)	D.A./S.W.
3rd S.L.	D.O.D. (F)	I.P. (2)
V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D. (F)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.O.D. (H)	D.C. (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.D.O.D. (H)	Hd. of M. (6) for action
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.N.I. (4)	D.T.S.D.
		D.D.I.C.

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.ANNA MARCOU.

Panamanian ANNA MARCOU made an S.O.S. Distress signal at 2221Z/26 when in 08° 40' N., 50° 40' E., reported herself in trouble and asked for tow. Hospital ship LLANDOVERY CASTLE has taken ANNA MARCOU in tow and expects to arrive Aden P.M./30.  
(C. in C.E.I., 0450Z/28 to Adty.)

Port T.  
GUARDIAN.

GUARDIAN considers with (? 8) nets available here no difficulty should arise in laying baffle C. in approx., position as laid down in Admty., 1502/30/8, but additional nets are being taken in case survey (? shows) alterations to be necessary.

(ii) I therefore intend following programme for GUARDIAN (A) 1/11, leave Colombo route (corrupt group) defences (B) 4/11, commence survey for Baffle C and laying in order D,C,A,B, BB (C) (?December) 15 approx., laying programme (? completed). GUARDIAN return to Colombo to embark nets for Nancowry proceeding thence as ordered by C. in C. China.  
(C. in C.E.I., 1140Z/28 to Admty.)

Local  
defences  
of Adu  
Atoll.

Your 1832/23. (a) 15/12 (b) 15/11, (c) 11/11.  
(C. in C.E.I., 1144Z/28 to Adty.)

S/M at  
Jibuti.

1 Submarine found Jibuti harbour.  
(A.H.Q., Aden 1754/28.)

Reporting  
of V.S.  
M.V.s.

Your 0506Z/11. U.S. Authorities advise that U.S. Consuls are now utilising a more secure code than formerly for reporting movements of U.S. merchant vessels and a still more secure system will be introduced in near future. General question of instructions to Masters and owners regarding security of transmission of messages is under active consideration by U.S. authorities. Their decision will be promulgated in due course.  
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2027A/28 to C. in C.E.I.)

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Sarawak  
oil fields.

- Your 1936/1. Request early decision whether or not Sarawak oil fields are to be completely closed down.
2. About 80% surplus equipment and personnel has now been removed to Singapore and this should be completed in a fortnight.
  3. If present production is to continue:-
    - (a) remaining well could be plugged and plant immobilised in one week vide my 0351/9.
    - (b) plant could be immobilised but well not repeat not plugged in 8 hours.
  4. In view of exposed position of Seriafield and as troops for its defence are not available above warning cannot be relied upon.
  5. Only sure way of denying oil to enemy is therefore to close down fields completely. (C. in C. China 0511Z/28 to Adty.)

Eastern Fleet.

new C.C. to replace C.C. China. (Admty 179A/28).  
See Policy page 672.

America & West Indies.PRINCE  
HENRY.

Leave Bermuda 30/10 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax so as to arrive 1/11. (C. in C.A.W.I., 0932Q/28 to PRINCE HENRY.)

CIRCASSIA  
VAN  
KINSBERGEN.

Departure 28/10 CIRCASSIA, VAN KINSBERGEN, in accordance with your 1212Q/18. (N.C.S.O. Port of Spain 0935Q/28 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

Corvettes  
refitting.

N.S.H.Q., Ottawa's 1559/21. B.A.R.M. is requested to confirm the date when MAYFLOWER and EYEBRIGHT will be required at American Yard. *See Mayflower page*

2. It is desired to prepare a programme which will:-
  - (a) always have 2 corvettes refitting in U.S.A.
  - (b) provide these corvettes from the British owned ships of N.F.E.F. manned by R.N. and R.C.N. in order to avoid time wasted giving preliminary leave and on passage by corvettes from U.K.
  - (c) give preference to these which need reconstruction of fore-castle and bridges where other considerations permit.

/3. Free.....

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

→ Corvettes  
refitting  
(Contd.)

3. Free French corvettes are not to be sent to U.S.A. to refit. B.A.R.M. is however requested to state reason given for exclusion of these British owned vessels from Lease Lend arrangements.

4. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa is requested to propose a programme which will meet the foregoing requirements as far as possible.

5. As Lease-Lend arrangements are not applicable to Canadian ships, it is proposed that refits of any Canadian manned R.N. Corvettes included in this programme should be regarded as Admiralty liability.

(Hd. of M. 1248A/28.)

PETUNIA.

PETUNIA has now awaited the arrival of tugs at Julianehaab since 16/10. She is required for refit programme in U.K. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa is requested to report whereabouts of tugs.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1301A/29 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C. in C.W.A.)

→ MAYFLOWER  
EYEBRIGHT  
Refitting dates

Your 1559Z/21.

MAYFLOWER Job No. S 223 and EYEBRIGHT S 224 can be accepted as proposed. EYEBRIGHT can be taken about 14/11 as requested in C.C.N.F., 1445Z/27.

(B.A.R.M., Washington 1314R/28 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.

*See previous page.*

S.S. STEEL  
ENGINEER.

My 2311R/26. Ship reported at Puget Sound. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1508R/28.)

Suspicious  
sailing  
vessel.

Adty., 1146/9/41. MALVINA (Dutch) reports 0900/12 in 043 06 N., 034 40 W., one sailing vessel three masts 250 tons course N.E. no other details.

(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1522R/28.)

Canadian  
corvettes for  
O.N. convoy.

Grateful for earliest information as to anticipated time O.N. convoy Canadian corvettes ex Tobermory will be sailed so that arrangements for their successors can be made.

(C.C.N.F., 1534Z/28 to F.O.I.C., Greenock, Cdre, WESTERN ISLES.)

ACADIA.

<sup>NT in W.D.</sup>  
Your 1152N/23. ACADIA's future movements not yet known. Escort is returning to Recife.

(B.A.D., Washington 1733R/28 to C. in C.S.A.)

/S.S.HATASU...

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

S.S.HATASU  
(sunk 2/10.)

Your 1740A/23/9 HATASU has not arrived this side.  
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 2137Z/28 to Adty.)

*See next page.*

PIETRO  
CAMPANELLA.  
(Italian.)

Departure 27/10. - Norfolk.  
(Baltimore 2317Z/27.)

War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

H.G. 75.  
ULEA  
sunk.

The following has been read 41-17 N. 21-40 W. ULEA torpedoed. (Liverpool W/T 0420/28). ULEA torpedoed and sank immediately at 0012Z/28 in 041° 13' N. 021° 38' W. 9 of her crew saved. One U-Boat known from H/F D/F to have been in close proximity, but contact was not made before or after the attack, General shortage of depth charges illuminants and fuel is developing. LAMERTON in company. DUNCAN leaves noon today. Weather report 2785 6865 0704. (ROCHESTER 1000Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.) Following is BLUEBELL's 1110/28 addressed ROCHESTER (begins) Information re ULEA from survivors. U-boat approached on surface from astern. One starboard side machine gun was turned on U-boat and attempt to ram made. Ship was torpedoed on starboard side amidships whilst turning. (ROCHESTER 1205Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

HATASU  
(torpedoed  
2/10)

My 1057/27. HATASU torpedoed while in convoy about 2000/2 approx 600 miles East of Cape Race. Of 2 boats launched one only accounted for. (N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 1115/28). *See Medicine page*

Submarines Reported.

0854Z.

D/F bearings on 7640 KC/s at 0854Z/28 indicate that a German U-boat is in the immediate vicinity of Convoy O.N. 28 and may have reported the convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1123A/28 to Opnav).

1233.

One submarine on the surface bearing 210° 6 miles, course unknown, position 42° 5' N. 21° 50' W. (DUNCAN 1233/28 to Gibraltar W/T). *See also p 694.*

Estimated U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1328A/28).

1340.

Enemy S/M in position 60° 24' N. 17° 55' W. was sighted on surface and observed to dive on a course 290° speed 10 knots. (A/C 1340/28, HECLA 1906Z/28 to KINGCUP).

/1214.....

War Diary.28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported-Contd.

1214. 12 (Corrupt group) fix Italian U-boat 67 N. on 8520 KC/s at 1214 within 30 miles 42.00 N. 21.00 W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1614A/28 to Escorts of H.G. 75).
- 16/10. B.N.L.O. West Africa reports Spanish ALDECOA reports being stopped on 16/10 by Submarine of unknown nationality in calculated position 10° 15' N. 17° 30' W. Submarine had two guns, crew in shorts. (C. in C. S.A. 1735N/28 to Adty.)
- 1917 G.M.T. Serial 7 O.N. 28, Serial 11 H.X. 156, Serial 14 S.C.50. D/F Bearings on 8365 KC/s at 1917 G.M.T. indicated that convoys O.N. 28 or S.C.50 or H.X. 156 may have been reported by a German U-boat. (Opnav 2215/28 to For Action Cmdre Task Unit No. 4.1.3. No. 4.1.6. Cmdre Task Unit No. 4.1.13.)

Submarines Attacked.

- By A/C. Wellington A/C D/221 attacked at 1337/28 U/B first sighted on the surface, co. 290°, 60.24 N. 17.55 W., 375' W.N.W. of Butt of Lewis. (D.S. 785, 29/10).
- By H.M.C.S. MORDEN. MORDEN reports 5155' N. 5510' W. attacking Submarine, have dropped two patterns. Distinctly saw Oil slick. T.O.O. 1435Z/28. Ends. (C.C.N.F. 1659Z/28 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1845Z/28).  
C.C. Newfoundland 1659Z/28 passed for information. (C.O.A.C. 1914Z/28 to Admty. Opnav).
- By A/C. Following has been read.  
Amover enemy S/M in 59.05 N. (? 12) 28 W. enemy S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 330°. Have attacked with (? depth charges) and estimate (? 2 hits) T.C. 98 29 22 P.  
(A/C No. 2 of 15 Group 1640/28).  
W.D. Note - D.S. 785 gives position 59.55 N., 19.28 W., 415' W.X. N. of Butt of Lewis.

/By.....



War Diary.

28.10.1941.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

By DUNCAN  
at 1300.

Your 1288/28 understood. Am rejoining convoy. Intend to part convoy 0800Z/29th. My 1233 no certain result only 5 depth charges left. My position 041° 52' N. 022° 00' W.

(DUNCAN 1701Z/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DUNCAN attacked U/B sighted on surface at approx 1300/28 in 42.01 N., 21.54 W., 600' W. of Vigo. (D.S. 785). *See p 692*

By U.S.  
Task Force.

At 1430/28 U.S. Task Force attacked possible P/S and contact with 10 D/C's. No result observed. (D.S. 785). ;

695

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

PRINCE OF WALES.

Four T.S.D.S. Fleet destroyers are to join PRINCE OF WALES (Flag-ship of C. in C. Eastern Fleet) Two of these ELECTRA and EXPRESS are accompanying her from U.K. and C. in C. Med., is to send two T.S.D.S Fleet destroyers to join her at Trincomalee by 1/12.

Vest Fiord patrol.

The C. in C. Soviet Northern Fleet proposes to sail a S/M today to operate at Vest Fiord.

Weather.

The northerly gale continues to disorganise shipping movements. Convoy F.N.39 is postponed 24 hours, F.S.33 is cancelled. W.N.98 hove to in the early hours north of the Orkneys. F.N.38 is scattered. Many ships did not sail for convoys, and others have put in to harbour for Shelter.

F.S.34 is cancelled on account of lack of escorts.

WOLFE.

WOLFE is not now to be returned to trade but is to be fitted out as a S/M depot ship.

CELANDINE.

(Corvette) escorting O.N.31 was damaged about 1800 in collision in the North Channel and returned to Liverpool.

British Air Operations.

13 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Cherbourg docks last night.

Attack on shipping off Aalesund.

9 Hudsons of 220 Squadron Coastal Command to-night attacked shipping off Aalesund and claim to have hit 7 ships including one escort. One ship is claimed as sunk and two others as left sinking. The harbour works, a fish oil factory, and W/T station were also attacked.

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Bristol  
Channel.

The majority of the ports were open today some with restrictions, e.g. Cardiff, Penarth, Newport and Barry which are closed at night.

North Atlantic.

Air Attack.

S.S. SARASTONE and BARON NEWLANDS were attacked just off the mouth of the Huelva at 2300 today by a F.W. aircraft which came from land. SARASTONE was sunk by direct hit  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from shore. BARON NEWLANDS was then attacked while still in the channel, but drove off the enemy and was undamaged.

Mediterranean.

Destroyer  
re-  
inforcements.

Details of destroyer reinforcements for C. in C. Med., are given in Admty. 0155A/29.

Air  
Operations.

12 Blenheims attacked the Marina di Catanzaro today.

S.S. EMPIRE  
GUILLEMOT.

This ship, which sailed from Malta at 1000/22 for Gibraltar has not arrived at Gibraltar and air reconnaissance has failed to locate her. The Italians claimed to have sunk a vessel on 24/10 west of Galiqta Island by torpedo from an aircraft about the time EMPIRE GUILLEMOT should have been in that position. 20 survivors were picked up off Bona, Algeria.

/Libya.....

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Libya &  
Western  
Desert.

Six Wellingtons kept up a nuisance raid on Tripoli for about 8 hours today.

Egypt.

There was an air raid on Alexandria from 1900 to 2015, by about 12 aircraft. There were no Naval casualties or damage.

Australia.

The number of mines accounted for up to the middle of August 1941 is reported to be as follows:-

Cape Otway.	10
Wilsons Promontory	19
N.S.W.	9
S. Australia	10
W. Australia	1
Tasmania	1

—  
50

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Port Edgar  
Patrol  
Boats.

A.L. M 016681 /41 of 25th October following action is to be taken forthwith:-  
(1) Inshore auxiliary patrol is to be withdrawn and boats prepared for disposal as ordered in Admiralty letter.  
(2) Para. 8. M.F.V.'s in category B are to be retained until orders for their return to their owners are received.  
(3) Para. 9. N.A.B. in category B are to be laid up and reduced to C and M forthwith.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1036/29)

Flag of  
R.A.M.

My flag will be transferred to MENESTHEUS A.M./30. (R.A.M., 1217A/29)

Scapa  
D.C. Target  
Unit.

Your 2256A/21/9.  
1. Approved in principle to establish a base at Scapa for operation of D.C. Target unit. (Vice Controller, 1617A/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

WOLFE.

WOLFE is not now to be returned to trade but is to be fitted out as Submarine Depot Ship. Ship is to be retained at Southampton until port at which she is to be fitted out has been decided. (Head of M. 2155A/29).

Icebreaker  
situation.

Following for Maclay.  
Your 3 para. 19. Russian Ambassador has indicated that he is still thinking in terms of about fifty ships per month to Archangel. On practicability of this being questioned Ambassador stated that all icebreakers usually operating on north about route Archangel - Vladivostok would be concentrated at Archangel. He anticipated ten icebreakers available but could certainly guarantee 8/10. In view of the above please do your best ascertain actual icebreaker situation and cable details.  
(D. of S.T., 2359A/29 to N.C.S.O. Archangel).

Co-operation with Russia.

Use of  
Murmansk.

Naval 81. For War Transport from Maclay Tel. No. 0015. Your 2244/18 R.A.F Wing now reports regarding use of Murmansk railway as follows (quoted). Russian authorities Archangel at my request are asking Moscow to reconsider possibility of using Murmansk even for occasional or emergency convoys. So far impossible to obtain advice regarding capacity of railway as Russians here unwilling to discuss unless Moscow agrees to principles. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1820C/29 to Admt).

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

10 CHUKA class submarine 402 torpedoed and sank 4,000 ton unescorted M/V on 17/10 in 70° 20' N., 22° 09' E. Traffic continuing to use passage south of Sildin Island, and Stjærnsund. Admiralty pass to F.O.S. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1542C/29).

Movements.

Information for CHARLESTOWN, NEWARK.

SEAWOLF escorted by CUTTY SARK bound through North Channel for Scapa may be met during the night. (C. in C. W.A., 0359A/29 to CHARLESTOWN).

LOCH MONTEITH.

O.14 is to seaward of you and considers you may be too close inshore. (A.C.O.S., 0447A/29 to LOCH MONTEITH).

EAGLE, BURZA.

Intend sailing EAGLE escorted by BURZA for Liverpool passing Clyde boom 1800A/30. E.T.A. Bar L.V. 1200A/31. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1024A/29). *See also next page.*

RAMILLIES.

RAMILLIES' refit is to be extended as far as will allow her to arrive Scapa on 19/11 for short work up. (A.C.N.S. F., 1105A/29 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

RORQUAL.

(i) Intend to sail LA CAPRICIEUSE at 2000A/1 to R/V with RORQUAL in 250° Trevoise Head 10 miles at 0745A/3 and escort her to Holy Loch. E.T.A. Holy Loch 1600A/4.  
(ii) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange Fighter co-operation. Speed of Advance 12 knots. (Capt. S.3., 1109A/29).

ARETHUSA.

ARETHUSA is to be sailed for Rosyth at 0100/1. N.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail LAIRDS ISLE and 1 Escort Force, Rosyth destroyer as S.A. escort to ARETHUSA. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1111/29).

/SUNFI SH.....

War Diary.

29.10.1941.

-Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.SUNFISH.

Your 1650A/28. Concur, but SUNFISH and escort should be sailed to join F.S.638 in daylight A.M./5 in the vicinity of Whitby. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1113/29).

EAGLE.

A.T.1944A/21 and A.T.1849A/22. Date of completion postponed to 1/12. (D.O.D. F., 1217A/29). *See previous page*

ELECTRA.  
EXPRESS.

Two and half hours delay in commencement of fuelling. Hope to sail both ships at (1700?) G.M.T. (ELECTRA 1340Z/29 to S.O. Force G).

OTWAY.

N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1714A/28. At 2200A/2 intend to sail OTWAY escorted by KINGFISHER from Clyde to arrive at 075° Dunagree Point 8 miles at 0800A/3. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail OTWAY escorted to Campbeltown on completion of trials and to arrange fighter protection for both passages. (Capt. S.7.1416A/29)

JAY.

My 0814/21. JAY, MYRLAND, and <sup>NET</sup>KENART delayed Clyde pending repairs to JAY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1644/29). *See also p. 708*

A.M.C.'s

Destroyers meet A.M.Cs. in position X at 1430Z/31. Routed as in my 1151A/29. (C. in C. W.A., 2115A/29 to VANQUISHER).

P.35.

F.O.S. 2241A/29. Intend to sail P.35 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH for Scapa 1800A/30. E.T.A. 1400A/31. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter protection. (Capt. S.9., 2301A/29).

Escorts for  
ARGUS and  
RODNEY.

Admiralty's 1037A/29. Request you will sail HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, and HARVESTER from Londonderry to R/V with LAFOREY, ARGUS and ATHENE as arranged by N.O.I.C. Greenock. 9th escort group are to meet RODNEY and escort to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 2340A/29 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

*See also next page*

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation  
"Table".

Postponed for further 24 hours.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0909A/29).

Operation  
"Pantaloon"  
and RODNEY.

Intend sailing HAVELOCK and HARVESTER a.m./30  
in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s 1641A/26.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0957A/29)  
Your 1525A/28/10. Following accommodation is  
available:-  
Officers 28, N.C.Os. 16 others 80.  
It is regretted that no increase on these  
numbers can be accepted as owing to increase  
in ship's complement the essential services of  
this ship under above conditions are gravely  
overburdened.  
(ARGUS, 1019/29 to Admty).  
C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ARGUS, ATHENE,  
and LAFOREY from Clyde P.M./1 for Gibraltar.  
LAFOREY is to join Force H on arrival.  
2. ARGUS will carry 2 operational Swordfish  
aircraft.  
3. Speed of ATHENE 16 knots.  
4. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange with  
F.O. Force H to sail RODNEY for U.K. escorted  
by 3 destroyers to meet ARGUS convoy at R/V "K"  
when escorts will be exchanged.  
5. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to propose R/V "K".  
6. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide  
additional escort of 3 destroyers for ARGUS  
convoy who will escort RODNEY to U.K. from  
R/V "K". (A.C.N.S. F., 1037/29). *See previous page*

TRIDENT  
Patrol off  
-Svaholthavet.

TRIDENT sails Polyarno for patrol Svaholthavet  
p.m./30th. Carrying 12 torpedoes only, as no  
external torpedoes were included among 32  
torpedoes received from convoy P.Q.1.  
Following S.Ps. held. (S.B.N.O. North Russia,  
1440C/29).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Admiralty 49/G5/29/11. New area for moonlight  
Rover patrol proposed as follows - Thornaby to  
VCKL 4500 to RLUB 0530 to Thornaby. This to be  
started as soon as weather permits, number of  
A/C and time of patrol at your discretion.  
(18 Group 1125/29 to Thornaby).

/P.R.U.....



War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols  
Contd.

P.R.U. of Aalsund - Bergen - Hagesund -  
Stavanger has taken off.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1232/29).

"Mosquito"  
A/C.

Are now operating from Wick and may be seen  
between that station and Norway and anywhere in  
the Orkneys and Shetlands Command.  
(2) Description is as follows.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1330A/29 to Home Fleet).

Bombing  
Operations.

On day 28/10 there were no operations owing to  
weather. On night 28/29 thirteen A/C bombed the  
docks at Cherbourg. Results not observed.  
(H.Q.B.C., 1800/29).

Mining.

Bristol  
Channel.

My 1039A/28. Swansea Bay Ports and Llanelly  
are open to all incoming traffic and ships  
may be sailed to Westward without restrictions.  
Cardiff Penarth Newport and Barry are open until  
1800 today Wednesday. Avonmouth is open for  
sailings to Westward only and incoming traffic  
until 1800 today Wednesday. All ports East  
of Avonmouth, Watchet and River Parrett Ports  
remain closed. Shipping for ports East of  
Port Talbot may be routed to Barry Roads  
provided arrival is made between 1100 and 1800  
daily. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1044A/29).

S.N. 83 A.  
SHEFFIELD.

R.A.(M) 1653A/28. SHEFFIELD is to sail from  
Scapa as necessary to R/V with R.A.(M) at 0900A/  
31 and is to provide cover for minelayers  
during operations S.N.83 A.  
(ii) R.A.(M) is requested to detach SHEFFIELD  
to Scapa when no longer required.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1112A/29 to SHEFFIELD.)

A Line of mines has been laid by Soviet submarine  
in Mageroy Sund between 70° 57' N., 25° 57' E.,  
and 70° 55.4' N., 25° 50' E.  
TRIDENT has been informed. Admiralty pass to  
R.A. (S). (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1509C/29).

War Diary.29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Sheringham  
Buoy.Light extinguished.  
(VIVIEN, 2115A/29) (C. in C. Nore, 2317A/29).WINCHESTER.Casualties & Defects.

Have developed heavy cloud in boiler feeding system apparently due to leaky condenser. Require dockyard assistance. Am proceeding Humber. E.T.A. 0600 Humber Light Vessel. (WINCHESTER, 0145A/29)

WHITE BEAR.

Has bad leak in engine room. Am returning to Scapa Flow. Submarine proceeding independently. -(WHITE BEAR, 0431A/29). Expect WHITE BEAR 0900A/29. (WHITE BEAR, 0620A/29 to F.O.C.O.S.)

FLOTTA.Have grounded. (FLOTTA, 0522/29)  
Position Rattray. (FLOTTA, 0543/29).  
Tug ATTENTIF escorted by H.M.T. WILLIAM BRADY sailed to Rattray to assist ship ashore. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0827/29).  
ATTENTIF returned to Peterhead. Reported losing pressure rapidly. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0901/29).  
FLOTTA escorting S.S. ST. MAGNUS stranded at 0522/29 one mile north of Rattray. Crew being landed by Breeches Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1125/29).BRABO

Departure tug LADY BRASSEY to assist S.S. BRABO and to tow her to Southend. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1118A/29).

AURANIA.

Admiralty's 2148A/26. Salvage Company are lightening AURANIA to draught of 33 feet forward preparatory to docking in floating dock at Greenock, where patch will be fitted to enable ship to proceed to another port for permanent repairs. (S.O.W.P., 1150A/29).

CAMELIA.

Position 057° 29' N., 020° 22' W. R.D.F. out of action. (CAMELIA, 1410A/29).

/CELANDINE....

War Diary.29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.CELANDINE.Damaged in collision. Returning to Harbour.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1759A/29).SPES.*(Norwegian)*Steering gear broken down, requires immediate assistance, position 8 Hull buoy. Standing by.  
(SHEARWATER, 2320A/29).Loaded  
lighter sunk.N.O.I.C. Lochalsh reports:-  
One loaded lighter has sunk. R.A.(M) requires salvage if possible. Local assistance has been called for. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2336A/29).Shipping & Convoys.W.N.98.W.N.98 has <sup>hoove</sup> heaved to, estimated position 58°  
45' N., 3° 33' W.  
(QUADRILLE, 0130A/29).Ships did not join owing to weather.  
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 1120A/29 to N.C.S.O. Oban)  
Eight ships of W.N. 98 in company with SWORD  
DANCE Passed 33 buoy 1700 eight knots. Four  
ships considerable distance ahead.  
QUADRILLE and remainder astern.  
(GLEANER, 1705A/29.)FN539.Postponed 24 hours owing to continuing northerly  
gales. (C. in C. Nore, 0944A/29).F.N.538.  
F.N.537.  
TARON.Van of Convoy "Pilot" was off Flamborough at  
0730/29, speed of advance 2 knots. WALLACE  
then had 6 ships in sight. MENDIP with 6 ships  
was at 62D Buoy at 0830. Speed 2 knots. Other  
ships are probably between those two positions.  
(C. in C. Nore, 0951A/29).F.N.538. Six ships between 18.B and 18.D Buoys  
and S.Ss. GLIN TILLY and LJDQ LIBRA from F.N.537.  
These include all ships bound north of Tyne  
except ~~X~~ORANGE POWDER who was in touch last night  
and may be ahead. Convoy widely scattered and  
unable to reform until the weather moderates.  
Am allowing ships to proceed independently at  
their best speed. WALLACE will escort special  
tanker TARON to Tyne and then collect  
northbound ships. Do not intend to leave TARON  
to muster rest of convoy. Suggest Tyne portion

\* PORANJEPOWDER (Dutch)

/should.....

705

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

F.N.538.

F.N.537.

TARON.

- Contd.

should not sail unless conditions improve and that MENDIP will not be required after Tyne for convoy of five ships. TARON's position 18.B Buoy 1200 making 4 knots. (WALLACE, 1325A/29).

Your 1325A/29. MENDIP is to continue with convoy to Methil. No ships will join from Tyne Area Port. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1834/29 to WALLACE)

NOTTINGHAM.

My 1614A/28 and 1714A/28. Request you will sail S.S. NOTTINGHAM accordingly. Master has been instructed to report to you 2/11 NOTTINGHAM should be instructed on completion of trials to anchor at Merville for the night and proceed a.m./4 to comply with Admiralty's 0001/1/5/41.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1004A/29 to N.C.S.O. Clyde)

F.S.534.

F.N.539.

My 1201/20/10. F.S.534 cancelled owing to lack of escorts. F.N.539 postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore, 1041/29).

O.N.U. 29

O.N.U. 30.

My 1640A/24 and my 1550A/28. E.T.A's do not allow for zig-zagging.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1102A/29).

F.S.533

Is cancelled due to bad weather.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1159/29).

Cancel my 1011/29. Convoy returned to Methil. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1226/29).

Stationing  
of Nore  
Escorts.

My 2358A/23/9. Para 5. When owing to conditions of light, weather and so forth it appears probable that E-boat attack may develop from seaward, the S.Os. of Nore destroyers may, in the case of a large convoy, and when navigational considerations allow, station the third destroyer as an additional close escort to seaward or zig-zagging broadly in position "S" . . . On very dark nights however. It is undesirable that more than one destroyer should range freely on the seaward flank. (C. in C. Nore, 1506A/29).

/H.G. ....

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

H.G.75.

Your 1340A/29. E.T.A. position G 1200Z/30 approach course 050° speed of convoy 8 knots. 2 F.W. shadowing daily. (ROCHESTER, 1600Z/29). Proceed at best speed to Milford Haven. On arrival you are to embark up to 144 Snowflake rockets and sail as soon as possible to meet H.G.75. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is to ensure that rockets are embarked without delay. (C. in C. W.A., 1644A/29 to ABERDEEN).

F.S.532.

No ships sailed from Humber owing to weather. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1632/29). Your 1523/29. F.S.532 is ahead of time owing to strong following wind and heavy stern sea. It is impossible for ships to steer at less than 7 knots and speed made good is in excess of this. E.T.A. Sule Skerry at dawn. If weather moderates speed will be reduced. Only 4 ships in convoy. Propose taking Convoy into Harwich if passage through Thames is undesirable. (VIVIEN, 1658A/29) Your 1658A/29. Continue to Southend. Sweepers will sweep ahead of you on meeting. Do not over run them. Report your E.T.A. B.2. Buoy on passing Aldeburgh. (C. in C. Nore, 2139A/29 to VIVIEN).

O.S.9.

After escorting CORNISH CITY to the Azores searched for convoy O.S.9 unsuccessfully 3 days on presumed route. Request P.C.S. (~~SAN FABIAN~~, 1900A/29)  
*COMMANDANT DOMINÉ. intended see p.732.*

E.C.91

At 62 D Buoy. 6 Merchant ships. Wind North force 9 heavy sea. Expect to be off Scarborough at dawn. (VALOROUS, 2031A/29)

F.N.539 A.

WORCESTER and HAMBLEDON are to remain at Humber until further orders. They will be required to form escort for an additional convoy sailing from Humber to Methil as arranged by F.O.I.C. Humber. Convoy is to be known as F.N.539 A. (C. in C. Nore, 2324A/29).

O.G.76.

*See 30/10 - p.730 -*

War Diary.29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.MALAYA  
Collision.  
HOEGH HOOD.  
CLAN  
MACDONALD.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1230A/28. On entering Harbour about 1400/27 MALAYA collided with HOEGH HOOD damaging her and parting after moorings. HOEGH HOOD went ahead and collided with bows of M.V. CLAN MACDONALD. Damage as follows. (C.S. Gib., 0840A/29 to Admty.)

ALOUETTE.

Your 1153A/27 (N.T. in W.D.) Have not yet intercepted this ship and am leaving patrol off Faro unless otherwise ordered. My type 123 out of action. Weather. (ALOUETTE, 1115A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Transport  
of Aircraft  
to U.K.

V.A.C.N.A.'s 1004A/20. Will ATHENE call at Gibraltar, or could ship such as CLAN FERGUSON which is believed to be carrying cargo for U.K. be used on arrival here, or ship already here if not required to proceed elsewhere? (200 Group 1315/29 to Air Min.)

EMPIRE  
GUILLEMOT.

Has not arrived. Air search failed to locate. (F.O.C.N.A. 1318A/29 to Admty.) British, 5720 tons, sailed from Malta for Gibraltar at 1000/22. Italians claim to have sunk a vessel west of Galita Island by torpedo from an aircraft about the time EMPIRE GUILLEMOT should have been in that position. (D.O.R., 30/10.)

H.G.75  
LEGION  
HESPERUS.When ELECTRA and (? EXPRESS) have rejoined: <sup>(Force G)</sup> (i) LEGION is to return at sweeping speed to Gibraltar through 35.00 N. 10.00 W. LEGION to report her P.C. and S. when 150 miles clear of Force G. (ii) HESPERUS to refuel at Ponta Delgada then proceed to U.K. through 45.00 N. 22.30 W. thence as directed by C. in C. W.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1326A/29 to S.O. Force G.)DUNCAN.

Request permission and arrangement may be made for DUNCAN to fuel at Ponta Delgada (? ) Quantity required about 350 tons. DUNCAN E.T.A. about 1830/G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 1448A/29 to N.A. Lisbon.)

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. -Contd.

KENNET  
JAY  
MYRLAND.

Your 1346/28 para (V).  
(N.T. in W.D.) KENNET, JAY and MYRLAND have not sailed. They are expected to leave U.K. 30/10. (D.O.D.(F) 1622A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.).

*See p. 700*

Air  
Searches.

202 Sqdn. One Catalina Escort O.S.G.9. Dawn to dusk. Area covered 13.50 W to 12.30 W. 209 Sqn., one Catalina contact and report ARIGUANI in 37.54 N. 18.35 W. 0700 to 2300. 807 Squadron, one Fulmar contact and report fishing boat to East. Area Gibraltar to 02.00 W 1100 to 1400.816 Squadron, 2 Swordfish 60 miles East. Contact and report DOGFISH and M/V EMPIRE GUILLEMOT 1800 to 2100. (200 Group. 1815/29 to Air Min.).

LE VIOLENT

Arrived Pasajes from Bayonne 27/10 with 200 tons. wood pulp, left for Bayonne same date in Ballast. (V.Consul San Sebastian 2015/29 to Proximo).

French  
Shipping.

Passing Gib. eastbound 1345/29. (D.O.R.31/10).

South Atlantic.

Operation  
"Bellringer".

My 0832/26. Further report from same source states that convoy left Fort Dauphin 26/10 and maximum speed of S.S. BANGKOK is 7 knots. (S.O.I.Capetown 0952B/29 to F.O.I.C.Simonstown).

PHOEBE.

Your 1003/29(N.T.in W.R.). Sail PHOEBE to Freetown or Lagos for Fuel. (C.in C.S.A. 1145N/29 to N.O.I.C.Simonstown).

FARNDALE  
CEDARDALE  
HEYTHROP.

FARNDALE taken in hand for quick docking 27/10. CEDARDALE oil retaining glands of stern tubes and "A" frame were found to be leaking badly and required refit and adjustment. Date of Completion a.m.2/11. Date ready for sea p.m./2 when she will proceed to Mombasa. (ii) Intend HEYTHROP to proceed independently as in N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0903Z/24 para.(iv).  
(N.O.I.C.Durban 1435Z/29 to Admty. etc.).

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

West  
Africa.

Intelligence of reinforcements at Dakar, and requesting confirmation. (G.O.C. in C. W.Africa, 1640/29 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.

CLAN  
FERGUSON  
SYDNEY  
STAR.

Your 1210/28. Subject to merchant ships remaining at Malta being sufficient to meet requirements of C.in C. Med. as in para 8 of his 1210/18, CLAN FERGUSON and SYDNEY STAR should be sailed for Gibraltar when conditions are suitable. Loading of CLAN FERGUSON may continue. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0012A/29 to V.A.Malta.).

Destroyers  
dispositions.  
reinforcements.

(A) Despatch of PRINCE OF WALES to Eastern Fleet necessitates the provision of a minimum of four TSDS Fleet destroyers to join her so that she may be capable of operating immediately should war break out in the Far East.  
(B) Decided that two must be provided from the Home Fleet and two from Mediterranean Fleet.  
(C) ELECTRA and EXPRESS are accompanying PRINCE OF WALES from Home.  
(D) C.in C. Med. is, therefore, requested to send two T.S.D.S. Fleet destroyers to join PRINCE OF WALES at Trincomalee by 1/12. One of these could be KELVIN due to complete refit at Bombay on 21/11.  
(E) Statement of your further reinforcement is as follows:- NESTOR - Under repair. Completes end November. NORMAN - Now working up. DULVERTON and SOUTHWOLD.- Leaving with convoy W.S. 12Z. HURWORTH and BEAUFORT.- Leaving with convoy W.S.14. Five more HUNTS are allocated and are expected to sail, 2 in January and 3 in February. NORSEMAN was allocated to you but has unfortunately been bombed and is badly delayed.  
(F) C.in C. S.A. pass to F.O. Force G! on arrival. (1st Sea Lord. 0155A/29 to C.in C. Med.).

/ W.S.12.....



SECRET

MESSAGE 1640/29th October.

709A  
IN

From G.O. C. in C. West Africa.

Date 30.10.41.

Recd. 0240.

CYPHER

Addressed War Office.

06213

I/18212 cypher 29/10.

Further to my 1/397 29/8.

Should be grateful to receive by cable details of all Vichy units which have left or are leaving Syria and may be expected to arrive in North Africa or West Africa together with any indication of their destination.

Second. Confused reports led at first to acceptance of arrival about 1st September of two Bns. Foreign Legion believed First Regiment. Now consider that these two Bns. did not in fact arrive until 20th September on ORIGON and CALEDONIEN confirmed A.1. by naval sources. Free French report suggests possibility that arrivals by this later convoy comprised two further Bns. but no evidence of their presence to support this. Can you yet confirm movements of Bns. from North Africa. If so can you give numbers of units or sub-units and regiment. My intelligence summary No. 60 refers.

Third. Some evidence to show that elements of 17 R (?D) S and 631 Pioneers (Madagascar) have been in Dakar and that more are expected from Casablanca have you information of movements or destinations of these units which are understood to have been in Syria.

Fourth. Reports of continued arrival of troops at Dakar are very confused. Grateful for any information obtained from sources outside British West African and Free French H.Q. which confirm movements particularly in September October especially of units which are likely to remain embodied and not be demobilized.

1640/29.

Advance Copy sent OPS. O.D. O.I.C.  
Recd. by hand from War Office at  
0700/31.

Circulated by War Office to -  
Internal

M.I. 3a (for action, D.D.M.O. (0)  
D.D.M.I. (I), M.O. 1.4.5.11.,  
M.I. 2.2a.3.3a., M.I.J.I.C. (3)  
G. S.P.

External

Admiralty. (War Reg)

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

E.B.

War Diary.29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. -Contd.W.S.12.

Your 2142/23. Position in my 0745/15 confirmed. To clarify position, following troop ships of W.S.12 are proceeding to Middle East. ALMANZORA CITY OF PARIS, EMPIRE PRIDE, MENDOZA, LEOPOLDVILLE SAMARIA, STRATHAIRD, FRANCONIA and EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Latter ship will continue to India from Suez. STRATHEDEN is also proceeding Suez. (D.of S.T. 0518A/29 to C.in C. M.E.P.S.T.O. Egypt).

CENTURION  
docking.

Your 1620Z/27. 48 hours notice please. (C.in C. Med. 1107B/29 to C.in C.E.I.).

Benghazi  
bombed.

Night 27-29. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour ~~works~~ bombs burst on Cathedral Mole and Harbour Works without visible effect. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 1138/29).

M.N.B.D.O.

Shortage A.A. and G.L. equipments here and necessity for issues only to Units with Operational role unlikely M.N.B.D.O. will be equipped for several months 50 per cent personnel not handled weapons for twelve months consequent loss of efficiency. Proposals. (Overt 1230/29 to Adty).

French  
shipping.

Departure 28th <sup>SAINT</sup> ~~PARIS~~ BRIEC, Sete, HERMIA clears for sea. (~~PARIS~~ 1251/29 to D.of S.T.).

TRIUMPH.

Intelligence Vatika Bay Area. Considerable Caique traffic reported from Grinisha to Neapolis and Kithera Channel with Motor boats or Motor Caiques armed with machine guns escorting. E boats have been reported occasionally. Regular air patrols reported to be carried out at 0800 daily by captured Sunderland and Dornier Seaplane. Considerable other air activity has been seen. Kithera Channel and Elaphonisos Island and Scutari are said to have small garrison or troop concentration. (Capt. S.1. 1303B/29 to TRIUMPH).

GEORGIC  
salved.

GEORGIC, <sup>mined</sup> ~~bombed~~ and sunk <sup>in Suez Bay</sup> 14/7/41, is now reported afloat and safely anchored. (D.O.R. 29/10).

/Supply.....

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

Supply  
bases.

In anticipation of necessity for provision of port organization for army supply bases in near future, the provision of staff required has been examined and it is necessary to ask for the following officers to be sent from U.K. to man 2 supply ports.(details).  
(C.in C. Med. 1355B/29 to Adty.).

Russian  
ships from  
Black Sea.

My 1111/21. Extract from 1259/27 from Adm.Miles to Adty. (begins). C.N.S. informs me negotiations with Turkish Gov., interrupted by evacuation now proceeding again. Turks have not turned down proposal but Russians do not require Adm.Kelly's assistance yet but may want it later on.(Ends.).  
(D.N.I. 1504A/29 to C.in C.Med.).

CENTURION.

C.in C. East Indies. 1620Z/27. Suggest CENTURION be sent to Port Sudan so that she may be readily available if required for Mediterranean operations.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1509A/29 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. Med.). Cancelled (A.C.N.S.(F) 0033A/30).

Air  
R/C.

C.O.I.S.Alexandria 1220B/29. (N.T.in W.D.) received too late for daylight R/C today. If required and A.S.V. Wellington can be sent tonight, proposed track 033° 20' N 021° 00' E thence 035° 50' N (?20°) 00' E thence back to Malta. (V.A. Malta. 1646A/29 to C.in C. Med.).

M.T.B's.

Your 1329/27 approx. number of M.T.B's being shipped monthly are: (a) from U.K. Nov. 3, Dec.7, Jan.1, Feb.3, March 2, June 2. (b) From Canada, Dec. 4, Feb.4, April 4. (c) From U.S.A. 70-foot boats Nov.4, Dec.6, 77-foot boats: Dec.2, Jan.4, Feb.4. Remaining ten dependent on supply of torpedo tubes.  
(2) From the above two boats from U.K. and ten 77-foot boats will be reserve boats without crews.  
(3) All boats will be shipped on cradles.  
(D.D.O.D.(C) 1809A/29 to R.A.(D) Med.).

/TRUANT.....

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

TRUANT  
TRUSTY.

TRUANT is to leave the Adriatic and proceed to Alexandria passing through position 040° 00' 019° 00' at approx. 1600B/31, 036° 10' 019° 52', and 032° 36' (028°) 20' at approx. 1700B/5 to arrive in Sanctuary 0500B/6. TRUSTY (?leave) area (?P) p.m./3 and proceed through 037° 58' 019° 26' and 035° 50' 015° 12' thence to Malta as ordered by S.10. Full rest period will be spent in Malta. (S.I. 1821B/29 to TRUANT, TRUSTY).

Air  
Operations.

Day 29/10. 1 aircraft bombed factory Cantanzaro Marino scoring direct hits buildings sidings pumping station starting large fire apparently oil, target completely obscured by smoke from bombs. Bombs on station and along railway line. Night 28/29. 7 naval aircraft attacked Comiso aerodrome, time over target 1950 to 2205 hours, hits observed hangars and officers' mess causing fires visible 20 miles away, 1 aircraft missing, opposition intense and accurate. 6 Wellingtons nuisance raids Tripoli attack from 1846 to 0335 hours. Bombs on town, in native quarters, Custom House, Military stores, Melleho aerodrome. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta, 1915/29).

ELISABETH  
HENDRIK  
FISSER.  
(German).

Arrival. Leaves tomorrow Sagunto. (Cartagena 2000/29 to D.of S.T.).

T.B.R.  
Squadrons.

Establishment of 3 supernumerary Squadrons of T.B.R. aircraft in Egypt envisaged as soon as resources permit but probably not before 1943. Purpose of supernumeraries is to enable Carrier Squadrons to rest and carry out refresher training; to provide one or more Carriers with a full force of T.B.Rs. for special operations as required. Request report whether torpedo facilities provided or in hand, (list) will be adequate when the three T.B.R. supernumeraries arrive or whether more extensive facilities will then be required at Dekheila. (Head of Air Branch. 2218A/29 to C.in C. Med, R.A.A.Med.).

713

War Diary.29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

CLAN FORBES. Your 1106/27. CLAN FORBES should complete to full capacity topping up at Colombo. (C. in C.E.I., 0426Z/29, to S.T.O. Calcutta.)

OLIVIA. N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1632Z/21. (Distress signal). Have you any further news of OLIVIA? A.C.N.S.(F) 1106A/29 to C. in C.E. Indies.)

Port T.  
Minefields.

Admty. 2219/23/8. C.O. Mine Carrier ATREUS reports constants type D are (? apparently) in guard loop at S.E., entrance at Addu Atoll (3 divisions either side.) I am advised minefields will be effective and intend to continue laying.

OLIVIA boarded  
by CORNWALL.

(C. in C.E.I., 1246Z/29 to Admty.)  
Your 1106A/29/10. CORNWALL was ordered to search in vicinity of 0° 35' N., 54° 43' E., (2) Nothing seen, but OLIVIA was later boarded by CORNWALL. (3) OLIVIA reported having seen two white lights which he thought to be rockets. (4) Do not consider rockets likely. (C. in C.E.I., 1450Z/29 to Admty.)

Tajura.

Re rebellion against Vichy French Govt., in Jibuti. (G.O.C. in C., East Africa, 1710/29, 2225/30 to W.O.)  
See Lion Copy.

Monster  
Convoy.

Your 1159/23. AQUITANIA should be sailed for Colombo as soon as ready. C. in C.E.I., is requested to arrange fuel and water on arrival. (D. of S.T. 1834A/29 to P.S.T.O. India.)  
It appears that the latest date at which semi-monster convoy can meet off Durban to avoid being at Suez during moonlit period is 16/11.  
In view of your 1438/24, request confirmation that this date can be maintained.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1835A/29 to C. in C.E.I.)

713 A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1710/29 Oct.  
2225/30 Oct.

From. G.O.C. in C. East Africa.

Date. 30.10.41.  
Time. 1700.

IN

CIPHER.

Addressed. The War Office. Repeated. C. in C. Mid East  
(for Minister of State).

06247.

0/6/29 cipher 29/10.

No further information regarding rebellion in Tajura received. Following is gist of message received 28th October by Free French Commander at Dadato 35 miles due South Assab, from Tajura Chiefs. "We will place ourselves under protection of Free French. We no longer recognise authority of French who are under German control. i.e. Jibuti Government. We will join Free French allied to Great Britain. We are unhappy under existing arrangements and hungry. We wish to escape this situation and for Free French to come to Tajura signed by all Chiefs in Tajura (21 signatures)". Vichy French strength in Tajura Obok area estimated not exceed 12 Europeans with 350 Native Askaris bulk of these at Obok and Tajura with small posts on Coast and land frontier. British Force on Assab Sardo Road consists of one Inf. Bn. one Sqn. Armed Cars and One Coy. M.G. and Free French Camel Corps. (strength 60). Inf. Bn. in question is not mechanised but can be carried in Italian transport now in Assab. The only line of approach for an M.T. column is down the Coast Road to Obok. This is good road. Road from Obok to Tajura is inland road only just motorable. In addition to Force mentioned above Fourth Bn. De Marche can be moved in M.T. from Boramo to Zeilah thence on Free French sloop Savorgnan Da and landed at point North of Obok. This combined force is considered ample to secure Tajura Obok Area with collaboration Navy. Above information is given entirely to put you in the local picture as I realise final decision is dependent on matters outside my province. Should it be decided to take advantage of Chieftains invitation and seize Tajura once occupation complete an adequate garrison can be found from Free French Troops alone and all British Troops could be withdrawn.

1710/29

(2nd message follows).

713<sup>B</sup>

SECRET  
2nd message.

From. G.O.C. in C. East Africa.

Date. 31.10.41.  
Time. 0215.

CIPHER.

Addressed. The War Office.

06418.

0/7/29 cipher 29/10.

Following from Palewski to General de Gaulle F.S.

Following is a text of letter signed by the 21 Chiefs of Tajura area. "Owing to no longer recognize the authority of French who are removed from the Germans control I.E. Djibuti Government. We will join Free French allied (? to) (? Great Britain). We are unhappy and hungry by orders by will Germans who give orders to Djibuti Government. Result wish to escape this situation and for Free French come Tajura. All Chiefs Tajura area". Hope you and H.M.G. will decide that immediate action must be taken. This situation - reinforces my previous frequent demands for suitable aircraft as any entry of our troops must be instantly accompanied by mass of propaganda on colony.

2225/30

(Received from War Office).

Copies to:- S. of S.  
C.I.G.S.  
V.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O. & P.  
D.D.M.O. (0)  
M.O.1, 5, 11.  
D.M.I.  
D.D.M.I. (1)  
M.I.3, L.  
20 Military Mission.  
Spears Mission  
(Mr. Somerville Smith).  
Major Morton.  
Mr. Coulson.  
Mr. Mack (Foreign Office)  
Mr. MacKereth (Foreign Office).  
Mr. Lloyd (Colonial Office)  
Mr. Caccia (Foreign Office)  
C.A.S.  
C.N.S.  
D. of Plans, Admiralty.  
D. of Plans Air Ministry.  
Lt. Col. Jacob.  
D.P. (2)  
D.D.I.P.

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

714

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.QUITO.  
(German.)

Arrived Shanghai 27/10. QUITO (563) renamed TENCHITSU MARU flying Japanese Mercantile Flag with (?code) flag at main mast. European Officers and crew.  
(C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0211Z/29, to Admty.)

INDIANA  
(French.)

Arrival Oct. 29.  
(Saigon, 1032Z/29 to M. of W.T.)

Sarawak  
Oilfields.

Your 0901Z/15, Admty. 1936A/1 and subsequent signals including your 0511Z/28.  
2. Possibility of absence of warning set out in latter signal has been taken into account by O.D.C. in reaching following conclusion:-  
(a) Present production from Seria oil fuel should be allowed to continue.  
(b) Proposals in para. 11 of your 0901Z/15 approved.  
(c) Arrangements including preparatory work to implement Scheme A (Admty., 1936A/1.) should be made accordingly.  
(V.C.N.S., 2036A/29 to C. in C. China,) Amended 1846A/30.)

French  
Shipping.

Departure LE CONTE DE LISLE fr. Haiphong  
D'ARTAGNAN fr. Manila.  
(N.C.S.O. Shanghai, 2358Z/29, to D. of S.T.)

America & West Indies.BRITISH  
JUSTICE.

My 1643/Q/27. Ship arrived, will load 30/10 delayed by (? flooding). GARD arrived some (?same) day.  
(N.C.S.O., Port of Spain, 0005Q/29 to Admty.)

Re-arming of  
RANPURA.

Your 1545A/28. <sup>N.T. N.W.D.</sup> Before a reply can be given an approximate date of arrival is required.  
(B.A.R.M., 1012R/29 to Admty.)

Sweepers and  
A/S Vessels.

Reply to Admty., 1735A/10/10. Suggestion that new types conform to those in production for U.S. Navy.  
(B.A.D., 1059R/29 to Admty.)  
See Lion Copy.

/Task Unit.....



# MOST SECRET

FROM B.A.D. WASHINGTON.

From B.A.D. Washington.

Date 29.10.41.

Recd. 2130.

NAVAL CYPHER X by cable.

Addressed Admiralty.

899.

Following from B.A.S.R. Your 1735A of 10th October para.H. . 1.It is suggested that all the small coastal type A.M.C. minesweeper now in service with the U.S. Navy might be suitable for sweeping magnetic mines. (B) The 170' (170') steel subchaser or escort ship, PC 542-577 class, now under construction for the U.S. Navy, though of somewhat less tonnage than is required, might be suitable for local A/S work.

2. The navy department state that they have already forwarded drawings and . . specifications of the above two types to the Admiralty, but to assist in identifying them, the following information is given:-

(A) A.M.C. minesweepers. 200(200) tons, length - 97'(97') beam - 21'(21'), draft - 9'(9'), machinery - one 400(400) H.P. Diesel driving a single screw speed - 10 knots. One 540(540) K.W. generator driven by a 600(600) H.P. diesel Carries "O" and "LL" sweeps. Armament - 2 single 50 calibre machine guns. Complement - 3 officers 14 men. Time taken to build 4-5 months.

(B) 170'(170') steel subchasers or escort ships, P.C.542-577. 357(357) tons, length - 173' 8" (173' 8"), beam - 23'(23') draft - approximately 9'(9'), machinery - twin screw diesels developing 1800(1800) shaft H.P. each, speed 22 knots. Fitted with asdics and two single depth charge throwers and two chutes Armament - 2 -3" (2-3") 50 Calibre HA/LA, 4-50 calibre machine guns in two twin mounts. Accommodation for three officers 55 men. Time taken to build - 9-10 months.

3. These suggestions are put forward as much valuable time might be saved by adopting a type already in production for the U.S. Navy.

1059R/29

1st Lord	N.A. 1st S.L.	D.M.S.	Admiral
1st S.L.	D. of P.(2).	for I.P.(2).	Bailey.
2nd S.L.	D.O.D.(H).	action W.D.	Ad. Bellairs.
3rd S.L.	D.D.O.D.(H).	Duty Capt.	D. of D.
4th S.L.	D.O.D.(F).	Hd. of M.	D.G.D.
5th S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F).	D.T.S.D.	Dep.Contr.)B
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I.(4).	D.D.I.C.	D. of D. )A
A.C.N.S.(H).	D.S.D.	E.P.S.	S.W.R. )T
A.C.N.S.(F).	D.N.A.D.	D.T.D.(2).	H.
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).

715

War Diary.29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.Task Unit  
4.1.13.

Task Unit No. 4.1.13. can not now arrive at Iceland in time to fuel and then escort O.N.31 in accordance with my 1529Z/1/10. Request 4.1.13. may if possible be assigned to O.N.32. (C.C.N.F., 1241/29 to S.O.P.A., Iceland.)

→ Tugs.

Information just received Tugs S. BARWICK and JAMES HUGHES arrived Port Saunders 050° 38' N., 057° 15' W., 24 and sailed 0900Z/28 for Sydney N.S. (C.C.N.F., 1321Z/29, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, etc.) See also ~~1521/29~~. 2144A/29 below.

O.N.28.

Disperse following ships capable of twelve knots or over at dusk/29 BRANT COUNTY, BEAVER HILL, \*BAIANOX, PANDORIAN, TORTUGERO, CNRISTALES, EMPIRE FAITH, PORT NICHOLSON, POLAR TANK, LAURITIS SWENSON, DELANE and TIBIA. Direct ships pass north of 48.00 N., 40.00 W. Convoy probably reported by submarines at 0852, 0940, and 1032 all G.C.T. 29/10. (Opnav, 1501/29, to Com. Task Unit 4.1.6.)

*\* not identified.*Troop  
Transport.

Movement control estimate following requirements and request December sailing be arranged if possible early in month.

Month.	Army.	RCAF.	Total.
December	6,500	3,500	10,000.
January.	4,100	3,500	7,600.
February	3,800	3,500	7,300.
March.	4,000	3,500	7,500.

(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1541Z/29 to D. of S.T.)

→ PETUNIA.

Your 1301A/29. (Tugs for PETUNIA, N.T. in W.D.) We are endeavouring to locate tug by G.B.M.S. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1541Z/29 to Admty.) Admty. 1301A/29. See my 1321Z/29 (being passed to B.A.D. Washington.) (C.C.N.F., 1657Z/29 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, etc.) In view of C.C.N.F.'s 1321Z/29. Request PETUNIA may now be ordered to return to U.K. (C. in C.W.A., 2144A/29 to Admty.)

NIAGARA.

Your 1445Z/17, confirmation requested that NIAGARA is in hand at Halifax. (D. of D., 1548A/29 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.) Confirmed (1454Z/31.)

/T.L.C.130.....

War Diary.29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.T.L.C.130.U.S.S.MILWAUKEE sighted T.L.C. 130 derelict in  
14° 00' N., 26° 26' W., at 1930Z/26.  
(B.A.D., 1555R/29 to Admty.)MEROPE  
(French.)Departure 29th, Puerto Mexico 31st.  
(Tampico 1602/29 to M. of W.T.)

?

C.T.5 (C.T.5.) your 1214Z/29 concur forces  
concerned will be informed.  
(Opnav 1651/29 to Admty.)O.N.29.O.N.29 alter course forthwith to 270. Further  
orders follow. U-boats sighted 055° 22' N.,  
023° 25' W., at 1130Z/29.  
(U.S.C.N.O., 1659/29, to Com. Task Unit 4.1.16.)OMAHA  
SOMERS.On 29/10 OMAHA, SOMERS, departed on patrol from  
Recife to position 15° N., 26° W. Arrive 3/11.  
Return Recife 5th. Depart Recife 9th.  
Arrive Trinidad 15/11.  
(Opnav, 1701/29, to Admty.)  
W.D. Note:- Subsequently amended, see 1749/30.Shipping  
Bermuda.Admty., 1823/8/8. Only British Ships of 15  
knots and over should be routed to Bermuda  
until further orders. My 0929/6/10, not to  
Admiralty, is cancelled.  
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1749Q/29 to S.O.I., Jamaica, etc.)O.N.34.Your recommended route, concur, forces concerned  
will be notified.  
(Opnav, 1955/29 to Admty.)U.S. Pacific  
Fleet  
Liaison.Your 1813/17. Concur in your recommendations.  
(Hd. of M. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 2152A/29 to  
B.A.D.)

War Diary.29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

0025

Following repeated by Freetown W/T for information. M.L. 266 reports U-boat in approx. 006° 12' N., 013° 54' W., at 0025. (C. in C. S.A., 0508N/29 to CANTON, SURPRISE, PICT, SPANIARD, TURCOMAN).

Estimated U/B dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1356A/29, 1405A/29).

1023  
1237.

From D/F it appears that convoy O.N.28 is still being shadowed. D/F bearings at 1023/30 G.M.T. and 1237/30 G.M.T. in particular, indicate this.  
(D.D.I.C., 1859Z/29 to Opanav).

Submarines Attacked.By A/C

Am over enemy submarine in 58.22 N., 23.25 W. periscope only sighted.  
(A/C F. 1225/29 to 19 Group)  
Have attacked Enemy Submarine with depth charges. No hits. (A/C F. T.O.R. 1325/29 to 19 Group) Wellington A/C, Iceland (C) attacked at 1317/29. (D.S. 786, 30/10).  
Am proceeding to ALISMA (?) through 058° 22' N., 023° 25' W., to endeavour to contact U-boat sighted by aircraft at 1225/29. Weather.  
(KINGCUP, 1515/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

By A/C 1258.

Am over enemy S/M in 59.30 N., 23.50 W. S/M was on the surface and observed to submerge, when first sighted was on course 280°, 10 knots.  
(A/C T., 1200/29 to 15 Group) Wellington A/C T (Iceland (C)) attacked this U-boat at 1258. No details. (D.S., 786, 30/10).

By MALINES.

A/S contact position 021° 35' N., 023° 05' W., Bubbles and light oil observed after attack. Proceeding destination owing to fuel situation.  
(MALINES, 1340A/29 to Admty F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

/By.....

War Diary.

29.10.1941.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. - Contd.

By U.S.  
destroyer  
27/10.

At 1210Z/27 (?Destroyer escort) 3.5 made Sonic contact apparently S/M 015° 45' N., 030° 00' W. dropped 3 depth charges without known result and lost contact after 2nd detonation. One hour search by plane and destroyer negative. (U.S. C.N.O. 1708/29 to Admty etc-).

By MORDEN  
28/10.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1845Z/28 (repeating MORDEN's 1435Z/28) Submarine was not (?sighted) on surface. 4 attacks made, results unknown. MORDEN now proceeding on escort duty. (C.C.N.F., 1735Z/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Redistribution of A.M.Cs. A.M. 1232A/30 gives details of a redistribution of A.M.Cs.

British Air Operations.

Bad weather caused operations last night to be reduced. 14 Wellingtons of Bomber Command attacked Brest.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today on account of bad weather.

Enemy Air Operations.

Spitzbergen

It is reported from Russian sources that one Junkers 52 arrived at Spitzbergen A.M. today and that 8 Junkers 88 left Petsamo for Spitzbergen at 1210C today.

Myggenaes Lighthouse was bombed and slightly damaged about noon today.

Great Yarmouth was bombed at 1900A today. Very slight naval damage was caused.

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

S.N.83 A.

The Flag of R.A.M. was transferred to MENESTHEUS this morning. R.A.M. in MENESTHEUS with PORT QUEBEC, WELSHMAN and 3 destroyers sailed from Lochalsh this morning to lay mines N.W. of the Faeroes covered by SHEFFIELD from Scapa.

North Atlantic.

Ponta  
Delgada.

There is a shortage of fuel at Ponta Delgada, where convoy escorts and minor war vessels on passage to or from Gibraltar put in for fuel.

ERIN  
bombed.

A/S Trawler ERIN on patrol off Cape Trafalgar was attacked by a F.W. aircraft at 0245 today. ERIN engaged and probably damaged the enemy, and was herself undamaged but had one man slightly wounded.

South Atlantic.

The loss of R.F.A. DARKDALE (22/10) at St. Helena raises the problem of an intermediate fuelling port for ships of limited endurance between Freetown and the Cape. As first action, BULLMOUTH is to be sent from Freetown to Pointe Noire. There is no Admiralty oil at Walvis Bay.

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya &  
Western  
Desert.

C. in C. Med., 1956B/30 gives details of bombardments carried out recently by cruisers and destroyers.

Tobruk supply is temporarily suspended during the moon period except for schooners.

18 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night for 5 hours.

Crete.

12 Wellingtons last night attacked shipping in Heraklion and Suda Bay. A freight ship was hit in Suda Bay and a second was straddled.

U-Boat Campaign.

U.S.S.  
SALINAS  
torpedoed.

U.S.S. SALINAS (Naval Fuel ship) in O.N.28 was hit by two torpedoes at 0732Z today in 46° 51' N., 38° 7' W., and is proceeding towards St. Johns.

KUJAWIAK and ATHERSTONE were ordered at 1633 to proceed to attack a U-boat in 48° 20' N., 9° 20' W., which had been hit and damaged by aircraft.



War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Raiding  
Craft.

Attention of C.Os is called to the necessity of seeing that their raiding craft are kept efficient and ready for operational service. Flotilla Officers and Flotilla Engineer Officers are to give personal attention to the condition of their craft. My standing orders for operational R.boats dated 28/10/41 (now being issued) are to be carefully complied with. (V.A. C.T.C. 1042/30 to PRINCESS ASTRID, etc.)

A.M.Cs.

A.M.1655A/15. The following re-distribution of A.M.Cs has been decided:  
CATHAY to be returned to trade vice WOLFE.  
CALIFORNIA allocated to South Atlantic vice CATHAY.  
AUSONIA allocated to America and West Indies Station. WORCESTERSHIRE and ALAUNIA allocated to East Indies Stn. and MANOORA to Australia on the arrival of these ships on their station.  
MONTCLARE allocated to Australian Station.  
ASCANIA allocated to New Zealand Station.  
WOLFE to be converted as Submarine Depot Ship.  
AURANIA to be converted as Destroyer Depot Ship.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1232A/30.)

Faroes.  
Withdrawal  
of one A/S  
Trawler.

N.O.I/C Aberdeen 1125/29 and my 1106A/2. Remaining ships of fourth A/S M/S trawler group are operating with S.O. 4th Minesweeping Flotilla. In order to continue regular escort of Aberdeen Lerwick service I intend to withdraw A/S trawler from Faroes. This will leave 1 A/S trawler in Faroes which is considered sufficient in existing conditions and it will be possible to replace the vessel withdrawn at short notice should the necessity arise.  
(A.C.O.S. 1546A/30.)

Co-operation with Russia.Vestfiord  
S/M Patrol  
(K.22.)

My 1629C/28. Soviet K.22 sails Polyarno P.M./30 for patrol Vestfiord routed as follows, to patrol in following area.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1249C/30.)

Inter-ship  
Radio  
Communication.

Large number of copies of 'System of radio communication between ships' in Russian, apparently intended for Russian ships in convoys just received these have been given to Russian Naval Staff. Presume English version has been given to Commodores of Convoys and N.C.S.O.  
(Ad. Miles 1514D/30 to Adty.)

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN  
1026/30 October.

422A.

From: Maclay (Archangel)

Date: 31.10.41

Recd: 1037

Interdepartmental Cypher I.T.T.

By W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty for Ministry of War Transport.

IMMEDIATE.

Archangel telegram 16. Russians have brought to Archangel Mr. Papanyin highest Soviet authority on ice conditions to direct winter navigation. Papanyin has given me much franker statement on ice problems than previously indicated by other Russian officials. The following are main points of interest to you.

(1) He stated cranes expected from Leningrad for erection at Economia would not repeat not arrive and asked if we could supply 25 ton cranes to discharge tanks and heavy lifts.

(2) He pointed out that although the 135 ton and 25 ton floating cranes would be moved to Economia in December they would be almost immobilized by ice and discharge of heavy lift would therefore be exceptionally slow if any.

(3) He stated Bakharista would certainly be kept open until end of November but that the problem in para (2) might develop second half of November this place also.

(4) I advised him very poor prospects of heavy cranes from England this year. End part one, part 2 follows.

1026/30.

Advance Copy, D. of S.T.

A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)  
N.A. 1 S.L.  
D. of S.T. (2) for Min.  
of War Transport.

M. (3)  
Admiral Herman Hodge  
Ops. (2)  
O.F. (5)  
D. of P. (3)  
D.F.D. (4)  
D.F.D. (M)  
D.T.D. (C)  
I.N.I. (4)  
E.P.S.

D.N.M.S.  
O.I.C. (2)  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.  
File X.

JVMB

War Diary.

30.10.1941.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.VIMIERA.

Leave Sheerness at 1000 today and proceed by Swept Channel and Q.Z.S 287 to Rosyth, at speed consistent safety in present weather. Fighter protection asked for.  
(C. in C. Nore 0940A/30 to VIMIERA.)

KINGFISHER.  
OTWAY.

My 1714A/28 and Capt. S.7 1416A/29. On completion of trials KINGFISHER and OTWAY are to anchor at Londonderry for the night. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail them in company to Campbeltown A.M./4th, KINGFISHER subsequently proceeding to Fairlie. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is also requested to arrange fighter protection for KINGFISHER and OTWAY from Londonderry to Clyde.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1044A/30.)

SEAWOLF.

Intend to sail SEAWOLF escorted by CUTTY SARK at 1700/31 passing west of Orkneys to 061° N. 3° 30' W. CUTTY SARK returning to Holy Loch from this position and SEAWOLF proceeding independently through following positions as ordered by S.B.N.O. Murmansk.  
(A.C.O.S. 1050/30)

Information  
for NORMAN.

SEALION proceeding unescorted from 061° N. 003° 30' W. at about 1200/29 through following positions and due 73° 40' N. 24° E. at 0001/4. SEAWOLF following same route 3 days later. Submarines informed of your route.  
(A.C.O.S. 1220A/30 to NORMAN.)

Information  
for SEALION.

NORMAN due 072° 35' N. 008° 10' E. at 1930A/29, destination Seidisfjord (Iceland). Ship may have been delayed.  
(A.C.O.S. 1225A/30 to SEALION.)

PETUNIA.

Proceed to Liverpool at best speed.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1438A/30 to PETUNIA.)

A.M.Cs.

A.M.1944A/19 and 1401A/25. Destination of CHITRAL, WORCESTERSHIRE, AUSONIA, MONTCLARE, and HIGHLAND PRINCESS on arrival is Clyde. Request you will sail HIGHLAND PRINCESS for Avonmouth in company with MONTCLARE and AUSONIA for their respective final destinations.  
(D.O.D. H. 1616A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

TARTAR.

Intend to sail TARTAR at 0715/1 so as to be off May Island at 0900/2. Request you will issue further instructions for onward passage. Fighter protection will be asked for during daylight 1st. (C. in C. Nore 1630A/30 to R.A.D.)

/EAGLE ...

724

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

EAGLE.

My 1024A/29/10. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1804A/30.)

RODNEY.

A.M.1037/29. On return to U.K. RODNEY will proceed to Scapa where she will remain until RENOWN is worked up, probably about 20/11. 2. C. in C. H.F. is requested to arrange for destroyer escort to R/V with RODNEY north of Ireland for onward passage.  
(A.C.N.S. H. 1819A/30.)

QUANTOCK.

Leave Rosyth at 1500 tomorrow and proceed by Swept Channels and Q.Z.S.287 to Sheerness. Adjust speed to arrive by 1700, observing speed restrictions in force.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1901/30 to QUANTOCK.)

Operations.

Operation  
"Table".

Operation postponed for further 24 hours.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0808A/30.)

S/M Patrol.  
P.36.

To avoid movements of own shipping proceed forthwith submerged by day to patrol in new area bounded by 049° and 050° N. and by 012° and 014° W. S.B.R. arranged 25 miles either side of line joining 050° N. 015° W. and 049° 30' N. 014° W. forthwith until 2359/31 and in new patrol area forthwith until 2359/2.  
(F.O.S. 1257A/30 to P.36.)

M.L.Patrol.

My 1256/30. Add 2 Motor Launches on Patrol 9 miles S. of Portland Bill.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1504/30.)

Operation  
"Pantaloon".

Following will report for "Pantaloon" and for passage. 66 Officers, 38 N.C.Os, 127 Airmen. They are to be allocated between ships as follows.  
(D.O.D. F. 1724A/30.)

S/m Patrol  
off  
Svaholthavet.

My 1440C/29. TRIDENT sailed. Admiralty pass to R.A. (S), C. in C. H.F.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1901C/30.)

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

P.R.U. of Kristiansand South and Oslo in operation.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1147/30.)

Modified Harrow A/C.

Modified Harrow aircraft are flying (at present in Doncaster area). Description. Request that confirmation of notification to pilots and A.A. defences may be forwarded.  
(Air Ministry 1200/30.)

A/C camouflage and markings.

Following amendments have been made to regulations. Request all land and air defences be warned at once. (Air Ministry No.T.O.O., Recd. 1900/30)  
See Lion Copy.

Bombing Operations.

On 29/10 there were no operations owing to unfavourable weather.  
On Night 29/30 14 Wellingtons attacked Brest. No smoke screen was in evidence but the Naval Units could not be distinguished. Bursts were registered mostly across and in close proximity to Docks 1 and 2.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1520/30.)

Enemy Air Activity.

S.L.90.  
H.G.75.

There is a possibility of attack by F.W. Aircraft tonight.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0015A/30 to Escorts.)

A/C over Scapa.

Between 0849/30 and 0940 One E/A was plotted to have passed over Flow from West to East. Height uncertain but over 10000 feet. E/A was heard but not seen. Fighters failed to contact. Cloud 10/10ths at 1500-2000 feet. Could not have seen into or photographed Flow.  
(A.C.O.S. 1143/30.)

Spitzbergen.

Following received from Russian sources graded B.1. One Junkers 52 arrived Spitzbergen a.m./30 and 8 Junkers 88 left Petsamo for Spitzbergen at 1210C/30.  
(D.D.I.C. 1722A/30.)

Yarmouth bombed.

Great Yarmouth bombed 1900A/30. No casualties. Structural damage to canteen and west wall R.N.B. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2046A/30.)

SECRET.

POSTAGRAM

No. T.O.O.

IN.

Date. 30.10.41.

A

From Air Ministry, (F.O.6) Whitehall.

425A

Addressed. Fighter, Bomber, Coastal, Flying Training, Technical Training, Maintenance, Army Co-Operation, A.A. Commands, R.A.F.M.I. Admiralty. War Office G.H.Q. Home Forces, R.A.N.A.S. D.O.S.I.- Bristol. S. 59966/II/F.O.6.

A/c  
Camouflage ©

The following amendments have been made to the regulations for camouflage colouring and marking of aircraft and an amending A.M.O. will be issued in due course.

2. In view of the early introduction of these amendments it is requested that immediate action be taken to warn all Land and Air Defences.

3. A.A. Co-operation Aircraft.

(a) Upper surfaces, temperate land scheme camouflage.

(b) Under surfaces, black or white.

(c) In place of Squadron code letters these aircraft are to carry Group Flight code numbers as follows:-

9	Group Flight	09
10	" "	10
11	" "	11
12	" "	12
13	" "	13

(d) In addition to the Group Flight code numbers these aircraft are to carry a letter to indicate the individual aircraft.

4. Operational aircraft for service abroad.

(a) The upper surfaces are to be camouflaged with temperate land scheme camouflage or dark earth and mid-stone according to the nature of the country in which they are to operate.

(b) The under surfaces are to be camouflaged azure blue.

5. Day Fighters.

(a) All day fighters in Home Commands are to conform to the camouflage colouring and marking authorised for Fighter Command aircraft in Air Ministry Postagram S. 59966/II/F.O.6 dated 8th August, 1941.

(b) The yellow strip marking to be applied by units to the leading edge of the wing of Tomahawk aircraft are as follows:-

At/.....

At a point 16" from the wing tip where the wing tip is attached to the main wing structure the width of the strip is 1½" (¾" either side of the centre line). From this point the strip is tapered outwards to the wing tip and carried inwards towards the wing root, a distance of 104" the strip widening to 4" (2" either side of the centre line).

Rec'd by hand from Air Ministry  
at 1900/30.

5th. S.I.  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
O.I.C. (3)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D. of P. (3)  
D.T.S.D. 10  
D.N.R.D.  
Air  
M. (2)  
D. of L.D. (2)  
D.S.D. (2)  
I.P. (3)  
W.D.  
E.P.S.

Copies distributed by Air Ministry.  
D.F. Ops. F.O. 1.  
D.M.C. I.G. Richmond.  
D.G.D. D.O.N.C.  
D.G.O. D.T.F.  
T.O. 1. D.O.O.  
O.R. 4. War Room.  
D.B. Ops. A.T.  
D.T.O. R.T.P.  
D. of O.

F.

War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.S.N.83 A.

Sailed R.A.M. in MENESTHEUS, WELSHMAN, PORT QUEBEC, BRIGHTON, OFFA, and ORIBI.  
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh 0920/30.)  
Scapa departure SHEFFIELD.  
(A.C.O.S. 1233A/30.)

Bristol Channel.

All Bristol Channel ports without exception will be open to shipping between 1400 and 2000 today. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1014A/30.)

Sweeps off Dover.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/30 by Oropesa and S.A. Trawlers in Q.Z.S.238 from C. one buoy and alternative route as in my 1931A/5. Nothing found. (V.A. Dover 1143A/30.)

MANXMAN.

Intend to sail MANXMAN from Needles 1000/31 for Port Z.A. Route. E.T.A. 1730/1.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1303A/30.)

Sweep off Faroes.

Gale and fog have prevented more than one day sweeping being carried out since my 1235A/25. Progress therefore negligible. Total area now cleared is as follows. Total number of mines (?swept) 18, all (? British). It would appear therefore that mines in S.N.6 have dragged considerably to eastward. At least 50 drifting mines sighted since recent gale. Am despatching ROSS and LYDD for boiler cleaning and half yearly trials respectively, for which both ships are overdue, in anticipation that PANGBOURNE and SUTTON will have rejoined me in time for recommencement of sweeping.  
(S.O. 4th M/S F. 1830A/30.)

Navigational.Sheringham Light Buoy.

Sheringham light and bell buoy, light reported extinguished. (Hydrographer 0035A/30.)

Hearty Knoll Smiths Knoll Light Buoys.

Commodore R.N.38 reports Hearty Knoll and Smiths Knoll Light buoys extinguished.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1445/30) (Hydrographer 1811A/30.)

Sunk Buoy.

Sunk buoy. Light extinguished.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1942A/30) (Hydrographer 2230A/30.)



War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.CAVEROCK.

Ashore between Redcar and Marske. Lifeboats unable to proceed owing to weather. Hope to rescue crew with life saving apparatus. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0043/30.)  
My 0043. Vessel ashore off even keel, crew remaining on board. Weather permitting, attempt will be made to refloat at next high water. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0317/30.)

SPES.

Departure Tug STALWART to assist SPES. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1017A/30.)  
Arrival Tug STALWART from assistance of SPES. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1408A/30.)

KARS.

KARS has badly fouled Boom Defence entering in convoy. Nets are wrapped round her. Endeavouring to cut nets to clear her. Diver may be required if propellers are foul. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1105A/30.)  
KARS is now clear of Boom and has been towed to anchorage in harbour. Has holed herself in bows on Sgeir and Araig and has nets foul of propeller. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1545A/30.)

EAGLESCLIFF  
HALL.

Departure tug ST. MELLONS to assist EAGLESCLIFF HALL off Cley. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1120A/30.)  
Immingham departure Tug SABINE at 1155 to assist EAGLESCLIFF HALL in distress off Cley near Blakeney, Norfolk. (F.O. Humber 1204A/30.)  
Tug SABINE arrived off Cley 1800. Reports second tug not required. Weather permitting will commence tow of EAGLESCLIFF HALL at daylight tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2310A/30.)

ST. MELLONS.

Following received from Tug ST. MELLONS begins: Have fire bar trouble one furnace out of action. Returning to roads. Weather too bad to carry out orders without full power. 1233A/30. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1335A/30.)

EILEEN EMMA.

Cancel my 1056A. <sup>N.T.W.D</sup> EILEEN EMMA delayed by defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1645A/30.)

War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.SPES.

Have lost touch with S.S. SPES presume she has proceeded, carrying out search in vicinity eight C. buoy. Am having great trouble in steering. (SHEARWATER 0110/30.)

F.N.539.

Postponed another 24 hours.  
(C. in C. Nore 0611A/30.)

W.S.12 Z.  
C.T.6.

Following is revised position in regard to convoy W.S.12.Z.  
2. In addition following ships will be included in C.T.6 sailing at same time as W.S.12 Z.  
3. Embarkation dates will probably be 7/11 to 9/11.  
(D. of S.T. 0646A/30.)

GLEN  
STRATHALLEN.

My 1056/29. Sailing postponed by weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 0830A/30.)

O.N.30.  
S.C.51.

C. in C. W.A. 1855A/29. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1430A, SARDONYX, WATCHMAN in company. My 1712A/29th. Request Rescue Ships which left O.N.30 without orders may be sent to R/V me off Lough Foyle Buoy at 1200A/31 for onward escort to meet S.C.51.  
(MALCOLM 0902A/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

F.N.540.  
Medium.

Propose to postpone F.N.540 (Medium) until 1/11.  
(C. in C. Nore 0950A/30.)

F.N.540 postponed 24 hours to 1st November.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1041/30.)

Ships for ports between Falmouth and Plymouth including Plymouth are to continue with convoy.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 0954/30 to ATHERSTONE.)

Take code word "Paddle Two" as from 1130 today.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1007/30 to JASON, VANITY.)

W.P.59.

Ships for "Steward" and "Stencil" (W.P.59) may proceed independently to Swansea Bay and are to sail therefrom in groups at 0930/31 and 1100/31 respectively. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1014A/30.)

/BLAEGG ...

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

BLAEGG.  
*not identified*

Your 1230/24. Norwegian Motor Vessel BLAEGG not arrived Methil. (N.C.O. Methil 1026/30 to N.C.S.O. Leith.)

F.N.538.  
F.S.632.  
F.N.537.  
E.C.90.

My 1625/29 in continuation, straggler situation at 1000/30. All ships previously reported in Humber and in addition ex F.N.38 Thames to Middlesbro EAST ANGLIAN Ex F.S.32 Methil to London CIRCE II. Blyth to London MISTLEY. Also reported at anchor Bridlington Bay Ex F.N.37 Thames to Middlesbro ISBJORN (Nor.) Thames to Tyne ALEXANDRA (Gr.) Thames to Leith ORANJE POLDER (Du.) Ex E.C.90 Thames to Blyth CORMEAD. Also FLUOR, PENHURST, SIGNALITY, destinations unknown and one unidentified ship. Tug KINGS CROSS with Lighter also in Bridlington. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1115/30.)

H.G.75.

Your 1644/29. ABERDEEN proceeded. 144 rockets embarked. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1151A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

C.T.5.  
"Cargo"

A.M. 2318A/24. Convoy C.T.5. Amend route from position Q. as follows. In 53° 35' N. 24° 28' W. convoy C.T.5. meets and changes escorts with convoy "Cargo" at 1100Z/2. Route for CARGO from position J. to K., thence to F. 56° 30' N. 11° W., thence to North Channel. (D.O.D. H. 1330A/30.)

C.T.5.

Sailed. Commodore Swabey R.N.R. in DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2356A/30.)

STRATUM.

STRATUM finished. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1340A/30.)

F.N.539.  
F.N.540.  
F.N.542.

My 0950A/30 and 1650A/28. Propose escorts of convoys as follows. WINCHESTER to relieve GARTH with F.N.542 as soon as WINCHESTER is completed. GARTH on relief by WINCHESTER to proceed to Tyne to await sailing of SUNFISH. Request you will amend programme of escorts as necessary and issue orders to GARTH for escort of SUNFISH to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore. 1446A/30.)

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

S.L.90  
~~BUCKET~~  
"Bucket"

Reference 596A Z para.2. Evasive alteration is to be made to port.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1538A/30 to Escorts S.L.90 and VANQUISHER.)

Ocean  
Convoys.

Escorting arrangements to come into force forthwith. (C. in C. W.A. 1542A/30.)  
See Lion Copy.

O.G.76.

Joined Clyde, Oban, and Milford Haven portions at 1730A/29. P.C.S. at 2200, 250°. Oversay 8 miles, 300° 5, altering to 120° 7 knots at 0800/30. BRADFORD in company.  
(AUDACITY 2205A/29.) *Should be on p.706.*

1542A/30th October.

4304

SECRET

MESSAGE.

IN.

From. C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date. 30.10.41.

Recd. 1650.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed. F.O.'s 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.

680. Cancel My 1639A/14 and substitute.

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. Outward bound convoys routed through Minches.

- (a) Until local escorts for Liverpool portions of these convoys are available Captains D are to detail one ship of the group to escort Liverpool portion to Clyde r/v. An additional ship is to be detailed to escort combined convoy from Clyde r/v through The Minches. Remainder of escort are to join convoy off Loch Ewe.
- (b) Clyde portion is to join main convoy without escort, unless ocean escort is provided by Greenock group.
- (c) Oban portion is to be escorted to join main convoy by one A/S trawler detailed by Naval Officer in Charge Oban.
- (d) Loch Ewe portion is to be escorted to join main convoy by one A/S trawler convoy by local escorts as detailed by Naval Officer in Charge Stornoway.

2. Homeward bound convoys routed through Minches

- (a) Until local escorts from Liverpool are available senior Officer of escort groups is to detail two ships of the group to escort Clyde, Belfast and Liverpool portions through Minches until Clyde portion parts company. When convoy has split one of the ships detailed to is to remain with the Liverpool portion, the other is to proceed to base.
- (b) Clyde portion to proceed to Clyde without escort.
- (c) Oban portion is to be escorted in accordance with my 1549A/29/9.
- (d) Loch Ewe portion is to be met and escorted to Loch Ewe by local escorts as detailed by Naval Officer in Charge Stornoway.

W.A.C.I.110 will be amended as necessary, orders for Liverpool local escort force being included as soon as ships detailed become available.

1542A/30

Adv. copies Ops., O.D., Trade

V.C.N.S.	I.P.(3)
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.S.D.9
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	D.A/S.W.
N.A.1st S.L.	W.D.
Ops.(3)	D.T.D.(4)
O.D.(5)	D.T.D.(M)
O.D.8	D.T.D.(C)
O.I.C.(3)	M.(2)

War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.SARASTONE  
bombed,  
sunk.  
BARON  
NEWLANDS  
escaped.

SARASTONE was sunk at 2500/29 by bomb from aeroplane just outside river entrance, only Thomas Russell chief engineer believed lost. Survivors brought to Huelva by 2 Spanish trawlers. BARON NEWLANDS who was following was attacked but not hit, has returned to Huelva and has survivors on board. Captain SARASTONE says funnel and masts visible at low tide, certain -therefore you can send to fix position to check if in territorial waters as we believe. BARON NEWLANDS believes she hit aeroplane. (Gibraltar, 0530/30 to Admty.)

My 0530/30. Captain of BARON NEWLANDS awaits your instructions for sailing because if attacked again he is short of life boat accommodation on account of survivors on board. Trying to recover secret book at low tide. (Gibraltar 1500/30 to Admty.)

British ships SARASTONE, BARON NEWLANDS, when leaving for Huelva were attacked at 2500/29 by four-engined bombing aircraft which came from land. A direct hit made on former which sank  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from shore. Latter was then attacked when still in Channel but opened fire and drove enemy off bombs falling clear. All crew former saved except Chief Engineer and brought back by latter. Three wounded admitted local hospital no serious cases. Embassy making energetic protest to Spanish Govt. on violation of ? territorial waters. (A.N.A. Madrid, 1639/30 to D.N.I., F.O.C.N.A., 2340A/30 to Admty.) SARASTONE, 2473 tons, from Lisbon and Huelva for Ardrossan, was on her way to join an H.G. convoy. (D.S. 787, 31/10).

DUNCAN.

My 1228A/28. Owing to (?shortage of) fuel at Ponta Delgada only take 200 tons. (F.O.C.N.A. 1158A/30 to DUNCAN).

ERIN A/C  
attack.

ERIN on patrol 200° Cape Trafalgar 6 miles was attacked at 0245/30 by Fokke Wulfe aircraft which came up moon and surprised ERIN for first attack dropping two bombs which missed astern. Second, third and fourth runs were made using cannon and machine guns and dropping small bombs. 2. Aircraft was engaged on last three runs and probably damaged. 3. One man slightly wounded. Ship undamaged. (F.O.C.N.A. 1316A/30 to Admty.)

/Force.....

732

War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic-Contd.Force H.  
flagship.

For Adm. Somerville, ref Admty. 1947/29 (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to transfer flag to MALAYA A.M. 1/11. (S.O. Force H., 1422A/30 to Admty.). W.R. Note. D.O.D. (H) please pass to Adm. Somerville.

COMMANDANT  
DOMINE.

Following received from COMMANDANT DOMINE (begins) - After escorting CORNISH CITY to the Azores searched for convoy O.S.9 unsuccessfully 3 days on presumed route, request P.C. and S. 1900A/29 - (Ends). Give her instructions. (D.T.D. 1633A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French  
Fishing  
boat.

French motor Fishing boat <sup>No trace in logs.</sup> GLADIATEUR (corrupt group) Croix entered Corunna 29/10 reported Master taken ill. (Gibraltar 1830/30 to Admty.)

JOAO PESSOA  
(German).

Workmen offered bonus to complete load night 31st. (Bilbao 1847/30 to Admty.)

Escort for  
RODNEY.

Admty. 1037A/29 para. 5. Propose R/V in position -K. 045° N. 020° W. at 1700A/24/11. (F.O.C.N.A., 2254A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.C.F.3.

ALCANTARA sailed 0300Z/30 to R/V with Convoy C.F.3. at 1200Z/31. (N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth 0816Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

Takoradi  
boom  
defences.

Boom vessel BARRYMORE is to be despatched to Takoradi forthwith to expedite laying of A/T boom. As soon as vessel can be spared BARRYMORE is to return to Pointe Noire to complete boom-operations at that port. (B.N.L.O. Freetown 0851N/30 to B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire).

Derelict.

Your 1555R/29. (T.L.C. 130 derelict sighted by U.S.S. MILWAUKEE). Request description of derelict. (C. in C. S.A. 0941N/30 to B.A.D.)

/Atlantic.....

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

Atlantic  
Shipping  
Routes.

Instructions in A.M. 0001/1/5/41 Section 4 para. 12 are temporarily suspended. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1057A/30 to S.O.I.'s Capetown, Kingston) See 1100/30.

SHAHRISTAN  
survivors.

There are 21 Military survivors ex SHAHRISTAN in Ponta Delgada. These may not be embarked in a man of war. Request name of suitable ship if any in S.L. 92 with excess of speed over Convoy and necessary accommodation. (Admty., 1058A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

Shipping  
Routes.

Your 1150N/28 and 1302/28, these instructions are being temporarily suspended. They were introduced as a result of experience to facilitate re-routing of independent ships approaching West African ports. It is appreciated that in view of your 2031N/26 there is not the same necessity for them but it might be desirable to reintroduce them should it not be possible to continue these convoys. Presume you have considered question of tankers and occasional -independents from the west and that it will take about two weeks to reintroduce these instructions. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1100A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

Flying over  
Cape Verde.

Governor of Cape Verde Islands interviewed me concerning British aeroplanes flying over some of these islands 23/10. Expressed full confidence in Britain respecting neutrality and requested that British visiting aeroplanes do not fly over any part of these islands. (Consul, St. Vincent, 1450/30 to F.O.)

Fuelling,  
Pointe  
Noire.

Loss of DARKDALE at St. Helena raises the problem of an intermediate fuelling port for ships of limited endurance between Freetown and Cape. Propose as first action to send BULLMOUTH now at Freetown to Pointe Noire to be available to fuel MALINES, ANTWERP and BRIGAND and remain there for the present. There is no Admiralty oil at Walvis Bay. Request early reply as BULLMOUTH should sail for this service as soon as possible. (C. in C. S.A. 1601N/30 to Admty.)

/Rafts.....



War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.Rafts  
found,  
Pernambuco.

At various times between p.m./28 and p.m./29 three rafts have been washed up between Olinda and Cabo respectively north and south of town of Pernambuco. (Evidently American) (Description). No identification marks. All indications seem to shew that rafts had not been afloat for over seven days. (Consul, Pernambuco, 1645Z/30 to S.O.I. Montevideo).

U/B's  
St. Antonia  
Island.

Following from British Consul, St. Vincent (begins) (1) Reported anchored Janella Bay Island St. Antonia 27/10 two enemy submarines, not confirmed to date, 1030/30 (ends). (C. in C. S.A. 2008N/30 to Admty.)

S.T.7.

Departure 1255/30 with convoy S.T.7. VANSITTART, CYCLAMEN, ASTER, ARMERIA. (S.O.I. Freetown 2025N/30 to Admty. etc.)

Task  
Force 3.

Movements of Group 3.6 (OMAHA, SOMERS).  
1. Left Pernambuco 29/10 to arrive in 15° N. 26° W. on 3/11, returning thence to Pernambuco arriving 8/11. 2. Leave Pernambuco 9/11 for Trinidad so as to arrive 15/11. (D.O.D. (F) 2127A/30 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

*See also p. 740 for  
modification.*

Mediterranean.CENTURION.

Cancel Admty. 1509/29.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0033A/30 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units.  
UTMOST.

1 Tanker, 1 destroyer 034° 32' 071° 10', course and speed 070° 8 knots 0740A/30. Will probably hug coast. (Capt.S.10, 0947A/30 to UTMOST).

/Enemy.....

735

War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Enemy Convoy,  
TRUSTY.

Small convoy has been sighted and should pass through  $037^{\circ} 58' 019^{\circ} 50'$  at 1700B/30. Course  $155^{\circ}$ , speed 10 knots, probably bound vicinity  $032^{\circ}$  N.  $020^{\circ}$  E. (Capt. S.1. 1131B/30 to TRUSTY).

Air  
Operations.

Night of 29-30/10, 12 Wellington aircraft attacked shipping in Heraklion and Suda Bay off Crete. Clouds obscured the results in Heraklion Bay, but a freight ship was hit in Suda Bay and a second was seen to be straddled by bombs. (D.O.R. 1/11).

→ SOKOL.

Leave patrol p.m./31 pass through  $038^{\circ} 35' 013^{\circ} 51'$  and  $038^{\circ} 16' 012^{\circ} 08'$  making passage through Q.B.B. 65 daylight 2/11 to arrive Malta by N.W. channel a.m./3. UTMOST arrives 0630A/3 from south east. (Capt. S.10, 1211A/30 to S/M SOKOL)

→ Alexandria  
Raid.

Alexandria air raid 1900 to 2015/29. About 12 enemy. 5 sticks accounted for round very large Perimeter. No damage. Casualties one British Army Officer. High level bombing 12-15,000 feet. Bright moon, light 7 tenths light cloud, 14,000 feet. 2 fighters. No illuminations. No interceptions. (R.A. Alexandria, 1235B/30 to Admty.)

→ UTMOST.

Leave patrol through as requisite  $035^{\circ} 42' 012^{\circ} 55'$  and  $035^{\circ} 42' 014^{\circ} 10'$  to arrive Marsamxett 0630A/3. Polish S/M SOKOL arrives A.M. same day by north west Channel. (Capt. S.10, 1310A/30 to UTMOST).

Turkish  
Defences.

For Adm. Kelly. Your 1248/28. Agree that this is a most delicate matter but it is desirable to have at least a proportion of British ratings as I should feel concerned about the safety of ships in comparatively open (?anchorage) of Iskanderun if they had to rely for their protection on loop (?procedure) watched exclusively by Turkish personnel. Would it be practicable to suggest sending a fairly strong party as ostensible instructors and for (?maintenance) with idea of spinning out their time as long as possible? It seems likely that we should know fairly soon which way the cat is going to jump. (C. in C. Med., 1602B/30 to N.A. Angora).

/Tripoli.....

736

War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Tripoli  
bombed.

18 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli Marshalling yards, railway buildings, and engine shed 1750 to 2250 hours. Hits railway lines, large explosions and fires Marshalling yards visible 60 miles away. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1715/30).

M.N.B.D.O.  
Equipment.

Message 1230/29 from Overt. Request all possible may be done to obtain priority for Principal items required to re-equip M.N.B.D.O. If this is not done there will be considerable delay before organisation will be ready to function in its proper role. (C. in C. Med., 1832B/30 to Admty.)

Situation  
Report 162.

My 2034/26. The following targets have been engaged during recent bombardments.

(A) By cruisers, Tobruk Eastern Battery night 20/21. Bardia area petrol dump and headquarters night 23/24, Bardia area gun repair depot and vicinity night 25/26.

(B) By destroyers, Bardia harbour facilities night 21/22, Sollum village area 23/24. No detailed information of results received or likely since targets were all dispersed areas but reports from spotting aircraft are satisfactory.

2. Tobruk supply temporarily suspended during moon period except for Schooners. Two M.T.B's entered Bardia harbour night 26/27 and carried out successful minelaying operation. Request no mention.

3. Alexandria air raid, about 12 aircraft, no damage.

4. Levant A/T Baffle at Tripoli now complete and Baffle at Beirut being relayed.

5. Submarines. THUNDERBOLT sunk two-masted caique at 1904/10 bound for Kasa Strait, in position 035° 31' N. 026° 25' E. (C. in C. Med., 1956B/30 to Admty.)

Long-Range  
Whitleys.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 193. Ref. C.O.S. No., 187, paras. 1 and 3 should now be cancelled as Air Ministry are sending out immediately to Malta two long-range Whitleys for this purpose. Air Min. X. 198 of 28/10 to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. refers. (1st S.L. 2227A/30 to C. in C. Med.)

/Enemy.....

737

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy  
Advance  
Crimea.

N.L.O. Black Sea reports: Operations Crimea front, several mechanised groups broke through and penetrated up to 50 kilometres inland. Situation serious unless these can be rapidly destroyed. T.O.O. 1715C/30. (Ends). (C. in C. Med., 2340B/30 to Admiralty.)

DERNA  
(Italian).

Left Barcelona 30/10 for Genoa. (D.S. 789, 2/11).

738

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

French  
Somaliland.

Your 0/7/25 of 25/10. Open war with Vichy French in French Somaliland is opposed to policy of H.M.G.  
If approached by tribesmen, you should inform them that we are not at war with Vichy France and that they can therefore expect no open assistance from us. Free French should conform to this direction.  
(W.O., 0100/30 to G.O.C. in C. E. Africa).

Convoy  
B.A.8.

Departure GLASGOW escorting B.A.8.  
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0151Z/30 to Admty etc).

DEMPO

My 1305/27. DEMPO due Bombay 31 /10. Can this ship be used for one voyage to Suez sailing about 12/11 with 1500 Indian troops before proceeding U.K.?  
(P.S.T.O. India, 0452Z/30 to D. of S.T.)

Damage to  
tug.

Re Tug SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL hired from Vizagapatam Port Trust in July for handling monster liners at Trincomalee, grounded at Trinco on 11/7 while in naval service. Request approval to accept liability for repairs.  
(C. in C. E.I., 0654Z/30 to Admty).

C.M.18 X.

Convoy C.M.18 X sailed 29/10 for Aden. Details. E.T.A. 0300Z/8/11. (S.S.T.O. Durban, 1034Z/30 to S.S.T.O. Aden).

Defence  
requirements,  
Persian Gulf.

Your 0736/20 approved. Views are concurred in -generally.  
(Head of M., Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 1601A/30 to C. in C. E.I.)

Port T.

Your 1102/6. Location of Port T should be regarded secret as long as possible. Action on your para 5 will be taken in due course. Meantime if Base Ship has to transmit a Naval General Call Sign should be used.  
(Head of M., 2118A/30 to C. in C. E.I.)

739

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

QUEEN MARY,  
QUEEN  
ELIZABETH.

Request arrangements for docking and repairs to QUEEN MARY at Singapore commencing about 5/12 after completion of U.S.13. Estimated period in dock one month. Tentative arrangements should be made for docking QUEEN ELIZABETH after U.S.14, about beginning of Feb. 1942. Estimated period in dock three weeks. Ships should be kept at not more than one week's notice during period in hand. (D. of D., 0139A/30 to A.S., Singapore).

America & West Indies.

Tugs for  
PETUNIA.

My 1541Z/29. Report states JAMES E. HUGHES and BARWICK are returning and now in close vicinity of Sydney. Further signal will be made on arrival giving reason for return. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0326Z/30 to Admty). *See p 723*  
PETUNIA is to return to U.K. as ordered by C. in C. W.A. 2. C.C.N.F. is requested to report whether it appears likely that tugs will be able to make the passage at a later date. (V.C.N.S., 1153A/30 to C. in C. W.A., C.C.N.F.) Reply 1627/1.

O.N. 28.

Received following from Comtaskunit 4.1.6. Opnav 1501/29 was received too late to signal the vessels concerned before dark. A submarine was sighted on the surface ahead at dusk 1930 G.C.T. but lost in the darkness. Have not dispersed ships and convoy Commodore concurs. Unless otherwise directed will disperse them at dusk tomorrow 30/10. (Opnav, 0835/30 to Admty).

/WASAGA.....

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

WASAGA.  
COWICHAN.

On completion duty with INDOMITABLE on 1/11 return to Bermuda to complete with fuel. Leave Bermuda A.M./2 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0952Q/30 to WASAGA, COWICHAN).

BURNHAM.

My 1518R/18. BURNHAM slightly delayed, hoped she will sail tomorrow 31/10. Report of sailing will be made by ship after trial. (B.A.R.M. 1034R/30 to Admty.)

MONT VISO.  
(French).

Arrival 30/10. (St. Thomas, 1519/30 to D. of S. T.)

Aircraft  
Transports.

Following for Adm. Little from 1st S.L. I am informed by C.A.S. that Harris on his return mentioned conversion of American freight train carriers into aircraft transports. Our own aircraft transports cannot deal with larger aircraft than Naval types. Our aircraft carriers would also have difficulty in embarking large aircraft apart from question of such employment being uneconomical. In view of great help to our operations generally if transport of R.A.F. bomber types can be speeded up, request you will endeavour in concert with Supply Council to obtain two of these conversions providing you are satisfied they are suitable for operation under Atlantic sea conditions. (1st S.L. 1729A/30 to B.A.D.)

OMAHA.  
SOMERS.

Patrol of OMAHA, SOMERS, modified. Change my 1701/29 arrive 15° N. 26° W. from Recife 3/11. Then to point at equator 43° W. Thence arrive Trinidad 11/11. (Opnav., 1749/30 to Admty.)

*See p. 734*

FRANCOIS L.D.  
Casablanca.  
Dakar  
intelligence.

Casablanca 25/10 B.2. Master of FRANCOIS L.D. at suggestion of Naval Authorities, has received official recognition of his journey without stopping for 70 days, slipping through British blockade, from Indo China to Casablanca with contraband on board. (ii) Algiers 28/10 A.2.

/Owing.....

741

War Diary.

30.10.1941.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

FRANCOIS L.D.  
Casablanca,  
Dakar  
intelligence.  
- Contd.

Owing to low ebb of Admiralty fuel at Casablanca 4000 tons fuel oil is being transferred to Casablanca by Navy from its stocks in Algeria. B.2. In August, 10,000 tons was total amount of naval stock then held in Algeria, stocks are now well below this figure. U.S. Authorities have been asked to ascertain if this movement has already begun and whether overland or by sea.  
(iii) Dakar 29/10 B.2. Boisson states his force "no longer consists of 60 thousand ill equipped troops". (B.A.D. Washington 1841R/30 to Admty.)

YUKON.  
H.X. 157.

My 1826Z/28 (sailing telegram). Delete reference to U.S. YUKON, vessel will not make passage with H.X. 157. (C.O.A.C., 2015Z/30 to Admty.)

New Zealand.

LE  
TRIOMPHANT.

Your 2300/25 to F.L.C. LE TRIOMPHANT only and 1614M/28 and my 0015Z/27 to N.Z.N.B. Navy Office, Wellington only. Intend to sail 1600M/31 providing distant cover to CAP DES PALMES. Request confirmation that ship should proceed direct to Wellington instead of Auckland. If so, E.T.A. 1300/4. (LE TRIOMPHANT, 0500Z/30 to -N.Z.N.B., N.O. Wellington).



742

War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

H.G.75,  
LEGION,  
COSSACK survivors,  
(sunk 25/10.)

also

Your 1326A/29. My P.C. and S., are 36.50, 22.30, 094° 23. Am returning at best speed direct owing to condition of wounded. E.T.A., 1600A/31. A.F.O. 2901/41 (Survivors) (a) LEGION, (b) COSSACK (c) 6, (d) 38 (n) 44. (o) 2, of (d) Maltese, (p) 4, of (c) 7 of (d) including 2 from LEGION. (q) One of (c), 4 of (d) including one from LEGION. (LEGION, 0400Z/30, to F.O.C.N.A.)

ARIGUANI  
(torpedoed  
26/10.)

0.5.96.

My P.C. and S., are at 1700A/30 037° 22' 014° 40' 095° 7 knots. Water in 3 and 4 holds kept down by salvage pump. Weather report. (ARIGUANI, 1730A/30, to F.O.C.N.A.) 202 Sqdn., 2 Catalinas escort O.S.9G. Also contact and report ARIGUANI. Dawn to dusk. Area covered 16.30 W., to 11.20 W. ARIGUANI not met. (200 Group, 1815/30.)

SALINAS.

U.S.S.SALINAS in O.N.28 hit by two torpedoes 46.51 N., 38.07 W., 0732Z/30. DUPONT standing by.O.N.28 proceeding with remaining four destroyers. Five additional U.S. destroyers despatched Argentia to assistance O.N.28. GEORGE W. CAMPBELL en route Iceland to Argentia and tug CHEROKEE Casco Bay proceeding to assistance. SALINAS proceeding seven knots course 275° for St. Johns. (Opnav, 1847/30, to Admty.) SALINAS, oil fuel ship, U.S. Navy, 5375 tons, cargo capacity 11,116 tons, also 720 tons petrol in 2 tanks. Completed 1920, acquired 1921. (C.B. 01815 (U).

Submarines Reported.

1340A/29.

MALINES 1340A/29 might indicate that one or more of the 3 or 4 U Boats which have been sweeping north from vicinity of Veroes (?Verdes) may now be sweeping south. Unless therefore, Adty., have definite information that this group is now west of Madeira suggest both S.L.91 and O.S.9 should be diverted well clear of MALINES contact before dark this evening. (C. in C.S.A., 0943N/30 to Admty.)

/1058 G.M.T....

743

War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. Contd.

- 1058 G.M.T. Intercept 1058 G.M.T., bearing W'ly F.A.R. D R D R D E 72 297 periscope 1100 (Valentia Radio, 1057/30, C. in C. Plymouth, 1200/30.)
- 0935 G.M.T. D/F Bearings at 0935/30 G.M.T., indicate that U-boat is in vicinity of Convoy H.X.156. (D.D.I.C., 1210A/30 to Opanav.)
- 1054 G.M.T. *Marconi* D/F at 1054/30 G.M.T., indicates that Italian U-boat is in the immediate vicinity of Convoy H.G.75. (D.D.I.C., 1224A/30 to Escorts H.G.75.)
- 1210C. U-boat reported by Mudyuga shore station on surface steering East at 1210C/30 in 064°50' N., 038° 30' E., close to Unskaya inlet (2 corrupt groups) Request you will send Force to hunt. Admty., pass to 1st. C.S., 1st.M/S Flotilla. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1310C/30, to Admty.)
- Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1355A/30, 1356A/30.) (C.N.O., U.S.N. to C. in C.A.F. 2135/30.)
- 1437 G.M.T. D/F bearings at 1437/30 G.M.T. indicate U/boat in vicinity of Convoy S.C.51. (D.D.I.C. 1951/30 to Opanav.)
- 27/10. Following from British Consul St. Vincent (begins) (1) Reported anchored Janella Bay Island St. Antonia, 27/10, two enemy submarines, not confirmed to date 1030/30 (ends). (C. in C.S.A., 2008N/30 to Admty.)
- 1023 G.C.T. O.N.28, Serial 9, D/F bearings at 1023 and 1237  
1237 G.C.T. G.C.T. to-day indicate that you still being shadowed. (Opanav, 2125/30, to Comtask Unit 4.1.6.)

744

War Diary.30.10.1941.  
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.By A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 48° 02' 09" 08'.  
 (A/C Z.1, 1450/30, to 19 Group.)  
 W.D. Note. D.S.787 gives position as 47.58 N.,  
 09.08 W., and states attack was by Hudson A/C  
 H/53, and that Catalina Z/209 attacked at same  
 time.  
 Enemy S/M previously reported is still on  
 surface Course 215° speed 15 knots.  
 (A/C Z, 1505/30, to 19 Group.)  
 Proceed at best speed to attack damaged  
 U/boat in 48° 20' N., 9° 20' W.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1633/30, to KUJAWIAK,  
 ATHERSTONE.  
 D/F Bearing confirms U-boat in approx., same  
 position. Codeword for help message "Obstacle"  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 2146/30 to KUJAWIAK, ATHERSTONE.)

By A/C.

Am over enemy submarine in 46.10 N., 8.35 W.,  
 sighted on surface and observed to submerge  
 270° 8 knots.  
 (A/C A.1, 1450/30, 1456/30 to 19 Group.)

By A/C.

Am over enemy submarine in 47.59 N., 9.09 W.,  
 1100.  
 (A/C H.1, 1501/30 to 19 Group.)  
 Have attacked enemy with depth charges and  
 estimate 1 hit. Am returning to base. Engine  
 trouble.  
 (A/C ? 23, 1525/30 to 19 Group.)

By  
U.S.  
Destroyers.

44.20 N., 40.10 W., 1450Z/30, Task Group 14.3  
 reports several possible submarine contacts.  
 At 1520 definite metallic contact and propeller  
 noises. Destroyers attacked and one oil  
 slick seen.  
 (Opnav, 1750/30, to Admty.)

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

Coastal Command aircraft successfully attacked shipping off Ameland this morning and off Terschelling after dark this evening.

Enemy Air Operations.

Faeroes Fish carrier FALKUR was attacked and damaged at 0915 today off Sando, Faeroes.

WESTMINSTER reported Convoy F.N.539 being attacked at intervals from 1816A to 2152 off Southwold. S.S. NICOLAOS PIANGOS was set on fire, grounded and broke in two, and S.S. BRITISH FORTUNE was sunk at 1930.

Mining.

Varanger  
-Fiord.

Soviet S/MS have laid mines across the entrance to Kirkenesg.

Mining by enemy aircraft in the Bristol Channel was suspected last night.

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

A report from Lisbon states that Portuguese schooner NINA has been intercepted by a British ship and escorted to Gibraltar for inspection. She is alleged to have been transporting goods to Occupied France.

Owing to the increased commitments for tanker escort, for which trawlers are unsuitable until fitted with better W/T, F.O.C.N.A. asks for the allocation of an additional corvette group to his command.

Mediterranean.

R.A.N.  
Destroyers.

The four R.A.N. destroyers have now all been withdrawn from the Mediterranean for refitting. The Admiralty propose that they should join the China Station as they complete.

America & West Indies.

Suspicious  
Tanker.

British S.S. HARMONY at Boston reports sighting a 3,000 ton tanker stopped in 44.24 N., 49.42 W., on 21/10 with Portuguese colours and "OSANTA PRINCESSA, Portugal" amidships. It is possible this may have been a German supply ship.

3 U.S.A. No British HARMONY.

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

CAMELIA at 1545 today reported that she was chasing and engaging with gunfire two S/Ms. on the surface in 53° 21' N., 26° 24' W. At 1730A she reported that both S/Ms escaped on the surface at high speed.

H.X.156  
U.S.S.  
REUBEN JAMES  
sunk.

Task Unit 4.1.3 escorting H.X.156 was attacked by U-boat at 0540Z today in 51° 59' N., 27° 5' W. U.S. destroyer REUBEN JAMES was torpedoed and sunk.

O.S.10

FREESIA at 2130Z reported that Convoy O.S.10 had been attacked by one or more S/Ms. and one ship sunk. Her position was 50° 52' N., 24° 6' W.

A Hudson of Coastal Command attacked a U-boat at 1217 today, 240 miles S.W. of Ushant and estimates a direct hit on the bows by depth charge. Two other depth charges exploded within 20 feet of the bows. Large quantities of oil came up.

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

DIRKJE  
for  
Curacao.

Requested that DIRKJE now at Barrow and ready for sea early November be sailed in convoy for Halifax for onward passage to Curacao. No British Liaison Officer is embarked and her armament is one 5 c.m. gun and a few light machine guns.

4. C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to sail DIRKJE 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.N.O. Curacao.  
(D.M.S., 1222A/31)

Co-operation with Russia.

North  
Russian  
Ports.

Information as to ice and fuelling of convoys. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1455C/31) See Lion and Tiger Copies.

Movements.

MARSDALE.

MARSDALE is to leave patrol at 2359A/2 and proceed to Gibraltar passing through (A) 033° N., 30° W.

2. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to signal onward route from A.  
(S.O.W.P., 1040A/31)

BADSWORTH.

Sailed to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1620A/26.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1427A/30)

RORQUAL.

(1) RORQUAL is to pass 270° Wolf Rock 3.0 miles and R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE in 250°., Trevoze Head 10 miles at 0745A/3.

(ii) Lights for 10 minutes each half-hour as follows.

(iii) T.B.R. in Area 51 north of 050° N., and east of 006° 30' W., will be in force from 0100A/3 to 1200A/3.

(Capt. S.3., 1447A/31 to RORQUAL)

/SEAWOLF.....

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1455C/31st October IN

From S.B.N.O. Archangel. Date 2.11.41.

Recd. 1054.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER BY W/T  
RECIRCULATION AND  
CORRECTION

Addressed Admiralty Repeated C. in C. Home Fleet,  
C.S.1, C.S.10, S.O. 1 M/S Flotilla, R.A.D., Admiral  
Miles.

10.

Following information given by Papanin Head of  
Northern Ice Service.

(A) River this year should be clear of ice for  
destroyers even if unstrengthened up to first week  
December.

(B) From first week to end of December escorts  
could best fuel Molotovsk. There is less ice there  
than at Bar.

(C) From end of December until March escorts should  
be based Murmansk or Iokangaett. Fuel for latter would  
have to be supplied by tankers from Murmansk.

2. My personal opinion Papanin over optimistic.  
Naval Authorities have not repeat not confirmed that  
Molotovsk can be used but matter of substituting pursued.

3. Recommendations

(A) Escorts should remain based at approaches to  
Archangel for as long as practicable in order not repeat  
not to increase turn round time of convoy.

(B) Murmansk to be used when ice conditions do not  
repeat not permit of escorts being based Archangel.

(C) Cruisers to fuel Archangel for as long as  
possible for whole convoy to proceed in company which  
will probably be end of December. From then on to turn  
back with escorts and fuel Murmansk.

(D) Iokangaett only to be used by escorts when it  
is necessary to use it as emergency anchorage when whole  
of convoy is unable to pass through Gorlo at any one time.

(E)/.....



(E) Escorts of P Q 3 onward to arrive Archangel with sufficient fuel to proceed Murmansk if required. Admiralty pass to all addressees except S.O. 1 M/S Flotilla and C.S.1. /

14550/31 (A)

/ Action taken by W/R.

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

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.  
 2nd S.L.  
 3rd S.L.  
 4th S.L.  
 5th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(H).  
 A.C.N.S.(F).  
 A.C.N.S.(T) (2).  
 A.C.N.S.(W).  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D. of P.(2).  
 D.O.D.(H).  
 D.D.O.D.(H).  
 D.O.D.(F).  
 D.D.O.D.(F).  
 D.N.I.(4).  
 D.S.D.  
 D.N.A.D.  
 D. of L.D.  
 D.A/S.W.  
 D.M.S.  
 I.P.(2).  
 W.D.  
 Duty Captain (2).  
 Head of M.  
 D.T.S.D.  
 D.D.I.C.  
 E.P.S.  
 D.T.D.(2).  
 D.T.D.(M).  
 N.I.D.10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson).  
 D.G.D.  
 D.N.M.S.  
 D. of S.T.  
 N.I.D.16.  
 A.E.(3).

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

SEAWOLF.

Sailed escorted by CUTTY SARK in accordance with my 1050/30. Admiralty pass S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (A.C.O.S., 1728A/31).

HAZEL.

My 1730/30. Sailed 1345. Route to Clyde. HAZEL has no W/T or D/G in operation. (A.C.I.C., 1739/31).

EDINBURGH,  
SHEFFIELD.

Request you will take SHEFFIELD under your orders and sail from Scapa for Hvalfjord P.M./1st. (C. in C. H.F., 1836A/31 to C.S.18)

NORMAN.

E.T.A. Scrabster 1200/2 having on board 6 Trade Union staff and 6 Russian delegates. (A.C.O.S., 1911A/31)

Operations.

Stationing  
of East  
Coast  
Trawler  
Patrols.

Commencing on night 3/4 trawlers patrolling on searched channel between 54C Buoy and No. 5 Buoy inclusive are normally to be stationed one mile to the westward of the channel buoys or at such less distance to the westward as may be necessitated by low visibility. -Whilst convoys are passing they are to withdraw to a distance of five miles to the westward of the buoys provided safe navigation permits. If weather is such that type 140 cannot be relied on to give indication of approach of convoys, the patrols are similarly to withdraw to the westward in ample time, if necessary laying a lighted Dan Buoy on which to maintain position. If there is any indication of channels being mined, they are to be searched immediately enemy have retired. Patrols between Sunk and position Z will be stationed one mile to the eastward of the channel buoys as hitherto. (C. in C. Nore, 1114A/31)

Operation  
"Pantaloon."

ATHENE's 1116/26. ATHENE completed loading and proceeded down river to Tail of Bank A.M./31. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1241/31)

/S/M.....

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

S/M  
Patrol.

P.36 is carrying out diving patrol between 049° and 050° N., 012° and 014° W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1538/31 to ATHERSTONE).

Search for  
French  
Trawler.

M.L. 186 and 182 are searching for French fishing ship sighted in 049° 21' N., 7° 50' W. at 1610. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1756/31 to ATHERSTONE, KUJAWIAK).  
If Trawler is not found abandon search in time to arrive Scilly Isles 0730/1. This is a repetition of my 2040/31.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2046/31 to M.L.186, M.L.182).

British Air Activity.

A/C  
Recognition  
Signal to  
Convoy  
Escorts.

Re recognition light trial with Destroyers of next C.E. convoy and aircraft of 11 Group. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1603A/31 to 11 Group) Your 1603/31. Concur in trial using landing lights and that special letter should be used for trial, but consider that for normal service the letter of the day must be used as this signal has universal application. It is important therefore that this landing light signal must not be liable to interception by enemy aircraft in the vicinity.  
(C. in C. Nore, 2236A/31 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Patrols.

"Bert", "Stand", and "Stab" in operation.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1839/31).

Enemy Air Activity.

Myggenaes  
Lighthouse  
damaged on  
30/10.  
FALKUR  
(Faeroes Fish  
Carrier, 93  
tons damaged).

FALKUR attacked by enemy A/C at 0915 today off Sando. All 4 bombs missed and no casualties from machine gun fire. Ship damaged but brought into Port.  
Myggenaes Lighthouse was attacked yesterday between 1200 and 1230 resulting in slight damage and no casualties. The 2 bombs dropped failed to explode. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1610A/31).

/Convoy.....

751

War Diary.31.10.1941.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.Convoy  
F.N539.

Aircraft are attacking in 147° Southwold 14.  
(WESTMINSTER, 1816A/31).  
My 1816.A. Periodical attack continuing.  
(WESTMINSTER, 1936/31)  
Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Attempt" in 130°  
Southwold 11. (WESTMINSTER, 1943/31)  
Enemy bombing Convoy "Attempt" in 082° Southwold  
12. (WESTMINSTER, 2152/31)

NICOLAOS  
PIANGOS.  
(Greek,  
4499 tons).

Arrival GUILLEMOT with Survivors from  
S.S. NICOLAOS PIANGOS.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2345A/31) See also p.753

Mining.Bristol  
Channel.

All Bristol Channel Ports excepting Newport,  
Watchet and R. Parrett will be open from  
1300 to 2100 today. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1048A/31).

MANXMAN.

My 1303A/30. Sailed 1055.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1155A/31)

S.N.83 A.  
SHEFFIELD.

My 1112A/29, para 2. As SHEFFIELD is required  
for another operation request, if circumstance  
permit, you will release her at nightfall today.  
(C.in C. H.F., 1231A/31 to RA.M).

Varanger  
Fiord.

Mines have been laid by Soviet submarines  
across entrances to Kirkenes and following  
areas are considered to be dangerous due to  
mines:  
(i) to southward of a line drawn 90° (?from)  
Kim Island 69° 54' 36" N., 29° 56' 00" E., to  
longitude 30° 12' 30" E.  
(ii) To southward of a line joining following  
positions (a) 69° 56' 30" N., 29° 42' 00" E.  
(b) 69° 56' 30" N., 29° 52' 00" E.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1339C/31).

Navigational.Sunk Buoy.

My 1942/30. Sunk Buoy relit.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1555A/31) (Hydrographer,  
1735A/31).

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Information  
from  
GRAPH.

C.A.F.O. 2121/41 is the first official information received by me that German electric torpedoes have only a 5,400 yards range. This information vitally affects stationing of escorts. Request any further information of operational value obtained from GRAPH may be promulgated immediately.

(2) A point on which information is desired is depth to which she can dive.

(C.in C. W.A., 1632/31 to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

EAGLESCLIFFE  
HALL.

SABINE with EAGLESCLIFFE HALL in tow proceeding course 290 at 0916.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1017A/31).

EAGLESCLIFFE HALL left Cley in tow of SABINE at 0915 today. Expect reach Humber before dark.

Vessel undamaged but screw badly fouled with boom wires. Can be cleared without diver.

(Salvage Officer 1110/31)

ALDER.  
FLOTTA.

ALDER and FLOTTA are both lying in exposed position. Prospect of salvage dependent on weather. Crew of former being returned to Lowestoft, that of latter standing by ship.

(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1122/31)

RODNEY.

If RODNEY is to serve in the tropics immediate consideration must be given to the following ventilation and water-cooling requirements.

Details. See also my letter 1003/217 of 10/10 and S.O. Force H letter 901/343 of 15/10 and my signal 1946 (7B) 18/5.

(RODNEY, 1131A/31 to Admty).

LAGUNA BELLE.  
(Paddle  
Minesweeper).

SEA GIANT proceeded to assist LAGUNA BELLE broken down. Position 20G buoy.

(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1600/31)

ST. OLAVES  
(Tug)  
CARBINEER II  
(B.D.V.)  
damaged.

Whilst assisting B.D.V. CARBINEER II destroyer L.O.3 passed at speed creating a heavy swell.

ST. OLAVES sustained damage to several feet of starboard rubbing band. CARBINEER II

sustained damage to bridge supports.

(AQUAMARINE, 1800A/31).

/SPEEDY.....

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

SPEEDY

(Fleet  
Minesweeper).

Aground Laplootminskie. Request (group omitted) may be sent. (SPEEDY, 1900C/31)

DIMITRIOS  
INGLESSIS.  
NICOLAOS  
PIANGOS.

(Confirmed -  
above by  
B.R. 1337.)

Am attempting to save burning DIMITRIOS INGLESSIS\* in 280° Shipwash 3 miles. Request tug. (GUILLEMOT, 1919A/31)  
\* W.D. Note NICOLAOS PIANGOS cf. Enemy Air Activity. P. 751.

Your 1919. Tug proceeding from Harwich. (C. in C. Nore, 1951A/31 to GUILLEMOT).

Departure tug DIVERSION at 2055A.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 2059A/31)

Departure Tug STALWART.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2105A/31)

My 2023. Ship breaking in half. Abandoned attempt to salvage. Considered aground in 051° 58' 45" N., 001° 37' 30" E. Am returning to Harwich with survivors. 8 missing.

(GUILLEMOT, 2149A/31) *arrived - see p. 751*

PETER  
HENDRIKS.  
(A/S Trawler).

Unable to proceed with B.B.95. Steering gear jammed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2340A/31)

*see also next page.*

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.12 Z.  
C.T.6.

My 0646/30. Proposed embarkation programme now delayed by 48 hours. Detailed proposals are as follows. (D. of S.T., 0314A/31)

"Steward"

Ships for "Steward" to proceed independently to Swansea Bay and to be sailed thereafter at 0930/1. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1048A/31)

CAMELIA.

Not met. My P.C.S. are 053° (930') N., 026° 20' W., 200°, 12. All (?corvettes) in company. (CAMELIA, 1415A/31)

/Route.....

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Route  
Signals.

A.M.1954/7th July. Add to para 11. If a ship is fitted with an H/F Transmitter this fact is to be indicated by use of the following phrase:- "H/F Transmission". (D.T.D., 1459A/31)

E.N.1.

N.C.S.O. Methil's 1501/31. I gave permission in my 1558/26/3/41 for the E.C. Convoys to pass through the Pentland Firth during dark hours as their time of sailing was governed by the passage up the East Coast from Southend. Request time of sailing of EN.1 may be adjusted to pass Pentland Firth in daylight. (A.C.O.S., 1822/31)

EMPIRE  
METEOR.  
FOCH  
ROSE.  
BLISWORTH.

EMPIRE METEOR S.C.50 has been diverted to Loch Ewe for 500 tons bunkers and to sail with O.N.S. 33 for inclusion in P.Q. 4. If possible ship will be sent ahead of convoy to save daylight 3/11 FOCH ROSE and BLISWORTH will arrive from Oban 2/11 with bunkers. Please give movement every priority and berth ship if possible where coaling will be unaffected by weather. (D.T.D., 1849A/31 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea)

Escort  
proposals.

My 1358A/26, para 4. Under this first you would be required to provide local escort as follows. (2) P.Q. convoys - to vicinity of Jan Mayen. (3) Q.P. convoys - (a) if proceeding Hvalfjord, to relieve ocean escort in the vicinity of Jan Mayen. (b) If proceeding direct to U.K. to relieve destroyers ocean escort in the vicinity of Jan Mayen. Destroyers would then refuel Seydisfjord and return to relieve the trawlers with convoy. (4) Home Fleet charge document H Y now in transit refers. (5) Request your remarks. (C. in C. H.F., 1932A/31 to A.C.I.C.)

P.Q.3.

Scapa departures. C.S.10 in KENYA with INTREPID, BEDOUIN. E.T.A. Seydisfjord 1300/2. (A.C.O.S., 2307/31).

BB.95.

PETER HENDRIKS unable to proceed. Steering gear jammed. KINGSTON BERYL being instructed by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven to leave O.N. 32 to reinforce B.B.95. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2340A/31)

*See previous page*

754A

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1733R/31st October

Date 1/11/41

Recd. 0350

Re-circulation at request of N.I.D.

From B.A.D. Washington

NAVAL CYPHER X BY CABLE

Addressed S.O.(I) Freetown Repeated S.O.(I) Gibraltar Admiralty

IMMEDIATE

937 Casablanca 28th October A.1.

Date	Nationality	Name	Port of Departure	Destination
19th Oct.	French	ANDORRE	Dakar	Marseilles
22nd Oct.	French	CAP ST. MARTIN CAPITAINE SAINT MARTIN	Oran	Dakar
22nd Oct.	French	SCHIAFFINO FRERES	Oran	-
22nd Oct.	French	ILE ROUSSE	Oran	-
22nd Oct.	Moroccan	OUED TIFLET	Oran	-
22nd Oct.	Spanish	BESCHI	No Trace	-
22nd Oct.	Spanish	SOTON	No Trace Malaga	-
22nd Oct.	Spanish	TOM	Valencia	Bilbao
22nd Oct.	Portugese	ST. EIRENA	Gibraltar	Lisbon
23rd Oct.	French	<del>LE</del> BOURGES	Dakar	Bordeaux
23rd Oct.	French	CAPITAINE LE DROBAT DIABAT	Oran	Dakar
23rd Oct.	French	CEVENNES	Oran	Dakar
23rd Oct.	Portugese	AMPHRITITE ? ANFITRITE 1°	Gibraltar	Setubal



Date	Nationality	Name	Port of Departure	Destination
24th Oct.	French	BELLE ISLE	Dakar	Marseilles
24th Oct.	French	CONDE	Dakar	Marseilles
24th Oct.	French	<del>LE</del> MONTAIGNE	Marseilles	Dakar
24th Oct.	French	PROVIDENCE	Marseilles	Dakar
24th Oct.	Spanish <i>Portuguese</i>	COSTEIRO	-	-
25th Oct.	French	FAZON	Marseilles	Dakar
25th Oct.	French	ARCHAMBAUT <i>No trace</i>	Oran	Dakar
27th Oct.	French	OREGON	Dakar	Marseilles
27th Oct.	French	WYOMING	Fort De France	-
29th Oct.	French	SAGITTAIRE	-	Marseilles

CAP ST. MARTIN, CURE TIFLET, CAPITINE LE PROBAT, CEVENNES, LE MONTAIGNE, PROVIDENCE, WYOMING carried Inter All. following cargoes respectively (1) 2000 tons of coal (2) cases containing detonators for Naval mines (3) 3000 tons of coal (4) boats for Pontoon bridges and 2860 tons of coal taking on latter at Casablanca (5) 1500 tons of cement 15 tons steam tractors 85 tons automobile parts some military trucks and three tanks (6) electrical equipment 500 sailors 802 passengers and 800 Tirailleurs Senegalais (7) 212 passengers.

1733R/31

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

War Diary.31.10.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Corvettes.  
Tanker  
Escorts.

Since allocation of Corvettes to Gibraltar commitments for Tanker escort have arisen. Trawlers until fitted with better W/T, vide my 2247A/25/9 are unsuitable for this type of escort. (ii) With existing number of Corvettes it is not always possible to arrange for them to escort tankers, therefore request allocation to North Atlantic command of one additional Corvette group. (F.O.C.N.A. 0952A/31 to Admty.)

SURVILLE.  
(French)

My 1758/28. SURVILLE finished loading. Due to sail 1300/31. (N.A. Lisbon 1019/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Fuelling,  
Azores.

Report whether FURY, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, have fuelled at Azores. If so, when.  
-(C. in C. W.A. 1136A/31 to Capt. D. Greenock.)  
Your 1136A/31/10. None of these ships have fuelled at Azores. (FORESIGHT, 1645A/31.)

BARON  
NEWLANDS.  
(Bombed 29/10)

Following has been read. Your <sup>N.A.W.D.</sup> 2322/30. Impossible BARON NEWLANDS sail today, will sail 1300/1, will await urgent answer. 4-engined bomber last night cruised round ship between 2100 and 2300 hours. (Gibraltar, 1200/31 to Admty.)

Vichy Ships,  
Policy.

Your submission X.222/345 dated 25/8. Reply to your B. is still under consideration.

2. Your A. Submarines rules are as stated by you with the addition of Admty. 1359/11/3.
3. Your C. Mediterranean sink at sight zones. Ref. Admty. 0047/17/6. Owing to possibility of Vichy tankers being escorted by Vichy warships to the Aegean, Vichy warships should still be sunk if encountered anywhere within the sink at sight zones north and east of a line drawn from a point 30 miles 180° from Cape Spartivento in Sardinia to Marsala in Sicily and thence to the Libyan Tunis boundary.
4. Ref. Admty. 2021/20/2 and 1923/22/4. Within the Mediterranean merchant ships identified as enemy may be sunk at sight within French Territorial waters.
5. C. in C. Med. and V.A. Malta are being informed of paras. 3 and 4 above by separate signal.
6. Ref. your 2 (a), revised code of General Instructions for treatment of Vichy warships and merchant ships is being taken in hand and will be promulgated to submarines, destroyers cruisers and above.

(Head of M. Approved First Lord, 1548A/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

NINA.

Lisbon report states Portuguese schooner NINA has been intercepted by a British ship and escorted to Gibraltar for inspection, alleged to have been transporting goods to Occupied France. (D.S. 788.)

Rescue Tug,  
Azores.

Request you will now reply to Admty. 1237A/22. (Re seagoing rescue tug to be stationed at Azores or Funchal). (Head of M. 1950A/31 to N.A. Lisbon. Reply: 1051/1.

South Atlantic.

C.F.3.  
C.M.21.

Your 1707/28. Proposals re composition and sailing dates. (D.S.T., 0313A/31 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

D. of S.T. 0313/31. As N.L.O. Durban considers it not merely desirable but essential to sail C.F.3 before arrival of W.S.12 I intend sailing VOLENDAM alone escorted by ALCANTARA. Further arrangements will be made for second part of convoy when extent of repairs required by NEA HELLAS is known.

(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1317B/31 to C. in C. S.A.) C.F.3, ALCANTARA arrived. (2) ALCANTARA escorting first part Convoy C.F.3, i.e., S.S. VOLENDAM, sailed. E.T.A. Outer End Simonstown searched Channel 0400Z/3. S. of A. 13 knots, routed R.2 to Simonstown.

(N.L.O. Durban 1327Z/31 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.) Convoy C.F.3 comprised of VOLENDAM only sailed for Takoradi 31/10. (Personnel embarked). Requirements at Freetown. E.T.A. 1400Z/11.

(S.S.T.O. Durban 1643B/31 to S.S.T.O. Takoradi.) Your 1317B/31. In order not to delay HAWKINS you should sail her with VOLENDAM for Takoradi. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be available for remainder of C.F.3. (C. in C. S.A. 1715N/31 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

/Troop ...

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War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Troop  
Transports.

Your 0031/28. Free French Authorities in London advise that 130 Fusiliers Marins from Pointe Noire are same as 128 from Duala. Requirement in my 2203/9 is therefore cancelled by Duala's 1114/22. 2. Request anticipated date of arrival of CHANTILLY at Durban. (D.S.T. 0319A/31 to C. in C. S.A.)

Task Group  
3.6.

Amend A.T.2127A/30. Movements of Group 3.6 (OMAHA, SOMERS). Left Pernambuco 29/10 to arrive in 15° N. 26° W. on 3/11 thence through position Equator, 43° W. to Trinidad arriving 11/11. (D.O.D.(F) 0855A/31, 1243A/31 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.) 0855/31 and 1243/31 cancelled see 1723/2.

Suspicious  
Searchlight.

B/S NARINGA reports sighting between 0010 and 0040 G.M.T./29 powerful vertical and stationary searchlight beam, estimated to be in 032.25 S., 009.22 E. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1427B/31 to Admty. etc.)

Wreckage,  
Pernambuco.

My 1645/30. A house flag of American SCANTIC lines has been washed ashore at Pernambuco and a fourth raft of similar type has come ashore Pedras Point, south Cabedelo. (Consul, Pernambuco, 2045Z/31.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units.  
THRASHER.

2 Merchant ships, one destroyer, 036° 10' 019° 50', course 180°, 8 knots at 1010A/31. (Capt. S.10, 1051A/31 to THRASHER.) Southbound convoy 33° 08' 19° 38' at 0030B/1. (Capt. S.1. 2301Z/31 to THRASHER.) 1 destroyer, 2 merchant ships in 033° 18' N. 19° 34' E. at 2220A/31 presumed southbound. (Capt. S.10, 2321/31 to THRASHER.)

UNIQUE.

UNIQUE leaves 035° 51' 015° 15' about 2100B/1 direct to arrive 032° 45' 019° 12' at 0001B/5 thence to patrol off Benghazi. (Capt. S. 10, 1123A/31 to Capt. S.1.)

/Vichy ...

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War Diary.31.10.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Vichy  
Ships,  
Policy.

Mediterranean Sink at Sight Zones. Ref. Admty. 0047/17/6. Owing to possibility of Vichy tankers being escorted by Vichy warships to the Aegean, Vichy warships should still be sunk if encountered anywhere within the sink at sight zones north and east of a line drawn from a point 30 miles 180° from Cape Spartivento in Sardinia to Marsala in Sicily and thence to the Libyan Tunis boundary.

2. Ref. Admty. 2021/20/2 and 1923/22/4. Within the Mediterranean merchant ships identified as enemy may be sunk at sight within French Territorial waters.

3. F.O.C.N.A. and S.O. Force (H) have been informed of the above by separate signal. (Head of M. Approved First Lord, 1546A/31 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)

Crimea.

Deep penetration by enemy mechanised columns. Present objectives Evpatoria Bave (corrupt group) then Simferopol. Consider airborne attack probable. Attack from Genichest repulsed. Situation very serious. Russian troops fighting rearguard action from Ishun area. Chanak quite. (quiet?) (N.L.O. Black Sea 1721C/31 to Admty.)

EMPIRE  
GUILLEMOT.  
(sunk 24/10.)

Italian news bulletin 30/10 indicates that EMPIRE GUILLEMOT was sunk by Italian Torpedo aircraft on 24/10 and that 20 survivors have been picked up off Algiers. (V.A. Malta, 1748A/31 to Admty.)

Malta  
Fuel Supply.

I am very concerned about Malta's oil fuel supply. Their Lordships will remember negotiations were started in October/40 (See Admty. 2017/14/10/40) and were apparently still in progress in April/41 (See Admty 1955/29/4) to obtain fast oilers from U.S. for this station. Is there hope of these U.S. Ships? BRECONSHIRE is at present our only string and carries comparatively little oil. Loan need only be temporary to rectify present situation. Meanwhile am taking steps to organize passage of fastest tanker available from Eastern Mediterranean to Malta as soon as situation admits. (C. in C. Med. 1921B/31 to Admty.)

/Warships ...

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Warships  
for Turkey.

Your 1843/28, following for information of Adm. Kelly - (i) We are arranging to forward our agreement to proposals contained in Ambassador Angora's 2468 of 20/10 subject to F.O. agreement. (ii) The types of destroyers and submarines being delivered in a year's time are such that no advantage to the Turks or ourselves will arise from giving them new ships of different design to those built for them. (Head of M. Approved by 1st Lord, 2006A/31 to N.A. Angora.)

Mail  
Stoppage,  
Turkey.

Dutch Minister Ankara states he has received no letters or newspapers from Holland during the last (?10) days. 2. On previous occasions a stoppage of Mail has always preceded some important German move. (M.A. Ankara, 2150/31 to W.O.)

Tobruk  
bombed.

During night of 30-31/10, enemy aircraft dropped 2 large bombs near the harbour at Tobruk and dive-bombed a gap in a minefield. No damage is reported. (D.S. 789 2/11.)

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.11X.

Following is a repetition of my 1226/30. W.S. 11 X arrived. (N.C.S.O.Colombo 1830Z/31 to Adty.).

China.

Japanese  
ban on  
ships W/T.

Masters of British owned "Alexander" ships chartered to Japanese have reported use of private short wave wireless receiving sets has been prohibited by Japanese Harbour authorities when at sea. Sets are permanently sealed and masters are threatened with arrest if seals found broken on return to Harbour. Masters suggest this may be condition of Japanese Coastal Trade Charter party. I am not able to verify this suggestion but consider in present circumstances it is very momentous that masters of these ships should be out of touch with orders which may be issued to (?British ships) and remain in hands of their Japanese wireless operators. Owners are Wheelock & Co., Shanghai. (N.A. Tokyo 1543/31, to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

U.S.Target  
facilities  
WARSPITE.

Personal for Adm. Little from 1st S.L. Your 1119/26. Please inform C.N.O. that I am most grateful for his offer of target facilities. Ships returning to their Stations from Pacific coast ports are likely to present us with our chief difficulties.

/2.....

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Target facilities WARSPITE.  
-Contd.

2. In this respect I hope it will be possible to provide assistance to WARSPITE so that she may get back to her war Station as rapidly as possible after her thorough and speedy refit.  
3. A separate signal will follow directing WARSPITE to forward proposals through B.A.R.M. (1st S.L. 1021A/31 to B.A.D.).

U.S. Ships and D/G.

Various U.S. owned ships under neutral flag loading with supplies for Archangel have not been degaussed. Maritime Commission are very anxious to avoid delay involved in degaussing and are prepared to let ships sail, if this would not handicap their inclusion in British convoys and entry into Iceland and Archangel. Intend to advise that all ships should be degaussed, particularly in view of possibility of diversion to British ports, whether on account of damage or other reasons. Request immediate advice. (B.A.D. 1327R/31 to Admty.). Reply 1717/1.

NIAGARA.

Your 1548A/29 confirmed.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1454Z/31 to Adty.).

French convoy Dakar.

Dakar 28/10 A.1. <sup>FOMALHAUT</sup>~~FORERHUP~~ and ERIDAN escorted by 2 S/MS and a sloop left 26/10 for Madagascar. (B.A.D. 1521R/31 to S.O.I's Freetown, Capetown etc.).

Trinidad Anchorage.

Navy Dept. request decision on my 1953R/30/9 as soon as possible, as furtherance of large scale construction project is being held in abeyance. (B.A.D. 1541R/31 to Adty.).

Suspicious tanker.

? U.S.A.  
~~British~~ ship HARMONY now at Boston reports sighting 21/10 in 44.24 N 49.42 W 3,000 ton tanker stopped with Portuguese colours painted aft and "SANTA PRINCESSA - Portugal", amidships. Description. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1612Z/31 to Adty.).

/Transport.....



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War Diary.31.10.1941.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. -Contd.Transport  
of aircraft.

Cancel my 1827/30/1/41 and substitute.  
Any type of Aircraft embarked with naked fuselage that is unboxed can be off loaded only at Liverpool or Clyde or Belfast. Draught on arrival Belfast must not exceed 28' 6". Ships carrying unboxed aircraft must therefore be sailed for Liverpool or Clyde or Belfast subject to draught irrespective of destination declared or sailing destination received from Admiralty. Ships carrying boxed aircraft if bound for East Coast U.K. must be sailed for Clyde. Ships carrying boxed aircraft if bound for West Coast U.K. may be sailed direct to destination. Ships whose destinations are changed in accordance with above procedure are to be indicated in sailing telegram by the notation Supercargo.  
(D.T.D. 1722A/31 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.) *Cancelled,  
See 1806 A/2/4/1942.*

PARTHIAN.

When ready for sea B.A.R.M. is requested to arrange for sailing of PARTHIAN to New London to carry out full work-up in accordance with his 0934R/30/9.  
(2) On completion of working up PARTHIAN should be sailed to Gibraltar direct.  
(3) On sailing PARTHIAN is to be fully manned and ammunitioned and ready for service.  
(4) On arrival at Gibraltar PARTHIAN is to be sailed to rejoin 1st S/M.Flot.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1734A/31 to B.A.R.M. etc.).

T.C. 14A.

Convoy T.C. 14A consisting of S.S. PASTEUR carrying Military Personnel and EMPIRE CONDOR and EMPIRE CURLEW carrying stores will be ready to leave Halifax N.S. for U.K. on 4/11. Escort throughout will be provided by PIORUN and GARLAND. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail ships when ready to pass through position "A" in 40° 00' N 55° 00' W. signalling E.T.A. at this point. Admty. will adjust position "A" as necessary and issue onward route to U.K. Destinations are PASTEUR to Clyde. EMPIRE CONDOR and EMPIRE CURLEW to Liverpool.  
(D.C.D.(H) 1752A/31 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa etc.).

/Tugs.....

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

Tugs for  
PETUNIA.

Returned from special group Tugs JAMES E. HUGHES and BARWICK. Heavy weather. Consider passage at a later date unlikely. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1848Z/31 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1852Z/31 to Admty.).

U.S.N.  
communications.

My 1711/20. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa has been supplied with grid charts and Navy Dept. are now ready to retransmit groups to Ottawa as soon as they commence to be cyphered in Type X. (B.A.D. 1855R/31 to Admty.).

Ex. U.S.  
Submarines.

Your 1151A/11. Intended date for taking over the two ex. American submarines is 4/11. Submarines are expected to be ready to sail from New London by 11/11. (B.A.D. 1905R/31 to Admty.).

T.C. 15.  
C.T. 6.

Arrangements are being made for Convoy T.C. 15 composed of the ships of C.T. 5 to leave Halifax for U.K. with Canadian troops on 13/11. (2) Proposed. (a) U.S. should provide escort for T.C. 15 from Halifax to M.O.M.P and (b) Convoy C.T. 6 composed of two 14-knot ships carrying R.A.F. to Halifax should be sailed from U.K. as requisite to exchange escorts at M.O.M.P. with U.S. escort of T.C. 15. (3) Requested that you will obtain confirmation that these arrangements are suitable to Opnav. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1943A/31 to B.A.D.). Confirmed. (B.A.D. 1531/2.).

CLAESJE.

Your 1730Q/23 H.M.N.S. CLAESJE sailed for Curacao via Norfolk (Virg). E.T.A. Norfolk 0800/5. E.T.A. Curacao A.M./15. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 2011Z/31 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Destroyers.

A. Valuable service of R.A.N. destroyers in Mediterranean much appreciated. Now that all four have been withdrawn for refitting, question of their future disposition arises.

B. Capital ship reinforcements are on their way to Eastern Theatre and the need for destroyers to enable them to operate freely in waters where they may be attacked by Japanese S/MS is very great. We are unable to spare sufficient from home waters and therefore propose, subject to concurrence of Australian Gov. that these four ships should join the China Station as they complete.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1639A/31 to A.C.N.B.).

LE TRIOMPHANT. Your 0500Z/30 request you will proceed direct to Wellington. Docking can be arranged at Sydney after 6/11. Signal E.T.A. at Sydney. (N.Z.N.B. 0925M/31 to LE TRIOMPHANT.).

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31.10.1941.  
Friday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.U.S.S.  
REUBEN  
JAMES  
sunk.

Task Unit 4.1.3. escorting HX.156 attacked by submarine in 51-59 N., 27-05 W., at 0540Z/31. (Opanav, 0855Z/31, to Action N.S.H.Q, Ottawa, and Admty.)  
My 0855/31. U.S.S. REUBEN JAMES torpedoed and sunk.  
(Opanav, 1512/31, to Admty.)

Convoy  
O.S.10.

*Dutch DENNE Kom. see 7/11.*  
Attacked by one or more submarines, one ship of convoy sunk. My position 050° 52' N., 024° 06' W.  
(FREESIA, 2130Z/31 to C. in C.W.A.)  
Convoy O.S.10. Position about 560 miles W. of Fastnet. (D.S.788/1/11.)

Submarines Reported.

R.R. Possible enemy submarine in 54.22 N., 21.20 W. R.66.  
(A/C using Call Sign ZB9Y, 0915/31 to H.Q.15 Group.)

H.X.156.

H.X.156. D/F bearings indicate convoy has been reported by U-boat since 0500. Corvettes should carry out sweep all round convoy as necessary.  
(C. in C.W.A., 1135A/31 to U.S.C.N.O., BEGONIA LARKSPUR, EGLANTINE, MONTBRETIA.)

0143Z.  
0154Z.

Further consideration of D/F bearings received during last night suggests probability that one or more U-boats are to S.E. of Newfoundland. Transmissions on 8365 kc/s at 0143Z/31 and 0154Z/31 refer.  
(D.D.I.C. 1220A/31, to Opanav.)

Estimated U-boat dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1458A/31, 1516A/31, U.S.C.N.O., 2155/31.)

1412 G.M.T.

D/F bearings at 1412 G.M.T. indicate that an Italian U-boat may be in your vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C. 1624A/31 to Escort H.G.75.)

1527 G.M.T.

D/F Bearings of several transmissions up to and including 1527 G.M.T. indicate that O.N.28 is being shadowed by more than one U/Boat.  
(D.D.I.C. 1804A/31 to Opanav etc.)

/1300Z/31.....

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War Diary.31.10.1941.  
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. Contd.

1300Z/31.

Icelandic fishing boat states one of crew sighted submarine about 10 miles off Langaness at 1300Z/31 (066° 23' N., 014° 30' W.) Grade E.O.  
(A.C.I.C., 2220Z/31, to A.I.G.46.)

2207 G.C.T.

R.D.F. fix on submarine transmission at 41.20N., 59.40 W., at 2207 G.C.T.  
(Opnav, 2359Z/31, to Admty.)

Submarines Attacked.By A/C.

Am over enemy submarine in 48.05N., 10.58 W., Sub. on surface course 270° speed 6 knots.

(A/C using call sign H.K.6.D, 1228/31 to 19 Group.) (F.O.S., 1304A/31 to P.36.)

Have attacked enemy Submarine with bombs (dive) estimate one hit.

(A/C H.K.6.D, 1240/31.) Hudson A/C D/53.  
(D.S.788.)

Attack enemy submarine reported by aircraft in 48° 05' N., 10° 58' W., course 270° 6 knots.

At 1228.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1256/31, to KUJAWIAK, ATHERSTONE.)

My 1256. U-boat was attacked by aircraft, one hit. One Catalina and one Whitley coming to co-operate.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1432/31 to ATHERSTONE, KUJAWIAK.)

Admiralty's 1414. ("Blue" warning sent by D.S.O.) You were reported by enemy aircraft at 1312.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1440/31, to KUJAWIAK, ATHERSTONE.)

My 1304. 2 destroyers have been sent to attack enemy submarine.

(F.O.S., 1524?/31 to P.36.)

If not in contact abandon hunt in time to pass through 180° Bishop Rock 10 at 0800/1. Thence ATHERSTONE to Plymouth, KUJAWIAK to Milford Haven.

(2) Fighter protection arranged from 0800/1 codeword KUJAWIAK, "Obstacle", ATHERSTONE, "Obstacle 1".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1652/31, to ATHERSTONE, KUJAWIAK.)

D.O.R. 1/11 has following version of this hunt: an aircraft sighted a U-boat 300' W., of Brest Peninsula and dropped 3 depth charges while the conning tower was still visible. This was followed by an attack with A/S bombs and a direct hit on the bows was claimed. Several aircraft were then diverted to the position from other tasks, but the U-boat was not sighted again.

/By CAMELIA.....

767

War Diary.

31.10.1941.  
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. Contd.

By L  
CAMELIA.

Chasing 2 enemy submarines on the surface bearing 240° 9 miles, engaging with gunfire, my position 053° 21' N., 026° 24' W.

(CAMELIA, 1545/31 to C. in C.W.A.)

(D.D.I.C. 1855Z/31 to Opnav.)

Met. P.C. and S., 053° 18' N., 026° 15' W., 020° 9 knots, altering to (? 90°) at 1930 then 045° at 0300 and 010° at dawn. Both S/Ms escaped on surface at high speed.

(CAMELIA, 1730A/31 to C. in C.W.A.)