

War Diary.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Weather.

A gale is blowing, causing dislocation of shipping. Peterhead Harbour is only open for use in emergency.

Q.P.
Convoys.

C. in C. H.F. proposes that with the long hours of darkness and reduced air activity from Norway the Q.P. convoys should disperse after reaching longitude 15° E. and should return independently unless it is necessary for them to proceed through Denmark Strait or to reassemble for onward routing, in which case they should be routed to Iceland (C). Fighter protection will be provided near the Faroes.

Casualties.

CHELSEA reported at 0500A having been in collision with one of her convoy (O.N.36) and lost 6 ft. of stern in 59.00 N., 08.18 W. She was returning to Liverpool and did not need assistance.

L.L. trawler PRESIDENT BRIAND went ashore at 1045 about a mile west of Shoreham and had to be abandoned.

British Air Operations.

Patrols were flown today north-east and south-west of Iceland (C) to intercept any enemy units which might be breaking out into the Atlantic north-about.

8 A/C of Bomber Command attacked the Germania Werke, Kiel last night, 23 attacked the docks at Emden and 3 those at Boulogne.

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Operations.

Trawler FERNBANK A.910 was bombed and sunk at 1400 today, 12 miles N.W. of Myggenaes.

Examination vessel MINNA was damaged by near miss at 1750 today in 56° 4' 36" N. 2° 51' 12" W. and was towed to Leith.

Convoy F.S648 was attacked at 1644 in 53° 48' N. 0° 33' E. At 1710 S.S. ROBERT W. POMEROY in this convoy was slightly damaged by near miss near 62 B Buoy.

Mining.

5 aircraft laid mines in the Elbe estuary last night.

North Atlantic.

NELSON etc:

"Chieftain".

Op: "Chieftain."

NELSON sailed from Gibraltar tonight for the U.K. with HERMIONE, ARGUS and 4 destroyers; the ships of Force H. (~~except destroyers~~) (2 up 409) will part company at 1845A/17 to return to Gibraltar (see also 17/11). In order to deceive the Italians 6 merchant ships were escorted out of Gibraltar eastward just before dark, and broke off at intervals after dark and returned to Gibraltar independently, whilst the escorting vessels (DEPTFORD, WILD SWAN and 5 corvettes) carried out an A/S sweep before returning. ARGUS is to join Force H. temporarily. ATHENE is to remain at Gibraltar pending decision as to disposal of her remaining Hurricanes.

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.JULES VERNE.

There have been various reports lately that the French S/M depot ship JULES VERNE at Dakar proceeds to sea from time to time to refuel U-boats. (But see *B.A.D. Washington 1805 R/24 to CinCSA*)

Mediterranean.Operation
B.S.

An important southbound convoy was sighted at 1600B today off Brindisi and is expected to pass westward of Cephalonia and Zante during daylight hours tomorrow. A concerted operation by SOKOL, URGE, UPRIGHT and THUNDERBOLT in the Ionian Sea has been arranged, whilst UTMOST, P.34, PERSEUS and UNBEATEN are to take up positions nearer Tripoli. URSULA and Greek S/M GLAUCOS are also to try to intercept.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

R.A.F. continued last night and today their attacks on Italian targets.

China.CENTURION.

The disguise of the dummy battleship CENTURION is understood to have been penetrated in the Red Sea. S.O. Force G. proposes that the ship should not be used until after the end of January when 5 or 6 genuine capital ships should have been identified by the Japanese in Eastern waters.

Hong Kong.

Two battalions of Canadian troops were landed at Hong Kong today. (Despatch of Major-General C.M. Malby - London Gazette 29.1.1948)

U-Boat Campaign.U.433 Sunk.
(Confirmed by
Cmd:643 of 6/46.)

MARIGOLD sank a U-boat (~~U.433~~) (U.433) late tonight in 36° 13' N. 4° 42' W. and picked up 34 German survivors.

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.A/C reports
of Enemy
M/V's.

Following received from C.C.N.F. begins. 1415/16 from A/C Duty L. Request such reports may be repeated on Broadcast H.D. 1644Z/16 Ends. (D.C. 2210A/16 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Co-operation with Russia.Minesweepers
in North
Russia.

Your 2130C/15. Minesweepers can be based in Kola Inlet when required. After fuelling one vessel will leave for Polyarno (? remainder) at anchorages between Pattan and Mishukov Point. Admiralty pass to S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla and C. in C. H.F. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1314C/16 to S.O. 1st M/S F.)

Movements.HAZARD.
HEBE.

Sailed HAZARD and HEBE in accordance with my 1504A/15. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0344A/16).

RUBIS.
(Operation
F.D.35).

Intend to sail RUBIS escorted by LOCH MONTEITH passing Bell Rock 1800A/18 Northabout and through Minches for position 270° Wolf Rock 3 miles, E.T.A. 1800A/22.
(2) Thence RUBIS unescorted dive by day through 048° N. 6° W. to carry out operation F.D.35.
(4) On completion of operation F.D. 35 RUBIS is to return through 048° 06' N. 006° 32' W. to R/V with LOCH MONTEITH at 0930A in 180° The Lizard 3.5 miles for escort into Falmouth. LOCH MONTEITH will be at R/V between 0930A and 1530A on 1st December and subsequent days until RUBIS is met.
(7) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange for fighter protection for passage from Dundee to Wolf Rock. (Capt. S.9. 1105A/16).

CASTLETON.

CASTLETON proceed to Greenock with S.D.16 where spare armature will be fitted. My 1539/14 ^{N.T. N.W. D} refers. (R.A.M. 1129/16 to CASTLETON).

/Floating.....

War Diary.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

Floating
Crane.

A.M. 0031A/14 and 2237A/11/10. Expect floating crane to be ready for sea P.M./17th. Intend to sail 1130/18 to Yarmouth I.O.W. and from Needles 0900/19 for Clyde in tow of tugs. EMPIRE HENCHMAN and DANUBE VZ escorted by BERKELEY and A.S. Trawlers.

Tow will be swept on Q.Z.S. 295 by L.L. Sweepers as far as 20 fm. line C. in C. Plymouth is requested to relieve Portsmouth escort before dark on 20/11 when it is anticipated tow will be between Eddystone and Lizard. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1233A/16).

VENOMOUS.

Your 1143A/16. Approved to delay sailing VENOMOUS and MASTADONTE until weather is more settled. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1314A/16 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

K.22.

Your 1545A/11 and my 1710C/14. K.22 clear area. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1316C/16).

KENYA.

Arrangements have been made for fuelling KENYA inside or outside Bar according to ice and weather.

(2) No arrangements made for fuelling escorts in view of M.S. one's 2358C/15.

(3) Sea Pilot for Murmansk will board you on arrival. Admiralty pass to 10th C.S. and 1st M/S F. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1634C/16 to 10th C.S.)

Personnel
for Fleet.

Your 0927Z/13 and 1805Z/14. Eight Officers and about 150 Ratings are awaiting passage to Fleet. Can arrangements be made for the Cruiser to escort P.Q.5 to proceed from Scapa to Hvalfjord (A.C.O.S. 1826A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

0.9.
ST. OLAVES.

Submarine 0.9. escorted by Torpedo Boat Z.5. leave Clyde 2200A/16 bound for Tobermory, 9 knots through North Channel, Sounds of Islay and Mull, and may be met during night. (C. in C. W.A. 1846A/16 to ST. OLAVES).

My 1151A/13. Sailed Z.5 and 0.9. one hour early. E.T.A. not affected. (Capt. S.7. 2101A/16).

/RESOLUTION.....

400

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.RESOLUTION.

A.M. 1645/8 and C. in C. Plymouth's 1756/13.
When ready for sea C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail RESOLUTION for Scapa to work up under C. in C. H.F. who is requested to report when ship is ready for service.

2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to provide escort of two destroyers to Scapa. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to lend one destroyer to Plymouth during this period. (A.C.N.S. H. 1917A/16).

RAMILLIES.
NELSON.

A.M. 1645A/8 and F.O.C.N.A's 1038A/16.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail RAMILLIES from Liverpool as requisite to R/V with NELSON for onward passage in company to Pentland Firth.

2. On arrival in Pentland Firth RAMILLIES is to proceed to Scapa and NELSON to Rosyth.

3. R.A.D. H.F. is requested to provide escorts to meet NELSON and RAMILLIES north of Ireland (R) as arranged by C. in C. W.A.

4. On relief by H.F. destroyers, destroyers of Force H are to proceed to Londonderry for fuel and to await further orders.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2006A/16).

Operations.M.G.B.
Engagement
off Blanc
Nez.
M.G.B's
312 and
314
damaged.

From 1855 to 2150 last night R.D.F. plotted several small surface craft from a position northward of Boulogne to the vicinity of Gravelines.

M.G.B's 316-312-314 and 317 were sent to intercept, contact being made off Blanc Nez at 2045.

Enemy are reported as 6 or 7 E/R boats and at least one vessel possibly trawler or coaster type.

A short sharp engagement followed during which casualties and damage were inflicted and received.

Enemy shore defences were also in action. Our casualties M.G.B. 312, one rating killed, one Officer and three ratings wounded. Considerable damage to M.G.B. 312 and slight damage to 314.

M.G.B. 312 returned to harbour at 2220 and remainder at 1100 this morning after searching for A/C casualty resulting from air attack on enemy vessels at 2240.
(V.A. Dover 1307/16).

/TIGRIS.....

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.TIGRIS
Patrol.

A. When ready about 19/11 TIGRIS is to be sailed for a patrol in zone C.1 on a line about 10 to 15 miles off the coast. Object to attack enemy cruisers and above. Subsidiary object to attack and report northbound merchant vessels if in company with cruisers and above. (F.O.S. 1511A/16).

British Air Activity.Patrols.

"Polar" in operation from 0800. (A.C.I.C. 0941N/16).
"Trost" is required today. Object location of enemy supply ship or merchant raider outward bound. (A.C.N.S. H. 1153A/16).
My 0941N/16. Nil report. (A.C.I.C. 1754N/16)
"Frice" to be flown from 1200 to dusk tomorrow. Reply immediately if unable to comply. (H.Q.C.C. 1950/16 to R.A.F. Iceland).
A.M. 1016A/15. "Frice" is required again tomorrow. (A.C.N.S. H. 2005A/16).

Bombing
operations.

From day 10/11 to day 15/11 inclusive, no operations took place owing to unfavourable weather. On Night 15/16 eight A/C bombed Kiel, 25 attacked Emden, and 5 bombed Boulogne. (H.Q.B.C. 1500/16).

Enemy Air Activity.CORHAMPTON
(Bombed
15/11)

Efforts to take CORHAMPTON in tow have proved unsuccessful. SCOTSMAN arrived and reports she cannot take her in tow until daylight. CORHAMPTON's cable has slipped and now adrift and reabandoned. Intend standing by and escorting when in tow. (LOWESTOFT 0244A/16). CORHAMPTON sank in approx. 53° 53' 30" N. 0° 26' E. (approx. 013° one mile from 62.E buoy), at 0855 Master and entire crew of 25 (including 4 D.E.M.S.) landed Grimsby by LOWESTOFT. No casualties. (LOWESTOFT 0925A/16, 0959A/16, 1252A/16, Base Grimsby, 1525A/16, F.O. Humber 1543A/16).

Convoy F.S648
attacked.

Enemy aircraft attacking convoy "Plumb" in 53° 48' N. 0° 33' E. (WHADDON 1644/16).

Burnham
attacked.

Report on last night's damage as follows. Casualties 2, very slight. Damage nil. (R.N.O. Burnham 1158/16)

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.S.N.25 C.Intend to carry out as follows. Details.
(R.A.M. 1046/16) See Lion Copy.Clearances
required.Details. Request you give orders to 13th M/S F.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1552A/16 to C. in C. Nore) See
Lion Copy.Thames
Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated as follows at 1855/15. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1603/16). There was considerable enemy air activity over the Barrow Deep and Inner Estuary between 1850 and 2010 on night 15/16. Mines are suspected as reported in extended defences Officers 0935 in Boom Area and Approach Channels, and also in Southern end Black Deep and near S.W. Gunfleet Buoy. One A/C dropped a mine which exploded on Northern end of East Barrow Sand. At about 1950 a heavy explosion occurred in the air over Shoeburyness, and at 1926 there was an explosion in the area of the Alexandria Channel. Between 1903 and 1937 four explosions occurred in Shoeburyness area which appeared to be bombs with a delay action of one minute. Reports show possibility of No. 5 Barrow "J" and Letchworth wreck buoys being used as Navigational aids to Aircraft. There were suggestive R.D.F. Plots in South Edinburgh and Knob Channels. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1724/16).

Enemy Intelligence.Norwegian
Coastal
Shipping.

It has been reported, graded B.2., that vessels are due to complete loading as follows prior to sailing Southward from Norwegian ports. Details. (D.D.I.C. 1201A/16).

M/V's
off
Faroes.

A/C on Patrol "Frice" reported a M/V in 62° 4' N. 8° 10' W. at 1440/15 and another M/V fully illuminated in (62° 28' N. 8° 22' W.) at 1945/15. The former remains⁽⁶⁾ unidentified. The latter was probably DANAHOLM which cleared Skopen Fjord 1245/15. (A.C.O.S. 1250A/16). One enemy M/V not exceeding 10,000 tons bearing 080° 6 miles, course 210°, position 62° 32' N. 9° 17' W. based on fix obtained within half hour of 0700. (A/C Duty L. 210 Sqdn. 1259Z/16 to 15 Group H.Q.) *x amended P.403*

/One.....

MOST SECRET

402 A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1046/16th Nov. IN

From: R.A.(M).

Date 16.11.41.

Recd: 1825

Naval Cypher (A1) by T/P

Addressed: Admiralty C. in C. Rosyth Group 18 repeated
A.C.O.S., C. in C. Western Approaches.
C. in C. Home Fleet., A.C.I.C., N.O.I.C.
Stornoway F.O.(S) H.M.S. MENESTHEUS
H.M.S. NEWARK Air Ministry H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.,

IMPORTANT.

Intend to carry out operation S N 25 C as follows (a) deep mine field
(d) H.M.S. MENESTHEUS, H.M.S. NEWARK
(e) air A/S escort is requested from daylight Nov. 19 until about 1200A when southward of Butt of Lewis
(f) from 058 degs 53' 24" North 006 degs 53' 24" West through 058 degs 57' 54" 006 degs 46' 00" to 059 degs 03' 06" 006 degs 54' 12"
(g) 2200 Nov. 18
(j) through 058 degs 19' North 005 degs 46' West and thence direct
(k) 13 knots
(i) 06 40 November 19
(n) through 180 degs Sulisker 4 miles and thence direct
(o) and (p) port Z A 1800 November 19
(q) None
(w) 12.6 miles 10 knots
(x) Mark 19/19 set to 80 120 and 160 ft in rotation
(y) 506 units. Combine depth to form A standard line
(z) as for single line ships in area B.

1046/16

Advance Copy sent D.C., D.O.D.(H) D.D.O.D.(M)

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

MOST SECRET

1552A/16th November.

TO: C. in C. No. 951.

Repeated:

~~F.O.I.C. No. 111~~

~~Date: 16.11.41.~~

S.O. 13th. M.S.F.

H.Q.F.C.

H.Q.C.C.

Naval Cypher A.l.O.T.T.

FROM: Admiralty.

AIDAC.

It is now desired to clear the following lines of mines contained in Admiralty Message 384 QZX which gives details of these lines and of other minefields within this area.

- C.1
- C.2
- B.S.26.
- B.S.28.

2. It is also desired to carry out a thorough search of the south eastern portion of this area to ensure that no German mines thought to be defined in 403 QZX endanger the operations of our minelayers when relaying minefields in 384 QZX.

3. It is requested that you will give the necessary orders for this operation employing the 13th M.S.F. Lines C.1. and C.2 should be cleared first, then lines B.S. 26 and 28, and the search required in paragraph 2 last.

4. It is also requested that you will arrange for the maximum air protection possible and allocate code letters for this operation.

5. Relaying operations will be undertaken as soon as minelayers can be made available.

1552A/16.
for D.M.S. Tel. 262
Approved A.C.N.S.(H)

- 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) (2)(O.D.2173/41)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.S.D.
- D.M.S.(2)
- Duty Captain. (2)
- Hd. of M.
- D. of P.(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- I.P.(2)
- N.I.D.10.
- D.D.I.C.
- D.T.D.(2)
- W.D.

403

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.M/V's
off
Faroes
- Contd.

One M/V not exceeding 10,000 tons, course 200°, speed 10 knots. May I attack. (A/C Duty L. 210 Sqdn. 1415/16 to 15th R/C Group H/Q). Your 1327A/16. DANAOLM and UDDEHOLM descriptions. HAMILTON or similar does not appear, but SERVICE probably misreading of SVERIGE. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1520A/16 to A.C.O.S.)

Following is a repetition of my 1359A/16 to C. in C. H.F. Begins. My 1250/16. Position at 1945/15 should read 61° 28' N. 8° 22' W. (A.C.O.S. 1541A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

Navigational.Peterhead.

Harbour open for use in emergency. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1004/16).

Kola
Inlet A/S
Defences.

S.B.N.O. North Russia requests confirmation that all H.M. Ships have been warned in the sense of Adty. 1755A/14/10. Presume this has been done. (A.C.N.S. H. 1921A/16).

Technical.Minor
Warship
Recognition
Signals.

Your 1624/14. In view of strong probability of Aircraft letters being compromised early, greatly prefer number one. (C. in C. H.F. 2016Z/16 to Adty.)

Oiling at
Sea.

Engineer Admiral on my Staff, Capt. D. Greenock and representatives of D.N.C. Bath and D.O.S. have inspected Oilers BLACK RANGER and ALDERSDALE. Ranger class Oilers are unsuitable for oiling operations in Atlantic. Reasons. It would appear that the only Naval Oilers suitable are Leaf Class and it is requested consideration be given to sending Ranger Class to Mediterranean where Oiling is carried out in Harbour, and for which these Oilers are primarily designed, and for Leaf class to be used in Atlantic oiling. (C. in C. W.A. 2145A/16 to Admty.)

War Diary.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

CHELSEA.

Have been in collision with one of the convoy and am returning to harbour. 6 feet of stern cut away. Water is being kept down in tiller compartment while steaming head for sea, and steering gear is intact. No assistance required. My P.C.S. at 0400A/16, 059° N. 008° 18' W., 106°, 14 knots. (CHELSEA 0500A/16). Proceed Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A. 1135A/16 to CHELSEA).

BEN HANN.

Your 1310/15. No information regarding BEN HANN has been received beyond that contained in N.O.I.C. Oban's 2224A/15. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015/16).
Your 1412A/16. Following from N.C.S.O. Clyde begins. BEN HANN, Inverness for Bowling, left Fort William 1200/10 not arrived. Request information. 1310/15 ends. (F.O.I.C. Greenock No T.O.O. Recd. 2013/16).

PRESIDENT
BRIAND.
(L.L. Trawler)

Sailed LORD WAKEFIELD to assist PRESIDENT BRIAND. E.T.A. 1330. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1055A/16).
Sailed tug CANUTE to assist PRESIDENT BRIAND. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1126A/16).
Cancel my 1126A. Tug returned harbour owing to weather. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1214A/16).
PRESIDENT BRIAND went ashore at 1045 about 1 mile west of Shoreham entrance pier. Had to abandon ship. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1245/16).
My 1055A/16. LORD WAKEFIELD returned to St. Helens. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1519A/16).

TURQUOISE.

Returning to Harwich owing to degaussing breakdown. Position Abeam Aldeburgh L.V. (TURQUOISE 1820A/16).

INHA.

Following received from Rosyth W/T. Received 1900 G.M.T. begins. S.O.S. from S.S. INHA grounded outside Simrishamn leaky in hold No. 2. Master. Ends. (C. in C. Rosyth No T.O.O. Recd. 2025/16).

ARLETTA.

Tug SEA GIANT sailed to the assistance of S.S. ARLETTA foul of 20Q Buoy and now drifting ashore North of Sunderland. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2204/16).

Hopper 11.

Kirkcudbright Lifeboat has been launched to stand by Hopper 11 ashore Balldoon Sand. (D.S.T.O. Liverpool 2215/16).

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Boiler
Cleaning of
Escorts at
Gibraltar.

C. in C. W.A. 1931A/27/10 and F.O.C.N.A. 2332A/24/10 and 0952/31/10. Proposals and approvals. (Controller 0014A/16) See Lion Copy.

P.Q.4.

Your 1306A/9. Commander Chekin (Soviet N.T.O.) has arrived in Iceland and will be (? Lieut.) in MOSSOVET (Russian) sailing in P.Q. 4. (A.C.I.C. 0958N/16 to Admty.)

P.Q.5.

Ships of convoy P.Q.5. can be discharged at same time as P.Q.4. Russia and Maclay requests P.Q. five arrives as soon as possible. (2) It is not desirable for P.Q.4. to be delayed in order that both convoys should be combined. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1014C/16). SHEFFIELD will be required to provide ocean escort for P.Q.5.

(ii) In view of my 1805Z/14, the following* will not be required for P.Q.5. (A) Outward local escort of trawlers (B) Destroyers for Ocean Escort.

(iii) Admiralty 2129A/15, para. one. HAZARD, HEBE and SHARPSHOOTER should escort these ships to Hvalfjord. (C. in C. H.F. 1227Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Iceland). * Note:- "will not be" checked as received.

Personnel
for U.K.

S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1840C/15 which has been passed to BERWICK. Concur. (ii) My 2218Z/14 refers. (C. in C. H.F. 1423Z/16).

Q.P.
convoys.

C.S.1. 1132A/13. I consider returning ships should continue to be escorted in convoy until they have passed Bear Island when likelihood of attack becomes progressively less. Propose future Q.P. convoys should disperse and escorts return independently after reaching longitude 15° E.

(ii) It is undesirable dispersed ships should proceed independently through Denmark Strait. If it is necessary for them to pass Denmark Strait, or to reassemble for onward routing, they should be routed to Akuyreyri or Seidis Fiord for escort to destination by trawlers of A.C.I.C.'s Force.

(iii) With the long hours of darkness and reduced air activity from Norway I consider it justifiable at present to route dispersed ships of Q.P. convoys independently to Orkneys, providing Fighter protection near Faroes. (C. in C. H.F. 1439Z/16 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

P.Q.
Convoys.

Following from S.B.N.O. Archangel is passed to you for information. Repeats S.B.N.O. Archangel 0648A/15. (D.T.D. 1718A/16 to B.A.D. Washington).

C.T.7.

Convoy C.T.7 consisting of S.S. PASTEUR carrying 3,500 service personnel will be ready to leave Clyde for Halifax on 22/11.2 Speed of convoy 16 knots.

4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide two destroyers to escort convoy to Halifax.

5. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail convoy as requisite. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1814A/16).

ESPERANCE
BAY.
W.S.14.

Has been fitted as a troopship and will be ready to leave London 25/11.

2. She is required to leave Clyde in W.S.14 on 3/12.

3. You are requested to arrange for her passage to Clyde and to signal E.T.A. as soon as possible in order that arrangements for embarkation of troops may be made. (D.O.D.(H) 1815A/16 to C. in C. Nore).

East Coast
Convoys.

Your 2028A/14.

An analysis of ships sailed north bound from Southend since 1st Sept. to 15th Nov. inclusive shows that the total number sailed was 1717, of these the number capable of going in an 8 knot convoy was 1129. The number requiring a 6½ knot convoy was 588. In practice, in order to smooth out the present inequalities in numbers sailing in fast and medium convoys and to avoid slow ships incapable of 8 knots waiting too long, I consider that if fast convoys were reduced to 8 knot convoys and medium and slow convoys were left as they are now this would be the best compromise.

As regards F.S. convoys, owing to their being laden, it is possible that in winter half knot higher speeds than the above might be advantageous for fast and medium convoys.

(N.C.S.O. Thames 1838A/16 to Admty.)

/EMPIRE.....

War Diary.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

EMPIRE
WIDGEON.
EMPIRE EGRET.

EMPIRE WIDGEON and EMPIRE EGRET should be sailed to Newport to load as soon as possible. Please confirm dates of readiness. (D. of S.T. 1955A/16 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

1200Z/16. 051° 48' N. 014° 18' W. Hove to since 0800. GENTIAN, ACANTHUS in company. (FLEETWOOD 2000Z/16).

War Diary.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Shipping.

Passings 15/11. Westward MEDIE II, LILLOIS, CARIMARE all full IMERETHIE II in ballast OUEGHA, ARCTURUS Deck Cargoes of Lorries. (V.A.C.N.A. 0917A/16 to Admty.)

SHEAF CROWN.

Am standing by SHEAF CROWN anchor 338° P.C.L. 11½ with engine trouble. Am embarking 9 Poles as she will have to return to Lisbon. If she is unable repair propose towing her to Lisbon. Do you concur? Your 0743A/16 (N.T.in W.D.) ship not encountered. Wind W.N.W. 5 sea 33. Weather report. (SCOTTISH, 0930A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.) My 0930A/16. Have assisted SHEAF CROWN to repair engine to proceed Lisbon. Continuing patrol with 8 seasick passengers. (SCOTTISH, 1900A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation "Chieftain".

S.O. Force 'H', 1101/16, circulated as Most Secret, regarding operation "Chieftain", returned to Head of Watch, War Registry, 17/11.

Diversion Convoy.

Departure DEPTFORD, WILD SWAN, PENTSTEMON, RHODODENDRON, CONVULVULUS, MARIGOLD, SAMPHIRE, escorting R.F.A. BROWN RANGER and BLAIRATHOLL, BARON NEWLANDS, SHUNA, CISNEROS, OTTINGE. S.O. Force H 2254A/14 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1630A/16 to Admty.)

Spanish and French shipping.

Gibraltar 0735 LAZARO flying Naval Ensign carrying large numbers of troops westbound. 1405 French survey ship ESTAFETTE, VOLONTAIRE, MONT CASSEL, Trawler AUGUSTE-DENISE, all full eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1827A/16.)

BAARN, SHAHRISTAN survivors.

BAARN ex S.L.93 escorted by CYCLAMEN will arrive Ponta Delgada about 30/11 to embark 21 Military Survivors ex SHAHRISTAN. Embarkation should be expedited in every way. CYCLAMEN will fuel and she and BAARN should sail in company to rejoin convoy. Arrangements are being made for E.T.A. to be signalled to you 36 hours in advance. (D.T.D.2316A/16 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Cancelled P.459

See also p. 409

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

00144/16th Nov.

OUT.

To:- C. in C. Date. 16.11.41.
Western Approaches 243.
F.O.C. North Atlantic 184.

NAVAL CYLINDER (X).

From Admiralty,

C. in C. Western Approaches' 1931A/27
October and F.O.C.N. Atlantic's 2332A/24 October and
0952/31 October.

1. It is important that periods between boiler
cleanings laid down in A.F.O. 1778/39 should be
adhered to as closely as circumstances will permit.

Paragraph 1 of C. in C. Western Approaches'
1931A/27 is therefore concurred in.

2. With a view to expediting boiler cleaning
work at Gibraltar it is proposed to supply the
following electrically driven tube cleaning sets as
supplied at home bases, namely 3 sets of apparatus
220 voltage 1 set of apparatus 110 voltage.

3. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to report:-

(a) The number of boiler cleaning parties
now employed at Gibraltar.

(b) Whether the number of cleaning sets
proposed above is considered adequate for
anticipated requirements.

(c) The facilities available for the use
of pneumatic appliances for boiler and
tube cleaning purposes.

(d) Proposals for any additional equipment
considered necessary.

4. It is approved that HG OC escorts should be
used to assist local commitments subject to boiler
cleaning requirements, opportunity being taken to

/provide.....

(a)

provide for group exercises which should include A/S practices with a submarine. A period in harbour should be afforded on arrival from and before sailing for convoy escort duty.

5. In view of the present shortage of escorts it is not possible to allocate an additional corvette group to North Atlantic command as requested in F.O.C.N. Atlantic's 0952A/31.

0014A/16.

D.O.D.(H)
Approved Controller.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- Controller
- Vice Controller
- 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.A./S.W.
- O.I.C. (2)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- M. (2)
- D.T.S.D.
- D. of S. 2A.
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- E.P.S.
- File X

- D.57 O.B.
 - E. in C.
 - Dep. Contr. (3)
 - D. (4)
 - E. in C.
 - S.W.R.
- } Bath

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.Force H.

My 2312A/16 (N.T. in W.D.) HERMIONE, ARGUS, LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, LEGION, ISAAC SWEERS sailed with NELSON and will part company at 1845A/17 to feint east and then return Gibraltar. S.O. Force 'H' 2254A/14 and Admty. 1331A/15 refer.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2334A/16 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.Petrol
for Lati.

Your 0859/12 to S.O. (I) Freetown not fully understood. Please amplify details regarding discharge of cargo from Spanish sailing vessel. (D.N.I. 1212A/16 to Consul, St. Vincent.)

BAARN.
Escort
SHAHRISTAN
survivors.

Your 2110A/15. It was the intention to escort with CYCLAMEN proceeding with S.L.93 to U.K. for refit who must fuel at Ponta Delgada. (C. in C. S.A., 1239N/16 to Admty.)
Your 1239N/16. Concur that BAARN escorted by CYCLAMEN should be used to embark these Military survivors (ex SHAHRISTAN).
Request you will instruct escort to signal N.C.S.O., E.T.A. of BAARN at Ponta Delgada 36 hours in advance. Escort should also be told that survivors may not be embarked in a Man-of-War. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada is being informed.
(D.T.D. 2314A/16 to C. in C. S.A.) Cancelled:
See 1610A/18. See p.408.

ALCANTARA
Force G.
(P.O. WALES,
ELECTRA,
EXPRESS)

Departed Simonstown 15th arrived Capetown a.m./16 and departed 1546 G.M.T.14 (?16) for "F.O".S. of A.15 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots E.T.A. 1000 G.M.T/26.
(ii) Force G. arrived Cape Ports 16/11.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1758Z/16 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

JULES VERNE
and U/Bs.

Various reports lately that French S/M depot ship JULES VERNE at Dakar proceeds to sea from time to time leaving in the evening and returning in the morning for fuelling U-boats. Grateful if U.S. Consul General could obtain any information.
(C. in C. S.A. 1845N/16 to B.A.D.)

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.ARGENTINA
URUGUAY.

B.3 report states Spaniards have sold to Italians. Ships were sunk during Spanish War in Barcelona and have been refloated. URUGUAY is still at Barcelona. ARGENTINA left Barcelona 25/10, passed Gibraltar 30/10, and according to unconfirmed report arrived Lisbon on 2/11 in tow of CASTILLO BELLVER. (D.S. 803, 16/11.)

TOSCANA
(Italian)

Hospital ship, reported she would arrive Venice on 15/11. (D.S. 803.)

ARKADIA
(German)

Reported (B.2) to have left Piraeus 8/11 for Crete. (D.S. 803)

Landing
Operation.
TORBAY.
TALISMAN.

TORBAY's 2204B/15. Concur. TALISMAN is to abandon landing operation and return to Alexandria forthwith in accordance with previous orders. TORBAY is to remain for re-embarkation but attention is called to para 11 of operation "Copper" which is to be strictly observed. (Capt. S.1. 0445B/16, to TORBAY, TALISMAN.)

Swordfish.

Investigation into loss of 4 on 12/11. (A.O.C., Malta 1037/16.) See Lion Copy.

S/M Torpedoes,
Malta.

V.A. Malta 1229B/8. It is (? proposed that) the supply of submarine torpedoes to Malta should be given priority over aircraft torpedoes until further notice. (ii) Propose OLYMPUS should be used for this duty (F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/14 refers) and that every future submarine opportunity for transport of submarine torpedoes to Malta should be taken. (C. in C. Med., 1040B/16 to Admty.)

PERSEUS,
UNBEATEN.

PERSEUS is to establish patrol forthwith in vicinity of 035° 16' 019° 26'. UNBEATEN is to establish patrol in vicinity of 033° 04' 015° 30' by 0001/19. Operational sanctuary is established within 25 miles of these positions from 1201B/17 for PERSEUS and from 2000B/18 for UNBEATEN. (Capt. S.1., 1051B/16 to S/Ms named.)

/Italian ...

SECRET

MESSAGE

1037/16 November

IN

From A.C.C. Malta.

Date 16.11.41.

Recd. 2322

CYPRUS

Addressed. Air Ministry Whitehall, H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East, V.A., Malta,, C in C Mediterranean, 201 Group pass to C in C Mediterranean.

IMPORTANT

WX.1804. S. 595 16/11.

Investigation into loss of 4 Swordfish reported my 1239+ 12/11. Facts are as follows - Convoy 2 MVs sighted 1327 hours 11/11. 158 miles due West Malta on course North special Wellington took off 1806 hours to shadow and home Swordfish striking force which took off 1835 hours striking force 7 Swordfish 3 of which returned with engine trouble. Orders to striking force were to search vicinity Pantellaria northwards where Wellington was searching Wellington located convoy 293 degrees 145 miles from Malta. Sighting report made on 4575 K/c's and re broadcast by Malta on 5600 to Swordfish. Conditions on both wave lengths appeared normal with slight interference. Wellington was worked with difficulty through Gibraltar. Wellingtons in other directions worked normally on 4575. No communication at all was established with Swordfish. Butser reported 2307 hours that Swordfish "L" was calling for QDM. Malta called Swordfish but no reply. Gloucester called Swordfish "I," 2327 hours stating Malta was calling. Unknown station at 2344 hours reported Swordfish receiving us at strength 8 but Malta could not hear Swordfish. At 2355 hours Swordfish made to Heliopolis D/P. My position near Marietme have 2 hours petrol. At 2357 Swordfish made to Mersa Matruh "May have to force land at any moment" Malta told Swordfish at 0019 hours to try 295 K/c's and to steer 150 degrees. Nothing further heard. Approximate bearing from Butser and third class bearing from Mersa Matruh put Swordfish well North of Sicily at about mid-night but this is improbable.

Swordfish and special Wellington devices and W/T sets serviceable on take off. Swordfish device may have failed as Wellington failed to home them. Wellington device serviceable on return. Weather moderate with 4 to 8 miles visibility but wind forecast as South East 20 to 25 moved to South South West 30 to 35. No clear conclusion is possible but navigation of leader of striking force obviously at fault. May have been due to too great reliance on concentration on special device.

1037/16

+ 1900/12/11

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

Recd. from Air Ministry 0310/17

Circulated by Air Ministry to -
Internal

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

N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (3)
C.D. (5)
C.C.L.S.
C.I.C. (3)
D. of P. (3)
H. (2)

C.A.S., V.C.A.S., D.C.A.S.,
P.C.4 (2), Sigs Plans (Action),
D.C.N.C.

External

Admiralty (War Reg.) (2)

E.P.C. D.N.I. (4) I.P. (3) W.D. D.P.D.
D.N.A.D.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Italian Fleet.

Following is estimated disposition effective Italian main units on 16/11:- Naples, battleships, 2 LITTORIO; cruisers, 2 6-inch. Messina, battleships, 1 CONTE DI CAVOUR Class; cruisers, 2 8-inch and 2 6-inch. Taranto, battleships, 2 CONTE DI CAVOUR Class; cruisers, 3 6-inch. At Sea, p.m.14/11 3 6-inch cruisers, not known, 1 8-inch.
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1110B/16 to S.O. Force H.)

GLAUCOS.

Establish patrol forthwith within 10 miles of 036° 02' 018° 52'. If nothing sighted by dusk/18 proceed Malta as routed in 1203B/15 from Capt (S) 10. Further information and instructions for arrival Malta will be signalled later. PERSEUS will be patrolling in vicinity 035° 16' 019° 26'.
(Capt. S.l. 1131B/16 to Greek S/M GLAUCOS.)
My 1131B/16. Amend patrol position to read 035° 00' 020° 30'. Important southbound convoy sighted Straits Otranto 1700B/17 expected your position about 0800B/18. On leaving patrol proceed through 035° 47' 020° 00' thence as in Capt. (S) 10 1203B/15.
(Capt. S.l., 1721B/16 to Greek S/M GLAUCOS.)

- THUNDERBOLT
- UTMOST
- URSULA
- URGE
- UNBEATEN
- PERSEUS
- SOKOL
- UPRIGHT
- GLAUCOS
- P.34.

Proceed to patrol in following positions: THUNDERBOLT 037° 58' 015° 34', UTMOST 037° 51' 015° 43'. Important 12 to 14 knots south-east bound convoy probably heavily escorted may be expected late afternoon 17/11. Object of attack is merchant ships. Further instructions follow.

(Capt. S. 10, 1221B/16 to THUNDERBOLT, UTMOST.)
UTMOST proceed as ordered in Capt. (S) 10 1221B/16. THUNDERBOLT proceed towards Cephalonia. URSULA, URGE remain on patrol. Further instructions follows.
(Capt. S.l, 1635B/16 to THUNDERBOLT, UTMOST, URSULA, URGE.)

My 1635B/16. Important southbound convoy sighted off Brindisi 1600B/16 probably passing westward of Cephalonia and Zante (Zakinthos) daylight hours 17th. Para.(?) Operation B.S. Establish patrol line (?forthwith). 4 038° 01' 020° 13' 280 12 190 30. Positions to be taken up as follows: Position A, 038° 01' 020° 13' Pol.Sub. SOKOL. Position B, URGE. Position C, UPRIGHT. Position D, THUNDERBOLT. Until further orders submarines are not to be attacked. Submarines in conjunction endeavour to establish S S/T communication when safe to do so. Para. 2. Gr.Sub. GLAUCOS establish patrol forthwith in 035° 00' 020° 30'.
(Capt. S.l, 1731B/16 to S/Ms on Patrol.)
Cancelled by 1641A/18, q.v.

War Diary.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean- cont:

THUNDERBOLT
UTMOST
URSULA
URGE
UNBEATEN
PERSEUS
SOKOL
UPRIGHT
GLAUCOS
P. 34
contd.

My 1731B/16. Establish Patrol forthwith as follows: UTMOST as in Capt.(S) 10, 1221B/16, P.34 within 10 miles of 035° 45' 019° 30', PERSEUS within 10 miles of 035° 16' 019° 26', UNBEATEN within 10 miles of 033° 04' 015° 30', URSULA remain area D. until dusk/18. thence position within 10 miles of 033° 00' 014° 50' by dawn/19. P.34, URSULA, leave Patrol position at dusk 18th and 19th respectively and return Malta as routed Capt. (S) 10.

(Capt. S.1, 1745B/16 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

My 1221B/16. Subs proceed to patrol as follows:- After attack or at times zone minus 2 shown

Sub.	At	Through	To
THUNDERBOLT	1900/17	037° 45' 016° 00'	K
UTMOST	1900/17	037° 40' 016° 00'	M
UNBEATEN	1800/19	Blank	D
PERSEUS	As ordered by Capt.(S) 1.		

(Capt. S. 10, 1830B/16 to S/Ms on Patrol)

W.D. Note.- This was cancelled by Capt. S.10, 1015B/17 q.v.

14/11.

Air
Operations.

9 Marylands dropped bombs on Derna aerodrome during afternoon.

Night 14/15. 34 Wellingtons operated, heavy haze over whole of Cyrenaica again prevented observation of damage. 19 attacked Benghazi. 13 bombed aircraft stores Berka. 1 bombed Bardia causing explosion and 1 bombed Derna. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1246/16.)

C.M.22
MAURETANIA.

In order that MAURETANIA, NIEUW AMSTERDAM and ILE DE FRANCE sailing from Durban mid-December should not arrive Suez in full moon period, request MAURETANIA in C.M.22 be turned round and sailed for Durban as quickly as possible. (D.O.D.(F) 2332A/16 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

War Diary.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CENTURION.

A.M. 0044A/1.

(1) CENTURION battleship disguise is understood to have been penetrated in Red Sea and information has no doubt been passed on to Japanese. Her presence at Bombay is also liable to be known to Japanese.

(2) It appears desirable when Eastern Fleet is first formed there should be no doubt in mind of Japanese that heavy ships arriving are genuine.

(3) It consequently appears undesirable to use CENTURION until after the end of January when 5 or 6 genuine capital ships should have been identified by Japanese in Eastern waters.

(4) After this date I consider CENTURION might be usefully used in connection with other movements to deceive enemy as to our strength by arrival at port(s) where photographic R/C and expert observation are unlikely.

(5) I propose to discuss readiness of CENTURION and possibility of completing her camouflage with C.in C. E.I. in Ceylon.

(6) H/F W/T appears a requirement in order that CENTURION may be included in dummy W/T traffic thus giving added realism. If not already fitted it is requested necessary equipment may be made available.

(S.O. Force G. 1130Z/16 to Admty.).

CHANTALA
collision.

My 1706Z/14. Details of CHANTALA, on Jibouti patrol in July, collision with Dhow FATEH EL BARI during routine examination at sea.

(C.in C. E.I. 0224Z/16 to Admty.).

Persian
Gulf
defence
requirements.

My 0736/20/10 and A.M. 1601/30/10.

Proposals were put to A.O.C. in C. M.E. in my 1306/1/3 Air Ministry have approved alteration of dividing line between Mideast and India. On other points A.O.C. in C. M.E. informs me that "among issues raised are relative importance of air operations in Middle East Theatres and Far East and new threat nature of which I am unable adequately to assess. Have therefore referred your signal to Air Ministry with request it be placed before Chiefs of Staff".

(C.in C.E.I. 0454Z/16 to Admty.).

/Whalers.....

413 A

MOST SECRET **MOST SECRET**

From War Registry

Date 14.11.41.

Correct S.O. Force G signal 1130Z/16
paragraph (ii) line one: for "Barricade" read "Fleet".

for H.W.R.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D. of P. (2)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.S.D.
- D.A/S.W.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.C.
- Hd. of M.
- E.P.S.
- N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr Wilson)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.I.C.

War Diary.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Whalers
renamed.

My 2049A/15 (not to S.N.O. Persian Gulf) following whalers have also been renamed.

K O S 10 FLICKER
K O S 11 FULLMOON
G O S 2 ATMOSPHERE
G O S 3 BILLOW.

Request you will take necessary action.
(Head of M. 1520A/16 to C.in C. E.I.).

Floating
dock.

Your 1643/15 (1643/15).

1. A.M. 1659/15. Promises despatch of experienced towing Master and Engineer. Work should be progressed as far as possible pending their arrival.

3. Ref. Dock Master.

B. Crew. Primary object is to move dock from Bandar Shapur and it is intended to do onward journey in two stages the first to Karachi and second Karachi to Port Sudan. You should therefore now approach crew and ascertain if they would be willing to remain with dock for first stage. (C.in C. E.I. 1544Z/16 to S.N.O.P.G.).

A.M.C's.

Your 0738/13.

(1) Intended that KANIMBLA should remain on Australian Station.

(2) Anticipated dates of arrival on E.I. Station are :- CHITRAL, WORCESTERSHIRE and ALAUNIA, Feb 1942. RANPURA, March 1942.

A.C.N.S.(F) 2352A/16 to C.in C. E.I.).

China.

French
shipping.

My 1131/8 and 0217/9 (?0317/9 intended). Arrival Haiphong 10/11 PIERRE L.D. and VILLE DE VERDUN. Local shipping circles expect L.D. ships to break blockade, cargo suggested Wolfram, Tin, Wood.

(?oil).

(Capt O.S. Singapore 0323 Z/16 to D.N.I.).

War Diary.

16.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

CLARKIA.

Leave Bermuda P.M./17 and proceed to Mobile to comply with B.A.R.M. Washington 1324/15. Route via (?Providence) Channel and Florida Straits. Adjust speed so as to arrive Mobile P.M./23. (C.in C.A.W.I. 1212Q/16 to CLARKIA).

PHOEBE

Sailed from Trinidad 1500Z/16. Routed East of Virgin Islands. E.T.A. Ambrose L/V 0200Z/21. Height of Brooklyn Bridge noted. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1217Q/16 to B.A.R.M.).

Atlantic
convoys.

Your 1718A/14 para 1 and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1508Z/12. Most suitable interval 3 days. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1525Z/16 to Admty.).

WYOMING
(French).

Your 1219/15. Ref. Washington tel 6569 Arfar repeated to C.in C. A.W.I. only. No report of sailing yet received from Washington. (D.E.W.D. 1602A/16 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

T.C. 16.

Your 2049/12 0349/13 and 2138/13. It is not now proposed to include GEORGE WASHINGTON and LETITIA in T.C.16. 2. Revised proposals are:-
(a) PASTEUR and CUBA as before.
(b) STRATHNAVER due Trinidad 26/11.
6. It is hoped to sail T.C. 16 about 9/12. (D.S.T. 1641A/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

416

War Diary.16.11.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.LARPOOL
(torpedoed
1/11.)

7 more survivors from LARPOOL, torpedoed and sunk 1/11, 200 m. E.S.E. of Cape Race, who have landed in Newfoundland report several other men in their boat died from exposure. 5 survivors had been landed on 10/11 and a third boat is still missing. (D.S. 803, 16/11.)

NOTTINGHAM.

British, 8538 tons, torpedoed 7/11, now presumed sunk (D.S.803.)

Submarines Reported.

0938A.

It is estimated that a U Boat is within 100 miles of you to the southward.
(D.D.I.C. 0938A/16 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN, Escort of W.S.12Z, GERANIUM.)
My 0938/16. Position of U/B is too indefinite to recommend an alteration of course in any specific direction.
(D.D.I.C. 1600A/16 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN, Escort of W.S.12Z, GERANIUM.)

1343.

Am over enemy submarine sighted on surface and observed to submerge in 62.43 N., 23.31 W.
(A/C "Q" 1343/16, to Group 15.)

Estimated approx., positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1446A/16, 1510A/16.)

1324.

At 1324 U-boats were being homed on to a convoy probably S.L.92.
(F.G.C.N.A., 1454Z/16, to Escorts S.L.92.)

1443 G.M.T.

U-boat sighted in 62° 43' N., 23° 31' W., at 1443 G.M.T./16. Possibly steering to S.W.
(D.D.I.C. 1730Z/16, to Opnav.)

Submarines Attacked.By MARIGOLD.

Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charge(s) in 036° 13' N., 004° 42' W. Am remaining in vicinity.
(MARIGOLD, 2316/16, to F.O.C.N.A.)
W.D. Note. Attack successful and prisoners taken. (See 17/11.)

By A/C.

A/C Q/221, Iceland, attacked U/B at 1538/16, sighted on surface, machine-gunned as it submerged, 62-43 N., 23.31W., 200° Reykjanes 70'.(D.S., 804, 17/11.)

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

ORIBI.

A case of suspected sabotage in destroyer ORIBI was reported today.

Weather.

Peterhead Harbour was opened at 0935 today. Shipping was again dislocated by the weather today.

PRINZ
EUGEN.

Examination of photographs of Brest taken on 14/11 show PRINZ EUGEN's dock almost certainly flooded and some of the camouflage at the entrance removed.

White Sea
Patrols.

The patrols normally in force in the White Sea are reported in S.B.N.O. Archangel 1645C/17.

Enemy Air Operations.

An attack was made by about 15 aircraft between 1708 and 1803 on convoys F.N.555 and F.S.648 whilst these convoys were passing one another off the Suffolk coast. S.S. BOVEY TRACEY in F.N.555 was damaged and sank later. The aircraft were circling in a waiting position out of sight of the convoys, and attacked singly or in pairs. C. in C. Nore suggests that night fighters would be effective in the waiting position of the enemy.

S.S. RUDMORE in F.N.555 reports that she shot down a Dornier at 1845 by direct hit.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today on account of the weather, but Coastal Command aircraft carried out successful attacks against enemy shipping off the coast of Norway.

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

A signal was made at 0020 today in plain language reporting that S.S. SCHWANECK (German) had been mined off Gross Horst (54° 6' N., 15° 4' E) Stettin,.

Falmouth was closed at 1950 owing to mines.

North Atlantic.

NELSON
to sweep
for supply
ships.

It is probable that an enemy supply ship escorted by a submarine was in approx. 44° N., 2° W., at 0001 today, proceeding to the westward. NELSON on passage to U.K. is to endeavour to intercept, and HERMIONE is to leave ARGUS (see 16/11) so as to join NELSON after daylight tomorrow, returning to Gibraltar on completion of search. Aircraft R/C will be flown north of Finisterre from dawn/18 weather permitting.

South Atlantic.

It is reported that S.S. THODE FAGELUND (Norwegian) Madras to Capetown was sunk by explosion, the cause of which is not definitely established, at 0550 today about 30 to 35 miles off shore near East London

C. in C. S.A. is unable to station an oiler near St. Helena as proposed by the Admiralty on 3/11, until the arrival of BLACK RANGER.

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

PROTEUS has returned from patrol and reports that at 0945/3 she hit the ~~German~~ tanker TAMPICO with one torpedo south of Mandili Island the tanker was still afloat at dark and the escort frustrated a second attack. At 2030/9 PROTEUS sighted the German S.S. ITHAKA heavily laden southbound off St. Georgio Island with two escorts. PROTEUS attacked at 0400/10, obtaining 4 hits one of which was possibly on the escort.

At 1455B today aircraft attacked 3 merchant ships escorted by a destroyer in 37° 14' N., 19° 51' E., and left one ship on fire.

America and West Indies.

President Roosevelt today signed the Bill to amend the U.S. Neutrality Act, permitting the arming of U.S. merchantmen and their passage to ports in the War Zone.

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.New
T-Class
S/MS.

My 1551A/8. It is intended that those new construction "T" Class which will later be allotted to the Mediterranean Station should, on completion of working up, carry out similar patrols from Holy Loch.
(F.O.S. 1318A/17.)

Dover
Strait
Action.

Your A.17/973/41 of 8/10 and 1843A/14/11. T.L. have read with interest your reports on action against hostile shipping using the Dover Strait and note with pleasure the very satisfactory results obtained.
(1st S.L. 1852A/17 to V.A. Dover.)

Co-operation with Russia.Fuelling in
North Russian
Waters.

M.S.F.1. 2130C/15. Minesweepers are to fuel and provision at Murmansk in future. Destroyers are also to fuel and provision at Murmansk subject to any special instructions received from S.O. of ocean escort. Cruisers will continue to fuel from tankers if necessary at Dvina River bar until you judge ice conditions too difficult for tankers or cruisers. Requirements to be reported in advance if practicable.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1508C/17.)

Russian
Patrols in
White Sea.

Following patrols in White Sea command normally occupied by one or two patrol vessels or trawler. Patrol number one on line Cherni Obriv and Konushinskaya shoals. Patrol number 2 on line Cape Terski Orlov and round Orlovsjaya. Patrol number 3 on line Pulonga and Intzi. Patrol number 6 on line Cape Kanin and Svyatoi (?Nos). Patrol number 7 on line Cape Cherni and Svyatoi. (2) When a British force is known to be crossing one of these lines patrol vessels are normally withdrawn to one side.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1645C/17.)

Movements.WORCESTER
WALPOLE.

WALPOLE is being sailed to relieve WORCESTER. Detach WORCESTER to arrive Harwich before dark today. (Capt. D. 16. 0916A/17 to SOUTHDOWN.)

CASTLETON.

Your 1129/16. During absence armature has been fitted by ship's staff. After trial, intend proceeding Bort Z.A. if they are satisfactory.
(CASTLETON 1015N/17 to R.A.M.)

/RORQUAL ...

421

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.RORQUAL
CUTTY SARK.

- (1) Intend to sail CUTTY SARK at 1730A/18 to R/V with RORQUAL in 270° Wolf Rock 3 miles at 0800A/20 and escort her to Holy Loch.
- (2) Should RORQUAL not be met by 1200A/20 CUTTY SARK will proceed to Falmouth returning to the R/V by 0800A each day until RORQUAL is met. N.O.i/c Falmouth is requested to sail CUTTY SARK accordingly.
- (3) (A) N.O.i/c Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation to cover paragraph 1.
- (3) (B) N.O.i/c Falmouth is requested to arrange fighter co-operation should it be necessary to implement paragraph 2.
- (Capt. S.3. 1055A/17.)

VENOMOUS.

Departure VENOMOUS in tow of MASTADONTE. S. of A. 6 knots. Approximate E.T.A. Clyde 0700A/19. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1145A/17.)

Floating
Crane.

- My 1230/15. Request sailing may be delayed 24 hours. (D.S.T.O. Portsmouth 1535/17.)
- My 1233/16 and D.S.T.O. Southampton's 1535/17.
1. Subject to sufficient improvement in weather intend to sail floating crane from Portsmouth 0830/19 using all available tugs to pass Needles 1300/19.
 2. Tow will be swept on Q.Z.S. 293 as far as possible before dark. It is anticipated that tow should be in 18 fathoms by that time.
 3. Should weather further delay sailing approval is requested to sail tow as soon as weather improves regardless of dark period.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth 1903A/17 to Adty.)

RAMILLIES.

Admiralty's 1643A/8. As W.S.14 will not sail until 3/12 RAMILLIES need not arrive at the Clyde until 2/12.

(A.C.N.S. H. 1540A/17.)

A.M. 2006A/16. RAMILLIES will pass Bar L.V. at 1330A/20. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1628A/17.)

CROOME and either EXMOOR or BADSWORTH are to escort RAMILLIES from Liverpool to Scapa.

Destroyers detailed are to R/V on 20/11 with RAMILLIES as arranged by N.O.i/c Liverpool.

(R.A.(D) Home Fleet is requested to arrange for destroyer(s) detailed to escort EREBUS

from convenient R/V to Londonderry. *See next page*

(C. in C. W.A. 1926A/17.)

C. in C. W.A. 1926A/17. Request you will sail escort to R/V with RAMILLIES at Bar L.V. at 1330A/20.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2128A/17 to Capt. D. Londonderry.)

EREBUS.

/PRINCE ...

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.PRINCE
LEOPOLD.

My 1548A/13. Intend sailing PRINCE LEOPOLD for Portsmouth passing Clyde boom 1700A/18. Speed of advance 16 knots. Route. E.T.A. Western end Q.Z.S. 284, 0830A/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1606A/17.)

EREBUS
ROBERTS.

My 1620A/17. Escort for RAMILLIES will be available to escort EREBUS and ROBERTS to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 1621A/17 to R.A.D. H.F.)
My 1621A/17. Delete ROBERTS. (C. in C. W.A. 2111A/17.)

SHARPSHOOTER.

Following embarked in SHARPSHOOTER. (A.C.O.S. 1712/17.)

NELSON.
FAULKNOR.
NORMAN.
ICARUS.

Admiralty 2006A/16 and my 1620A/17. Destroyer escort for NELSON should R/V in 056° N. 008° W. at 0800Z/22. Request you will sail escort accordingly. (C. in C. W.A. 1729A/17 to R.A.D. H.F.)
Your 1729A/17. Request FAULKNOR may be sailed from Greenock accordingly. NORMAN and ICARUS will be sailed from Scapa to refuel at Londonderry p.m./21st. and R/V next day in position given. (R.A.D. 2255A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

COMMANDANT
DETROYAT.
MIMOSA.
(Admiral
Muselier.)

C. in C. W.A. 1040A/14. Admiral Muselier and Staff will embark in COMMANDANT DETROYAT at Greenock a.m./24.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail COMMANDANT DETROYAT for Iceland (C) after embarkation.
3. On arrival at Iceland (C) the Admiral and Staff will transfer to MIMOSA and sail as ordered by S.O.P.A. for St. Johns N.F. forming part of escort for O.N.40 if movements of this convoy render this possible. (D.O.D. (H) 1856A/17.)

EXMOOR.

My position at 1800 G.M.T./17th. 053° N. 013° W. (EXMOOR 1903A/17.)

P.38.

Proceed forthwith submerged by day through
(A) 48° N. 10° 30' W.
(B) 47° 30' N. 09° W.
(C) 49° N. 06° W.
(D) Thence to Portsmouth as ordered by Captain S.5. (F.O.S. 2202A/17 to P.38.)

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.MONTBRETIA.
COLUMBINE.

Request you will sail MONTBRETIA and COLUMBINE to Londonderry, on 18/11. Ships are to fuel at Londonderry and await further orders. (C. in C. W.A. 2242A/17 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Operations.Patrols.

Brightlingsea Auxiliary Patrols remaining in harbour until weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1225A/17.) SEAWOLF sailed patrol off Vardo. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1505C/17.) Dover dispositions for night 17/18 nil, owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 1614A/17.) Harwich Auxiliary patrols remaining in harbour until weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1615A/17.) Cancel HLP 16 and my 1221A/15. Proceed forthwith on the surface at your discretion through 063° N. 003° E. 062° 32' N. 002° 26' E. and 062° N. 003° E. to patrol in the vicinity of 061° 02' N. 003° 50' E. Your object is to attack and then report cruisers and above, and Northbound merchant ships if in company of cruisers and above. (F.O.S. 1741A/17 to TUNA.)

NORFOLK.
ARETHUSA.

Report when NORFOLK and ARETHUSA will be ready for service. (C. in C. H.F. 1753Z/17 to V.A.2.)

TRIDENT.

Your 1809C/9. It may be necessary for me to have TRIDENT to patrol. Is she limited to 7 knots owing to defective cylinder blocks? (F.O.S. 1756A/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

KENT
SHEFFIELD.

KENT is to return to Hvalfiord now at best speed. SHEFFIELD is to cover both areas. (C. in C. H.F. 1759Z/17.)

EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH returns to Hvalfiord now at best speed unless SUFFOLK already returning. (C. in C. H.F. 1817Z/17 to C.S. 18.)

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

"Polar" in operation 0930Z. "Frice" at 1200Z. (A.C.I.C. 0926N/17.)
 "Polar" and "Frice" returned. Nil report. (A.C.I.C. 1722N/17.)
 A.M. 1016A/15. A modified "Longstop" patrol is required from 0900 tomorrow. (A.C.N.S. H. 2122A/17 to A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

A/C in Russia.

Advance party left by sea for Archangel. (151 Wing 1800/17 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

→ Convoy
F.S.648.
ROBERT W.
POMEROY.
(British
1750 Tons)
damaged
on 16/11.

Arrived. H.M.T. LADY PHILOMENA escorting damaged ROBERT W. POMEROY at 0055. (F.O. Humber 0103A/17.)
 ROBERT W. POMEROY now berthed Immingham East Jetty. Vessel will enter wet dock Immingham at daylight today. Ballast pump damaged from near misses and vessel making slight water in engine room, but this is now under control. (Salvage Officer, Immingham 0337A/17.)
 ROBERT W. POMEROY attacked by aircraft in F.S.648 near 62B buoy 1710/16. Slight damage. No casualties. (F.O. Humber 1101A/17.)

FERNBANK
(Trawler)
sunk on
16/11.

Aberdeen trawler FERNBANK bombed and sunk 12 miles N.W. of Myggenaes at 1400 yesterday. 6 survivors in own life boat landed Sorvaag today including captain seriously injured, remaining 5 uninjured. 4 of crew lost. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1137A/17.)

→ Convoy
F.S.648.

Enemy are bombing convoy "Plumb" in 52° 25' N. 2° 1' E. (WHADDON 1725/17.)

Convoy
F.N.555.
BOVEY TRACEY
(British,
1212 Tons)
sunk.

Left BOVEY TRACEY sinking fast. Have instructed WIDGEON to dan-buoy position. Have 14 survivors including captain. Understand remaining survivors are in ELEANOR BROOKE or NORTHWOOD. Am rejoining convoy. (LOWESTOFT 1856A/17.)
 BOVEY TRACEY sunk in 052° 23' N. 002° 49' 50" E. (WIDGEON 2001A/17.)

MINNA.
damaged
on 16/11.

(H.M. Examination Vessel) Damaged by near miss in enemy air attack in 56° 04' 36" N. 2° 51' 12" W. at 1750/16. No casualties. Vessel towed to Leith. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1825/17.)

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.SCHWANECK.

Following received from Rosyth W/T addressed S O S, from D O V D. S.S. SCHWANECK auf mine gelaufen position Gross Horst.
(C. in C. Rosyth T O R 0020/17.)

Thames Estuary.

One S.A. mine detonated at 1210/16. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1003A/17.)
One magnetic mine detonated as follows at 1055/16. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1007A/17.)
3 S.A. Mines detonated as follows at 2108/15. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1019A/17.)
At 1350/3 one Green Mine detonated by VERSATILE at Sunk Buoy. Details. (VERSATILE 1509/17.)

Tyne.

Detonated one Magnetic Mine at 0840/17, 077° Tyne North Pier Light 100 yards.
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1140/17.)

Mine clearances. PLOVER ADVENTURE.

My 1552/16.
1. Intend in first instance to employ PLOVER, working from Harwich, supplemented at a later date by ADVENTURE working from Immingham.
2. It is considered undesirable for PLOVER to work by night during moonlight periods. Request your views on this point, together with those on the question of her working by day with air support.
3. PLOVER's trial programme for VERNON should be adjusted on the assumption that she may be required to leave Portsmouth on or about 25/11. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1702A/17.)

Falmouth.

Port closed owing to mines.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1950/17.)

Enemy Intelligence.Norwegian Coastal shipping.

My 1201A/16. Position of ^XFINNEIDEWELL should read 67° 15' N. 15° 26' E. (D.D.I.C. 1046A/17.) *X not identified.*

DANAHOLM UDDEHOLM (Swedish)

A.M. 2210A/16. Vessel concerned was Swedish DANAHOLM who cleared from Thorshavn 1245/15 and was waiting her consort Swedish UDDEHOLM who sailed 1252/16 to overtake. This was not re broadcast as it was considered tolerably certain that this was the ship in question, and it was decided to wait for an amplifying report which was given in messages 1341/16 and 1354/16 from aircraft L/210.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1314/17.)

/Tanker ...

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - contd.Tanker.

Report graded B.2. At 1200Z/17 one large tanker, loaded, with two trawlers and air escort passed Hellefiord, 61° 40' N. 4° 50' E., course North.
(D.D.I.C. 1530A/17.)

PRINZ EUGEN.

Examination of Photographs of Brest taken on 14/11 show PRINZ EUGEN's dock almost certainly flooded and some of camouflage at entrance removed.
(D.D.I.C. 1644A/17.)
My 2202A/17. Aircraft R/C shows PRINZ EUGEN dock almost certainly flooded.
(F.O.S. 2214A/17 to P.38.)

Oslo.

Learn port Oslo has again opened 15/11 after being closed seven days on account of mines. Graded B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 1811/17.)

Navigational.Peterhead.

Peterhead Harbour open.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0935/17.)

Casualties and Defects.ORIBI.
Suspected
sabotage.

ORIBI reports finding pieces of metal in manoeuvre valve and strainer (details). Ship was built by Fairfield and sabotage at firm's works seems possible. No damage has been caused. Remainder of manoeuvre valves are being examined.
(C. in C. H.F. 0023Z/17.)

ARLETTA.

My 2204/16. ARLETTA contacted but did not require assistance. SEA GIANT returned to harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0306/17.)

CAIRO.

CAIRO arriving Devonport for refit a.m./19/11. CAIRO has not had proper refit since war. Request she may be given a thorough refit on this occasion.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1218A/17.)

ABRONIA.

Departure tug KENIA to assist M/S Trawler ABRONIA. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1445A/17.)
My 1445. KENIA returned towing M/S trawler ABRONIA. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805A/17.)

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.LINCOLNSHIRE.

We are hove to off Lands End, clearing water from stoke hold. Plates are awash. Request position service.
(LINCOLNSHIRE 1500/17 to CLEVELAND.)

BEN HANN.

My 2005A/16. Coastguard Port Ellen reports raft washed ashore 5 miles east of Port Ellen with 2 life belts attached bearing name BEN HANN. No personnel on raft.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1655A/17.)

ALBURY.

Cancel my 1602/16. ^{N.T. in V.D.} Rudder defective.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1710/17.)

SARDONYX.

Leak in starboard condenser just developed. Anticipate delay in sailing 6 hours.
(SARDONYX 1801A/17.)

PRINCESS
ASTRID.

Should be taken in hand for refit as soon as berth is available. (Adviser on Combined Operations 1918A/17.)

Shipping and Convoys.W.N.5.

Intend remaining Thurso Bay until 1500/17 on account of adverse weather.
(COVERLEY 0815/17.)
From COVERLEY. Reference COVERLEY's 0815/17. Sailed 1500. (Scapa W/T 1505/17)

C.T.7.

A.M. 1814A/16 para 2. Intend including GLENARTNEY 18 knots Capetown/Singapore LANARKSHIRE 16 knots Panama/Berbera. Both ships ready Glasgow approx. 20/11.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1024A/17.)
Your 1024A/17 and A.M. 1814A/16. Concur that GLENARTNEY and LANARKSHIRE should be included. 2. No further ships can be accepted.
(D.O.D. H. 1821A/17 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)
BELMONT from Liverpool and GARLAND from Clyde are to be sailed as escort for C.T.7 in accordance with Admiralty's 1814A/16.
N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange R/V.
(C. in C. W.A. 2142A/17.)

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

F.S.648.

Passing 54 G buoy. 26 ships. Following ships missing at daylight, AFTERGLOW, GORSELANDS, REIAS, ACFIELD. These ships were making heavy weather at dusk and have probably put in to Humber. Request I may be informed if their whereabouts are known.

(WHADDON 1035A/17.)

WHADDON 1035A/17th and my 1245A/17. All ships now accounted for.

(C. in C. Nore 1445A/17.)

Your 1615 to C. in C. Nore. Approved anchor convoy between B.7 and B.8 buoy if impracticable to proceed further. Report your E.T.A. at B.8 buoy at 2000.

(C. in C. Nore 1719A/17 to WHADDON.)

P.Q.4.

Sailed at 0900Z consisting of BUDENNI, ALMA, ATA, RODINA, MUSOVET, SUKHONA, DAN-Y-BRYN, EULIMA, and EMPIRE METEOR. Speed of advance 7 knots. H Y para four. B one, STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE. B three, 1530Z/20. D two, 0800Z/27. Admiralty please pass to Archangel and North Russia. (A.C.I.C. 1141N/17.)

P.Q.5.

Admiralty 2155/15 para.1. EMPIRE STEVENSON, SOUTHGATE, TREHATA will not arrive Kirkwall until P.M.18th. They will be sailed with ST. CLEARS a.m.19th. (A.C.O.S. 1216A/17.)

DESIRABLE.

*Not identified.
? desirable.*

^{N.T. & W.D}
EGRET's 1612Z/16. DESIRABLE is not to call at Azores. Other arrangements have been made. (D.T.D. 1246A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

P.Q.
Convoys.

My 1718A/16 and 1838A/16. No decision yet taken as to composition and cycle of convoys after P.Q.6. Probable that eight day cycle will be impracticable. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1329A/17 to B.A.D. Washington.)

S.B.N.O. Archangel. 0905C/13 para. 2 (b). Estimated time for ships occupying berth 16 days. Estimated time for passage through Gorlo is 3 to 5 days depending on ice conditions say 8 days both ways. Time on passage 24 days. Total time for round trip (? from (? Iceland) therefore 48 days. Unless there are strong objections to using Murmansk it would certainly be economical in shipping to do so during worst ice season. Recommend alternate convoys discharging Murmansk. In any case ocean escort and minelayers will require to fuel in Kola Inlet during the same period. Admiralty pass to C. in C. Home Fleet. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1550C/17.)

/JAMAICA...

428^A

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
1201/17th Nov.
DATE 17.11.41.
RECD. 1432.

FROM C. in C. Rosyth

P/L BY SECRET T/P

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

NOTE

239. Forecast of Convoy Sailings

F.S.653 (M)	PARALLEL	1000 Friday	21st	LEEDS, LOWESTOFT.
F.S.654 (S)	BOOTY	0600 Saturday	22nd	WESTMINSTER, VANITY.
F.S.655 (F)	ARINA	7 Sunday	23rd	QUANTOCK, JAN VAN BRKEL.
F.S.656 (M)	OCEAN	1000 Tuesday	25th	VIVIEN, WHADDON.
F.S.657 (B)	PLUMB	0600 Wednesday	26th	WALLACE, VALOROUS.
F.S.658 (F)	EVIDENCE	1830 Thursday	27th	WINCHESTER, VERDUN.
F.N.558 (M)	PRIZE	0830 Friday	21st	WOLSEY, VERDUN.
F.N.559 (F)	CASING	0830 Saturday	22nd	WINCHESTER, WOOLSTON.
F.N.560 (S)	AGENT	0830 Sunday	23rd	LIDDESDALE, VIMIERA.
F.N.561 (M)	RADIO	0830 Monday	24th	LEEDS, LOWESTOFT.
F.N.562 (F)	LUNCH	0830 Tuesday	25th	WESTMINSTER, VANITY.
F.N.563 (S)	ATTEMPT	0830 Wednesday	26th	QUANTOCK, JAN VAN BRKEL.

Time table as in my 1241/7/11 amended by my
1221/16/11.

1201/17.

Advance Copy Ops. Trade.

V.C.N.S.	D. of S.24.	O.I.C.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.D. (4)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.T.D. (M)	M. (2)
N... 1st S.L.	D.T.D. (C)	Mails
Ops. (3)	D. of S.T.	Movts.
C.D. (5)	I.P. (3)	A.E. (3)
D.N.I. (4)	D.I. S.W.	F.O. (8) by courier.

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

JAMAICA
(Norwegian)

JAMAICA sailing independently New York 22/11. Eight members of crew signed on have all recently escaped from Norway. Chief Officer anti-British. Captain appears satisfactory but has been great friends with a former Captain of TENERIFFA who was on the Black List. Immigration authorities report rumour that vessels will proceed to enemy port. (N.C.S.O. Newport, Mon, 1830A/17 to Adty.)

E.N.8.

Owing to no escort being available propose cancelling E.N.8. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1903/17.) Your 1903/17. Preparation is to be made to sail E.N.8 at programme time. Availability of escort is dependent on W.N.5. arriving in time. (C. in C. Rosyth 2241/17 to N.C.S.O. Methil.)

H.G.76.
O.G.77.
AUDACITY.

Request you sail AUDACITY as extra escort for H.G.76 transferring to O.G.77 as extra escort to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 1920A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- MARIGOLD. Survivors from sunk U/B and details of attack. (MARIGOLD, 0206A/17 V.A.C.N.A. 1904A/17 etc). See U-boat Campaign.
- Casablanca. Report of P.R.U. sortie Casablanca, Port Lyautey, etc., on 16/11. (No. 1 P.R.U., Gibraltar 0305/17 to Air Min.) See Lion Copy.
- Operation "Chieftain". Intend to increase number of broadcasts today and tomorrow above normal, and include some higher priority. Request you reciprocate. (F.O.C.N.A., 0922A/17 to V.A. Malta).
- LISBOA (German). Arrival, Lisbon. (Valencia T.H.I. 1020/17, to D. of S.T.)
- ARK ROYAL (sunk 14/11) Survivors embarked as follows. (Numbers in NELSON, ZULU, SIKH, and GURKHA. (F.O.C.N.A., 1028A/17 to Admty). My 1755/14. From reports now received it appears LEGION who was starboard wing ship of screen heard H.E. on Starboard bow shortly before ARK ROYAL was torpedoed but attributed this to her next ahead. LEGION was under helm at the time. There is reason to believe this H.E. was from torpedo. (S.O. Force H., 1356A/17 to Admty).
- Survivors ex SHAHRISTAN. Your 2316A/16. 21 Military survivors were sent to Lisbon on 9/11. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1104/17 to Admty).
- CORRIENTES, CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN, (German). CORRIENTES now berthed alongside breakwater 500 miles from South end. CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN Las Palmas inner harbour, funnel now black. (Las Palmas, 1140/17 to Admty). 2 shipments totalling about 200 tons gas oil fuel in drums sent by sailing vessels to Tenerife ex CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN. This tanker is filling more drums today into German Lighters. (Las Palmas, 1800/17 to Admty).
- A/S Sweep. Sailed WISHART, VIDETTE, MARIGOLD for A/S Sweep eastwards. (F.O.C.N.A., 1532A/17 to Admty).

/Swiss....

SECRET.

M E S S A G E.

0305/17th Nov.

IN.

430A

From : No. 1 P.R.U. Gibraltar.

Date : 17.11.41.

Recd : 0805.

CYPHER.

Addressed : Air Ministry, Whitehall, Benson Pass to
Medmenham.

IMMEDIATE.

W.X. 1863.

A.649 17/11. PRU/GIB/WI/17(11) Sortie G/51 dated 16/11 time 1230 hours shows Casablanca. Naval Shipping. Change since 21/10. 1 **DUGUAY TROUIN**, CR1 **BOUGAINVILLE** E/V, 1 **REDOUBTABLE** S/M, 1 S/M 250, and transport **GOLO** have departed. 1 **ELAN** E/V, and 1 S/M 200/210 have arrived.

Total now present. B/S **JEAN BART** at same berth 1 ^{LA}**GALISSONIERE** CR, 2 **CASSARD** C/TS, 1 **GUEBARD** C/T, 5 **ALCYON** or **SIMOUN** DRS, 6 S/Ms 200/210, 2 **ELAN** E/Vs, and 1 S/M Chaser 160.

Merchant shipping shows substantial decrease since 21/10. 18 M/Vs mostly large and medium have departed. 7 MVs including 2 over 400 have arrived. Total now present 15 MVs including 3 over 400. 2 large tankers and 4 coasters. 1 of the tankers has now moved to outside entrance.

Casablanca/Cazes A/D 7 medium and 17 small A/C visible. Drainage work continues. Rabat A/D. 5 medium and 3 small A/C visible. Rabat/Mamora A/D. Part cover.

...../ No A/C

430^B

2.

No A/C yet visible.

Port Lyautey. Naval Shipping which comprises 4 Patrol vessels including **AILETTE**, **ENGAGEANTE**, and **MARNE** classes shows no change since 21/10. Merchant shipping shows increase of 1 MV 250/300. Total now present 7 MVs 300/350 and 2 vessels 200/250.

Port Lyautey/Kevitra A/D. Constructional work continues. No A/C visible. Port Lyautey seaplane Station. No A/C visible.

Fdala. 1 MV 350 and 1 Tanker 200 lie at oil jetty.

0305/17

Advance copy Ops O.D. O.I.C.
Recd from Air Min. 0935/17

Air Ministry Circulation:-

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
NAV. SEC.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
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.
NP I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.S.D. (2)
M (2)
Admiral Chalmers
D.N.A.D.

P.U.S.
V.C.A.S.
D.C.A.S. (I)
A.C.A.S. (I)
D of I (0)
D of Plans
D.O.N.C.
D.D.Plans(0)
D.B.Ops
D.D.B.Ops
D.W.O.
D.D.O.II
Duty Group Capt.
Min. of Defence (5)
War Office M.I. (J.I.C) (7)
Admiralty W.R.) (6)
War Office (M.O.I) (2)
P.R. & A.I.6.

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.- Contd.Swiss
Ships.
Route.

Admty. 0138A/13, para 3 B. Intend routeing approved Swiss ships west of Iviza thence 000° Cape Caballeria Minorca 10 miles, 000° Revellata Point Corsica 10 miles to a point 12 miles 180° from Genoa. Request approved ships now in Italian ports may be informed of this route and instructed in absolute necessity of adhering to it on both outward and return voyage. (F.O.C.N.A., 1544A/17 to Admty amended 1020A/18).

Rescue Ships,
Azores.

Your 1215/14. Request precise objection of Portuguese Govt., observing that SALVONIA will be in fullest sense a merchant ship. There is thus no ground in International Law for refusing facilities to a vessel whose services will be available to all ships in distress. Please emphasise this point and report urgently. (Head of M. 1629A/17 to N.A. Lisbon).

8 S/M Flot.
dispositions,
A/S training.

Available S/Ms in 8th Flotilla in December will be CLYDE, SEVERN, OLYMPUS and Netherlands S/M O.24. Commitments are OLYMPUS, torpedo supply to Malta, O.24., offensive patrols in Western Mediterranean, leaving two River class for Atlantic Patrol and North and South Atlantic Stations A/S training Admty 0014A/16. Suggest that one non-operational S/M, if available, be allocated to Gibraltar for A/S training. River class are neither suitable nor economical for this work. (F.O.C.N.A., 1710A/17 to Admty).

SAN GORG,
sale to
Spaniards.

From M.W.T.R. Governor confirms sale of SAN GORG. Considerable expense incurred in equipping vessel. Loaded (350?) tons Pyrites ex BERGA. Intend sailing her next H.G. Convoy vide 1326A/16/8 from D. of S.T. to V.A.C.N.A. Intention was outlined in 1651A/7/11 from M.W.T.R. to M.W.T. to which no reply was received. Consider ship very valuable in view of shipping shortage and deprecate her sale to Spaniards. Built 1919 as a Corvette and is highly suitable conversion A.B.V. No other local vessel available to relieve ROSABELLE 2 vide A.M.1819A/27/10. Strongly advocate SAN GORG, be converted on arrival U.K. (F.O.C.N.A., 1800A/17 to D. of S.T.)

/Vichy.....

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Vichy
Warships,
Tunis.

Your 0138/13 para. 2 and 3 (D). Request confirmation that Vichy warships should not be attacked by night in Tunisian territorial waters south of 35.46. (V.A.C.N.A., 1824A/17 to Admty).

NELSON.
HERMIONE,
search for
supply ship.

Probable that enemy Supply Ship, escorted by S/M was in approx. 44° N., 02° W. at 0001/17 proceeding to Westward.
2. Request you will arrange for NELSON during her passage to endeavour to intercept on assumption that enemy's speed is 12 knots and that route is between 42° N., and 45° N.
3. NELSON is not to proceed West of 20° West and her activities are to be limited to one passage only through the area.
4. If you can spare HERMIONE from escorting ARGUS she should be ordered to assist to limit of prudent endurance and should also not pass to Westward of 20° W.
5. Weather permitting A/C R/C will be flown N., of Finisterre from dawn/18.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 2000A/17 to S.O. Force H).

South Atlantic.

Oiler,
St. Helena.

Your 2000A/3/11 para 2. Concur this is very desirable and I would like to get an oiler there soon but with present commitments this will not be possible until BLACK RANGER arrives. (C. in C. S.A., 0031N/17 to Admty).

SEVERN.

Request when it is intended that SEVERN shall sail for Gibraltar; for about 50 hours before sailing to enable minor defects made good. Request S/M may be placed at 24 hours notice during this period.
(SEVERN, 0919N/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

Oil Patch.

U.S.A. Ship EXHIBITOR reports passing through patch of oil 8 miles wide in 03.31 S., 74.18 E. AM/5 (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0937/17 to Admty).

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Oil for Lati.

Your 1212A/16 and my 0859/12 to S.N.O.I. Freetown. Cargo Spanish sailing ship consisting of drums and cases gas oil fuel and gasoline, local boat owner refused discharge cargo knowing destined Lati. Ship anchored off shore drums lowered over ships side rope attached and life-boat of Spanish sailing ship towed them ashore making many journeys.
(Consul, St. Vincent, C.V. 1005/17 to Admty).

Convoys in S.A., publicity.

F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0939B/15. Consider no photographs of ships at anchor outside Union ports should be published but no objection to photographs of convoys approaching or of troopships actually inside harbours. Suggest fake photography pictures of convoys show greater number of escort vessels and aircraft than really exist. Pictures might actually be of convoys in home waters showing a few destroyers amongst escort, but trawler type representing S.D.F. vessels should be included. With U-boats operating well south of Equator we want to try and give enemy impression that we have strong A/S forces in S. African waters. Intelligence services usually exaggerate the strength of the other side's forces.
(C. in C. S.A., 1225N/17 to Admty).

CYCLAMEN.

N.C.S.O. informs British Consul CYCLAMEN will require 100 tons of fuel at Ponta Delgada on 30/11. (C. in C. S.A., 1239A/17 to N.S.C.O. Ponta Delgada San Miguel).

ODENWALD.

Request report by telegram of any information obtained from ODENWALD about her occupation and movements, which would be of use when planning future operations.
(C. in C.S.A., 1255N/17 to B.A.D.)
(Reply B.A.D., 1205R/18.

HAWKINS.

To leave Freetown at 0615N/18 and on completion of practices proceed to U.K. passing through the following positions
(a) 13.35 N., 25.35 W.
(b) 16.25 N., 27.42 W.
(c) 39.00 N., 30.00' W. (d) 46° N., 22° 20' W.
Speed of advance to position (D) 14½ knots.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to order onward route from position (D). (C. in C. S.A., 1511N/17 to HAWKINS).

/FORT....

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

FORT DE
TRYON.
French.

Arrival 17th.
(Duala, 1737/17 to D. of S.T.)

STANLEY
defects
S.L.94.

STANLEY arrived Freetown 16/11 with both dynamo's out of action, condenser defective, and both boilers require cleaning for removal of salt water. Will be unable to sail with S.L.93. Intend to sail her with S.L.94. (C. in C. S.A., 2001W/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

THODE.
FAGELUND
sunk.

Chief Officer and 8 men of ?(Norwegian) ship THODE FAGELUND bound for Madras to Capetown landed at Kidds Beach near East London at 1800 today (ii) Officer reports by telephone ship was torpedoed and sunk at 0500/17. (iii) Torpedo was not seen, stated that all four hatches blew off. I am inclined to doubt torpedo. (v) Officer is being fetched by car to East London for interrogating (vi) 3 other boats reported still missing (vii) position of sinking reported to be 45 miles off land. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2128B/17 to Admty C. in C. S.A. etc).

THODE FAGELUND, 5757 tons, bound from Chittagong to Table Bay and U.K. (D.O.R., 18/11) My 2128/17. Further information. (i) Ship hit on starboard side and took 5 minutes to sink (ii) No. 4 hatch and not all hatches blown off (iii) No explosive carried (iv) Position of sinking (?32) to 35 miles off land (v) Position of all boats known and tug is proceeding to their assistance. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2325Z/17).

R.A.S.A.D.

BIRMINGHAM wearing flag of R.A.S.A.D. arrived Montevideo 1300 G.M.T./17 and leaves 1300 G.M.T./19 for Falkland Islands. (R.A.S.A.D., 2139Z/17)

Flying Over
Cape Verde.

Consul St. Vincent's 1450/30/10 to F.O. No.25. This should not deter you from carrying out R/C which you consider necessary. Pilots should be instructed to make every effort to avoid flying over land and, in particular over towns. Known use by enemy S/Ms of Cape Verde Islands waters makes it essential that all necessary steps should be taken at all times to safeguard important shipping routes in the vicinity of these Islands. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2247A/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.→ TALISMAN,
TORBAY.

My estimate of noon position 17th 033° 15' 023° 42' E.T.A. Alexandria 0600/20. 17 Soldiers still on board. TORBAY requests daily weather reports at (?noon) for next 24 hours. (TALISMAN, 0350B/17 to S.1).

S/Ms..

Cancel my 1830B/16. Necessary orders will be issued by Capt. S.(1)
(Capt. S.10., 1015B/17 to S/Ms on Patrol)

→ TALISMAN.

At 1800B alter course proceed through following positions (X) 033° 08' 023° 57' (Y) 033° 08' 027° 02' (Z) 032° 34' 028° 20' thence direct end searched Channel to arrive Sanctuary 0600B/20 British force will be operating southwards of you during night 18th-19th.
(Capt. S.1., 1145B/17 to TALISMAN)

Air
Operations.

A. 897, 17/11. Night 15/16 41 Wellingtons operated. 6 Wellingtons dropped bombs on Derna. Reports from remainder awaited.
Day 16/11. 6 Marylands dropped bombs on dispersed aircraft at Derna landing ground. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1146/17).
Following is supplementary to my A.897, 17/11 para. 1. Night 15/16. 9 bombed Derna landing ground which was lit up with flares dropped by 2 Albacores. 13 bombed stores dumps at Bardia
Day 16/11. 9 Marylands bombed enemy aircraft on Gazala south landing ground.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1432/17)

Russian Ships
from Black
Sea.

Your 1944/14. There appear to be misunderstandings. It has at no time been suggested an escorted convoy can be formed to bring these ships through Aegean and such a proposal is out of the question. Consider ships must be sailed by similar methods to those used to bring out other allied ships which have slipped through Aegean. Lieut. Harkness R.N.R. has already been sent to you and endeavour will be made to find some other suitable officers but as ships will not all be sailing together ten officers will be unnecessary. It is not thought more than five ships a month can be safely sailed down by this means. 3 further sets of charts and Mediterranean pilots will be sent. (C. in C. Med., 1200B/17 to A.N.A. Ankara).

/PORPOISE....

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

PORPOISE
Fleet
Movements.

1. Important British units will be leaving harbour a.m./18. Be on the surface in S/M exercise Sanctuary from 0830B onwards. Do not enter searched channel until all force (?leaving) are clear. 2. Small convoy escorted by 2 sloops and 3 trawlers leave harbour at 0600B Westward by inshore route. One corvette escorting a merchant ship due from Eastwards 1000B. 3. Cruisers and destroyers will be operating to Southwards of (?you) during the night and may be sighted about (?daylight). They R/V with other units to N.W. of Sanctuary at 1230B/18. (Capt. S.1., 1641B/17 to PORPOISE.)

Enemy Units
attacked
by A/C.

Three Merchant Ships one Destroyer attacked by aircraft in 037° 14' 019° 51' at 1455B/17. One ship left on fire. (Capt. S. 10, 1855B/17 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Corinth
Canal, mines.

1. If aircraft mines are laid in Corinth Canal suggest they should be fitted with period Delay Mechanism set to more than four actuations. 2. Secret message 279 of 3/11 refers. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1917A/17 to C. in C. Med.)

THORN.

Concentrate for next 2 or 3 days on route Piraeus - Antikithera. (?Aim at) intercepting any southbound convoy which normally leaves Gaidaro about dusk and passes East of Giorgio Island. (Capt. S.1. 2014B/17 to THORN.)

Situation
report 167.

Western Desert. 7 C.S. at sea for bombardment tonight 17/18. Tobruk supply continues but destroyers temporarily withdrawn. Some Australian troops remain in Tobruk although sufficient trips completed to evacuate all remaining contingent. Two M.T.Bs employed on U-Boat patrol off Bardia night 15/16 without result. (2) Levant. Four destroyers carried out sweeps 14 to 16 in area N.E. of Port Said without result. (3) Submarines. PROTEUS returned from patrol in Aegean. 0945/3 one (?13) miles south of Mandili Island tanker TAMPICO torpedoed with one hit but still afloat at dark and second attack frustrated by escort. At 2030/9 sighted German ITHAKA heavily laden southbound off St. Giorgio I. and with two escorts. PROTEUS shadowed, worked round escort and at 0400/10 attacked scoring four hits. One hit possibly on escort. No counter attack. (4) Red Sea. ARPHA has arrived Suez. (C. in C. Med. 2141B/17.)

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

AUSTRALIA.

N.O.I.C. East London 0700/15 and my 0953/13.
AUSTRALIA is at 48 hours notice while carrying
out self refit.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1256Z/17 to C. in C.E.I.)

KANIMBLA.

Cancel my 1452/18/10. KANIMBLA is now due
Penang p.m./27/11. C. in C. China has been
requested to arrange onward programme to
Australia in consultation with A.C.N.B.,
Melbourne, so as to give passage to C.N.S.,
A.C.N.B. from Singapore. (ii) My 0800/24/10
to A.C.N.B. Melbourne only is also cancelled.
(C. in C. E.I., 1540Z/17 to A.C.N.B.)

China.

DAUNTLESS.

Will leave Singapore 21/11 for Colombo and U.K.
Request you will arrange onward passage. Her
fuel capacity is 87 of normal for D class.
(C. in C. China, 0913Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

Coast
Defence,
Tanjong
Priok,
Edam Is.

Your 0309Z/13. Now understood that intention
is to instal at Tanjong Priok two 6" guns
offered in A.M. 1601A/20/10 and instead of a
6" battery ordered by Dutch from some other
source. 2. Request information if possible
as to (a) Source from which 6" battery not yet
delivered was ordered. (b) When plan for Edam
Island is likely to be complete, whether heavy
and medium batteries are available and when
installation is expected to start.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1148A/17 to C. in C. China.)

America and West Indies.

S.C.54.

Serial 5. British escort of 7 ships S.O. in
BROKE meets S.C.54.
(U.S.C.N.O., 0120/17 to Com. Task Unit 4.1.15.)

/CLARKIA.....

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.CLARKIA.

Your 1212Q/16. Preferred for CLARKIA to arrive Monday, exact time and position will be signalled shortly.
(B.A.R.M., 094OR/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

*See also p. 439*W.S.12X.

Arrival convoy W.S.12X.
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 1041Q/17 to Admty.)
List of Ships, speed, destination, etc.
(D.O.D.(F), 1820A/17 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

BURWELL.

Ref. N.S.H.Q. 2300/14 (? 2003Z/14 intended, arrival of BURWELL at Boston.) It is at present impossible to give completion date and assumption of two month's refit is not authorised by me.
(B.A.R.M., 1122R/17 to Admty.)

DESPATCH.

C. in C. A.W.I., 1222/9 (Programme for DESPATCH.)
Arrangements made.
(B.A.D., 1201R/17 to Cdre, W. Indies.)

Vessels renamed.

Following for B.A.S.R.
Your 1405R/11, para. 6 (N.T. in W.D.) Names for vessels BYT 1 to 5 are BUSY, CONFIDENT, INTENT, HELPFUL, RESOLUTE respectively.
(Head of N.A.S. Section, 1332A/17 to B.A.D.)
See also 1712A/20.

CAPILLO.

Your 1630/16. CAPILLO arrived Port Moresby 15/11.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1332Z/17 to Admty.)

S.C.56 Escort.

S.C.56, unit 4.1.13 designated escort. ^z
RESTIGOUCHE, S.O. of escort, ALYSSE, AGASSIS, BITTERSWEET, AMHERST, CHICOUTIMI, TRILLIUM, ORILLIA.
(C.C.N.F., 1355Z/17 to Com Task Force 4.)

DIDO.

Ship ready for sea 3/12 with probable (corrupt group) completion of type 285. DIDO should arrive Bermuda a.m./6/12 after completing S.A. trials at Boston.
Working up will require 8 clear days.
If above Unit practices can be carried out without delay ship could arrive Gibraltar on 20/12
(DIDO, 1415R/17 to B.A.R.M. Washington.)

/W.S.12.....

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1820A/17

November.
CUT.To: C. in C. South Atlantic. Date. 17.11.41.
268.

C. in C. East Indies. 773.

Repeated: C. in C. Mediterranean. 100B1.

N.O.I.C. Trinidad.

C. in C. America & West Indies. 174.

F.O.I.C. Simonstown. 29.

F.O.R.S.

F.O.C.I.N. 191.

N.S.H.Q. 949.

NAVAL CYPHER (C).

From Admiralty.

Convoy W.S.12.X. sailed Halifax 10.11. comprising following ships.

<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Speed.</u>
MOUNT VERNON	21
WAKEFILED.	21
WEST POINT.	22
JOSEPH T. DICKMAN	15
LEONARD WOOD	16½
ORIZABA	16½

2. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa should notify total numbers embarked on each ship. All personnel are for Middle East but possibility of diversion to India for oncarriage to Persian Gulf is under consideration.

3. No cargo or vehicles have been loaded.

4. Fuel and water requirements at Trinidad and Capetown have been dealt with separately. Further signal will follow regarding subsequent requirements.

5. Addressed pass to S.T.Os. concerned.

1820A/17.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

D.O.D.(F)

for D.O.D.(F)

2nd S.L.

D.D.O.D.(F)

(546)

3rd S.L.

D.N.I.(4)

4th S.L.

D.S.D.

D.G.D.

5th S.L.

D.N.A.D.

D.D.I.C.

V.C.N.S.

D. of L.D.

D. of S.T.

A.C.N.S.(H)

D.A/S.W.

A.C.N.S.(F)

D.M.S.

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

I.P.(2)

A.C.N.S.(W)

W.D.

N.A.1st S.L.

D.C.

D. of P.(2)

Hd. of M.

D.O.D.(H)

D.T.S.D.

D.D.O.D.(H)

E.P.S.

N.I.D.10.

D.T.D.(2)

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- W.S.12. Opnav 1758/17. (Repeated in Admty. 1326A/18, see S.A. 18/11.)
- WASAGA,
COWICHAN. Completion deferred to 20/11 due to delay in obtaining ballast.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1543Z/17.)
- CLARKIA. Bermuda departure CLARKIA in accordance with my 1212Q/16/11. Bermuda arrival U.S.S. SALAMONIE (Oiler).
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1843Q/17 to Admty.)
- INDOMITABLE. Proposed programme.
(INDOMITABLE, 1837Z/17.)
See Lion Copy.
- GEORGES
LEYGUES.
(French
Cruiser) Casablanca, 15/11. A.1. GEORGES LEYGUES sailed 0830/15 to southward. Believed bound for Dakar to relieve GLOIRE or MONTCALM.
(B.A.D., 1727R/17 to S.O.I. Freetown.)
- French
shipping. ILE DE RE and LEOPOLD L.D. sailed a.m./15. Casablanca for New York. WYOMING also sailed Casablanca Martinique, and MONT VISO Martinique, Casablanca. All voyages approved.
(B.A.D., 1939R/17 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)
- FANALAS (?) Yugoslavian (? FANALAS) grounded Funk Isle, Newfoundland, later floated apparently in sinking condition.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2022Z/17 to Admty.)
- S.C. Convoys. It is hoped to continue assembling S.C. Convoys at Sydney until at least 15/1. Request however that ships due at Sydney after 1/1 be warned that they may receive diversion signal to Halifax and that they may be supplied with provisional instructions for Halifax.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2231Z/17 to S.O.I's. Capetown, Freetown, etc.)

/ODENWALD....

MOST SECRET

439A

MESSAGE Nov.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From H.M.S. INDOMITABLE.

Date. 18.11.41.

Recd. 0613.

Naval Cypher "F" by Cable.

Addressed B.A.R.M. Washington. Repeated Admiralty.
C. in C., America & West Indies.

164

Ship will be undocked November 19th.
Propose to leave Norfolk during the night November
20/21 embarking A/G at sea November 21.

(ii) It is strongly recommended ship should
return to Jamaica for further 14 days for working
up.

(iii) No night deck landing training has been
done. No 4.5 inch gun has yet been fired owing to
large number of minor defects in fire control
systems. It is expected fire control will be
satisfactory on leaving Norfolk. Fighter direction
training has been (?held up by) inefficiency of
radio telegraphy. With spare parts obtained in
U.S.A. it is expected radio telegraphy will be more
satisfactory. No runner torpedo attacks have been
carried out.

(iv) The following programme is proposed:-

<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leave</u>
Blank	Norfolk	November 21st
November 24th	Kingston (Jamaica)	December 8th
December 16th	(?Gibraltar)	Blank.

(v) It is probable sea conditions will be
suitable for torpedo running at Jamaica. In which
case it is not proposed to call at Trinidad unless
necessary to do so for fuel.

(vi) It is requested two corvettes be provided
for attending on ship at Jamaica if available.

1837Z/17.

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D. (F) & D.N.A.D.

1st Lord	D.O.D. (F)	Hd. of M.
1st S.L.	D.D.C.D. (F)	D.S.D.
2nd S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	D.N.I. (4)
3rd S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)	E.P.S.
4th S.L.	D. of P. (2)	I.P. (2)
5th S.L.	D.N.A.D.	W.D.
V.C.N.S.	Duty Capt. (2)	Admiral Bailey
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.I.C.	D. of D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.A/S.W.	Dep. Cont.) Bath
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.G.D.	Hd. of S.V.R.)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.S.D.	

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ODENWALD.

Your 1159/13. Understand Lt.-Cdr. Glick of OMAHA supplied information desired on 14/11. (Opnav, 2257/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.) ODENWALD brought into San Juan, Porto Rico, p.m./17 under her own power but escorted by U.S. Warships. Details of capture. (The Times, 18/11/41.)

New Zealand.

LEANDER.
MONTEREY.

Departure Auckland LEANDER covering MONTEREY to vicinity of Equator via Suva and Pagopago. (N.Z.N.B., 0505Z/17 to Admty., etc.)

War Diary.17.11.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.THODE
FAGELUND.

Norwegian, suspected torpedoed at 0500/17, off East London. (See South Atlantic.)

Submarines Reported.

1527.

1528 G.M.T. SSSS BCSQ (ALGONQUIN) 38° 23' N., 62° 16' W., smoke on surface apparently from submarine 1527/17, bearings Camperdown 168° approx., 600 metres - signed O.I.C. (Halifax N.S. T.H.I., 1200/17 to Admty.)

Estimated approx., positions of U/B's. (D.D.I.C. 1422A/17, 1423A/17.)

Submarines Attacked.By MARIGOLD.U.433 sunk.(Confirmed by
Cmd. 643. 6/46)

MARIGOLD reports having attacked and destroyed U-boat in approx., 036° 13' N., 004° 42' W., and has picked up survivors.

(F.O.C.N.A., 0142A/17, to Admty.)

Have 34 survivors of U-Boat. Request further instructions.

(MARIGOLD, 0206A/17, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Have searched but no further survivors. Asdic and Radio D/F out of action. E.T.A., 0700.

Your 0317A/17, prisoners German.

(MARIGOLD, 0356A/17, to F.O.C.N.A.; F.O.C.N.A., 0622A/17 to Admty.)

Well done.

(C. in C.W.A., 0937A/17, to MARIGOLD.)

My 0622A/17. Evidence of key tallies and store notes indicate U.433.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1022A/17, to Admty.)

MARIGOLD's 0356A/17. Prisoners should be sent to U.K., for interrogation at first opportunity. No formal interrogation is to be carried out in the meantime. If the U-boat's number or name of C.O. is ascertained it is to be reported. Any captured documents should be forwarded to D.N.I., at first opportunity.

(D.N.I., 1538A/17, to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 0412A/17. MARIGOLD, delayed by engine defects, was proceeding independently to join 36th Group who were carrying out A/I search in Eastern Approaches.

/(2) At about.....

War Diary.

17.11.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By MARIGOLD.

Contd.

U. 433 Sunk.

(2) At about 2316/16 in 36.13 N., 04 42 W., R.D.F., contact was made range 4000 yards closing. Whilst altering course to bearing object identified as U-boat, speed increased to ram U-boat but U-boat avoided by crash diving close ahead.

(3) Asdic contact was gained and attack made with 5 charges at 50 feet. Contact was lost but regained in 15 minutes bearing ahead range 1300 yards. Deliberate attack was made with 10 charges pattern set 150 and 300 feet.

(4) Contact regained astern and U-boat surfaced. Range was closed and fire opened with 4" pom-pom and Lewis. Crew abandoned ship and U-boat sank very quickly. Two explosions presumed scuttling charges, heard.

(V.A.C.N.A., 1904A/17 to Admty.)

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.S/M
operations.

The Admiralty informed TRIDENT and TIGRIS that their operations in North Russia have most successfully achieved their object. SEALION shelled and set on fire at 1127C today the small Norwegian tanker VESCO in 71° 0' 30" N. 27° 1' 50" E; the crew abandoned ship and SEALION returned to base with injured Norwegian officers and valuable information. *See 19/11 - p. 476* Soviet S/MS report having sunk vessels on 2/11, 9/11 and 10/11 respectively in the Hammerfest-Tromso area and torpedoed and set on fire a tanker on 15/11 off Varanger Fiord.

Dispositions
to intercept
enemy heavy
unit.

An alteration in the dispositions which will be taken up by U.S. cruisers WICHITA and TUSCALOOSA, should enemy heavy units break out, was made today; these cruisers will patrol west of Iceland. Submarine and air patrols are still being carried out.

W.A.
escort
forces.

C. in C. W.A. gives details today of a proposed reorganisation of his escort forces.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today.

The operations of Fighter and Coastal Commands were affected by the weather, but successful attacks were made on ships off Fecamp and Ijmuiden.

Enemy Air Operations.

H.N.M.S. HORTEN (Local Defence whaler) was damaged by air attack at 1400/~~today~~ whilst patrolling off Nolso Lighthouse. (*See p. 480*)

War Diary.

18.11.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Thames
Estuary.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary is suspected during the early part of last night. A W.D. towing vessel was slightly damaged by 2 near miss acoustic mines at 1000 today.

Between 1905 and 1940 today there was a period of intense minelaying activity over the Estuary and a large number of mines were subsequently detonated. It is understood that indications given by R.D.F. were slight and A.A. gunfire from shore ineffective. The night was very dark. There was very little gunfire from ships, on account of nothing being seen. Owing to the small number of ships available in the Sheerness Local Defence Flotilla that night no heavily armed ships apart from the boom vessels themselves were stationed in the boom area; 3 Eagle ships and one gunboat were in the outer estuary. C. in C. Nore reports that unless more effective measures can be taken considerable risk exists that convoys in and out of the Thames will be seriously delayed.

North Atlantic.

S.O. Force H reported that MALAYA's repairs were completed and the ship was ready for service at 1011A today. (It was reported on 15/11 that bearings required remetalling).

South Atlantic.

HAWKINS sailed from Freetown this evening for the U.K. with S.L. 43.

War Diary.

18.11.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Nuisance raids were carried out over Naples from 2035/17 to 0155/18 and from 1835/18 to 2335/18 and over Brindisi from 2040/17 to 0010/18.

Operation
"Chieftain".

The battlefleet was at sea today in support of Operation "Chieftain". It was shadowed by enemy aircraft whilst proceeding westward, and turned back after dark today but did not return to harbour until 19/11.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

The Imperial troops commenced a general advance at dawn today with naval and air cooperation. Bad weather considerably hampered operations and the bombardment arranged for the 7th C.S. last night had to be cancelled for that reason. Two German Officers and 7 O.R.'s were captured near Daba last night, having landed by boat from a U-boat and attempted unsuccessfully to mine the railway. F.A.A. fighters are being employed as fleet cover and Albacores in support of Western Desert operations with Advanced H.Q.

IN MEMORIAM

KEYES.—In proud, happy and loving memory of Lt.-Col. GEOFFREY KEYES, V.C., M.C., Croix de Guerre, Royal Scots Greys and 11th (Scottish) Commando. Killed leading the raid on General Rommel's H.Q., Sidi-Rafa, Libya, 18th Nov., 1941, aged 24.

War Diary.

18.11. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Fishguard
Ferry
services.

It has been represented that the Fishguard-Rosslare and Fishguard-Waterford services should run by day only.

2. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 1153A/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

News of
closing and
re-opening
Ports.

It is essential that news of closure of a port through enemy action or through weather or through other unforeseen causes should reach Admiralty immediately. It is equally essential that news of subsequent re-opening should reach Admiralty immediately.

Information of closing and opening is to be passed without delay by telephone to Admiralty Trade Division extension 1240, being confirmed by signal.

The telephone message is to state time of the occurrence, cause, and any forecast possible at the time of speaking.

Forecasts of re-opening are also to be telephoned, but need not necessarily be confirmed by signal.

A.M. 1740/14/6/40 is cancelled.
(D.T.D. 1759A/18).

Co-operation with Russia.

Accommodation
for 4 Officers
and 7 ratings.

Admty.'s 2234A/16. Accommodation (corrupt group) numbers of personnel expected for all three services considered to be satisfactory for winter. Naval accommodation particularly good. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1030C/18 to Admty.).

Charts
for
Russia.

Your 1905C/13. Further set of chart folios 13 and 14 have been sent to you in P.Q.5.
(D.N.I. 1430A/18 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

TRIDENT
TIGRIS.

T.L. congratulate you on the most valuable service you have given in North Russia. Your attacks have resulted in sinking and damaging many enemy ships and by your skill and your example you have given great encouragement to our Allies. Your object has been most successfully achieved.
(1st S.L. 1546A/18 to TRIDENT, TIGRIS).

Russian
Patrols
in White
Sea.

Following received from S.B.N.O. Archangel:- Begins (Text of S.B.N.O. Archangel's 1645C/17) Ends.
(D.O.D(H) 1621A/18 to C.in C. H.F. etc).

War Diary.18.11. 1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Scapa
A/S
defences.

Cancel my 1255A/14. Request EMILE BAUDOT be sailed in Convoy for Scapa to repair A/S fixed defences. (D.A/S.W. 1104A/18 to A.C.I.C.). Your 1104 A/18. Had already sailed for previous destination 4 in my 1019N/18. ^{N.T. & W.D.} (A.C.I.C. 1759N/18 to Admty.).

Movements.BROADWAY.

Position 060° 20' N. 025° 00' W.
(BROADWAY 0550Z/18).

SWEETBRIAR

My position 058° 34' N. 023° 31' W.
(SWEETBRIAR 0600Z/18). *See also p. 455*

Floating
crane.

Your 1835A/17. Your 1615A/14, and my 0930/15. Anticipated completion floating crane P.M./17. (D.S.T.O. Southampton 0915/18 to Admty.).

C.in C. Portsmouth 1233/16 and 1903/17. Request you will arrange to take over escort of tow in vicinity of St. Govans where it is estimated it will be P.M. 22nd.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1306/18 to C.in C. W.A.).
My 1233A/16 and 1903A/17. Tow will be escorted by BERKELEY, KINGSTON CRYSOBERYL, and KINGSTON TOPAZE. C.in C. Plymouth is requested to relieve escort trawlers before dark 20th and to order BERKELEY into Plymouth as soon as A/A escort can be dispensed with.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1603A/18 to C.in C. Plymouth).
One Sloop is to be detailed to provide A/A escort to Floating crane in tow and escorted by 3 M.Ls. between St. Govans Head and Ailsea Craig. R/V off St. Govans Head will be arranged by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven and ships detailed is to arrive Milford Haven A.M. 22nd. (C.in C. W.A. 1801A/18 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

LEITH.

^{N.T. & W.D.}
Your 1330/17. Approved to proceed to Liverpool. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 0937A/18 to LEITH).

CILICIA

^{N.T. & W.D.}
My 1620A/10 and my 1600A/15. Anticipated date now 3/12. (S.O.W.P. 0941A/18 to Admty.).

51st M/S
Group.

My 1335A/13. Sailing postponed until end of this week owing to defect in one ship. (V.A. Dover 1206A/18 to C.in C. Nore).

/Escort.....

War Diary.18.11. 1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. -Contd.Escort
for
RESOLUTION
BERKELEY.

Admiralty's 1917A/16. Request destroyer may arrive Plymouth A.M./24th. (C.in C, Plymouth 1256/18 to C.in C. Portsmouth). Your 1256/18. BERKELEY will be available for this service. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1603A/18 to C.in C. Plymouth).

RUBIS.Cancel my H05A/16. Intend to sail RUBIS escorted by LOCH MONTEITH from Dundee 1530A/18 inside Minch Barrier to 090° Sumburgh Head 10 miles thence unescorted dive by day to patrol in vicinity 061° 30' N. 4° E. C.in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter protection to Sumburgh Head. (Capt. S.9 1423A/18 to F.O.S. and 1551A/18 to S/ms Area A). *See also p.450*BADSWORTH
CROOME
(RAMILLIES).

Your 1926A/17. BADSWORTH and CROOME detailed. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1538A/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

1st M/S
Flotilla.

S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla 2230/15. Russia C.O. states escort can use Molotovsk with icebreakers without danger. Consider this view correct. Icebreakers have now been placed under control of Navy and I hope delay will no longer be experienced. (2) Intend keeping LEDA separate Ekonomia as W/T Guard Ship until W/T arrives or until I consider it is unsafe which ever is earlier. Admiralty pass to C.in C. H.F. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1655C/18).

O.10
Z.5.

Sailed S/M O 10 escorted by T.B.Z.5. (WESTERN ISLES 1700/18).

RORQUAL.

RORQUAL left 045° 53' N. 002° 40' W. A.M/18 thence through 047° 44' N. 006° W at about noon 19th to arrive Wolf Rock at 0800A/20. These movements however may be 24 hours late. (Capt. S.3. 1704A/18 to P.38, RORQUAL).

KENYA
BEDOUIN
INTREPID.

Pilot will board KENYA and BEDOUIN off Bolshoi Oleni Island in entrance Kola Island. (?Destroyers) will proceed alongside new oiling Jetty Rosta for Fuel and embarking R.A.F. subsequently anchoring allotted berths.

Weather permitting fighter escort will be provided for KENYA if arriving in daylight from position 360° Teriberski 8 miles. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1713C/18 to C.S.10).

See also p.452

/JAY.

War Diary.

18.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements -Contd.

JAY
LORD GREY
AIGLON.

Sailed JAY in company with minesweeping trawlers LORD GREY and AIGLON in accordance with my 1408A/14. Approximate E.T.A. Fayal 29/11. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1757A/18).

BERWICK
OFFA
ONSLOW.

BERWICK, OFFA, ONSLOW arrived Seidis Fiord 0900. (A.C.I.C. 1821N/18).

A.F.D. 14.

Weather permitting intend to sail A.F.D.XIV. In tow of EMPIRE LARCH and escorted by MORGAN JONES and NORTHNESS at 1500 tomorrow. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1840/18 to C.in C. Rosyth).

CARDAK
SILIVRI
AL GARNA
(Turkish).

1. Two ferry steamers CARDAK and SILIVRI are being delivered from U.K. to Istanbul for the Turkish Government, and are expected to sail as a group from Clyde very shortly.
2. The Masters have been instructed to report to the British Consul on arrival at Istanbul. Vessels are sailing under British registry and registers should be closed when vessels have been handed over to and accepted by Turkish Authorities.
3. Route being followed in Ponta Delgada, Freetown, Walfish Bay, Capetown. Durban, Mombasa, Aden, Port Said.
(A.C.N.S.T. 2000A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.).
My 0051A/11 and your 1010A/13. Request you to sail CARDAK and SILIVRI only as convenient for Ponta Delgada and Freetown for onward passage. Crane lighter AL GARNA is to remain in the U.K. until after the winter.
(A.C.N.S(T). 2001A/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

Information
for UNA.

O.N.M. 38 and escorts sailed Milford Haven 1530 . Northbound 7.
B.B.2 and escorts sailed Belfast 0100/19 Southbound 7. (Capt. S.3. 2047A/18 to UNA).

TRIDENT.

TRIDENT has been diverted to patrol in an area to southward of 65° N.
(F.O.S. 2324 A/18 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

War Diary.

18.11. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

UNA .
(Operation
"Familiar").

Report blank.
(UNA 0411/18 to Capt. S.3.).

Interception
of Heavy
Unit.

Your 1753/17. NORFOLK ready for service.
(V.A.2. 0955A/18 to C.in C. H.F.).

Cancel F.O.S. 1657A/6 and 1006A/9. RUBIS is to disembark mines forthwith and is to be prepared to sail for patrol in North Sea P.M. today. (F.O.S. 1156A/18 to Capt. S.9.).

(A). As soon as mines are disembarked today RUBIS is to be sailed to patrol in the vicinity 061° 30' N. 004° E. Object to attack and then report Cruisers and above and northbound merchant vessels if in company with Cruisers and above. ^{10.4.48}

(B). Submarines are not to be attacked in the vicinity of this position unless hostile identity is certain.

(D). All precautions to avoid being sighted are to be taken when within 60 miles of this position. (F.O.S. 1159A/18).

(a) TRIDENT proceed at best speed on surface at discretion through position C 69° 40' N. 010° E. thence patrol in vicinity of 062° N. 004° 20' E. Object attack and then report cruisers and above and northbound merchant ships if in company with cruisers and above.

(b) TUNA E.T.A. in patrol position 061° 02' N. 003° 50' E. from northward p.m. 19th.

(c) Submarines are not to be attacked in the vicinity of these patrol positions unless hostile identity is certain.

(d) Take all precaution to avoid being sighted within 60 miles of these patrol positions.

(F.O.S. 1207A/18 and 1301A/18 to TRIDENT, TUNA). Your 1756A/17. (Patrol by TRIDENT). Full speed can be used if necessary without serious extra risk. (S.B.N:O. North Russia 1259C/18 to F.O.S.).

My 1221Z/5. Cancel para (e) and substitute new para (e). U.S. Cruiser WICHITA and U.S. Cruiser TUSCALOOSA will carry out patrols similar to C.S. 18's force. Initial position WICHITA 064° 46' N. 031° 20' W. TUSCALOOSA 145° 15 miles from WICHITA. (C.in C. H.F. 1404Z/18).

/My.....

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations -Contd.Interception
of Heavy Unit
-Contd.

My 1524Z/13 para 2. and my 1759Z/17.
SHEFFIELD is to leave patrol at 0800Z/20 and proceed to Scapa through position (A) 061° N. 012° W. (B) 059° N. 007° W.
2. C.S.1. in NORFOLK is to proceed from Scapa as necessary to replace SHEFFIELD on patrol. (C.in C. H.F. 1833Z/18).

Your 1753Z/17. ARETHUSA ready for service with following limitations. A.F.C.T. training follow up can be worked by hand only, but is satisfactory. High angle director tests 50% complete and will be completed by noon/19 weather permitting. (V.A.2. 2351A/18 to C.in C. H.F.).

Dover
Patrol.

Two M.L's. will leave Dover at 2100 to operate off Wissant returning at about 0100/19. Route via East Varne each way. (V.A. Dover 1657A/18).

3 M/V's.
sunk and
1 M/V set
on fire.

Soviet S/M CHUKA class 421 reports following ships attacked and sunk:-
(a) On 2/11 in 70° N. 20° 30' E. unescorted westbound vessel 5000 tons.
(b) On 9/11 in 70° 21' N 21° 55' E. large escorted eastbound vessel.
(c) On 10/11 in 70° 09' N. 21° 12' E. eastbound escorted vessel 4000 tons.
2. MOLODKI class S/M 171 torpedoed southbound tanker Varanger Fiord on 15/11 later seen on fire. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2139C/18).

British Air Activity.Patrols.

Being flown to-day "Polar" from 0810 to 1510Z,
"Bear" from 0830 to 1620Z.
(A.C.I.C. 0948N/18).

Unless further intelligence is received, "Sentry" One two and three will be required from noon/19 and should be maintained. Object: detection of enemy major unit possibly attempting to break out. (A.C.N.S.H. 1338A/18).

"Polar" and "Bear" returned. Nil report.
(A.C.I.C. 1716N/18).

/151.....

War Diary.

18.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. -Contd.

151
Wing.

My 1840C/15 and your 1423/16. Intend 151 Wing
be embarked as follows. *- CinCHFP 405*
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1115C/18).

Escort
for
KENYA.

Fighter escort consisting of Biplane fighters may
be expected in daylight hours to southwards of
068° N. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 2200/18). *See p. 448*

Enemy Air Activity.

BOVEY
TRACEY
(Sunk
17/11).

S.S. BOVEY TRACEY in F.N. 555 damaged by bomb
at 1719/17 and sunk in 52° 28' N. 02° 05' E.
14 survivors in LOWESTOFT, others believed to
be in ELEANOR BROOKE or NORTHWOOD.
Casualties unknown. (C.in C. Nore. 1001 A/18).

Lowestoft
bombed.

Lowestoft bombed by single enemy A/C at 1845 A.C.D.
nil. B. one slight casualty.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1951A/18).

Mining.

Montrose.

Port open.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee 1059/18).

HAIG
damaged.

(W.D. target towing vessel). Slightly damaged
by 2 near miss acoustic mines at 1000/18 in 51°
57' 45" N. 01° 31' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1234A/18
and 1627A/18).

Thames
Estuary.

Enemy activity over the Thames Estuary for the
night 17/18 between 1910 and 2020.
At 2000 there were two explosions near Maplin Buoy-
probably mines detonating on being dropped.
There were several aircraft - one recognised as a
Heinkel 111 over the South Barrow, Knob, and South
Edinburgh Areas - all probably minelaying, but no
definite reports of suspected mine positions
received. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1723/18).

Falmouth.

Cancel my 1950/17. Port of Falmouth now open.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1807/18).

S.N. 25 C.

Sailed MENESTHEUS and NEWARK.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 2202/18).

War Diary.

18.11. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Brest at 1010/18. 3 main units in usual docks.
(D.D.I.C. 1521A/18) (F.O.S. 1851A/18).

?15 (p. 482)

Unknown ships.

Masters of S.S. HARMONIC, LORCA, and RIVER AFTON all from Q.P.2 report that at 2230/16 in about 062° 07' N. 004° 40' W. when detached from remainder of convoy they sighted large vessel brilliantly illuminated proceeding slowly northward.

Although only half mile from LORCA details could not be distinguished owing to glare.

Swedish ships CHILE, SVEADROTT, NORDSTJERNAN cleared from Faroes at 1812/14 eastbound, while DANAHOLM, UDDEHOLM cleared Faroes westbound at 1245/15 and 1252/16 respectively.
(A.C.O.S. 1824/18 to Admty.).

Navigational.

Ice.

U.S. Aircraft reports solid ice extending 40 miles to sea from Greenland coast and floe ice extending a further 25 miles into Denmark Strait. Three large bergs within 10 miles of 67.50 N. 25.30 W. C.in C. H.F. informed. (A.C.I.C. 0957N/18).

Kola Inlet A/S defences.

Your 1921A/16. Confirm that your 2008A/27/10 has been passed to N.C.S.O's. Arrangements have been made to warn all H.M. Ships likely to operate in these waters in the sense of your 1735A/14/10.
(C.in C. W.A. 1940A/18 to Admty.).

Technical.

Minor War-ships Recognition signals.

Your 1624A/14. Alternative (2) preferred.
(C.in C. W.A. 1022A/18 to Admty.).

Casualties and Defects.

CHICOUTIMI.

Following received from CHICOUTIMI. Asdic dome carried away, oscillator shaft bent. 2320Z/17.Ends.
(C.in C. W.A. 0658A/18).

MYOSOTIS.

Main H.P. bottom end bearing run.
Am proceeding to Belfast for emergency repairs.
E.T.A. 1700 (MYOSOTIS 0900A/18).

War Diary.18.11.1941
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. -Contd.S.3.

My 1745/15. ^{W.T.M.W.D.} S.3 sailing today, but her W/T transmitter out of action.
(HORNET 0925/18).

M.G.B's,
312 and
317.

M.G.B. 312 has one defective engine and some structural damage.
M.G.B. 317 has defective 2 pounder mark XIV gun for which immediate replacement has been arranged.
(V.A. Dover 1358A/18).

COLTSFOOT.

My P.C.S. are 035° 58' N. 014° 37' W. 097° 9.5.
(COLTSFOOT 1720Z/18).

WELSH ROSE
BRITANNIA.

If weather is favourable and vessel sustains no further damage overnight expect to refloat WELSH ROSE tomorrow. Operations on BRITANNIA are proceeding. (Mr. McKenzie, Kirkwall 1825A/18).

RAMSAY.

Following from GENTIAN. Have escorted motor vessel RAMSAY to Bantry Bay. She is leaking badly after bad weather. Left her at 3 mile limit at 0730A/18. My transmitter failing. My P.C.S. 54° 22' N. 10° 15' W. 47° 12 knots.
(VANQUISHER 2115A/18).

Shipping and Convoys.S.L. 91.

FIDRA, RAMSAY, LYMINGE not present. LYMINGE, RAMSAY sighted by aircraft at about 1300/17.
(C.in C. W.A. 0057/18).

T.C.15.

Ships and contents. Details due 21/11. (D.S.T. 0753A/18) See Lion Copy.

C.T.6.

Following ships sailed U.K. 14/11. LLANGIBBY CASTLE. TAMAROA. Details of personnel on board.
(D.of S.T. 0755A/18).

EULIMA.

In view of my 1927/10 to N.C.S.O. Reykjavik, request reasons why EULIMA was sailed in P.Q.4.
(D.T.D. 1327A/18 to A.C.I.C.).

F.N.557.
VALOROUS.

Anticipate VALOROUS will sail at 1000 tomorrow proceeding South by Swept Channels Q.Z.S. 277 and 287 to R/V with F.N.557. Speed 20 knots.
(F.O. Humber 1430A/18).

/ROSE.....

454A.3

MCST SECRET MESSAGE 0753A/18 November OUT

MOST SECRET

Date 13.11.41

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

T.C. 15

Naval Cypher (A.1 O.T.T.)

From Director of Sea Transport

Following are details of personnel etc., on board vessels of T.C.15 due 21.11.

Ship	Personnel on Board		Baggage in tons	Equipment in tons	Port of disembarkation
ANDES	Military	2065	12½	92	Liverpool
	W.T.S.	5	½	Nil	
	R.N.	2	Nil	Nil	
	Civilians	19	Nil	Nil	
Total on board 2091.					
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL	Military	2029	12	100	Clyde
	R.N.	179	1	Nil	
	Italian P.O.W.	10	Nil	Nil	
Total on board 2218.					
ORCADES	Military	2840	27	161	Liverpool
Total on board 2840.					
ORONSAY	Military	2753	12½	78	Liverpool
	Civilians	2	Nil	Nil	
Total on board 2755.					
REINA DEL PACIFICO	Military	2060	12	137	Liverpool
	Royal Netherlands Naval	43	Nil	Nil	
Total on board 2103					
SOBIESKI	Military	1567	7½	142	Clyde
Total on board 1567					
DURBAN CASTLE	Military	918	4	70	Clyde
Total on board 918					
WARWICK CASTLE	Military (including some indulgence passengers)	1482	Unknown	Unknown	Clyde
Total on board 1482.					

2. Also on board following blankets. ORONSAY 50 bales REINA DEL PACIFICO 39 bales DUCHESS OF ATHOLL 45 bales ORCADES 53 bales DURBAN CASTLE 9 bales SOBIESKI 28 bales. Also in REINA DEL PACIFICO one case concrete compactor weight 500 pounds.

/3.

MOST SECRET

3. None of these ships has cargo for discharge.
4. ~~CHRISTIAN HUYGENS~~ and will proceed to Liverpool. Details of cargo and personnel on board will be communicated separately.
5. Future service of all vessels except ANDES ORCADES SOBIESKI and CHRISTIAN HUYGENS has already been notified in my 0719/14. Disposal of these four vessels will be notified separately.

0753A/18
for Director of Sea Transport
M.W.T. Ext. 2187

A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.C.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D. of P. (2)
D. of S.T.
Lt. Col. Adams (M.I.5.)
D.T.D. (2)
Duty Capt.
N.I.D. 10.
Hd of M. I.P. (2)
E.P.S. W.D.

War Diary.

18.11. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. -Contd.

ROSE
SCHIAFFINO.

Have you any news of ROSE SCHIAFFINO.
Commodore reports ship did not join convoy.
(D.T.D. 1609A/18 to N.C.S.O. St. Johns. N.F.).

SWEETBRIAR.

My position 058° 27' N. 027° 20' W.
(SWEETBRIAR 1800Z/18). *See p 447*

W.S. 12Z.

Sailed from U.K. 12/11. Composition. (D.O.D.F.
1855A/18) See Lion Copy.

Ships
for
P.Q.5.

Admiralty 2155/15 to C.in C. H.F. Propose sailing
ships for P.Q.5 from Kirkwall at 0930/19
routed as follows to Hvalfjord through Q.Z.S.232.
Speed of advance 7½ knots. E.T.A. daylight/23.
Request air protection till dusk 19th.
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1905A/18).

C.T.7.

A.M. 1814A/16. Route.
GLENARTNEY should part company and proceed
independently after crossing 35° W. LANARKSHIRE
should proceed independently from position F.
H.Q.C.C. and H.Q.F.C. have been informed of route
to position D. (D.O.D.H. 2003A/18).

H.X.159.

Sailed SUNFLOWER, KINGCUP, ALISMA at 1830.
ROCKINGHAM at 2000, and (?H.M.S. ROCHESTER) at
2300. Corvettes carrying out A/S sweeps on way
to M.O.M.P. (A.C.I.C. 2302/18).

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E
MOST SECRET

OUT

~~1955~~/18/November.

To:- C.in C. South Atlantic 292 Date 18.11.41.
 C.in C. East Indies 789
 Rept C.in C. Mediterranean 143 Bl
 F.O.C.N.A. 255
 F.O.I.C. Simonstown 43
 S.N.O. Red Sea
 C.in C. China 368
 F.O.C. Malaya 849
 F.O.C.R.I.N. 197
 N.O.I.C. Durban.

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

From Admiralty
IMPORTANT

Following Transports sailed United Kingdom 12.11
 in Convoy W.S.12.Z.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Numbers on Board.</u>
A.2.	AORANGI	15½	West Africa South Africa Aden	20 128 1
A.3	ARUNDEL CASTLE	19	Middle East West Africa Aden Middle East South Africa	2300 88 1 685 430
A.5.	CAPETOWN CASTLE	17	West Africa Middle East Iraq India Burma Ceylon Malaya Hong Kong Aden	1 8 1319 263 1 31 237 2 40
A.6.	DUCHESS OF BEDFORD	17½	Middle East Iraq India	2 2798 212
A.8.	EMPRESS OF ASIA	15	Aden Middle East	42 2302
A.9.	EMPRESS OF JAPAN	21	Middle East Iraq India	33 2542 269
A.11.	MONARCH OF BERMUDA	18	Middle East Iraq India Malaya	36 2098 94 58
A.12.	NARKUNDA	15½	West Africa West Africa Middle East Iraq India	1 2 12 1903 227

Cont.....

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Numbers on Board.</u>
A.14	ORDUNA	14	Middle East India	2026 119
A.27.	MATAROA	14	South Africa East Africa Middle East India	652 12 673 99

2. Following M.T. guns and stores etc. were shipped in Troop Transports:

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Destination</u>
EMPRESS OF ASIA	M.T. Guns stores	Middle East
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD	Guns stores	India
CAPETOWN CASTLE	Guns, stores,) M.T. 2257 tons) c.w. commercial) cargo)	India
MATAROA	2 Oxfords	Capetown
EMPRESS OF JAPAN	Stores, M.T.	Middle East
	Guns	India

3. Following M.T. ships also sailed in convoy W.S.12Z.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Destination</u>
R.288	ABBEKERK	17	Vehicles guns stores, locomotives, ammunition	Persian Gulf
R.289	DEUCALION	15	Vehicles, guns stores, ammunition.	Persian Gulf or Middle East.
R.290	ADRASTUS	14½	Vehicles, guns, stores, ammunition.	Persian Gulf or Middle East.
R.301	SUSSEX	16½	Vehicles guns, stores, ammunition, 51 hurricanes	Persian Gulf
R.302	EMPIRE STAR	15	Vehicles, guns, locomotives, stores, ammunition.	Persian Gulf, or Middle East.

ABBEKERK has 17 personnel and DEUCALION 3 all for Irak.

4. Separate signal has been made regarding personnel requiring on-carriage from Freetown.

5. P.S.T.O. Simonstown should arrange for onward conveyance of

(a) All Personnel for East Africa Aden and Middle East ex MORANGI MATAROA and ARUNDEL CASTLE.

(b).....

c
45578

MOST SECRET

5. (b) Personnel for Aden and Middle East ex
CAPETOWN CASTLE DUCHESS OF BEDFORD EMPRESS OF JAPAN
MONARCH OF BERMUDA and NARKUNDA and
(c) Personnel for India ex ORDUNA and MATAROA.

6. P.S.T.O. India should arrange for onward conveyance
from India of all personnel for Iraq and of personnel for
Burma and Malaya ex CAPETOWN CASTLE and MONARCH OF
BERMUDA respectively.

7. A.C. Malaya should send on personnel for Hong Kong
ex CAPETOWN CASTLE.

8. MATAROA will proceed from South Africa to Plate
to load for U.K.

9. AORANGI and ARUNDEL CASTLE will be turned round in
South Africa and return to U.K.

10. CAPETOWN CASTLE will proceed from Singapore to New
Zealand to load for U.K.

11. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD EMPRESS OF JAPAN MONARCH OF BERMUDA
and NARKUNDA will return to U.K. from India.

12. ORDUNA will return to U.K. from Suez but EMPRESS OF
ASIA will probably be retained in Indian Ocean. Further
signal will be made.

13. CAPETOWN CASTLE DUCHESS OF BEDFORD EMPRESS OF JAPAN
MONARCH OF BERMUDA ABBEKERK SUSSEX and EMPIRE STAR will
bunker at Capetown remainder at Durban.

14. Commodore of convoy is Commodore Goldsmith in
NARKUNDA.

15. Freightship RIMUTAKA en route to Australia also
sailed from U.K. in W.S. 1227 with personnel for Durban.
Details of personnel will follow.

16. Addressees pass to S.T.O's and Military Authorities
concerned.

1855A/18
for D.O.D.(F) (546)

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

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.Intelligence. D.D.I.C., 1550A/18. (See Lion Copy.)North Atlantic.Search for
supply ship.

NELSON and HERMIONE are to comply with Admty. 2000A/17. (ii) HERMIONE is to leave ARGUS joining NELSON after daylight 18/11 and returning to Gibraltar on completion of search. (iii) ARGUS and escort are to return to Gibraltar in accordance with my 2231/15. (S.O. Force H., 0002A/18 to NELSON, HERMIONE, ARGUS.)

Cancel my 0002/18. ARGUS and escort are to remain to westward out of sight of land until dark and pass gate at 2230/19. E.T.A. is not to be reported unless an amendment is required. (S.O. Force H., 2347A/18 to ARGUS.)

DULVERTON,
SOUTHWOLD.

Arrived Ponta Delgada 0915 G.M.T./18. Left 1645 G.M.T./18. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0910/18, 1455/18 to S.O.I. Gib.)

Gibraltar
intelligence
areas.

Your 1900/15. Consider change of Eastern Limit as proposed in para. 2 is most desirable. 2. In view of fact that battle squadrons operate in this area it is requested that full information including (? general) and target map and photographs may be available at (?Gibraltar) in order that bombing raid may be planned. (S.O. Force H., 0929A/18 to Admty.)

MALAYA.

My 2331/13. Repairs completed. MALAYA ready for service. (S.O. Force H., 1011A/18 to Admty.)

CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN,
CORRIENTES.

My 1140/17. CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN today berthed alongside breakwater immediately astern of CORRIENTES both ship's bows towards south. (Las Palmas, 1130/18 to Admty.) See also p 458

Boom
Vessel.

My 1022A/16/10. Request confirmation that a Boom Working Vessel is being sent and approx. date of leaving U.K. (F.O.C.N.A., 1130A/18 to Admty.)

/Prisoners...

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Prisoners.

Request that results of conversations or statements made by prisoners of war both German and Italian be forwarded to D.N.I. by reference sheet as soon as possible.
(D.N.I., 1220A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EUGENIO C.
(Italian)

To B.N.A. Madrid, Commercial Madrid telegram 182 and S.O.(I) Gib.
EUGENIO C sailed this port early this morning 18/11 full load iron ore.
(Consul, Bilbao, 1301/18 to Admty.)

WISHART.
VIDETTE.

My 1844A/17 (Hush distribution) and my 1332A/18 (N.T. in W.D.). WISHART and VIDETTE detailed. Request approach route of ships to position V be signalled.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1606A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 1606A/18. Your 1844A/17 not received.
(C. in C. S.A., 1752N/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)
W.R. Note:- 1844A/17 now being passed to C. in C. S.A. Received with incorrect D.Gs. Given a "Hush" distribution in Admiralty.
C. in C. South Atlantic's 1752N/18. My 1844A/17 series number 35/707 was incorrectly routed via Whitehall to C. in C. W.A. Request this message may be passed to C. in C. S.A.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2121A/18 to Admty.)
W.R. Note:- F.O.C.N.A.'s 1844A/17 was passed to C. in C. S.A. on receipt of C. in C. S.A.'s 1752N/18.

WILD SWAN.

Your 1202/12. It is not understood why WILD SWAN is being held at Gibraltar for*this escort observing that Admty. 1055/5 approved your retaining WILD SWAN for Operation "Chieftain" only if O.G.76 did not arrive in time.
(V.C.N.S. 1729A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.) *KANGITATA - See p. 302.

ARK ROYAL.

Report from D.N.C. on sequence of events (technical), and mystery as to why ship apparently lost all steam.
(Dep. Controller, Bath, 1753/18 to Controller.)
See Lion Copy.

EMPIRE
BARRACUDA.
EMPIRE
PANTHER.

To enter Gibraltar and will remain there until further orders.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1910A/18 to STORK, GERANIUM.)

/MIRROR.....

IN

From Deputy Controller Bath.

DATE: 18.11.41
RECD: 1824

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Controller, Repeated D.N.C. Bath, E in C Bath,
D.E.E. Bath, D.D.N.C. London, E in C London.

(ARK ROYAL)

Your 1415/17 Re F.O. Force H message 2216/15 to
D.N.C. D.N.C. reports the sequence of events appears to
be as follows:-

(a) Torpedo exploded at or very close to bulkhead 79. Thick protective bulkhead was strained and leaked but not extensively ruptured. Bulge compartments 56 - 98 all flooded practically immediately, causing list of 10 degrees..

(b) In 1½ hours afterwards starboard boiler room had filled increasing list to 18 degrees, which was reduced to 14 degrees by counterflooding.

(c) Shock caused bulkheads to leak as follows. Transverse bulkhead 79 flooding telephone exchange and switchboard room flat. Shock through flooded petrol compartment made bulkheads bounding bomb rooms and 4.5 inch magazines leak and these flooded. Transverse bulkhead 94 shaken resulting in flooding of starboard Evaporator Room, L.P. Compressor Room and Machinery Control Room. Transverse bulkhead 98 shaken causing flooding of starboard Engine Room. All this flooding, particularly of the compartments more remote from centre of explosion, was comparatively slow, but could not be dealt with owing to loss of all power in the ship. These compartments in conjunction with loss of waterplane account for list increasing to 35 degs and ship foundering soon after this list was reached.

2. At present the mystery is why the ship apparently lost all steam. It looks as though the port Boiler room was not in use. To clear up this point it is necessary to know what boilers were alight at the time of the explosion and whether machinery was in units. Also a brief sequence of events leading up to loss of steam is required.

3. ILLUSTRIOUS and IMPLACABLE classes have only turbo-generators. This and position of Switchboard Room I am discussing with departments here and will report later.

1753/18

1st Lord	O.D.8	T/P for Deputy Controller
1st S.L.	O.I.C.	(3) Bath BA 7620
Controller	D	D (4) "
Vice Contr.	N.L.	P "
4th S.L.	S. Branch	D.A/S.W.(2) "
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I.(4)	D.N.C.(2) "
A.C.N.S.(W)	I.P.(3)	E in C "
A.C.N.S.(F)	Press Div.	D.E.E.(2) "
A.C.N.S.(H)	Ops (3)	D.T.M.(2) "
PARL SEC.	O.D.(5)	
NAV. SEC.	W.D.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.A/S.W.	
M (2)	D.T.M.	
D.E.L.	D.N.C.	
D.D.T.M.	E in C	

BM

War Diary.

18.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

MIRROR.
Cable
operations.

My 1927/7 and 1226/13/10. ^{N.T. in W.D.} MIRROR should start programme by proceeding to 38° 38', 9° 48' to cut and test Italian La Panne - Lisbon to break in Channel. If test figures agree with those supplied, she will join cable to Vigo - Lisbon interrupted near Vigo. Intended subsequently to divert Channel end so as to form new London-Lisbon to link with Lisbon - Gibraltar. Operation should take 24 to 36 hours. Cable & Wireless are supplying Master with test figures and instructions for joining up.
2. On arrival Fayal she should repair Commercial Co.'s Fayal-Waterville No.2 about 6 miles from Fayal, then proceed with (a)
3. Delete (d), being done by CAMBRIA, vide my 1928/7. ^{N.T. in W.D.}
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1948A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

VARDAAS.

Overdue shipping. VARDAAS due East London 14th from Colombo not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1035B/18 to Admty., etc.)
See China, 0757/19.

Liaison
with U.S.N.

Your 1941Z/4. Not considered that your proposals 1 and 2 would serve any useful purpose at present. Your 3 and 4. Navy Dept. Washington is not yet prepared to exchange officers in South Atlantic Area.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1046A/18 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)

CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN.

Following received from Las Palmas:- 2 shipments totalling about 200 tons gas oil fuel in drums sent by sailing vessels to Tenerife ex CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN. This tanker is filling more drums today into German Lighters. 1800/17. (Ends.)
(D.D.I.C., 1125A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

See p 456

/Force "Q".....

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Force
"Q".Delete ULSTER MONARCH, ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN from Force "Q".
(C. in C. S.A., 1301N/18 to Force "Q".)W.S.12.

Following received from U.S. Chief of Naval Operations. (Begins). Request escort W.S.12. B.A.D. 1401/1. Due to unexpectedly slow speed of one ship convoy now expected to arrive Capetown 9/12 based on leaving Trinidad 19/11. T.O.O. 1758/17. (Ends.) (D.O.D. (F) 1326A/18 to C. in C. S.A., etc.) See also America and West Indies, 1347A/18.

C.M.23.Your 0648/15. Firm date of sailing C.M.23 Sunday 30/11.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1601B/18 to C. in C. E.I.)SHAHRISTAN
Survivors.

Cancel my 2316/16 and my 2314/16. The 21 military survivors were sent to Lisbon on 9/11. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange with N.A. Lisbon for onward passage in a Merchant Vessel. (D.T.D., 1610A/18 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

CANTON.
W.S.12X.Your 1347A/18 (see America and West Indies.) CANTON will be in 003° 00' N. 027° 30' W. at 2359/20 and will then sweep to N.W. till 24th. She can be diverted for escort duties as in para. 2. Request R/V with W.S.12X may be signalled if she is required. Necessary to relieve CANTON later as she will have barely enough fuel to reach Capetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1901N/18 to Admty., B.A.D.)
My 1901/18. Could arrange for BULOLO to relieve CANTON about 27/11 and DERBYSHIRE to relieve BULOLO about 2/12.
(C. in C. S.A., 2031N/18 to Admty., B.A.D.)HERMES.
Force G.
(P. OF WALES.
ELECTRA.
EXPRESS.)Simonstown arrival 1110Z/18 HERMES. Capetown departure 1630Z/18 Force G in accordance with S.O. Force G, 1505/17.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2003Z/18 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., etc.)HAWKINS.
S.L.93()
O.S.10.Departure 18/11 HAWKINS with convoy S.L.93() BRILLIANT, CROCUS, NIGELLA, SOUTHERN PRIDE, CYCLAMEN. Arrivals 18/11 with convoy O.S.10, VANSITTART, MARGUERITE, STARWORT, BURDOCK, FREESIA, VERBENA.
(Freetown, 2217N/19(?18) to Admty., etc.)

/Convoy.....

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Convoy
W.S.12Z.List, fuel requirements.
(D.S.T., 2221A/18 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)
See Lion Copy.Mediterranean.SALZBURG.
THESSALIA.
(German)Information (B.2) received that on 15/11 SALZBURG, with cargo of cement, timber, 1 ton of aeroplane bombs, and tinned foodstuffs, was ready to sail, probably for Crete, and that THESSALIA, with cargo of ore, tobacco, and dried fruits, was also ready to sail.
(D.S., 806.)UNGVAR
mined.*not identified*
Hungarian UNGVAR, 1000 tons, was mined on 18/11 in the Black Sea.
(D.S., 807, 20/11.)Soviet ships
from Black
Sea.Following from Adm. Kelly.
Your 1200B/17 addressed A.N.A. Angora and A.N.A. Istanbul's 1944B/14 to C. in C. Med. I was sending you telegram to exactly the same effect. A.N.A. referred to agreement between Adm. Miles and Russian authorities with which we do not concur. Am most anxious to sail SVANETIA before other ships arrive but difficulty about fuel holds up.
Your 1200B/17 I note (? was not) repeated to Adm. Miles.
(N.A. Angora, (?)229B/18 to C. in C. Med.)VALIANT.Four Fulmar aircraft have been despatched to your assistance arriving over ship 1100, FOXGLOVE 6000 Kc/s.
(6 F.J. (Decypher not known in War Reg.), 1055/18 to VALIANT.)
Following has been received from GQZ addressed to VALIANT.
My 1300B/18 negative FORTU 1530.
(Malta W/T, 1535B/18.) W.D. Note:- FORTU = A/C are being sent to your assistance.
FORTU 4 Fulmar at 1700 BANKO 6,000 K/cs.
(201 Group H.Q., 1715/18 to VALIANT.)

/Enemy.....

460 A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2221A/18th November. OUT

TO: C. in C. South Atlantic. Date: 18.11.41.
 C. in C. East Indies.
 Repeated N.O.i/c Freetown
 N.O.i/c Simonstown
 N.O.i/c Durban.

Naval Cypher C

FROM: Director of Sea Transport.

Convoy W.S.12 Z.

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Daily fuel consumption at Convoy Speed.</u>	<u>Type of Fuel.</u>	<u>Bunkers on leaving U.K.</u>	<u>Water required at Freetown</u>	<u>Fuel required at Freetown</u>	<u>Fuel reqd. at Capetown or Durban.</u>
AORANGI	48	Diesel	2000	Nil	500	Nil
ARUNDEL CASTLE	126	Furnace	2500	100	3500	Nil
CAPETOWN CASTLE	61	Diesel	1480	Nil	1500	Nil
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD	98	Furnace	1700	1000	2100	600
EMPRESS OF ASIA	190	Coal	3500	500	2500	2900
EMPRESS OF JAPAN	86	Furnace	1850	Nil	2700	Nil
MONARCH OF BERMUDA	108	Furnace	2000	Nil	2000	500
MARKUNDA	145	Furnace	2400	Nil	1900	1300
ORDUNA	101	Furnace	1900	400	2500	Nil
MATAROA	76	Furnace	2000	100	2800	Nil
ABBEKERK	27	Diesel	750	Nil	500	Nil
ADRASTUS	58	Diesel	1390	Nil	1000	Nil
DEUCALEON	33	Diesel	790	Nil	600	Nil
EMPIRE STAR	40	Diesel	1200	Nil	800	Nil
SUSSEX	37	Diesel	1200	Nil	1000	Nil

(2) Oil bunkering in South Africa should be reduced to a minimum on the basis of reaching the next port of call with a safe margin. Reservations covering all quantities given have been made ex commercial stocks commercial reference B Q .

(3) In view of large quantity of coal required at Freetown for EMPRESS OF ASIA all possible steps should be taken in advance to avoid delay to convoy. Coal suppliers Durban King.

(4) MATAROA should sail Durban with 2900 tons bunkers only repeat only.

(5) All vessels should be watered to capacity in South Africa but any demands at Freetown in excess of the quantities stated should be carefully scrutinised, Masters being called upon to produce their certificates of fresh water consumption if necessary.

460^B

MOST SECRET

-2-

(6) Addressees pass to S.T.O.'s concerned.

2221A/18.

Director of Sea Transport
(M.W.T. Ex. 2177).

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

MG

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Enemy Units.
Navarino,
SOKOL to
attack.

3 important supply ships and possibly escorts taking ? refuge Navarin (as received). Proceed forthwith and endeavour to attack either in harbour or when they sail. So far as is known there are no minefields booms or nets. (Capt. S.1., 1113B/18 to SOKOL.) *see also next page.*

P.34.
GLAUCOS.
URSULA.

Capt. (S) 1's 1721B and 1745B/16. Submarines proceed to Malta as follows: P.34 and Greek Sub. GLAUCOS through $035^{\circ} 51' 015^{\circ} 15'$ and $036^{\circ} 00' 014^{\circ} (? 53')$ to arrive 0730B, P.34, 21/11, GLAUCOS 22/11. URSULA through $035^{\circ} 00' 015^{\circ} 00'$ thence as above to arrive before 1800B/21. Own force will be operating to southward of Malta and west of $014^{\circ} 30'$ during night of 20/21. (Capt. S.10, 1118B/18 to S/M's. named.)

UPRIGHT.

Leave patrol to pass through $37^{\circ} 36' 19^{\circ} 35'$ at 2100B/20 thence direct to $35^{\circ} 51' 15^{\circ} 15'$ to arrive Malta 0730B/23. P.31 leave $35^{\circ} 51' 15^{\circ} 15'$ about 1900B/18 through $38^{\circ} 17' 19^{\circ} 25'$ about 0001B/21 thence to $38^{\circ} 06' 19^{\circ} 43'$. (Capt. S.10, 1121B/18 to UPRIGHT.)

P.31.1 B.S.

German air on 5380 k/cs. Reconnaissance S.E. of Crete (corrupt group) uncertain yet. (C.O.S., Alexandria, 1126B/18 to F.O.C. 1 B.S.)

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of enemy 1 destroyer 2 merchant vessels 35.12 N., 20.08 E., 045° , 15 knots. (A/C using 7 QBQ, 1130/18.) Enemy previously reported are of type indicated 1 (destroyer) 4000 tons, 2 merchant vessels 8000 tons. (Aircraft using 7 QBQ, 1205/18.)

A/S Searches.

One Sunderland is carrying out A S V Search between Alexandria and Ishaila tonight 18/19. One Dornier carrying out A/S search between Alexandria and Kanais dawn/19th. (201 Naval Co-op. Group, 1207B/18 to Med. Fleet.)

Boom Defences.
Turkey.

From B.D.O. to D.B.D. Ref. material for Port T.C. When may Rocking plates be expected and what are Bobbin fittings? My 1715/15, anchors should be 6 tons. Should work on maintaining Bosphorus boom be necessary Turks will inevitably employ Barbette for this work. There is no repair vessel in Turkey capable of laying Dardanelles boom. (A.N.A. Istanbul, 1217B/18 to Admty.)

/Operation...

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Operation
"Aggression"

Naval and military personnel for passage to Tobruk are to be at 6 hours notice to embark as follows:-

- (A) Half in one destroyer or GLENROY's escort from 0001/20.
- (B) Half in CHAKDINA from 1800/20.
- (2) GLENROY's escort is to consist of 3 "Hunt" destroyers as detailed by R.A.D. Med., one being nominated to disembark personnel at Tobruk.
- (C. in C. Med., 1256B/18 to G.H.Q. M.E., N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

V.H/F.

Introduction of V.H/F. into M.E. Command is at present confined to projected fitting of 13 Fighter Squadrons. Intended, however, to equip all R.A.F. Fighters with this type of installation as soon as possible. Not expected that selected squadrons will be converted to V.H/F. working before May 1942.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1534A/18 to C. in C. Med.)

URSULA.
UNBEATEN.

My 1745B/16. URSULA leave patrol forthwith and return to Malta passing through 033° 00' 014° 50', 035° 20' 014° 14' thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10. UNBEATEN remain in present position until 0200B/19 thence area D.1, but to be in the vicinity of 033° 05' 014° 34' by 1200B/20. If nothing sighted by 2200B/20 resume patrol in area D.1.
(Capt. S.1., 1545B/18 to URSULA, UNBEATEN.)
Ref. Capt. (S) 1's 1545B/18. Owing to own force movements follow route given (group missing) 1118B/18 to arrive before 1800B/20 or at 0730B following day.
(Capt. S.10, 2305B/18 to URSULA.)

SOKOL. URGE.
UPRIGHT.
THUNDERBOLT.

Cancel my 1731B/16. SOKOL proceeding Navarino as in my 1113B/18. URGE returning Malta forthwith through 038° 13' 020° 00', 038° 18' 019° 21', 035° 51' 015° 15'. UPRIGHT proceeding forthwith through 037° 37' 019° 38' to new patrol ordered in my 1647B/18. THUNDERBOLT remaining North of 037° 50' until 0200B/19 then proceeds through 037° 29' 020° 00', 036° 27' 022° 00' to establish patrol in Southern (? Aegean). S/MS. are not to be attacked during night 18th/19th.
(Capt. S.1., 1641A/18 to S/M's. on Patrol.)

/UPRIGHT.....

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

UPRIGHT,
P.31,
→ PERSEUS,
→ TRUSTY.

Operation B.S. Establish patrol line as quickly as possible 4 - 036° 35' 018° 30' \pm 200° - 15 - 290° - 40. Positions are to be taken up as follows (a) 036° 35' 018° 30' UPRIGHT. (b) P.31 (c) TRUSTY (d) PERSEUS. Route to position UPRIGHT as laid down in my 1641B/18 remainder as routed Capt. S.10. After arrival in vicinity patrol position S/M's are not to be attacked. Adjacent S/M's are to endeavour to communicate on S.S/T. Para. 19. Bring into force condition A. V.A. Malta please pass to PERSEUS and TRUSTY. (Capt. S.1., 1647B/18 to S/M's named.)

→ THUNDERBOLT.
→ PERSEUS.

My 1641B/18. Cancel orders for THUNDERBOLT. My 1847B/18 (1647/18 intended). For PERSEUS read THUNDERBOLT throughout. Remaining to northward of - 037° 50' until 0200B/19 then proceeding through 037° 29' 020° 00' direct to position D 035° 53' 018° 12'. (Capt. S.1., 2155B/18 to THUNDERBOLT.)

M/V
attacked.

17/11, 6 Blenheims shipping search sighted 1245 hours one M.V. 4000 tons one M.V. 2000 tons one escort ship 1500 tons circling 262° Cape Kiev 33 miles, probably Southbound. Bombs dropped from mast height, unable to change bomb load, direct hit bows larger M.V. causing terrific explosion, ship also machine-gunned setting fire to petrol stored on deck. Ship left on fire with columns of smoke seen 30 miles away.

Naples,
Brindisi
raided.

Night 17/18, bad weather, 7 Wellingtons made two nuisance raids, four over Naples 2035 to 0155 hours, three Wellingtons over Brindisi 2040 to 0010 hours. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/18.)

GLAUCOS.

Have broken off patrol owing to engine defects. Proceeding Malta conforming to Capt. S.10's, 1203B/15. E.T.A. 0730B/19. (GLAUCOS, 1801B/18 to Capt. S.1., Capt. S.10.) Your 0801B/18 (1801/18 intended) acknowledged. 2 British cruisers and 2 destroyers expected to arrive Malta 0700B/19 from north-westward. (Capt. S.10, 2209B/18 to GLAUCOS.)

→ PERSEUS,
→ TRUSTY.

Damage to PERSEUS still under investigation but estimate at least 5 days to complete repairs. In view of your 1503B/18, request instructions for TRUSTY who will be ready to leave for patrol p.m./19. (Capt. S.10, 1830B/18 to Capt. S.1.)

/PERSEUS.....

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.PERSEUS.
P.31.Arrival 18/11: PERSEUS. Departure P.31.
(V.A. Malta, 1911B/18 to Admty.)Operation
Q.1.Owing to weather conditions 822 Squadron cannot
take part in operation Q.1 tonight.
(N.L.O. Air H.Q. W.D., 1940B/18 to C.S.15.)URSULA.
R. of P.Capt. (S) 10's, 1833B/14 (Not circulated in
Admiralty. Requested short area report.)
Area D.1. No surface or air patrol. 7 days
spent route passing North of Q.B. 23, no ship
sighted. Unsuccessfully attacked small convoy
escorted by torpedo boat in 032° 07' 015° 26'
course 310° at 1752/11. 3 Schooners escorted
by M/S sighted northbound close inshore off
Ras Khara, at 1350/11.
(URSULA, 2135B/18 to UNBEATEN.)U/B.In 31.15 N., 28.02 E. at 2350/18.
(See U-Boat Campaign.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

1920B/18 November

IN

Date 22.11.41.

From C in C Mediterranean.

Recd. 1316

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY W/T

Addressed. Admiralty.

Docking & Repair Facilities Med.

377. Admiralty's 1531/14. As Their Lordships will be fully aware from my repeated representations the entire inadequacy of docking and repair facilities on this Station has been one of my principal preoccupations during the war. In N.E. Mediterranean where the Fleet has to operate against the enemy's main naval strength and heavy air concentrations the incidence of damage to H.M. ships must remain high and given the distances to other repairing yards it is essential that as much repairing as possible should be done locally if Fleet strength is to be maintained. Furthermore the Merchant ships needed for running supplies within the Mediterranean are of vital importance and must have high priority in repair and maintenance given the above the greatest care is taken to do everything possible to deal with a difficult situation but there is necessarily always a long waiting list. My 1611/17 details recent activity in this respect.

2 The fundamental issue however in the signal under reply is the suggestion that I should abrogate my responsibilities for the proper maintenance of H.M. Ships and of Merchant vessels important to the war effort in favour of a committee which in the event of disagreement would refer the problem to U.K. where it must necessarily be dealt with by those who cannot be in close touch with rapidly changing local conditions. I feel that this cannot have been Their Lordships intention and I request that this matter may receive early reconsideration so that it will be made entirely clear that the priority in allocation of repair facilities is my sole and final responsibility.

3 That repairs to Merchant ships are vital every seaman must be aware and Their Lordships may rest assured that this matter will continue to receive the consideration it deserves.

1920B/18

1st Lord	
1st S.L.	
2nd S.L.	
Contr.	Ops.(3)
Vice Contr.	D.T.D.(4)
4th S.L.	M.(3)
5th S.L.	D. of S.T.(2)
V.C.N.S.	D.M.R.(2)
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.57.O.B.I. for action
A.C.N.S.(F)	S. of C
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.D.O.D.(C)(2)
A.C.N.S.(T)	D. of L.D.(2)
Parl Sec.	I.P.(3)
Civil Lord	W.D.
Contr.(M.S.R.)(London)	D. of P.(3)
Sec.	E.P.S.
Nav.Sec.	C.E. in C(2)
N.A. 1st S.L.	T/P for Dep. Contr.(3)
P.A.S.(S)	D. of E(4)
O.D.(5)	C.E. in C

 Bath
 (BA 8744)

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Iraq,
co-operation
in defence
and mine-
watching.

Iraq Premier proposes reorganise Iraq Army and purge it of pro-Nazi elements and wishes share in defence Iraq against external aggression. Has asked for role.

2. Following suggested and agreed to at conference between Ambassador G.O.C. and A.O.C. Iraq and Premier. (A) Defence N.E. Frontier Rowanduz to Halebja. (B) Defence of L. of C. Kirkuk-Baghdad-Basra. (C) Minewatching Shatt-El-Arab.

3. We have agreed to this provided oil destruction scheme Kirkuk not thereby prejudiced. (C. in C. India, 0420/18 to W.O.)

EXCELLENCY.Have you any news of American ship EXCELLENCY due Colombo 12/11 from Suez?
(D.T.D. 1709A/18 to S.O.I. Colombo.)French M/Vs.
Intelligence
Reports.

Your 1750/10 to Admty. Twining was authorised by me on 27/10 to spend up to 10,000 rupees on equipment pending decision as to authority ultimately responsible for cost of service for which equipment is needed. S. of S. for Colonies has deferred authorisation of expansion of the Mauritius listening service pending further consideration. This is therefore the best I could do. Trusts it meets your requirements.

(Govr. Mauritius No T.O.O./18 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.Miri
Oilfields.

I have arranged to transfer my responsibilities regarding Miri oil denial scheme to C. in C. Far East on 20/11.

(C. in C. China, 0413Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

ANHUI.

Your telegram 133 of 13/11. ANHUI will leave Hong Kong for Tientsin 24/11 provided that assurance asked for from Tokyo has been received before then.

(C. in C. China 0505Z/18 to Brit. Embassy, Shanghai.)

/French ...

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China- contd.French Shipping.

Arrival GOUVERNER GENERAL PASQUIER 17/11,
GOUVERNER GENERAL ALEXANDRE VARENNE.
Departure 16/11 LAOS for Shanghai.
(Act. Consul-Gen., Saigon, 0734Z/18 to
M. of W.T.)

Japanese A/A Ships.

3 Japanese M/Vs (?converted) to A.A. ships
were present at Shanghai on 16/11 (a) ATUTASAN
MARU, 8660 G.T., 3 3-inch guns forward, 6 3-inch
guns aft, 3 automatics amidships. (b) sister
ship (a) similar armaments except 8 automatics
amidships. (c) 8000 tons ship 2 3-inch and 2
automatic guns.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore 0858Z/18 to Admty.)

BOUGAINVILLE
(French)

Left Haiphong for Saigon 16/11.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore 1014Z/18 to Admty.)

America and West Indies.P.551
P.511

Your 0941A/16 (sent by W.R.) following is a
repetition of my 1901R/13 addressed to C.O.A.C.,
B.A.D. Washington:- Intend to sail P.551 at
1300/14, S. of A. 12 knots, and P.511 at
1600/14 S. of A. 11 knots, routed as in your
1626Z/11 (ends).
(B.N.L.O. Portsmouth N.H., 0845R/18 to Admty.)

TULIP
INDOMITABLE.

TULIP is to be sailed so as to arrive Kingston
Jamaica 24/11 to attend on INDOMITABLE.
Probable date of return to Trinidad 11/12.
B.A.D. Washington pass to INDOMITABLE.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0922Q/18 to N.O.I.C.
Trinidad.)
Your 1837/17. Concur in programme. TULIP will
be detailed to attend on ship at Jamaica.
No other ship is available. B.A.R.M. pass to
INDOMITABLE. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/18 to
B.A.R.M.)

/ODENWALD ...

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - contd.ODENWALD.

Your 1255/17. Following is a repetition of C. in C. A. and W.I. 1509/15 to S.O.(I) Jamaica and B.A.D. only: German ship 799 being taken direct to Puerto Rico. Left Yokohama 2 months ago disguised as NIKA MARU and changed to U.S. ship WILLMOTO on rounding Cape Horn. Valuable cargo includes 4000 tons rubber. All documents being sent to Washington (ends). Efforts are being made to obtain further information.

(B.A.D. 1205R/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

C. in C. S.A. 1255/17. Request you pass any information you may have had from U.S.

Authorities direct to C. in C. S.A.

(B.A.D. 1745R/18 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

My 2257/17. Information was supplied to Admiral Hodges in Trinidad.

(Opnav, 2105Z/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ODENWALD, seized after scuttling attempt on 6/11, taken to San Juan, Puerto Rico by U.S. forces. She left Yokohama 19/7 and has a valuable cargo, including 4000 tons of rubber. U.S. Govt. has formally taken over the ship. Prize Court decided that the ship was salvage and awarded it to U.S.A. (D.S. 806 19/11.)

ORIZABA
W.S.12 X.

W.S.12 X. ORIZABA fuel consumption exceeds original estimate. Effective radius now estimated at 4500 miles. This will necessitate fuelling at a British port between Capetown and final destination and on return to Capetown. (B.A.D., 1315R/18 to Admty.)

W.S.12.

Your 1758/17. (W.D.Note - Repeated in Admty. 1326A/18, see South Atlantic).

To avoid delay in arrival at destination and clashing with other large convoy at Capetown which reduction of speed will cause request you consider sailing convoy without slow ship and providing separate escort for latter. 2. C. in C. S.A. report to Admiralty and B.A.D. Washington if he can provide A.M.C. Escort for slow ship over major portion of route in case this will assist. 3. Request name of slow transport.

(1st S.L. 1347A/18 to Opnav, C. in C. S.A.)

W.S.12. Your 1347A/18 referred to C. in C. Lant for comment. Slow transport U.S.S. LEONARD WOOD. (Opnav 1633Z/18 to Admty.)

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.O.N.37.O.N.37 escort unit 4.1.8 SWANSON (S.O) GREER,
LUDLOW, MC.CORMICK, BUCK.
(Opanav 1430/18 to Admty.)Opanav
Situation
Reports.As a guide in advising Opanav on form of his
daily situation report, request details of your
daily situation report particularly on
following points:-

- (a) Are troops and special convoys included?
- (b) What independent merchant ships are included?
- (c) What fleet units are included?
- (d) What small independent naval units are included?
- (e) At what time staff start to compile report?
- (f) At what time is report normally transmitted?
(B.A.D. 1515R/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

Routes for
Ships for
Russia.Soviet N.A. has (?asked for) information re
routeing of Ships to Archangel and Persian Gulf;
(b) Method of communication to be used between
Commodores of Convoys and S.Os of Escorts with
Soviet Naval Shore and Seagoing Authorities.
Above information is required by Adm. Isakoff .
Soviet N.A. has been told information is not
available in U.S. but that Admty. is being
requested to give necessary information to
U.S.S.R. Authorities.
(N.A. Washington 1606R/18 to Admty.)DIDO.Approved for DIDO to sail Boston on Wednesday
3/12 proceeding Bermuda.
(B.A.R.M. 1744R/18 to DIDO.)OLGA TOPIC.
Incorrectly
reported
sunk by
raider.
Reports by
HERMA and
IGOR.Your 1233/18 (Raider distress message inter-
cepted by Greek Steamer.) Rumour here that
OLGA TOPIC was sunk three days out from Balboa
and that there were two survivors. Speed of
ship was 10 knots. 2. Captain of Norwegian
S.S. HERMA now at Savannah, Georgia, states that
on the 6 or 7/11 when between Chile and Panama
Canal about 200 miles south of Balboa he sighted
a vessel of about 7000 tons mounting a gun on
forecastle and in stern, flying American flag and
had it painted on her sides, proceeding in a
S.W. direction at 9 or 10 knots. She looked
like an old Italian ship. 3. No American ship
of this description was in that area.
4. Further enquiries being made.
(B.A.D. 1801R/18 to Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica
2047R/18.)W.D. Note.- Vessel sighted by HERMA believed to
be U.S. Army Transport HENRY GIBBONS. See B.A.D.
0955R/20. OLGA TOPIC arrived Iquique 2000
G.M.T./20 (see S.O.I.Jamaica 1830R/20.)

/French ...

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.French
Shipping.
Dutch Ships
seized.Dakar 17/11. A.1. Arrived from Northward, CARTHAGE, PLATON, GRAND QUEVILLY, BRESTOIS, PORT DE BOUC. From Port Etienne, OUED FES and SAINT CYRILLE. Algiers 17/11. B.2. French Authorities have seized Dutch ships PLUTO and RHEA.
(B.A.D. 1819R/18 to S.O.I. Freetown.)U.S. and
Convoy
Escorts.Reply to B.A.D. 1801R/12. (V.C.N.S. 1917A/18)
See Lion Copy.AGAMEMNON
CALIFORNIA.B.A.R.M. 1558R/14, (N.T. in W.R.) Admty.1117A/8. B.A.R.M. requested to report accommodation available for Air Force personnel from Halifax to U.K. in AGAMEMNON. C.O.A.C. Halifax to report accommodation Air Force personnel in CALIFORNIA. Present estimate is these ships will be sailed from Halifax for Clyde in company 28/11.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2017Z/18 to B.A.R.M., C.O.A.C. Admty.)O.N.36.O.N.36, serial No. 4 S, reported 4 hours early at M.O.M.P.
(U.S.C.N.O. 2021Z/18 to Cdr. Task Unit 4.1.12)Adm.Muselier
in
Newfoundland.Your 1356Z/14. Admiral has requested that visit be kept secret for the time being.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1330A/18 to C.C.N.F.)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1917A/18th November.
 MOST SECRET OUT.

To: B.A.D. Washington. 474. Date 18.11.41.
 Repeated C. in C. America & West Indies. 190.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 962.

NAVAL CYPHER (D).

From Admiralty.

Your 1801R/12,

The U.S. objection to providing escorts for small troop movements at frequent intervals is understood and appreciated.

2. The following large troop movements have already been arranged:

(a) T.C. 16 sailing approx. December 10th with 7500 personnel.

(b) T.C. 17 sailing mid-January with 10,000 personnel.

3. Request you will ascertain whether it will be possible for U.S. authorities to

(c) arrange escort to MOMP for these convoys and

(d) allow escort while returning from MOMP to afford protection to convoys C.T.8 and C.T.10 which will be sailed accordingly.

4. Convoys C.T.8 and C.T.10 will consist of one or two troop ships with fast merchant vessels in company.

5. Arrangements will be made for convoys C.T.7 and C.T.9 to leave U.K. on approx. November 22nd and December 23rd with through R.N. escort.

469^B

MOST SECRET

-2-

6. Further arrangements will be required for T.C. convoys in February and March.

1917^h/18.

Secretary to V.C.N.S.
Approved V.C.N.S. (584)

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

D.N.A.D.
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.C. (2)
Admiral Bellairs.
Admiral Bailey.
C.C.L.S.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.
D.T.S.D.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
N.I.D. 10
(Pay.Cdr. Wilson)

MG

War Diary.18.11.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated approximate positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1452A/18, 1453A/18.)

1455.

Suspect U-boat 63.28 N., 23.04 W.
(A/C using call sign N.Q.8F. 1455/18, to
A/C of 302 Squadron.)
A/C F's 1455N, S/M was actually sighted at
12 miles on course 340° before diving.
(A.C.I.C., 1813N/18, to S. and A., Orkneys and
Shetlands.)

0940 N.

Aircraft reports large A.S.V. echo within
25 miles of 067° 45' N., 025° 20' W., at
0940N/18. Unable close contact owing to fog.
(C. in C.H.F., 1703Z/18, to SUFFOLK.)Mediterranean. Am over enemy submarine in 31.15 N., 28.02 E.
2350. Unable to attack flares failed.
(Med. A/C 2350/18 to 201 Group.)Submarines Attacked.GALILEO FERRARIS
sunk by
LAMERTON.Their Lordships congratulate you, your
officers and ship's company on the destruction
of the Italian U-boat, ^{GALILEO}FERRARIS on 25/10/1941.
(1st. Sea Lord, 1437A/18, to LAMERTON.)U/B sunk by
MARIGOLD.
(U. 433.)Their Lordships congratulate you, your Officers
and ship's company on the destruction of a
German U-boat on 16/11/1941. 2. They note with
particular satisfaction that initial detection
was made by R.D/F.
(1st. Sea Lord 1727A/18, to MARIGOLD.)

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Weather.

Harwich was closed from 0750A to 1201A today, on account of fog. Sailings from the Humber were also held up. Wick harbour was also closed this morning.

Faroes-
Iceland (C)
Patrol.

C.S.1 in NORFOLK sailed from Scapa at 1151 today to relieve SHEFFIELD.

CASTLETON
damaged.

An explosion occurred at 0854Z today in CASTLETON in about 58° 5' N. 10° 54' W. The ship's bottom is holed and she is proceeding at 15 knots with Convoy S.D.16. LANCASTER reports the cause of the explosion to be possibly a mining or scuttling charge.

British Air Operations.

3 Stirlings attacked the estimated position of the PRINZ EUGEN at Brest last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Slight damage from bombing is reported in Murmansk.

Mining.

Operation
S.N.25 C.

MENESTHEUS and NEWARK arrived at Port Z.A. this afternoon from a minelaying operation off the Butt of Lewis.

/Sheerness....

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining-Contd.

Sheerness was closed at 0041 today.

North Atlantic.

? Operation
"Chieftain"

ARGUS returned to Gibraltar at 2356A today, with LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, LEGION and ISAAC SWEERS.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

One bomber dropped incendiaries at 0035. At 0346 8 bombers approached but none crossed the coast, and they dropped bombs in the sea and on the shore without causing any damage.

Air
Operations.

5 Naval aircraft laid mines in the Marsala area last night. 3 Wellingtons attacked Brindisi from 1912/18 to 0230/19, obtaining hits in the area of the oil tanks and fort, and causing fires in the docks and town. 2 Wellingtons carried out nuisance raids over Naples last night, obtaining hits on the docks and railway.

Submarine
exchanges.

P.36, P.37, P.38 and P.39 are to proceed to the Mediterranean to join the 10th Flotilla and TURBULENT and TEMPEST to join the 1st Flotilla (P.36 about 18/12, the remainder during January). URSULA, UTMOST, UPRIGHT, TRIUMPH and OTUS are to return home to refit.

/Libya.....

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

5 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 1817/18 to 0315/19. NAIAD and EURALYUS were detached from the battlefleet and carried out a bombardment of the Halfaya area last night. The bombardment is reported to have been successful in spite of the absence of aircraft on account of bad weather. The weather improved this evening.

China.

In the event of war with Japan the following convoys will be established.

Melbourne to Singapore	M.S.
Singapore to Melbourne	S.M.
Colombo to Singapore	J.S.
Singapore to Colombo	S.J.

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

RESOLUTION.

RESOLUTION will be required to join the Eastern Fleet, probably not sailing before mid-December.

2. Stores and provisions are to be embarked before proceeding abroad to maximum capacity, subject to not interfering with fighting efficiency.

3. A minimum of 44 day's sea victualling is to be included.

(D.O.D. F., 1228A/19 to RESOLUTION)

Fishguard
Ferry
Services.

A.M. 1153A/18. Situation has not changed since my 2309B/4/8. Consider procedure proposed therein should be adhered to.

(C. in C. W.A., 1645A/19).

W.A. Escort
Groups.

In order to make the most economical and best offensive use of my forces I propose the following basis for reorganisation:-

(i) Eight escort groups each consisting of 3 destroyers and about 6 corvettes, for escort duty between U.K. and M.O.M.P.

(ii) Eleven homogeneous special groups, each consisting of about 5 destroyers, whose principal duties will be:-

(a) to operate against concentrations of submarines

(b) to reinforce escort groups where most needed

(c) to provide special escorts.

(iii) Gibraltar and Sierra Leone Groups as now constituted.

(C. in C. W.A., 1932A/19 to Admty).

D.A/S.W.
Meeting.

Admty 0031A/11. Following are items for Agenda for D.A/S W.'s meeting.

(C. in C. W.A., 1950A/19 to D.A/S.W.)

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Liaison
Officer
with Home
Fleet. ✓

U.S. Authorities having proposed appointment of a U.S. Navy Liaison Officer to your command when desired by C. in C. U.S. Naval Forces Northern Europe after entry of U.S. into war, Admiralty are concurring generally. It is under consideration however to put to the U.S. authorities the point that since, under the terms of Plan 5, the possibility already exists of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet co-operating tactically with the British Home Fleet in an emergency, we would welcome an American Officer in the flagship of the Home Fleet now. Your remarks on this suggestion are requested. (V.C.N.S., 2025A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

Situation
Reports. ✓

Your 1515R/18. Replies to questions. (C. in C. W.A., 2359A/19 to B.A.D.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Information
to
Ambassador. ✓

Following for Maclay.
Sir Stafford Cripps wishes to have copies of all important telegrams sent by or received by you.
2. We shall repeat to him where necessary telegrams sent from or through London to you.
3. Whenever possible please repeat your own telegrams direct to Kuibyshev indicating repetition in text of message.
4. If repetition is not possible please specify in each case that we are to repeat message to the Ambassador.
5. While appreciating difficulties we should be glad if you would as far as possible agree messages before despatch with S.B.N.O. Where necessary to avoid confusion here, reference your telegram No. 21 and 0648A/15 from S.B.N.O. giving different estimates for Molotvsk. We assume your estimate of maximum 4 non-tanker berths still holds good.
6. We are repeating to Kuibyshev as Mossy 73. (D. of S.T., 2344A/19 to N.S.C.O. Archangel).

Defence of the U.K.

Thames
Estuary
A/A defences. ✓

S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1723/19. Understand indications given by R.D.F. were slight and A.A. gunfire from shore ineffective. Unless more effective measures can be taken considerable risks exist that convoys in and out of Thames will be seriously delayed. In mean time request

/representations.

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K. - Contd.Thames
Estuary A/A
defences
Contd.

representations be made that replacement of A.A. batteries recommended in my 3418/332A/41/J of 17th February and approved in principle in A.L.M. 011349/41 of 9th August may be expedited. (C. in C. Nore, 2224A/19 to Admty).

Movements.SEALION.

Negative Patrol. Returning along latitude ? 72° N., and route ? Y. Expect to arrive rendezvous 1200C/20. Have one severely injured Norwegian on board. (SEALION, 0230C/19 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk). Your 0230C/19. Your escort SHTORM class destroyer at rendezvous R one - 1200C/20. Soviet CHUKA class submarine 403, E.T.A. at R/V S one from the eastward at 1100C/20, routed through 69° 45' N., 36° 10' E. Admiralty pass to SEALION. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1601C/19 to SEALION):

COLTSFOOT.

Your 2130A/18. P.C.S. 035° 32' N., 012° 29' W., 097°, 9.5 knots. (COLTSFOOT., 0745/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

*See also p 488B.*RAMILLIES.
EREBUS.
VANQUISHER.
WITCH.

Intend sailing RAMILLIES escorted by BADSWORTH, CROOME for Scapa 1330A/20. Speed of advance 11½ knots. E.T.A. 0930A. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1034A/19). Admiralty 1540A/17. As considerable stores and oil have to be embarked in Clyde before sailing intend to adjust programme so as to arrive Clyde P.M./30. Request R.A.3 may be informed. (RAMILLIES, 1244/19). My 1926A/17. Escort for RAMILLIES and EREBUS (?is to be) VANQUISHER and WITCH now at Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A., 1554A/19) Sailed VANQUISHER and WITCH in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1554/19. ~~NT 4WD~~ (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 2349A/19)

GARDAK
(Turkish).

A.M. 2001/18/11. Crane components of ^{AL}A.B. GARNA already stowed in GARDAK for passage. Should these be disembarked. A.L. GARNA cannot carry them herself. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1058/19).

/Floating....

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War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.- Contd.Floating
Crane.Your 1801A/18. ROCHESTER detailed.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1112A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)H.44.Intend sailing H.44 escorted by ST. CATHAN
from Lough Foyle at 1900A/21 arriving
Rothesay daylight 22 (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1133A
/19).At 2200A/23 intend to sail H.44 escorted
by ST. CATHAN from Rothesay to arrive 180°
Wolf Rock 5 miles at 0800A/26. S. of A. 8 knots.
N.O.I.C. Greenock, is requested to arrange
fighter protection. Thence H.44 proceeds to
dive by day to Portsmouth through following posi-
tion to R/V at 0800A/28 in 050° 31' N., 00° 41' W.
(Capt. S.7., 1336A/19).HONNINGVAAG.Your 1424A/17. Expect ? to sail HONNINGVAAG in
5 or 6 days time on completion of D.G. repairs
and fitting of four inch gun.
(A.C.I.C., 1535/19 to Admty).A.F.D.XIVIn tow of EMPIRE LARCH sailed escorted by MORGAN
JONES and NORTHNESS.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1600/19).CILICIA.Intend sailing CILICIA 1100A/23 to arrive Clyde
1700A/23. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1653A/19 and
0943A/20).NELSON
escorts.

- NORMAN with ICARUS proceed passing Switha at
1700/20 to Moville (Lough Foyle).
2. Ships are to complete with oil and proceed
to R/V with NELSON escorted by ZULU, SIKH, and
GURKHA in 056° N., 008° W., at 0800Z/22.
 3. Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNER from Clyde has been
ordered to R/V at the same time.
 4. FAULKNER, NORMAN, and ICARUS will relieve
ZULU, SIKH, and GURKHA and escort NELSON to
Rosyth.
 5. NORMAN will be relieved off Duncansby Head
by ECLIPSE.
 6. On relief NORMAN is to proceed to Greenock
to dock in accordance with Admiralty's 1812A/
15/11/41. (R.A.D. H.F., 1740A/19)

/PRINSES....

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War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.PRINSES
ASTRID.

My 1918/17. Arrangements have been made for PRINSES ASTRID to be taken in hand for refit by Green and Silley Weir, Royal Albert Docks, London. She is to be sailed to Thames North about as soon as possible.

Four Eureka's are to be carried on passage. The remaining four of her flotilla are to remain at Inveraray.

(D.O.D. H., 1837A/19 to V.A. C.T.C.)

BEVERLEY.

Detach BEVERLEY to Londonderry forthwith. (C. in C. W.A., 2241A/19 to SARDONYX)

VENOMOUS.

VENOMOUS in tow of MASTADONTE arrived at Rothesay. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2254A/19).

PUNJABI.

PUNJABI is to sail from Hvalfjord at 0900Z/21 and, failing other instructions from V.A.2., is to proceed Rosyth to be taken in hand for refit. (C. in C. H.F., 2307Z/19)

PUCKERIDGE.

My 1817A/18 and 0707A/19. Movement of PUCKERIDGE postponed a further 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2333A/19)

Operations.Operation
Q.K.4.

Weather permitting carry out operation Q.K.4 with 2 M.L's as ordered in my 1042A/14/10 with Q.K. (3) (9) and (10) as alternative operations. (C. in C. Nore, 1028A/19 to BEEHIVE) Departure M.T.B's 18 and 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1611A/18).

Interception
of Heavy
Units.

Scapa departures F.O.C. 1st C.S. in NORFOLK. (A.C.O.S., 1151A/19). Return to Hvalfjord at best speed weather permitting. (C. in C. H.F., 1218Z/19 to SUFFOLK) Attention is called to Q.Z.X471. There are no Q Z messages not held by you which affect you. (F.O.S., 1242A/19 to TRIDENT). Your 1242A/19. Q.Z.X.471 not held. Only Q.Z. messages affecting passage are on board. My P.C.S. at 2000A 065° 45' N., 006° 52' E., 198° 10 $\frac{1}{2}$. (TRIDENT., 2209A/19 to F.O.S.)

East Coast.

Departure M.G.B's 87 and 89 on special duties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1400A/19).

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War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air ActivityPatrols.

"Polar" and "Bear" not in operation.
(A.C.I.C., 1103N/19)
P.R.U. of Trondheim, Aalesund, and Bergen
in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1307/19)
Cancel A.M.1338A/18. These patrols may be
withdrawn. (A.C.N.S. H., 1950A/19 to A.O.C. in
C., C.C.)

PRINZ EUGEN
bombed.

From 16/11 to 18/11 inclusive there were no
operations owing to unsuitable weather.
On Night 18/19, three A/C attacked PRINZ EUGEN
at Brest. One A/C dropped 16 - 500 S.A.P.
bombs on estimated position of cruiser. No
detailed results were observed although the
flashes of the bombbursts were seen reflected
in the clouds. 2 further A/C dropped their load
on the estimated position of the target, results
unseen. (H.Q.B.C., 1500/19).

Direction
of Fighter
A/C.

It is important to exercise H.M. ships in
directing fighters. This could best be done
in conjunction with routine P.M. A.A.C.E.
A suitable arrangement would be to have a fighter
A/C patrolling over the Flow by the time A.A.C.E.
is due to start. The approach of fighters if
below 10,000 feet would be in accordance with
O.S. general orders 104 (iii) and 110 and
(?394) by F A I T. The ships detailed to
conduct exercise then direct fighter A/C on to
the A A C E A/C.

It is proposed that establishment F.R.U. should
be increased to two fighters of type distinctive
from Rocs and with high frequency R.T. Until
these are available 880 Squadron Hurricanes which
are at Skeabrae could be used. Exercise would
only be carried out if "Falcon" is in force.
Request you will remark.

(C. in C. H.F., 1601Z/19 to A.C.O.S.)

764
Squadron.

Your letter No. S 75056/S9 of 10th November,
and previous correspondence about No. 764
Squadron (at Lawrenny Ferry) attached to
R.A.F. Station Pembroke Dock. Proposed to
detach from R.A.F. Station and name establishment
R.N. Air Station, Lawrenny Ferry. Have you any
objection. (Head of Air Branch 2108A/19 to
Air Ministry).

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
F.N555.
attacked on
17/11.

Following received from HOLDERNESS begins. Attack on F.N555 last night was carried out between 1708 and 1803 in vicinity of 54F buoy. F.N555 and F.S.48 were passing when it started. About 15 aircraft attacked first Do. 17 and then Ju. 88. Aircraft circled in waiting position about 3 miles on starboard bow of convoy but out of sight, and then came in singly or in pairs at about 2,000 feet. A.A. fire disconcerted the enemy but several ships were nearly hit, suggest night fighters would be effective in the waiting position of the enemy. 1415A/18. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore, 0114A/19)

RUDMORE
A/C shot
down on 17/11.

S.S. RUDMORE reports shooting down Dornier 17~~7~~ off Great Yarmouth 1845/17 by direct hit with 12 Pounder gun whilst on passage in F.N555. Tail of plane shot off. Plane nose dived into sea 300 yards astern. (N.C.S.O. Blyth, 1115/19)

HORTEN
damaged.

At 1400 today one aircraft made two attacks on H.N.M.S. HORTEN patrolling off Nolso Lighthouse. Near misses causing considerable damage to auxiliary machinery, and one man lost overboard. Name. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1630A/19)

Murmansk
bombed.

Bombs dropped in the vicinity. Slight damage in Murmansk. (151 Wing, 1845/19 to Air Ministry)

Mining.Sheerness.

Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. (Com. in C. Sheerness, 0041/19).

Thames
Estuary.

22 Mines were dropped in the Thames Estuary on night 18/19 as follows. Details. Ten explosions caused by mines also occurred as follows. Details. (X.D.O. Sheerness, 0120/19 and 1059/19).

There was an intense period of minelaying activity over the Thames Estuary between 1905 and 1940/18. Thirty splashes, all almost certainly mines, were heard in the boom and adjoining areas, and were plotted with some degree of accuracy. Of these no splashes were seen and only two objects were observed in the air.

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames
Estuary.
Contd.

3. One plotted mine exploded on falling and ten in other areas exploded on being laid, seven on the Maplin Sands and one off Minster.
4. The night was very dark 7/10 cloud with light airs and a smooth sea. The planes appeared, by their sound, to be flying low but none were seen.
5. Balloons were flown at between 4,000 and 5,000 feet.
6. There was very little gunfire from ships on account of nothing being seen, but I feel that even a very inaccurate blind barrage should have been used as a deterrent. No heavily armed ships apart from the boom vessels themselves were stationed in the boom area. Three Eagle ships and one gunboat were in the outer estuary.
7. There was very little gunfire from shore guns.
8. The mines laid in the outer estuary appeared generally to be away from the Channels but these in the inner estuary were very accurately placed.
9. Experience when flying has shown that the Coast line and the boom are visible even on very dark nights. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness, 1723/19).

Dee
Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated by M. M/S 3 in 012° Hilbre Beacon (Dee Estuary) 1.2 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0910A/19).

Plymouth.

Red mine detonated at 0740/19, 000° Eddystone 3 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1245/19)

N.L. 22.

My 1452A/18. Intend to carry out this operation tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1504A/19).

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Sogne
Fiord.

Two Destroyers bearing 250°. My position 60° 52' N., 4° 55' E., (portion missed) ^FFiord. (A/C N. Squadron, 0840/19 to 18th R/C Group)

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.Unknown Ship.

My 1824/18. Having further questioned Masters of these three ships I am of the opinion that the sighting took place at 2230/15 and not at 2230/16 as in their previous statement. The ship therefore was probably Swedish UDDEHOLM. (A.C.O.S., 1627/19 to Admty).

E-boats.

Expect attack on F.S.650 by E-boats tonight. (C. in C. Nore, 1730A/19).
Suspected E-boat activity. (Harwich C.& C.O. 2113A/19)
E-boats may be on inner channel. (C. in C. Nore, 2317A/19)

NavigationalJ. Buoy.

It is reported that J Buoy light in Thames Approaches is too bright. It is requested that the visibility of this light may be altered to conform with my 2141A/7/9. (C. in C. Nore, 0045A/19).

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0750A/19)
Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1201A/19).

Iceland Lights.

The following lights in Iceland are extinguished. Details. All Light Buoys in Hvalfjordur are dimmed. (A.C.I.C. 1003N/19).

Kola Inlet. A/S Defences.

Your 1921/16. Confirmed. (A.C.O.S., 1003/19 to Admty).

Ice in Baltic.

Though weather has been milder, effective icing of Bothnian ports continues as far south as 56° North. Already the north Finnish ports, which are the more severely frozen, have been vacated by shipping. Lulea approaches now maintained open by icebreakers and unlikely to close until mid-December. (N.A. Stockholm, 1804/19).

54 F. Buoy.

Light extinguished. (MALLARD, 1934A/19).

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

STARBANK
(Trawler)
rammed..

Have rammed fishing trawler position 212° Tiumpun Head 16 miles. Am towing to Stornoway. Request tug to take off my hands.
(FOXTROT, 0215A/19 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).
Propose sailing Tug MARAUDER to take over tow of fishing trawler. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0313A/19)
My 0313A/19. MARAUDER sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0352A/19).
Trawler STARBANK which was in collision with FOXTROT now beached at Stornoway.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1636A/19).

TRIUNFO.

Intercepted 0136 G.M.T. S.O.S. from Lohi. We are sinking by the bows. Send immediate help. (Portishead Radio, Recd. 0340/19).
Intercept 0608 G.M.T. De Lohi.
Steamer TRIUNFO. Stranded (?) in mid-ocean (?) Situation critical. There are survivors on board. Captain Lajanati. (Portishead Radio, Recd. 0735/19)

CASTLETON
damaged.

CASTLETON reports explosion forward and has holed bottom near Asdic dome (?) Cause at present unknown. Forward oil tank leak. Has placed collision mat and is proceeding 15 knots.
Casualties 2 badly (?disabled) one missing. My position 1000Z, 058° 05' N., 010° 54' W., course 155°. Am proceeding with S.D.16. (LANCASTER, 0940/19).
My 0940Z/19. Explosion occurred 0854Z in CASTLETON.
Ship's side holed, vicinity upper and lower (sound?) rooms.
W/T bulkhead number 12 and W/T bulkhead number 34 holding, and compartment(s) between flooded to water level.
Cause of explosion possibly mining or scuttling charge.
Ship can do 15 knots whilst weather remains fine.
Missing man has been found killed. (Name). (LANCASTER, 1100Z/19).
E.T.A. Clyde CASTLETON and S.D.16 0800A/20. (LANCASTER, 2130A/19).

/ARETHUSA...

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.ARETHUSA.

My 2351A/18. Admiralty are sending Messrs. Elliotts Representative to inspect A.F.C.T. and ask for suitable date.
(V.A. 2., 1110A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 1110/19 as soon as possible.
(C. in C. H.F., 2246Z/19 to V.A.2.)

?LAN.

Following received from Port Patrick radio. Received at 1533 G.M.T. De Malin Head Radio. Heard S O S from LAN not sure LAN, position 45° 25' N., Jammed Seaforth radio.. No more Not rebroadcast. Port Patrick radio.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1633/19 to Admty).

WAR WING
(M/S Trawler).

Departure Tug KENIA to assistance of WAR WING. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1731A/19).
Arrival KENIA with WAR WING in tow.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1908A/19).

CAVEROCK.

Following received from D.O. Whitby begins:- S.S. CAVEROCK which went ashore on the night of 29/10 has now been refloated by one tug at 1800 and now proceeding towards Hartlepool. 1815/19 ends. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1830/19). My 1830/19. CAVEROCK berthed Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 2255/19).

MANXMAN.

Request you will send MANXMAN to Port Z.A. at earliest convenient date to clean boilers. (A.C.N.S. H., 1945A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

GARTH.

*(damaged in
exp attack on
F.S. 650. See
20/11-1-1950,
505-6, 7511.)*

Disabled, unable to steam. My position 56A. Buoy. (GARTH, 2154/19).
Foremost magazine and No. 1 boiler room flooded. Am unable to steam as I have no feed water. Position to S.E. of 56 buoy. (GARTH, 2210A/19). *see also next page.*

RAMSAY.

S.S. RAMSAY now in Ber^ahaven. Request early report of damage and prospect of moving. (D.T.D., 2219A/19 to U.K. Shipping Adviser, Cork).

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

F.N557.

Sailing of F.N.557 postponed 24 hours due to mining. (C. in C. Nore, 0012A/19).
My 1201/10, 1225/16, 1302/18, 1654/18. F.N557 postponed 24 hours. Escorts VIVIEN, SLEIPNER. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1015/19).

F.N556.

My 1803/18. No ship sailed from Humber owing to fog. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0951/19).

PENTLAND FIRTH
NARVIK.

Proceed slow speed toward position (K) 055° 30' N., 007° 30' W., (L) 055° N., 015° W. Report situation 1500A/19. (C. in C. W.A., 1105A/19 to PENTLAND FIRTH).

EMPIRE
WIDGEON,
EMPIRE EGRET.

Your 1955/16. Nos. 1131 and 1275 will sail tomorrow. (D.S.T.O., Liverpool, 1220/19 to D. of S.T.)

F.S650.

Departures at 1410 VESPER, GARTH in company to join F.S650. (F.O. Humber, 1435A/19).
Following from WOLSEY begins - As convoy F.S650 now consists of 59 ships, request additional escort VESPER and GARTH may remain with convoy after daylight as far as destination, 1515A/19 end.
VESPER has been ordered to remain in company. Inform WOLSEY in morning regarding GARTH. *See previous page*
(C. in C. Nore, 1811A/19 to Capt. D.21).
Proceed forthwith to meet F.S650 due number 5 buoy 0300. On meeting form additional escort taking stations as ordered by WOLSEY.
(C. in C. Nore, 2305A/19 to HAMBLEDON, QUORN).

CAPIRA,
VILLE D'ANVERS
COCLE,
EL CAPITAN,
SAN AMBROSIA
(Q.P.4).

N.T. in W.D.
Your 1607A/16. CAPIRA and VILLE DANVERS masters had no instructions from owners and stated their intention proceed U.K. to load on regular berth for America. VILLE DANVERS required cargo for stability and only cargo for America was timber which appeared pointless, therefore I agreed U.K. cargo both ships.
2. What are your instructions for COCLE and EL CAPITAN also SAN AMBROSIA on completion of discharge.
3. There are 3,000 tons Chrome available now and possibly a further 4,000 tons arriving shortly intended for British ships in Q.P.4. Also indications of another 30,000 tons up to end of December for British ships.
4. View of your advice prohibiting America ships loading for U.K. I cannot see how they can be immersed for ice conditions except with timber cargo. Please advise if this agreeable if essential.

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

CAPIRA.
VILLE D'ANVERS
COCLE.
EL CAPITAN.
SAN AMBROSIA.
(Q.P.4)
Contd.

5. Russians unwilling to give cost of loading ore and general cargo.
(Maclay, Archangel, 1450C/19 to Admty.)

C.T.7.

Intend sailing convoy C.T.7. consisting of PASTEUR, GLENARTNEY, LANARKSHIRE escorted by GARLAND P.M./22 to R/V with BELMONT from Liverpool in 270° Oversay 6 miles at D900A/23. Thence as in A.M. 2003A/18.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1504A/19.)

Murmansk facilities.

My 1746C/8 and my letter SO/126/M of 12/11 in course of post.
By orders from Moscow 35 ton floating crane is shortly to be towed from Murmansk to Archangel. This will leave a 25 ton floating crane as the only crane Murmansk for dealing with heavy goods. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1635C/19.)

P.Q.4.

BERWICK, ONSLOW, OFFA left Seidisfiord 1300 for P.Q.4. (A.C.I.C., 1635N/19).

P.Q. and Q.P. Convoys.

S.B.N.O. Archangel's 0905/13. It is appreciated that the estimate of convoys of 6 ships at 8 day intervals is probably the most practicable from the point of view of speed of handling at Archangel.

2. Operational requirements, however, preclude the possibility of providing the increased number of escorts required for this cycle.

3. Until events prove its impracticability it is intended to endeavour to maintain a 10 day cycle. So far as can be foreseen the numbers of ships per convoy from P.Q.6. onward will be four to five from America and three to four from U.K.

4. If it can be foreseen that Archangel will be unable to handle all ships simultaneously in any one convoy either through congestion in the port or limitations of icebreakers, the Russians should be pressed for the balance of the ships to be discharged at Murmansk, or for alternate convoys to be diverted to Murmansk as proposed in your 1550C/17.
(V.C.N.S., 1635A/19.)

/V.C.N.S. ...

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

P.Q. and
Q.P. Convoys
Contd.

It is proposed that ships in Q.P. convoys should disperse after reaching longitude 15 ° East and proceed independently:-

(a) Ships returning to U.S.A. would proceed to Kuyreyri and thence by inshore route to Hvalfiord for onward convoy.

(b) Ships returning to U.K. would proceed to Seidis Fiord for onward escort to U.K.

2. With long hours of darkness in northern latitudes it is considered risk from air and surface attack is small and can be accepted. The above proposal will effect a welcome saving in escort commitments and should also accelerate the turn round of the faster ships.

3. Request you will ask C.N.O. if he concurs in this proposal.

(V.C.N.S., 1636A/19 to B.A.D Washington).

O.N.38
MARIT 2.

Inform Commodore that MARIT 2 from O.S.12 is sailing from Belfast to overtake. If not joined before Cape Wrath R/V she will proceed to Loch Ewe.

(C. in C. W.A., 2336A/19 to BODO).

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Gibraltar.

To be developed as intermediate staging post in ferry service Bathurst to U.K. Plans. (W.O. 0115/19 to Governor, Gibraltar). See Lion Copy.

→ NELSON
HERMIONE.

My 2000/17, paras. 3 and 4. Do not proceed W. of 18° 30' W. (D.O.D.(F) 0532A/19 to ships named.) E.T.A. 0800A/21. My position 42.10, 16.40. Weather report. (HERMIONE 2100A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Situation.

Report No.1. H.M. Ships and Convoys. (F.O.C.N.A. 1230A/19, 1252A/19) See Lion Copy.

SAMPHIRE.
RHODODENDRON.

E.T.A. Europa Point 0300A/20. Following ships have defects, SAMPHIRE boiler brick work, RHODODENDRON crank shaft bearings. (DEPTFORD. 1230A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

JOAO PESSOA.
(German)

Arrival 18th to load Iron Ore. (Consul, Bilbao, 1549/19.)

→ DEPTFORD.

My estimated position 2000A/19, 35.50 N. 04.00 W. (DEPTFORD 1645A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

WILD SWAN.

Your 1729A/18. In order to effect economy in escort my intentions regarding WILD SWAN were given in my 1202A/12 on which no comment was made. Moreover, WILD SWAN was used in "Chieftain" as BRADFORD ex O.G.76 was defective. (F.O.C.N.A. 1742A/19 to Admty.)

→ NELSON.

A.M. 1658A/19 and A.M. 1404A/19. Alter course forthwith for new position F., 50° N. 15° W. Thence to resume route ordered in position 54° N. 12° W. Proceed at maximum safe speed retaining escort. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1746A/19, 2223A/19 to NELSON.)

Local
Patrols.

COMMANDANT DUBOC in area 8 miles from (?Cape Trafalgar). ARCTIC RANGER, M.L.No.176, in Area Tarifa, Carneco, North Africa Coast. (F.O.C.N.A. 2229A/19 to MAORI, STORK.)

/EGRET ...

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0115/19th Nov.

IN

288^A

MOST SECRET

From: The War Office.

Date 19.11.41.

Recd: -

Cipher

Addressed: Governor and C. in C. Gibraltar.

M.O.4/BM/1122. No. 52603 Cipher (M.O.4.) 18/11/41.

IMMEDIATE

Reference First W.O. 98089 of 27/10.

First

United States Military Attache and Air representatives have stressed importance of this intermediate staging post as necessary insurance in ferry service Bathurst to United Kingdom.

Second.

Project examined in consultation with Admiralty. Estimated three months required to complete from time labour and plant provided from United Kingdom is on site.

Third.

Chiefs of Staff agree that new project should be developed at earliest possible date and having consulted Foreign Office are prepared to accept risk of causing friction with Spain in connection with this project.

Fourth.

Necessary labour, machinery and material to be provided from United Kingdom so that work may start as soon as possible and run concurrently without interference to Fortress Defence Work Programme.

Fifth.

25 ten ton tipping lorries considered essential for work cannot reach Gibraltar for about three months.

Sixth.

Labour to be provided from United Kingdom is two Mechanical Equipment Sections and 45 additional M.T. drivers total 195 all ranks.

Seventh.

Labour in Sixth will arrive approximately same time as lorries in Fifth.

Eighth.

You will make all necessary preliminary arrangements for development of this project including preparations to accommodate labour in Sixth.

Ninth.

Additional technical information will be sent by Engineer-in-Chief.

0115/19.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F).
Received from War Office at 2015/19.

5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
Civil Lord
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.A.D.
D. of L.D.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.C.
Hd. of M.
E.P.S.

War Office Distribution:-
S. of S.
C.I.G.S.
V.C.I.G.S.
D.M.O. & P.
D.D.M.O. (O)
M.O.1.4.
S.D.2.4.
Engineer-in-Chief
D. Engineer-in-Chief. (A)(B)
D.F.W.
F.W.3.4.5.
Admiralty (War Registry)
C.A.S. (Air Ministry)
Director of Plans (Air Ministry)
A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry)
Foreign Office (Mr. Grey).
Colonel Jacob (5 copies).

1230Z/19th November.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

FROM F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date 19.11.41.
Recd. 1750.

NAVAL CYPHER (A.1) BY W/T.

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report No. 1.

- (i) Naval Force approximately 35 55 06 10 E.T.A. Gibraltar 22 30 19.
- (ii) ST. NICOLAS, LADY SHIRLEY escorting tanker VEGY (WINAMAC) 3 1/2 02 11 32 through 35 20 08 35 thence Gibraltar 10.
- (iii) Convoy H.M.S. STORK 35 42 08 00 to Gibraltar 10 1/2.
- (iv) COLTSFOOT 35 20 10 10 to Gibraltar 9 1/2.
- (v) Convoy H.M.S. GERANIUM 37 45 14 38 through 37 00 14 00 thence 100 8.

Situation 2006A/19.

H.M.S. MAORI 36 40 08 44 107 14 1/2 Estimated time of arrival Gibraltar 0800/20.

- (vii) H.M.S. IMPERIALIST patrol Huelva Bight.
- (viii) H.M.S. SCOTTISH patrol off Cape Roca.
- (ix) H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG off Saint Lucar coastwise 10 knots to patrol off Cape Roca.
- (x) H.M.S. LADY HOGARTH, H.M.S. MARCHWOOD 32 48 13 02 247 8.
- (xi) H.M.S. WISHART, H.M.S. VIDETTE sail Gibraltar 0400/20 to 29 20 12 00 13 knots.

1230A/19.

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

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- O.D. 8.
- O.I.C. (3)
- I.P. (3)
- D.S.D. 9.
- D.A/S.W.
- W.D.
- Mails.
- Navts.

* Not identified.

SECRET

MESSAGE

1252A/19 November

IN

488c.

From F.O.C.N.A.

DATE 19.11.41.

REC'D 1545

Naval Cypher (A 1) by W/T

Addressed N.A. Station

IMPORTANT

Situation Report No.1.

- (i) CORINTHIAN about 036 Degrees 04' 033
Degrees 55' 070 Degrees 12 to Fayal.
Situation at 2006A 19.
- (ii) MARSDALE 033 Degrees 15' 034 Degrees 04'
263 Degrees 12.

1252A/19

Advance copy sent to Ops
O.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops (3)
O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (3)

I.P. (3)
D.S.D.9.
D.A/S.W.

W.D.
File X.

M E B

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

EGRET.
S.L.92.

EGRET is to fuel forthwith from R.F.A.DINGLEDALE in 34° N. 26° 30' W. and is then to rejoin convoy S.L.92. 2. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to order DINGLEDALE and escorts to proceed towards Gibraltar as soon as EGRET has fuelled and A.M. 2312/14 para.3 has been complied with. 3. JONQUIL pass to DINGLEDALE. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2254A/19 to F.O.C.N.A., EGRET.)

South Atlantic.

CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN.
CORRIENTES.

Following received from Las Palmas:- On 17/11 CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN berthed alongside break-water immediately astern of CORRIENTES - both ships' bows south. (D.D.I.C. 0935A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

16/11.

A.2. Submarine seen by EUROPEAN ^{not identified} (as received) evening 16/11 off Bay of Quicombo, nationality unknown. (Loanda, Sierre Leone, 1135/19 to S.O.I. Freetown.)

S.L.93.
O.S.11.

BERGAMOT and oiler RAPIDOL are to sail with ocean escort to join S.L.93 subsequently transferring O.S.11 with Freetown escort force and returning to Freetown with O.S.11. Oiler RAPIDOL will be available for fuelling escort. LANDGUARD pass to oiler RAPIDOL. (C. in C. S.A., 1225N/19 to LANDGUARD.)

U/B.

Sighted by A/C 1535Z/18. (C. in C. S.A. 1716N/19) See U-Boat Campaign.

ALCA.
CLOVER,
SNAKEFLY.

ALCA is to sail for Freetown escorted by CLOVER on 22/11 and is to embark survivors for passage instead of CLOVER. *My 2029/18 to CLOVER and N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia, only refers. SNAKEFLY is to be sailed independently for Freetown when ready. (C. in C. S.A., 1901N/19 to ALCA.)

* N.T. h. W.D.

/THODE ...

490

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.THODE
FAGELUND
(sunk 17/11)

Your 2325B/17/11. Have you any further information? Presume you will modify your routing instructions for shipping between Cape and Durban.
(C. in C. S.A. 2047N/19 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

W.S.12 X.

Following received from Opnav (begins) W.S.12 X. Your 1347A/18. U.S.S. MOFFETT will escort LEONARD WOOD into Capetown. Will send E.T.A. later. 1511/19 (ends).
(D.O.D.(F) 2350A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.PARRAMATTA.

Your 2156B/18 (N.T. in W.R.) Proceed in execution of previous orders and report progress to S.O. Force "I" when off Mersa Matruh. (R.A. Alexandria 0005B/19 to PARRAMATTA) Endeavour to get (corrupt group) (received as H.M.S. TONELINE) to Mersa Matruh. Fleet tug ST. ISSEY being sent. (R.A. Alexandria, 0250B/19 to PARRAMATTA) See 1254/19. p. 491 & 493.

SOKOL, enemy
convoy.

Capt. (S) 1's 1113B/18. R/C Shows Convoy returned to Navarino.
(Capt. S.10, 1116B/19 to SOKOL.)
Your 1823B/19 (N.T. in W.R.) Remain on patrol off Navarino if possible. Aircraft R/C at 1215B/19 confirms these merchant ships in harbour but no escort. (Capt. S.1, 2157B/19 to SOKOL.)

Battle Fleet.

Arrivals 19/11 HOBART, NEPTUNE, AJAX, KANDAHAR, VALIANT, QUEEN ELIZABETH, BARHAM, NAPIER, NIZAM, DECOY, JERVIS, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, HOTSPUR, GALATEA, KIPLING, JACKAL, NAIAD, EURYALUS, AVON VALE, ERIDGE. AMIN.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 1133B/19.)

"Aggression".

For signification of code word "Aggression" see my 1147B/19. (?1149B/19)
(C. in C. Med, 1147B/19 to Admty. for D.N.I.)
My 1147/19. Naval Supply programme Port organisations. For CRUSADER. "Crusader."
(C. in C. Med., 1149B/19 to Admty. for D.N.I.)

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Enemy Ships
Navarino.

3 M/Vs anchored Navarino Bay.
(A/C F. 1215/19 to Med. Aircraft.)

UNIQUE.
enemy units.

(i) UNIQUE reports at 1700/8 sighted hospital ship ARNO in 032° 31' 019° 45' northbound.
(ii) At 0058/12 in 032° 38' 019° 49' sighted 1 laden southbound M/V escorted by 1 destroyer approaching down longitude 019° 50' and altered course to 140° before firing enemy passed out of range. (iii) At 1136/12 in 032° 38' 019° 58' sighted 3 Condottieri (? class) cruisers single line ahead 25 knots with air escort only, steering steady course 170°, range could not be closed within 8000.
(Capt. S. 10 1226B/19 to Capt. S.1.)

U/B
PARRAMATTA
TONELINE.

U-Boat was reported by A/C at 2355/18 in 031° 15' N. 028° 02' E. and dived. Proceed with all despatch to hunt in that area. Suspected U-Boat may be attempting to land and embark agent(s) on coast. PARRAMATTA is towing TONELINE in this vicinity. SOUTHERN SEA and Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY are joining her (?as convenient).
(C. in C. Med., 1254/19 to FARNDAL.)

U/Bs.
Black Sea.

Intelligence 1/11 given by Russian N.A. to A.N.A. Istanbul. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1308B/19 to S.O.I. Med.) See Lion Copy.

Malta Raids.
Marsala mined.
Naples bombed.

Night 18/19 Nov. 0035 hours 1 bomber dropped incendiaries land. 0346 hours 8 bombers approached. None crossed coast. Bombs sea and shore. No damage. Hurricanes up no illuminations or interceptions. Bad weather. 5 F.A.A. aircraft laid 5 mines Marsala area. 10 Wellingtons mark 1C nuisance raid. 2 over Naples 1833 to 2335 hours. Bombs also leaflets dropped. Hits docks and railway area. Explosions marshalling yards and fires still visible when aircraft left.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1800/19 to Air Min.)

Tripoli,
Brindisi
bombed.

3 Wellingtons over Tripoli 1817-0315 hours. Bombs dropped area power house, dock area, native quarters and town. 3 Wellingtons over Brindisi 1912-0230 hours. Hits area oil tanks and fort. Fires docks and town.
1 Wellington failed find Brindisi dropped bombs Pachine. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1804/19.)

/THRASHER ...

491A

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1308B/19 Nov.

IN

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

Date. 20. 11.41.

Recd. 0425

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER 'V'(15) BY CABLE
RECIRCULATION

Addressed N.S.O.(I) Mediterranean (To inform N.L.O. Black Sea). Repeated D.N.I.

+
Reference my 1823 November 17th; following information dated November 1st given by Russian Naval Attache to Assistant Naval Attache Istanbul, stating reliably. Part 1

(a) 4 German submarines at Varna (C 3 repeat C3) 1 (?7(seven)) vedettes of which 2 under Italian repeat Italian flag (presume M.T.B's meant: 3 repeat 3).

(b) 16 T.L.C. constructing, 9 finished; they are fitted with 800 h.p. engines (C2 repeat C2).

(c) At Varna (?4000) Germans of which 1,500 naval 200 Croatian sailors; Bourgas 3,000 German of which 800 are sailors (C 2 repeat C2).

(d) At the end of August large repeat large number (?special service) uniforms imported into Varna and stored (C nought repeat C nought). Many rumours then circulating of projected landings Turkey, but now ceased.

Part 2. Later information confirms continued use Bulgarian ports by Axis minelayers and that about a dozen Roumanian ships loaded with war material and Italian tankers are still lying Varna Bourgas.

1308B/19.

N.I.D. Comment.

(a) There may be German Submarines in the Black Sea, but if there are they have so far shown little offensive spirit. The Russians have reported very few losses by Submarine attack, and they may have been Roumanian Submarines.

As regards Vedettes, Roumania has seven launched in 1908, of which five are believed to have been scrapped. Roumania has also three H.T.B's of 1939(31 tons), purchased from the British Government.

(b).....

(b) There have been many reports of T.L.Cs sometimes call pontoons or barges, both from Constantza and from Varna. This information is likely to be true.

(c) Likely to be correct.

(d) No comment.

Part II. Likely to be correct.

+ Report from Poles re conditions in Bulgaria

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

f.m.d.

492

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.THRASHER
TRIUMPH,
Yugoslav
landings.

(1) Ref. your 2045B/17/10 and Capt. (S) 1 1513B/17/11. Intend THRASHER carries out both projects referred to in latter signal.

(2) In addition to effecting landing of one British, one Yugoslavian officer and one technician as convenient a few miles from landing effected by TRIUMPH. This is urgently asked for to clarify situation regarding communists.

(3) Folbot party ex THRASHER will be taken.

(4) The party referred in my 1121B/5/11 will be segregated from 2 Yugoslavian parties. C.O. THRASHER considers this a simple matter. (V.A. Malta, 1915B/19 to C. in C. Med.)

W.R. Note: Refs. quoted herein were "Not to Admiralty".

S/Ms.

Submarines E.T.A. Malta zone minus 2 as follows: URSULA before 1800/20 or 0730/21,* P.34 0730/21, URGE before 1800/21 or 0730/22. THRASHER will be exercised off Grand Harbour forenoon/20. Convoy escorted by Force "K" expected to leave p.m./20 and return 0700B/21 by south east (?channel). (Capt. S.10, 1945B/19 to S/Ms named.)

* See next page

Situation
Report 168.

Battle Fleet was at sea Tuesday 18/11 in support of operation "Chieftain" and was shadowed by enemy aircraft until dark while proceeding westward. Fleet turned back after dark/18 not returned to harbour.

2. Western Desert. All operations considerably hampered by bad weather which is now improving. NAIAD and EURYALUS detached from Battle Fleet night 18/19 for bombardment of Halfaya area. Bombardment reported successful despite absence of aircraft owing to weather. 415 rounds fired, several good fires started. 7th C.S. bombardment night 17/18 did not take place owing exceptionally bad weather.

3. Two German officers and 7 O.R's captured near Daba night 17/18 having landed by boat from U-Boat or aircraft. Attempt to mine railway unsuccessful. Prisoners now being examined by Navy Alex. U-Boat sighted by aircraft night 18/19 in same vicinity now being hunted by destroyers.

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
report 168
contd.

4. TONELINE broke down night 18/19 while on passage to Tobruk with petrol now in tow of PARRAMATTA to Mersa Matruh. *see p 490*
5. Aircraft. See H.Q. Malta 1700/18. F.A.A. Fighters employed as fleet cover and Albacores in support of Western Desert operations with advanced H.Q.
(C. in C. Med., 1955/19 to Admty.)

Mining.

Mines have now been reported between Pylos and Sphacteria Islands.
(Capt. S.1, 1959B/19 to SOKOL.)

THUNDERBOLT.

Before proceeding to position ordered in my 2155B/18 establish patrol in vicinity of position (e) 036° 21' 020° 12' until dusk/20 then proceed position (d) given in my 2155B/18. Enemy southbound convoy left Otranto 1800B/19 expected position (e) about 1100B/20.
(Capt. S.1, 2003B/19 to THUNDERBOLT.)

P.34.

P.34 expects to arrive 0900B/20.
(Capt. S. 10, 2130B/19 to URSULA.)

TRIUMPH.

TRIUMPH sails for exercise at 1000B/20. Small convoy escorted by trawler expected Alexandria a.m./20.
(Capt. S.1, 2255B/19 to TALISMAN.)

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Ceylon
Defences.

Instructions to General Inskip. (Assumes operational control on 22/11, of all military forces in Ceylon.)
(C. in C. India, 1030/19, to W.O.)

CENTURION.

Your 1130/16. Concur undesirable to use CENTURION until Japanese have identified the units of a genuine Eastern Fleet and that thereafter she might be useful by appearing at ports where photographic r/c. is unlikely.
2. Concur in your proposal to discuss her readiness and completion of camouflage with C. in C.E.I.
3. A scheme for camouflaging her as MALAYA will shortly be completed and flown out to C. in C. E.I. 4. CENTURION carries a type 52 ERT set. This is only H/F transmitter fitted. If this is not considered adequate for your purpose it is proposed ship should be fitted locally with a more powerful commercial H/F set.
(A.C.N.S(F) 1314A/19 to S.O. Force G.)

China.PRINCE
ROBERT.

Hong Kong departure PRINCE ROBERT 19/11. Programme Manila, 21/11; Honolulu, 3 - 4/12; Esquimalt 11/12. Route San Bernardino Strait to 021° 30' N., 141° 00' E., thence Great Circle to Honolulu, thence Great Circle, to Esquimalt S & A., 15 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Hong Kong 0315Z/19, to Admty., etc.)

ENDEAVOUR.

Your 2048/15. Navigation crew as far as Suez can be provided. Ship will be docked 24th to confirm fitness for service.
(C. in C. China, 0501Z/19, to Admty.)

/DOMINION.....

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. Contd.

DOMINION
MONARCH.
QUEEN MARY.
(W.S.12.)

Your 0450/13 para. 8. DOMINION MONARCH could be docked Naval Base 5/12, if QUEEN MARY postponed till 12/12. No other possibility. (Cdr., Malaya, 0541Z/19, to D. of S.T.)

VARDAAS.
(reported
overdue.)

Your 1035/18. VARDAAS arrived Natuna Islands 16/11 bound Thursday Island. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0757Z/19, to S.O.I., Capetown.)

D'ARTAGNAN.
(French.)

Saigon departure 1400 GH/19. (C. in C. China, 1141Z/19, to C. in C. Dutch East Indies.)

Japanese
45,000-ton
Battleships.

My 1616/21/8 and my 1134/4/9. Siamese N.A., in casual conversation with Assistant N.A., volunteered information that two battleships of 45,000 tons were near completion. Siamese N.A., has good Japanese connexions and is very pro-British in sympathy. (N.A. Tokyo, 1607/19, to D.N.I.) N.I.D. Comment. N.I.D. estimates that one battleship will be completed at the end of 1941 and one early in 1942.

Louis
Dreyfus
Ships.

Admty., 1631A/6. No objection to the interception of these ships in open sea between Hong Kong and Luzon or between Formosa and Luzon provided that interception does not take place in vicinity of Japanese warships and that every effort is made to avoid meeting the latter. (Head of M. Approved by 1st Lord, 1650A/19 to C. in C. China.)

Convoy Titles. The following short titles are to be used for convoys which will be established in the Far East in the event of war with Japan.
Melbourne to Singapore MS.
Singapore to Melbourne SM.
Colombo to Singapore. JS.
Singapore to Colombo. SJ.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1748A/19 to C. in C's etc.)

/Command.....

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. Contd.Command in
Far East.

Following for Air Chief Marshal Brooke-Popham from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.42. Chiefs of Staff are considering whether system of unified command in Far East should continue or whether it should be replaced by system of joint command by the three Commanders, as laid down in the Manual of Combined Operations (1938) (Chap. II, para. 20), and as now exists in the M.E., and Meditn. 2. Before making any decision, Chiefs of Staffs would be grateful for your considered opinion on this point and for an indication of the major implications which a change would involve.

(W.O., 1800/19, to C. in C. Far East.)

U.S. Liaison.

Appointment of R.N. liaison officer forthwith to C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet is under consideration with U.S. authorities. Your remarks are requested particularly whether any officer is already holding such a post. (V.C.N.S.2026A/19, to C. in C. China, S.O. Force G.)

America & West Indies.ILLUSTRIOUS
FORMIDABLE.

Outline programme approved. (5 S.L., 0915A/19, to B.A.D., B.A.R.M.) See Lion Copy.

St. John's
N.F. Base.

St. Johns N.F. Mission's 1501/14. (N.T. in W.D.) Navy Dept., confirms semi-officially that there is no prospect so far as can be foreseen of U.S. units relieving Newfoundland Escort Force of any escorting duty.

2. Possible developments such as assembly of some convoys in U.S. ports and extension of U-boat activities to U.S. Coastal waters are not likely to lessen the task of Newfoundland Escort Force. (?Officially) Such developments might (?conceivably) lead to use of Halifax as base for part of that force, but I can see no alternative at present but to make full provision at St. John's as proposed by St. John's Mission. Will N.S.H.Q., Ottawa please remark? N.S.H.Q. Ottawa pass to B.A.T.M.

(B.A.D., 1009A/19, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

0915A/19. November.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE.

OUT.

Date. 19.11.41.

To: B.A.D. Washington 484.

B.A.R.M. 184.

Repeated. C. in C. America & West Indies 194.

C. in C. Western Approaches. 893.

R.N.A.S. Palisados.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

FORMIDABLE.

B.A.V.G.I.

NAVAL CYPHER (A1) O.T.T.

From Admiralty.

A.M. 1802/7 and B.A.D. Washington's 1231/15 not to all addressees. Paras. 1, 2, 3 of A.M. 1802/7 are cancelled. The following outline programme for ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE is approved.

(1) ILLUSTRIOUS.

2. Embark all Martlets which are ready up to a maximum of 24 and sail from Norfolk to Jamaica on 4th. December, paragraph 2 of B.A.D. 1759/14 refers. As soon as 6 Swordfish and a total of 10 torpedoes have been embarked at Jamaica if 10 have not already been embarked at Norfolk ILLUSTRIOUS is to proceed direct to U.K.

(ii) FORMIDABLE.

3. As soon as ready for sea FORMIDABLE is to proceed to Jamaica embark 6 Swordfish and a total of 10 torpedoes if 10 are not already embarked and return to Norfolk. FORMIDABLE is to sail from Norfolk to U.K. on 31st. December with remainder of Martlets which have been delivered.

4. B.A.R.M. and C. in C. America & West Indies are requested to signal detailed programme for these two ships in due course.

0915A/19.

Approved by 5th. Sea Lord.

1st. Lord.
 1st. S.L.
 2nd. S.L.
 3rd. S.L.
 4th. S.L.
 5th. S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 A.C.N.S. (W)
 N.A. 1st. S.L.
 D.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.
 D.C. (2)
 Head of M.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D. (2)
 N.I.D. 10.
 D.G.D.

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies -Contd.

- W.S.12 X. Departure convoy W.S. 12 X.
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 1401Q/19, to Admty.).
- W.S.12 X. Your 1820A/17, total numbers embarked in ships
in order mentioned - 5037, 4620, 5544, 1393,
1431, 1509. Total 19534.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1417Z/19, to Admty.).
- W.S. 12 X. Your 1347A/18. U.S.S. MOFFET will escort
LEONARD WOOD into Capetown. Will send E.T.A.,
later.
(Opnav, 1511/19 to Admty.).
- O.N. 34. C.N. 34 retain all ships in convoy until
reaching (MM) (2) Direct ships for Halifax (6)
New York and Boston (17), proceed direct to
destinations passing South of Sable Island.
(3) Direct ships for West Indies and Gulf
Mexico proceed from (MM) to second lettered
position on independent routes. (4) Direct
BODEGRAVEN to omit first and second positions
and change destination EMPIRE SAPPHIRE to
Mobile.
(Opnav, 1602Z/19 to Comtask Unit 4.1.3.).
- LIVERPOOL. Arrived Bermuda.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1703Q/19 to Admty.).
- H.X.161 Taskunit 4.1.6. Comtask 2.5 in WOOLSEY, ~~S.H.~~
LEA, MACLISH, DUPONT, BERNADOU, designated
escort H.X.161.
(Opnav, 1719/19 to Admty.).
- SURCOUF. My 1206R/4. SURCOUF is delayed about four
days beyond 23/11 with engine trouble.
(B.A.R.M. 1728R/19 to Admty. etc.).

/U.S.Liaison.....

War Diary.

19.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

U.S. Liaison.

U.S. Authorities have proposed that Naval Liaison Officers from R.C.N. should be appointed forthwith to:-

- (a) U.S.C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.
- (b) Commander of U.S. Support Force in Newfoundland.

2. Your remarks are requested.

(V.C.N.S.2027A/19, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

U.S.N. Communications

Your 1711R/20/10. As grid signal is of a stereotyped nature desirable for security reasons that it should be passed from Washington to Ottawa by L/T. Can this be arranged? (D.T.D. 2042A/19 to B.A.D.)

PRINCE Class. A.M.C.'s.

In future the ships of the PRINCE class will be referred to as Auxiliary Cruisers not A.M.C. B.A.D. pass P/L version to Opnav. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2111Z/19, to R.C.N.)

GALLAGHER AMERICAN.

My (?1541)Z/6 (2141Z/6 intended) ^{PETER C.} GALLAGHER and AMERICAN will be ready and proceed from Halifax 22/11 to Bermuda for duty unless contrary instructions are received. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 2124Z/19 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)

LOCHMONAR. (suspected sabotage 10/11.)

LOCHMONAR sailed 1730/19, having discharged all burnt and damaged cargo. Investigations indicate outside agency responsible for causing fire and responsible authorities are investigating from this angle. Fear there is little chance of any definite result but will report if anything further is discovered. (N.C.S.O. Panama, 2135/19 to S.O.I. Jamaica.)

War Diary.19.11.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.Unknown
Ship.

S S S S heard 3 times at 1851N/19, no position or name received. Have you heard anything? (C. in C.S.A., 1924N/19, to Takoradi, Bathurst.)

S.C.48,
(attacked
17/10.)
EVITA
ILA.

Following for Nortraship London from Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission (begins). Press report EVITA sunk together with ILA and others telegraphed. (Consul-Gen., New York, 2250Z/19 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.Mediterranean.
2355/18.

Reported by A/C. (C. in C. Med., 1254/19, 1955/19.) See Mediterranean.

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1355A/19, 1404A/19.)

1535Z/18.

At 1535Z/18 in 4° 45' N., 3° 46' W., Hudson A/C sighted trimmed down S/M estimated course 270° speed 10 knots. S/M submerged on sighting A/C. No attack carried out. (C. in C.S.A., 1716N/19, to Admty.)

1000/18.

A reliable witness reports that on 18/11 at 10 A.M. he saw clearly from coast road 2 submarines surface and stop off Merja (45 miles East of Malaga) where-upon they were met by small steamer. Observer watched them for 20 minutes. (Malaga, 1855/19, to S.O.I., Gib.)

Submarines Attacked.By MARIGOLD
16/11.
U.453

Narrative of sinking an example of what can be achieved with an alert ship's company and efficient type 271 R.D.F. and Asdic. (1st. S.L. 0020A/19 to C. in C.W.A., etc.) See Lion Copy.

By GURKHA,
LEGION, 30/9.
§ ADUA.
(Confirmed
by comd: 6643
1946.)

Their Lordships consider that the attacks by GURKHA and LEGION on 30/9/1941, achieved the destruction of an Italian U-Boat. They consider that GURKHA's attack was decisive and that LEGION's subsequent attacks contributed to the successful outcome of this action. 2. They congratulate you, your officers and ship's companies on this success. They believe, from Red Cross enquiries, that the U-Boat was ADUA. 3. They note with satisfaction that GURKHA obtained Asdic contact at 19 knots. (1st. S.L. 1255A/19 to GURKHA, LEGION.)

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 0020A/19th November OUT

Addressed ~~C. in C. Western Approaches 889~~ Date 19.11.41
 C.C.N.F.
 F.O.C.N.A. 261
 C. in C. South Atlantic 299
 Repeated C. in C. Home Fleet 235.
 C. in C. Mediterranean 153 B 4
 R.A.D. H.F. 325.
 F.O. Force "H" 49
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 971
 B.A.D. Washington. 482

Naval Cypher (D)

BASEGRAM

From Admiralty.

Pass to all escort forces.

Following is narrative of a corvettes' recent successful sinking of a German U-Boat on 16th November for information.

One. Corvette proceeding independently at 2316 made R.D.F. type 271 contact range 4000 yards closing. While turning towards target identified as U-Boat which dived before ship could ram.

Two. First attack by Asdic made with five charges set 50 feet. Contact lost but regained 15 minutes later.

Three. Second attack was deliberate with 10 charges set 150 feet and 300 feet. U-Boat surfaced astern and was engaged with four inch, pom-pom and Lewis guns. Crew abandoned ship and U-Boat sank very quickly.

The above is an example of what can be achieved with an alert ships' company and efficient Type 271 and Asdic.

0020A/19.
 DA/S.W.
 (Tel. No.34)
 Approved First Sea Lord.

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

20.11.1941
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.T.B. &
M.G.B.
engagement.

M.T.B's and M.G.B's from Dover had a brief inconclusive engagement last night off Gris Nez with enemy forces which probably consisted of two or three small coasters with R boat escorts. M.G.B.9 was slightly damaged.

F.S650
attacked by
E boats
3 ships sunk.

F.S650 composed of 59 ships escorted by WOLSEY, VERDUN, WIDGEON, KITTIWAKE and 2 trawlers and supported by VESPER, GARTH and CAMPBELL, with M.G.B.87 astern was attacked by E boats last night off the Norfolk coast; GARTH was disabled about 2150, possibly by gunfire of our own ships or by striking a wreck, and was towed to Harwich, and HAMBLEDON and QUORN were sent to reinforce the escort. Shortly before midnight S.S. ARUBA was torpedoed and sunk, and oiler (RFA) WAR MEHTAR and S.S. WALDINGE were torpedoed and both sank later. During the engagement WOLSEY possibly sank an E boat, and CAMPBELL and M.G.B. 87 very probably sank another. At about 0300 WIDGEON was damaged in collision with VESPER.

M.G.B's
engage the
E boats.

At about 0520 today M.G.B. 64 (who was capable of only 18 knots speed) and M.G.B.67, patrolling on the line Smiths Knoll to Hook of Holland near the meridian of 3° E. engaged at least 4 E boats. The action lasted about 30 minutes. The M.G.B's had no casualties and no damage except shot holes.

Fighters
attack E
boats.S. 41
sunk.

At about 0600 two Fighters were sent out to attack the E boats returning to Hook of Holland and claim one E boat destroyed and one damaged. The latter (S.41) was afterwards sunk by M.G.B's 64 and 67 who were unaware that it was abandoned.

FORESIGHT
FURY
FORESTER.

The orders for the destroyers patrolling in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay were altered this evening. They were ordered to shift, their patrol area 60 miles to the northward and not to leave patrol until ordered.

British Air Operations.

Bad weather curtailed operational flying today.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

A/S Trawler STROKE CITY was bombed and damaged at 1300 today whilst on patrol in Skopen Fiord (Faroes).

Mining.

Operation
Q.K.4.

M.L's 106 and 110 carried out operation Q.K.4 off Ostend last night.

The Air Ministry state that a reliable source reports that the port of Oslo was closed to traffic from 8/11 to 14/11 as a result of our mining.

Sheerness was reopened at 1527 A today.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.

17 Wellingtons, all of which returned, operated from Malta last night over Messina, Benghazi, Tripoli, Naples and Brindisi. At Brindisi, harbour oil tanks were hit, and fires were visible 100 miles away.

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

S/M
allocations
for
Mediterranean.

(1) Intend the following submarines should join the flotillas indicated leaving U.K. on the approx. dates given.

10th		1st
Flotilla P.36	18/12	Flotilla TURBULENT
	P.37 22/1	TEMPEST
	P.38 3/1	24/1
	P.39 30/1	

(2) In anticipation of approval of revised refitting programme now in preparation, C. in C. Med. is requested to sail the following submarines to U.K. URSULA, UTMOST, UPRIGHT, TRIUMPH, OTUS. (F.O.S. 1312A/20).

Movements.

NELSON.

My 1729A/17.
(i) Amend R/V with NELSON to (X) 055° N. 010° W. at 1200A/21.
(ii) NELSON routed through 054° N. 012° W. 056° N. 008° W. (C. in C. W.A. 0032A/20).
My 1740A/19. Cancel para. one, 2 and 7. NORMAN with ICARUS proceed passing Switha at 1500 today to R/V with NELSON escorted by ZULU, SIKH and GURKHA in position X 055° N. 010° W. at 1200A/21. H.M.S. NELSON routed as follows.
(R.A.D. H.F. 0904A/20 to NORMAN, ICARUS).
Sailed D.8 in FAULKNOR for exercises. E.T.A. Londonderry 2100A/20. Subsequently proceeding to comply with C. in C. W.A. 0032A/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1434A/20).
C. in C. W.A. 0032A/20. It would appear that NELSON will arrive off May Island about midnight 22/23. As this would place her in vicinity of Rattray Head during period when air attacks are more probable, and in order to allow sweeping to be carried out in Firth of Forth, it is requested that NELSON be ordered to adjust her speed or that ship be held at Scapa so as to arrive at May Island at 0900/23. (C. in C. Rosyth 1729/20).
Sailed NORMAN and ICARUS to R/V with NELSON in position X as ordered in C. in C. W.A. 0032A/20. (R.A.D. H.F. 1759A/20 to NELSON).

/HAMBLEDON.....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

HAMBLEDON.
QUORN.

Part company with F.S. No.650 at 0900 and proceed Humber by Q.Z.S. 287. Adjusting speed to arrive before dark. (C. in C. Nore 0459/20 to HAMBLEDON, QUORN).

P.38.

(1) From 049° N. 006° W. proceed through (a) 050° N. 002° W. (b) 050° 27' N. 000° 24' W. to R/V in 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. at 0800A/22.
(2) S.B.R. will be in force in (a) area 53 from 2100/20 to 1100/22. (B) Area 41 from 0600/21 to 1100/22. (S.5. 0901A/20 to P.38) (S.5. 0902A/20)

P.36.

Intend to sail P.36 passing Needles at 1630/21 for A/S Exercise off Dartmouth on 22/11 and 23/11 via Q.Z.S. 284 thence diving by day through
(a) 050° 31' N. 002° 01' W.
(b) 050° 19' N. 002° 11' W.
(c) 130° Start Point 14 miles to R/V with 2 M.Ls. 110° Start Point 6 miles at 0900A/22. P.36 will remain east of position (c) until daylight. (Capt. S.5. 0915A/20 and 1340A/20).

TRIDENT.

Adjust route to your patrol position to pass to Westward of Q.Z.X. 471 which should not be approached within 25 miles unless in pursuit of enemy. (F.O.S. 1008A/20 to TRIDENT.)

EREBUS.

Sheerness Departure EREBUS escorted by MEYNELL and WALPOLE as far as Kinnaird Head at 0835. S. of A. 10 knots. E.T.A. Londonderry 0800/24. (C. in C. Nore 1028A/20).

OTWAY.

OTWAY is carrying out diving trials with KINGFISHER and SPANIEL standing by her in vicinity of 057° 20' N. 011° 30' W. (C. in C. W.A. 1115A/20 to BEVERLEY).

MANXMAN.
WELSHMAN.

Adty. 1945A/19. Propose MANXMAN and WELSHMAN return Port Z.A. forthwith. In view of my 1248A/24/10. (?I) assumed (?minelayers) had been sent to (?Scapa) to meet Adty. requirements. If German ships (?move) up Norwegian coast before breaking out request Adty. operate these ships if minelaying appears possible. (C. in C. H.F. 1119Z/20).

/RENOWN.....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

RENOWN.

RENOWN is to sail in accordance with RENOWN's 6189/061 of 3/11 but not before 1600/21 and is to arrive Scapa at 0900/22. RENOWN is to take ARROW, WALLACE, VIMIERA under his orders. When destroyers are detached on entering harbour ARROW is to proceed to Greenock, WALLACE and VIMIERA are to return to Rosyth. Fighter protection will be arranged. (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/20 to RENOWN).

Floating
Crane.

C. in C. Portsmouth's 1603/18. Trawler will not be relieved until tomorrow. (C. in C. Plymouth 1252/20 to BERKELEY). JULIET and CORIOLANUS are to pass the gate ahead of Sweepers at 0730/21 and R/V with BERKELEY escorting floating crane. Position will be signalled. BERKELEY is to remain as A/A escort leaving so as to arrive Plymouth 1800/22. Trawlers on relief by ROCHESTER and M.L. in the vicinity of St. Govans light return to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 1322/20). Floating crane has had to proceed into Torbay for shelter. Tow has only made good about 3 knots. BERKELEY reports "after consulting tugs, who agree, consider passage of crane extremely hazardous except under perfect weather conditions. Two more tugs required". Intend crane should proceed Dartmouth and request more tugs be provided. (C. in C. Plymouth 1756/20). Proceed with tow to Dartmouth tomorrow Friday weather permitting. On arrival trawlers to return to Portsmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 1934/20 to BERKELEY).

RAMILLIES.

My 1034A/19 Sailed RAMILLIES escorted by VANQUISHER and WITCH. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1414A/20).

RORQUAL.

My 1704A/18. RORQUAL's movement is 24 hours late. (Capt. S.3. 1445A/20 to P.38). Proceed submerged by day towards position 245° RR 213 miles. S.B.R. arranged in whole of areas 52, 54 and 56 until further notice. (F.O.S. 2254A/20 to RORQUAL).

SUFFOLK.

Arrived SUFFOLK 0730. (A.C.I.C. 1823N/20).

War Diary.20.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.*? SUPERMAN intended*

Convoy
F.S.650.
WAR MEHTAR
(British
Tanker. (R.F.A.)
5502 Tons)
sunk.
WALDINGE
(British,
2462 Tons)
sunk.
ARUBA
(British
1159 Tons)
sunk.
WIDGEON
(Corvette)
damaged.

WAR MEHTAR and one unknown ship torpedoed near 55.A. buoy. WAR MEHTAR being towed by tug SAN FABIAN. Other ship apparently abandoned. (VERDUN 0144/20).
 VERDUN 0144/20. Tug DIVERSION and two M.L's leaving Yarmouth to assist. (C. in C. Nore 0255A/20).
 My 0144. WALDINGE sunk in 052° 56' N. 002° 01' 30" E. Tug escorted by 2 M.L's ordered Yarmouth. M.L. No. 214 with survivors ordered to Lowestoft. VERDUN's Medical Officer and sick berth attendant in SUPERMAN. My P.C.S. are 56 buoy, 160°, 20 knots. Request instructions. (VERDUN 0753A/20).
 Departure at 0800A/20 Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER to assist WALDINGE. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0825A/20).
 My 0753. Tug DIVERSION now ordered to assist SUPERMAN towing WAR MEHTAR to Yarmouth. P.C.S. 180° 54.D. Buoy, 2 miles 4 knots. Am remaining with her as she is unescorted. (VERDUN 0911A/20).
 My 0911. WAR MEHTAR sunk in about 052° 35' 45" N. 002° 09' 20" E. Tug escorted by M.L. returning to Yarmouth. Am rejoining convoy. (VERDUN 1040A/20).
 Your 0753. Proceed to rejoin convoy. Tug is to be ordered to Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 0927A/20 to VERDUN).
 Return to Sheerness with F.S.No.650. (C. in C. Nore 0935A/20 to CAMPBELL).
 My 0116 and VERDUN 0144 and 0753 ARUBA also sunk. During engagement one salvo of 4 inch H.E. fired by WOLSEY at 2nd of 3 E-boats in approx. 052° 47' N. 002° 20' E. produced considerable explosion with red flames and black smoke. Consider E-boat may have been sunk. Request search in this vicinity. (WOLSEY 0945A/20)
 Have received on board at 0830 from S.S. (? LIDKYLE) (?16) non injured. Survivors from ARUBA torpedoed and sunk at 2345 in 052° 51' N. 002° 07' 30" E. Survivors will be landed at Harwich. One missing. (WIDGEON 1017A/20).
 Your 1040. Cancel previous orders. Proceed to overtake your convoy. (C. in C. Nore 1215 A/20 to VERDUN)
 Arrival at 1115A/20 M/L's 214 and 230 M/L 214 with Captain 2nd Mate and twelve other survivors of WALDINGE, all uninjured. M/L 230 with 4th Engineer and 14 other survivors of WAR MEHTAR all uninjured. 4 D.E.M.S. ratings on WALDINGE, 3 D.E.M.S. ratings on WAR MEHTAR. Remainder of crews thought to be on board GOGGIELAND and Tug SUPERMAN. Army Gunner of S.S. WALDINGE may be missing. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1320A/20).

/Following.....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Convoy
F.S.50.
WAR MEHTAR
(British
Tanker, (R.F.A.)
5502 Tons)
sunk.
WALDINGE
(British,
2462 Tons)
sunk.
ARUBA
(British,
1159 Tons)
sunk.
WIDGEON
(Corvette)
damaged.
- Contd.

M.G.B. engage-
ment off
Smiths Knoll.
One E.B. sunk.
(See also p.508.)

Following is preliminary report on last night's E-boat operations.

2. No F.N. Convoy, F.S.50 of 59 ships somewhat spread out and escorted by WOLSEY, VERDUN, WIDGEON, KITTIWAKE and two trawlers was supported by VESPER, GARTH and CAMPBELL, with M.G.B. 87 astern HAMBLEDON and QUORN joined convoy about 0330/20.
3. E-boats active between 5 buoy and SHERINGHAM from 2115/19 until about 0430/20. Probably four groups present.
4. An action took place about 2130 near 57 buoy. Now considered doubtful if E-boats were actually present although known to be in vicinity. GARTH was disabled possibly by friendly gunfire. This will be investigated.
5. Van of convoy was attacked between 55A and 56 buoys at 2330 by two groups of E-boats. Steamship ARUBA sunk. Tanker WAR MEHTAR and Steamship WALDINGE also hit by torpedoes. These ships sank at 1040/20 and 0745/20 respectively. E-boats engaged by WOLSEY, VESPER, CAMPBELL and M.G.B. 87. WOLSEY possibly sank one - CAMPBELL and M.G.B. 87 very probably sank another.
6. Other groups of E-boats probably two in number remained in Cromer area until about 0415/20 but failed to make contact.
7. At about 0300/20, WIDGEON was damaged in collision with VESPER.
8. At about 0520/20, M.G.Bs. 64 and 67 patrolling line Smiths Knoll to Hook of Holland near Meridian 3 degrees east engaged about 6 E-boats believed from Cromer area at close range. One thought to be hard hit. On return over same water one E-boat found abandoned. This boat sank in spite of efforts to keep it afloat.
9. At about 0600/20. A.O.C. 12 fighter group was requested to send out fighters to attack E-boats returning to Hook of Holland. This attack was carried out in spite of unfavourable weather. Fighters claim one E-boat destroyed and one damaged.
10. From above E-boat casualties are considered to be two certainly sunk, two others probably sunk and others damaged.
(C. in C. Nore 2208A/20).

/Operation.....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.-Contd.

Operation
Q.N.

Prepare to carry out Operation Q.N.
(C. in C. Nore 0930A/20 to BEEHIVE)
Departure M.T.B's 34, 30 on operation Q.N.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1650A/20).

Engagements
off
Gris Nez
and
West Hinder
M.G.B.9
damaged.

On a report by R.D.F. at 2015/19 that a number of vessels had left Boulogne Northeastwards, M.T.B's 219, 218 and 48 supported by M.G.B's 10, 9 and 41 were sent to investigate. Contact was first made at 2150 about four miles east of Gris Nez. In low visibility it was difficult to ascertain composition of enemy force, but it probably consisted of two or three coaster type vessels of less than 1000 tons and an unknown number of R boat escorts. M.T.B's 219 and 218 each fired two torpedoes at Coasters without success. M.T.B. 48 did not locate a torpedo target. M.G.B's had brief inconclusive engagements. Being uncertain of composition of enemy and as attacks were reported as unsuccessful, I despatched M.T.B's 44 and 47 at 2330 as reinforcements. Meanwhile, enemy were shadowed by M.T.B's and M.G.B's. M.T.B. 44 made contact at 0155 near the West Hinder but in decreased visibility was unable to make an attack, and soon afterwards all touch was lost. Boats returned independently the last arriving at 0855. There was considerable but inaccurate enemy fire during contacts M.T.B. 48 had one slight casualty and M.G.B. 9 was slightly damaged. (V.A. Dover 1201A/20).

S/M
Patrols.

Patrol positions are to be amended as follows
TUNA 061° 02' N. 004° 00' E. RUBIS 061° 30' N.
003° 50' E. TRIDENT 062° 00' N. 004° 13' E.
(F.O.S. 1313A/20).

Patrol by
FORESIGHT.
FURY.
FORESTER.

A.M. 1617/14 para. 2. Alter patrol area to read "between the meridians of 25° W. and 25° W. and the latitudes of 40° N. and 45° N."
2. Establish patrol as soon as practicable. (D.O.D. F. 1331A/20 to FORESIGHT).
A.M. 1617A/14. Para. one. The latter of the two alternatives is the more likely disguised as a neutral. 2. Para. 3. Object destruction. 3. Para. 5. Do not leave patrol till ordered. (A.C.N.S. F. 1938A/20 to FORESIGHT).
A.M. 1331A/20. Patrol area is to be shifted 60 miles to the Northward. (A.C.N.S. F. 2225A/20 to FORESIGHT).

/Operation.....

War Diary.20.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.Operation
Q.K.4.

My 1028A/19. M.L's 106 and 110 carried out operation Q.K. (4) off Ostend R.B. Buoy. M.L. 106 reports sighting firing at 0154/20 in approximate position 51° 28' N. 02° 21' E. On receipt of information of the movements of an enemy convoy off Calais from V.A. Dover, M.T.B's 18 and 100, then on patrol between Thornton Ridge and Flushing, were ordered to patrol in 51° 27' N. 03° 04' E. Convoy was not sighted by M.T.B's. (C. in C. Nore 1534A/20).

SEALION
Patrol.
VESCO
(Norwegian
Tanker,
331 Tons)
set on fire
on 18/11.

SEALION arrived from patrol Svaerholthavet. At 1127C/18 attacked unescorted eastbound tanker position 71° 0' 30" N. 27° 01' 30" E. Fired 3 torpedoes range 800 yards missed. Engaged by gun fire, and ship set on fire and still burning fiercely after 2 hours. Crew of 10 abandoned ship in ship's boat. Master and second Engineer, latter seriously injured by gun fire, taken on board. Remainder proceeded in ship's boat to Honningsvaag. Weather calm.
 (3) Vessel was VESCO proceeding to Kirkenes from Narvik with total of 304 tons benzine and oil fuel.
 (4) SEALION returned to base in view of injury to officer and with valuable information given by Captain of VESCO. Admiralty pass to F.O.S. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1541C/20).

M.G.B.
engagement
off Smiths
Knoll.
One E-boat
sunk.
(See p. 506)

My 2208A/20. Para 8. Following is preliminary report on action fought by M.G.B's 64 and 67. 2. M.G.B's 63, 64 and 67 left Harwich about 2000/19 to patrol off Hook of Holland. M.G.B. 63 stopped at Cork L.V. with water in petrol. M.G.B. 64 delayed by complete failure of centre engine which reduced maximum speed to 18 knots for rest of night. 64 and 67 proceeded to line Smiths Knoll to Hook of Holland at meridian 3° East at 0230/20 as unable to reach patrol ordered. 3. At 0445/20 heard E-Boats approaching. At about 0520/20 engaged at least four E-Boats closing one boat within 200 yards. Action lasted about 30 minutes enemy firing high and wildly. Several shot holes in M.G.B. 64 and a few in 67. One E-Boat believed hard hit. During search after action E-Boat S.41 found stopped with other boats which immediately made off. Before it was realised S.41 was abandoned boat was depth charged. Subsequent efforts to keep her afloat failed (.....). Scuttling charges were found prepared but not fired. Torpedoes had not been fired. Six E-boats thought to have been in this group. No casualties in M.G.B's. 4. It is considered that this gallant action against superior numbers fought with the disability of reduced speed reflects the highest credit on the Officers and ships Companies of these M.G.B's. (C. in C. Nore 2210A/20).

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

2 Whitley aircraft leave Wick at 1200/20 to carry out A/S patrol of area 4 miles either side of line 059° 38' N. 001° 30' W. and 60° N. 5° W. (C. in C. Rosyth 1110/20 and 1330/20).

Request Fighter Patrol referred to in your 1809A/9 may include Skopen Fiord also. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1540A/20 to A.C.O.S.)

An A/S sweep will be carried out by 3 Whitley A/C in following area, tomorrow weather permitting.

1. Malin Head to 57° 48' N. 10° 48' W. to 58° 46' N. 14° 20' W. and reciprocal.

2. Inishtrahull to 58° N. 10° 30' W. to 58° 58' N 14° W. and reciprocal.

3. 55° 41' N. 06° 40' W. to 58° 14' N. 10° 12' W. to 59° 08' N. 13° 40' W. and reciprocal.

A/C to be at N. extremity at 1200A/21.

(C. in C. W.A. 2356A/20).

T.B.R.
on 22/11.

Request T.B.R. in Area 53 from 0800 - 1700/22nd. (C. in C. Plymouth 1422/20).

Escort for
NELSON.

Weather permitting expect Hudson A/S and Blenheim A/A escort from daylight to-morrow. (C. in C. W.A. 1524A/20 to NELSON).

A/C in
ARGUS.
Re-forming
808 to 816
and 825
Squadrons.

807 and 812 Squadrons are now operating in ARGUS with 8 Fulmars 2 Sea Hurricanes and 9 Swordfish. Only 4 Fulmars and 8 Swordfish are at present embarked.

Survivors from ARK ROYAL are due at Rosyth a.m./23 in NELSON. Request you will arrange accommodation for F.A.A. personnel. It is possible but not probable that some F.A.A. personnel will be landed from destroyers at Londonderry p.m./21 Further signal will be made regarding reforming 808 - 816 and 825 Squadrons on completion of leave. (D.N.A.D. 1641A/20 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C off
Kinsale.

Master of Trawler FRANK arrived Swansea P.M./19 reports that on 14th 15th 16th Nov. at about 0900 and again at 1400 hours he sighted flights of 2 to 4 enemy aircraft flying at 6 feet above sea level in position approx. 10 miles South of Kinsale. Aircraft approached from a North Easterly direction and were twin engined Bombers in each case. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1220A/20)

/STOKE.....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.-Contd.

STOKE CITY
(A/S Trawler)
damaged.

At 1300 today STOKE CITY on patrol in Skopen Fiord was bombed and damaged. STOKE CITY has reached Midvaag and RISOR is proceeding to her assistance. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1540/A/20).

Murmansk.

Russians state that German aircraft M.E.109 have been seen in Murmansk Area with British Markings. (Ad. Miles 1604D/17).

Mining.

Operation
N.L. 22.

My 1504A/19 postponed owing to enemy movement. (V.A. Dover 0105A/20).

Thames
Estuary.

One Magnetic Mine detonated at 1630/18 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1435/20). 4 S.A. mines detonated on 16/11 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1814/20). In amplification of my 1723/19. Reports from ships now to hand show that enemy aircraft appear to have arrived in Echelon formation of about 4 aircraft. Course being from N. Foreland to N.E. Shingles Light Buoy where formations broke up. Heights of planes estimated as between 1000 and 3000 ft. Only 4 sightings of planes, and those only momentary, reported from about 25 ships out. Fire was opened in all sightings and in some other cases on sound. Some observers suggest conditions for sighting planes and splashes very much improved when light from distant searchlight beams relieved intense darkness - but it was thought possibly without corresponding increase of facilities to the aircraft. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1907/20).

Sheerness.

Cancel my 0041/19. Port of Sheerness now open. (Cdre. Sheerness 1527A/20).

Bristol
Channel.

Mine detonated by Sweeper at 1123A/20 in 240° 2.65 miles Flatholm Light. Details. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1535A/20).

Rosyth
Command.

From 11th to 18th Nov. the following stranded and drifting mines were dealt with in this command. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth 1541/20).

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Great Belt.
German swept
channel.

Reported alteration (details) B.2.
(N.A.Stockholm 1614/20).

Navigational.

Information
for
TRIDENT.

Your 2209A/19. Following is a repetition of Q.Z.X. 471. Area dangerous due to mines is enclosed within a circle of radius five miles about position 62° 32' N. 04° E. (F.O.S. 0211A/20 to TRIDENT).

Uncharted
Rocks.

Chart No. 2382. Rocks with least depth of eleven feet in position 700 feet 310° from red beacon Lat 56° 06' 25" N. Long (?05) 14° 9" W. cover area twenty feet radius from this position. (GULNARE 1041A/20).

Condition
of Swept
Channel
Buoys.

GLEANER's 1030/16 and 0919/20 F.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 1756/19 and 1003/20, WALLACE 1145/20 being passed for information. (C. in C. Rosyth 1145/20).

B.3. Buoy.

My 1157A/12. Visibility of B.3. Buoy is still reported as being only about 3 cables. In view of the proximity of The Mouse and North Knob sands request visibility of the light on this Buoy may be increased to 2½ miles instead of 1½ miles as originally asked for in my 2311B/24/6. (C. in C. Nore 2223A/20).

Casualties and Defects.

GARTH.

Departure at 0002 tug KROOMAN and two M.G.B's as escorts to assist GARTH S.E. of 56 Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0030A/20).
GARTH now in tow of KINGSTON OLIVINE. M.L. 194 in company. Pos. 55A Buoy. (GARTH 0122A/20).
Proceed forthwith to meet GARTH now in vicinity of 54.E. buoy and escort her to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 0937A/20 to SOUTHDOWN).
Departure Tug KENIA to assist GARTH. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1240/20).
Arrivals GARTH being towed by tugs KENIA and KROOMAN, also SOUTHDOWN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1930A/20).

/CAVEROCK.....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

CAVEROCK
(Grounded
29/10).

CAVEROCK refloated yesterday afternoon. Now Hartlepool Harbour. (Smith 0914/20).

AIGLON.

My 1757A/18. AIGLON returned with defect. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0939A/20).

M.L. 285.

Your 1625/18. ^{N.T. m W.D} M/L 285 not arrived. Last seen P.M./19. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1322/20).

to whom?

PITWINES
sunk.

Steam ship PITWINES sunk approx. 2 cables S.E. 19.D. buoy at 2125/19 November after collision with S.S. GATESHEAD. (N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough 1505/20).

RUGELEY.

Request you sail ST. OLAVES TO assist RUGELEY aground in Ardnell Bay between Ardrossan and Farland Point. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1553A/20 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).
Proceed forthwith to assist RUGELEY. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1557A/20).
Sailed ST. OLAVES in accordance with my 1557A/20. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1615/20).

HAMBLEDON.

HAMBLEDON was in collision with S.S. KOOLGA at 0230/20. No damage was sustained by HAMBLEDON with the exception of ships motor boat which was crushed. (HAMBLEDON 1800A/20).

OCANA.

OCANA slightly damaged by collision with CULEBRA (Pan), latter undamaged. OCANA cannot sail overseas without repairs which cannot be effected here. A.M.S.R.D. Representative reports she can be taken in hand Clyde. Request permission to sail her accordingly proceeding independently. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1806A/20).

ROSS.
M/S.

ROSS delayed Aberdeen with engine defect. Require 48 hours to make good. Sailing P.M. Saturday 22nd. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2056/20).

?

54 to 51. Stokehold engine room and number four flooded, settling slowly ends. (Valentia Radio 2147/20).

/WIDGEON.....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

WIDGEON.
(Corvette)

Damaged at about 0300/20 in collision with VESPER. (C. in C. Nore 2208A/20).

EMPIRE
MOULDER.
DORADO
(See p. 537)

DORADO
EMPIRE MOULDER seriously damaged in collision unable to steam. VOLUNTEER endeavouring to tow. HIBISCUS standing by. (VANOC 2320Z/20).

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q. Convoys.
Procedure
to reduce
signalling.

Admiralty 1859A/50/8 has been passed to A.C.I.C. and A.C.O.S. (D.T.D. 0123A/20).

N.A. Trade
Convoy
Escorts.
Communications.

The instructions in Para. 1 of A.M.1150A/13/9 are to be strictly followed. They apply on all occasions. (1st S.L. 0148A/20).

W.S.14.

My 0719/14. ^{STAFFORDSHIRE P. 354A} Z.9. will not now be included in W.S.14. (D.S.T. 0820A/20).

^{Reg 4983}
^{20/11/41} My 0556/20/9. For "BERGENSFJORD" read "SOBIESKI". BERGENSFJORD is now being included in W.S.14. SOBIESKI will be available after completion of disembarkation in T.C.15. (D. of S.T. 0400A/20).

D.S.17.

BANFORA will be used for D.S.17. sailing Clyde 26/11. (D.S.T. 0401A/20).

LEINSTER will sail for Iceland in D.S.17 and will remain there pending further instructions.
2. On outward voyage in D.S.17 no troops will be embarked but 120 tons D.W. cargo will be loaded. (D.S.T. 0402A/20).

BANFORA and LEINSTER are allocated for convoy D.S.17 leaving Clyde 26/11.

2. LEINSTER will remain in Iceland (C) for local service.

3. S.S. LOCHNAGAR will return to U.K. in S.D.17. (D.O.D. H. 1940A/20).

S.D.16.

Arrived S.D.16 escorted by CASTLETON. CASTLETON damaged. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1248A/20).

/S.L.93.....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

S.L.93.
O.S.12.

In order to exchange groups LONDONDERRY and GORLESTON will be ordered to exchange convoys in mid ocean, LONDONDERRY returning to U.K. with S.L.93 GORLESTON to Bathurst with O.S.12. (ii) C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange quick boiler cleaning of GORLESTON on return to Bathurst (C. in C. W.A. 1740A/20).

F.S.650.

F.S.650 arrived except ARUBA and WALDINGE both reported sunk. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1831A/20).

T.C.16.

A.M. 1917A/18. Owing to inward escorts not being available it will not now be possible to sail T.C.16 before 14/12. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1907A/20 to B.A.D. Washington).

T.C.15.

Please inform War Office and Dominions Office that convoy T.C.15 is delayed 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2130A/20).

EULIMA in
P.Q.4.

Your 1327A/18. AS PDQ 5 was not expected to sail until 25th it would entail her lying here for nine days. It was presumed that she was required to arrive Archangel without any unnecessary delay. (A.C.I.C. 2305N/18 to Admty.)

Detachment
of Convoy
Escorts.

Attention is called to W.A.S.O. 204 paragraph 3 and W.A. general order 071. It is evident from reports that escorts are still being detached whenever it is necessary to transmit a message by W/T.

Provided high frequency is employed the risk to an ocean convoy of being fixed by shore D/F is not appreciably reduced by detaching a ship up to 40 miles but the protection of the convoy is immediately prejudiced by temporary loss of an escort. (C. in C. W.A. 2308A/20).

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

EGRET,
FISHGUARD,
BANFF.
(S.L.92).

As EGRET fuelled from Oiler RAPIDOL, FISHGUARD detached to comply with your 2254A/19. Expect to meet DINGLEDALE about noon/20. Advisable for BANFF to fuel also if this can be arranged. (Weather report). (EGRET, 0305A/20 to Adnty). Your 0305A/20. BANFF should fuel at Ponta Delgada.

2. Considered probable that DINGLEDALE and escorts left 35° 37' N., 27° W., at 2135A/19 for 34° N., 30° W.

3. Should FISHGUARD fail to meet DINGLEDALE today 20/11 she is to fuel at Ponta Delgada and rejoin convoy.

4. A.M.2254A/19 para 2. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to recall DINGLEDALE and escorts on 21/11.

5. JONQUIL pass to DINGLEDALE.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1400A/20 to F.O.C.N.A. etc).

W.R. Note. Above passed to CLYDE with T.O.O. 1430A/20 and N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada N.A. Lisbon with T.O.O. 1436A/20.

Adnty 1400A/20. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0800 G.M.T. Request 150 tons fuel oil, 30 tons fresh water. (BANFF, 1700Z/20 to Adnty).

DEPTFORD.
etc.

My 1630A/16. Ships have now returned to Harbour. (F.O.C.N.A., 0310A/20 to Adnty).

Proposed
Salvage Tug,
Azores.

Your 1629A/17. Real obstacle is feared German protest on grounds that salvage tug, although commercial vessel, acted as patrol vessel and her use of Portuguese ports as base is contrary to international law. Portuguese know this untrue but fear reprisals against their shipping. (N.A. Lisbon, 1041/20 to Adnty).

FORESTER.

Left Ponta Delgada 1330 G.M.T./20 to rejoin FORESIGHT, FURY. (N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada, 1140/20 to S.O.(I) Gib).

Enemy
Shipping
Las Palmas.

My 1130/18. Enemy ships now berthed alongside breakwater in following order commencing 500 metres from Southward Point:- CORRIENTES, CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMAN, CHERCA, KERSTEN MILES, ORATA, TROVATORE. Three Danish ships now at Mooring Buoy inner harbour. (Las Palmas, 1500/20 to Adnty).

/MARSDALE....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

MARSDALE,
ILE DE
NORMOUTIER,
ILE
D'OUessant.

Admiralty 2220A/20 (N.T. in W.D.) MARSDALE in 034° 12' N., 038° 00' W., at 2300A. Submit French ships could be intercepted in D.Z.1. Weather report.
(MARSDALE, 2300A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.) MARSDALE to shift patrol to D.Z.1. (F.O.C.N.A., 0602A/21)
P539.

South Atlantic.

C.M.23.

Your 1601/18. Request composition of C.M.23 be reported. (D.S.T., 0321A/20 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown) Reply:, 1151B/21.

WISHART,
VIDETTE.

Departure WISHART, VIDETTE, in accordance with my 1152A/19. (F.O.C.N.A., 0408A/20 to Admty).

VARDAAS.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1035/18 VARDAAS due Singapore, not East London.
-(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0925B/20 to Admty. etc).

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Your 1657/11. C.O. CARNARVON CASTLE reports dimensions of ship are, length O.A., 686', beam 73', deep draught 27' 8", light draught, 24' 3". (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1038B/20 to Admty).

U-boat Report
Quicombo.

See Consul General Loanda's 06217/18/11 to F.O. and his 1135/19/11 to S.O.(I) Freetown being passed to you. I do not attach much credence to these reports but have requested S.L.O., F.N.F.L. to send PRESIDENT HOUDUCE to reconnoitre Quicombo Bay. Flying boat reconnoitred coast as far as Santa Marib on 16/11 and saw nothing. (C. in C. S.A., 1231N/20 to Admty).

WACOSTA.

Have you any news of American WACOSTA due Buenos Aires 12/11 from Trinidad?
(D.T.D., 1553A/20 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).
Your 1900/20 (?1553/20 intended) WACOSTA considered due Buenos Aires today 20th but has not yet arrived. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2123Z/20 to Admty).

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

THODE FAGELUND My 2325/17. N.L.O's East London and Port Elizabeth and AUSTRALIA and DERBYSHIRE have each independently interrogated survivors at their ports.
(sunk 17/11)
2. Evidence conflicting but opinion tends towards ship having been torpedoed.
3. Loss of ship caused by explosion in or under No. 5 hold.
4. Cargo Jute, Tea, and Pig Iron.
5. British W/T Operator of opinion explosion may have been internal. My personal opinion is the same (reasons).
6. I have communicated my opinion to Officers responsible for interrogation but this seems to have somewhat stiffened their opinion in Para.2. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1923/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

Diversion of Shipping.

Your 2047/19.
Large diversion of routing between Cape and Durban is not possible without sending ships outside range of Anson Patrols which is my only cover, but I am doing what I can. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1931B/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Movements.

My 0014B/20 (N.T. in W.D.) Cancel NAPIER, JACKAL, KIPLING. AVONVALE and HEYTHROP are to proceed with C.S.7 at 1145/20. FARNDALE and ERIDGE now carrying out A/S sweeps in Ras Al (El) (?Kenayis) areas are to join 7 C.S. as ordered by C.S.7. (C. in C. Med., 0653B/20 to C.S.7).

PARRAMATTA.

What is your position? Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY arrived Mersa Matruh. (S.O. Force I., 0744B/20 to PARRAMATTA).

MAURETANIA.

Your 2332A/16. MAURETANIA, expected to sail ex Suez 2/12. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 0935B/20 to D. of S.T.)

/S/M....

War Diary.20.11.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.S/M^o 24.

Netherlands S/M^o 24 ready to leave Gibraltar about 30th for patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea. Request information regarding suitable area. (Capt. S.8., 1004A/20 to S.10).

Enemy Units,
Navarin,
etc.

P.C. and S. of enemy 2 destroyers 2 M/Vs, 6000 tons, 36° 42' N., 20° 32' E., 200° 8. (A/C H., 1035/20 to Hal Far).
Position of enemy Navarin harbour, 1 destroyer 2 (?Minesweepers). (A/C E., 1145/20 to 201 Group H.Q.)
Aerial photographs 19th show 2 merchant ships 1 destroyer anchored in line 010° from Pylos Breakwater. This is confirmed by R/C at 1215/20. (Capt. S.1., 1759B/20 to SOKOL)
Aircraft R/C for 20th, one destroyer and 2 merchant ships Navarin. (Capt. S.10., 1821B/20 to SOKOL).
If enemy convoy is seen leaving harbour endeavour to report to me as quickly as possible. (Capt. S.1., 1941B/20 to SOKOL).

Gibraltar
Intelligence
Area.

Your 1900A/15. Concur in extension of Gibraltar Intelligence area but consider Malta should retain area which can be reconnoitred by Aircraft from Malta and about which information can be obtained from Prisoners captured at Malta. Propose that Division should be French-Italian Frontier and Tunisian-Algerian Frontier with Corsica and Sardinia remaining in Malta area. (C. in C. Med., 1204B/20 to Admty).

Fleet
Operations
"Landmark"
"Aggression".

Intend following operations M.E.7.
(A) Fleet will move in support of operation "Landmark" wherein a dummy convoy escorted by Force K will sail Malta P.M./21, to southward returning to Malta after dark. Object is to (corrupt group) enemy force by impression of intended landing in Tripoli area A.M./22.
(B) 1st Battle Squadron 15th Cruiser Squadron and 11 fleet destroyers are to sail at 0800/21 as ordered by C. in C.
(C) Intend proceeding through approx. position,

(A)....

War Diary.20.11.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Fleet
Operations
"Landmark"
"Aggression".
cont.

(A) $031^{\circ} 45' 029^{\circ} 05'$ at 1200/21 thence approx. position (B) $032^{\circ} 15' 027^{\circ} 25'$ at 1800/21 turn eastwards after dark to enter harbour before daylight /22 unless otherwise ordered.

(D) 7th Cruiser Squadron is to join me A.M./21 on completion of bombarding operation night 20/21 "Hunt" class destroyers will then be detached from 7th Cruiser Squadron to Alexandria for operation "Aggression".

(E) A.O.C. 201 Naval Co-operation Group is requested to arrange continuous Fighter patrol over fleet from 1100 until dark on 21st, and to signal intended fighter programme to fleet.

(F) Fighter protection codeword and R/T call sign "Novel". Fighter directing ship VALIANT, wireless call sign "Gallery" Q frequency Fulmar R/T 6000 W/T 4410, Martlets 4442.75 kc/s per sec.

(G) N.O.I.C. Alexandria is requested to adjust minesweeping programme accordingly.

(C. in C. Med., 1234B/20 to 1 B.S., 7 C.S. 15 C.S., etc).

Mining
Marsala.

H.Q., R.A.F., Malta's I 250 dated 19/11. Position of mines laid by No. 828 Squadron (F.A.A.) night of 18/19. Bearing and distance in cables from Marsala Point, $070^{\circ}-6$, $080^{\circ}-8$, $105^{\circ}-10$, $110^{\circ}-4$, $110^{\circ}-2$. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1328B/20 to C. in C. Med).

Wellington
for torpedo
dropping.

Navy has suggested using Wellingtons for torpedo dropping. Has this been considered or attempted in U.K.? Request results of any trials and technical details of conversion. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1544/20 to M.A.P.) Your R.744 20/11. Use of Wellingtons for torpedo dropping has not been considered or attempted in U.K. (M.A.P., No. T.O.O./22).

DERNA.
(Italian).

Departure 20th Tarragona.
(Barcelona, 1800/20).

/Malta....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Raid.
Messina,
Benghazi,
Tripoli,
Naples,
Brindisi,
bombed.

Night 19/20. 4 alarms, total 8 bombers crossed coast. Bombs land sea; no damage. 17 Wellingtons operated. 1 Mark 1C over Messina 1720 to 2010 hours, bursts near Mole and Railway Station. 3 Mark II over Benghazi 2111, to 0030 hours, bad visibility, hits area harbour and dock railway. 4 Mark 1C over Tripoli 2023 to 0300 hours, hits area Castelle Railway Station Military Stores, fires in west of town. 5 Mark II over Naples, 1925 to 0145 hours hits area Railway Station, two 4000 lb. bombs near marshalling yard and Gasworks. 4 Mark 1C over Brindisi 2048 to 0220 hrs. Hits Railway track, Barracks, two factories ablaze, harbour oil tanks hit. Explosions every few minutes, dense clouds, black smoke, fire visible 100 miles. All aircraft returned.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1830/20, 1837/20).

Supply of
S/M
torpedoes at
Malta.

Your 1040B/16 approved.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1841A/20 to C. in C. Med).

EMPIRE
DEFENDER.

Have you any news of EMPIRE DEFENDER other than her report of an air attack at 1624/15?
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1842A/20 to V.A. Malta)
Reply: 1149B/21.

Russian Ships
from Black
Sea.

My 1200/17. No further suitable officers can be found. Can you find any Turkish or other suitable persons to bring some of these ships down? Value of ships would justify substantial reward to be paid to persons concerned after safe arrival of ships.
(C. in C. Med., 2332B/20 to A.NA. Istanbul)

Enemy M/Vs.
attacked.

5 Blenheims attacked convoy consisting of 1 5,000 ton M/V, 1 2,000 ton M/V and a schooner in position 145' E.S.E. of Homs, bound westwards. Largest M/V seen hit and listing heavily. Schooner also hit and last seen low in the water.
(D.S. 808, 21/11) No time mentioned.

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.12X.

All unit vehicles carrying as much equipment and baggage as possible loaded into stores ships all of which can proceed direct Basra. Details of (a) unit (b) total personnel (c) deadweight baggage and equipment in WEST POINT, WAKEFIELD, MOUNT VERNON, ORIZABA, J.T. DICKMAN, LEONARD WOOD.
(W.O., 0120/20 to C. in C. India.)

W.S.12.

REVENGE escorting Convoy W.S.12 arrived Aden, a.m./20.
(D.O.R., 21/11.)

U.S.13.

CORNWALL escorting Convoy U.S.13 arrived Aden a.m./20.
(D.O.R., 21/11.)

JELADURGA
aground.

Following from Lloyds, Vizagapatam. Pass to Lloyds, London. JELADURGA aground in 016° 50' N., 082° 22' E.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 0635Z/20 to S.O.I. Bombay.)

KANIMBLA.

My 1116/20, not to all addressees. (1) On arrival Penang (? 28/11) you will come under orders of C. in C. China for onward passage to Singapore and Australia. (2) C.N.S., A.C.N.B., Melbourne, will be taking passage in KANIMBLA to Australia from Singapore. (3) You will not return to East Indies Station.
(C. in C. E.I., 1118Z/20 to KANIMBLA.)

China.

Japanese
S/Ms.

Indications of Japanese submarine activity.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0501Z/20 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

AQUITANIA.

Left Singapore 19/11 due Sydney 0330/28/11. Fuel on board, and requirements.
(R.A. Malaya, 0945Z/20 to D. of S.T.)

/Free.....

SECRET

MESSAGE 0501Z/20 November IN

521A

From C.O.I.S. Singapore

DATE 21 .11.41.

REC'D 0728

Naval Cypher (D) by W/T RECIRCULATION

Addressed Admiralty D.N.I. Repeated, C. in C. East Indies,
Australian Commonwealth Naval Board Melbourne,
New Zealand Naval Board, S.O.(I) Hong Kong.

Following four questionable indications of
Japanese Submarine activity carry some weight when viewed
collectively.

- (a) 9th October ungraded and unconfirmed S.I.S. report of three submarines in Pearl River Delta.
- (b) 21st October sighting of ship closely resembling Japanese Submarine Depot Ship KARASAKI in position 010 Degrees 14' North 110 Degrees 33' East repeated 010 Degrees 14' North 110 Degrees 33' East course 140 Degrees. Ship is 10th Submarine Squadron Depot Ship submarines 153-58 inclusive and 133 and 134.
- (c) 14th November report by 2 coast watch stations in approximate position 017 Degrees 19' North 094 Degrees 33' East repeated 017 Degrees 19' North 094 Degrees 33' East of object appearing to be a submarine steering West.
- (d) 23rd October ungraded S.I.S. report of submarine 31 I 32 and I 33 arrived Takao left after refuelling.

C.B. 1815 April 1941 page 201 refers.

0501Z/20

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

Comment by D.N.I.

- (a) Submarine patrol previously operating in S.China had been withdrawn by 9th October.
- (b) The position is close west of the Spratley Islands. The 10th Submarine Squadron belongs to 6th(Submarine) Fleet but is unlocated.
- (c) Position is in Bay of Bengal off coast of Burma in the latitude of Rangoon.

(d) I 31, I 32, I 33,.....

52) B

Comment by D.N.I. (Continued)

(d) I. 31, I 32, I 33 are newly completed submarines not yet reported in any organization.

In a previous period of crisis, a Japanese Naval source stated that submarines had been sent into the Indian Ocean in advance of any possible hostilities.

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

E B

Y

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Free French
Movements.

Your 0827/6 has been considered by Committee on Foreign (Allied) Resistance. Neither this Committee nor Free French H.Q. have much information about an increase of Free French activities in Far East. 2. Whole question of liaison with Free French is under consideration with H.M.G. No settlement can be reached for a few weeks, and no decision can be taken on your proposal at present. 3. Request further details of the problems, activities and issues referred to.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1637A/20 to C. in C. China.)

Defences
Nancowry.

Your 0309Z/9. Request you will give further consideration to installation of defences at Western entrance in view of DANAE's No. 012, R/C report of Nancowry harbour dated 22/8/41 para. 18 and Appendix I, para. 8. 2. Experience has shown that contact mines cannot be relied upon and moreover are dangerous to our own ships if they break adrift.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 2026A/20 to C. in C. China.)

America and West Indies.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 0950/17 and with further reference to my 0300/14/9 and 0032/4/10 and your 1144/25/9 request report be forwarded as soon as possible stating whether trials of after F/C system of ILLUSTRIOUS will have been completed when ship sails.
(D. of D. Bath, 0002A/20 to B.A.R.M.)

DESPATCH.

Proceed St. Thomas forthwith and complete fuelling. Further orders follow.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/20 to DESPATCH.)

HERMA,
suspicious
ship 6/11.

My 1801R/18. Vessel sighted by HERMA now believed to be U.S. Army Transport HENRY GIBBONS which left Balboa 0757/6 for Antofogasta. Description, course and speed tally.
(B.A.D., 0955R/20 to Admty.)

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Routes for
Ships for
Russia.

Your 1606/18. Details of Archangel convoys have been communicated to B.A.D. Washington in A.M.2156/15.
2. Communication between Convoys and Soviet Naval Authorities carried out through S.B.N.Os., North Russia and Archangel.
3. Ships for Persian Gulf routed independently in the same manner as British Ships.
(D.T.D., 1153A/20 to N.A. Washington.)

INDOMITABLE.

Your 1837/17. Proceed in accordance with proposed programme unless further orders are received from Admty.
(B.A.R.M., 123OR/20 to INDOMITABLE.)

St. John's,
N.F.

B.A.T.M. Washington's 1009R/19. Full development at St. John's considered imperative.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1351Z/20 to Admty.)

SONNAVIND.

Have you any news of Norwegian SONNAVIND due Panama 16/11 from Cebu?
(D.T.D., 1554A/20 to S.O.I. Jamaica.)
Reply: 1249R/22.

St. Lucia,
coal stock.

My 1211Q/20/10 and your 1102Q/12/11. Present stock of coal at St. Lucia 13,000 tons. Further 8,000 tons on way out. Normal storage 17,000 but some space now occupied by U.S. stores. Other available site if used liable to disturb labour market owing to extra distance from wharf. Would assist if advice of date of arrival could be given of ships from U.K. and North America ports as well as those from South America and U.S. ports which are being already sent.
(R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1630Q/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Small
Craft.

For B.A.S.R. Your 1405R/11 (N.T. in W.D.)
1. Prompt execution of B.Y.T. contract is much appreciated.
2. But advanced dates raise question of winter passage. Unwise to bring these very small ships across during winter season. Proposed that sailing should be postponed till April.
3. Mercantile navigating crews will be sent early in March for all five vessels. Vessels should not be manned by naval ratings.
4. Guns may now be in time to be fitted.
5. Designations already communicated by Admty. 1332A/17.
(Head of S. 1712A/20 to B.A.D.)
Reply: B.A.D., 2005/21.

/American....

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War Diary.20.11.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.American
Convoy
Assembly
Ports.

For 1st S.L.
Question of convoy assembly ports is now under review in Ottawa, vide N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1508Z/12, and we know Navy Dept. is considering question of using U.S. ports for this purpose. Much to be said for adopting this last alternative for H.X. convoys and that when U.S. come into war this will be done anyhow. Have discussed these questions with Manisty who has heard Canadian views in Ottawa. I propose to visit Ottawa with Manisty leaving here 24/11 and will report result before going further with Navy Dept. Glad of any guidance on subject.
(B.A.D., 1755R/20 to Admty.)

Neutral
Ships
calling
Bermuda.

My 2231/20/9 not to Admty. Important that advance information of all westbound neutral vessels which are likely to call at Bermuda either with mails or for examination of passengers should be passed direct to me at earliest possible moment for Contraband Control purposes. Information should include (a) port of departure (b) date and time of departure (c) name of ship (d) E.T.A. Bermuda.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1801Q/20 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

OLGA
TOPIC

OLGA TOPIC (Yugoslav) arrived Iquique 2000 G.M.T./20.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1830R/20 to Admty., etc.)
W.D. Note. Was reported sunk 3 days out from Balboa. (See 18/11.)

P.511.
P.551.

F.O. (S) 1311A/2. Submarines P.511 and P.551 will sail St. John's, N.F. 2100Z/21 proceeding in company to position (X) 50.50 N. 45.00 W. at 11 knots thence diverging, P.511 to (A) 51.50 N. 44.00 W. to (B) 55.30 N. 30.00 W.; and P.551 to (P) 50.30 N. 44.00 W. to (Q) 54.10 N. 30.00 W., speeds 11 and 12 knots respectively. Submarines report that fuel endurance limits them to as direct route as possible, particularly P.511. Until onward routeing from C. in C. W.A. is received they have orders to continue from 30° W. direct towards 57.00 N. 10.00 W. for P.511 and 56.00 N. 10.00 W. for P.551. They have orders to comply with F.O. (S) 1639A/10. Submarines have complete establishment of S.P's and C.B's according to A.2.C. para. 41. Opnav pass to C.T.F.4.
(C.C.N.F., 1927Z/20 to Admty., etc.)

/AGAMEMNON....

War Diary.

20.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

AGAMEMNON.
CALIFORNIA.

Your 2017Z/18.
BELMONT and GARLAND will provide escort from Halifax for AGAMEMNON and CALIFORNIA. Expected these destroyers will arrive in Halifax with C.T.7 about 1/12 and ships could therefore sail on 4/12 approx. Please state convenient sailing date.
(D.O.D. (H), 2027A/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

LIVERPOOL.

Your 1822A / 8/10. Provided weather conditions do not interfere with working up intend LIVERPOOL to leave Bermuda 28/11. E.T.A. Clyde, 5/12.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2222Q/20, to Admty.)

MONT VISO
(French)

Your 1939R/17 and para. 3 of Washington Arfar No.6948. Is interception of MONT VISO also desired? Request details of voyage.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 2345A/20 to B.A.D.)

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War Diary.20.11.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.S. Atlantic.

D/F bearing indicates U-boat activity Cape Blanco area.
(VIMY 1115N/20 to C. in C.S.A.)
Reports of U/B in Quicombo area.
(C. in C.S.A., 1231N/20.)
See South Atlantic.

Estimated approximate positions of U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1423A/20, 1424A/20.)

19/11.

Following received from N.C.S.O. St. Vincent
(begins' - U-boat reported off Mayo 19/11 (ends).
Not graded.
(C. in C.S.A., 2014N/20, to Admty.)

Submarines Attacked.

GALILEO
FERRARIS
(sunk 25/10.)

From report of C.O. LAMERTON concerning destruction of Italian U-Boat ^{GALILEO}FERRARIS, it appears that Catalina No. A.H. 538 played a large part in her destruction. Copy of report is being forwarded to you, but it is suggested you may desire to initiate recommendations with regard to awards to personnel of Catalina.
(C. in C.W.A., 1140A/20, to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Harwich was closed on account of fog from 1405A to 1540A today.
L.L. Drifter ROWAN TREE grounded in the entrance to Lowestoft harbour this evening, necessitating closing the port. The drifter is a total wreck.

British Air Operations.

Bad weather curtailed operational flying today and tonight.

Enemy Air Operations.

M.S. Trawler CAPE MELVILLE called for help at 1409 today near 56 Buoy. No further details are known.

Mining.

Lowestoft was reopened at 1615A today.

North Atlantic.

SCOTTISH today intercepted the Vichy French auxiliary fishing ketch stated to be PANCEITE ANNIK*bound from Douarnenez to Mauretania.

* or PETITE ANNIK (?PETITE ANNIE).

War Diary.

21.11 1941
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic. -Contd.

The French S.S. ILE DE NOIRMOUTIER and ILE D'OUessant which left New York on 15/11 for Casablanca loaded are expected to be between 30° N. and 35° N. between 22/11 and 26/11 along the course of HAWKINS who is returning to U.K. HAWKINS is to carry out a patrol in this area in order to try to capture these ships. CORINTHIAN after fuelling at Ponta Delgada is also to proceed on patrol for the same purpose and MARSDALE on patrol is also moving into the area.

Mediterranean.

Dismissal
of General
Weygand.

The Admiralty consider that the dismissal of General Weygand from his appointment as Delegate in North Africa may indicate early German attempts to pass large quantities of men or material through Bizerta, Tunis or Bona; and they consider the air R/C of these ports should be increased.

S/M and
air
operations, 2
cruisers
torpedoed.

UTMOST at 2323B reported 3 destroyers and 3 cruisers in 37° 48' N. 15° 43' E. (Straits of Messina) steering S.E. (apparently escorting a convoy) and that she had torpedoed and probably sunk one cruiser. (DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI damaged) Air Ministry state that the convoy was attacked at 2249 (but see 22/11) off Cotrone by Albacores, Swordfish and Wellingtons. It then consisted of 5 ships escorted by a cruiser and 5 destroyers and was widely spaced, and one tanker of 6000 tons appeared to have been damaged and was steering towards Taranto. A hit with torpedo is claimed on a cruiser and one on a 7000 ton merchantman. SOKOL at 2340 B reported that she had obtained 2 hits on a convoy consisting of 3 merchant ships and a destroyer in 36° 34' N. 21° 34' E. (off Navarino Bay) steering 230°.

Air
operations.

Wellingtons attacked Messina, Naples and Brindisi last night. Five Naval Swordfish laid mines in Tripoli harbour and bombed the town.

Operations
M.E.7
("Landmark"
"Aggression").

1st B.S. 15th C.S. and 11 fleet destroyers sailed this ~~Friday~~ morning in support of operation "Landmark" in which a dummy convoy escorted by Force K sailed from Malta to the southward p.m. today, returning to Malta after dark. The object was to contain an enemy force by giving the impression of an intended landing in the Tripoli area tomorrow morning. The 7th C.S. (which left Alexandria with 2 destroyers yesterday) joined the battle fleet a.m. today after completing the bombardment of last night.

/Operations....

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operations

M.E.7

("Landmark"

"Aggression").

-Contd.

After this, the Hunt class destroyers were detached from the 7th C.S. to Alexandria for operation "Aggression". (Supply of Libyan and Western Desert ports).

America and West Indies.

Ex U.S.A. S/M's. P 511 and P 551 which have been transferred to Great Britain sailed from St. Johns N.F. this evening for the U.K.

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

FIDELITY.

Asking his views as to suitability for employment as an A/A ship after refit.
(D.O.D. (H) 1610A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

Co-operation with Russia.

EXPLORER.

Re-use for conveyance of Polish personnel to U.K.
(D. of S.T., 1412A/21.)

Movements.

GURKHA.

Unable to maintain station. Am lying to until daylight.
(GURKHA, 0635A/21 to NELSON.)
Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 2310A/21.)

→ CUTTY SARK.

Proceed to Holy Loch.
(Capt. S.3., 0943A/21 to CUTTY SARK.)
Cancel my 0943A/21. Comply with my 1053A/17* para. 2.
(Capt. (S) 3, 1410A/21 to CUTTY SARK.)
* Presumably 1055/17. CUTTY SARK to R/V with RORQUAL.
CUTTY SARK 3 miles east of Lundy. Hove to, to R/V 270 Wolf Rock 3 at 0800/22.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1930/21.)

A/A escort to floating crane.

My 1801A/18. ROCHESTER is not to sail till further orders.
(C. in C. W.A., 0954A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

M.G.B's. 65, 67.

Harwich 21/11 arrival M.G.B.'s ^{x 7 6/11} 65 and 67.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1015A/21.) ^{x see p. 508}

MANXMAN.

Proceed to Port Z.A in accordance with Admty. 1945A/19. Report E.T.A. before sailing.
(V.A.(2), 1030A/21, 1032A/21 to MANXMAN.)

see also next page

PRINCESS ASTRID.

A.M. 1837A/19. Intend sailing PRINCESS ASTRID for Aultbea for inclusion in next W.N. Convoy to Methil thence as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth onward to Sheerness. Anticipated date of arrival cannot be given at present.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1034A/21.)

→ RORQUAL.

Cancel my 2254A/20. Proceed to R/V off Wolf Rock as ordered by S.3, S.B.R. remain in force in areas 52, 54 and 56.
(F.O.S., 1257A/21 to RORQUAL.)

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War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.KENYA.

Arrived.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1109C/21.)

JAY.

JAY to avoid U-Boats steer for position (A)
054° 00' N. 036° 00' W. thence (R) omit (Q).
(C. in C. W.A., 1133A/21 to LORD GREY.)

NELSON.

NELSON should proceed to Scapa.
V.A.2 is requested to sail her to arrive May
Island at 0900/23.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1137A/21 to NELSON, V.A.2.)

ZULU.

My approx. P.C. and S. 054° 07' N. 012° 22' W.,
060°, 15 knots. At 0615 touch was lost with
NELSON when ship broached to taking considerable
quantity of water on board. Port dynamo
defective due to salt water. Certain amount of
upper deck damage. Weather moderate. GURKHA
and SIKH not in company.
(ZULU, 1154A/21.)

HAWKINS.

C. in C. S.A. 1511N/17.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to route HAWKINS
from Position D to Portsmouth south of Ireland.
2. Ship is carrying £3 millions gold.
3. Request fighter protection may be provided.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1219A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
HAWKINS may give three weeks leave to each
watch on arrival.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1220A/21.)

WELSHMAN,
MANXMAN.

C. in C. H.F. 1119/20.
1. Admiralty will operate these ships.
2. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail MANXMAN for
Port ZA in accordance with A.M. 1945/19.
3. WELSHMAN is to remain at Scapa at four
hours notice.
4. MANXMAN is to retain outfit now embarked.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1221A/21 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

*See previous page*SHEFFIELD.

Arrived Scapa.
(A.C.O.S., 1413A/21.)

H.43.

At 1300/22 intend to sail H.43 escorted by H.M.T.
HILDASAY G.V.P.T. expected time of arrival
(? Rothesay) 1100/23. Routed via Sound Mull and
West of Islay. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested
to arrange fighter protection.
(WESTERN ISLES, 1445A/21.)

/BEDOUIN.....

532

War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.- Contd.BEDOUIIN,
INTREPID.

BEDOUIIN and INTREPID due Kola 0900C/22 request Group Y Lights from 0600.
(BEDOUIIN, 1508C/21 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Your 1508C/21. Arrangements made. Pilot will board INTREPID to proceed Rosta. BEDOUIIN anchor at Vaenga Bay.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1931C/21 to BEDOUIIN.)

MINERVE.

F.O.S. 1139A/21. Intend to sail MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH from Dundee 1530A/22 inside mine barrage to position 90° Sumburgh Head 10 miles thence unescorted during by day thro' position (a) 90° Out Skerries 10 miles (b) 61° 38' N. 000° 12' W. (c) 61° 56' N. 1° 10' E. thence to waiting position in the vicinity of 61° 49' N. 3° 41' E.
On parting company with MINERVE, LOCH MONTEITH is to proceed to Lerwick.
C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter protection to Sumburgh Head.
(Capt. (S) 9, 1543A/21.)

SIKH.

My P.C. and S. 054° 00' N. 010° 58' W., 030°, 17. Asdic Dome leaking and unserviceable, dinghy washed overboard, motor boat damaged and other superficial damage on upper deck. 40% fuel remaining for E.T.A. Merville 0300/22 weather report.
(SIKH, 1601A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

Floating crane.

Re towing.
(D. of S.T., 1625A/21.)

P.38.
FERNIE.

Submarine P.38 is due E A 4, 0900/22 from position 050° 27' N. 000° 24' W. has been informed of your passage.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1725A/21 to FERNIE.)

9th M.S.F.

Request you will sail available ships of 9th M.S.F. to Harwich to arrive p.m./1/12. Request ships over 400 hours be boiler cleaned before sailing.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1725A/21 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/EREBUS.....

War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.EREBUS.
ROBERTS.

- Proceed passing Switha 0300/22, to R/V with EREBUS escorted by MEYNELL and WALPOLE at daylight. EREBUS is due to pass Kinnaird Head at 0800/22nd.
- (2) When met take over escort duties to Pentland Firth where you will be relieved by VANQUISHER and WITCH. When relieved return to Scapa.
- (3) ECLIPSE acknowledge.
(R.A.(D) H.F., 1852A/21 to ECLIPSE, CHIDDINGFOLD.)
A.M. 1919A/6.
- ROBERTS and EREBUS will leave U.K. with Convoy O.S.13 on 1/12 to join Med. Fleet.
2. They will remain with the convoy to vicinity of the Azores where they will part company to refuel at Ponta Delgada.
3. After refuelling they will proceed in company to Freetown.
4. Cs. in C. concerned are requested to arrange for onward passage from Freetown at best speed. There is no objection to ships proceeding independently after Freetown if this is considered advisable.
5. Escorts will be provided as follows:-
(a) Escort of O.S.13 from U.K. will be increased by one destroyer to vicinity of Azores, returning to U.K. after refuelling at Ponta Delgada.
(b) BRADFORD from Gibraltar will join EREBUS and ROBERTS in the vicinity of Azores.
(c) In the event of bad weather making it impossible for EREBUS and ROBERTS to keep up with convoy, two of the convoy escort are to be detailed to remain with EREBUS and ROBERTS.
(d) On arrival in vicinity of Azores these 2 escorts in addition to BRADFORD are to remain with the monitors, provide A/S escort while refuelling and subsequent onward escort to Freetown.
7. C. in C. W.A. is requested to:-
(a) Arrange for EREBUS and ROBERTS to be sailed from Lough Foyle as requisite to join O.S.13.
(b) Provide destroyer escort as in para. 5(a).
(c) Detail and instruct escorts as in paras. 5(c) and (d).
(d) Arrange with F.O.C.N.A. for BRADFORD to be sailed as in para. 5(b).
(e) Arrange for refuelling at Ponta Delgada of all ships as detailed above.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1928A/21 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.) O.D.1312/41.
- Remain as escort for EREBUS until relieved by ECLIPSE and CHIDDINGFOLD, proceed thence overtake F.S.653 due number 5 buoy 0400/23rd. Do not exceed 22 knots. Report expected time overtaking to S.E.E.C.C.D.
(C. in C. Nore, 2224A/21 to MEYNELL, WALPOLE.)

/MANXMAN....

War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.MANXMAN,
RAMILLIES.MANXMAN may be met tonight southbound.
(C. in C. W.A., 2338A/21 to RAMILLIES.)Operations.C.S.10.Am ideally situated to act against German Convoy route nights 23rd and 24th Nov. Request Intelligence.
(C.S.10, 1844Z/21 to C. in C. H.F.)British Air Operations.T.B.R.Cancel my 1422/20. Request T.B.R. in area bounded on south 049° 30' N. on east 002° 30' W. on west 004° 00' W. on N. by land from 0730 to 1700/22.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1242/21 to H.Q.C.C.)Enemy Air Operations.CAPE
MELVILLE.Help - 56 Buoy.
(CAPE MELVILLE, 1409/21 to Yarmouth.)STOKE CITY
(bombed 20/11.)My 1540A/20th. Preliminary report STOKE CITY afloat at Vestmanhavn unable to raise steam. She will probably be towed South but further reports will be made after more detailed examination of damage. Only casualty, C.O. injured.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 2032A/21.)Mining.Thames
Estuary.One S.A. mine detonated 0950/20 168° No. 1 Sea Reach Buoy 3.9 cables by M.M.S.113 and M.M.S.19. This is the 50th mine detonated by M.M.S.19.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 0929/21.)Propose to hold a meeting at Chatham 1030/25 to consider recent minelaying activity in Thames Estuary. Request representatives may attend if convenient.
(C. in C. Nore, 1119A/21 to R.A.F. and Military concerned.)

/Operation.....

War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.Operation
Q.O.
(clearance
of lines of
mines.)

Your 1552A/16. Short title of Operation Q.O. Estimate that about 7 working days will be required to carry out this operation, provided no unfavourable factors develop. Operation can only be carried out in good weather conditions and ships must return to Harwich periodically for fuel and stores. It is therefore expected that the operation will be spread over a period of 3 to 4 weeks. Normal procedure will be for the sweepers to leave Kentish Knock Whistle Buoy at daylight proceeding to a defined area within 10 miles of a position 116° 35 miles from Orfordness and returning so as to arrive back at Kentish Knock one hour before dark. Fighter escort will be asked for during daylight hours and H.Q.F.C. will be asked to inform C. in C. Nore at daylight on operating days if the cloud and weather conditions are such as to render air protection ineffective in which case operation will be postponed. Proposed date for starting the operation 4/12.

(C. in C. Nore, 1054/21 to Admty.)

Your 1702A/17 as clearing of area concerned will not start until 4/12 and sweeping operations may take some weeks suggest PLOVER will not be required as early as 25/11.

(2) Concur that operations by PLOVER on moonlit nights are undesirable. Owing to distance of these operations from our coast and number of days at this time of year when air escort is ineffective owing to low cloud night operations during dark night periods are preferred to day operations especially if it is desired to keep enemy in ignorance of operations.

(3) If a minelayer larger than PLOVER but capable of working from Harwich can be made available she would be preferred to ADVENTURE as risk of bombing whilst on passage from and to Humber is considerable and uncertainty of winter weather may cause postponement at last minute involving return to Humber with mines on board. Moreover a ship of size of ADVENTURE is not safe from ground mines in shallow water to be found in Humber and Channels between that port and Aldeburgh.

(C. in C. Nore, 1500A/21.)

My 1552A/16. In order to expedite completion of operation five ships of 9th M.S.F. and POOLE of 14th M.S.F. are being sailed to Harwich to arrive p.m./1/12.

(A.C.N.S. (H), 1723A/21.)

/RORQUAL.....

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War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.RORQUAL,
Operation
F.D.34.

F.O.(S) 1257A/21.

(i) If not already done carry out F.D.34. Previous arrangements for route, lights and R/V to stand. S.B.R. in area 55 and in area 51 south of 050° N. and East of 006° 30' W. remain in force.

(ii) Should F.D.34 be completed proceed to R/V with CUTTY SARK in position 270° Wolf Rock 3 miles at 0800A/22, lights as in my 1157A/19.

(iii) T.B.R. in area 51 south of 050° N. and east of 006° 30' W. will be in force daily between 0800A to 1200A from 22nd Nov. until further notice.

(Capt. (S) 3, 1537A/21 to RORQUAL.)

Yarmouth.

Port is now open.

(F.O.i/c Great Yarmouth, 1615A/21.)

Plymouth.

Red mine detonated 1328 today by MOONRISE 240° Breakwater light 5 cables. Possible old enemy mine laid Nov. 1940. Investigations proceeding. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1831/21.)

Operations
Q.E.3,
Q.E.4A.

2 M.G.Bs. sailed for Q.E.(3). 2 M.Ls. sailed for Q.E.(4A).

(C. in C. Nore, 2331A/21.)

Technical.Minor War
Vessels
Recognition
Signals.

Your 1624/14/11. Alternative (2) preferred. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0022/21 to Admty.)

Navigational.Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1405A/21.)

Port now open.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1540A/21.)

Lowestoft.

Reference my 1657A/21* Port of Lowestoft closed.

(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1743A/21.)

* ROWAN TREE grounded in Harbour mouth.

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War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.S.S. EMPIRE
DORADO.

^{DORADO}
S.S. EMPIRE ~~MOULDER~~ (sic) damaged in collision in 57° 58' N. 20° 39' W. at 2320/20. ZWARTE ZEE with escort to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0359A/21 to N.O.i/c. Londonderry, C. in C. W.A., 0420A/21, 0648A/21.) Will proceed to assist S.S. EMPIRE ~~MOULDER~~ when escort vessel arrives. ^{DORADO}
(ZWARTE ZEE, 0720A/21 to Capt. (D) Londonderry.) Sailed ZWARTE ZEE 0940A/21. SKATE 1150A/21. (ZWARTE ZEE, 1000A/21, N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1151A/21.)

BROADWAY.

Your 1800Z/20. Proceed Greenock for repairs water at Londonderry if necessary. (C. in C. W.A., 0409A/21 to BROADWAY.)

LINCOLNSHIRE.

Sailed MARAUDER to assist LINCOLNSHIRE proceeding Loch Ewe with defective steering gear. (N.O.i/c. Stornoway, 0506A/21.)

S.S. RUGELY.

On completion of swinging proceed direct to assist S.S. RUGELY aground in Ardnell Bay between Ardrossan and Farland Point. MASTADONTE is also proceeding. H.W. is at 1453. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0909Q/21 to CAROLINE MOLLER, 0915A/21 to MASTADONTE.)

M.L.219.

MotorLaunch 219 has been ashore on Goat Island in St. Vincent Harbour but has been refloated. Ship holed in engine room. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1058A/21.)

ROWAN TREE.

M/S Drifter ROWAN TREE grounded in harbour mouth at 1515/21, now total wreck restricting entrance. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1657A/21, F.O.i/c. Yarmouth 1902A/21.)

P.38.

Conform (? confirm) R/V 1100/22. Sub. Lieut. Christoffer lost overboard in heavy seas. (P.38, 1848A/21.)

TJALDUR.

TJALDUR returned with defects and short bunker. (A.C.I.C., 2250N/21.)

S.S. SHERWOOD.(BESTUM. See
22 (4. p. 565.)

Harwich departure Tug KENIA to assist merchant ship aground on South Shipwash. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2327/21.)

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

F.N.559.
F.S.654.

My 1536/18. No A/S trawler available for F.N. 559 and F.S.654.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1000A/21 to C. in C. Nore.)

Incorrect routeing.

Reference A.M. 1437/29/9 further investigation shows that refernce to Canadian ports was made in error.
(D.T.D., 1443A/21.)

P.Q.3.

P.Q.3 of 6 ships escorted by GOSSAMER, HUSSAR, SEAGULL, SPEEDY should arrive North Dvina at 1000/22. BEDOUIN passengers transferred to SEAGULL. GOSSAMER and HUSSAR will sail for U.K. with Q.P.3. SEAGULL and SPEEDY are to sail to arrive Murmansk a.m./24 to fuel and to carry out mine-sweeping on passage if time permits.
(S.O. 1st M.F., 1520C/21.)
E.T.A. North Dvina daylight/22. In order to effect necessary transfers request icebreakers may be instructed to call at ships in following order J.63, J.82, J.17 and J.85. General Gronnov and party are in SEAGULL.
(GOSSAMER, 1750C/21 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

H.X.157.

Delayed by Easterly winds for last 7 days. EL LAGO straggler and complete convoy arrived except ROSE SCHIAFFIANO which ship is unaccounted for and does not appear to have found convoy.
(D.T.D., 1742A/21.)

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War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Shipping.

Passing Gibraltar westbound 0900/20.
(D.O.R. 22/11)

MARSDALE.

Your 2300A/20. Shift patrol to D.Z.1.
(F.O.C.N.A.0602A/21 to MARSDALE)

HERMIONE.

Arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 0802A/21 to Admty. etc.)

WILD SWAN.

Admty. 1844A/20. WILD SWAN sailed 0840A/21 for Freetown refuelling at Bathurst (ii) WILD SWAN (?is) routed through position (W) 33.00 N. 09.30 W. (X) 12.00 13.50 (Y) 24.45 17.35 (Z) 20.00 19.00 thence to Bathurst keeping 60 miles from Dakar or as routed by C. in C. S.A. S. of A. 14 knots. E.T.A. Bathurst 1200/26. (F.O.C.N.A. 0840A/21 to C. in C. S.A. amended 1044A/21.)

BANFF.

Arrived Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T./21. Left 1430 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0905/21, 1245/21 to S.O.I. Gib.)

CLYDE.

Part company 2000A/21 and proceed to Gibraltar along route given in my 1828A/20. Report your P.C. and S. of A. when 100 miles clear of DINGLEDALE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/21 to CLYDE.)

German Ships, Las Palmas.

Since German ship berthed alongside breakwater armed guard placed prohibiting entrance and Marine Authorities have cancelled permit to passes previously held including those held by fisherman for fishing at night. (Las Palmas, 1210/21 to Admty.)

CORINTHIAN search for French M/Vs.

CORINTHIAN arrived bunkering. (Vice Consul Horta 1233/21 to Admty.) Complete with fuel and water as it may be necessary for you to return to patrol. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1324A/21 to CORINTHIAN.)

/A.M.1324A/21 ...

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War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.CORINTHIAN
search for
French M/Vs.
Contd.

A.M. 1324A/21. On completion proceed patrol area C.Z.3 37° N - 38° N., 30° W. - 33° W., leaving patrol to R/V with S.L.93 in position 34° 00' N., 24° 00' W., A.M./29. 2. Object to intercept and seize French M/Vs., ILE DE NOIR-MOUTIER and ILE D'OUessant bound New York to Casablanca. 3. If seized ships are to be sent with prize crews to Bermuda.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1701A/21 to CORINTHIAN.)

HAWKINS,
search for
French M/V's.

A.M. 1219A/21. French M/Vs., ILE DE NOIR-MOUTIER and ILE D'OUessant bound from New York to Casablanca may be between 30° N., and 35° N., between 22nd and 26/11 along your course. 2. Within prudent limit of endurance to allow you to reach Portsmouth south of Ireland carry out patrol in this area. 3. Report when leaving patrol for U.K. 4. If met ships are to be captured and sent under prize crews to Bermuda.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1439A/21 to HAWKINS.)
W.D. Note. Cancelled by Admty., 2048A/22.
Q.V., America & West Indies.

JOAO PESSOA.
(German.)

Telegram 255 Madrid Commercial 185 B.N.A. Madrid S.O.(I) Gibraltar. JOAO PESSOA expected to complete loading 25/11. Voyages of the larger ships are being accelerated. Iron ore shipped from Bilbao since July 1st is approx., 150,000.tons.
(Consul, Bilbao, 1257/21, to Admty.)

PETITE
ANNIE
intercepted.

Have intercepted in position 280 P C L 20 Vichy French Auxiliary Ketch PANCEITE ANNIK (Sic) from Douarnenez to Mauretaia to fish Lobster. Request instructions. Consider genuine.
(SCOTTISH , 1900Z/21, to F.O.C.N.A.)
(W.D. Note. ? PETITE ANNIE. See 2000A/22.)

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DEVONSHIRE
CANTON.

Your 1955N/20. ^{N.T.H.W.D.} Proceeding at 18 knots
E.T.A.R/V 007° 30' N., 033° 05' W., at 1800N/23.
Have sufficient fuel to remain in area G 33 D
until 2000N/24.
(DEVONSHIRE 0025Z/21 to C. in C.S.A.)
In view of DEVONSHIRE's 0025Z/21. CANTON is
not to wait for DEVONSHIRE but is to proceed
to search northward through eastern half of
G.33 C and return through western half to
patrol in H 33 D.H.34 C, in accordance with my
1801N/18. DEVONSHIRE is to search through
western half of G 33 D continuing to northward
through western half of G 33 B as far as fuel
permits, then return to Freetown.
(C. in C.S.A., 1017N/21, Amended 1235N/21 to
DEVONSHIRE, CANTON.)
Steer 140° 25 knots.
(C. in C.S.A., 1858N/21, to DEVONSHIRE.)

W.S.12X.

Major Gen., Beckwith-Smith, Cdg. 18th Div., in
this convoy requests all troops may be dis-
embarked at Capetown for recreation and exercise.
Request you make necessary arrangements.
3. Approx., numbers embarked in each ship:
WESTPOINT, 5112; WAKEFIELD, 5000; MOUNT VERNON,
5139; ORIZABA, 1650; LEONARD WOOD, 1476;
J.T. DICKMAN, 1428.
(D.S.T., 0349A/21 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)
Ref. N.C.S.O. Trinidad's 1401/19. Request
you will comply.
(D.S.T., 0353A/21 to S.T.O. Capetown.)

C.M.23.

Your 0321/20. Composition of C.M.23 as in my
1201/14. (?21) not now being used.
CHANTILLY will probably be included if ship
arrives capable of continuing voyage.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1151B/21 to D. of S.T.)

Air R/C from
Walvis Bay.

Admty., 1505A/20. I hope S.A.A.F. will be
able to continue to work a coastal flight from
Walvis Bay. If the Beauforts have arrived
perhaps some of them could work from there
while present diversion is in force.
(C. in C.S.A., 1335N/21, to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

/ALCANTARA.....

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War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.ALCANTARA.

Request date ALCANTARA is to arrive Newport News. Undesirable she should fuel at New Orleans owing to oil rationing; intend therefore to give her 500 tons from Oiler ARNDALE and that she should fuel Trinidad. Intend to employ her on trade route (?patrol) until required to leave S.A.D. for refit. (R.A.S.A.D., 1457Z/21, to C. in C.S.A.) Oiler ARNDALE will meet you at F.O. Embark from her 500 tons fuel and your stores. Discharge to her all personnel stores and mail except those for BULOLO, and depth charges. Then send Oiler ARNDALE to sea R/V "~~ALCANTARA~~", she is to return to F.O. by daylight/28/11. ALCANTARA proceed patrol K 32, K 33. (R.A.S.A.D., 1501Z/21, to ALCANTARA.)

S.L. Convoy.
(S.L. 43)

Departure 0700 LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, BIDEFORD, Oiler RAPIDOL, CULVER, BERGAMOT, 1700 GORLESTON. Escorting S.L. convoy. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1617N/21 to C. in C.S.A.)

DUNEDIN.

My 1925/21. (N.T. in W.D.) Proceed at 2200 at 16 knots. (C. in C.S.A., 2001N/21 to DUNEDIN.)

WACOSTA.

My 2123Z/20. WACOSTA arrived at Buenos Aires. (S.O.I., Monte Video, 2117Z/21, to Admty.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Arrival 21/11 R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 2121Z/21, to Admty.)

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MA RITZA.
SANTA FE,
PROCIDA,
DELOS,
(German).
ALBA JULIA,
(Roumanian).

B.2. reports that ships entered Piraeus Harbour between 13/11 and 15/11. (D.S. 808, 21/11).

UNBEATEN.

Capt. S.1., 2207B/18. Unless otherwise ordered patrol in 033° 16' 012° 51' which position enemy ship approaching on course 155° for (?Tripoli).
(Capt. S.10., 0902B/21 to UNBEATEN).

Fleet Movements.

Ops. "Landmark" →
"Aggression" →
{See p.p. 518
7519} (w/ TRIUMPH)

Arrivals 20/11.- TALISMAN, M.L.1051, KHEIREDDINE
Departures 20/11.- TRIUMPH, AJAX, HOBART, NEPTUNE, HEYTHROP, AVONVALE.

Departures 21/11 - NAPIER, KIMBERLEY, KIPLING NIZAM, JACKAL, KANDAHAR, JERVIS, HASTY, HOTSPUR, DECOY, KINGSTON, BARHAM, VALIANT, MAIAD, EURYALUS, GALATEA, QUEEN ELIZABETH. (S.O.(I), Alexandria, 1120B/21)

Mersa Matruh.

Sailing PETRELLA with PROTEA Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY and SOUTHERN ISLE in company 1300/21. E.T.A. Alexandria 0800?/22. SOUTHERN ISLE damaged asdic dome and possibly (?steering gear). ? ST. ISSEY to be prepared to tow. SOUTHERN ISLE probably requires (?docking).
(N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh, 1215B/21 to R.A. Alexandria).

EMPIRE DEFENDER
(report of A/C attack 15/11).

Your 1842A/20. No. Italian news 17/11 stated two laden enemy merchant vessels attempting to run blockade had been sunk by torpedo carrying aircraft. (V.A. Malta, 1149B/21 to Admty).

GLENROY,
lighters,
M/Ls.
Tobruk.

(?Delete) para 22. Please signal anchor berth outside (?boom) for GLENROY about 2330 if necessary. Request you will provide complete towage for (?all) 16 lighters and both Motor Launches. First tows 10 minutes after arrival will be 6 lighters each side. Second and third tows (?50) minutes later will be 2 motor launches and one big lighter from port side forward and 3 big lighters after side aft.
(R.A. Alexandria, 1225B/21 to N.O. Tobruk).

/Your....

21.11.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

GLENROY,
lighters,
M/Ls.
Tobruk.
Contd.

Your 1225/21. Anchorage outside Boom 197°
Tobruk Point Lighthouse 6.5 cables. Holding
ground bad in N. or E. wind owing to heavy swell.
Non-power towing craft run risk fouling boom
with drop lighter. Consider it preferable
GLENROY to anchor 261° Tobruk Point 8.8 cables.
(N.O. Tobruk, 1715B/21 to R.A. Alexandria).

Bizerta,
Tunis,
Bona.

Dismissal of General Weygand may indicate early
German attempts to pass large quantities of men
or material through Bizerta, Tunis or Bona. You
may therefore consider it desirable to increase
air R/C of these ports.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1252A/21 to C. in C. Med).

GNAT
(torpedoed
21/10).

A.F.O. 2551/40 and my (group omitted) 1701/21/10
and 1933/23/10. Board of enquiry into torpedoing
of GNAT will not be held as I am satisfied that
it would serve no useful purpose. Written report
will be forwarded. 2. Reconstruction of GNAT
by utilizing CRICKET is considered practicable
and will be carried out at Suez. My 1105/25/10,
refers. (C. in C. Med., 1331B/21 to Admty).

Enemy M/Vs.
and barges.

P.C. and S. of 2 enemy M/Vs. and 2 enemy trans-
port barges 38.56 N., 14.56 E. 140° 10.
(A/C L.7F.R. 1400/21 to Hal Far).

Enemy War-
ships.

P.C.S. of enemy, 2 cruisers 2 destroyers one
aeroplane, 39.10 N. 15.04 E. 15, knots.
(A/C I 7 F.R., 1410/21 to Hal Far).

TORBAY,
Operation
"Copper".

Operation "Copper" paras. 40 to 42. Unless re-
embarkation can be completed by Dawn 22/11 you
are to return to Alexandria by route already
ordered. Enemy submarines have been sighted
patrolling between Tolmeita and Derna. (Capt. S.1.
1551B/21 to TORBAY).

THUNDERBOLT,
UPRIGHT, P.31
TRUSTY.

My 1647B/18. Operation B.S. Appendix I. Move 45
miles 082°. (Capt. S.1., 1611B/21 to S/Ms named).

Enemy Convoys,
Messina.

Two convoys, six destroyers, two merchant ships
sighted approaching Messina from N.W. at 1410B.
Two merchant ships, two T.Bs. further to North.
(Capt. S.10., 1620B/21 to UTMOST).

U/Bs.
TRIUMPH.

2. U-boats sighted 035° 55' 026° 42' at 1150B/21
steering 180° diving and continuing submerged
towards Kaso Straits. (Capt. S.1. 1623B/21 TRIUMPH).
My 1623B/21, do not carry out special operation
until further instructions. Establish A/S patrol
in vicinity Cape Plaka 35° 12' 26° 20' Horn.
(Capt. S.1., 2332B/21 to TRIUMPH) See also p. 546

MOST SECRET

544¹

MCST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1345/21st November.

1425/21 IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 21.11.41.

Recd. 1540.

CIPHER;

Addressed War Office (pass to Air Ministry).
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

12508. O/29013 Cipher 21/11. Most Secret.

Cisitrep No. 7. First of two parts.

1. 13 Corps. 20 Nov. two Sqdns. 42 RTR moved Bir Du Deheua to give extra support to Det. 4 Ind. Div. in that area. Other locations night 20/21 Nov. unchanged.

2. 30 Corps.

A. 7. Armd. Bde. 20 Nov. 7 Armd. Bde. claim enemy casualties seventy tanks thirty three Armd. cars area Sidi Rezegh. In addition we captured same area nineteen aircraft with crews which had been previously damaged by fighter attack eight M.T. and several hundred prisoners.

B. 4. Armd. Bde. 19 Nov. Enemy Armd. forces engaged by 4 Armd. Bde. Bir El Meliha 471371 enemy casualties twenty six tanks own twenty tanks 20 Nov. in encounter same area enemy lost thirty four tanks nine tank transporters no details our losses.

C. Locations night 20/21 Nov. as far as known. 4 Armd. Bde area Bir El Meliha. 22 Armd. Bde. believed arrived same area from area Bir El Gubi. 7 Armd. Bde. and support Gp Area Sidi Rezegh. 22 GDS Bde. area Bir El Gubi and 1 S.A. Div. about twenty miles further south.

3. Tobruk. Tobruk sortie ordered First light today 21 Nov.

4. Joint army and R.A.F. battle H.Q. established near L.G. 122 North East of Maddalena. End of first part.

1345/21.

Part two.

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 21.11.41.

Recd. 1630.

Addressed The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry).
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

O/29055 cipher 21/11. Most Secret

Cositrep No. 7. Part 2.

5. Night Nov. 19/20 heavy attack by Wellingtons on Derna landing ground. Derna town and Bardia also bombed. Two crashed one crew safe.

/6

6. Day Nov. 20 bombers. Medium bomber wings made two attacks morning on A.F.V.S. and M.T. El Adem Area and two attacks afternoon on Armd. force moving South from Trigh Capuzzo. Good results. Four Marylands missing after attack by M.E. 109s. Blenheim attack on dispersed aircraft Gambut destroyed two Ju. 52s.

7. Fighters. Beaufighters destroyed 14 Ju. 87 1 M.E. 109 on Tmimi Aerodrome. Fighter sweeps during day over battle area destroyed four recce M.E. 110 Gabr Saleh Area. Also one Ju. 88 from among formation attacking our troops. Ju. 87s. with ME. 109 escort forced to jettison bombs 2 Ju. 87 3 M.E. 109 claimed destroyed. Four our fighters missing.

8. **Weather throughout period mainly overcast at 3000 feet but clear. End of part 2.**

1425/21.

Advance copy 1st Lord, 1st S.L., A.C.N.S.(F), N.A. 1st S.L., D.O.D.(F), D.C., D.D.I.C.

Received from War Office 2052/21/11.

1st Lord.	D.N.I.(4)	War Office circulation:
1st S.L.	D.N.A.D.	S. of S.
2nd S.L.	D. of L.D.	C.I.G.S.
3rd S.L.	I.P.(2)	V.C.I.G.S.
4th S.L.	W.D.	D.M.O.& P.
5th S.L.	D.C.	D.D.M.O.(0)
V.C.N.S.	Hd. of M.	D.P.(2)
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.T.S.D.	M.O.1.5.6.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.D.I.C.	D.D.I.P.
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	E.P.S.	D.M.I.
A.C.N.S.(W)	N.I.D. 10.	D.D.M.I.(I)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.P.D.	A.C.A.S.(I) Air Min.
D. of P.(2)		War Room Air Min.
D.O.D.(F)		Duty Capt. Admiralty.
D.D.O.D.(F)		Sec. of State
D.O.D.(H)		For. Office.
D.D.O.D.(H)		M.I.3.14.
		D.A.F.V.
		Colonel Jacob.
		C.A.S. Air Min. (2)
		D. of Plans. Air Min. (2)
		Plans 3 Air Min. (2)
		D.O.O. Air Min. (1)
		D.M.C. Air Min.
		P.S. to S. of S. ,
		Air Min. (2)

Lion only
544^c

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S I G E 1555/21st November IN

FROM: C. in C. Middle East. Date. 21.11.41.
CIPHER. Recd: 1655.

ADDRESSED: The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

12518 O/29132 cipher 21/11 Most Secret.

Cositrep No.8.

Situation 0900 hrs. 21st Nov.

1. Portion 4 Armd. Bde. engaging about thirty enemy tanks area 470360 remainder pursuing enemy west along Grid 380.
2. 22 Armd. Bde. moving to Square 4338 on enemy south flank.
3. 7 Armd. Bde. engaging thirty enemy tanks S.E. corner of Square 4339.
4. Air. Nothing since Cositrep No.7.

1555/21

Received from War Office PM/21st Nov.

Advance copies sent 1st Lord 1st S.L. A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.	War Office distribution.	
1st S.L.	S. of S.	Duty Capt. Adm.
2nd S.L.	C.I.G.S.	Sec. of State
3rd S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.	For. Office.
4th S.L.	D.M.O. & P.	
5th S.L.	D.D.M.O. (O)	
V.C.N.S.	D.P. (2)	
A.C.N.S. (H)	M.O. 1.5.6.	
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.I.P.	
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.M.I.	
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.D.M.I. (I)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	M.I. 3.14.	
D. of P. (2)	D.A.F.V.	
D.O.D. (F)	Col. Jacob.	
D.D.O.D. (F)	C.A.S. Air Min. (2)	
D.O.D. (H)	D. of Plans Air Min. (2)	
D.D.O.D. (H)	Hd. of M. Plans. 3. Air Min. (2)	
D.N.I. (4)	D.T.S.D. D.O.O. Air Min. (1)	
D.N.A.D.	D.D.I.C. D.M.C. Air Min.	
D. of L.D.	E.P.S. P.S. to S. of S. Air Min. (2)	
I.P. (2)	N.I.D. 10. A.C.A.S. (I) Air Min.	
W.D.	D.P.D. Air Min. War Room.	

MOST SECRET

544^D

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1815B/21st November.

FROM: N.L.O. 8th Army. Date: 21.11.41.
Naval Code L.2. by W/T and T/P. Recd: 1905.

IN

ADDRESSED: C. in C. Mediterranean.

IMMEDIATE.

(Group missing) to B Fort Knoll report 1025B
21st Polish Brigade and 23rd Brigade made feint
attack inflicting heavy casualties. Our casualties
3 wounded. Enemy strong point (?safely) reached
(?same) captured. Minefields considerable and
opposition greater than expected consequently
behind time of programme.

1815E/21

Advance copies sent P.O.

1st S.L.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D. I.C.
Press
D.C.

1st Lord.	
1st S.L.	D.O.D. (H)
2nd S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)
3rd S.L.	D.N.I. (4)
4th S.L.	D.N.A.D.
5th S.L.	D. of L.D.
V.C.N.S.	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.C.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	Hd. of M.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.T.S.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.I.C.
D. of P. (2)	E.P.S.
D.O.D. (F)	N.I.D. 10.
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.P.D.

MFG

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Passage of
Destroyer
reinforce-
ments.

Unless it is known what cover Force H will be able to provide it is difficult to decide whether destroyers should come through Mediterranean or go round Cape.
(ii) At first sight it appears that "Hunts" should go by Cape but that NESTOR, NORMAN and 2 Tribals mentioned in your 2338/10 should probably come through Mediterranean in company with DIDO about 20/12 but they should have support up to point of commencing the night run for the Narrows. Request S.O. Force H views.
(C. in C. Med., 1627B/21 to Admty S.O. Force H).

HYACINTH.

HYACINTH escorting ARENA sailed 1530/21 passing Port Said 1100B/22, E.T.A. Haifa 0800C/23.
(R.A. Alexandria, 1658B/21 to N.O.I.C.'s Haifa, Port Said.)

Malta Raids.

21/11. 3 alarms. 0513 hours 12 Macchi 202's crossed coast. 6 withdrew 6 attacked Halfar cannon and machine guns, very slight damage. 0706 hours 3 enemy aircraft approaching Island shot returning P.R.U. Hurricane into sea. Swordfish located, Launch rescued Pilot. 1212 hours 1 R/C approached did not cross coast.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1805 /21.

Air
R/C.

Following received (begins); Med., Fleet repeated S.O. Force "I" R.A. Alexandria, Advance Air H.Q. W.D., from 201 Group.
1 Sunderland carrying out A/S searches shipping routes Alexandria - Ishaila Rocks tonight 21/22.
1 Albacore on A/S search Alexandria - Ras El Kenais 0600/22. T.O.R.1700B/21. (Ends).
(R.A. Alexandria, 1805B/21 to Med., Fleet).

Convoy
A.T.1.,

Operation "Aggression". Convoy A.T.1. route. Sailed Alexandria 1600 through positions A. 07.45. B. 15.35. D. 19.25. R. 22.50. E.T.A. Tobruk 2100. Code name "Screw". Fighter protection required, from 1500.
(S.O. Force I., 1848B/21 to R.A. Alexandria).

*Note - This Convoy A.T.1. did not sail until 30/11
(See Med War Diary, 22/11, p.242, + 30/11, p.255
Case 7386)*

/Tobruk....

War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Tobruk
Situation.

Situation satisfactory. Military. 1st Objectives captured and consolidated and will be defended as strong points during night. About (7800) prisoners of war taken, half German.

Naval. Boom damaged by last night's bombing. KLO temporary repairs completed. SOTRA sweeping approaches. FALK A/S sweep towards position "R" returning before dawn. 2 motor launches A/S and Alexandria watching abnormal. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 2057B/21 to C. in C. Med).

SOKOL, hits
on enemy
convoy.

Your 2025B/21 (N.T. in W.R.) Hearty congratulations. Aerial R/C indicates merchant ships are still in harbour. (Capt. S.1., 2111B/21, to SOKOL).

1 Destroyer, 3 Merchant Ships. P.C. and S. 036° 34' 021° 34' 230° 10. 2 hits. (SOKOL, 2340B/21 to Capt. S.1).

T.B.R.
Sqdns.

Admty 2218/29. Torpedo facilities now in hand at Dekheila together with mobile torpedo units are considered adequate. Requirements 3 supernumerary squadrons if 18 additional Trolleys are supplied. (S.O. Aircraft Carriers Med., 2115B/21 to Admty).

* TRIUMPH,
THORN.

* See p. 544

TRIUMPH passes Kaso Strait night of 22/23 or one of two following nights and is ordered to spend one day on patrol off Candia thence proceeding Area A. TRIUMPH has been informed of area of your special operation. From 0001B/23 until completion of your operation you are to remain east of 024° 40' between 036° 00' and 037° 20' N., when leaving Beirut? you are to remain East of line drawn 155° from 036° 00' 026° 14' till South of 035° N. Pass through 035° 00' 027° 00' and thence direct to Alexandria searched Channel. Attention called to Appendix 1 of my memo S.O.48 insertion 4. (Capt. S.1., 2153B/21 to THORN).

10th S/M
Flotilla
UNBEATEN.

I am regarding you as in operational control 10th S/M Flotilla and will only signal orders if I have information ahead of you. Please confirm. I am moving UNBEATEN to eastwards of Tripoli. 10th Flotilla S/Ms now at sea were prepared for 14 days patrol. Request you will recall them as necessary. (Capt. S.10., 2226B/21 to Capt. S.1).

/Enemy...

547

21.11.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Units.

Following is what aircraft D. of N.830 Squadron made to all ships at 2300.
P.C. and S. of enemy 37° 40' N., 15° 32' E.,
100° 9 knots. (Malta, H/F, D/F, 2300/21 to all
Ships).

Cruiser
hit by

UTMOST.

(BUZA DEGLI

ABRUZZI damaged.)

3 destroyers, 3 cruisers, P.C. and S. 037°
48' 015° 43' 135° 20 knots, one cruiser hit,
probably sunk. (UTMOST, 2323B/21 to V.A. Malta)

TORBAY.

E.T.A. 0600/24. Noon position 22nd 033° 46'
023° 31'. (TORBAY, 2347B/21 to Capt. S.1).

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Air
G.R.
Sqdns.

Re operational control in Indian Ocean.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Ceylon, 0837/21 to Easfar).
See Lion Copy.

EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

Following is repetition of 0237/20 (begins):-
Your 2000/18 and C. in C. E.I. 1024/19. Ship
cannot be handled Basra. Arrangements have
been made for transshipment of these troops at
Bombay. S.N.O. Persian Gulf pass to Iraq.
(Ends). (P.S.T.O. India, 1325Z/21 to P.S.T.O.
Egypt).

CENTURION.

Admty 1314A/19 para 3. Camouflage scheme will
be flown to you in cover reference "Dust".
Request this may be delivered to ship.
(D.T.S.D., 1645A/21 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

TOMISLAV.

Shanghai. Departure 19/11 TOMISLAV believed
under Italian flag.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0821Z/21 to Admty).

VILLE DE
VERDUN,
CAP VARELLA.
(French).

VILLE DE VERDUN has left ?Haiphong, destination
unknown. Departure Saigon 21/11 CAP VARELLA
for Haiphong. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0902Z/21
to Admty).

Japanese
Shipping.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 299/1941. NITTA MARU and ARGENTINA
MARU sailed from Yokohama nights 17 - 18 and
18 - 19 /11 respectively. Both vessels had
names and company markings painted (?out),
superstructure latterly painted grey.
(N.A. Tokyo, 1244/21 to D.N.I.)

ENDEAVOUR.

Admty 2048A/15 and C. in C. China 0501Z/19.
Following surveying fittings and stores are to
be replaced in ENDEAVOUR before leaving Singapore.
O. in C. Singapore Surveying Unit to draw up
demands for special stores required and to advise
on replacement of fittings.
(Hydrographer 1636A/21 to C. in C. China).

/Suspicious....

548A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0837/21 November.

IN

From. H.Q.R.A.F. Ceylon.

Date. 22.11.41.

Time. 0058.

INT. SPECIAL X BY W/T

Addressed. Easfar. Repeated. C. in C. East Indies.,
Air. H.Q., Iraq. 222 Group (Ceylon).

A.O.C. Aden from H.Q.R.A.F. Middle East.

A. 245/21 November Most Secret. Your 2256

November (5) as result inter-service and inter-command consultation on Air Ministry signal X.960/29/9/40 agreement was recorded in Air Ministry signal X. 638/23/12/40 to Middle East that operational control G.R. Squadrons operating in Indian Ocean should be under Far East. Presume this decision conveyed to you separately. Further, intention Air Ministry, as stated their X.960, was that two squadrons flying boats were required for Western Half Indian Ocean and that they should operate on lines of communication Cape to Aden and/or India to Aden. Consider therefore that responsibilities Far East Command concerning sea reconnaissances should include Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea but exclude Persian Gulf Gulf of Oman West of line RAS EL HADD to Persia - India Frontier which remains under A.O.C. Iraq. This arrangement conforms generally to Middle East operational boundaries. Suggest problems raised you 2256/5 November matter for decision and arrangement between Easfar. 222 Group and C. in C. East Indies. Such arrangements for facilities on Arabian Coast as may be necessary to be made direct with A.O.C. Iraq and Aden. A.H.Q. Far East pass

F/L.....

M O S T S E C R E T

2.

P/L to Easfar. Capt. i/c Ceylon please pass P/L language to 222 Group.

0837/21

Note. N/T of references quoted in W/R.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (T)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D. of P. (2)
 D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.N.A.D.
 D. of L.D.
 D. A/S V.
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 D.C.
 Head of M. (6) and for A.M.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D. (2)
 N.I.D. 10.

RN

21.11.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Suspicious
Ship 6/11.

Following is a repetition of my 0421/21:-
My 0817/7. Description similar to Reichenfels
type 12,000 tons cargo Motor Vessel (details)
Apparently new ship.
Comment. If bow description correct probably
German ship FREIENFELS or new sister ship.
If not, may be raider "C". Not considered ship
is Japanese. A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., C.Z.M.
informed. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 2359Z/21
to Admty) ~~2359Z/21 to Admty~~ Reply Admty 1811A/
23).

America & West Indies.

DIOMEDE.

Your 1101R/7. On completion of patrol commencing
25/11 DIOMEDE and Oiler ORANGELEAF proceed to
Balboa so as to transit Canal on 11/12 DIOMEDE
proceed to Bermuda via Jamaica, reporting
intended programme in due course. Oiler
ORANGELEAF proceed to Curacao to load and thence
to Jamaica for boiler cleaning.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0912Q/21 to DIOMEDE).
My 0912Q/21. It is not intended to relieve
DIOMEDE on Pacific patrol for the present.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0922Q/21 to Admty).

INDOMITABLE.

Following is provisional programme for
INDOMITABLE.
Norfolk leave 21/11, Kingston Jamaica, 24/11 -
8/12, Gibraltar 16/12. INDOMITABLE will not
call at Trinidad unless necessary to do so for
fuel. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1002Q/21 to N.O.I.C.
Kingston etc).

DESPATCH.

Arrived 1100 and sails 1430/21.
(R.O. St. Thomas, 1140/21 to Admty).
DESPATCH sailed Antigua 1500/20 arrived and
sailed St. Kitts 1800/20.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1234R/21 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/AGAMEMNON....

550

War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.AGAMEMNON.

AGAMEMNON will leave Hampden Roads 1800/24 for Halifax. (B.A.R.M., 1248R/21, to Admty etc).

EMPIRE
WILDEBEESTE.

Rescue Tug PRUDENT sailed St. Johns N.F. 0231Z/21 to tow S.S. EMPIRE WILDEBEESTE reported out of fuel 092° 431 miles from Cape Race. (C.C.N.F., 1301Z/21 to Admty).

H.X.161.

ANAPOLIS, HAMILTON to Western R/V H.X.161. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1304Z/21 to Admty etc).

ALBERNI.

N.S.H.Q.'s 1340Z/17/10 (repairs at Canadian ports). ALBERNI, Halifax, 21/11 to 6/1/1942. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1331Z/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

P.511
P.551.

My 1927Z/20. S.of A. will be 9 knots to position X thereafter 9 for P.511 and 10½ for P.551. (C.C.N.F., 1509Z/21 to Admty).

O.N.38.

Ocean escort O.N. 38 Task Unit Z.1.14*BURNHAM (S.O.) CHAMBLY, DAUPHIN, NAPONEE, ARVIDA, MATAPEDIA, ALGOMA. (Opnav, 1527/21 to Admty). * (?4.1.14).

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

On completion of refit about mid-December QUEEN OF BERMUDA is to be sailed for Bermuda to embark aircraft, carry out one week's flying off trials and work up practices and then sailed to U.K. to give 21 days leave to each watch. (D.O.D. (F) 1611A/21 to B.A.R.M., C. in C. A.W.I.)

PANDORA.

Admty 1755A/11. PANDORA is expected to sail from New London for Bermuda P.M./16/12. (B.A.R.M., 1704R/21 to Admty).

SURCOUF.

A.M.1941/2 and B.A.R.M.'s 1728/19. Request you will arrange for SURCOUF to be at Halifax from 10th to 16/12 so that Adm. Muselier may have an opportunity of visiting this ship. 2. After visit SURCOUF should proceed in accordance with A.M.1941/2. (D.O.D. (F) 1711A/21 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/Adm.....

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Adm.
Muselier.

Admty 1314A/13. My 1746Z/21. This action being taken so that the Admiral may have opportunity to inspect ALYSSE and also to get all three French Ships into same group. (C.C.N.F., 1747Z/21 to Admty).

R.C.N.
Corvettes.

C.C.C.S. 1300A/20. 1. Every endeavour being made to maintain 3 R.C.N. corvettes at Tobermory. Present situation is given in my 1616Z/8. BRAN-DON should arrive late November.
2. Have already pointed out operational impossibility at present of detaching more than 3 ships from N.E.F. at one time. Unfortunately training period got out of step due to completion refits breakdowns etc.
3. If any forecast could be given as to when the 3 ships in my 1616Z/8 will complete 3 more will promptly be detailed to replace them and carry out simultaneous training.
(C.C.N.F., 1755Z/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Archangel
Convoys.

A.M.1153A/20 to N.A. Washington. It seems unnecessary and for security reasons undesirable that this Most Secret information should be conveyed to U.S.S.R. Naval Command via Washington. Should it not be passed through British Naval Mission in U.S.S.R. or U.S.S.R. Mission in London?
(ii) N.A. agrees and is not giving this information to Soviet N.A. until further instructions are received.
(B.A.D., 1819R/21 to Admty) Reply: 1743/22.

S.C.57.

S.C.57 unit 4.1.11 designated escort. Ottawa Carrier Sen. Officer PRIMROSE, TRAIL., POLYANTHUS, FENNEL, CHILLIWACK, ARVIDA, SHER-BROOK. (C.C.N.F., 1959Z/21 to Comdr. Task Force 4)

B.Y.T's 1-5
Atlantic
Passage.

Following from B.A.S.R. Your 1712/20. Concur that North Atlantic passage is a doubtful proposition for these small ships in winter. It is considered however that if these ships are left in U.S. Ports until April there would be most unfortunate political repercussions which would probably affect our future requests under lend-lease. Proposed therefore that every effort be made to remove these vessels on completion to a British Port either for use as tugs or to be laid up.

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

B.Y.T.'s 1-5
Atlantic
Passage.
Contd.

Halifax, St. Johns, Bermuda or Trinidad would appear suitable for the purpose. Request permission for first tug to be sailed on completion with naval crew which has already been collected, the same crew returning to take delivery of subsequent vessels. If this is approved request destination of all vessels may be indicated.
(B.A.D., 2005R/21, to Admty) See also 1429R/22.

SAGUENAY.

Supt. Dockyard Halifax 1351Z/22/10, regarding completion date SAGUENAY. Owing to additional work necessary on upper deck on account of oil fuel fire completion date retarded until 3/12/41. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2101Z/21 to N.S.H.Q.)

DESPATCH,
LIVERPOOL,
CIRCASSIA,
INDOMITABLE.

For consideration that DESPATCH, LIVERPOOL and CIRCASSIA from Bermuda and INDOMITABLE, now on passage from Norfolk to Jamaica, R/V in 25° North 40° West on 28/11 and carry out sweep towards St. Pauls Rock. INDOMITABLE and LIVERPOOL are only partly worked up, but consider this might be accepted in view of accuracy of intelligence regarding enemy.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2132Q/21 to Admty).

JEANNE
D'ARC.

Naval Observer reports JEANNE D'ARC will leave Guadeloupe 22/11 for Martinique to remain three or four days. (Opnav, 2300Z/21 to Admty).

Search for
German Ship.

CINCINNATI reports no indications presence German ship areas searched. 1800 G.C.T. position 6° North (Probably 29°) West. Will continue search probable areas Saturday vicinity 9° North 29° West and then proceed Trinidad. JOUET has been directed to refuel Recife. (Opnav, 2330Z/21 to Admty).

War Diary.

21.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Rabaul,
mine
defences.

B.A.D. Washington's 1937/23/10 (N.T. in W.D.) Minefield should not materially affect efficiency of H.D.A. but suggest Eastern limit of minefield should be north of a line 225° from Matupi Island light.

2. A/S conditions not expected to be good in this area. Suggest principal A/S patrol should be in rear of line Sulphur Point to Raluana Point. Midway between these points detection by H.D.As. will be uncertain and might be increased by a Sono Buoy laid midway between Praed Point and Raluana Point.

3. Re proposed minefield S.W. of Matupi, see A.T. 2140/16/9 para 2 (1).
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0341A/21 to A.C.N.B.)

U.S.14.

Your 0429/15. Agreed that docking proposals for QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH should stand.

2. Your 0645/16/10 stated that capacity for 10,000 in U.S.14 was acceptable. W.O. are considering with Army, Melbourne, whether additional 3,000 can be postponed to U.S.15.
(D.S.T., 0350A/21 to A.C.N.B.)

U.S.15.

My 0920M/9/9. May date be advised for U.S. 15? New Zealand requirements are Army 2600 Mideast; R.N.Z.N., 20 East Indies, 20 China; R.N.Z.A.F. 20 Singapore, total 2660. In addition Army desires despatch middle March to Mideast new unit namely tank brigade 3600 without equipment. (N.Z.N.B., 1400M/21 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.21.11.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.U/B and
Raider
Tactics.

From reliable reports it is known that U/Boats have been used as escorts for returning Raiders, Supply Ships or M/V's. Probable tactics, which also probably apply to French Submarine-escorted Merchant ships. U/B stationed ahead by day and close astern by night. By day U-boat can be expected to dive on ship being sighted and escorted vessel will endeavour to lead attacker on U-boat. Initial sighting course is important as if the two get separated it will be on this line of advance that the two can be expected again to R.V. In the event of being sighted by aircraft speed of escorted vessel can be expected to be reduced to that of U-boat submerged (A.C.N.S(F)1218A/21, "A" Message.)

Submarines Reported.16/11.

A two Submarine formation sighted near Massa Cabinda, Nov. 16th.
(C.G. Loanda 0940/21, to D.N.I. S.O. (I)
Freetown, N.S.O. (I) Capetown.

Estimated approx., positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1406A/21.)

Submarines Attacked.

By MARIGOLD,
16/11.
(U. 433 Sunk.)

As B.B.C. have announced sinking of U-boat by MARIGOLD is there any objection to granting controlled interview to Gibraltar press correspondents?
(F.O.C.N.A., 1042A/21, to Admt.)
Your 1042A/21. Not approved for controlled interviews to be granted as it is desired to keep secret time and details of attack.
(D.P.D., 1409A/21, to F.O.C.N.A.)

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Soviet S/M K.21 has returned from patrol off Rolvsoy Sound and reports having torpedoed 2 vessels of 4,000 and 5,000 tons respectively on 12/11 in 70° 43' N. 24° 4' E., one of which was seen to sink.

C. in C. H.F. has today approved C.S.10's proposal of yesterday that he should act against the German Convoy Route on the Norwegian coast during the nights of 23rd and 24th November if destroyers can be kept in company with C.S.10's Force, and information as to the enemy's usual convoy procedure has been passed to C. in C. H.F. accordingly.

NELSON returned to Scapa at 1043 today and left again at 1825 for Rosyth.

BEDOUIIN, INTREPID, and BRAMBLE arrived at Murmansk at 1132C today, and Convoy P.Q.3 reached Archangel at 0900C.

The Escort Trawler ST. APOLLO sank at 2230A in 59° 9' N. 7° 36' W. having collided at 1915A with SARDONYX which was damaged and proceeded to Loch Ewe (arrived 1623/23) escorted by PUNJABI, KING SOL, and the Rescue Tug MARAUDER.

Wick harbour was closed at 0945 on account of the weather.

Yarmouth was closed at 1514A on account of fog.

Enemy Air Activity.

Bombs were dropped near the oil tank at Trangisvaag (Faeroes) this morning; no naval damage was caused.

/At.....

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War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

At 0913 one A/C dropped 2 bombs at Aberdeen, causing no naval damage and no casualties; and from 1025 till 1105 another single A/C reconnoitred the Faroes, dropping 4 bombs at Transvaag, Sydero and causing slight civilian damage and no casualties.

The coaster ROCKABILL was attacked about 1600 today about 1,200 yards from Rosslare Pier Head. It is stated that the machine guns at Rosslare made no attempt to engage the aircraft.

The Norwegian BESTUM which had run ashore near the Shipwash was bombed and damaged whilst being towed to Harwich and was beached.

Convoy F.N.559 reported being attacked at 1843 in 52° 31' N. 2° 9' E. No details are known.

S.S. SKERRIES was unsuccessfully attacked at 1755 today in Tuskar Sound by 3 enemy aircraft, one of which she reports having damaged or destroyed. At 1800 B.S.T. Trawler WILLIAM BUNCE was unsuccessfully attacked by 2 aircraft in Irish territorial waters north of the Tuskar.

Mining.

2 Magnetic mines were detonated by Sweepers in the Thames Estuary today, and 2 at Harwich; and one Ground mine self-detonated off Milford Haven.

K.21 has laid mines off Hammerfest and Reimoy Sound. She reports one vessel mined off Reimoy Sound.

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Bedlam".

If MARSDALE, CORINTHIAN and HAWKINS do not intercept the ILE D'OUessant and ILE DE NOIRMOUTIER (see 21/11) it may be necessary to employ part of Force H to intercept them not less than 200 miles west of Casablanca. HERMIONE and the 5 destroyers of Force H are to be ready to leave Gibraltar after dark 24/11 to intercept.

Patrol by
Vichy S/Ms.

It is reported that 6 Vichy French S/Ms. sailed from Casablanca last week on escort and patrol.

South Atlantic.

Raider
sunk by
DEVONSHIRE.

{ (Raider C.
ATLANTIS
(Schiff 16)
EX GOLDENFELS.)

DEVONSHIRE engaged and sank a merchant ship raider thought to be GOLDENFELS (7800 tons) this morning in approx. 4° 15' S. 18° 43' W. It is believed that the vessel was engaged in fuelling a U-Boat when first sighted and for this reason DEVONSHIRE left the survivors to boats and rafts.

About the time when the engagement took place Ascension intercepted a report of an unknown warship in approximately the above position, purporting to come from S.S. POLYPHEMUS: this report was definitely not from the genuine POLYPHEMUS which was at New York at the time.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

20 Macchis approaching Malta p.m. today were intercepted by Hurricanes and badly shot up.

/Cruiser....

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.Cruiser
torpedoed
by aircraft.
by UTMOST 21/11.
(DUCA DEGLI
ABRUZZI.)

V.A. Malta states that at 0050 today Swordfish and Albacores attacked a convoy, apparently that in which UTMOST torpedoed a cruiser about an hour previously. One cruiser is claimed hit and possibly also a 6,000 ton merchant ship. Wellingtons also attacked but claim no hits. The convoy was last seen about 0430 G.M.T. south of Cape Spartivento, scattered and making little progress.

TRITON.

TRITON sailed today to carry out a special operation on the south coast of Crete.

Red Sea.

C. in C. Med. is considering laying indicator loops across the entrance to the Red Sea opposite Perim, backed up by A/S patrol vessels, to prevent the entrance of enemy submarines into the Red Sea in the event of war with Japan.

East Indies.

Indications are increasing that the Vichy French in Jibuti do not intend to hold out much longer. The sound of explosions of unknown origin has been heard recently several times in the direction of Jibuti. There is said to be food for about 3 weeks.

America and West Indies.

The orders for HAWKINS, MARSDALE and CORINTHIAN (see 21/11) were altered today, and these ships and CIRCASSIA were ordered to patrol positions in the Atlantic, to intercept Axis shipping.

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War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.→ Information
for NELSON.Decode BN 718 (C. in C. W.A. 2338/21 re MANXMAN.)
(C. in C. W.A., 0058A/22 to NELSON.)RENOWN.Scapa arrival RENOWN.
(A.C.O.S., 0902A/22.)Floating
Crane.

C. in C. Plymouth 1736/21. Weather unsuitable.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0924/22 to BERKELEY.)
C. in C. Plymouth's 1736. In view of weather
intend retaining BERKELEY, KINGSTON TOPAZ,
KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL, in Torbay until relief
can be sent.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1135/22 to BERKELEY.)
(1) Cancel my 1736/21 owing to weather.
(2) BERKELEY, KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL and KINGSTON
TOPAZ are to remain with tow until 23/11.
(3) JULIET and CORIOLANUS are to pass the Gate
astern of the sweepers at 0745/23 and proceed
to Torbay to relieve BERKELEY, KINGSTON
CHRYSOBERYL, KINGSTON TOPAZ.
(4) If weather is unsuitable to move tow.
(A) On relief BERKELEY to proceed to Plymouth
KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL and KINGSTON TOPAZ to
Dartmouth to fuel.
(B) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth is requested to sail
KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL and KINGSTON TOPAZ to
Portsmouth by night.
(5) If weather is suitable (C) BERKELEY is to
proceed with trawlers and tow to Dartmouth
a.m./23rd. (D) BERKELEY to leave tow at
entrance to Dartmouth and proceed to Weymouth.
Trawler to Dartmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1352/22 to BERKELEY.)

MINERVE.

My 1543A/21. Sailing delayed 24 hours.
(Capt. S.9, 1035A/22.)
My 1606A/21. Cancel para. G.
(F.O.S., 1053A/22.)

→ RAMILLIES.
NELSON.

Scapa arrivals 1024 RAMILLIES, VANQUISHER,
WITCH. 1043 NELSON, ICARUS, FAULKNER.
(A.C.O.S., 1105A/22.)
Scapa departures NELSON, FAULKNER, and ICARUS.
(A.C.O.S., 1825A/22.)
NELSON proceed passing Hoxa Gate at 1830A/22
to arrive off May Island at 0900A/23. R.A.D.
is requested to sail escorts accordingly.
(V.A.2, 1408A/22 to R.A.D.)

/FAULKNER....

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.RAMILLIES.
NELSON.
(Contd.)

FAULKNER and ICARUS proceed passing Switha at 1815/22 to R/V with NELSON outside Hoxa Gate at 1830 and then escort her to Rosyth arriving May Island 0900/23.

(ii) ECLIPSE, E.T.A. Duncansby Head 1900/22, (? with) EREBUS and CHIDDINGFOLD, is to be detached to join NELSON and her escort.

(iii) On arrival Rosyth FAULKNER, ICARUS and ECLIPSE return to Scapa.

(R.A.D. H.F., 1545A/22.) *See also next page.
(EREBUS & ECLIPSE.)*BEDOUIIN.
INTREPID,
BRAMBLE.BEDOUIIN, INTREPID, BRAMBLE arrived.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1132C/22.)ESPERANCE
BAY.

Admiralty 1815A/16 para. 3.

Intend to sail ESPERANCE BAY escorted by WANDERER for Clyde at 0830/27.

WANDERER will carry out S.A. sweeping ahead while on passage. Estimated speed of advance 15 knots and E.T.A. Clyde p.m./30th.

(C. in C. Nore, 1206A/20.)

CILICIA.My 1653A/19 and my 0943A/20. Sailing delayed by 24 hours due to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1220A/22.)WASTWATER,
SOUTHERN
FLOWER.*N.T.H.W.D.*
Your 2300/20. Both vessels 26/11.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1250/22.)NESTOR.

Your 1153/11. Request confirmation that NESTOR will be ready to leave Plymouth on 2/12.

2. Ship is urgently required for escort duty on passage to her station leaving Clyde on 6/12.

3. This will allow 2 or 3 days for working up provided date in para. 1 is confirmed. A longer period is not considered necessary.

(D.O.D.(H), 1318A/22 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

H.43.Sailed S/M H.43 escorted by HILDASAY.
(WESTERN ISLES, 1505A/22.)RORQUAL.CUTTY SARK in 250° Trevoise 10' at 1543.
RORQUAL 265° Bude 9' at 1550, course north-easterly.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1624/22.)

/SEAGULL....

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War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.SEAGULL,
SPEEDY.

SEAGULL and SPEEDY sailed for Murmansk at 1800. All passengers disembarked into icebreaker. Ice permitting, intend fuelling from Bug tomorrow. Convoy has proceeded up river. (GOSSAMER, 1657C/22 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

DANEMAN.

Take NOTTS COUNTY under your orders and sail to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1137A/22. ^{N.T. & W.D.}
(Capt. D. Greenock, 1704/22 to DANEMAN.)

BROADWAY.

Position 055° 20' N. 009° 25' W.
(BROADWAY, 1730Z/22.)

EREBUS.

Scapa arrivals EREBUS and CHIDDINGFOLD. (A.C.O.S., 1925A/22.)
My 1545/21. Add CHIDDINGFOLD and ECLIPSE leave Scapa 0300/22 to R/V EREBUS at daylight/22. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2251/22.)

ECLIPSE.

Return to Scapa.
(NELSON, 2056/22 to ECLIPSE.)

HAWKINS.

Admiralty 1219A/21. Request following route up Channel may be given. Request ship be instructed to adjust speed so as to arrive at Needles at 1600 and that fighter escort will be requested on the assumption that HAWKINS passes through 180° Lizard 5 at 0730.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2244/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

COTSWOLD.

Proceed to Harwich at daylight.
(C. in C. Nore, 2327A/22 to COTSWOLD.)

Operations.C.S.10.

C.S. 10's 1844Z/21. Approved if destroyers can be in company. Admiralty please pass latest information.
(ii) Admiralty pass to North Russia.
(C. in C. H.F., 1050Z/22 to C.S.10.)

E-Boat
engagements
on night
19/20.

Their Lordships congratulate you and all concerned on the spirited action which developed around the convoy on the night of 19th/20th Nov. and resulted in the defeat of the enemy's E-Boats with heavy losses.
(1st Lord, 1106A/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

/FORESIGHT....

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.FORESIGHT.
FURY.
FORESTER.

Your 1938A/20 (Enemy ship making for Biscay port). At 0900A/24 FURY who has least endurance will have four days fuel remaining for 13 knots (3 corrupt groups) remaining. All three ships will require provisions. (FORESIGHT, 1617Z/22 to Admty.)

NORFOLK.
KENT.

My 1833Z/18. NORFOLK is to leave patrol at 1600Z/23 and proceed Hvalfjord.
(ii) KENT is to sail from Hvalfjord at 1300Z/23 to replace NORFOLK on patrol route through position 062° N. 012° W.
(C. in C. H.F., 1641A/22.)
My 1641A/22. For "012° W." read "022° W."
(C. in C. H.F., 1026N/23 to KENT.)

SEAWOLF
Patrol.

Withdraw to the north of 71° N. keeping within limits of zone 5 from 1200C/24th until 1200C/25. No attack is to be made on surface warships sighted during this period.
Admiralty pass to SEAWOLF.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2309C/22 to SEAWOLF.)

K.21 Patrol.
One M/V sunk.
One M/V
torpedoed.
One M/V mined.

Soviet K.21 returned from successful patrol of Rolvsoy (? sound).
2 vessels 4000-5000 tons torpedoed in vicinity 70° 43' N. 24° 04' E. westbound on 12/11. One seen to sink. One vessel mined Rei(?moy) Sound.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2341C/22.)

Enemy Air Activity.Aberdeen
bombed.

At 0913/22 aircraft, believed Junkers 88, dropped two bombs one of which did not explode in vicinity of Beach Pavilion. Ships and Harbour defences opened fire with negative results. No naval damage and no casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1150/22.)

Faroes
bombed.

My T.O.D. 1042. From 1025 to 1105 today single A/C reconnoitred Transvaag Sydero and dropped 4 bombs. Slight damage to civilian property. No casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Faroës, 1552/22.)

Convoy
F.N.559.

Enemy aircraft attacking "Casing" in 52° 31' N. 2° 9' E.
(Rosyth, 1843/22.)

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.BESTUM
(Norwegian,
2684 tons)
sunk.Norwegian ship BESTUM sunk by near miss vicinity
Platters. Pilot reports wreck to southward
of channel.(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2112A/22.) *Not sunk - see p. 565 7
1/12 - p. 12*Mining.Minelaying
programme.Admiralty's 1552A/16 para. (V).
Before submitting proposals to Admiralty
concerning minelaying to be done I should be
glad of your views and any proposals you may
wish to make.

(C. in C. Nore, 1104A/22 to V.A. Dover.)

Thames
Estuary.One magnetic mine detonated at 0918/22 in 38°
B.4 Buoy 1.3 miles. Details.

(Capt, M/S. Sheerness, 1606/22.)

One S.A. mine detonated at 1344/22 in 222°
Nore L.V. 7½ cables. Details.

(Capt. M./S. Sheerness, 1645/22.)

Harwich.1 Red and 1 Blue mine detonated at 1525 in 51°
47" N. 01° 28.9 E.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1702A/22.)

Milford
Haven.Ground mine self-detonated in 101° St. Anns
Head light 12.75 cables at 1540A/22.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1817/22 and 1115/23.)

Hammerfest
and Reimoy
Sound.10 mines laid off Hammerfest and 10 in Reimoy
Sound by Russian S/M K.21.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2341C/22.)

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy
Convoy
Routes.

C.S.10's 1844Z/21.

Shipping movements adhere to no routine.

Convoys still frequently anchor for some hours
during the night.Route followed is normal Inner Load route,
except that convoys appear to pass through
Fugloy Sund and North of Loppen Island (70° 20' N.
21° 25' E.)

(D.D.I.C., 2019A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

Passed to C.S.10 with T.O.O. 0210/23.

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War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Wick.Wick harbour closed. Weather.
(R.N.O. Wick, 0945/22.)Lowestoft.My 1743A/21. Port now open for Coastal Force
and similar craft only.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1109A/22.)Yarmouth.Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1514A/21.)My 1109A/22. Port now closed completely through
movement of wreck. Salvage Officer making
attempt to slew wreck p.m. tomorrow sufficient
for passage of coastal force craft.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1810A/22.)Varne
Buoys.N.E. Varne Buoy light extinguished.
S. Varne Light Buoy now flashing every 10
seconds. Request Q.Z.H.
(V.A. Dover, 1914A/22.)
N.E. Varne light-buoy light extinguished.
(Hydrog., 2211A/22.)
S. Varne light-buoy light irregular.
(Hydrog., 2212A/22.)Technical.Enemy Air
Attacks.Your 1641/17. Reply as to character of Enemy
Flak Fire on unseen targets and our methods of
defence against A/C attacks on ships.
(D.N.I., 1447A/22 to Ad. Miles, Kuibyshev.)
See Lion Copy.R/T sets
for M/Vs.

See Shipping.

Interception
of Enemy A/C
by Night
Fighters.Your 0114A/19. Consider that answer to this
problem can best be arrived at if you deal
direct with Fighter Groups.
2. Suggest as basis for trial that escorts
should in similar cases broadcast reports of
shadowing aircraft on 385 k/cs. for the benefit
of the Fighter Group concerned, breaking W/T
silence being accepted as position of convoy
is presumably already known.
It should be unnecessary for the escort to
report the position of the convoy as this
should be known from the plot.
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1959A/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

14471/22nd Nov. OUT.

To: - Rear Admiral Miles
Kuibyshev.

Date. 22. 11. 41.

S.T.C.I.C. (X).

From Admiralty,

Your 1641/17. Para A - Particulars by bag.

Para B. -

German A.A. (Flak) fire against unseen targets may be

1) Fixed Barrage.

This is continuous fire on pre-arranged data at one point or area in the sky, frequently employed as protection for V.P.'s. Barrage may be in any ship - box, layers, etc.

2. Predicted Concentrations.

A form of moveable barrage, the size of which depends on gun density available. Probably fired at intervals of 45/60 seconds. May be staggered in height.

3. Predictor Control.

This is continuous fire along the course of the aircraft, and not barrage. Bursts may appear in quick succession or at intervals of a few seconds, and will be approximately at one height.

N.B. The above all refer to heavy guns.

Light guns also sometimes fire barrage at unseen aircraft, but purely as a deterrent.

Para. C:-

1. Increase speed and steer to bring maximum volume of fire to bear. Avoiding action little use against dive bombers.

2. If known to be Torpedo Bombers or if uncertain, alter course, to comb tracks.

3. If known to be low level bombers, steer to bring aircraft on beam.

SECRET

(2).

4. Offensive Methods.

Warships fire barrage at 1500 yards with all large guns when aircraft are committed to attack. 40 m.m. weapons used inside 1508 yards. 20 m.m. weapons and below used inside 1,000 yards.

5. Merchant ships similar, with barrage at 850 yards.

1447A/22.
N.I.D. 16
for D.N.I.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- A.C.N.S. (F).
- A.C.N.S. (W).
- Naval Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (H).
- D.D.O.D. (H).
- D.O.D. (F).
- D.D.O.D. (F).
- D.C.
- D. of P. (2).
- D.N.I. (4).
- D.D.I.C.
- D.N.A.D.
- Hd. of M. (6).
- D. of L.D.
- Hydrog. (2).
- Admiral Hermon Hodge.
- D.G.D.
- D.M.W.D.
- D.T.S.D.
- E.P.S.
- W.D.
- I.P. (3).
- N.I.D. 10.

MB).

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.BESTUM

WINCHESTER's 2243A/21 (N.T. in W.D.) SHERWOOD now afloat and anchored, KENIA standing by. Round up 10 stragglers in vicinity 54A Buoy and rejoin convoy. KITTIWAKE sails from Harwich at 1st light to assist you. (C. in C. Nore, 0359A/22 to WOOLSTON.) Your 0445. Ship is (LEGA) BESTUM. No other ship aground. (WOOLSTON, 1029A/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

KING SOL
(Escort
Trawler)

Making water, unable to steam, request immediate assistance. Position 059° 07' N. 008° 16' W. (KING SOL, 0645A/22.)
Sail MARAUDER with all despatch to KING SOL. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0805A/22 to Stornoway.) My 0650. Ship (sinking ?). (KING SOL, 0830A/22.)
Sailed MARAUDER. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0846A/22.)
A destroyer is to be detached forthwith to assistance of KING SOL reported sinking. (C. in C. W.A., 0916A/22 to ROCKINGHAM.) Your 0916A. Proceeding full speed from position 062°, buoy 2.5. (SARDONYX, 0951A/22 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 0916A/22.
Expect to pass through position of KING SOL at 1700A/22. (PUNJABI, 1051A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
Holding water, steaming slow speed on course 116°. (KING SOL, 1215/22.)
KING SOL reports his position 059° 06' N. 008° 08' W. doubtful at 1410, course 116°, slow speed. Am in Radio Telephony communication and snaking his course from five miles astern. Illuminants being used. (SARDONYX, 1440A/22 to ROCKINGHAM, MARAUDER.)
KING SOL reports his speed six knots from 1500. (SARDONYX, 1525A/22.)
Escorting KING SOL, MARAUDER standing by. KING SOL reports water under (? control), pump not working, nobody injured. Can do 6 knots. My P.C.S. 059° 16' N. (? 007°) 50' W., 132°, 6 knots. (SARDONYX, 1811A/22.)

BINTANG.

S.S. BINTANG suffering severe gale damage. Life boat carried away, hatch stove in, position 058° 41' N. 008° 48' W. Am escorting her to Minches. (ST. APOLLO, 0950A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

566

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.EMPIRE
DORADO.

EMPIRE DORADO sank at 0944A/22 after being in tow 24 hours.
Proceeding with HIBISCUS, course 105°, 13 knots.
(VOLUNTEER, 0959A/22.)

CAMEO.

Trawler L'ATLANTIQUE is being sailed from Campbeltown to take S.S. CAMEO in tow. No tugs immediately available.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1119A/22 to HEEMSKIRK.)
Please inform when tug can be expected.
(HEEMSKIRK, 1350/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 1350/22. No tug available.
L'ATLANTIQUE sailed from Campbeltown to position 3 miles E. of Garron Point at 1407.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1435A/22 to HEEMSKIRK.)
Proceed forthwith and with despatch to assist S.S. CAMEO in position 3 miles to the eastward of Garron Point, Ireland. HEEMSKIRK and L'ATLANTIQUE standing by acknowledge.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1525A/22 to FRISKY.)
Arrived HEEMSKIRK.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2118A/22.)
S.S. CAMEO is in tow of Trawler L'ATLANTIQUE steering for Belfast Lough. Attempt to make contact.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2139A/22 to FRISKY.)

S.S. RAMSAY.

Your 2219A/19. RAMSAY repairs now in hand expect to be completed on 27th Nov. then able to proceed under own steam.
(N.C.S.O. Cork, 1221/22.)

KRAKOWIAK.

Following received from KRAKOWIAK begins. Regret to report part of fore-castle deck plating has been lifted. Consider I must return to Harbour. 1400/22 Ends.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1459/22.)
My 1459/22. Temporary repairs are being effected to make vessel seaworthy and will be completed a.m./25th.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1837/22.)

WIDGEON
(Damaged
20/11.)

Anchor berth for tonight Dunnet Head 150° eastern extremity of pier head 3 cables.
(C. in C. Nore, 1501A/22 to WIDGEON.)
Southend arrival from Harwich WIDGEON for onward passage to Tilbury.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1631A/22.)

/BELMONT.....

567

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

BELMONT.

Cylinder cover to steering engine has been forced off. Cover and piston distorted and three studs fractured. Am proceeding Clyde at 20 knots on hand steering. E.T.A. 0100A/23. Consider repairs will take at least 7 hours. (BELMONT, 1541A/22.)

RUGELEY
(Grounded
20/11.)

Attempts to refloat S.S. RUGELEY aground between Forland Point and Ardrossan have failed. Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Company have taken over and will lighten vessel preparatory to further attempt. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1653A/22.)

ROSS.

My 2056/20. Sailing postponed. Trials unsatisfactory. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1654/22.)

GARTH
(Damaged
20/11.)

Sheerness for Chatham arrival GARTH at 1624. (C. in C. Nore, 1700A/22.)

KORVIT. *Not identified.*

My 1636/22. Barge has been picked up by MAY and is being towed into Forth. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1746/22.)

VANCOUVER
ISLAND.

Reference: Enquiry made by Casualty Section to N.C.S.O. Mersey regarding loss of VANCOUVER ISLAND. It transpires that no ships in fact were sent to her assistance vide C.C.N.F.'s 1536Z/22/10 and 1458Z/25/10. CHAMBLY's report of proceedings giving fuller explanation of latter is being forwarded. It is regretted that only information regarding VANCOUVER ISLAND is the finding by AGASSIZ of unidentifiable dead bodies of two of her Officers in ship's boat on 3rd October in 56° 08' N. 20° 45' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1813A/22 to Admty.)

ST. APOLLO
(Escort
Trawler)
sunk.
SARDONYX
damaged.

SARDONYX in collision with ST. APOLLO at 1848A/22 in (? 046°) 12' N. 007° 42' W. ST. APOLLO afloat, SARDONYX fore peak and lower store flooded. Tug MARAUDER, trawler KING SOL standing by. (SARDONYX, 1915A/22.)

Following received from unknown ship begins: Have collided with SARDONYX. Both sinking in 58° 40' N. 7° 40' W. 1910. Ends. (C. in C. W.A., 1926A/22 to ROCKINGHAM, PUNJABI.)

/Proceed.....

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.ST. APOLLO
(Escort
Trawler)
sunk.
SARDONYX
damaged.
(Contd.)

Proceed with utmost despatch to assist SARDONYX and ST. APOLLO damaged in collision in 58° 40' N. 07° 40' W.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1945A/22 to MARAUDER.)
C. in C. W.A. 1926A/22. My position at 2000, 059° 01' N. 006° 55' W. SARDONYX last seen in position (? 10 or 4) miles 296° from me 1745 course (? 061°, 116° or 047°). Am sweeping towards that position.

(PUNJABI, 2004A/22.)

MARAUDER has about 45 survivors from ST. APOLLO. ROCKINGHAM, SARDONYX, MARAUDER, KING SOL still searching. SARDONYX flooded to 10 bulkhead and fore lower store. No immediate danger. Capable of 5 knots, proceeding for Loch Ewe at 2130A.

(SARDONYX, 2115A/22.)

w.a. W.A. (?C) 1 part 104. ST. APOLLO ?(sunk) in position 059° 09' N. 007° 36' W. after colliding SARDONYX.

(a) None. (b) 35. 5 missing. All survivors in MARAUDER. (c) 3 day. (d) Sank. MARAUDER alongside ST. APOLLO as she sank. 5 missing were in ship when she foundered. Depth charges exploded shortly after ship sank. Am searching for missing. PUNJABI escort SARDONYX, KING SOL, MARAUDER.

(ROCKINGHAM, 2230A/22.)

Shipping and Convoys.F.N.58.F.N. No 58 anchored in thick fog in vicinity of number 8 buoy.
(WOLSEY, 0135A/22.)RANGITATA.
HURWORTH.

Sailed HURWORTH to comply N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1618A/21.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0156A/22.)

Arrival RANGITATA escorted by HURWORTH.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1904A/22.)

O.N.38.

O.N.38 dispersed by gale, AMAZON and 2 Merchant ships in company. My position 059° 18' N. 009° 55' W. proceeding towards noon R/V. CAPE WARWICK has reported 4 ships in company south of position.

(FOXHOUND, 0955A/22.)

H.X.160.Request you will not sail any M.V's to join H.X.160 as M.O.M.P. is so far west,
(C. in C. W.A., 1003A/22 to A.C.I.C.)

/D.S.17.....

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- D.S.17. BRIGHTON and NEWARK detailed for D.S.17.
(R.A.M., 1109/22.)
- H.X.158. Many congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. all the ships of your convoy H.X.158.
(C. in C. W.A., 1131A/22 to Capt. B.W.L. Nicholson, R.N.)
- P.Q.3. Convoy P.Q.3 arrived 0900C/22.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1200/22.)
Is anything known as to whether CAPE CORSO straggled from P.Q.3.
(D.T.D., 1316A/22 to A.C.I.C.)
- S.C.53. Request ZWARTE ZEE join convoy in case THEOMITOR who is damaged forward requires assistance.
My P.C.S. are 056° 42' N. 013° W., 108°, 7½.
(VANOC, 1402/22.)
Cancel my 1432A/22. SKATE is to return to Londonderry and ZWARTE ZEE is to join convoy S.C.53 and stand by S.S. THEOMITOR.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1529A/22.)
Your 1529A. At 1800A P.C.S. were 056° 47' N. 014° 49' W., 108°, 13½ knots. Expect to join convoy a.m. tomorrow.
(ZWARTE ZEE, 1830A/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- D/F Guards. Merchant Ship H/F, D/F and M/F, D/F guards are being supplied with R/T sets for passing D/F bearings to Commodore and S.O. Escort.
2. They are given standing instructions to break R/T silence and on bearings by R/T when it is certain the bearings are of U-Boats in the vicinity of the convoy.
S.O.'s of escorts are to modify these instructions to meet circumstances as they arise. For example instructions to break R/T silence to report bearings of believed U-Boats should normally be given when information indicates that the convoy is being shadowed and cancelled if the U-Boats appear to have been shaken off.
(C. in C. W.A., 1641A/22.)
- Atlantic Convoys. Your 1755R/20. Agree that plans should be progressed for assembling Convoys at New York and Hampton Roads. But prefer not to amend existing organisation at present. Reasons.
(V.C.N.S., 1737A/22 to B.A.D. Washington.)
See Lion Copy.

/White.....

MOST SECRET

To: B.N.D. Washington ~~594~~ ~~Date~~ 22.11.41

Naval Cypher (X)

From Admiralty.
IMPORTANT.

Your 1755R/20. I agree that plans should be progressed for assembling convoys at New York and Hampton Roads. This may be rendered necessary by extension of area of U-boat operations to Atlantic Coast. It would however be preferred not to amend the existing organisation at present for the following reasons:-

1. Unlike the last war end to end A/S escort is now necessary and one of the chief limiting factors in the choice of convoy routes is the endurance of escorts.
2. The distances to be steamed on present convoy routes are the utmost that Canadian and U.K. escorts can deal with. Presumably the same applies to U.S. escorts and in any case any reduction of the margin of endurance would be a source of anxiety.
3. If convoys assembled at Hampton Roads or New York the North Atlantic convoy routes would be increased by 650 miles and 450 miles respectively. Additional local escort groups required to cover this additional commitment would have to be provided from U.S. resources as we are already fully extended and any reduction of the ocean escort would be very undepirable.
4. Time would be lost by ships sailing at convoy speed from Hampton Roads or New York instead of, as at present, sailing at best speed to Halifax. Advantage is now being taken of Hampton Roads for bunkering ships en route to Halifax thus avoiding delay at latter port.

/ 5. If

MOST SECRET

2.

5. If congestion at Halifax occurs the plans proposed in N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1508Z/12 appear to offer a practical solution in present circumstances.

17371/22
Secretary to V.C.N.S. (Ext. 584)
Approved V.C.N.S.

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

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.White Sea.
Nets in
Approaches.Cancel A.M. 1935A/25/10.
(D. of L.D., 1833A/22.)M/V's to
move at
night.

In the past Masters of some M/V's have refused to move at night. Have therefore given written instructions that they must move at night if necessary. Shortness of days and limited number of icebreakers make this essential. Consider risk very slight indeed. (ii) Request Masters of M/V's proceeding Archangel may be given similar instructions before leaving U.K. or Iceland. Admiralty pass to Admiral Miles.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1855C/22 to Admty.)

W.S.14.

Sailing of Convoy W.S.14 is now being arranged for 6/12.
2. CILICIA will form part of the ocean escort from Clyde.
3. Ships addressed should adjust programme accordingly.
4. RAMILLIES will be required to leave Clyde a.m./6/12 to join Convoy after fuelling at Milford Haven.
(A.C.N.S. H., 2017A/22.)

S.C.53.
H.X.159.

Estimate S.C.53 may meet ships of H.X.159 which has been scattered and is probably in 2 parts about 0800A tomorrow.
(C. in C. W.A., 2152A/22.)

C.T.7.

My 1504A/19. Sailed less GLENARTNEY.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2254A/22.)
My 2142A/17 and N.O.i/c. Greenock's 1504A/19. Owing to defects BELMONT, sail SHERWOOD to R/V with Convoy C.T.7 escorted by GARLAND at 0900A/23, in position 270° Oversay 6 miles. SHERWOOD is to proceed with convoy to Halifax.
(C. in C. W.A., 2202A/22.)
Sailed convoy C.T.7. PASTEUR escorted by BELMONT, GARLAND for Halifax routed as in Admiralty 2003A/18. Also included LANARKSHIRE for Panama breaking off in position (f) and WAIPAWA for Bermuda breaking off in 35° W.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2256A/22.)

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Bedlam".

If MARSDALE, CORINTHIAN and HAWKINS do not intercept French ships ILE D'OUessant and ILE DE NOIR MOUTIER it may be necessary to employ part of your Force to intercept not less than 200 miles to westward of Casablanca.

2. It is considered that HERMIONE and your 5 destroyers would form the most suitable force, accepting the temporary immobilisation of MALAYA and *ARGUS. * See next page.

3. Request you will prepare to carry out this operation, force being ready to leave Gibraltar after dark 24/11. Final decision will be given not later than 1900Z/24.

4. "Ration" is not to be carried out unless specifically ordered.

5. Reputed speeds of ships are 11½ and 9 knots, but they have previously made the passage at 7½ knots. When intercepted they should if fuel permits be sent with prize crews to Bermuda or other-wise to Gibraltar. (V.C.N.S. 0036A/22 to F.O. Force H.)

A.M. 0036A/22. Code name for operation is "Bedlam". (D.O.D. (F) 0101A/22 to F.O. Force H)

A/S
Training.

Your 1710/17. Regretted that a non-operational submarine can not yet be spared for Gibraltar. Opportunity may be taken to carry out A/S exercises with the submarines referred to in F.O. (S) 1902/12. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0051A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MARSDALE.

Pass Admty. 1439/21 and 1701/21 and your 0602A/21 to F.O. Force H. (D.O.D. (F) 0055A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FORMIGNY
(French)

FORMIGNY arrived here 11/11 from Oran and Haugesund with 3500 tons sulphate ammonia. She is now loading 528 tons sugar and about 1,000 empty casks transhipped from Danish S.S. NANCY lying here since 1/3. Armament of NANCY including one 90 mm. gun one machine gun some ammunition and small arms is also being transferred to FORMIGNY. Reported destination on sailing is Oran and departure will be reported. Consul General. (Consul-General, Lisbon, 1039/22 to M.E.W. V.A.C.N.A., 1242A/23 to Admty.)

Gibraltar
Intelligence
Area.

Your 1900A/15. Concur with proposals in C. in C. Med. 1204B/20, but as Force H and North Atlantic S/Ms operate to eastward of dividing line essential that Intelligence from all sources including air photographs should be available at Gibraltar. (ii) This will necessitate some increase of staff as reported in my 2246A/17 to Admty. (F.O.C.N.A. 1102A/22 to Admty.)

/PETITE.....

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

PETITE ANNIE
(Vichy)
(intercepted
21/11)

My 2230A/21. (N.T. in W.D.) In Company with PETITE ANNIK (? ANNIE) position 333 S.T.V. 20. Ship has sprung a leak but is not in danger. Weather not suitable for towing tonight. Present speed about 5 knots. (SCOTTISH, 2000A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French
S/M's.

Following report received dated 19/11 graded A.2:- French Submarines L'AURORE, LE TONNANT, ARETHUSE, LE CONQUERANT, LA VESTALE, LA PSYSCHE sailed during the last week from Casablanca on escort and patrol. (D.D.I.C. 2216A/22 to F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H., C. in C. S.A.)

ARGUS.

Ramp on forward end of supplementary deck of ARGUS which covers accelerator seriously interferes with flying by (A) reducing available take off run (B) limiting number of aircraft in one range in light wind (C) damaging aircraft which fails to be airborne in take off run. Propose ramp and portion of accelerator gear projecting above flight deck be removed. Accelerator has no operational values. Estimated time required 5 days. (S.O. Force H., 2155A/22 to Admty.) Approved: 1934A/24.

South Atlantic.

Raider Intercepted by DEVONSHIRE.

Raider "C"
ATLANTIS
(ex GOLDENFELS)
Schiff 16

At 1054/22 DEVONSHIRE engaged an enemy M/V about 800' S.S.W. of Freetown. Enemy was quickly set on fire and after 11 minutes her magazine blew up. She sank 13 minutes later at 1118/22. DEVONSHIRE is of opinion that ship was German merchant raider GOLDENFELS, 7800 tons. (D.O.R., 23/11).

Position.

One Unknown Merchant Vessel bearing 178° 11 miles course 180° position 5° 58' S., 18° 29' W. obtained from fix within half an hour of 0600. (DEVONSHIRE, 0838N/22 to Freetown W/T.)

/Ship.....

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Raider Intercepted by DEVONSHIRE-Contd.

Ship Engaged.

Am engaging merchant ship. (DEVONSHIRE, 1054Z/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

Blown up.

Enemy ship is on fire and magazine has exploded. Request destroyers may be sent to pick up survivors. (DEVONSHIRE, 1105Z/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

Survivors.

Your 1105/22. No destroyers are available. Give survivors raft. DEVONSHIRE search to westward. Return to position of survivors early tomorrow Sunday and report situation. Approximately how many survivors. (C. in C. S.A., 1106N/22 to DEVONSHIRE).

Ship sunk.

My 1104Z. Ship has (? now) sunk. (DEVONSHIRE, 1118Z/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

Raider 16 (?) Probable U/B.

(i) My 1054Z/22. After interrogation of (? air) observer am convinced ship was (? raider) number 16. She was probably fuelling a U-boat when (? sighted). Lifeboats and rafts are in 004° 13' S. 018° 45' W.

(ii) Your 1938N/21. Am proceeding through 004° 20' S. 021° (749') W. S. of A. 21 knots. No damage or casualties but one shaft (?is) out of action owing to (?firings). Percentage of fuel remaining 40%. (Weather). (DEVONSHIRE 1201Z/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

My 1201Z. Raider when sighted was head to wind. On going ahead she cast adrift a boat (corrupt group) of oil drums. 2 large patches of oil were close alongside. Her manoeuvres kept her within 5000 yards of her initial position. She made a most efficient C.S. smoke screen but did not return my fire. Owing to above I did not close the boats. (DEVONSHIRE 1250Z/22).

Survivors.

Your 1106/22. About 150 to 200 survivors. (DEVONSHIRE, 1301Z/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

DEVONSHIRE not to close survivors.

Your 1106/22. In view of para 1 of DEVONSHIRE's 1201/22 she is not to close position of lifeboats and rafts. Send a small craft to rescue survivors (1st S.L. 2324A/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

General.

POLYPHEMUS
"R" Report
(suspicious)

C. in C. South Atlantic 0951N/22 asking immediate information of Dutch ship POLYPHEMUS. Last information this centre sailed Colon 22/10 for New York. (S.O.I. Kingston 0841R/22 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Where is Dutch ship POLYPHEMUS?
(C. in C. S.A. 0951N/22 to S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica).

Following intercepted message on approx. 12700 K/Cs per second at 0954Z. POLYPHEMUS Series R stop unknown warship position 4° 20' S. 18° 35' W. (O.I.C. Ascension 0957Z/22 to C. in C. S.A.) Your 0951/22. Raider report was definitely not from genuine POLYPHEMUS. (V.C.N.S. 1530A/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

93 M/S
Group.

My 2151N/9. MAPLE, ST. MINVER, REDWOOD sailed (Lagos) crews having been made up from GENERAL BIRDWOOD still suffering from defect. S.O. of group from S.A. Station in REDWOOD. I am afraid they are very (? sick) vessels. (C. in C. S.A. 1311N/22 to C. in C. Med.)

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Request you will obtain from ROYAL SOVEREIGN on arrival details of fuel consumption on passage and estimated endurance at any speeds for which ship has been able to obtain data, also fuel remaining. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1324A/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

WILD SWAN.

F.O.C.N.A. 0840A/21. From (Z) pass through new position (p) 014° 45' N. 019° 30' W. thence to Bathurst. (C. in C. S.A., 1407N/22 to WILD SWAN).

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Vichy
Policy.

Weygand's office has been replaced by a secretariat under direct control of Darlan. Full implications of situation cannot at present be assessed. Possibility in my 1252A/21 cannot be excluded. It appears improbable that the Germans at present have sufficient forces available in the West to move into unoccupied France against the will of Vichy or to move into Spain. There is no evidence yet that they are prepared to launch an expedition by sea against North Africa. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0001A/22 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

UNBEATEN.

Unless otherwise ordered by Capt. (S) 1 proceed through $033^{\circ} 15' 013^{\circ} 35'$ to patrol in $032^{\circ} 55' 014^{\circ} 20'$. ? At present rate of 15 knots convoy may be expected on approx. course 260° afternoon 23/11. (Capt. S.10, 0015B/22 to UNBEATEN).

Free French
Vedettes,
Command.

Following is translation of telegram from High Commissioner, Brazzaville, referring to telegram from F.N.F.L. Pointe Noire to Adm. Comd. F.N.F.L. London.

(Begins) Mission has requested that L'Enseigne de Vaisseau A.G. Sabourel, formerly commissioned as Lieut. de Vaisseau Cmdg. COMMISSAIRE RAMEL, should be appointed C.O. of light patrol vessels consisting of two "vedettes" taken away from Jibouti. I request your orders. (Ends).

2. It is not known if A.T. 1215A/5/11 refers to these craft.

3. Request information including particulars of craft. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0043/22 to C. in C. Med.)

Reply: Cin Cmed. 1911B/1/12/41, page 22.

Enemy
Convoy.

P.S. SOKOL reports 1 destroyer 3 merchant vessels P.C. and S. $036^{\circ} 33' 021^{\circ} 35' 230^{\circ} 10$ knots at 2340B/21. (Capt. S.1., 0125B/22 to C. in C. Med.)

SOKOL.
attack
on enemy
convoy.

Your 2340B/21, well done again. Remain in vicinity of Navarin. (Capt. S.1, 0127B/22 to SOKOL).

MAURETANIA.

Your 0935/20. Request report of reason for delay observing that vessel is due to arrive Suez 26/11. (D.S.T. 0320A/22 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Libya.

Military Situation midday 21/11. (C. in C. M.E., 0350/22 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

/Turkey.....

MOST SECRET

From C. in C., Middle East.

Date. 22.11.41.

Recd. 0350.

C Y P H E R

Addressed The War Office. (W.O. pass to Air Ministry).
Repeated C. in C., Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

12649. 0/29307 cipher 21/11/41.

Officer decipher.

COSITREP No. 9.

1. Locations as known here at 0900 hours
21 Nov.

A. 13 Corps. 1 R. Sussex with 42 RTR area Bir
Bu Deheua, remainder 7 Ind. Bde. Sheferzen. H.Q.1,
Army Tank Bde. with 44 RTR near point 195 area 4935.
N.Z. Div. and 8 RTR area 4834.

B. -30 Corps. (4) Armd. Bde. area 4536. 22 Armd.
Bde. area 4436 (R) 4436, following up retreating enemy
armd. forces in N.W. direction. 7 Armd. Bde. area Sidi
Rezegh ordered to intercept retreating enemy. 7
Support Gp. at Sidi Rezegh to be joined by 5 S.A. Bde.
1 S.A. Bde. masking Arieta Div. at Bir El Gubi. 22
Gds. Bde. guarding F.S.D's and landing grounds areas
4553 (R) 4533 and Maddalena.

2. Situation at midday 21 Nov.

A. -Tank battle in progress area 4438 (R) 4458.
4 Armd. Bde. pursuing enemy from East and South east,
22 Armd. Bde. attacking from South west, 7 Armd. Bde.
attacking from North.

B. Enemy tanks believed retiring North West from
area Bir El Gubi early morning at which time air reports
one hundred one hundred M.T. moving south from El Aden.
S.A. AR cars keeping touch.

C. -N.Z. Div. moving north to Sidi Aziz noon
today.

D. -Returning fighters report concentration M.T.
north of main road Bardia-Tobruk between grids 460
and 485.

E. -Tobruk report advance progressing slowly.

3. Reference Gosup No. 1 now established Germans
captured near Daba 18 Nov. were landed from submarine
evening 17 Nov. and comprised whole of party engaged on
this particular operation.

4. Battle area was swept by our fighters at frequent intervals during the day. Medium bombers attacked Gazala and tanks reported retreating westwards South west of Acroma. Enemy air activity was on a negligible scale. Believed total of eighty four B.A. destroyed by air action since 17 Nov. Our losses from enemy air action not more than fifteen aircraft.

0005/22
Recd by Hand from War Office at 0900/22.
Copies circulated by W.O. to:-

- S. of S.
- C.I.G.S.
- V.C.I.G.S.
- D.M.O. & P.
- D.D.M.O. (0)
- D.P. (2)
- M.O.1.5.6.
- D.D.I.P.
- D.M.I.
- D.D.M.I. (1)
- M.I.3.14.
- D.A.F.V.
- Colonel Jacob.
- C.A.S. Air Ministry (2)
- D. of Plans Air Ministry (2)
- Plans 3 Air Ministry (2)
- D.O.O. Air Ministry (1)
- D.M.O. Air Ministry.
- P.S. to S. of S. Air Ministry (2)
- A.C.A.S. (1) Air Ministry.
- War Room Air Ministry.
- Duty Capt. Admiralty.
- Sec. of State For. Office.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- P.A.S. (S)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.C.
- Hd. of M. (2)
- D. of P. (3)
- E.P.S.
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.D.I.C.
- W.D.
- I.P. (2)

- D.A/S.W.
- D.P.D.

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.-Contd.Turkey.

Re staff talks and R/C parties. Urgency and seriousness of Turkish delay. (C. in C. M.E. 0410/22, 0500/22 to W.O.) Construction of Arada-Diarkebir Railway. (W.O. 1930/22 to C's in C.). See Lion Copy.

A/C attack on Convoy.

Enemy convoy attacked by Air in 037° 36' 016° (936') at 0423B/22. Approx. course and speed 100° 9 knots. (Capt. S.10, 0602B/22 to S/M's on Patrol).

Enemy Convoy attacked by UTMOST and A/C.

Convoy attacked night 21/22.
(a) A.S.V. Wellington saw terrific explosion at 2311B/21 in 037° 52' N. 015° 30' E. Ship stopped, destroyer circling sea covered with oil. This presumed UTMOST's attack.
(b) Swordfish and Albacores attacked 0050/22. Claimed one hit on cruiser, possibly one on 6,000 ton merchant ship.
(c) Wellingtons attack, no hits claimed.
(d) Convoy last seen about 0430B south of Cape Spartivento scattered and making little progress.
(e) Further details after R/C to-day.
(V.A. Malta, 0840B/22 to C. in C. Med. amended 1125B/22). (See also Air Report, 1815/22, p. 578)

Cruiser Hit by UTMOST 21/11.
(BUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI)

Your 2323B/21. Hearty congratulations. Continue in present patrol position.
(Capt. S.1., 0903B/22 to UTMOST).

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of 1 enemy destroyer and 1 M.V. 36° 44' N. 21° 00' E. 330° (? 10).
(A/C C. 0905B/22 to Hal Far)
P.C. and S. of 3 enemy destroyers 2 M.Vs. and 1 A/C 39.27 N., 18.15 E. 305° 5. (Med. A/C E. 0940/22 to Hal Far).
My 0905, enemy previously reported is liner 5500. (A/C C. 0945/22 to Hal Far).
P.C. and S. of enemy 2 Cruisers 3 Destroyers, 1 M.V. ? 39.00 N., 17.24 E'. 360°, 13.
(Med. A/C E. 1030B/22 to Hal Far).

Fleet Movements.

Arrivals 21/11 FARNDALE, HEYTHROP, AVONVALE, ERIDGE. Departures 21/11, HYACINTH, MOY, SOUTHERN MAID, THORGRIM. Arrivals 22/11 QUEEN ELIZABETH, VALIANT, KIMBERLEY, NIZAM, AJAX, KANDAHAR, DECOY, JERVIS, KIPLING, HOBART, ST ISSEY, BARHAM, KINGSTON, NAPIER, JACKAL, NEPTUNE, PROTEA, SOUTHERN ISLE. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1122B/22 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

/A/S.....

From C. in C. Middle East Date 22.11.41.

Recd 0735.

Cipher

Addressed War Office.

12659

IMMEDIATE.

0/29277 Cipher 21/11 Most Secret.

When we received your 53057 (M.O.5) of 20/11, we were on point of despatching following to Britmilat. Begins.

1. C.'s in C. have considered M.A.38414 of 14/11 and your letter DO/19/1 of 10/11 with enclosures. They are deeply concerned at procrastination of Turkish Government and their apparent failure to appreciate risks involved in further delay. In view of gravity of situation and need for immediate discussion we propose to avail ourselves of loophole offered by Foreign Minister in conversation with Ambassador on 4/11.

2. After consultation with Ambassador you should approach authorities with request for visit in immediate future of one Senior Officer each from Army and Air Force. If proposal favourably received our representatives from Cairo will be General Arthur Smith and Air Marshall Drummond. They would come in uniform or plain clothes according to Turkish preference. If necessary visit of former could ostensibly for settlement of frontier problems and latter to inspect attache.

3. We attach utmost importance to conversations taking place in near future. Every day wasted which might otherwise be spent in preparation of bases improvement of communications etc., diminishes the scale on which we can provide assistance in event German attack.

4. Object of visit would be to discuss as many points as possible from agenda prepared for high level talks.

5. If visit of both officers together is embarrassing to Turks it might be possible to make some progress if (? Smith) and Drummond see Marshall separately arriving in Turkey with interval between visits.

6. Inform.....

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

6. Inform Admiral Kelly of above proposal. Ends.

Urge we be authorised immediately to proceed on these lines.

0410/22.

Received from War Office at 1740/22.

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)

E.P.S.

Hd. of M. (10)

I.P. (2)

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

W.D.

D.N.I. (4)

Admiral Herman Hodge.

War Office Distribution:-

S. of S.

C.I.G.S.

V.C.I.G.S.

D.M.O. & P.

D.

D.D.M.O. (O)

M.O.1.5.12.

D.M.I.

D.D.M.I. (I)

M.I.3.b.

Col. Jacob.

Cdr. Wilson.

C.N.S. Admiralty

D. of Plans Admiralty

C.A.S. Air Min.

D. of Plans Air Min.

Plans 3 (Air Min)(2)

Sir Orme Sargeant

Foreign Office

Mr. Didon Foreign Office.

376

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

Date 22.11.41
Recd. 1245

From C. in C. Middle East.

CIPHER

Addressed: The War Office.

IMMEDIATE

12773

0/29310 cipher 21/11. Most Secret.

Following for C.O.S. from C's in C.

1. M.A. Ankara reports Turkish general staff realises importance high level conversations but Ministry of Foreign Affairs while agreeing in principle raises objections about difficulty concealing meeting from Germans.

2. On 4/11 Ambassador made suggestions to Minister Foreign Affairs vide Ankara signal to Foreign Office 2685 of 15 Nov.

3. M.A. later made offer of unspecified number of A.A. batteries to Turkish Umo in absence through illness of Marshall. He reserved our rights to technical maintenance. Answer expected shortly. He also pointed out inevitable reluctance of British C. in C. to commit forces without previous high level force discussion.

4. Ambassador and M.A. saw Foreign Minister 14/11 in endeavour induce latter to allow reconnaissances and admission additional construction parties. Minister maintained Turkish General Staff competent to give all necessary information without British reconnaissances and Turkish engineers capable carrying out all work beyond what is already being done by British construction parties.

5. M.A. cited lessons learnt in Greece and urged British reconnaissance essential before British C. in C. could commit troops. He pointed out advantages of British military labour over Turkish labour in view of administrative delay consequent on peacetime conditions still obtaining in Turkey.

6. Minister asked why all our requests were concentrated on Taurus Area and admitted he was suspicious that we intended leaving Turks to fight alone in west and central Anatolia. M.A. explained we were concentrating on Taurus Area because of need to keep our bases well back and because of our preoccupation over Taurus Bottleneck.

7. Minister eventually agreed to accept following reduced reconnaissance parties. Silifke 2 Officers of M.A.'S staff. Base areas 2 Officers from Egypt. Roads from Syria 2 Officers. Malarial reconnaissance only after other reconnaissances completed all this conditional on no further construction parties entering Turkey. British would have certain rights of supervision and normal administrative rules would be waived. Permission for limited reconnaissance as above is expected immediately.

8. Foreign....

8. Foreign Minister most cordial but insistent on his political difficulties. Neither Ambassador nor M.A. felt it possible to obtain better terms.

9. General staff has expressed intention fullest co-operation within limits imposed by Government and promised every assistance to overcome difficulties and avoid delays.

10. This is all in the right direction but not early enough in quantity and pace. It is of vital importance that we should be in a position to fight in Anatolia before the Spring and time is getting very short. Can not H.M.G. induce Turkey to be more forthcoming and alive to the need for speed.

11. In an endeavour to accelerate progress we were about to ask Attaches to try to persuade Turks to agree to a visit by D.A.O.C. in C. and C.G.S. Admiral Kelly being there already. This request suspended in receipt Troopers cable 53057 (M.O.5) of 20/11. See Mideast telegrams 0/29277 of 21/11.

12. Please pass to Admiralty and Air Ministry from C. in C. Med. and A.O.C. in C.

0500/22

(Rec'd from War Office 1350/23)

W.O. Copies to:-

S. of S.
 C.I.G.S.
 V.C.I.G.S.
 D.M.O. & P.
 D.D.M.O. (0)
 D.P. (2)
 M.O. 1.5.12.
 D.M.I.
 D.D.M.I. (1)
 M.I.3.B.
 Col. Jacob.
 C.N.S. (Admiralty)
 D. of Plans (Admiralty)
 C.A.S. (Air Ministry)
 D. of Plans (Air
 Ministry)
 Plans 3. (Air Ministry 2)
 Sir Orme Sargeant
 Foreign Office.
 Mr. Dixon (Foreign
 Office).

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)
 E.P.S.
 Head of M. (10)
 I.P. (2)
 N.I.D. 10.
 W.D.
 D.N.I. (4)

576E.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1340/23 November

IN

MOST SECRET

22.11.41

From The War Office.

CIPHER

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

IMMEDIATE

53486 cipher (M.O.12).

Reference 95325 (M.O.12) 12/10. M.A. Ankara should now re-approach Turkish General Staff earliest opportunity with object of obtaining Government's agreement to construction of Arada - Diarbekir railway, and is authorised to say His Majesty's Government offer to find the whole of the money for this line if Turks will allow construction to proceed immediately. Endeavour should be made to obtain financial agreement on the basis (A) material imported by us to be repaid through 1939 Armament credit and (B) local materials, labour costs are to be paid by us through the Special Account to be refunded out of Armament credit. But M.A. Ankara is authorised if necessary to waive entirely the requirement of repayment through the Armament Credit, subject to leaving financial settlement for postwar discussion. We hope it will not be necessary to couple with this offer an undertaking to assist towards completion of Cizre route, but this concession may be suggested if M.A. Ankara is satisfied that the above agreement could only be obtained thereby. In that event, Turks should be given to understand that our previous offer of assistance for Cizre link will stand on condition that:-

- (a) Absolute priority is given to the Arada link.
- (b) Any assistance we may give towards Cizre route would be dependent on relative importance of other projects under consideration or construction at the time.

H.M.G. attach greatest importance to successful conclusion of these negotiations and early completion of Arada link.

1930/22

Received from War Office 1340/23

War Office Distribution

1st Lord.	S. of S.	D.U.S.
1st S.L.	C.I.G.S.	D.F.(c)
4th S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.	F.L.
V.C.N.S.	D.M.O. & P.	W.F.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.M.O. (O).	Treasury (Mr. Wilcox)
A.C.N.S. (T)	M.O. 1.5.12 (6 copies)	Foreign Office
P.A.S. (S)	D.D.Tn. (O)	(Mr. Clutton).
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.M.I.	India Office
Sec.	D.D.M.I. (I)	(Col. McCay)
D. of P. (2)	M.I. 2. 2a. 3. 3b.	D. of Plans. Air Ministry
D.O.D. (F)	D.Q.M.G.	A.M.C.S. Air Ministry.
D.D.O.D. (F).	D.C.	D.Tn.
D.N.I. (4)	Hd. of M.	Q. (Ops)
D. of L.D.	D.T.S.D.	Tn. L.
I.P. (2).	D.D.I.C.	D. of Plans. Admiralty.
W.D.	E.P.S.	War Registry Admiralty.

Adl. Herman Hodge

577

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.A/S defence,
Red Sea.

In event of war with Japan enemy submarines operating in Red Sea would be a very serious threat to Middle East communications. This can best be countered by preventing their entry into Red Sea. Suggest indicator loops across entrance to Red Sea opposite Perim. Request information as to greatest depth at which they can possibly function. Deep loops would be backed up by A/S patrol vessel. (C. in C. Med., 1124B/22 to Admty.)

URGE
R. of P.

(1) URGE reports at 0230/10 in 037° 10' 018° 00' sighted Hospital Ship searching for survivors.
(2) At 1302/17 in 037° 57' 019° 47' fired 3 torpedoes at rearship of convoy consisting of 2 laden southbound 3500-ton M.V.s escorted by one destroyer, range 5500 yards, missed. 1450 sighted 6 Blenheims eastbound who were heard to attack at about 1520. (Capt. S.10., 1205B/22 to Capt. S.1).

GLENROY.

"Aggression". GLENROY escorted by 3 HUNT destroyers is to sail (? Alexandria) A.M./23. (C. in C. Med., 1208B/22 to all concerned in "Aggression"). My 1208B/22. R.A. Alexandria 1320B/21. Take 7th D.F. and HASTY under your orders and proceed to carry out A/S sweep ahead of GLENROY. Destroyers should keep at least 30 miles ahead GLENROY until dusk/23 and then carry out thorough search in approach route to Tobruk, and return Alexandria sweeping ahead GLENROY. Your object throughout is security of GLENROY. (C. in C. Med., 1232B/22 to Capt. (D) 7th D.F.)

Gazala,
Bardia
bombed.

Night 20/21 Nov. 32 Wellingtons bombed Gazala and Satellite landing grounds starting fires. 1 F.A.A. Albacore bombed M.T. within Bardia defences with good results. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1248/22).

Operation
"Landmark".

"Landmark" returned. (ii) No idea that convoy was sighted during daylight 21/11 but several enemy R/C's were in position to do so.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1325/22 to C. in C. Med.)

U/B.

My 2332B/21. One U-boat sighted in 035° 42' 026° 40' at 1205B/22 course 200°. Dived on sighting and continued on previous course. (Capt. S.1, 1343B/22 to TRIUMPH).
My 1343B/22. If nothing sighted by dawn/23 carry out your special operation and proceed in executing previous orders. (Capt. S.1, 1951/22 to TRIUMPH).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.22.11.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Enemy
Cruiser.(One) cruiser 036° 39' 019° 27' (corrupt group)
100° 18 knots. (UPRIGHT, 1400B/22 to Capt. S.10).Destroyers
for Turkey.Following from Adm. Kelly. Admty. 2011A/19.
Crews may be landed in uniform. They will be given
an official lunch or dinner and can then leave
by train or lorry for Syria. The other alternative
ways of repatriating crews are by merchant vessels
whose departure would certainly be reported to
enemy, or by man of war. Which method shall I
work for? (N.A. Angora, 1432B/22 to Admty.)TRITON.TRITON sails 1600B today routed from end of
searched channel to 034° 40' 025° 56' (? thence)
as necessary carrying out special operation on
south coast of Crete. (Capt. S.1., 1545B/22 to
C. in C. Med.)TONELINE.
GIBEL
KEBIR.TONELINE arrived 0430/22. TONELINE discharged
14 tons M.T. cases 32 lengths piping. GIBEL
KEBIR loaded 51 tons stores. (S.T.O. Tobruk
1800B/22 to D. of S.T.)Army attach great importance to getting aviation
spirit into Tobruk. Please signal situation
regarding TONELINE. (N.L.O. 8th Army 2015B/22
to C. in C. Med.)Malta Raids.21/11. 1514 hours, 17 Macchi 202's approached
very high. Hurricanes intercepted scoring hits.
Results unobserved. 1 Hurricane missing 1
slightly damaged. 1656 hours 1 raider approached
dropped bombs sea. No fighters up. No sightings.
Night 21/22. 3 alarms, 3 bombers crossed coast.
Bombs land no damage. Convoy off Straits Messina
(see my l. 252) found by special Wellington
1915 hours. One cruiser 5 D/Rs 5 M/Vs 230° Reggio
15 miles, course south, 9 knots. Attacked by
F.A.A. aircraft and Wellingtons 2249 to 0103 hours
when convoy was then spread over area 10 miles
square. Extensive R/C whole area 22 sighted 0830
hrs. 2 cruisers, 3 D/Rs, 1 tanker, 6000-tons,
108° Cotrone 15 miles, course North, 3 knots.
Speed indicates damage and direction as Taranto.
Special Wellington shadowing Convoy saw 2111 hours
explosion single funnelled M/V, probably action
by submarine. F.A.A. aircraft and Wellingtons
attacked 238° Cape Spartivento 12 miles in
conjunction with special Wellington. Special
Wellington using flares for Wellington attack. 4
torpedoes dropped, 1 hit cruiser causing large
flash and pall black smoke. One probable hit
M/V 7000 tons. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1815/22).Convoy
Attacked
off Messina.

/Part.....

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Convoy Attacked
off Messina -
Contd.

(Part 2) Other results unobserved. One Swordfish missing. 12 Wellingtons 10 dropped 84 500 lb. S.A.P. using flares. Each aircraft dropped several sticks at low and medium heights. No hits claimed but many sticks straddle ships making no hits highly improbable. 4 Wellingtons unable to attack as convoy then over wide area and in spite of three hours search no M/V could be found.

Argostoli,
small craft
attacked.

5 Blenheims out to attack two M/V's Argostoli Harbour found ships had left. One A/C attacked and hit small naval vessel entrance to harbour vessel left with list 45°. Small Italian launch machine gunned also 2 patrol vessels alongside quay. No opposition. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1855/22)

Greek S/M
Personnel.

Your 1802/14. Greek S/M personnel should not be sent to U.K. pending consideration by Adm. Sakellariou of suggestion made to him by F.O. (S) that his representative should proceed to U.K. to inspect American submarines. If Greeks then accept two of these vessels, it is contemplated that crews would proceed direct to U.S.A. to take them over. (Head of M. 1855A/22 to C. in C. Med.)

UPRIGHT.
P.51.
TRUSTY.
THUNDERBOLT.

Cancel my 1647B/18. Proceed forthwith as follows. UPRIGHT to Malta through 037° 06' 017° 40' thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.

→ P.51 to area R within 45 miles of Cape Colonne 039° 06' 017° 16' passing through 036° 58' 019° 30'. TRUSTY to area P. close up within 48 miles of 038° 11' 020° 21' through 036° 20' 020° 00'. THUNDERBOLT to south western Aegean within 52 miles of Antikithera light. Operation B.S. conditional.

→ P.51 is to remain south of 038° N. and east of 018° E. until 0400B/24. (Capt. S.1. 2021B/22, 2211B/22 to S/M's named).

Enemy Units.

2 merchant ships escorted by 2 torpedo boats in 031° 34' 018° 44' at 0900B/22 course (? 265°) speed 7 knots. (Capt. S.1. 2025B/22 to UNBEATEN).

Situation,
Tobruk.

Situation report. Military. Further enemy strong point captured today. Ground gained being consolidated by Infantry. Number of prisoners taken. Now in R/T communication with Armoured formations. Air. One successful tactical R/C. Naval. SOTRA sweeping channel. FALK A/S Patrol to seaward. 2 Motor Launches coastal patrol. TONELINE started pumping 2015. GIBEL KEBIR back loading. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 2129B/22 to C. in C. Med.)

/Sebastopol.....

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Sebastopol,
W/T.

My 1206/15. Alexandria W/T was in touch with
Sebastopol tonight Saturday 22nd.
(C. in C. Med., 2239B/22 to Admty.)

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Jibuti.

Indications are increasing that Vichy French Jibuti do not intend hold out much longer. Frenchman recently captured escaping in dhow states food will last about 3 weeks and fall Jibuti imminent. Sound of explosions origin unknown heard recently several times in direction Jibuti.

(G.O.C. in C. E.Africa 1228/22).

REPULSE.

Arrived 0530Z/22.

(S.O.I. Colombo 1526Z/22 to Admty.).

China.

U.S.N.
Liaison.

Your 2026/19. No N.L.O. has so far been sent to (corrupt group) U.S. Asiatic Fleet as Adm. Hart's opinion when consulted some time ago and with which I concur was to effect that at that time a poor one would be useless and a good officer wasted. I consider time has now come when we should have one there. Officer should be not less than an experienced Cdr. with rank of acting Captain as U.S. Liaison Officer here is a Captain.

(C.in C. China 0211Z/22 to Admty.).

QUEEN MARY.

Your 0541/19. No objection to docking of QUEEN MARY being postponed until 12/12. as she is not required until U.S. 14. sailing Sydney ?late February.

(D.of S.T. 0327A/22 to Commodore, Malaya).

German ship
Yokohama.

1. Talk in German community in Yokohama of imminent departure of one of their better ships in an attempt to run our blockade.
2. Modern fast German Ship, previously referred to as Glen Ship, is now alongside Yokohama. Soviet N.A. inspected this ship at close quarters 18/11. He reports:-
 - (a) name OSORNO, HAMBURG, was faintly visible and painted over;
 - (b) foremost boat davits removed from both sides: also glass in the vicinity. These davits are normally immediately below the bridge, thought this space had been cleared for A/A guns;
 - (c) cargo now being loaded consists of food and lubricating oil.
3. Ship has just been docked and rudder and

/propeller.....

MOST SECRET

581A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

I N

1615/22 November,

From C.in C. India,

Date 22.11.41.

Recd. 1915

CYPHER.

Addressed The War Office Repeated C.in C. East Indies.

18561/G. cipher 22/11.
13214. Your 98810 (A.A.4) 30/10.

S.D.1. Mine watching Shatt-El-Arab.

1. Brief proposals were submitted by C.in C. East Indies to Admiralty in his 1128 21st June and we have been implementing these.
2. Searchlights required. A. to observe falling of mines. B. to dazzle pilots at moment of release thus preventing accurate laying. C. to assist A.A. Light H.G. fire.
3. We are endeavouring to obtain balloon barrage from Middle East.
4. Organization will eventually cover Rooka channel as well as Shatt-El-Arab.
5. Formation similar organization is now required for Khor Musa and Khor Abdulla (for Um Uasr) consisting of 12 and 8 Detachment respectively. Request sanction and further provision searchlights and connected equipment at early date.
6. We hope Iraq Army will take over mine watching in Shatt-El-Arab thus freeing our units for use in Khor Musa and Khor Abdulla and we shall not (repeat not) require to raise any additional units. Our 18099/G. of 17th November refers.

7./

7. Anticipate we shall have to man extra searchlights for Khor Musa and Khor Abdulla as doubtful if Iraq Army can provide. Have asked General Iraq to confirm.

1615/22.

Advance Copy Ops. D.M.S. D.of L.D.
Recd. from War Office 2000/24 November.

War Office Circulation.

A.A.4.

M.O.12

S.D.1,2.

D.D.A.A. & C.D.(0).

A.A.2, 3, 5.

Admiralty, War Registry.

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

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

German Ship
Yokohama
-Contd.

propeller not yet replaced. Deck space is being covered in with temporary wooden shelters suggesting provision for additional passenger accommodation.
(N.A. Tokyo, no T.O.O./22).

America and West Indies.

SNOWBERRY
ARROWHEAD.

My 1336z/2/11.
SNOWBERRY was delayed by heavy weather and ARROWHEAD by defects at Iceland. Now expected St. John's 23/11 and 25/11 respectively. Intend to sail them in company to Charleston to arrive 1/12 with similar arrival instructions as former ships if acceptable to B.A.R.M.
(C.C.N.F. 0024/22).

S.S.
POLYPHEMUS.

C.in C. South Atlantic's 0951N/22 asking immediate information Dutch Ship POLYPHEMUS. Last information this centre sailed Colon 22/10 for New York.
(S.O.I. Kingston 0841R/22 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
Your 0841/22 Netherlands POLYPHEMUS arrived New York 31/10 and is still in Port.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1821Z/22 to S.O.I. Kingston).

CLARKIA.

Nassau departure 21/11 CLARKIA, Mobile 24/11.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 0954R/22 to Admt. etc.).

Casablanca
Intelligence.

Casablanca 18/11 A.1. Arrivals 14/11 ~~NORD AASSEL~~ ^{MONT CASSEL} from Port Etienne. 15/11 AUGUSTE DENISE from Port Etienne. 16/11 PONTET CANET from Lisbon. SCHIAFFINO FRERES arrived and left for Oran. 17/11 ARCTURUS, MEDIE II, EMERETTE II, and OUERGHA from Oran. Departures 16/11 FOUZOU for Mogador, ^{? British} ILLE DE FRANCE for Fedalar. ^{x not identified.}
(B.A.D. 1215R/22 to S.O.I. Freetown)
N.I.D. Comment. :- (a) NORD AASSEL believed meant MONT CASSEL.
(b) SCHIAFFINO FRERES passed Gibraltar eastwards on 10/11. (c) For EMERETTE II read IMERETHIE II.

/ILLUSTRIOUS.....

MOST SECRETMOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1907/22nd November IN

From C. in C. Far East.

Date 22.11.41
Time 1845CIPHER.

To the War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

12856 238/6. cipher 22/11 Most Secret.

Your 52753 (M.O.10) 19/11.

For Chiefs of Staff from A.C.M. Brooke Popham.

1. Manual combined operations advocates unified command if war zone extensive and adequate co-ordination not possible from Whitehall. The further from home the stronger the case. Far East Command clearly complies with these conditions though only Army and R.A.F. Commands are actually unified.

2. Present system enables C. in C. free from administration and details to:-

- (A) Study strategic problems.
- (B) Build up and maintain contact with Allies and potential allies.
- (C) Be channel of military opinion with diplomatic representatives in the Far East M.E.W. and M.O.I. and a link on military matters with India Australia and New Zealand.
- (D) With Naval C. in C. direct activities of combined intelligence bureau and concert plans for joint action in the Far East. During active operations C. in C. would be free to deal with broad strategical problems and co-ordinate action especially of Air Forces with that of our Allies.

3. Far East differs from Middle East in two major respects first greater part of Eastfars activities are connected with forces of other powers viz China U.S.A. and Dutch second the non flexibility of the Army garrisons of Malaya Burma and Hong Kong affording no scope for rapid moves from one to another. Strategic direction in the Far East is largely an air and naval problem.

4. Army. If G.O.C. in C. were appointed he could
- (A) Confine himself to the army aspect of present C. in C's work in which case he would either have insufficient to do or would inevitably interfere with G.O's. C. or

SECRET

2.

- (B) Assume full responsibility including administration of a G.O.C. in C. which would involve increase of staff and serious slowing down of present system of direct dealings between Commands and War Office.

Neither of these is acceptable. Conclusion is that a G.O.C. in C. would be an unsound appointment. To make G.O.C. Malaya into any form of G.O.C. in C is out of the question as he already has full time job.

5. Air. If C. in C. were abolished and an A.O.C. in C created latter would have to be responsible for air strategy liaison with Allies and potential allies and many extraneous matters. He could not (repeat not) do this without an A.O.C. Malaya under him. Nett result would therefore be substitution of an A.O.C. in C for a C. in C. a step which would secure neither economy nor any other advantages.

6. My comments above are all from broad viewpoint but a study of questions of accommodation and communications strengthens the view that a change in the system of command at this juncture is undesirable.

7. To sum up. In special conditions of the Far East a G.O.C. in C is not (repeat not) required and the creation of an A.O.C. in C would solve no (repeat no) problem. I am therefore not (repeat not) in favour of changing present system of command which I believe is the best one.

8. Finally from the considerations given above and from my experience of the problems that actually arise I am convinced that it is best that C. in C. should be an airman and his Chief of Staff a soldier.

9. I understand control of Burma is subjudice. In my view operations in China and the L of C through Burma on which they will depend must in any case remain matters for the Far East Command. Hence whichever way decision on Burma goes my conclusions in paras: seven and eight are unaffected.

..... 10

MOST SECRET

3.

10. Mr. Duff Cooper is not available for consultation but I feel it right to add that Lt. Gen Percival and A.V.M. Pulford independently reached precisely these same conclusions. C. in C. China has been consulted and fully concurs.

1907/22.

Received from W.O. 2005/24

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S. (S)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.C.D. (F)

D. of P (2)

E.P.S.

Hd of M. (10)

I.P. (2)

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

W.D.

D.N.I. (4)

D.C. (2)

maf.

War Office Distribution.

S. of S.

C.I.G.S.

V.C.I.G.S.

D.M.O. & P.

D.P.

D.D.M.O. (O)

M.O.I. 10.

D.M.I.

D.D.M.I. (I)

M.I. (2)

D.S.D.

C.N.S. (Admiralty)

D. of Plans (Admiralty)

C.A.S. (Air Ministry)

D. of Plans (Air Ministry)

Secretary (Joint Planning Staff)

Col. E.I.C. Jacob.

War Diary.22.11.1941
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.ILLUSTRIOUS.

ILLUSTRIOUS is to sail from Norfolk after dark 4/12, having embarked Martlets in accordance with A.M. 0915A/9. Ship is to arrive Jamaica A.M./7 and embark 6 Swordfish and torpedoes as necessary complying with A.M. 0915A/19. Ship will be ready to leave Jamaica A.M./8/12 and estimate possibly S. of A. to U.K. of 23 knots. C.in C. A.W.I is requested to issue sailing instructions to Jamaica and for onward passage. (B.A.R.M. 1230R/22 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

^(Nov.?) (NORG) SONNAVIND Your 1554A/20. ^(Nov.?) (NORG) SONNAVIND arrived Balboa 21/11.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1249R/22 to Admty.).

BYT's 1-5

Following from B.A.S.R.
Further to my 2005R/21 before reaching any decision as to employment of BYT's 1-5 prior to their Atlantic passage, suggest M.of W.T. be consulted. Understood from Shipping Mission that there already 7 lend-lease tugs now in Canada held up through inability to make Atlantic crossing in winter.
(B.A.D. 1429R/22 to Admty.).

P. 551.

S/M P.551 will pass through position (X) 050° 50' N 045° 00' W. at about 1030Z/23 and (P) 050° 30' N. 044° 00' W. at 1500Z/23 thence steering 068° at 10 knots. Warn all escorts of O.N.36 this submarine may be encountered in the vicinity of (P). (C.C.N.F. 1552Z/22 to Cdr. Task Unit.4.1.12)

N.E.F.
destroyers.

Request names of R.N. Destroyers at present allocated Newfoundland escort force. Has any relief been allocated for READING.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1637Z/21 to C.in C. W.A.).

MEROPE.

French tanker MEROPE arrived Luxpan 18/11 from Tarafa Cuba in ballast.
(Opnav 1700Z/22 to Admty.).

LIVERPOOL.

Your 2132Q/21. DEVONSHIRE having effectively dealt with the major menace it is considered LIVERPOOL should continue with her previous programme. (V.C.N.S. 1703A/22 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

/Archangel.....

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Archangel
Convoys
Information.

Your 1819R/21. Agree. A.M. 1153A/20 was transmitted under a misapprehension. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1743A/22 to B.A.D.).

H.X. 161

Your 1054Z/22. Belle Isle route not recommended. Awaiting recommended routing sail cast 56. (Opnav 1800Z/22 to Admty.).

EXCAMBION
suspicions
ship 16/11.

U.S. EXCAMBION reports that on 16/11 at 0730 A.S.T. in 3652 N 2143 W. sighted unidentified freighter about 4500 tons. southbound approached at fairly high speed and then eased to about 6 knots. No flag or guns visible. Description. Ship appeared light. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1802Q/22 to Admty.).

Escort
Commitments.

Your 1636/19. U.S. C.N.O. concurs. (B.A.D. 1805 R/22 to Admty.).

S.S. MICHALIS.

Greek MICHALIS ashore near Quebec Bridge 0010/21 leaking badly. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1831Z/22).

PRINCE
ROBERT and
PIERRE L.D.

Consul General Saigon's Arfar No.90 to M.E.W. and Arfar No. 260 to C.O.I.S. Singapore only. Subject to concurrence of N.S.H.Q. Ottawa PRINCE ROBERT may be diverted from passage to Honolulu to assist in interception of French ship PIERRE L.D. 2. If N.S.H.Q. Ottawa concurs C.in C. China should not delay PRINCE ROBERT more than a week. (V.C.N.S. 1921A/22 to N.S.H.Q. C.in C. China) Concur (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0031Z/23).

ALGERIE
(French).

Casablanca 20/11. A.1. ALGERIE was due to sail a.m./21 or 22/11 to northward with a cargo of Manganese. (B.A.D. 2017R/22 to S.O.I. Freetown).

Patrols
Axis
shipping.

Cancel A.M's 1439/21 and 1701/21. 2. Patrol is to be established in areas contained by the following positions as soon as practicable.

- (A) HAWKINS WPTX WPJH RJJH RJWS.
- (B) MARSDALE NWQQ NWHZ TKHZ TKTZ.
- (C) CORINTHIAN DJJH DJWS WPWS WPAK.
- (D) CIRCASSIA PDHZ PDTX NWTX NWJH.

3. Object. Interception of axis shipping.

/4.CIRCASSIA....

War Diary.

22.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

Patrols,
Axis
shipping.
-Contd.

4. CIRCASSIA is to proceed to patrol area with despatch.
5. Patrol is not required after 1200 G.M.T./29 when (A) CIRCASSIA to proceed as ordered by C. in C. America and West Indies.
(B) CORINTHIAN to proceed as ordered by S.O. Western Patrol to join S.L.93.
(C) MARSDALE to proceed to FX2.
(D) HAWKINS to continue patrol until prudent limit of endurance (estimated 27/11) allowing for return to Portsmouth south of Ireland (R). (V.C.N.S. 2048A/22 to C.in C. A.W.I. ships concerned etc.).

AGAMEMNON

Sailed Baltimore.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2359Z/22).

Australia and New Zealand.

KANIMBLA

Congratulations on the fine work performed during two years' absence from her Home Waters, and in particular for the part she played in operations at Bandar Shahpur (P.G.) which culminated in successful salvage of German S.S. HOHENFELS.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0054A/22 to A.C.N.B.).

U.S.14.

Your 1146Z/12 0429Z/15 proposed departure Wellington 0940M/24/12.
(N.Z.N.B. 1515M/22 to A.C.N.B.).

War Diary.

22.11.1941
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1059Z. D/F Bearings at 1059Z/22 indicate U/B within 60 miles 010° N. and 100 miles 030° W. 40% reliable. (C.in C. S.A. 1203N/22 to S.A. Sqdn.).

0001A/18. 0001A/18 unknown submarine spoke neutral vessel approx. 17 miles S.E. Cape Trafalgar. (V.A.C.N.A. 1241A/22 to Admt.).

Estimated approx. positions of U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1329A/22, 1330A/22).

1100Z. Bearing from Cupar 210/3 of transmission at 1100Z/22 gives approx. cut with Empire Bearings in 14° N. 25° W. Thought this transmission was from a U/B.
(D.D.I.C. 1600A/22 to C.in C. S.A. etc).

1748 G.M.T. At 1748 G.M.T. submarines being homed on convoy on your approx. bearing.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1907A/22 to EGRET).

1635 G.M.T. A/C reports sighting S/M diving in 044° ($747'$) N. 057° $54'$ W. at 2035 G.M.T.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 2149Z/22 to ANNAPOLIS, HAMILTON amended 2330Z/22).

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Lowestoft.

Coastal force craft were able to leave but not to enter Lowestoft harbour today (see 21/11).

FORESIGHT,
FURY,
FORESTER.

These three destroyers were ordered today to leave patrol in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay and join S.L.92. They are eventually to join the Home Fleet at Scapa.

White Sea
ports.

S.B.N.O. Archangel considers that on account of ice, cruisers and convoy escorts should in future only fuel at Archangel in emergency and that all warships should as a general rule proceed to Murmansk. Molotovsk is still reported usable with icebreakers, but S.B.N.O. Archangel does not recommend its use as experience has shown that the Russians never produce icebreakers at the time asked for.

British Air Operations.

Coastal Command aircraft carried out successful attacks today against shipping off the coasts of Norway and Western France.

Mining.

Peterhead South Harbour was closed during most of today owing to a drifting mine sinking in the middle of the entrance channel.

Owing to suspected minelaying the ports of Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff and Barry were closed at 2010A and Rivers Parrett and Watchet at 2140A.

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

The French fishing Ketch BELLE BRETAGNE is reported to have been intercepted off Cape St. Vincent and taken to Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

GLENROY was hit by an aircraft torpedo at 1620 today whilst proceeding to Tobruk. She was taken in tow by CARLISLE.

One or possibly both the attacking aircraft were shot down by the fighter escort.

Four Naval aircraft laid mines in the Western Approaches to Tripoli harbour, a fifth releasing flares and bombing the town as a diversion.

Operation
M.E.5.

Force B (7th C.S. and 15th C.S.) left Alexandria today to cooperate with Force K in an attack on an important enemy convoy (see 24/11).

War Diary.23.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.HALCYON.

HALCYON is urgently required to be ready to sail 14/12. What work if any must be deferred to make this possible. (D. of Dockyards 1917A/23 to F.O.I.C. London).

Admiral
Muselier
(LOBELIA).

Admiralty's 1856A/17 and 1314/13. C. in C. W.A. 1040/14, C.C.N.F's 0113/14 being passed to you for necessary action. For COMMANDANT DETROYAT read LOBELIA. (Capt D. Greenock 2207/23 to LOBELIA).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian
M/V's.
Routeing
and
Communications.

Information has been received from Soviet N.A. in Washington that Admiral Isakoff desires information on following points

- (a) Routeing of ships to Archangel and Persian Gulf.
- (b) Method of communication to be used between Commodores of Convoys and S.O's of Escorts with Soviet Naval Shore and Seagoing Authorities.

2. In reply to (a) Soviet ships for Archangel which are capable of convoy speed, minimum $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots, are sailed either from U.K. or Halifax to Hvalfjord for onward sailing in P.Q. convoy.
3. Ships for Persian Gulf are routed independently by N.C.S.Os. or Consular Shipping advisers in the same manner as British ships.
4. (b) Is not understood. It is presumed Admiral Isakoff is aware of the local arrangements made by you and of the Anglo-Soviet key memoranda. A.M. 2331A/6/9 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk and 2350A/5/11 refer. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1444A/23 to Ad. Miles).

Fuelling
of
GOSSAMER.

Oiler BUG arranged by Russians found to be empty. Half filled from SPEEDY but fuel situation in GOSSAMER becoming acute. Am therefore requisitioning 55 tons bunker fuel from tanker SAN AMBROSIO who carries divisional S.T.O. North Russia and can spare it. May have to rely on Icebreaker which latter regards as certain in next 24 hours to get away. (GOSSAMER 1511C/23 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

HAMBLEDON.

Proceed to Sheerness now. Do not pass F.S652 (?now) at B.7 buoy. (C. in C. Nore 0751A/23 to HAMBLEDON).

H.44.

S/M H.44 leaves position (i) 180° Wolf Rock 5 miles at 0800A/26 thence diving by day to R/V at 0800A/28 in (vi) 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. Route. (Capt. S.7. 0902A/23).

Floating Crane.

Sailed 0832 JULIET, CORIOLANUS. (C. in C. Plymouth 0906/23).

CROOME.

Your 2358A/22. My P.C.S. are 048° 08' N. 017° 50' W. 240°, 11 knots. (CROOME 0955/23).

FAULKNER.
ICARUS.

E.T.A. Scapa 1600. ICARUS in company. (Capt. D.8. 1034A/23).
ORIBI completed boiler cleaning and repairs by HECLA on 20/11.
(ii) IMPULSIVE is being taken in hand today.
(iii) Request you will sail one destroyer to Hvalfiord to replace IMPULSIVE in capital ship screen. (C. in C. H.F. 1146N/23 to R.A.D. H.F.)

EREBUS:
VANQUISHER.
WITCH.

Scapa departures 1600 EREBUS, VANQUISHER, WITCH. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0900/25. (A.C.O.S. 1714/23).

RESOLUTION.

Intend sail RESOLUTION escorted by BERKELEY and KUJAWIAK at 1700/24 to Scapa. (C. in C. Plymouth 1742/23).

PUNJABI.

Proceed passing Switha at 1200/24 and proceed to the Tyne to arrive in daylight for refit at Hebburn. 2. Speed after 21A Buoy should not exceed 10 knots except in an emergency when speeds between 10 and 20 knots should be avoided. (R.A.D. 1900A/23 to PUNJABI).

War Diary.25.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Patrols.

Weather permitting carry out following patrol tonight:-

(a) 1 (One) Unit M.G.B's (L) Q.E.4.A.

(b) 1 (One) Unit M.L.'s Q.E.6.

(C. in C. Nore 0942A/23).

Night 23/24. 2 M.L.'s on patrol westwards of position 180° Portland Bill 10. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1537A/23).

KENT.
(Iceland-
Faroes
Patrol)

My 1641A/22 para. (2). For "012° W" read "022° W.". (C. in C. H.F. 1026N/23 to KENT). KENT sailed to patrol Iceland-Faroes passage 1330. (A.C.I.C. 1646N/23)

C.S.10.

C.S.10's 1844Z/21. It is essential that C.S.10 be given up to date information of Soviet submarine positions. (D.O.D. H. 1150A/23 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

FORESIGHT.
FURY.
FORESTER.

A.M. 1938/20; Leave patrol now and join S.L. 92 to limit of prudent endurance before proceeding to Londonderry for fuel. Estimated P.C.S. of S.L. 92 at 2000A/22 was 41° 40' N. 23° 36' W., 004°, 6 knots.

2. After fuelling at Londonderry proceed to Scapa and join Home Fleet. (A.C.N.S. F. 1324A/23 to FORESIGHT, FURY, FORESTER).

Your 1938A/20. At 0900A/24 FURY who has least endurance will have 4 days fuel remaining for 13 knots allowing 15% remaining. All 3 ships require provisions including flour. (?) T.O.O. 1617A/22.

My position 041° 48' N. 024° 02' W.
(FORESIGHT 1515A/23 to Adty.)CUMBERLAND
(Denmark
Strait
Patrol)

Proceed passing boom at 1100Z/24 to patrol Denmark Strait, particular attention being given to the vicinity of the ice-limit. Object intercept enemy surface vessels breaking out into the Atlantic. (C. in C. H.F. 1952A/23 to CUMBERLAND).

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

A/C for
ENGADINE.

My 1646/8 and 2023/17. Hope to load ENGADINE with 9 Sea Hurricanes, 3 Swordfish and 2 Albacore for Egypt and 6 Swordfish for Freetown in time to sail with W.S.14 on 6/12.

3. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to report the earliest date that ENGADINE can start loading, working up period being curtailed as necessary. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1644/21 refers. (5th S.L. 1106A/23 to R.A.N.A.S.)

S.B.R.

Request S.B.R. in Area 55 and Area 54 East of 007° W. from 1800/24 until further notice. (F.O.S. 1126A/23 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. SKERRIES
attacked.

At 1755/22 when coming through Tuskar Sound vessel was attacked by three Junkers 88's with machine gun fire and bombs. One plane made numerous attempts to get over vessel but was driven off by ships defensive equipment. When last seen blazing oil and smoke were coming from aircraft, her engines were silent, and machine was losing height rapidly. No injuries to crew or vessel but slight damage to electrical equipment. At 1450/23 off Bailey Lighthouse we opened fire on a suspicious aircraft. We fired 2 rounds from 12 Pdr. and a burst of M.G. fire. Aircraft then flew away towards land. (SKERRIES 1515/23).

Shetlands
attacked.

At 1420 today a JU. 88 attacked R.A.F. Station Skaw with machine gunfire and dropped one bomb. Bomb did not explode. Two civilians injured. Aircraft made off eastward. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 2003/23).

Mining.

S.N.81.
S.N.82.

Request programme S.N. Lay. Laying of 82 and 81 can be accepted and cover provided by cruisers on patrol. (C. in C. H.F. 0957N/23 to R.A.M.)

Thames
Estuary.

One Magnetic Mine detonated at 0746/20 in 241° Yantlet South Buoy 2½ cables. Details. This is the 50th mine detonated by M.M.S. 8. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1119/23).
One S.A. mine detonated at 1105/22. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1131/23).

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-Contd.

N.L.22.

Intend to carry out Operation N.L. 22 tonight. (V.A.Dover 1604A/23).
Two M.L.'s will leave Dover at 2200 to operate off Wissant returning at about 0140/24, route via East Varne each way. (V.A. Dover 1723A/23).

Bristol Channel.

Owing to suspected enemy minelaying the ports of Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff, and Barry are closed until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2010A/23).
Add to my 2010A/23 River Parrett and Watchet. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2140A/23).

Navigational.

Lowestoft.

Cancel my 1810A/22. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0831A/23)
My 1810A/22. Movement of wreck now permits exit of coastal force craft at high water in favourable weather but no entry. Intend sailing today for Yarmouth M.L's 145, 147, 253, M.G.B's (S) 87, 89, 91 and M.A.S.B. 33. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1015A/23)
In agreement with N.O.I.C. Lowestoft we agree quickest method to clear entrance Lowestoft Harbour now partially closed by wreck of sweeper ROWAN TREE is to disperse with explosives. Necessary arrangements in hand. (Chief Salvage Officer 1315A/23).

Peterhead.

South Harbour Peterhead closed owing to drifting mine sinking 50 yards from S. Pier Head in middle of Channel. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1005/23).
Mine cleared. Peterhead South harbour open. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1429/23).

White Sea.

Solid ice now up to 3 miles of Light Vessel, and both vessels dragged 1½ miles last night in drifting sheet of ice. Submit this anchorage is no longer safe for future escorts. (GOSSAMER 1511C/23 to S.B.N.O. Archangel) (S.B.N.O. Archangel 2240C/23 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)
See Shipping.

Kellett.
S.W. Goodwin.
Galloper.

Kellett lightbuoy replaced in position. S.W. Goodwin and West Galloper lightbuoy removed from Station. Request Q.Z.H. (V.A. Dover 1746A/23).

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Use of
Night
Fighter
A/C.

Admiralty 1959/22. There is no objection to introducing this procedure provided groups are satisfied with reception on 385 kc/s. (C. in C. Nore 1127A/23 to H.Q.F.C.)

Minor
Warships
Recognition
Signals.

Your 1624/14/11. Alternative (I) is preferred. (C. in C. Rosyth 1500/23).

Casualties and Defects.

BELMONT.

Arrived BELMONT with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0153A/23).

WALPOLE.

Position 7.A. buoy, speed 10 knots. WALPOLE has engine trouble. (MEYNELL 0854/23).

SARDONYX.
(Damaged
22/11).

My 1750A/22. If returning through Minches you should take over escort of SARDONYX from PUNJABI. (C. in C. W.A. 1003A/23 to ROCKINGHAM). Arrival SARDONYX. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1623A/23).

BESTUM.

Vessel on bottom 20 ft. water L.W.S.T. Bomb hole in No.2 hold now being patched. U.X.B. in hold visible. Engine room and stoke-hold tidal. Commencing pumping operations 1200. Possibility of floating at high water 1500. today very slight. Position confirmed 160° 3 cables Cork Spit Buoy. (Salvage Officer 1030A/23 to F.O.I.C. Harwich). Attempt to refloat at high water failed. Ship common to sea through bomb hole in fore hold and other undiscovered damage from near misses. Decks awash at half tide position Cork Spit. Will make further attempt at daylight if weather suitable. Ship loaded full cargo. All coal. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1650A/23).

MANXMAN.

MANXMAN will complete cleaning of all boilers Noon 1st. Ship is at six hours notice for sea. (R.A.M. 1038/23).

MARAUDER.

(H.M. Tug) Out of action through damage caused by explosion of ST. APOLLO's boilers. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1039A/23).

/BROADWAY.....

War Diary.23.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects-Contd.BROADWAY.Arrived BROADWAY with defects.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1046A/23).BESSIE
CLARK
(Wiping Unit
Tender)My 1035/23. ^{N.T.K.W.D.} Unit returning to harbour. Damage reported to towing gear of BESSIE CLARK.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1120/23).THEOMITOR.S.C.53. Your 1320A/23. ^{N.T.K.W.D.} Destination THEOMITOR now Mersey but if any question of unseaworthiness order ship to proceed to Belfast. (C. in C. W.A. 1548/23 to VANOC).LORD GREY.

My 1757A/18. LORD GREY returned to Clyde with gale damage. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1554A/23).

SHERWOOD.

Left convoy C.T.7 at 1900/23 as have developed serious lubricating oil leakage from starboard casing bearing cover. At present rate of leakage starboard engine will be out of action in about 12 hours time. Am proceeding to Londonderry for repairs. (SHERWOOD 1901/23).

MINERVE.

My 1543A/21/11 as amended by my 1035A/22/11. MINERVE and LOCH MONTEITH now proceeding to Scapa for repairs. (Capt. S.9 2327A/23).

Shipping and Convoys.White Sea
Shipping
Facilities.

S.B.N.O. Archangel's 0905C/13 (originally circulated as 0648A/15, and corrected by War Registry note) re programme for convoys to Archangel.

Correct para. (c) to read "From early January onwards only 3 ships per large ice-breaker may get (?through) Gorlo at a ?time. Iokanka with limited capacity would then have" etc.

Correct para. (d) to read "Ice breakers STALIN and LENIN are only 2 available for (c) above they are capable of running continuously except for short periods for refuelling" etc.

(War Registry, 23/11/41).

/Ice.....

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

White Sea
Shipping
Facilities
-Contd.

Ice report No. 9. Thick ice reported up to 3 miles outside position of North Dvina light vessel. This makes fuelling of escorts from tanker possible but difficult. Cruisers can be fuelled inside or outside bar only if weather is suitable and cannot take place in strong North West winds.

(2) Merchant ships cannot proceed (?via) Modyugsky without icebreakers.

(3) Minimum temperature at night remains about 25° F. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 2205C/23).

GOSSAMER's 1511C/23 and Archangel Ice Report Numbers 9. Consider in future cruiser and escort should only fuel at Archangel in emergency and that all warships should as a general rule proceed to Murmansk after convoy enters thick ice. If warships get stuck in ice and require icebreaker movements of M/V's will be slowed down.

(2) Molotovsk is still reported usable with icebreaker but recent experience of ice shows Russians never produce icebreakers at time asked for and therefore I do not now recommend Molotovsk. Admiralty pass to all addressees except S.B.N.O. North Russia. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 2240C/23 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

P.Q.4.

Have failed to locate P.Q.4 or to obtain communication with local escort. Am searching along convoy route at mean speed of advance 7 knots. My estimated position 1100Z/23 73° 41' N. 11° 10' E. (Admiralty please pass to S.B.N.O.'s Archangel and North Russia). (BERWICK 0415Z/23 to Admty.)

C.T. 7.

My 2256A/22. For BELMONT read SHERWOOD. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0744A/23). My 1024A/17. LANARKSHIRE routed to Bermuda to land machine gun crew. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0931A/23) Left Convoy at 1900/23 as have serious engine defect. (SHERWOOD 1901/23.) See Casualties.

F.S.653.

F.S.653 is to anchor between B.4 and B.5 buoys in the Northernmost half of the swept channel. They are to weigh at 0900/24 and follow the sweeper in. (C. in C. Nore 1013A/23 to LEEDS).

S.L.91. and
S.L. 91.G.

Congratulations on the success with which you brought your convoys home. (C. in C. W.A. 1121 A/23 to Capt. W.E.B. Magee, R.N.)

P.Q.3.
CAPE CORSO.
CAPE RACE.

Your 1316A/22. MACBETH reports both CAPE CORSO and CAPE RACE straggled after two days. (A.C.I.C. 1200N/23 to Adty.)

/S.L. 92.....

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

S.L.92.

FORESIGHT, FURY and FORESTER to join Convoy.
(A.C.N.S. F. 1324A/23 to FORESIGHT) See
Operations.

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BELLE
BRETAGNE,
intercepted.

Following for M.E.W. 716 Arfar. Vichy French Ketch BELLE BRETAGNE bound Mauretania fishing ground, Boarded off Cape St. Vincent and brought in under armed guard. Has 0180 gallons petrol for motor boats. Diesel oil capacity 2,000 gallons in six tanks. Master states 500 gallons only allowed. On leaving Douarnenez water capacity 1800 gallons in 3 tanks. Vessel has German authorisation to fish off Morocco, must return within four months. 20,000 francs deposited by Master with Germans as surety for vessel's return with same crew, failing which reprisal exercised against crew's families. Master instructed on entering neutral port to report to German authorities. No other grounds for suspicion, crew seem reconciled to German domination. Instruction requested. (C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 1135/23 to Admty). Your 1135/23 to M.E.W. "Grounds for suspicion" are not required for capturing French Fishing Vessels. All such vessels encountered on high seas are to be held vide C.A.F.O. 479/41. Instructions will be sent in due course. (D.E.W.D., 1930A/23 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

SERAFIN
TOPIC.

American Observer Oran informed 21/11 by reliable source that 96 goods wagons crude rubber arrived there 15/11. None yet loaded but understood some is to be shipped in SERAFIN TOPIC Yugoslavian recently handed over Italy. Hoped to receive advance news this ship sailing. (Consul, Tangier, 1500/23 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

DEVONSHIRE.

Proceed forthwith to search to Northwards along 020° W., as far as 002° N., then return to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 0025N/23 to DEVONSHIRE).

ALCANTARA.

Your 1134R/8. Can date be given for taking ALCANTARA in hand please? (C. in C. S.A., 1111N/23 to B.A.R.M.)

/STANLEY....

War Diary.23.11.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.STANLEY.

Your 1250A/22 and my 2001/17. Endurance of STANLEY is insufficient to enable her to reach Londonderry from Bathurst without fuelling en route. STANLEY fuelled Ponta Delgada on 8/10. Intend she shall sail with S.L.94 if repairs to dynamo completed on arrival, breaking off as necessary to proceed Gibraltar for fuel then to U.K. as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (C. in C. S.A., 1303N/23).

M.Ls. for Gibraltar.

Your 2132A/27/9/41. CLAN MACINNES should be ready to sail from Freetown in S.L.94. She could carry M.Ls. 33 and 35 to Gibraltar if diverted. Deck stowage athwartships on hatches should be secure for this passage. Request instructions. (C. in C. S.A., 1403N/23 to Admty).

DORSETSHIRE.

Return to Freetown on completion of today's sweep so as to arrive Freetown P.M./25 passing through 003° 00' N., 021° 00' W. (C. in C. S.A., 1613N/23 to DORSETSHIRE).

Enemy Supply Ships and U/Bs.

Evident that German supply ships have sailed recently from French ports and can by now be in South Atlantic.. Probable ex fruit ships and not tanker type. 2. At least one U/boat has operated as far south as Walvis Bay. 3. With a supply ship in approx. 25° S., in area previously used by Raider Supply Ships, U/boats could operate in Cape Area. 4. In view of recent lack of success in Freetown Area and known presence of five U/boats in Southern waters, attacks in Cape Area must be expected in near future. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1812A/23 to Cs. in C. etc).

Hastings Aerodrome.

Development of Hastings Aerodrome is progressing better and R.A.F. interests are increasing. 8 fighters based there now, and I understand there will eventually be two fighter Squadrons besides a G.R. Hudson Squadron at Waterloo. A.O.C.W.A. contemplates having a Group Captain in command of R.A.F. Station at Hastings. In this case presumably the control and organisation should be as at other shared stations. (C. in C. S.A., 1917N/23 to Admty).

DEVONSHIRE.

Well Done. (1st S.L., 2159A/23 to DEVONSHIRE) (Intercepted raider 22/11).

/Group....

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Group
Sailings of
M/Vs. S.T.
Convoys.

Request you will establish group sailings of ships sailing westward from Capetown on principle that ships shall be escorted during about first 100 miles of their voyage dispersing after dark so as to be not less than 25 miles apart by daylight the following day. In first instance, system must be operated with air and surface A/S forces now available in Cape area. Intended to reinforce the latter very shortly by transfer of corvettes from other commands to Freetown so as to enable you to despatch an equivalent number from Freetown to Capetown. Ships inward bound should be re-routed as necessary to approach Capetown along an arc, patrolled by A/S aircraft. Your 2343N/14 para. 2, D, and A.M. 2231A/20, request you will signal new dispersal point further west to conform to new routing policy being promulgated in Amendment No. 40 to A.M. 0001/1/5. (A.C.N.S. (T), 2329A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Convoy.

Position of enemy convoy 202 Matapan 70 at 0800. (Hal Far, 0700Z/23 to F.O. 2 in C., Med).

Force I,
Visibility.

Sand rising Western Desert. Visibility expected deteriorate locally to 100 yards. (Alexandria, 0700Z/23 to Force I).

UPHOLDER.

Your 1237B/22 (N.T. in W.R.) confirmed UPHOLDER will sail P.M./24. (Capt. S.10., 1024B/23 to Capt. S.1).

Enemy Units.

1 M/V, 4,000 tons three escort vessels 170° 10 knots, 34° 10' N., 12° 40' E. (Med., A/C, 1006/23 to Hal Far).

YARRA,
HEYTHROP.

Sail 1130/23 through A,Y, to R/V with convoy "Table" expected at D. at 0600/24 and accompany to Alexandria.* (?Alexandria C.C.O., 1027B/23 to YARRA, HEYTHROP).

*Relevant signals are being sent you.

See also p. 603

/UPRIGHT....

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UPRIGHT.

Capt. (S) 1's 2021B/22 proceed through 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta before 1800B/24 or at 0730B next day.
(Capt. S.10., 1129B/23 to UPRIGHT).

O.24.

Your 1004A/20. Consider approach to Naples most suitable area of which northern approach probably more profitable but routed approach more important. (Capt. S.10., 1159B/23 to Capt. S.8).

Refits of S/Ms.

F.O.(S)'s 1312A/20. In present critical stage of the situation in the Mediterranean this refitting programme is not acceptable. URSULA and TRIUMPH can just be spared but I cannot release any more until their reliefs have actually joined the flotilla.
(C. in C. Med., 1217B/23 to Admty).

GO PINO,*
ABBAZIA.

** not identified*

Ref. 1734/15/11 para.A(N.T. in W.D.) now reports GO PINO, overdue, has been sunk, B.2.
No information ABBAZIA?
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1233B/23 to S.O.(I) Med).

Fleet
Movements.

Arrival 22/11 NAIAD, GALATEA, EURYALUS, HASTY, HOTSPUR, Motor Launch 1023, HILMI. Departure 22/11 Greek S/M TRITON. Arrival 23/11 YARRA, PARRAMATTA, departure 23/11 NAPIER, NIZAM, KIPLING, JACKAL, HASTY, CARLISLE, GLENROY, ERIDGE, AVONVALE, FARNDALE.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1237B/23 to Admty etc).

AFGHANISTAN,
GLENEARN.

Following received from AFGHANISTAN towing GLENEARN. Have lost propeller blade, returning Aden with tow, E.T.A 0800/25.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1342Z/23 to F.O.R.S.)

Russian A/C,
Cyprus.

Cyprus 22/11, Russian seaplane landed Morphou Bay, crew safe, being interrogated.
(C. in C. M.E., 1455/23, to W.O.)

GLENROY
torpedoed.

GLENROY hit by air torpedo, engine room flooded.
(?CARLISLE 1620B/23 to C. in C. Med).

/Am....

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

→ GLENROY
torpedoed.
Contd.

Am returning to you at full speed.
(Capt. D.7., 1639/23 to CARLISLE).
I am taking GLENROY in tow and will proceed to Alexandria. (CARLISLE, 1642B/23 to C. in C. Med).
Am in company with CARLISLE who has GLENROY in tow in 031° 40' N., 026° 28' E. Am carrying out an all round anti-submarine patrol.
(Capt. D.7., 1958B/22 (23?) to C. in C. Med).
Have GLENROY in tow, engine room and No. 5 hold flooded, draught aft about 40 feet.
P.C. and S. at 1930B, 031° 34' N., 026° 30' E. 090° 5 knots. Capt. (D) 7 is in company.
(CARLISLE, 2000B/23 to C. in C. Med).
GLENROY in tow of CARLISLE in 031° 38' N., 026° 30' E., at 1640 returning to eastwards.
(R.A. Alexandria, 2025B/23 to HEYTHROP, YARRA).
FLAMINGO sailed at 2330 at 15 knots.
Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY sailed at 2120 at 9 knots. Both proceeding to join you. Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY keeping (corrupt group) kc/s single operator period. (Alexandria, 2340B/23 to CARLISLE)

Air R/C.

Air R/C A.M./23 Malta to Sapienza Island 50 miles then abandoned owing to weather (II) 50 miles from line 90° Maria di Leuca 15 miles to 270° Cephalonia 20 miles. Sighted at 1040 one hospital ship 270° Cape Ducato 30 miles course S.E.10 knots. (V.A. Malta, 1639B/23 to Med., Fleet).

→ FARNDALE.

Am sending FARNDALE with all troops Tobruk. (CARLISLE, 1720B/23 to C. in C. Med).
Proceed Mersa Matruh.
(Capt. D.7., 1835/23 to FARNDALE)
FARNDALE has wire around her propeller. Have ordered FARNDALE to proceed Mersa Matruh.
(Capt. D.7., 1836B/23 to FARNDALE, N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh).
Cancel D.7's 1835. Proceed Tobruk.
(C. in C. Med., 1900/23 to FARNDALE)
E.T.A. boom 0040B/24. Acknowledge.
(FARNDALE, 1942B/23, to N.O.I.C. Tobruk).
Cancel my 1900/23.
(C. in C, Med., 2000B/23 to FARNDALE).
Your 2000B/23. Can steam 22 knots. Request permission to continue Tobruk.
(FARNDALE, 2019B/23 to C. in C. Med).
Your 2019 approved, subject to being E.of 26° E., 0615/24. (C. in C. Med., 2128B/23 2143B/23 to FARNDALE).

/Enemy....

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy
Units.

1500 2 destroyers one large M/V 032° 15' 015°
30' course 340° speed unknown. (V.A. Malta,
1734B/23 to UNBEATEN).

Malta
Raids.

22nd. P.M. 20 Macchis approached intercepted
by Hurricanes, 3 destroyed, 2 probably des-
troyed, 4 damaged. 1 Hurricane very slight
damage usual enemy search today but unable to
engage them.

Night 22/23 Nov. 3 Alarms, total 3 bombers
approached only 1 crossed coast, bombs land sea,
no damage.

Tripoli
mined,
Berka bombed.

1 F.A.A. Aircraft dropped flares and bombs
Tripoli town, Diversion, 4 others failed to
find and laid 4 mines short distance West
Tripoli. 6 Wellington I.C. attacked Berka
Aerodrome 1000-2030 hours.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1801/23).

FARNDALE,
GLENROY,
FLAMINGO,
YARRA,
HEYTHROP.

FARNDALE expected to leave Tobruk 0100/24
unaccompanied for Alexandria at 22 knots to
be East of 026° E., by 0615/24.
(2) GLENROY in tow of CARLISLE with 7 destroyers
in 031° 40' N., 026° 28' E., at 2000/22 in
tow to Alexandria, speed 5 knots. Daylight
position will be signalled.
(3) FLAMINGO and Fleet tug ST. ISSEY joining
GLENROY at daylight/24 from Alexandria.
(4) YARRA, HEYTHROP escorting convoy "Table"
as in N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1027/23 and 1112/16.
(C. in C. Med., 2355B/23 to 201 Group, A.H.Q.
Western Desert). See p. 600

Tobruk.

22/11 arrival TONELINE, SOUTHERN SEA, 23rd.
Departure TONELINE, GIBELKEBIR, SOUTHERN SEA,
KLO, FALK, SOIKA.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2359B/23).

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

GLASGOW
W.S. 12 B.

Colombo arrival 0130Z/23 GLASGOW.
(S.O.I.Colombo 0352Z/23 to Admty.). Escorting
W.S. 12 B. (D.O.R. 24/11).

MARY LIVANOS
"R" Report.

At approx. 1230Z/22 and 2040Z/22. Greek ship
MARY LIVANOS originated Q Q Q Q and R R R R
signals respectively. Both signals have since
been cancelled. (2) Any ships having heard
anything of either of these signals is to report
accordingly on return to Harbour. (3) N.O.I.C.
Simonstown is requested to inform me if either of
above signals were intercepted.
(C.in C. E.I. 0358Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.
E.I. Sqdn).

Floating
Dock from
Bandar Shahpur.

Your 1544/16. If not available from F.O.C.R.I.N.
manila cordage can be obtained from Hong Kong
and steel wire rope from Singapore. If
dockmaster cannot be obtained locally or from
F.O.C.R.I.N. suggest arrangements be made with
C.in C. Med. for a suitable agreement man from
Alexandria to be detailed temporarily for this
service.
(D.of D. 0417A/23 to C.in C. E.I.).

Iraq
Persia.

Re oil development. (W.O. 1115/23 to C.in C. M.E.)
See Lion Copy.

Force G.
~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

PRINCE OF WALES arrived here.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1810Z/23 to Admty. etc.).

China.

Vesca
Shipping
reports.

Your 1632/12.
(1). (A). Local coastal sailings included China
Coast Bight movements referred to in 0856/29/4
1940 to Admty.
(B) Inter-Island sailings in Netherlands East
Indies and Philippine Islands.
(C) Japanese Ships trading between Japan and
China.
(D) Japanese Transports.
(2) Yes.
(3) Lack of shipping information from Vladivostok
unsatisfactory.
(C.in C. China 0300Z/23 to Admty.).

/TOMISLAV....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

604^A

~~1445/27~~ November IN.

Date: 23.11.41

From: War Office

CYPHER

Addressed: C. in C. Middle East repeated C. in C. India,
G.O.C. Iraq.

BM/651/Q(Ops).

No. 53471 cipher Q(Ops) 22/11.

Oil Developments

1st. Oil development in Iraq/Persia now co-ordinated here under Oil Control Board and Petroleum Department and any future large scale developments which may become necessary in other areas will be similarly co-ordinated.

2nd. Mr. Berthoud who has had wide experience in the handling of important oil questions is being attached to staff of Minister of State as the representative of the Petroleum Department.

3rd. Among main purposes of his mission will be to:-

- (a) advise and report on progress of schemes for development of transport of and distribution facilities for oil in Middle East generally.
- (b) visit Iraq, Persia and India primarily in order to discuss various questions relating to liaison organisation on oil schemes under development or projected and report thereon to London.
- (c) Advise as required in co-ordinating petroleum matters generally with particular reference to long-term supply arrangements and to any current oil negotiations whether relating to oil supplies or equipment.

4th. He will not be directly concerned with questions relating to supply of current requirements to His Majesty's Forces or civilian population in Middle East, which will continue to be dealt with as at present, but it will be open to him to suggest any means of improving these arrangements where necessary.

5th. He has been present at recent discussions in London on pipeline and other oil projects in Iraq and Persia and is fully conversant with the problem as viewed at this end.

6th. Reference Iraq Q. 164 of 9/11 (not repeated to Mideast) and twelfth of India's SD/15315/G of 15/10 (not to Iraq or Mideast) requesting co-ordination of oil supply in Mideast, Iraq and India, and referring to India's 58498/Q of 15/9 to Intendant General on the subject. Will you arrange to give Berthoud necessary facilities for discussing efficient local co-ordination and for liaison through War Office with Petroleum Department concerning work already sanctioned or in progress and also future developments.

1115/23

Recd. by hand from War Office 1130/25.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

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. of L.D.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.C.

Hd. of M. (2)

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

Copies circulated by War Office to:

D.M.O. & P

D.D.M.O. (0)

M.O. 5. 12.

D.U.S.

D.F. (C)

Q.M.G.

D.Q.M.G.

Q. (Ops)

D. Tr.

D. Mcv.

D.S.T.

S.T. ? (3 copies)

E. in C.

N.A.B.

Ministry of Supply (Mr. Riddles)

Air Ministry (D. Plans)

Admiralty (D. Plans)

India Office - Brig. Drummond

Col. McCay.

War Cabinet Office - Mr. Donaldson

Mr. Armstrong

Col. Jacobs.

Petroleum Department - Mr. Hearn,

Mr. Starling

(3 copies)

U.K.C.C. - Sir Frank Nixon (2)

Ministry of War Transport -

Mr. Secretan.

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. -Contd.

TOMISLAV
(?Italian).

My 0821/21. Funnel now painted black and name painted out.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore 0301Z/23 to Admty. etc.).

Free French
Movements.

Your 1637/20. I find it difficult to be more convincing than I was in my 0827/6. Escarra is now here and is (?reporting) to (?De Gaulle). Can only suggest you read his report in conjunction with that of Chancellor Duchy of Lancaster which is now in London. I am anxious to transfer control Free French before turning over to C.in C. Eastern Fleet.
(C.in C. China 0337Z/23 to Admty.).

PRINCE ROBERT
and
PIERRE L.D.

Your 1921/22. PRINCE ROBERT left Manila 21st and is too far to eastward to make it worth while recalling her, particularly as I have no information that PIERRE L.D. has yet left Haiphong. (C.in C. China 0415Z/23 to Admty.) See also A. and W.I.
(?Weekly) report PIERRE L.D. left for Saigon A.M./22.
(C.O.S. Singapore 1237Z/23 to Admty. etc.).

Suspicious
ship
6/11.

Your 2359Z/21. Vessel was not Raider "C". Description appears to fit Raider G, No.41. Believed to be STEIERMARK of Hapag line 9,400 tons 524 feet length. (Details). Last located in South Atlantic May 1941, with Raider C.
(D.D.I.C. 1811A/23 to Capt. O.S. Singapore).

U/B 14/11.

Two coast watching stations in Burma report sighting object resembling submarine in 017° 19' N. 094° 33' E. steering west on 14/11. Graded B.3.
(D.N.I. 1938A/23 to S.O. Force G).

America and West Indies.

CINCINNATI
search.

My 2330/21. Result Saturday search negative. CINCINNATI proceeding Trinidad.
(Opnav 0030Z/23 to Admty.).

/PRINCE.....

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War Diary.23.11.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. -Contd.

PRINCE
ROBERT and
PIERRE L.D. Concur with Admty. 1921A/22.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0031Z/23 to C.in C. China).
See also China. *(previous page)*

ILE D'OUessant Your 2048A/22.
ILE DE
NOIRMOUTIER. Request information that French Ships ILE
D'OUessant and ILE DE NOIRMOUTIER are still to
be seized if met. Request policy as regards
seizure of other French ships on transatlantic
voyages.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0942Q/23 to Admty.) Reply:
A.C.N.S. (F) 0015A/24.

DESPATCH To leave Bermuda 0900Q/24 and proceed to patrol
square F.32, B.49. Leave patrol 30/11 and return
to Bermuda.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1102Q/23 to S.O. W. Indies Force).
See also next page

CIRCASSIA. Admty. 2048A/22. Leave patrol 1200Z/29 and
proceed Halifax.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1052Q/23 to CIRCASSIA).
See also next page

MEROPE
(French). Departure Tuxpan 19th MEROPE Port Au Prince
Puerto Mexico 20th.
(Tampico 1152/23 to D.of S.T.).

WESTMOOR
collision.

* *? GULFMAID intended.*
* British WESTMOOR in collision with U.S. tanker
* GULFMIST off Eastport in Saint John River while
approaching Jacksonville Harbour during fog, both
ships now aground. (Jacksonville 1450Z/23 to
Admty.).
My 1450Z/23. Both ships now floating and arrived
Jacksonville. Collision occurred during clear but
black night. 2 small holes in WESTMOOR port side
number 1 hold. (Jacksonville 1818Z/23 to Admty.).

SNARK.

Have you any news of Panamanian SNARK due Colon
13/11 from New York?
(D.T.D. 1722A/23 to S.O.I. Jamaica).

Neutral
ships calling
Bermuda.

Your 1801/20. Port and date, but not time of
departure can and will be given.
Ref. (D) local agents of lines would normally be
able to estimate time on passage better than
Admty. In the case of ships that have made a
previous voyage it is presumed that C.C.S.O. will
also be able to give this information.
(D.E.W.D. 1931A/23 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

23.11.1941
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

Convoy
C.T.6.

Following U.S. Comtask Group 14.3 despatch 1735/23 to Opanv. My 1042/23 (N.T. in W.R.) on the basis of passing south of Sable Island ships of C.T.6. arrive Halifax about 1800 GCT/24 Other vessels of convoy proceeding independently. Vessels wish to know whether disembarkation will be initiated on arrival date. (Opanv, 1944Z/23 to N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.).

DESPATCH
CIRCIASSIA.

Bermuda arrival DESPATCH, Bermuda departure CIRCIASSIA in accordance with A.M. 2048A/22/11. (C.in C. A.W.I. 2105Q/23 to Admty.).

see previous page

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1924Z/22.
1910Z/22.

Indications at 1924Z/22 of a U-boat within 100 miles of 003° S., 018° W., 85 % reliable, and at 1910Z/22 of a U-boat within 100 miles of 008° N., 031° W., 65% reliable.
(C. in C.S.A., 0021N/23, to S.A. Sqdn.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1417A/23, 1418A/23.)

Cape Area.

Probable appearance of U/B's.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1812A/23.) See South Atlantic.

Burma.

U/B reported sighted 14/11.
(D.N.I., 1938A/23.) See China.

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E-boat
attacks on
F.S654.

Convoy F.S654 escorted by 4 destroyers, one corvette and 2 M.L's was attacked by 3 E-boats about 0001/24, near 57D Buoy. Tanker VIRGILIA and S.S. BLAIRNEVIS were torpedoed; the former sank the latter reached Yarmouth. WESTMINSTER engaged and drove off the enemy, sinking one or possibly two and damaging the third. SOUTHDOWN engaged 2 E-boats at about 0240 25 miles 61° from Lowestoft, damaging one and probably both. The convoy was attacked again at 0445 and S.S. GROENLO was torpedoed and sunk in 52° 19' 32" N. 1° 59' 12" E. 2 M.G.B's were on patrol near 52° N. 2° 30' E. and 2 M.L's near 52° 43' N. 2° 23' E., but apparently did not get into action.

Reorganisation of W.A. forces. Reorganisation of the forces in the Western Approaches Command was carried out today.

Operation
"Sunstar"!

C. in C. Portsmouth reports that all troops were landed (on coast of Normandy) in difficult conditions on account of surf.

Patrol
"White"
"Black".

C. in C. H.F. proposes to allocate the following short titles to surface patrols: Denmark Strait - Patrol White. Iceland-Faeroes Passage - Patrol Black. These patrols are still being maintained by cruisers, to intercept possible enemy forces breaking out into the Atlantic.

British Air Operations.

After an interval due to bad weather Bomber Command last night resumed raids on Continental objectives with attacks on Lorient, Brest and Dunkirk. Coastal Command operated against shipping near Borkum.

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.N.561 was bombed at 1607 in 52° 3' N. 1° 49' E. and S.S. ARDENZA was damaged by near miss and proceeded to Lowestoft.

S.S. GREAT WESTERN reported being attacked this afternoon near 52° 8' N. 6° 24' W. No damage was sustained.

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

There was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary between 1900 and 1950 today and minelaying is suspected.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Bedlam".

S.O. Force H proposes that HERMIONE and destroyers should leave Gibraltar at 0500/27 to search for the Vichy French S.S. ILE DE NOIRMOUTIER and ILE D'OUessant which left New York loaded on 15/11 for Casablanca.

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

U-boats in
South
Atlantic.

From various reports received it is evident that German supply ships have sailed recently from French ports and can by now be in the South Atlantic. At least one U-boat has operated as far south as Walvis Bay, and attacks in the Cape area must be expected in the near future. Group sailings of ships escorted by air and surface forces for the first 100 miles were ordered yesterday. Special arrangements are being made for escort of convoys W.S.12X. and W.S.12Z; and 4 Corvettes are to be sent to Capetown from Freetown at once and C. in C. A.W.I. is to send TULIP as soon as she can be spared by INDOMITABLE who is working up in the West Indies. The 4 corvettes sent from Freetown are to be replaced by 4 from Western Approaches.

Mediterranean.

Convoy
"Cat"
sunk.

Two merchant ships escorted by 2 destroyers were reported leaving the Gulf of Aegina at 1800B/23. Force K (AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE and LIVELY) left Malta at ~~0115B~~ today. 23/11. See p. 627. At 1634R S.O. Force K. reported that he had sunk both merchant ships but the two destroyers escaped. The Battle Fleet was at sea from 1600 today until 1045/26, supporting Force B (see 23/11) (and 26/11. p. 621)

Operation
M.E.5.

OLYMPUS.

OLYMPUS has sailed from Gibraltar for Malta with stores, including aviation petrol.

China.

SYDNEY
missing.
Raider
sunk.

SYDNEY left position 7° 56' S. 104° 40' E. at 0400Z/17 for Fremantle where she was due on 20/11 but has not yet arrived. C.Z.M. has been asked to search the area south of the Sunda Strait by air.

/S.S.....

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

SYDNEY
missing.
Raider
sunk. 19/11.
- Contd.

S.S. TROCAS reports that at 0700 today she picked up 25 German naval men on a raft in 24° 6' S. 111° 40' E. She reported later that these were from S.S. COMORON (~~9~~ ~~KAMERUN~~) which had been sunk by a cruiser. KORPORAN

America and West Indies.

Interception
of French
Ships.

In consequence of the suspension by U.S. of supplies for French North Africa all unescorted Vichy ships are to be intercepted except those trading between the West Indies and American continent or in inter-island trade.

S.C. convoy
cycle.

C.C.N.F. reports that the present cycle for S.C. convoys is too severe for both ships and personnel, and makes certain proposals.

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

W.A.Command.
Re-
organisation
of Forces.

Your 1932A/19. Approved. It being understood that the purpose of this re-organisation is to implement the plan for employment of destroyers in Western Approaches Command as set out in your memo. No. W.A.2688/0770/34 of 11/11/41. (V.C.N.S., 1115A/24 to C. in C. W.A.) Following organisation is to come into force forthwith. (C. in C. W.A., 1120/24).

P.37.

Intend P.37 should join 9th Flotilla on completion of working up about 27/11 in place of P.35 who is sailing shortly for the Mediterranean. (F.O.S., 1323A/24). *See also next page*

SIKH.

A.M.1104A/24. SIKH will be required to sail for Gibraltar on completion of boiler cleaning and defects. (A.C.N.S. H., 1327A/24).

Exercise
L.9.

Your 1948A/23. Should craft ex F.14 embarked in PRINCE CHARLES and PRINCE ALBERT for Exercise L.9. now be withdrawn?
(V.A., C.T.C. 1708A/24 to Admty).

Capt. D.3.

As soon as convenient to you Captain D.3. is required for a conference on future operations with A.C.O. Time and date of his arrival in London should be reported.
(Adviser on Combined Ops. 1812A/24 to V.A.2).

Co-operation with Russia.

Fuelling
of GOSSAMER.

Submit only small tanker in sight is empty. Understand her to be BUG.
(GOSSAMER, 0021C/24 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Fuel at
Murmansk.

S.B.N.O. Archangel 2220C/23. Concur subject to supply for cruisers being kept as low as practicable until decision reached on replenishment. My 1112C/12 refers. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2301C/24 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Defence of U.K.

Plymouth A/A
Defences.

Admiralty 1553/27/9. RESOLUTION sailed 1700/24. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1819/24). *See also p. 615*

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SEAWOLF. Negative patrol. Returning along lat. 071° 15' N., thence by route X. E.T.A. 069° 34' N., 034° 10' E. at 1100C/25.
(SEAWOLF, 0500C/24 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).
Your 0500C/24. Delay your arrival at R/V until 1300C/25. Do not attack any warship sighted. SHTORM class destroyer will meet you at R/V. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1752C/24 to SEAWOLF)
SEAWOLF returning from patrol as follows. Has been delayed arrival R/V until 1300C/25. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1817C/24 to C.S.10).

?SEAGULL, (?SEAGULL) SPEEDY arrived at Murmansk.
SPEEDY. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1110C/24).

ORUC REIS, Intended to sail TURBULENT and Turkish Sub.
TURBULENT. ORUC REIS for Clyde 1000A/30. One escort required to arrive Barrow 0900A/29. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1154A/24).

ICARUS. Proceed passing Switha at 1715 today to Hvalfjord. (R.A.D. H.F., 1209A/24 to ICARUS)
My 1209A/24. Amend para. one to read proceed passing Switha at 2330 today to Hvalfjord. (R.A.D. H.F., 2235A/24 to ICARUS).

P. 35 (i) C. in C. Med., 1217B/23.
P. 37 In order to advance dates on which relief
UNA. submarines join 10th S/M. F. as much as possible, amend para. 1 of F.O.(S) 1312A/20 as follows. Add *P.35 leaving Dundee 6/12. *Delete P.37.
(ii) In addition as previously arranged UNA leaves U.K. about 5/12 to arrive Gibraltar about 20/12. having completed second working up patrol on passage. (F.O.S., 1322A/24). * See previous page

P. 511 Routes to 270° Barra Head 10 miles.
P. 551. (C. in C. W.A., 1344A/24).

RAMILLIES. Admiralty's 2017A/22 and my 1244/19. Intend to adjust programme to arrive Clyde P.M./2. (RAMILLIES, 1422/24).

/RESOLUTION....

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War Diary.24.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.RESOLUTION.

Sailed RESOLUTION escorted by BERKELEY and KUJAWIAK. E.T.A. Scapa 0730/27. (C. in C. Plymouth 1704/24.)

LOBELIA.

Sailed LOBELIA wearing the Flag of A.C. F.N.F. for Iceland. E.T.A. 28/11. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1714A/24).

KENYA.

Sailed Murmansk, 1600C KENYA, BEDOUIN, INTREPID, Russian GREMYASHCHI, GROMKI. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2033G/24).

Operations.

Convoy F.S654
attacked by
E-boats.
VIRGILIA
(British
Tanker, 5723
tons) sunk.
GROENLO
(Dutch,
1984 tons)
sunk.
BLAIRNEVIS
(British,
4155 tons)
damaged.
E-boats:
1 sunk,
1 probably
sunk,
1 damaged.

2 ships torpedoed position 108° Cromer 34. (WESTMINSTER, 0011A/24).
Have lost touch with enemy E-boat at position 100° Cromer 38. (WESTMINSTER, 0044/24).
Have 7 survivors from VIRGILIA. Am rejoining convoy. (VANITY, 0125A/24).
My 0011A/24. 3 E-boats A, B, and C, engaged and driven off by WESTMINSTER. A, hit by Oerlikon fire reduced to slow speed and turned North in 52° 46' N., 2° 16' E. B, heavily hit by 4 inch fire disappeared in smoke and was followed by heavy explosion in 52° 49' N., 2° 23' E. C, engaged by 4 inch fire and disappeared to Northwards of 52° 50' N., 2° 24' E. Consider B almost certainly sunk. A, definitely damaged. C, possibly damaged. Other E-boat believed to have been operating in the vicinity. (WESTMINSTER, 0135A/24)
1 E-boat bearing 310° course unknown, position 058 Lowestoft 17. (?VANITY, 0152A/24).
2 E-boats course unknown. My position 070° Lowestoft 18. (SOUTHDOWN, 0213/23).
Departure tugs KROOMAN and SUPERMAN at 0220A/24 escorted by M.G.B's 87 and 91 and M.L's 145 and 147 to assist two ships reported torpedoed vicinity Hearty Knoll. (F.O.I.C. Y'mth. 0245A/24)
VIRGILIA sunk in about 293° 57 D buoy 1.4. (?VANITY, 0321A/24).
Harwich W/T T.O.O. 0451. SOUTHDOWN and WINDSOR proceeding cut off retreat of E-boat. (SOUTHDOWN, 0520A/14).
Departure at 0605A/24 Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER with Salvage Officer, to assist vessel torpedoed vicinity Hearty Knoll. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0705A/24).

/Following....

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24.11.1941.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Convoy F.S. 54
attacked by
E-boats.
VIRGILIA
(British
Tanker, 5723
tons) sunk.
GROENLO
(Dutch,
1984 tons)
sunk.
BLAIRNEVIS
(British
4155 tons)
damaged.
E-boats:
1 sunk,
1 probably
sunk,
1 damaged.
Contd.

Following received begins:- Addressed Yarmouth from Harwich, E-boats bearing 078° from Area W. Ends. 0451A/24). (C. in C. Nore 0845A/24).
Following received:-

VANITY's 0450A and 0602A. Begin:-
(1) From VANITY. Ship torpedoed in about 028° 52 E., Buoy 1 point 5. 0450A/24.

(2) From VANITY. My 0450. S.S. GROENLO torpedoed and believed sunk. Am remaining in vicinity. Have 6 survivors. 0602A/24. Ends. (C. in C. Nore, 0947A/24).

My 0135A/24. Full investigation revealed the following E-boats. "A" at a range of 800 yards was hit and damaged as report. E-boat "B" was observed by 3 observers to receive a direct hit and to blow up a few seconds later. Last range 022.

E-boat "C" making white smoke was then engaged at range of 030. Straddled and began to make black smoke. It turned north and was lost to sight. 20 seconds later a heavy explosion and column of smoke was sighted from its approximate position. Now consider (A) definitely damaged. (B) Definitely sunk. (C) Probably sunk on position explosions were. Closed on return run but everything was completely obscured by heavy pall of dense smoke from burning tanker. (WESTMINSTER, 1055A/24).

About 0001/24. F.S. 54 attacked by E-boats 108° 34 miles from Cromer. Steamships VIRGILIA and BLAIRNEVIS hit by torpedoes. Former subsequently sank in approximate position 293° 54D buoy 1 point 4 miles. Latter being towed to Yarmouth Roads. Destroyers engagement with E-boats is given in WESTMINSTER's 0135A/24. Second attack occurred 0445/24, steamship GROENLO torpedoed and sunk in 030° 54E buoy 6 cables. 12 Group sent fighters at daylight towards Dutch coast, no contact reported. (C. in C. Nore, 1150A/24).

Add to my 1150A/24. Two E-boats were engaged by SOUTHDOWN at about 0240/24 in approx. 061° 25 miles from Lowestoft. These E-boats were engaged simultaneously on either side with 4" and close range weapons until Starshell was all expended. One E-boat certainly damaged, the other probably. E-boats last seen in smoke of burning Tanker VIRGILIA. Smoke from Tanker precluded further search. The following forces were operating. With F.S. 54 Four Destroyers. One Corvette and Two M.L.'s. On Patrol vicinity 53° N., 02° 30' E. two M.G.B.'s (L). On patrol vicinity 52° 43' N., 02° 23' E., two M.L.'s. (C. in C. Nore, 1840A/24).

BLAIRNEVIS loaded 1370 Standards Timber, now anchored Yarmouth roads, torpedoed. Damage aft. All compartments Aft including Engine Room flooded. SUPERMAN, DIVERSION, RICHARD LEE BARBER standing by with Salvage Officers tonight (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1845A/24)

/Denmark...

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24.11.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Denmark
Strait Patrol.

Sailed CUMBERLAND 1145. (A.C.I.C. 1240N/24).

RORQUAL
attacked on
19/11.

RORQUAL has nothing to report except that two torpedoes were fired at her by an unidentified vessel in position 45° 56' N., 02° 00' W. at 0300A/19. First torpedo missed ahead, RORQUAL turned towards firing vessel and track of second torpedo passed down starboard side. No enemy vessel was sighted but a lighted fishing vessel was sighted approximately two to three miles in the direction from which the torpedoes came. C.O. does not consider, however torpedoes were fired by the vessel. (F.O.S., 1301A/24).

Patrol Short
Titles.

Propose to allocate following short title to surface patrols. Denmark Strait - Patrol white. Iceland Faeroes Passage - Patrol black. (C. in C. H.F., 1314N/24).

Exercise
W.A.X.101.

Your 1251A/24. Submarine H.50 available for W.A.X.101. Area A, 1030 - 1530/25th, G.E.T. 1600/25th. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1538A/24 to VANQUISHER).
My 1439A/23/11 Operation successful. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1912A/24)

Patrols.

Patrol tonight 2 M.G.B's (L) Q.E.8. 2 M.L's Q.E. 6A. (C. in C. Nore, 1951A/24).

Operation
"Sunstar".

1. "Sunstar" carried out. All troops landed in difficult conditions due to surf. Believed Military operations carried out successfully. Troops carrying out raid not yet returned.
2. M.G.B's returned with A.L.C's 74 and 25 with 1 Officer and 12 O.Rs. A.L.C.24 with 16 O.Rs. on board known to have only one engine working last seen at sea off beach. A.L.C.127 believed to have 60 O.Rs. on board not found on beach after thorough search by Col. Saegert in A.L.C.25 and therefore also presumed at sea. Last known in good condition. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2213/24).

/A/C....

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

A/C in
AUDACITY.

Following is present position 9 I.E. aircraft in 802 Squadron F.A.A. Request information if any replacement Martlets are being sent to Gibraltar as suggested by my 1315A/15/11. (AUDACITY, 1458A/24).

A/C for
ENGADINE.

Your 1106A/23. Ship is now ready to start loading. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1514A/24).

Enemy Air Activity.

Faeroes
bombed on
22/11.

My 1813/23. Enemy aircraft dropped 3 single bombs in sea and 1 500 yards from oil tank at Trangisvaag 1025/22. 2 civilian houses damaged. No casualties. O.K. (O.C. Troops, Faeroes, 1024/24 to War Office)

ROCKABILL
attacked.

At about 1600/22 British Coaster ROCKABILL was attacked by aircraft with 3 bombs and machine gunfire about 1200 yards off Rosslare Pier Head. Vessel reported not damaged. It is stated that the machine guns at Rosslare did not attempt to engage the aircraft. Attack witnessed from G.W.R. Steamer H. ANTONIA lying in Rosslare. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1430/24).

GREAT
WESTERN.

Received 1430 G.M.T. de GREAT WESTERN AAAA off Barrels buoy. At 1433 G.M.T. from GREAT WESTERN off Barrels buoy. Help "Conflict 3". (Burnham Radio. No T.O.O. Recd. 1542/24).

Convoy
F.N561.
ARDENZA
(British 933
tons)
damaged.

Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy "Radio" in 52° 3' N., 1° 49' E. (LEEDS, 1607/24). My 1607. 4 Bombs, no hit. ARDENZA damaged by near miss, going into Lowestoft, KINGSTON OLIVINE escorting. (LEEDS, 1640A/24).

STOKE CITY
bombed on
20/11.

Your 1540A/20. Report full particulars and whereabouts of R.N. casualties sustained. (Head of Naval Branch 1913/24 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

N.L. 22.

My 1604/23. Operation has been postponed.
(V.A. Dover, 1010A/24).

Minelaying
Programme.

Your 0937N/23. Hope to work to following
approximate programme. Details.
(R.A.M., 1037/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
See Lion Copy.

Tyne.

Detonated 2 magnetic ground mines at 0820/24
in 116°. Tyne North Pier Light 1 cable.
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1110/24 and 1715/24)

Yarmouth.

Your 331B/41. Following report of mines rendered
safe week ending 22/11 is as follows. Details.
(R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 1619A/24).

Enemy Intelligence.

Destroyer and
Escort
Vessel.

Enemy destroyer with (?convoy) eastbound 070°
58' N., 026° 10' E., 0346C, and same believed
off Tanafiord 1445. Escort vessel off Kongsfiord
1450, possibly meeting convoy.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1629C/24 to C.S.10).
By D/F 2138C (?escort Vessel) 071° 05' N.,
026° 30' E. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2244C/24 to
C.S.10).

Navigational

Sheringham
Light Buoy.

Commodore of F.N.59 reports at 2330/22 Shering-
ham Light Buoy extinguished.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1140/24).

Wreck.
F.S.655.

Wreck dangerous to navigation approx. position
033° 1.3 miles from Hearty Knoll buoy. F.S.
655 is to leave 55 A buoy to starboard thence to
pass close west of 54 D buoy.
(C. in C. Nore 2141A/24).

Technical.

Direction
of Fighter
A/C by Ships.

Your 1601/19. Concur with proposed arrangement.
Would prefer that not more than one fighter
should be so employed and that it should be of
single engine type. (A.C.O.S., 1305/24 to
C. in C. H.F.)

/Minor...

SECRET

MESSAGE

1037/24th Nov.

IN

619^A

From: R.A.(M)

Date 24.11.41
Recd 1320

Naval Cypher D by A.T.X.

Addressed: C. in C. Home Fleet, Repeated: Admiralty,
R.A.D. Home Fleet, V.A.2., A.C.O.S.
IMPORTANT

Your 0937N 23. Exact dates cannot be given as date of delivery of mark XXII one star units is not yet certain.

(ii). It is hoped to work to the following approximate programme made out to suit number of ships likely to be available.

December 14 lay southern half of S N 84 with 2 ships.

December 22 lay S N 67 B with 3 ships.

December 30 lay northern half of S N 84 with 4 ships.

January 9th lay S N 85.

January 16 lay S N 81.

January 23 lay S N 82. Thereafter lay S N 86, S N 87 and S N 88.

(iii). If considered necessary S N 67 B could be laid first, followed by S N 81 and S N 82. The order given in paragraph (ii) is preferred however both from navigational view point and because of number of ships available.

(iv) It is hoped that until arrival of H.M.S. ADVENTURE, about Christmas, a cruiser can be provided to give close A/A escort when fast layers are not available.

(v) One additional destroyer will be required until about mid January.

1037/24

Advance copy Ops, O.D., D.D.O.D.(M)

V.C.N.S.

I.P. (3)

M (2)

A.C.N.S.(H)

D.S.D.9

D.D.O.D.(M)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.A/S.W.

E.P.S.

Ops (3)

W.D.

O.D.(5)

D.N.I. (4)

O.I.C. (3)

D. of P (3)

War Diary.24.11.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical. - Contd.Minor
Warships
Recognition
Signals.Your 1624A/14. Alternative (2) preferred.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1313A/24).Casualties & Defects.KRAKOWIAK.My 1837/22. The repairs now being carried out on KRAKOWIAK will ensure her being seaworthy until next refit.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0945/24).M.L. 262.
M.L. 268.M.L's 262 and 268 damaged in collision while on patrol. Both boats require slipping. Work cannot be undertaken by Portland Dockyard or Coastal Force Base. Request arrangements may be made for them to be taken in hand elsewhere but as adjacent as possible in view of their condition. It is understood that work could be undertaken by E.R.O. Poole.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1512/24).S.S. RAMSAY
(casualty
18/11).Your 1221/22. Will repairs enable RAMSAY reach Oban for East Coast Port.
(D.T.D., 1637A/24 to U.K. Shipping Adviser, Cork)ROXBOROUGH.ROXBOROUGH reports ship can proceed to another port in the British Isles at maximum speed 20 knots without any prior repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1759A/24). *See also p. 635*FLORA II.CAPE WARWICK proceeding to your assistance. Anchor and await her arrival.
(M.A.S. Iceland, 2349/2 to FLORA II).Shipping & Convoys.P. Q. 3
CAPE CORSO.Your 1316A/22. Cdre. reported CAPE CORSO parted from P.Q. three in heavy weather at 1330/11. Ocean escort and ~~WARRS~~ periodically searched the vicinity of convoy until 20th. CAPE RACE similarly separated was found.
(C.S.10., 0810Z/24 to Admty).
CAPE CORSO arrived. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1640C/24)

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

F.N562.
F.S656
CITY OF
DURBAN.

My 2046/21/11. No A/S trawler available for F.N562 and F.S656. A/P VINDELICIA will be available for F.N562. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1000A/24).

Intend to sail CITY OF DURBAN for Methil with F.N562 tomorrow for onward passage to Scapa as ordered by C. in C Rosyth. (C. in C. Nore, 1030A/24).

BB.4.

Pass to N.C.S.O's concerned. BB4 ships for Bristol Channel ports have been routed to other destinations. If Bristol Channel ports have not been re-opened request you will pass necessary instructions to Commodore for ships concerned.

(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1058A/24 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

"Steward"
and
W.P. Groups.

Until further orders "Steward" and W.P. groups will be sailed from Swansea Bay only. Commencing tomorrow it is hoped to permit sailings from Ports East of Port Talbot between noon and 1900 daily.

(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1124A/24).

P.Q.4.

BRAMBLE, SEAGULL, SPEEDY will be in position (769°) 33' N., 41° East at 0900C/27 and will steer 13° at 10 knots for 4 hours. If not met minesweepers will proceed to R/V off Cape Gorodetski at 0830C/28. M/Ss. S.O. escort to 59 Dvina.

(S.O. 1st M/S.F., 1145C/24 to BERWICK).

P.Q.5.

(i) P.Q.5. SHEFFIELD is S.O.
(ii) Following signal passed for information C. in C. H.F. 1805Z/14. Admiralty 2155A/15, Admiralty 2153A/23.
(iii) H.Y. para 4. Escort signal not yet received. (iv) Available information will be passed before sailing.

(V.A.2., 1225A/24 to SHEFFIELD).

My 1316N/24. Request you sail SHEFFIELD to R/V after refuelling at Seidis Fiord.

(C. in C. H.F., 1318N/24 to V.A.2).

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

S.C.55.

To ensure S.C.55 is met by destroyer, FOXHOUND is to detail herself or AMAZON to leave convoy at 0800A/25 for Iceland(C). Corvettes on relief at M.O.M.P. are to R/V S.C.55 and sweep within 20 miles of convoy until M.O.M.P. S.C.55 routed through

(q) 055° N., 038° W. (r) 059° 30' N., 025° W. thence M.O.M.P. in 059° 30' N., 023° 30' W., at 1100Z/27. Speed 6½ knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 1235A/24 to Escorts O.N.38).

M/Vs to
move at
night.

Masters of M/Vs proceeding Archangel are to be given written instructions that whilst at anchor in North Russian ports they must move at night if ordered to do so by British or Russian naval authorities. (D.T.D., 1325A/24 to A.C.I.C.)

W.S.14
ESPERANCE
BAY.

Your 1040A/24 and A.M.1815A/16.
ESPERANCE BAY will now be ready to leave London 28/11.

2. Sailing of W.S.14 is postponed till 6/12.
3. She should be ready to embark troops 4/12. (D.O.D. H., 1635A/24 to C. in C. Nore).
Following is a repetition of my 1206A/22.
Begins:- Admiralty 1815A/16 para. 3.
Intend after sailing ESPERANCE BAY escorted by WANDERER for Clyde at 0830/27.
WANDERER will carry out S.A. sweeping ahead whilst on passage. Escort advance 15 knots and estimated arrival Clyde P.M./30 Ends.
(C. in C. Nore, 1843A/24).

F.S.654.

VIRGILIA
F.S.654 arrived except THORE HAFTE, BLAIRNEVIS, / and GROENLO reported torpedoed.
REGIN reported returned to Tees.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1711/24).

Convoy C.T.7.
BELMONT.

SHERWOOD returned with defect.
(ii) Sail BELMONT 25/11 to Halifax. Route (A) 055° N., 021° W. (B) 53° N., 35° W.
(C) 47° N 51° W. (iii) Admiralty 2027A/20.
BELMONT, GARLAND will escort AGAMEMNON, CALIFORNIA to U.K.
(C. in C. W.A., 2154A/24 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

War Diary.

24.11.1941
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Vichy
Ships
Operation
"Bedlam"

Your 0036/22. To cover speeds between 11½ and 7 knots - intend air search to cover area within positions,

- (a) 033° 25' N. 017° 50' W.
- (b) 033° 44' N. 017° 27' W.
- (c) 036° 19' N. 022° 28' W.
- (d) 034° 00' N. 022° 52' W.

during daylight hours 25 to 30/11 inclusive.

(ii) Surface forces to be at 2 hours notice from A.M./25 and sail from Gibraltar at 0500/27 to search to westwards within area bounded on East by 200 circle from Casablanca and on North and South by lines drawn 278° from 032° 45' N. 012° 23' W. and 035° 04' N. 012° 00' W. S.O.A. during daylight 16 knots, retiring by night at S.O.A. 9 knots.

(iii) Destroyers leave search P.M./30.

(iv) HERMIONE backed up by aircraft continues search until P.M.1/12.

(v) Prize crews provided ex ARK ROYAL.

(S.O. Force H. 1105A/24 to Admty.).

Carry out operation "Bedlam".

(ii) Ships left New York 15/11 for Casablanca loaded. Assume fastest speed 11½ knots, slowest 7 knots.

(1st S.L. 1636A/24 to F.O. Force H.).

Germans in
Casablanca.

At least 100 Germans were seen in uniform in Casablanca on 21/11. They were from all branches of the army and air force. A.1. This report from absolutely reliable Portuguese Capt. trading with Casablanca. He has never seen any uniformed Germans except an odd 1 or 2 on previous voyages. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1500/24 to Admty.).

N.I.D. Comment. According to other reports:-

(i) German members of Armistice Commission in Morocco donned uniform on 18/11 with authority to make arrests (graded B.1.).

(ii) Three aeroplanes arrived in Casablanca on 23/11 bringing 50 uniformed and armed Germans (Graded B.2.).

French
shipping.

Passing Gib. eastbound at 1639/24. (D.O.R. 26/11).

French
Ketch
intercepted.

0722 Arfar. French Auxiliary Ketch in ballast from Douarnenez to fishing ground off Cape Blanco. Brought in by armed guard. Conditions similar to my 0716 Arfar. (re Vichy French Ketch BELLE BRETAGNE). Request instructions. (C.C.S.O. Gibraltar 1758/24 to M.E.W.).

/Your.....

War Diary.

24.11.1941
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French
Ketch
intercepted
-Contd.

Your 1135/23. Report particulars of BELLE BRETAGNE stating endurance on engine alone. Similar report required on Ketch PANCEITE ANNIK (?PETITE ANNIE). (Vide SCOTTISH 1900/21 to F.O.C.N.A.) on her arrival. (D.E.W.D. 1817A/24 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

OLYMPUS
O.21.

OLYMPUS left Gibraltar 1830/24 through 36° 25' 002° 00' west, 38° 00' 002° 30' east, 38° 20' 9° 00' east, 10½ knots, diving by day on 25th. (2) W.M.P.11 para 10. Your return route is that given in Capt. S.8's 1334A/9 para. 1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1906A/24 to O.21..). OLYMPUS sailed for Malta with stores including aviation petrol. Estimate she will pass through 38° 20' 09° 00'. E. about 0600A/28. Request you will inform OLYMPUS of onward route and arrange necessary bombing restriction. (F.O.C.N.A. 1908A/24 to V.A. Malta).

ARGUS

Your 2155A/22. Approved. (2). Work should be taken in hand forthwith. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1934A/24 to F.O. Force H.).

South Atlantic.

Survivors
from raider
sunk by
DEVONSHIRE,
22/11.

My 2324/22. Small craft is not to be sent. (1st S.L. 0138A/24 to C.in C. S.A.).

SOUTHWOLD
DULVERTON

Your 0018A/20. Can a decision now be given about SOUTHWOLD and DULVERTON ? (C.in C. S.A. 0925N/24 to Admty). (See 1723/24 and also C.in C. Med. 1714B/24). pp.625,626,7631.)

W.S. 12 X

Departure 23/11 AURICULA local escort W.S. 12 X. (S.O(I) Freetown 1235N/24 to Admty.).

/German.....

War Diary.

24.11.1941
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

German
supply
ships.

From various reports received it is evident German supply ships have sailed recently from French ports and can now be in South Atlantic. Probable ex fruit ships and not tanker type. (C.in C. S.A. 1425N/24 to S.A. Stn.).

BULOLO

Your 1201/16 BULOLO arrived 1230 G.M.T./24 . 24 hours extension approved for mechanical defects. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1546Z/24 to S.O.I. Montevideo)

W.S.12 Z.

A.M. 1855/18 para 13, and A.M. 1812/23. Whole convoy W.S. 12 Z is to proceed to Durban direct giving the Cape a wide berth.
2. Request you will arrange for MILFORD and BRIDGEWATER to accompany convoy as far as Cape and for DULVERTON and SOUTHWOLD to provide as much A/S escort to this as fuelling arrangements will allow.
3. Expect ROYAL SOVEREIGN will require fuel at Capetown and relief ocean escort will be necessary as far as Durban.
4. On completion of fuelling at Cape-
(a) ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to rejoin Convoy.
(b)* DULVERTON and SOUTHWOLD are to be sailed to Mediterranean at best speed.
(c) MILFORD and BRIDGEWATER are to act as ordered by you but it appears probable that they will be required similarly to escort W.S.14.
5. Realised that above arrangements will strain Durban facilities. If necessary, other ships must be sent to sea during visit of W.S. 12 Z. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1723A/24 to C.in C. S.A.) See also 1721A/24, America and West Indies.

* See /> p 624-626-631

CANTON
DUNEDIN

Steer for Southern half of I 34 B with all convenient despatch. Report your p.c. and s. and percentage of fuel remaining. (C. in C. S.A. 1801N/24 to CANTON, DUNEDIN). (W.D. Note. No reply apparently received from DUNEDIN, which on 25/11 was reported missing.) Your 2100Z/24 (N.T. in W.D.). Your course should be approx. 130°. Position being repeated. (C.in C.S.A. 2155Z/24 to CANTON). My 1809 N 24. Steer for Southern half of I 34 B. C.in C. S.A. 2157N/24 to CANTON, DUNEDIN). My 2100Z/24. Present course 125° 15 knots for I 34 B. (CANTON 2330Z/24 to C.in C. S.A.).

/Beaufort.....

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. -Contd.

Beaufort
Aircraft.

When in South Africa I was informed that up to 18 Beaufort Aircraft for S.A.A.F. Coastal Flights were expected very shortly. F.O.I.C. Simonstown reports there is no news of their arrival. Request position may be ascertained from Air Ministry urgently.
(C.in C.S.A. 1807N/24 to Admty.).

Corvettes
for
Capetown.

A.M. 2329/23.

1. Decided that 5 corvettes are required for service at Capetown immediately.
2. To implement this decision, C.in C. S.A. is requested to transfer to Capetown, without awaiting relief, 4 corvettes from Freetown preferably to be chosen from those fitted with R.D.F.
3. C.in C. A.W.I. is requested to transfer TULIP to Capetown as soon as she can be spared by INDOMITABLE.
4. In order to maintain strength of the Freetown Force, C.in C. W.A. is requested to transfer 4 corvettes to C.in C. S.A. as soon as possible.
5. C's in C. are requested to signal their intentions for effecting these transfers.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1824A/24 to C.in C. S.A. C.in C. A.W.I. C.in C. W.A.).

22nd A/S
Group.

My 1245/28/6 period of loan of 22nd A/S Group to Mediterranean was extended for 6 months only expiring December 1941. Request very early instructions whether Union Govt. should be approached for further extension. Anticipate they will agree.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1937B/24 to Admty.).

SOUTHWOLD
DULVERTON
ALBATROSS
QUEEN EMMA
PRINCESS
BEATRIX.

Answer to your 0925/24 is given in A.M. 1723/24 (neither to all addressees). ~~See pp 624-625-631.~~
2. A.M. 1252/17 para 4. Sailing of ALBATROSS QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX is to be delayed until escort can be provided.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1942A/24 to C.in C. S.A.).

DORSETSHIRE.

E.T.A. 1400N/25. Request Eoom at 1500.
(DORSETSHIRE 1951Z/24 to C.in C. S.A.).

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

→ SOKOL.

Leave patrol forthwith direct for 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta 0730B/27.
(Capt. S.10 0010B/24 to SOKOL).

Enemy Units.

My 0009B/24. 2 Merchant ships, 2 destroyers, sighted 037° 26' 024° 03' course 210°, speed (?7) knots at 1800B/23.
(Capt. S.1. 0021B/24 to THUNDERBOLT).
1 Merchant ship 2 destroyers, 032° 15' 015° 30' course (?340°) at 1300B/23.
(Capt. S.1. 0029B/24 to UNBEATEN).

Force K.

Departure 23/11 AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE, LIVELY. (V.A. Malta 0115B/24 to Admty.).

→ SOKOL
→ TRUSTY.

0010B/24 from Capt. (S) 10. If you have any torpedoes remaining patrol in vicinity 036° 45' 020° 40' until 1800B/24 to intercept 2 southbound 6 knots tankers about 1200B/24. TRUSTY patrol in vicinity 037° 10' 020° 30' with same object.
(Capt. S.1. 0209B/24 to SOKOL).

TORBAY

Cruisers and destroyers leave harbour 0400B today at high speed course 298°. Remain on surface till they have passed,
(Capt. S.1. 0247B/24 to TORBAY).

Enemy convoy.

Position of enemy convoy 232 Matapan 70 at 0800. (Hal Far 0700Z/24 to F.O.2 Med.).

→ CARLISLE.

What is your position (corrupt group)? (FLAMINGO 0738B/24 to CARLISLE).

FARNDALE.

Rejoin GLENROY. (C.in C. Med. 0820/24 to FARNDALE).

→ Enemy Units.

One destroyer, one tanker, one flying boat, sighted in 037° 13' N. 020° 27' E. course (corrupt group)° speed 9 knots. (TRUSTY 0830B/24 to S.1 S.10).

→ PARRAMATTA

C.in C. Med's. 0805/24. (N.T. in W.D.). Proceed with despatch to join Capt. (D) 7 and destroyers with CARLISLE towing GLENROY. In position at 0800/24 031° 36' N. 027° 14' E. FLAMINGO and Fleet tug ST. ISSEY should have joined also. (R.A. Alexandria 0904B/24 to PARRAMATTA).

/Your.....

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PARRAMATTA
-Contd.

Your 0904/24. Intend to proceed 1200B/24.
(PARRAMATTA 1015B/24 to R.A. Alexandria).

Enemy
Cruiser.

One enemy cruiser 036° 16' 020° 22' at 0800B/24
course 343°, speed 18 knots.
(Capt. S.1. 0921B/24 to THRASHER P.31).
My 0921B/24. Enemy altered course at 1345B to
320°.
(Capt. S.1. 1611B/24 to THRASHER P.31).

7 D.F.
HASTY
FARNDALE

7th D/F HASTY return to Alexandria with all
despatch. FARNDALE rejoin CARLISLE.
(C.in C. Med. 0955B/24 to Alexandria C and C.O.
etc).

UNBEATEN.

Proceed to operate in area D. 1 until P.M./26 then
leave through 033° 00' 015° 00' 034° 10' 014° 30'
and 035° 34' 014° 10' to arrive Malta 0730B/28.
(Capt. S.10, 1011B/24 to UNBEATEN).

GLENROY
sinking.
(See also p. 629)

Following (?transferred) from Capt. (D) 7.
N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh from Capt. (D) 7. CARLISLE
is trying to beach GLENROY who is sinking T.O.O.
0954.
(S.O. Force I. 1015B/24 to C.in C. Med.).

Force K.

From 033° 51' 020° 16' search in 047° direction.
(ii) Contact may be made at about 1430B.
(V.A. Malta 1017B/24 to S.O. Force K.).

Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. of 2 enemy merchant vessels, 2
destroyers, course 239°, speed 5 knots, position
P.D.A.E. 4022. (35-40, longitude indecypherable).
(Med A/C 7 Q.B.F. 1040B/24 to Med. A/C 6 F.J.).
2 merchant vessels 5,000 tons (?R) D.R.N. 231 5
knots (35.40 N. 22.22 E.). Fighter escort
aircraft attacked, returning.
(71 Sqdn. F., 1042/24 to 130 Sqdn.).

UPHOLDER
SOKOL
UTMOST.

UPHOLDER leaves Malta P.M./24 through 037° 00'
015° 37' to operate off Augusta before arriving
Del Armi A.M./26. Leave patrol P.M./25 for
037° 00' 016° 30'. SOKOL approaching Malta from
E.N.E. and anticipated positions 1900B/26 are:
UTMOST 036° (720') (7015°) (710')
SOKOL 035° 57' 015° 58' both thence through
035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta 0730B/27.
Submarines encountered during night of 26/27 are
not to be attacked.
(Capt. S.10 1117B/24 to UTMOST).

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PERSEUS.

PERSEUS will be ready for patrol P.M./26.
(Capt. S.10 1125B/24 to Capt. S.1.).

TRUSTY
SOKOL.

Operational submarine Sanctuaries established as follows:- (1) Within 10 miles of 037° 10' 020° 30' for TRUSTY and 036° 45' 020° 40' for SOKOL.

(2) Safety route 10 miles either side line between latter position and 035° 51' 015° 15' for 1800B/24 until 0001B/27.

(V.A. Malta 1145B/24 to S.O. Force K.).

Enemy
warships.

Course and speed of 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers are 110° 16, 34.40 N. 20.11 E.
(Med. A/C 1200/24).

GLENROY

CARLISLE transferred tow to (corrupt group) off Mersa Matruh Entrance and proceeding Alexandria with "Hunt" E.T.A. 1800/24. FLAMINGO remaining to take rest of crew. All possible lighters and tugs will be brought into Mersa Matruh.

(S.O. Force I. 1209B/24 to C.in C. Med.).

GLENROY hit by aircraft torpedo in 031° 40' N. 026° 28' E. 1620/23. Engine room and number 5 hold flooded. CARLISLE took her in tow, but at 1000/24 in 031° 34' 027° 20' reported GLENROY appeared likely to sink and that she was close shore to endeavour to beach ship. No casualties. One and possibly both attacking aircraft shot down by fighter escort.

(C.in C. Med. 1216B/24 to Admty.).

Movements.

Departure 23/11 COCKER, PROTEA, HEYTHROP, YARRA, SALVIA, ST. ISSEY, FLAMINGO (?Greek destroyer ASPIS) Arrival 23/11 TORBAY. Departure 24/11 *MAGNOLIA, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, HOTSPUR, AJAX, EURYALUS, NAIAD, GALATEA, NEPTUNE.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1217B/24).

*MAGNOLIA (M/ST) in U.K.
(19-2 list)

Ships from
Black Sea.

Your 2332/20 no suitable persons available locally but I (corrupt group) 4 sent to Egypt which should suffice if upon arrival Famagusta they are returned here quickest possible route.
(Beyoglu, 1224B/24 to C. in C. Med).

/Black....

24.11.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Black Sea Situation.

Your 1940A/15 just received. Signals were despatched by me to Admty via C. in C. Med., on 7/11, 12/11, 17/11. Situation report. Mazatlan which is only area in Crimea in Russian hands is holding out under difficult conditions. When Kerch was evacuated majority of men tanks and guns crossed safely but considerable quantity of motor transports had to be abandoned. Terrain on mainland opposite to Kerch suitable for defence but German advance in Rostov area makes whole situation precarious. Facilities in Black Sea for repairing damaged ships already seriously reduced. There is also a shortage of (?coal) for merchant vessels. (N.L.O. Black Sea, 1304C/24 to Admty).

AFGHANISTAN.
(See p. 601)

Your 1342Z/23. Request early report whether (A) Spare blades can be shipped to Aden (B) if so time required (C) Ship fit to resume tow when blades fitted. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1321B/24 to N.O.I.C. Aden).

S/Ms for 10th Flotilla.

1. C. in C. Med., 1217B/23. In order to advance the dates on which relief submarines join 10th Flotilla as much as possible, para.1 of F.O.S. 1312A/20 should be amended as follows: Add P.35 leaving Dundee 6/12. Delete P.37.
2. In addition as previously arranged UNA leaves U.K. about 5/12 to arrive Gibraltar about 20/12 having completed second working up patrol on passage. (F.O.S., 1322A/24 to Admty).

Libya.

Military Situation Reports. (C. in C. M.E. to W.O. 1435/24, 1556/24*) See Lion Copy. [p. 632 C+D] *1910/24. [p. 632 E]

UPHOLDER, UPRIGHT.

UPHOLDER leaves 35° 51' 15" 15' about 2000B/24 on course 20° S/Ms. encountered on opposite course are not to be attacked. (Capt. S.10., 1530B/24 to UPRIGHT). My 1117B/24 and my 1530B/24 UPHOLDER delayed 24 hours. (Capt. S.10., 1929B/24 to UPRIGHT)

Gazala bombed.

Night 22/23. 8 F.A.A. Albatrosses bombed Gazala landing grounds destroying large petrol dump. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1536/24).

/TRUANT....

631

War Diary.24.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.TRUANT.

TRUANT sailed 1530B/24 routed from end of searched channel, through $034^{\circ} 04' 026^{\circ} 25'$ $034^{\circ} 27' 023^{\circ} 43'$ thence direct to area B within a radius of 48 miles from Pylos Light, Navarin. (Capt. S.I., 1545B/24 to C. in C. Med).

PARTHIAN.

Following received for information PARTHIAN Addressed GENEINA. Alter datum to 36.05 N., 23.02 E., tracks 230 for 80 thence SSGAAAVIS 10 miles, objective Destroyers. (201 Group H.Q., 1549/24).
Ref. my 1549. For 80 read +E 20 repeat +120 MLS. (130 Sqdn., 1647/24 to 8 T.A.) (as received)
My 1647. Keep North of 35° N., owing presence our I forces AAA acknowledge. (V.6 F.J., 1729/24 to 8 T.A.)

M/Vs sunk by Force K.

Both Merchant ships of convoy "Cat" sunk. Both Destroyers escaped. (S.O. Force K., 1634R/24 to V.A. Malta).

Enemy T/Bs.

2 T.B's sighted 1500/24 $037^{\circ} 15'$ N., $023^{\circ} 50'$ E. course and speed $180^{\circ} 20$ knots, may be encountered South of Crete. (C. in C. Med., 1650B/24 to Med.Fleet, Force K.)

SOUTHWOLD, DULVERTON.

C. in C. South Atlantic's 0925N/24. ^(b) 6249 636) Round the Cape please. (C. in C. Med., 1714B/24 to Admty)

Malta Raids.

23/11
1507 Hours 3 R/C aircraft crossed Island.
1704 Hours 4 Bombers approached singly. 1 crossed Coast, bombs land sea, no damage, no interceptions, no sightings. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1730/24)

Syria.

Following from Gen. Spears 1522/23/11 for Minister of State. Re. Free French in Syria. (R.A. Alexandria, 1740B/24 to C. in C. Med).
See Lion Copy. [P. 632 B]

Enemy Destroyers.

P.C. and S. of enemy, 2 Destroyers 35.41 N., 22.22 E., 020° (?15) knots. (A/C K 7 T.A. 1740/24 to Hal Far).

Submarines.

Movements Summary No. 58. (Capt. S.I., 1745B/24)
See Lion Copy.

/M/V....

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

M/V Piraeus. One 5,000 ton Merchant Ship now (?proceeding to) load A/A guns and grain Piraeus expected to leave shortly. (THORN, 1803B/24 to Capt. S.1)

ES PIGUETTE
(French) Arrival 22nd Ballast from Mastaganem. (Valencia, 1914/24, to M. of W.T.)

TRUSTY.
THUNDERBOLT. Establish patrol as in my 2021B/22, as follows. TRUSTY Area P close within 48 miles of 38° 11' 20° 21' THUNDERBOLT area in S.W. Aegean within 52 miles of Antikithera Light. Operational Sanctuaries established in these 2 areas forthwith. (Capt. S.1., 1917B/24 to TRUSTY, THUNDERBOLT).

Search for
Enemy Convoy. Following received (begins) C. in C. Med., Force "K", Force "B", from 201 Group, A.268, 24/11. Air attack failed to locate. Convoy may have turned round. Sunderland searching North of 35° N., T.O.O. 1726/24 (Ends). (R.A. Alexandria, 1932B/24 to C. in C. Med).

Malta
Air Raids. There were two air raids by day and twenty by night during the period 1st to 20th Nov. Casualties and damage. (Gov. Malta, No T.O.O./24).

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1745B/24th November. IN.

From:- Capt. (S) 1st.

Date. 24.11.41. 632^A

Recd. 2230,

Naval Code (L.2) Secret.
by T/P.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet, repeated N.O.I.C.
Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Malta, S.O. Force "I" Group 201.
A.O.C. Mediterranean, N.O.I.C. Port Said, Cyprus,
Palestine Ports.

IMPORTANT.

Eastern Mediterranean Submarine Movements Summary
Number 58.

Alexandria Movements.

<u>Submarine</u>	<u>Leave</u>	<u>Routed Through</u>	<u>Arrive.</u>
H.M. 3. TRUANT	Alexandria 24th	034 degs. 04' 25', (? 034 degs) 023 degs 46' Area E within 48 miles Pylos Light.	026 degs 27' Navarin
H.M. 3. THORN.	Kaso Strait 24th or 25th	035 degs 00' (? 027 degs) 00'	Alexandria 27th or 28th
P. S. SOKOL	P.M. 24th	036 degs. 45' 40'. 035 degs 51' 15'	Malta A.M.

(B)

Operational Sanctuaries.

H.M. 3. TRIUMPH.	Area A Central Aegean between 037 degs and 039 degs 30' North and West of 025 degs 40' East.
Greek Sub. TRITON.	Area between 025 degs and 026 degs East within 20 miles of South Coast Crete
H.M. S. TRUSTY.	Area 800 Cephalonia within 48 miles 038 degs. 11' 020 degs. 21'.
H.M. 3. THUNDERBOLT.	Area in Aegean within 52 miles of Antikithera Light.

1745B/24.

Advance copy Ops.

O.S.

✧ could be 063 degs.

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).
D. S. D. 9.
D. A. / S. W.
W. D.
E. P. S.

I. P. (3).
File X.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1740B/24th November IN

From R.A. Alexandria. Date 26.11.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) D BY CABLE & W/T Recd. 0120.

Addressed C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

Following received from Mideast begins: To Troopers C. in C. Med., from Mideast Following addressed Mideast for Minister of State Repeated Foreign Office received from General Spears T.O.O. 1522 dated 23/11 begins Reference Foreign Office Telegram to you 4390 of 22nd November

1. Para 2 noted. As regards the phrase "De La Guerre L' Exigent" I must draw attention to the important point that Catroux's original text of the 30th October contained words "Militaires L'Exigerent" which were also those used in the Syrian declaration. De Gaulle changed this to "De La Guerre L'Exigent" with the obvious intention of limiting the powers of our military authorities as to time and scope. De Gaulle's version might be read to mean that the military command is limited to countering enemy action and is debarred from taking military precautions without the consent of the Lebanese Government which would be under French influence. De Gaulle certainly only changed Catroux's form of words for reasons analogous to those suggested above.
2. Para 3 noted.
3. Paragraph 4. I feel that the failure to include the word Libre after France in paragraphs 18 and 23 cannot simply be regarded as an inaccuracy but maybe taken to have a definite implication regarding the rights of Metropolitan France. Anyhow it is a serious matter to condone an inaccuracy of this nature.
4. As regards amendments in paragraph 7 and 23, I feel most strongly regarding De Gaulle's refusal to put the phrase "Y Remplit" in the past tense and also to delete "La Mission Seculaire de la France" in paragraph 23 it is submitted that this failure is a clear indication of intention to perpetuate France's tutelary role and is in conflict with the Prime Minister's statement of September 9.
5. I would point out further that there are no grounds for being jockeyed out of our position on the plea that the declaration cannot be further delayed. Public opinion here is not pressing for its publication and is moreover

somewhat/.....

SECRET

somewhat reassured at the delay which they believe is due to Great Britain's stand on their behalf. Surely on a matter of such fundamental importance temporary absence of De Gaulle should not be allowed to commit us permanently to acceptance of a policy with which we disagree.

6. I would reiterate the warning that if it is established fact that De Gaulle is permitted to overrule all his subordinates including Catroux and to disregard agreements come to by them it must inevitably follow that no one in the Middle East can negotiate effectively on matters concerning Syria and the Lebanese. We are getting into the position whereby De Gaulle is ruling the Levant from London in complete disregard of his own representatives and of all British authorities on the spot.

7. I beg you to take the above factors into most careful consideration as to disregard them may have permanent repercussions on our position in the Near East.

8. As I only receive instructions from you to the contrary unless I hear from you I shall act as stated in paragraph 4 of my telegram 47 of 22nd November.

1740B/24

As received.

Advance copy sent M, O.I.C. and Duty Captain.

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

MOST SECRET **M O S T S E C R E T** IN

1435/24/November.

From C.in C. Middle East.

Date 24.11.41.

CYPHER

Time 1640.

Addressed The War Office (pass to Air Ministry) repeated C.in C. Mediterranean.

~~MOST~~ IMMEDIATE 0730166 cipher 24/11. 13432. MOST SECRET.

Cositrep No.12. Part 1.

1. Morning 23rd November enemy attacked 5 S.A. Bde in position 430398 to 427400 (or 426400) with 4 Armd. Bde. on right and support Gp. and 22 Armd Bde on left.
2. By 1000 hrs 5 S.A. Bde and 22 Armd. Bde. still south of Sidi Rezegh with enemy tanks reported moving west area 4339 in rear of our position and further enemy tanks area 4238.
3. 4 Armd Bde with 2 R.H.A. 2 Scots Gds and 1 S.A. Bde, area 4338 at midday. Det 200 Gds. Bde at Bir El Gubi.
4. 6 N.Z. Bde moved 23rd November to join 5 S.A. Bde. 4 N.Z. Bde. captured Gambut 1500 hrs. and reported in touch with 6 N.Z. Bde evening 23rd November.
5. Support Gp forming strong point Gabr Saleh.
6. 1530 hrs. 5 S.A. Bde area 4339 reported being heavily attacked by tanks from south. 22 Armd. Bde area 4239 also in contact with enemy.
7. Other locations. H.Q. 13 Corps Bir El Hariga. 5 N.Z. Bde. Between Bardia and Sollum. H.Q. 30 Corps Gabr Saleh. H.Q. 7 Armd. Div. 439397.

1435/24.

1st Lord

Recd from W.O. 2205/24/November.

1st S.M.

War Office Distribution

2nd S.L.

D.of P. (2)

3rd S.L.

D.N.A.D.

S.of S.

P.S.to S.of S. Air Min.(2)

4th S.L.

Hd. of M.

O.I.G.S.

A.C.A.S.(I) Air Min

5th S.L.

D.of L.D.

V.C.I.G.S.

Air Min. War Room

V.C.N.S.

E.P.S.

D.M.O.&P.

D.C. Admiralty

A.C.N.S.(H)

I.P.(2)

D.D.M.O.(O)

Sec. of State F.O.

A.C.N.S.(F)

W.D.

D.P.(2)

A.C.N.S.(W)

M.O.1.5.6.

Nav. Sec.

D.D.I.P.

N.A.1st S.L.

D.M.I.

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.M.I.(I)

D.D.O.D.(H)

M.I.3.14.

D.O.D.(F)

Colonel Jacob

D.D.O.D.(F)

C.A.S. Air Min (2)

D.C.(2)

D.of Plans Air Min (2)

D.D.I.C.

Plans 3 Air Min. (2)

D.N.I. (4)

D.O.O. Air Min

D.M.C. Air Min.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1556/24th November

IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 24.11.41
Recd. 1800CIPHERAddressed: The War Office. (Pass to Air Ministry).
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.MOST IMMEDIATE

O/30166 cipher 24/11. MOST SECRET

13458. Cositrep No.12. Part II Air.

8. Night 22/23 Nov. Bombers. Reference Cositrep 103 para. 2 Wellingtons also destroyed petrol dumps Benina Malta Wellingtons bombed Berka aerodrome but saw very few enemy aircraft. Fleet Air Arm Albacores based Western Desert destroyed large dump Gazala.

9. Day 23 Nov. weather showery with much low cloud throughout day. Reconnaissance. Enemy aircraft concentrations reported Perna and Martuba. Also number of bombers on Agedabia which presumably attacked L.G.125 previous day. Cruiser in Benghazi harbour. About 400 enemy M.T. reported dispersed in area north west of El Adem east of scene of air attack previous day. Also troops digging in. Recce. Boston missing.

10. Bombers. Medium bomber effort during day directed on M.T. and A.F.V.'s reported in area west and south west of El Adem. Large concentration six miles west north west of El Adem attacked very successfully during early afternoon by seventeen Blenheims including Free French with fighter escort. Sixteen tons bombs dropped by Marylands about same time on M.T. on El-Adem-El-Gobi road. Many direct hits. One Maryland destroyed by A.A. five crew safe.

11. Fighters. Reports incomplete. Effort consisted of frequent sweeps over battle area. Also bomber escort. Number of fights occurred in which enemy lost five JU.87 five M.E.109 one G50 destroyed, seven JU 87 five ME.109 damaged. We lost ten fighters but two pilots safe. Beaufighters destroyed four S.79 on ground Barce one Beaufighter crashed El Gobi.

12. Enemy action. Landing ground 125 again attacked during morning by two JU.88 without result. Hurricanes and A.A. damaged both. End of part II and end of message.

1556/24

Received from War Office PM/24

War Office Distribution:-

S. of S.	C.A.S. Air Ministry (2)
C.I.G.S.	D. of Plans Air Ministry (2)
V.C.I.G.S.	Plans 3 Air Ministry (2)
D.M.O.&P.	D.O.O. Air Ministry (1)
D.D.M.O. (0)	D.M.C. Air Ministry
D.P. (2)	P.S. to S. of S. Air Min. (2)
M.O. 1.5.6.	A.C.A.S. (I) Air Ministry.
D.D.I.P.	Air Ministry War Room.
D.M.I.	Duty Captain Admiralty.
D.D.M.I. (I)	Sec. of State Foreign Office.
M.I. 3.14.	
Col. Jacob.	
1st Lord	Hd. of M.
1st S.L.	D. of L.D.
2nd S.L.	E.P.S.
3rd S.L.	I.P. (2)
4th S.L.	W.D.
5th S.L.	
V.C.N.S.	N.A. 1st S.L. D.C. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.O.D. (H) D.D.I.C.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.O.D. (H) D.N.I. (4)
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.O.D. (F) D. of P. (2)
Nav. Sec.	D.D.O.D. (F) D.N.A.D.

MOST SECRET **MOST SECRET** IN

From M.E.O..

1910/24/November.

Date 25.11.41.

Inter-service General X
by W/T

Time 0506.

Addressed The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry)
repeated C.in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

O/30441 cipher 24/11 MOST SECRET 13559

Cositrep No.13.

1. Situation morning 24th November 5 S.A. Bde took hard knock afternoon 23rd November when heavily attacked by enemy tanks, Commander believed captured. Remainder of Bde now joining 6 N.Z. Bde and 1 S.A. Bde.
2. 13 Corps ordered to take command of all Inf. north of Grid 390 including 70 Div. recapture Sidi Rezegh and join up with Tobfort at all costs.
3. 5 Ind. Bde ordered to join 4 Ind. Div. 2 S.A. Bde left out of battle in Matruh Fortress ordered to join 13 Corps and relieve 11 Ind Inf Bde in coastal sector for Tasks as required by 13 Corps.
4. Enemy suffered heavy tank casualties 23 November, accurate figures not available.
5. 30 Corps now reorganising to continue armed battle Armed Bdes in area 4339
6. 200 Gds Bde concentrating South East of Bir El Gubi
7. Force E captured Angila 23rd November and attacking Jalo first light 24th November. Agr 8. Day 23rd Nov. Hurricanes shot down one U.87 two C50s near Jalo
9. Night 23/24 November. Weather good. Six Wellingtons bombed Benina Aerodrome. Five bombed Berka satellite where large numbers of aircraft reported. Few aircraft located in darkness. Fires among buildings both objectives, one fire among dispersed aircraft Berka.
10. day 24th November bomber attack in morning by fifteen Blenheims on MT and A.F.Vs near El Adem effectiveness of bombing reduced because vehicles were apparently dug in.

1910/24.

Advance copy sent 1st Lord 1st S.L.
N.A. 1st S.L. D.C. D.O.D. (F)
D.D.I.C.

1st Lord		
1st S.L.		
4th S.L.	D. of P. (2)	
5th S.L.	D.O.D. (F)	D.D.I.C.
V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D. (F)	E.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.O.D. (H)	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.O.D. (H)	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.N.A.D.	D. of L.D.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.C. (2)	D.P.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	Hd. of M. (20)	D.N.I. (4)

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War Diary.24.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Force G.

PRINCE OF WALES sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0019Z/24 to Admty., etc.)
ELECTRA, EXPRESS arrived here.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1201Z/24 to Admty., etc.)

Persian Gulf, Air Facilities.

Armindia's 17863/G dated 14/11 in reply to C.O.S.173, following are my comments for Chiefs of Staff.

1. Ref. para. 4 above quoted signal, consider Basra area should have at least equal priority with Baghdad in development of air facilities, also see no urgent reason for developing Shiraz.
2. Ref. para. 5, it should also be possible to use stationary R/D.F. at ports no anchorages where short range fighters could give protection. This may to some extent reduce the long range fighter commitment.
3. Ref. C. in C. E.I. 1508Z/16, propose to await C.O.S's decision with regard to air defence against possible Japanese attacks before allotting higher priority to preparation of aerodromes at entrance to Persian Gulf.
4. Agree remainder Armindia's signal.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1503/24 to Air Min.)

China.MARECHAL
JOFFRE
(French)

Departure 23rd, Shanghai 27th.
(Manila, 0637Z/24 to D. of S.T.)

KINDIA.
PIERRE L.D.
(French)

Arrived 24/11.
(A.C.G. Saigon, 1033Z/24 to M. of W.T.)

Eastern Fleet.

A. C. in C. Eastern Fleet is expected to arrive Singapore about 6/12. He will assume duties laid down in para. B of A.T. 1719/28/10 at 0800 local time on the day following his arrival, except that the command and administration of naval forces and establishments at present carried out by C. in C. China will not come under his command until the flag of C. in C. China is struck in accordance with A.T. 1151/3/10 (to C. in C. China only.)

/B. Ref.....

634

War Diary.24.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Eastern
Fleet
(Contd.)

B. Ref. para. F of A.T. 1719/28/10, the following units are to be considered as forming part of the Eastern Fleet:- PRINCE OF WALES (Flag), REPULSE, REVENGE, ELECTRA, EXPRESS, ENCOUNTER, JUPITER, and such other units of the China Station as desired by C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

(Head of M., 1139A/24 to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.13.)

PIERRE L.D.
(French)

My 1237/23. PIERRE L.D. arrived Saigon 24/11. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1332Z/24 to Admty.)

Germans
picked up
by TROCAS.

*(From KORAORAN
after action with
IMAS SYDNEY
19/11.)*

A.C.N.B's 0617/24. Following received from S.S. TROCAS at 0700 today Monday (begins) - Picked up 25 German Naval men floating raft require guards immediately. Position 024° 06' S. 111° 40' E. (ends). Confirmed TROCAS should have been in this position. (C. in C. China, 1432Z/24 to Admty.) See also Australia 0617/24.)

America and West Indies.Vichy
Shipping.

Your 0942/23. Cancellation of Admty. 1439/21 and 1702/21 was for operational reasons and did not indicate change of policy. In consequence of suspension by U.S. of supplies for Africa all unescorted Vichy ships subject to the exceptions in para. 2 should if met be sent into British port, preferably Bermuda or Trinidad. 2. (a) Ships trading between West Indies and American continent or in inter-island trade should not be interfered with. (b) LEOPOLD L.D. and ILE DE RE are westbound with cargo for U.S. and should not be interfered with if still proceeding westward. (A.C.N.S. (F), 0015A/24 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ORANGELEAF.
DIOMEDE.

My 0912Q/21. Oiler ORANGELEAF has developed defects and has been ordered to Jamaica. DIOMEDE programme unchanged, arriving Balboa p.m./10/12 and will probably require fuel. B.A.D. Washington is requested to arrange. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0852Q/24 to Admty., etc.)

/ROXBOROUGH.....

War Diary.24.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.ROXBOROUGH.

Request arrangements be made if possible for extensive refit of ROXBOROUGH to be carried out in U.S.A. (Principal items of defects.) Estimated time in hand about four months. With present demand on repair yards in U.K. it would be of greatest assistance if U.S. Authorities would take this work in hand. Ship can sail forthwith.
(D. of D., 1341A/24 to B.A.R.M.) See p. 620

O.N. 38.

My 1527/21. Substitute GALT for ARVIDA who did not arrive Iceland with escort Unit 4.1.14. (Opnav, 1442/24 to Admty.)

MACLAREN.

Your 1850/18. MACLAREN has not yet arrived Tampa.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1507Z/24 to Admty.)

O.N. 39.

O.N. 39 designation 4.1.4 PLUNKET^(Senior) LIVERMORE, BADGER, DECA^{Senior} COLE and CAMPBELL.
(Opnav, 1556Z/24.)

SNOWBERRY.
ARROWHEAD.

My 0024Z/22. Regret SNOWBERRY and ARROWHEAD will arrive about a week late. Amended date of arrival will be proposed as soon as known.
(C.C.N.F., 1629Z/24 to B.A.R.M.)

AGAMEMNON.

My 1248R/21. Date is now amended to 25/11.
(B.A.R.M., 1710R/24 to Admty.)

W.S.12X. Z.
Escort to
Cape, U/B
Threat.

A.M. 1812/23.

We are of opinion that U-Boats may be in Capetown area by about 4/12. As sufficient suitable local A/S escorts are not available to escort a convoy into Capetown we are ordering W.S.12Z, which is 3 days behind W.S.12X, to proceed to Durban without calling at Capetown.

2. We feel very anxious concerning W.S.12X proceeding to Capetown without destroyer escort and the alternatives appear to be -

(a) To give Capetown a wide berth and proceed to Durban: or

(b) U.S. Destroyers escort W.S.12X into and out of Capetown.

We realise that it may not be practicable for Adm. Stark to arrange for destroyers now with W.S.12X to continue escort as far as Capetown.

/3. Request.....

636

War Diary.24.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.W.S.12X. Z,
Escort to
Cape, U/B
Threat.
(Contd.)

3. Request you inform Adm. Stark of these facts and inform us which alternative he prefers. If he prefers (a) we should be very grateful if U.S. cruiser escort could take W.S.12X as far as Durban.

4. A similar difficulty will arise over LEONARD WOOD and it would be very much appreciated if she could be escorted direct to Durban. (1st S.L., 1721A/24 to B.A.D.)

World
Control of
Shipping.

Notification received that U.S. C.N.O. believes sufficient experience has been gained for a working agreement for world wide control and protection of shipping to be prepared in anticipation of bringing into effect annex V of A B C - 1. Decision as to bringing this into effect, both routeing and protection, is political, and there may be objection at present, especially to latter. U.S. C.N.O. however proposes discussion which should be exploratory and confined to Military aspects.

2. I will discuss problem at N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and report. Meanwhile Navy Dept. letter is being sent by bomber mail.
(B.A.D., 1801R/24 to Admty.)
Full text of communication.
(B.A.D., 1631R/26) See Lion Copy.

JULES VERNE,
Dakar,
suspected
U/B fuelling.

Your 1845/16. Dakar 22/11. A.1. JULES VERNE has been to sea on a number of occasions since 22/9 and on one occasion for two days. According to Naval Officers she takes part in Vichy submarine manoeuvres. Consul-General states that JULES VERNE carries 260 Officers and men and considered were JULES VERNE actually refuelling U-Boats fact would become known to him.
(B.A.D., 1805R/24 to C. in C. S.A.)

ODENWALD,
Cargo.

Your 1959/19. Preliminary report shows cargo consisted of automobile tyres and crude rubber, other items not specified. Tyres bore tags purporting to show despatch from Goodrich International Rubber Co. Manila to B.F. Goodrich Rubber Co. Shanghai. ODENWALD sailed from Yokohama to her capture without stopping.
(B.A.D. Washington, 1931R/24.)

/U.S. Liaison....

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War Diary.24.11.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.U.S. Liaison.

Your 2027/19. This matter has already been discussed with U.S. Authorities. One Officer will be available mid-January for A.M. and an Officer for B.M. will be appointed as soon as available, at a later date.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1946Z/24 to Admty.)

Dakar,
Shipping
Intelligence.

Meter. Dakar 20/11 (A.2.)
PORT DE BOUC arrived with 2000 tons and ST. MAXIME with 11000 drums of 92 Octane aviation spirit for use of new French Military aircraft which are expected.
22/11 (A.1.) Following ships sailed 21/11 under strong escort for Casablanca - PROVIDENCE, ERIDAN, PORTHOS, and CONDE.
(B.A.D., 1957R/24 to S.O.I. Freetown.)

Newfoundland
Escort Force.

C.C.N.F. reports that present cycle for S.C. convoys is too severe for both ships and personnel. He recommends that - (A) unless M.O.M.P. is close to Iceland, escort may proceed at S.O.'s discretion from M.O.M.P. to Londonderry or Clyde for fuel. This may be preferable at the time due to prevailing N. or N.W. winds; and
(B) Reorganization of Newfoundland Escort Force into eight groups to allow for longer period of rest, repair and training between escort duties.

2. Request your remarks on (A) and (B) observing that (B) will probably reduce number of ships in escort groups to six.
3. Newfoundland Escort Force at present consists of eight R.C.N. and five R.N. Destroyers (including READING in U.K.), 44 R.C.N., 7 R.N. and 3 Free French Corvettes.
4. Eventual disposition of H.M.C. Corvettes will be 60 to Newfoundland Force (including three under training at Tobermory.) Hoped this number will be available early in 1942.
5. It is observed that U.S. Escort Forces are organized into eight groups of 5 Destroyers each.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2049Z/24 to Admty. Amended 0151Z/26.)

DESPATCH.

Amend my 1102Q/23 (N.T. in W.D.) as follows:-
Leave Bermuda 25/11. Leave patrol 1/12.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2142Q/24 to DESPATCH.)

/INDOMITABLE.....

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War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

INDOMITABLE.

Kingston arrival INDOMITABLE. B.A.D. pass to
B.A.R.M.
(Capt. i/c. Jamaica, 2300R/24 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

SYDNEY
overdue.

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY left 007° 56' S. 104° 40' E. at
0400Z/17 for Fremantle due 20/11. SYDNEY not
yet arrived. C Z M has been asked to search
the area South of Sunda Strait by air.
(A.C.N.B., 0617Z/24 to Admty.)
See also China, 1432Z/24.)

War Diary.

24.11.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Transmission at 0819/24 G.M.T. indicates that U-boat is in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1102A/24, to Escorts, O.S.12.)

Estimated approx., positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C., 1434A/24, 1435A/24.)

Capetown
Area.

See America & West Indies, 1721A/24.

Submarines Attacked.

By M.L.173.

Motor Launch No. 173 had 1 firm contact and dropped all his depth charges. Noone elsewhere has been in contact. Am searching Straits with COWSLIP and ARCTIC RANGER.
(MAORI, 1759/24, to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.M.T.B's.
in action.

M.T.B's. 44, 45, 218 and 219, sent to intercept an R.D.F. plot of several vessels which left Boulogne N.E. at 1812, made contact several times between 2000 and 2220 in poor visibility. Enemy probably included a large magnetic minesweeper accompanied by several trawlers and R boats. M.T.B. 45 unsuccessfully attacked the minesweeper; other M.T.B's did not sight a suitable target. They sustained no casualties but some superficial damage.

C.S.10
bombards
Vardo.

C.S.10 (KENYA) operating from Murmansk with BEDOUIN and INTREPID reports that she searched the coast and fiords (yesterday) as far as Nordkyn without encountering any shipping. At 0525C today she bombarded the fort and batteries at Vardo (entrance to Varanger Fiord) for 10 minutes, the Russian destroyers GROMYANISCHII and GROMKI also taking part.

Stores for
Russia.

C.in C. H.F. considers that a deplorable state of affairs is revealed in the despatch and loading of stores for Russia which, if allowed to continue, will largely vitiate the effort being put into their safe transport. (page 652)

Enemy Air Operations.

H.M.D. FISHER GIRL was sunk in Falmouth Harbour by a near miss at 2020 today.

Mining.

One Beaufort laid mines successfully off Lorient this evening and one off Brest. A second Beaufort despatched to Brest is missing.

/Bristol.....

25.11. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. -Contd.

Bristol Channel.

Few mines were exploded today. The ports east of Port Talbot were open from 1145 to 1900.

Atlantic.

Operation "Bedlam"

At 1239A today the Admiralty cancelled this operation and gave orders that S.S. ILE D'OUESSANT and ILE DE NOIRMOUTIER were not to be interfered with.

South Atlantic.

DUNEDIN.

At 1633 N today DUNEDIN, on patrol in area H.34 C, had not answered signals for over 12 hours and it is feared she may have been disabled or sunk by U/B. BRIDGEWATER has been ordered to search. *Also CANTON. (See p. 656.)*

Mediterranean.

Tunis

The policy of attacking all shipping at sea by night off the Tunisian Coast south of 35° 46' N. whether within or outside territorial waters, was reaffirmed by Admty. 1551A/15 to Flag Officers concerned. Warning was given to the French in March 1941 that ships engaged in military operations would be attacked in all waters south of 35° 46' N. owing to the persistent use of French territorial waters by the enemy.

/Minesweepers.....

BISSET.—In loving memory of **LIEUTENANT (E) ALEXANDER BISSET**, Royal Navy, **H.M.S. Barham**, Nov. 25, 1941.—104, Corsebar Road, **Faversham**.

BROOKS.—In memory of our dearly-loved eldest son, **ALLAN**, Lieut., Queen's Bays, killed in action near **Facrza**, Nov. 25, 1944.

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."
COOKE.—In proud memory of **CAPTAIN G. C. COOKE**, Officers, Warrant Officers, Petty Officers, and Men, **H.M.S. Barham**, Nov. 25, 1941.

DE PASS.—In proud and loving memory of **FRANK DE PASS**, V.C., Lieutenant, 34th Poona Horse, killed in action at **Festubert**, Nov. 25, 1914.

HOLT.—In loving memory of **GEORGE HERBERT PATRICK HOLT**, Lieut., Royal Armoured Corps, attached 9th Lancers, killed in action in Italy on Nov. 25, 1944, aged 21.—**DADDY, BRIDGET, ELIZABETH ANN.**

LILLINGSTON.—In adoring memory of **MALCOLM GEORGE**, A/Capt., King's Dragoon Guards, killed in action in **Libya**, Nov. 25, 1941.

"We will remember them."
RAWSON.—In proud and loving memory on this, his birthday, of **MAJOR P. M. J. RAWSON**, M.C., 3/8 Gurkha Rifles, aged 23, killed in **Burma**, March 1, 1945.

ROBERTSON.—In remembrance, to-day and every day, of our beloved son, **JAMES C. ROBERTSON**, Paymaster-Lieutenant, R.N.V.R., who gave his life in **H.M.S. Barham**, Nov. 25, 1941. Also in proud memory of all those of his gallant shipmates, Officers and Men of the Ship's Company, who went down with him.

SMITHERS.—In ever proud and loving memory of **ALFRED JOHN LANGLEY SMITHERS**, 11th Hussars, who died of wounds in the **Middle East**, Nov. 25, 1941, aged 20.—**F. W.**

STRINGER.—In proud and ever-present memory of **LIEUT. HOWARD BRIAN STRINGER**, R.N., and of his fellow officers and ratings, who went down in **H.M.S. Barham**, off **Tobruk**, on Nov. 25, 1941.

WOODCOCK.—**LIEUT. SAMUEL WOODCOCK**, Royal Navy, **H.M.S. Barham**, Nov. 25, 1941. 25.11.44

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

Minesweepers.

Details of L.L. and S.A. minesweepers to reinforce Mediterranean Station were communicated in Admty. 2303A/25.

Libya and Western Desert.

Tobruk Harbour had 2 bombing raids this evening without damage. The satellite aerodrome is now ready to receive aircraft.

9 Wellingtons attacked the harbour and shipping at Benghazi last night in very bad electrical storms.

Fleet Operations.

BARHAM was destroyed and sunk today during the operations in support of Forces B and K, off Sidi Barrani. (Operation M.E. 5 - see page 691 & 692.)
(No signals received in W.D. at the time) but see p. 661 D.
(For summary of BARHAM sinking, see Mediterranean Preliminary Narrative, Vol. III, pages 248-250; and A/S Report, June, 1942, page 44)
C.D. 06050/43(2)

S.S. SURCOUF intercepted.

Early this morning, CORNWALL intercepted French S.S. SURCOUF northbound with foodstuffs and rum in 7° 17' N. 52° 6' E. The ship stopped and signalled that she did not intend to abandon ship; a prize crew was placed on board and ship is being sent to Aden: CORNWALL is remaining within A/C R/C distance until P.M./27 and an A/S escort is being sent to meet SURCOUF near Guardafui.

Shipping in Cape-Mombassa area.

C.in C. E.I. suggests that the concentration of shipping between the Cape and Mombasa renders the early provision of ocean going A/S craft desirable. Admty. had already ordered 5 corvettes to be transferred to Capetown.

Details of L.L. and S.A. minesweepers to reinforce East Indies Station were communicated in Admty. 2304A/25.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Dispositions of motor minesweepers for Singapore (6), Port Swettenham (5) and Penang (6) were approved by Admiralty 1843A/25.

The near completion of preparations by Japan for operations based on Indo China, should Japanese policy so require, is indicated. The only Japanese merchant ships outside Japan and the China seas are 11 in South Seas and one in South America.

America and West Indies.

TULIP is to be transferred to Capetown as soon as she can be spared by INDOMITABLE and will sail from Jamaica accordingly.

Dutch
Guiana

U.S. troops in 4 small vessels sailed for Surinam today from Trinidad, escorted by U.S. destroyers BARNEY and BLAKELEY.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Capt. D.3.

Admty 1812/24. Capt. (D) 3 should proceed to London as soon as possible today and report to A.C.O's Office, Richmond Terrace. (V.A.2., 1105/25).

SNOWFLAKE.
(Corvette).

SNOWFLAKE is to join S.A. Command. On completion of working up ship to be sailed to Clyde for boiler cleaning and will be required to sail on 5/12. (C. in C. W.A., 1504A/25 to WESTERN ISLES).

A/S whalers
for far north.

A/S Whalers MOLDE, BODO, NARVIK, ULLSWATER, ELLESMERE required for service with C. in C. H.F. 2. They are to be taken in hand as soon as possible for fitting of Oerlikon gun, if found practicable, also fitting for cold weather, docking if due, boiler cleaning, and such defects as can be completed in the time available. 4. To sail to arrive Scapa not later than 13/12. (A.C.N.S., (H), 2038A/25 2039/25).

ROXBOROUGH.

Your 1759A/24. ROXBOROUGH will probably refit in U.S.A. Necessary repairs are to be carried out to enable ship to proceed and date ready to sail is to be reported. (D.O.D. (H), 2214A/25 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian
S/MS.
needed.

If the Russians could be persuaded to offer us the loan of 4 of their modern submarines, manned by Russians, to operate under our control it would be most welcome. The best use for them could be found in the Western Mediterranean based on Gibraltar, but if the Russians preferred they could operate in the Bay of Biscay, or off the Norwegian Coast. It is realised that the Russians may feel disinclined to allow their submarines to operate in areas where though helping us they are not directly furthering their own war effort, but on the other hand they may be ready to co-operate in this way with us. Request you will use your discretion and if you feel the moment is propitious will approach the Russians with this suggestion. (V.C.N.S., 1719A/25 to Ad. Miles).

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25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

LEDA.

LEDA is not to remain at Archangel as W/T link if any danger exists of her being frozen in observing that icebreaker may not be available when required. If LEDA is obliged to sail alternative communication will be arranged. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2225C/25 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Defence of the U.K.

Scapa
Defences.

R.A. Scapa's 2015/16 and 2015/23. In view of the damage by weather to Booms and Indicator loops and the difficulty which is being experienced in effecting the necessary repairs it appears desirable to augment patrols. If desired and subject to concurrence of C. in C. W.A. up to one flotilla of 110 foot M.L's could be temporarily diverted from Troon. Request your views. (A.C.N S. H., 1211A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

Faeroes
A/A
Defences.

A.L.M. 014437/41 of 18 Nov. I do not concur in Bofors guns being allocated to Klagsvig. Skaale Fiord is by far the most important military objective in the islands. The (?dismantled) additional Bofors should be sited at Skaale Fiord and the Vickers mark VIII thus displaced should be sited for protection of Thorshavn and shipping as decided by Fortress Commander. (A.C.O.S., 1228A/25 to Admty).

Movements.

KENYA.

Arrived Murmansk KENYA, BEDOUIN, INTREPID, GROMKI, GREMYASHCHNIK.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0931C/25)

LOBELIA.

Arrived LOBELIA with Admiral Muselier. Vessel has defects. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1019A/25). My 1714A/24. and Oban's 1019A/25. LOBELIA sailed from Oban at 2330. E.T.A. Iceland 1300/28 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2357A/25).

TRIDENT.

(1) TRIDENT is to leave patrol routed through following positions to R/V with LOCH MONTEITH in 060° 48' N., 0° 32' W., at 1000A/27 for onward escort to Blyth.
(2) TRIDENT to dive by day whilst East Meridian Greenwich there-after proceed on the surface at C.O's discretion. (Capt. S.9., 1031A/25 to TRIDENT)

/MINERVE....

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

MINERVE.

F.O.S. 1546A/24. Request MINERVE may be sailed P.M./25 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH to position 061° 30' N., 000° 00' or until 1800A/26 whichever is the sooner thence MINERVE diving by day through 061° 57' N., 002° E. to patrol position 062° N., 004° 13' E.
(Capt. S.9., 1053/25 to A.C.O.S.)
Proceed unescorted diving by day to patrol in accordance with A.C.O.S., 1807A/25. LOCH MONTEITH has been ordered to Lerwick.
(Capt. S.9., 1231A/25 to MINERVE)
Intend to sail MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH from Scapa at 1800/25 passing 10 miles east of Fair Isle thence in accordance with Capt. S.9 1053A/25. (A.C.O.S., 1625A/25).
Sailed MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH in accordance with my 1625/25 (A.C.O.S., 1805A/25)

SHEFFIELD.

Scapa departure SHEFFIELD. (A.C.O.S., 1115A/25)

Floating Crane.

Intend to sail Floating Crane in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN (in charge) DANUBE VI, and STALWART escorted by A/S Trawlers ULLSWATER and LADY ROSEMARY, at 1200/26 for Clyde. Code word "Scent".

2. Route "C" as in D.C.I. No. 33 as far as Lizard, thence by Standard route to Clyde, with route by Q.Z.S. 300 if this can be made in daylight, or by Q.Z.S. 301 in darkness.
3. Estimated S. of A. 3 to 4 knots according to weather.
5. ULLSWATER and LADY ROSEMARY will be relieved in vicinity of St. Govan's Head to return to Plymouth. Code word "Scent" 1 category IV.
6. Tug STALWART will break off, weather permitting, coal at Falmouth, and rejoin tow with utmost despatch. She will also do this at Milford Haven, thereafter as directed by C. in C. W.A. Endurance 5 days only.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1911/25).

Operations.

Vardo bombarded.

My 1531C/23. Search of coast and fjords as far as Nordkyn (?was) carried out without encountering any shipping. Fort and batteries at Vardo were bombarded for 10 (?minutes) at 0525C/25. Result could not be observed. U.S.S.R. Destroyers GREMYANSKI and GROMKI took part.
(F.O.C. 10 C.S. 0414Z/25).

/East...

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

East Coast
Patrols.

M/S and A/P Patrols for 25/11 as in my 1027/24.
Except for H.V. read FIREFLY and STOUR.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1003A/25).

Iceland-
Faeroes and
Denmark Straits
Patrols.

Your 1314N/24. Approved.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1157A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)
Following movements are to take place on 27/11.
(a) On completion of practice EDINBURGH to
Iceland - Faeroes patrol and SUFFOLK to Denmark
Straits patrol.
(b) KENT to leave patrol at 2200Z and proceed
Scapa.
(c) CUMBERLAND to leave patrol at 2000Z and
return to Hvalfiord passing inside Q.Z.X., 241.
(C. in C. H.F., 1449A/25).
Patrols by Home Fleet ships to cover the
passages between North Sea and Atlantic will in
future be referred to by the following short
titles:-
(a) Denmark Straits. Patrol "White".
(b) Iceland - Faeroes passage. Patrol "Black".
(ii) The (object?) of both patrols is intercep-
tion of enemy surface vessels and, unless
otherwise stated, it is to be assumed that they
are trying to break out into the Atlantic.
(iii) Patrol "White" should normally be carried
out to North Eastward of minefield particular
attention being given to vicinity of ice limit.
(iv) Patrol "Black" is to be carried out in
support of Northern Patrol trawler lines. If
2 ships are on patrol, the dividing line between
North "Black" and South "Black" Patrol onward
is to be a line drawn 235° from position 062°
30' N. 015° 15' W. (C. in C. H.F., 1451A/25).
Cancel my 1107Z/6th. Owing to present increased
(?routes) in Faeroes - Iceland (?passage)
request gap may be watched as in last sentence of
your 1145A/3. (C. in C. H.F., 1719N/25 to A.C.O.S)

Operation
"Baritone".

Intend to carry out operation "Baritone" tonight.
(V.A. Dover, 1514A/25).
Patrol tonight. 2 trawlers on O.D. one. 2 M.Ls.
returning to Dover from south east about 0430/26.
3 M.G.B's and 2 M.L's operating near Bullock
Bank from 0100/26.
(N.O.I.C. Dover, 1821A/?-)

Light
sighted.

At 1825 in position 043° Altacarry 5¼ sighted
light apparently Calcium Flare. Light disappeared
before ship reached position. Have circled area
nothing found. Am proceeding. (BELMONT 1841A/25)

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

A/C from
VICTORIOUS.

What accommodation will be available at R.N.A.S. Hatston and Twatt for VICTORIOUS aircraft for a period commencing 30/11. (C. in C. H.F., 1235N/25 to A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

GREAT
WESTERN,
attacked on
24/11.

Steamer GREAT WESTERN, Codeword "Conflict" 3, attacked by A/C vicinity Barrels Light Buoy. 52° 08' N., 6° 24' W., at 1538/24. Attack lasted 20 minutes. Six bombs dropped. Vessel undamaged. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0923A/25)

WILLIAM
BUNCE,
attacked on
22/11.

(Trawler) Reports at 1800 B.S.T. 22nd, when north of the Tuskar and in Irish Territorial waters, being attacked by two enemy planes. 2 bombs dropped, and machine gunned. No damage. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1104A/25).

BLAIRNEVIS
torpedoed
24/11.

Chief Salvage Officer reports BLAIRNEVIS now berthed at Great Yarmouth. Will discharge deck cargo on after deck and on arrival of FORDE will endeavour to get engine room under control with a view to vessel being towed to port with remaining cargo. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1740A/25)

FISHER GIRL
(Mobile
Wiping
Drifter) sunk.

H.M.D. FISHER GIRL sunk in Falmouth harbour by near miss at 2020/25. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2040/25).

Mining.

Bristol
Channel.

Bristol Channel Ports East of Port Talbot will be open from 1145 until 1900 today. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0954A/25). Exploded two magnetic mines at 1403/25 and 1407/25 respectively. Details. (Capt. M/S Bristol, Channel, 1650A/25).

N.L. 22.

Intend to carry out operation N.L. 22 tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1551A/25).

Thames
Estuary.

One S.A. Mine detonated at 1930/24 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1711/25) Considerable enemy activity over the Thames estuary between 1900 and 1950 on night 24/25. R.D.F. plots gave a number of planes over the Barrow Deep chiefly to north eastward of B.5. buoy. Explosions due to mines or bombs were seen in Foulness area at 1915 and 1930. Ships in

/Barrow....

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25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames
Estuary.
Contd.

Barrow Deep heard splashes on hydrophones but direction could not be given. One fast falling object apparently without parachute was seen to fall near No. 2 Yantlet Buoy at 1930 and is strongly suspected to have been a mine. (S.O. T.L.D.F., 1742/25).

Garrison Adjutant Shoeburyness reports that at 1430 today a workman from the north end of Thames Boom reported having found on the Boom:-
1. U.X.M. or U.X.B. 2. Copper cable and floats.
3. Several parachutes. 4. Remains of three balloons.

Request mine recovery party may be sent to investigate. (C. in C. Nore, 1853A/25).

Minelaying
programme.

Your 1037/24. Concur in proposed order of lays. Can programme be expedited. (C. in C. H.F., 1742N/25 to R.A.M.)

Request you will state effect on S.N. operations if SCOTT is withdrawn for other service for one month from 13/12. (A.C.N.S. H., 2141A/25 to R.A.M.)

Operation Q.O
(Mine
clearances).

Your 1054/21. Concur in proposed arrangements. (A.C.N.S. H., 2113A/25 to C. in C. Nore).

Your 1500/21.

1. Para. One. Concur. A further signal will be made.
2. Para 2. Concur that operations should be carried out by night only.
3. Para 3. The 20th D.F. and the Fast Minelayers are the only ships which fulfil the required conditions. The former cannot be spared from Fleet duties and the latter are not considered very suitable for operations south of Gap E. ADVENTURE has a good A/A armament and the risk from ground mines is considered to be acceptable. (A.C.N.S. H., 2114A/25 to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Destroyer.

Bearing by D/F on unknown kc/s at 0111C/25th (enemy) destroyer was southerly Portion of Varanger Fiord (reliable fix).

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0255C/25 to C.S.10).

E-boat.

Attack by E-boat on F.N.62 tonight anticipated. (C. in C. Nore, 1538A/25).

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War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Loch Ewe.

Fairway Buoy at entrance to Loch Ewe extinguished (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0939/25 Hydrog, 1204/25).

White Sea.
Ice.

During Sunday night a large area of ice containing SAN AMBROSIO with GOSSAMER alongside besides other miscellaneous craft drifting 20 miles to seaward. SAN AMBROSIO had 90 fathom cable out. (GOSSAMER, 1006C/25).

Unexamined
Shoal.

Sounding of 10 fathoms has been obtained on passage in 56° 49.8' N., 6° 26.4' W., or 9.3 miles 3. 10 degrees from Ardmanurchan Point Lighthouse. (FRANKLIN, 1045/25)

Kellett Buoy.

My 1746/23 and Q. Z.H. 995. Kellett Light Buoy is unlit as previously published. (V.A. Dover, 1050/25).

Technical.

Acoustic
data.

RAMILLIES 1422/24. Request information whether RAMILLIES could arrive in daylight and pass over Inellan range twice in each direction. After passing over range on a Northerly course ship would have to pass through boom and turn inside boom before commencing run on Southerly course. The reason for this request is lack of acoustic data for ships of this size. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1725A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Demolition
Charges in
"Town"
Destroyers.

C.A.F.O. 752/41. Until further orders on account of fire risk demolition charges in "Town" class destroyers are only to be placed if ships are ordered to operate off enemy coast: at other times charges are to be removed, unfitted and stored as separate explosives in accordance with N.M. and E.R. Attention is drawn to demolition drill book addendum number two page 28 and 31 re care in unfitting primers. (C. in C. W.A., 1728A/25).

Casualties & Defects.

CABOT
sunk on
24/11.

H.M. Drifter CABOT (Wiping Unit) was sunk at her berth in Avonmouth Dock at 2300/24 in 32 feet of water by being run into by a Dredger (Port of Bristol Authorities). No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 0055/25).

LOBELIA.

Has defects. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1019A/25).

See p. 645

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

COLLINGDOC.

My 1738/24. H.N.M.S. DRAUG with COLLINGDOC in tow DANUBE V, FAIRPLAY 1 sailed for Rosyth 0915. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 0940/25).

MARAUDER
(Damaged
22/11.

Your 1219A/25. MARAUDER is to be sailed as soon as possible for Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1633A/25 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

M.G.B. 93
damaged.

At 0200/24 collision occurred in Loch Linnhe between M.L. 269 and M.G.B. 93 during heavy squall. Damage to M.L. 269 negligible. M.G.B. 93 considerably damaged forward. No injury to personnel. (ST. CHRISTOPHER, 1720A/25).

WHITEHORN.

Cancel my 1126A/25. Ship delayed by defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1809A/25).

GALT.

GALT returning to Iceland with flooded A/S compartment. (BURNHAM, 1820Z/25).

FORESIGHT,
FURY.

E.T.A. 0900A/27 FURY ~~IN~~^{LN} company. Have following defects FORESIGHT port condenser shaft leak, FURY one dynamo cracked governor condenser. Both ships distiller pumps defective. Temporary repairs should enable both ships to proceed to Scapa after fuelling. (FORESIGHT, 2303A/25 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

See also next page.

Shipping & Convoys.

M/Vs. to
move at
night.

Admiralty 1325A/24 has been passed to S.B.N.O. Archangel for information at request of Admiral Miles. (War Registry, 25/11)

W.S. 14.

Following is proposed embarkation programme for W.S. 14. Details. (D. of S.T., 0452A/25).

P.Q. 3.
BRIARWOOD.

Your 1744A/17. Is BRIARWOOD joining up with another Convoy. (Ad. Miles, 1206D/25 to Admty).

/S.L....

652

War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.S.L.92.

S.L.92 (Fast Section) 11 ships Cdre, 1 (one) FORESTER (S.D.) and BADSWORTH proceeding 9½ knots at 1600/25. *FORESIGHT and *FURY having major defects proceed direct Londonderry while BADSWORTH has orders to rejoin S.L.92 (Slow Section) after refuelling. E.T.A. Fast Section daylight 29th. Request new code word for Fast Section. (EGRET, 1245Z/25). * See previous page

Loading of Convoys to Russia.

A.C.I.C.s. 337/141/7 of 15 November reveals deplorable state of affairs in despatch and loading of stores for Russia which, if allowed to continue, will largely vitiate effort being put into their safe transport. That personnel should be embarked for an Arctic voyage as in CAPE RACE would also appear disgraceful. 2. Para. 36 of C.S.10 472/W 01406 of 13 November not to A.C.I.C. confirms that bad stowage of stores has occurred in previous convoys, particularly in ships loaded Glasgow. (C. in C. H.F., 1431N/25 to Admty).

P.Q.4.

Cancel my 1145C/24. In view of your 1012Z/24 minesweepers will await arrival P.Q.4. off Cape Gorodetsky. (S.O. 1st M/S F., 1459C/25 to BERWICK).

P.Q. 5.

Sailing delayed owing to requirements of coal, oil, and water by several ships. MERIDIAN and SOUTHGATE not arrived. Repairs to BRIARWOOD completed. Expecting to sail convoy A.M./27. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1526N/25).

P.Q.3
CAPE CORSO.

For information. CAPE CORSO lost P.Q.3 on 11/11 and proceeding independently arrived off Archangel bar 36 hours before remainder of Convoy. She was challenged twice in White Sea but was not boarded and was not identified by Russian Naval Staff until she was half way up River. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1633C/25).

H.X.158.

Delayed by unfavourable weather. Four stragglers All ships now arrived. (D.T.D., 1919A/25 to Opnav),.
Pass to N.C.S.O's. Replies to A.M.1632/14 should now be made. (D.T.D., 1925A/25).

/MIRLO....

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

MIRLO.
P.Q.6.

Admiral Miles 1116D/22. Chartered oiler MIRLO with 8600 tons Admiralty Fuel due Iceland about 29/11 should be supplied with an oiler outfit from another oiler and warm clothing. Vessel should be sailed in P.Q.6. convoy for Murmansk, where she will be available for fuelling escorts. (4th S.L., 1945A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

Q.P.3.

Intend sailing Q.P.3 for U.K. 27/11. Timber only TEMPLE ARCH, QUEEN CITY, HARTLEBURY, ORIENT CITY, KUZBASS, XRCOS, REVOLUTSIONER, ANDREMARTI. Magnesite only EMPIRE BAFFIN. Chrome ore only HARPA LION. (N.C.S.O. Archangel, 2220C/25).
** not identified*

O.S.13

Admiralty 1928A/21. (i) ROCKINGHAM is to act as additional escort.
(ii) N.O.I.C. Londonderry is to detail special escort for Monitors and is to arrange fuelling of monitor and ROCKINGHAM at Ponta Delgada.
(iv) Request you sail ships accordingly.
(C. in C. W.A., 2245A/24 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Times of
sailing from
Liverpool.

Admiralty's 1628A/6/10/41 and 0029/24/4/41 and my 2259/24/4/41. My view is unchanged that the period of greatest danger on the East Coast is from Sunset to Dark. Most recent sailing of paired L.M.S. Ships from Liverpool does not comply with necessary safeguard for their protection and it is requested that future sailings may be arranged appropriately. When Eastbound it is considered that these ships should pass the Pentland Firth at last light arriving at Methil in daylight the following day. If this is not convenient they should join a W.N. convoy remaining in convoy until after the first dark South of Duncansby Head.
(C. in C. Rosyth. 2301/25).

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War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.Intelligence. A.C.N.S. (F), 2229A/25 to C's. in C.
See Lion Copy.North Atlantic.French Shipping. Passing Gibraltar westbound 0958/25.
(D.O.R., 26/11.)Force H Destroyers.Your 1627B(?21). Ref. 2338/10 from Admiralty not received.
(ii) Inclusion of HUNTS would reduce furthest west before dark by 40 to 50 miles. Providing diversion is carried out by Force H on (? lines) of "Status" consider risk should be acceptable.
(iii) Effectiveness of diversion will be governed by composition of Force H on this date. (S.O. Force H, 1142A/25.)Operation "Bedlam".A.M. 1636/24. Cancel Operation "Bedlam".
2. If encountered, French ships ILE D'OUessant and ILE DE NOIRMOUTIER are not to be interfered with.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1239A/25 to C's. in C. A.W.I., S.A., F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H.)
(F.O.C.N.A., 1541A/25 to N.A. Stn.)Shipping off Tunis to be attacked.Your 1824/17 and my 0138/13 paras. 2 and 3(d). Following note was addressed to Vichy Govt. in March of this year: (begins):-
"Naval and air R/C has shown that off E. Coast of Tunis, German and Italian transports carrying reinforcements to Tripoli persistently use French territorial waters as a sanctuary to save them from attack.
Accordingly in all waters south of 35° 46' N., H.M.G. must reserve full liberty to authorise their naval and air forces to take action against these enemy ships which are directly engaged in military operations. They must further ask the French Govt. to warn all French ships in this area for their own safety not to be at sea between the hours of sunset and sunrise. H.M.G. cannot hold themselves responsible for the safety of any French ships which disregard this warning."
(Ends.)

654A.

MOST SECRET

9A/25th November.
OUT.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

To:- C. in C. Home Fleet, 362. Date: 25.11.41.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 73.
 New Zealand Naval Board, 736.
 Britman, 587.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic, 426.
 C. in C. South Atlantic, 464.
 N.O.i/c Simonstown, 117.
 R.A. South American Division, 553.
 C. in C. America & West Indies, 291.
 Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, 161.
 C. in C. China, 427.
 C. in C. East Indies, 921.
 ALUSNA
 SPENAVO.

Naval Cypher (D).

From Admiralty:

NITE. AIDAC.

My 1550A/18.

ATLANTIS
 ex GOLDENFELS
 alias Raider C.
 or Schiff 16.

1. H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE sank enemy supply ship which was similar to and may have been Raider 16 (C) in 040 02' S. 180 29' W. at 1105Z/22. As ship was fuelling U-Boat, survivors had to be left in rafts and lifeboats. Did not reply to fire but made R distress message as from Dutch POLYPHEMUS and endeavoured to escape under very efficient smoke screen.

2. Aircraft sighted vessel course 090° off Gijon, Spain, on 23/9. Ship either returning blockade runner or possibly Raider 45 (B) which she resembled, and which is not thought to have previously returned.

3. On 16/11, U.S. EXCAMBION sighted unidentified vessel in 36° 52' N. 21° 43' W. course South. Old-fashioned 3 island type straight bow counter stern but squat funnel. Deck cargo of crates, but appeared light. Possibly outward bound blockade runner or supply ship.

KORMORAN

4. H.M.A.S. SYDNEY overdue at Fremantle since 20/11 from Sunda Straits area and her non-appearance is causing anxiety. At 0700/24 TROCAS in 24° 06' S. 111° 40' E. picked up 25 German Naval survivors from COMORON, which they said had been sunk by a cruiser. COMORON may be corruption for KAMERUN or possibly nickname of Raider 41 (G) last located in South Atlantic in May 1941 with Raider 16. She may have operated in Galapagos area in August.

654^B

5. U.S. ship sighted unidentified ship in 030 S. 177°E. on 6/11. Description fits 41 (G).

6. Greek MARY LIVANOS made Q distress message at 1230/22 when South of Madagascar. At 2040/22 she made R distress message. Both messages cancelled, but not yet known whether genuine. Ship due Lourenco Marques 25/11.

7. OLGA TOPIC arrived Iquique. Reported attack probably false.

2229A/25.
D.D.I.C.
(Green Line 8)

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

- 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)
- 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.N.
- D.N.S.
- D.G.D.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Duty Captain (2)
- Head of M.
- D.T.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D. (2)
- N.I.D. 10 (Payr. Cdr. Wilson)
- ALUSNA) By hand
- SPENAVO) via A.E.

RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS
SECTION
11 JUN 1955

War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Shipping
off Tunis
to be
attacked.
(Contd.)

2. All shipping at sea should therefore be attacked by night off Tunisian Coast south of 35° 46' N. whether within or outside territorial waters.

3. Above has been confirmed to C. in C. Med., and V.A. Malta, by separate signal.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1551A/25 to V.A.C.N.A.)Swiss
Shipping,
Route.Your 1544/17 and 1020/18. Swiss Govt. are being informed as requested. Route notified is:- pass W. of Iviza, thence to pass 10 miles N. of Cape Caballeria, Minorca, 10 miles N. of Revellate Point, Corsica, 12 miles S. of Genoa and thence to Genoa.
(Hd. of M., 1707A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)AUDACITY
A/C.AUDACITY's 1458A/24. Air Screws are available and are being flown out to Gibraltar. No replacement Martlets are available. Propose AUDACITY should embark two Swordfish temporarily when fighter strength is reduced. Tool kits can be sent.
(D.N.A.D., 1943A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)CLAN
MAGINNES.C. in C. S.A. 1403/23.
Can you provide escort in accordance with A.M. 2132/27/9? M. of W.T. agrees in use of ship.
(D.O.D. (F), 2216A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)South Atlantic.Survivors
of ships
sunk by
DEVONSHIRE,
22/11.
(ATLANTIS ex
GOLDENFELS.)My 1945/24. DUNEDIN and CANTON are to carry out a curve of search as follows. Datum (a) 004° 20' S. 018° 30' W. datum time 1800N/22 sector 259° to 272° CANTON for speed 7 to 5 knots DUNEDIN for speed 5 to 3 knots. Report results. On completion CANTON patrol in I 34 C. DUNEDIN return to Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 0029N/25 to DUNEDIN, CANTON.)
If boats are sighted give them a wide berth as U-Boat may be in company.
(C. in C. S.A., 0945N/25 to DUNEDIN, CANTON.)

/DUNEDIN.....

War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.DUNEDIN.
feared
sunk.

No reply can be obtained from DUNEDIN to my 1801/24th (F.T.247). Have you intercepted any signals from her?
(C. in C. S.A., 1041N/25 to DORSETSHIRE, CANTON.)
Your 1041N/25. No signal has been intercepted from DUNEDIN. A single unanswered call without priority was made to Freetown on station H/F from Naval General call sign A D at 1240 G.M.T./24. My P.C. and S. are (? 000°) 50' S. 029° 50' W. 151° 16 knots. Wind S.S.E. Force 2. Current one knot westerly.

(CANTON, 1700Z/25 to C. in C. S.A.)
DUNEDIN on patrol in area H 34 C has not (? answered) signal for over 12 hours and it is feared she may have been disabled or sunk by a U-Boat.

Estimate she would have reached centre of Eastern edge of this area a.m./24. Proceed to 002° 30' N. 025° 00' W. and search a lane 60 to 80 miles wide to (? Eastward) as far as 027° 30' W. then a similar lane to Eastward North of the Westward search, then return to Freetown.

(C. in C. S.A., 1633N/25 to BRIDGEWATER.)
Cancel my 0029/25. Ref. my 1633/25, search Saint Paul's Rock area 10 thence a lane 100 miles wide for 300 miles towards Freetown returning there on completion.
(C. in C. S.A., 2213N/25 to CANTON.)

W.S.12Z.

Arrivals 24/11 with W.S.12Z, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, SOUTHWOLD, DULVERTON, VELOX.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 0049N/25 to Admty.)

Petrol for
Lati at
C.Verde Is.

Ref. your 1614A/24 (Sent by War Reg. asking for verification). Following is repetition of my 0859/12 addressed S.O.(I) Freetown: Spanish sailing ship ordered Santa Maria but refused to go. Discharged cargo PEDRO LUME into sea and drums floated ashore. Vessel cleared and sailed a.m./12 destination not known. Fine £500 rumoured to have been paid.
(Consul, St. Vincent, C.V., 1019/25 to Admty.)
W.R. Note: This message was originally received from C. in C. S.A. under T.O.O. 1318/13.)

** Not identified.*Corvettes
for Capetown.

Your 1824/24. Para. 2. R.D.F. requirements involve sending corvettes of 3rd Minesweeping Flotilla. Is there any objection?
(C. in C. S.A., 1028N/25 to Admty.)
Your 1028/25. No objection.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1940A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

/BELLE.....

War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.BELLE
BRETAGNE.
PETITE
ANNIEX
(French)

Your 1817A/24. BELLE BRETAGNE and PETITE ANNIEX fuel capacity 11 tons, maximum speed 4 knots, daily consumption 90 gallons. (C.C.S.O. Gib., 1055/25 to Admty.)

CAMBRIA,
cable
operations.

My 1928/7. Owing to serious interruptions to cables North of St. Vincent C.V., repairs to West Coast Cables now less urgent until northern connections restored. If escort can be spared to cover operations near St. Vincent, request you will arrange for cable ship CAMBRIA due Freetown 2/12 to proceed as soon as practicable to repair Madeira-St. Vincent two and three, interrupted 9 miles and 19 miles respectively north of St. Vincent. If escort cannot proceed so far, repairs mentioned my 1928/7 should be progressed. (D.S.D., 1118A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

LADY DENISON
PENDER,
cable
operations.

In view delay in arrival cable for Robben Island operation request you will arrange for LADY DENISON PENDER to proceed as soon as possible to repair (a) Zanzibar-Seychelles, near Seychelles, (b) Zanzibar-Mombasa (c) Zanzibar-Dar-es-Salaam cables in that order. Robben Island cable aboard CITY OF CANTON due Capetown 7/12 should be discharged to Cable and Wireless cable tanks to await return LADY DENISON PENDER. (D.S.D., 1121A/25 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

S.S.
ORMONDE.

My 0338/31/5. ORMONDE sailed 22/11 E.T.A. Takoradi Monday 1/12. Defects water percolating into number one bilges probably due strained rivets and refrigerator system may require overhaul in U.K. otherwise turnround normal. Cargo on board on sailing 3123. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1231B/25 to D. of S.T.)

BULOLO
at Rio.Except in emergency, extensions of (? days) are never to be asked for without previous reference to me. C.S.A.I. 150 para. 7 refers. (R.A.S.A.D., 1357Z/25 to BULOLO.) *See also next page*ALCANTARA,
ASTURIAS,
BIRMINGHAM,
ARNDALE.

On completion of transfers with oiler ARNDALE, ALCANTARA is to proceed to patrol J 33 (C) and (D). ASTURIAS leaves J 33 1/12 and makes R/V with BIRMINGHAM at "Pig" at 1500 G.M.T./2 to transfer stores subsequently fuelling at Montevideo 6/12. *BIRMINGHAM leaves Falkland Is. p.m./25/11 embarks personnel and stores from oiler ARNDALE at F.O. 28/11 then proceeds to K.32, K.33. Oiler ARNDALE is to be at F.O. by 1800 G.M.T./27. (R.A.S.A.D., 1441Z/25 to S.A.D.)

** See also next page.*

/FRITILLARY....

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War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.FRITILLARY.

Admty. 1824A/24. FRITILLARY is to join South Atlantic command and is to be sailed as additional escort to O.S.13. FRITILLARY is to be detailed as special escort for ~~MONITOR~~. (C. in C. W.A., 1505A/25 to Capt. D. Londonderry.)

SNAKEFLY.

Departure 1400/25* B.D.V. SNAKEFLY E.T.A. Freetown a.m./28.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1731N/25 to C. in C. S.A.)
** Controlled Mine Layer - (C.B. 1815)*

BULOLO.

Left 1900 G.M.T./25.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1901Z/25 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Stanley departure 1930 G.M.T./25 R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM on patrol.
(N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1935Z/25 to Admty.)

*See previous page.*S.T. Convoys.

Cancel my 1837/22 your 2329A/23 and my 2343/14. Propose dispersal point for Cape ships from S.T. Convoy is vicinity of 003° 00' N., 012° 00' W.
(C. in C. S.A., 2011N/25 to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE.
action with
raider 22/11.

Following is brief summary of destruction of Raider by DEVONSHIRE on 22/11. Raider closely resembled Raider 16 with exception of removable characteristics such as Samson posts and ventilators. Enemy was engaged at 17500 yards and did not return fire. DEVONSHIRE's 4th salvo hit number 2 hold causing fire and subsequently explosion of magazine. Enemy turned away under cover of smoke and sank at 1014 after a 2nd explosion. Shortly after interception Raider cast off a lifeboat filled with oil drums.
(C. in C. S.A., 2035N/25 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.M/V
torpedoed
by GLAUCOS.

Now known that Greek S/M GLAUCOS torpedoed M/V of 3000 tons off Heraklion, Crete, on 10/11. Ship probably sunk, but impossible to confirm this.
(D.S. 812, 25/11.)

/MAURO.....

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

MAURO
CROCE.
(Italian)

Information graded C.O. received that MAURO CROCE was torpedoed on 9/11 off Port Bouc. She left Barcelona on 8/11 for Genoa. (D.S. 812, 25/11.)

UPRIGHT.

UPRIGHT expected 0730 by N.E. route, Sanctuary conditions in force. (V.A. Malta, 0625B/25 to S.O. Force K.)

Arrived - See p 661.

GLENROY.

21 Officers and 276 ratings GLENROY arrived Alexandria in NAPIER, ERIDGE, and FARNDALE. 6 Officers and 56 ratings returned to ship in ERIDGE sailing 0630. Nominal list of officers is being forwarded. Ratings are accommodated Grebe. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0721B/25 to C. in C. Med.)

Force K.

Force K returned 0730B/25 owing to shortage of oil fuel in destroyers. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Malta, 1019B/25 to Admty.) Well done again. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2128A/25 to S.O. Force K.)

Fleet
movements.

Arrival 24/11, DUNAVON, THORGRIM, HASTY, JACKAL, KIPLING, NAPIER, NIZAM, PARRAMATTA, CARLISLE. Departure 24th, TRUANT, GRIFFIN, QUEEN ELIZABETH, BARHAM, VALIANT, DECOY, JERVIS, HASTY, NAPIER, NIZAM, KIPLING, JACKAL, PARRAMATTA, THORGRIM tug (VA(?ILL)ANT. Arrival 25/11 FARNDALE. 2 approx. positions given to FLAMINGO. Departure 25th ERIDGE. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1122B/25 to Admty., etc.)

Sweep by
7 C.S.
APHIS
bombardment.

Unless you have good reason to the contrary close African coast about 2300/25 in approx. 021° 40' East and sweep for coastal traffic at high speed as far as 023° 00' East, thence to position "G". APHIS is bombarding Gazala at 0230. (C. in C. Med., 1145B/25 to R.A. 7 C.S.)

TRUANT.

Intend returning to harbour owing to defective exhaust joint arriving Alexandria Sanctuary 0500/26. (TRUANT, 1346B/25 to Capt. S.1.) *See also next page*

/Ships.....

660

War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Ships
sunk by
Force K.
(AURORA.
PENELOPE.
LANCE.
LIVELY.)

Two Italian Merchant ships escorted by 2 destroyers sighted by Malta R/C 0740 G.M.T. and subsequently by 201 Group R/C at 0840 G.M.T./24/11 about 65 miles west of Crete steering W.S.W. Blenheim Striking Force which left soon after second sighting failed to locate. Italian ships subsequently located and both merchant vessels sunk by Naval Force from Malta. Destroyers escaped.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1439/25.)

Vichy
Shipping,
Tunis.

My 0138/13, para. 2 second sentence and para. 3(d). In view of warning to Vichy Government reported to you in my 1800/2/4, all shipping at sea should continue to be attacked by night off Tunisian Coast south of 35° 46' N., whether within or outside territorial waters. 2. Other recipients of my 0138/13 have been informed by separate signal.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1549A/25 to C. in C. Med.)

Soviet Ships
from Black
Sea.

My 1814D/20 para. 3. ~~VARLAM~~ Ships will arrive 2000/27. Tankers are SYKEALIN, ^{VARLAM} AVANESIN and MUAPEE. 2. Russian representative in charge is called Serikh in first named tanker. 3. A.N.A. Istanbul's 1944/14 para. 3. Please confirm that a British Officer will sail in (this ?) ship.
(Adm. Miles, 1621D/25 to C. in C. Med.)
My 1621D/25 para. 3.
I understand that Soviet C.N.S. is extremely worried that his ships may sail under British control without British representative on board. He has apparently heard from Soviet N.A. that only one British officer has arrived.
(Adm. Miles, 1636D/25 to C. in C. Med.)

TRUANT.

My 1745B/24. TRUANT is returning to Alexandria owing to defect. E.T.A. at Sanctuary 0500B/26. Estimated position 1800/25th, 032° 40' 027° 54'.
(Capt. S.1., 1645B/25 to Med. Fleet.)

U/B.

U-Boat sighted in 032° 22' N. 025° 53' E. at 1315/25. Course 050°. Dived when seen.
(Alexandria C.C.O., 1647B/25 to S.O. Force I.)

SOKOL.

Your 0018B/24. Request permission to arrive Malta 1000B/26. My P.C. and S.:- 036° 14' 017° 49', 259°, 10 knots, weather report.
(SOKOL, 1730B/25 to Capt. S.10.)

/STEEL WORKER.....

661

War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.STEEL
WORKER.

Have you any news of American STEEL WORKER due Aden 17/11 from Suez?
(D.T.D., 1730A/25 to N.C.S.O. Aden.)
Reply: 1545/26.

Libya.

Cositrep No. 104, Air and Army.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1159/25 to Air Min.)
See Lion Copy.
Military Situation dawn/25,
(C. in C. M.E., 1745/25 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

S/M's.
Sanctuary.

Alexandria Submarine Sanctuary will be in force from 0200 to 1000 G.M.T./26.
(Alexandria W/T, 1748B/25 to Force I, Med. Fleet.) Addition, see 0026/26.

Force K,
S/M's.

25/11 arrived and sailed AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE, LIVELY. Arrived UPRIGHT, sailed UPHOLDER.
(V.A. Malta, 1906B/25 to Admty.)

U/B Hunt.

U-Boat in 032° 34' N. 026° 24' E. at 1630 being hunted by Capt. (D) 14th D.F. until 0600 when he is to return to Alexandria. N.O.i/c. Alexandria pass to 201 Naval Co-operation Group.
(C. in C. Med., 1917B/25 to Med. Fleet, etc.)

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 24/25. 14 Wellingtons attacked base Cathedral Mole Benghazi 2355 to 0220 hours. Thunder and very bad electrical storms. Large explosions small fires base Cathedral Mole hits area railway workshops, Customs House, and Military H.Q.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2015/25.)

Tobruk.

Situation Report.
Military. Situation quiet continuing preparations for further sortie.
Air. Considerable (? reinforcements). 2 bombing raids on harbour this evening, no damage reported. Satellite Aerodrome now ready to receive aircraft.
Naval. Harbour shelled by S.W. Battery, no damage or casualties. Salvage Party clearing quay berths. SOTRA sweeping approaches. M.L. 1004 on patrol. M.L. 1048 E.T.A. 1330/26. TIBERIO completed discharge, now back loading.
(B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 2106B/25 to C. in C. Med.)

/THORN.....

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1159/25th November.

661A

FROM:

MOST SECRET

H.C. R.A.F. Middle East.

Date: 25.11.41.

Recd: 2231.

IN

Int. Spec. (X) by W/T.

ADDRESSED: Air Ministry Whitehall Pass to Troopers
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean

MOST IMMEDIATE.

13 Para. 9 A 870 November 25 Most Secret Officer
Decipher

COSITREP No. 104 in two parts.

Part One Air. Night November 23/24 Ref.
COSITREP. Benina Aerodrome attacked by 7 Wellingtons
from Malta and later by 6 from Egypt Total 15½ tons
H.E. and Incendiaries, set on fire one hanger and
buildings and damaged railway line. Malta Wellingtons
dropped six tons bombs in aircraft dispersal area
Berka and damaged buildings. Six Egypt Wellingtons
dropped eight tons Berka Satellite starting small
fires one very large explosion seen aircraft on ground
could not be located in darkness day Nov 24
Reconnaissance large numbers enemy aircraft reported
Derna Benina and Berka main much enemy M.T. movement
westward through El Aden during day. Two large
stations M.T. concentrations seen in morning 6 to 8
miles from El Adem on El Gobi track. Bombers medium
bombers with fighter escort effectively attacked
enemy M.T. throughout day in neighbourhood El Adem
where large groups covered wide area total 28 Blenheims
17 Marylands (corrupt group) one Blenheim seen
attack seven miles East of El Adem particularly
successful direct hits destroying 12 Tanks and many
vehicles.
Fighters. Fighters swept battle area throughout
day and escorted medium bombers. Reports incomplete
but enemy air opposition apparently negligible
after previous days fighting. Situation on ground
necessitated withdrawal of fighters from forward
landing grounds night 24/25 November. Hurricanes
destroyed one and severely damaged two CR 42's in
air fight Jalo while covering operations our troops.
ME 110 severely damaged by Hurricanes near landing
ground 125.

Army 5 (5) 13 (13) Corps situation 1430 (1430) hours
24/11 (24/11).

7 (7) Ind. Bde. with 42 (42) R.T.R. Area Sheferzen
where small pocket enemy still holding out.
5 (5) N.Z. Bde with two Sqdns 44 (44) R.T.R. Area
Bardia Sollum Capuzzo enemy still hold Bardia and Sollum
villages. 4 (4) N.Z. Bde with 8 (8) R.T.R. Area.
Gambua Bir El Csleta. 6 (6) N.Z. Bde with one
Sqdn 44 (44) R.T.R. area 439405 (439405) small
pockets enemy between 4 (4) and 6 (6) N.Z. Bdes.

.....Hq.

SECRET

2.

Hq. N.Z. Div 456401 (456401) Hq. 13 (13) Corps
Bir el Hariga Hq 4 (4) Ind. Div. 497345 6 (6) 30 (30)
Corps.

Situation evening 24/11 (24/11) 1350 (1350) hrs.
Two enemy columns each 15 (15) Tanks attacked
Gabr Saleh Hq.

30 (30) Corps believed moved to Bir Gibni 4735
(4735). Pockets of enemy believed in amount OPR
forces but no definite information available probably only
raids 7 (7) Commander 13 (13) Corps ordered to proceed
with plan for relief Tobruk.

8 (8) Ref COSITREP 1 (1) Paragraph 1 (1)
Submarine reports failure to re-embark personnel
landed night 14/15 (14/15) Nov D1 (1) Submarine
in touch with party on shore strength 22 (22)
Weather too unfavourable to take party off D 2 (2)
no signals seen and Recce. boat failed to contact
shore party. D3 (3) and 4 (4) all beaches strongly
held by enemy. Considerable enemy air patrol.
Operation evidently created nervousness.

9 (9) Ref COSITREP 1 (1) Paragraph 2 (2)
L R D G reported picking up party of 21 (21) out
of total 43 (43) dropped one aircraft with 11 (11)
Parachutists forced landed and personnel captured.

1159/25.

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

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

E.P.S.
Hd of M. (20)
Press Div.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.N.A.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C.
N.I.D.10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

MOST SECRET

1745/25th November

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

Date 25.11.41

Recd. 1935

From C. in C. Middle East

Cipher

Addressed The War Office (Pass Air Ministry)
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

13813.

0/30679 cipher 25/11/41. MOST SECRET

COSITREP No. 14.

1. Situation first light 25th November. Enemy raiding force may have advanced East of frontier area Sheferzen, present location not repeat not known. Strength reported as thirty tanks five hundred infantry but not confirmed. Extra defensive precautions have been taken area forward base and railhead.
2. R.A.F. report first light further concentration three to four hundred M.T.491355 which heavily engaged recce aircraft. Target now being bombed.
3. 22 Armd. Bde. reorganised and placed under command 13 Corps first light 25th November. 13 Corps operations proceeding.
4. 30 Corps expected to be ready for offensive action by morning 25th November.
5. 4 Ind.Div. responsible for security and mopping up in frontier area and on 13 Corps L. of C.

1745/25

Received from War Office 2220/25

1st Lord	Duty Capt. (2)	War Office Circulation:-
1st S.L.	Hd. of M. (20)	S. of S., C.I.G.S., V.C.I.G.S.
4th S.L.	D.D.I.C.	D.M.O. & P., D.D.H.O. (C), D.P. ()
5th S.L.	E.P.S.	M.O. 1-5-6, D.D.I.P., D.F.I.
V.C.N.S.	I.P. (2)	D.D.H.I. (1), H.I. 5.14., I.A.F.V.
A.C.N.S. (H)	W.D.	Col. Jacob, C.I.S. Air Min. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D. of L.D.	Plans 3, Air Min. (2), D.O.O.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.P.D.	Air Min. (1), D.H.C. Air Min.,
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.N.I. (4)	P.S. to S. of S. Air Min (2),
N.A. 1st S.L.		A.C.A.S. (1) Air Min. Air Min.
D. of P. (2)		War Room, Duty Capt. Admiralty
D.O.D. (F)		Sec. of State, Foreign Office
D.D.O.D. (F)		D. of Plans Air Min. (2)
D.O.D. (H)		
D.D.O.D. (H)		

SECRET.

~~SECRET.~~ SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2155B/25th Nov.

IN

RECEIVED:—

From C. in C., Mediterranean.

DATE 26.11.41

TIME 0928.

Naval Cypher One Time Table by C & W

Addressed Admiralty (for 1st Sea Lord.)

m 32°34' N

IMMEDIATE.

AIDAC.

26°24' E

by U.331

Deeply regret to report H.M.S. BARHAM
torpedoed by submarine at 1630 today Tuesday.
She blew up a few minutes later. There are
about 500 survivors including V.A. Pridham Wippell.

2155B/25

Advance copy sent 1st S.L., D.C.,
D.C.D. (F)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.

W.D. - 1/2/42.

MMC.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

THORN.

E.T.A. 0601B/27. Noon position 26th, 033° 00' 028° 16'.
(THORN, 2217B/25 to Capt. S.1.)

Minesweeper Reinforcements.

Following "LL" and S.A. minesweepers will reinforce Med. Station.
120th M/S Flotilla. Motor Minesweepers 99 to 104 inclusive leaving Canada, March 1942.
169th M/S Group. Trawlers, MYRLAND, KENNET at Freetown 24/11, with POST BOY and ESTRELLA DO NORTE leaving England, December 1941.
To join 158th M/S Group, trawler AIGLON leaving England, December 1941.
(V.C.N.S., 2303A/25 to C. in C. Med.)

Force K.
(AURORA.
PENELOPE.
LANCE.
LIVELY.)

Tanker escorted by 2 destroyers expected to pass through 038° 12' N. 018° 22' E. at 0400B/26 course 157° speed 14 knots.
2. On completion of present operations proceed to intercept provided no superior enemy forces have been detected.
3. Return through Dead Area entering by S.E. Channel.
4. Second A.S.V. will take off shortly to search area near position given in para. 1 with orders to report by W/T with negative (alternative "feigned") report at 0300.
5. Retirement is at your discretion if contact is delayed.
(V.A. Malta, 2323B/25 to S.O. Force K.)

UNBEATEN.

Patrol vicinity 032° 35' 013° 20' until 1900B. 14½ knots Merchant Ship escorted by one destroyer may be expected passing westward during 26/11.
(Capt. S.10, 2341B/25 to UNBEATEN.)

BARHAM sunk
by U.331.

{No signals received in W.D. - See p. 642 - 7p. 661 D.
at the time.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force G.

ELECTRA, EXPRESS, sailed. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0045Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

DAUNTLESS.

(1) Following programme is intended for passage of DAUNTLESS through E.I. Station.

Arrive.	Place.	Leave.
-	Colombo	A.M./27
P.M./1/12.	Seychelles	A.M./3
A.M./6/12.	Mombasa.	A.M./8.

thence to South African Ports as arranged by N.O.I.C. Simonstown.

(2) It is hoped that opportunity can be taken to escort troop-ship fitted to capacity from Mombasa to Durban.

(3) DAUNTLESS full capacity 87% if normal for D Class.

(4) Ship will need to clean boilers at Cape Port.

(5) C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange onward programme to U.K. (C. in C. E.I. 1538Z/25 to Adty.) *Programme cancelled 30/11 - see p 809*

S.S. SURCOUF
(French)
intercepted
by CORNWALL.

At 054(71)Z/25 CORNWALL intercepted French M/V SURCOUF bound North in 007° 17' N. 052° 06' E.

(ii) Ship stopped and signalled she did not intend to abandon ship. CORNWALL was instructed to send her into Aden for examination.

(iii) CORNWALL now reports as follows:-

(A) Ship was boarded at 0852Z and proceeded with prize crew at 1130Z routed through Guardafui Channel and North side of Gulf of Aden. (B) Maximum speed 5 knots. (C) Prize crew have orders to make alarm signal on 500 kc/s if a submarine attempts recovery. (D) Cargo of foodstuff and rum. (iv) Although presence of submarines is not confirmed F.O. Red Sea Force is requested to arrange A/S escort to meet SURCOUF in Guardafui vicinity on 28/11 CORNWALL is being instructed to remain within aircraft R/C distance till P.M./27 and to make R/V for A/S Vessel. (C. in C. E.I., 1440Z/25 to Admty.)

A/S Escorts
Durban
Area.

Your 1812/25. (i) Request whether intended to provide any A/S escorts in Durban Cape area in near future. (ii) Suggested that high concentration of shipping between Cape and Mombasa renders early provision of ocean going A/S craft desirable. (C. in C. E.I., 1508Z/25 to Admty.) Your 1508Z/25. A.M. 1824A/24 is being passed to you. (D.O.D. (F) 2217A/25 to C. in C. E.I.) Refers to corvettes for service at Capetown, see South Atlantic 24/11..

/Defences.....

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Defences,
Nancowry.

A.M. 2026/20. Following received from M.N.B.D.O. (Begins). Area S.E. of Burleigh Point was considered, but on day that R/C was carried out beach was unapproachable by ship's boat or landing craft due to swell and surf. Weather conditions on this day fine light easterly wind. It was thought that conditions during S.W. monsoon period would be more severe and that even should guns be landed under favourable conditions maintenance might become impossible. In view of Admiralty's signal suggest further R/C of this area be made on Major Salter's return to Nancowry. (Ends). (C. in C. E.I. 1550Z/25 to C. in C. China, amended 1154A/28)

Minesweepers.

Your 0556Z/30/10. Following L.L. and S.A. fitted minesweepers will reinforce East Indies Station. (V.C.N.S., 2304/25 to C. in C.E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.) See Lion Copy.

China.

D'ARTAGNAN
(French).

Departure 25/11 D'ARTAGNAN, Shanghai 29th. (N.C.S.O. Manila, 0630Z/25 to M. of W.T.)

Force G.

Grateful for guidance as to whether any announcement or propaganda is to be allowed when naval reinforcements arrive. There are already distinct signs of intelligent anticipation among press representatives caused by recent announcements. (C. in C. China 0933Z/25 to Admty.)

/Indo.....

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2304A/25th November. OUT IN

664A

To: C in C East Indies 923

Date 25.11.41.

F.O.C.R.I.V. 240

S.B.N.O.F.G.

F.O. Force 83

C in C Western Approaches 204

Repeated F.O.C.N.A. 431

C in C South Atlantic 470

F.O. i/c Simonstown 119

N.O. i/c Mombasa

MOST SECRET

NAVAL CYPHER A 2 NAVAL CYPHER A ONE TIME TABLE

From: Admiralty.

AIDAC BASEGRAM

Your 0556Z/30/10. Following "LL" and S.A.

fitted mine-sweepers will reinforce East Indies Station.

For Colombo 170th. M/S Group, Trawlers LORD GREY, EARL KITCHENER, MA
MAGNOLIA, TEWARA, leave England December, 1941.

For Zanzibar. 171st M/S Group, Trawlers
ESTRELLA D'ALVA, GASTON RIVIERRE, ROSEMONDE, POLO NORTE leave
England January 1942.

For Port "T" 173rd M/S Group, Trawlers PORT
JACKSON, PORT LEVEN, PORT NAT'L, PORT DOWN all also fitted
A/S leave England during 1942.

For Persian Gulf. 174th M/S Group, Whalers
VESTFOLD I, VESTFOLD II, VESTFOLD V, VESTFOLD VI.

175th. M/S Group, Whalers VESTFOLD III,
VESTFOLD X, SILOUETTE (Ex BUSEN VII) SNOWDRIFT (Ex BUSEN II).

176th. M/S Group, Whalers SAHRA, SANTA,
SARKA, SATSA.

177th. M/S Group, Whalers GLOBE V, GLOBE VI
GLOBE VII, POL II, POL III, POL VI.

178th. M/S Group, Whalers RAINSTORM (Ex
BUSEN VI) and SMILI.

170th. M/S Group fitted Mark II ^{Sweep} Swoops,
178th M/S. Group fitted Mark V sweeps remainder Mark III
sweeps. 174th to 178th. Groups contain Whalers taken
up to fit in Eastern ports and VESTFOLDS, GLOBES, POLS will
be renamed shortly to avoid confusion.

Following Motor

MOST SECRET

Motor Minesweepers will form 121st M.B.F. in Persian Gulf.

M.M.S. 105 to 108 inclusive, leaving Canada March 1942,
and M.M.S. 143 to 146 inclusive, building in Ceylon.

2304/25

for D.M.S. (262)
Approved V.C.N.S.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Lord | D.A/S.W. |
| 1st S.L. | D.M.S. |
| 2nd S.L. | I.P. (2) |
| 3rd S.L. | W.D. |
| 4th S.L. | Duty Captain (2) |
| V.C.N.S. | Head of M. (to issue S.S.B.A) |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.T.S.D. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D.D.I.C. |
| A.C.N.S. (T) | 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.M.S. (3) (M.S.O. 882/41) |
| 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. | |

DATE: 26.11.41.

From War Registry.

Reference MOST SECRET message time of origin
2304A/25 November to C. in C. East Indies, and other
addressees, "Mark II sweeps" in paragraph 9
should be corrected to read "Mark II Star sweeps".

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd. S.L.

3rd. S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (W)

A.C.N.S. (T)

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.A./S.W.

D.M.S. (MS0882/41)(3)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.C. (2)

Hd. of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2)

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

War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China-Contd.Indo-China.

Six aerodromes in South F.I. C. reported ready for use. Noticeable movement of aircraft to F.I.C. and (? Hainan). Strength at present approx. 200 in each place. Japanese have requested use of four additional landing grounds in North F.I.C. and permission to effect improvements. Abnormal transport activity Saigon and indications of similar activity at Haiphong. Estimated 10,000 men withdrawn from central China during week, some in tropical kit. Withdrawals of M.L.C. from central China since 1/10 total 530, but no indication of destination. Arrival of aircraft indicates near completion of preparations for operation based on Indo-China should Japanese policy so require. Only Japanese merchant ships outside Japan and China Seas are eleven in South Seas and one in South America. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore 1007Z/25).

SCOUT.
THRACIAN.
operation.

Hong Kong departure 23/11. SCOUT, THRACIAN for operation (Singapore recall) Singapore 25/11 arrival BULAN from Miri. (S.O.I. Singapore 1049Z/25 to Admty.)

Germans in
TROCAS.
SYDNEY.
overdue.

Concur that this is probable explanation. A.C.N.E. is organizing search with assistance from C.Z.M. (C. in C. China, 1133Z/25 to Admty.) (See also Australia) (668)

Minesweepers.

Following dispositions have been approved.
122nd M.S.F. Motor Minesweepers Nos. 51, 52, 93, 94, 125 to 128 inclusive, Singapore.
123rd M.S.F. Motor Minesweepers Nos. 95, 96, 123, 124, 165, Port Swettenham.
124th M.S.F. Motor Minesweepers Nos. 151 to 156 inclusive, Port Penang. (V.C.N.S., 1843A/25 to C. in C. China.)

Axis
Shipping.

1. PIERRE L.D. is expected to sail from Saigon for Europe or North Africa between 25th and 27/11.
2. One of German ships at Kobe believed preparing to leave for Europe about 1/12. She will probably carry rubber and German nationals. Germans are reported as planning to send a ship to Europe monthly. (D.N.I. 2305A/25 to C. in C. China, etc.).

/Assistance...

666

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Assistance
to
Thailand.

Following from Chiefs of Staff. F.E. No.44. War Cabinet are anxious that we should make some offer of assistance to Thailand. We realise that your resources permit of little more than a token gift, but anything sent from here could not arrive in time to have effect.

2. What aircraft could you send:-

(a) Without unduly prejudicing arrangements now in train to assist Chennault or

(b) irrespective of assistance to Chennault.

3. Could you, in addition, make up small hamper of military equipment? Anything sent would be replaced from here. Time lag in effecting repayment is realised. (W.O. 2355/25 to C. in C. Far East.)

America and West Indies.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

B.A.R.M's 1230R/22. Intended that destroyer escort should meet ILLUSTRIOUS about noon/14/12 in approx. 33° W. and in latitude of the Azores. 2. Destroyers will have escorted an outwardbound convoy and will fuel in Azores, where they are permitted to remain for 24 hours only. Therefore essential that ILLUSTRIOUS should conform to destroyers' programme. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0026A/25 to C. in C. A.W.I., ILLUSTRIOUS).

GITANO.
S.O.S.

Grindstone Island Radio. S.O.S. from GITANO. Require assistance immediately. Position West St. Paul Island (Cabot Strait, entrance to G. of St. Lawrence 47° 14' N. 60° 8' W.) drifting on the shore, steampipe broken. (Valentia Radio, 0659/25).

DIANTHUS.

Will leave Charleston for St. Johns N.F. p.m./9/12. (B.A.R.M. 0904R/25 to Admty.)

/Vichy.....

667

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Vichy Shipping.

Operation "Bedlam" cancelled. See North Atlantic.

TULIP.

TULIP is to be transferred to Capetown as soon as she can be spared by INDOMITABLE. N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica is to sail TULIP accordingly via Trinidad and Freetown reporting intended programme. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1032Q/25 to N.O.I.C.'s Trinidad, Kingston).

"Q"
Report
12/11.

DIOMEDE reports QQQQ heard on 500 K/cs strength 5 at 1559Z/12/11. Note then faded and became broken and nothing else could be read except letters P and I and possibly M and E. No subsequent signal and no ship repeated. DIOMEDE's position was 1.50 N. 95.23 W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1039Q/25 to Admty., B.A.D.)

PANDORA.

F.O.(S) 2248A/23. No objection to PANDORA omitting call at Bermuda, but consider desirable she should proceed via Halifax to obtain latest operational information. B.A.D. pass to PANDORA. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1042Q/25 to Admty.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.
FORMIDABLE.

} Admty. 0915A/19 and B.A.D. 1231R/15. Proposed programmes to expedite return. (B.A.R.M. 1312R/25 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
My 1230R/22 and 1312R/25. ILLUSTRIOUS is now to leave Norfolk P.M./28 arriving Jamaica A.M./1/12, and embark 810 and 829 Sqns. She is to leave Jamaica A.M./2 and arrive Norfolk P.M./4. C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to confirm ship should return by same route as in his 1152Q/23. C. in C. A.W.I. is also requested to issue subsequent route instructions from Norfolk to U.K. N.O.I.C. Kingston pass to R.N.A.S. Palisadoes. (B.A.R.M. 1430R/25 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

W.E.HUTTON.

Have you any news of American W.E. HUTTON due Curacao 17/11 from Reykjavik? (D.T.D. 1334A/25 to S.B.N.O. Curacao).
Your 1334A/25. No information. (S.B.N.O. Curacao 1140Q/25).

/U.S.....

667A

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E
MOST SECRET IN

From B.A.R.M.

123R/25/November.

Date 26.11.41.

Naval Cypher A.1 by
Cable

Time 0635.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C.in C. America and West Indies, C.in C. Western Approaches, H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS H.M.S. FORMIDABLE, N.O.i/c Kingston Jamaica, ARCHER.

IMPORTANT

281. With reference to A.M. 0915/ 19 and B.A.D. Washington 1231R 15 in order to expedite return of H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS and H.M.S. FORMIDABLE to service the following action is repeated is being taken with regard to sailing of H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS :

- (a) (i) Leave Norfolk p.m. 28th November
- (ii) Arrive Jamaica a.m. 1st December embarking T S R aircraft for both H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS and H.M.S. FORMIDABLE
- (iii) Leave Jamaica a.m. 2nd December
- (iv) Arrive Norfolk p.m. 4th December embarking all Martlet available and disembarking T.S.R's for H.M.S. FORMIDABLE
- (v) Leave NORFOLK about 5th December to rendezvous with destroyer escort referred to in a.m. 0026/ 25 about noon Sunday 14th December.

(b) Programme proposed repeated proposed for H.M.S. FORMIDABLE. In view of desirability of ship not waiting about at Norfolk, following a refit in which special efforts to achieve early completion have been exerted by U.S. Authorities, and as little value can be obtained from working up practice while ship has no R.D.F. no fighter pilots and only reduced gun crews it is suggested:

- (i) Ship sails for U.K. Friday 12th Dec. with 6 T.S.R's brought by H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS and as many Martlet as are available which is estimated at 8.
- (ii) Arrives U.K. 20th December.

2. The balance Martlet could be brought to U.K. by ARCHER early January or alternative on completion of fitting of R.D.F. H.M.S. FORMIDABLE could return to Norfolk to embark remainder of Martlet and work up. Call at Norfolkwould

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would add approximately 3 days to passage to Eastern Mediterranean via Cape and ship will then be fully manned and equipped for working up.

3. If it is decided H.M.S. FORMIDABLE is not to sail until all Martlet are ready it is considered she should proceed to a British port until they are available at Norfolk..

4. Request decision.

1312R/25

Advance copies sent D.C. D.O.D.(H)
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)

A.C.N.S.(W)

N.A.1st S.L.

D.O.D.(H) for action.

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 I.D.

D.A/S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P.(2)

V.D.

D.C.(2)

Hd. of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D.(2)

N.I.D.10.

D.G.D.

D. of P.(2)

Hd. of Air

Ad. Bailey

D.N.A.D.

D. of D.

E.M./MFG

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America and West Indies.-Contd.

U.S. and
Surinam.

U.S. Troops in 4 small vessels sailed for Surin(am?) escorted by U.S. Destroyers BARNEY and BLAKELEY. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1500Q/25 to Admty.) W.D. Note:- Announced 24/11 that U.S. Forces were to protect bauxite mines in Dutch Guiana.

CLARKIA.

24/11 arrival Mobile.
(N.C.S.O. New Orleans, 2021Z/25 to Admty.)

Australia.

German
Survivors in
TROCAS.
SYDNEY still
overdue.

My 1312Z/24, not to Admiralty. Oil tanker TROCAS reports survivors from KOMORAN, sunk by cruiser. There is no further news of SYDNEY. (A.C.N.B. 0016Z/25 to Admty. etc.) Comment by O.I.C. Possibly KOMORAN (5,100 tons, built 1938, 15 knots, last heard Hamburg 1939). A.C.N.B. 0016/25. The only explanation we can think of is that Raider torpedoed SYDNEY before being sunk. Request your views and details of steps that you are taking to try and locate her. (1st Sea Lord 1120A/25 to A.C.N.B., C. in C. China).

My 0617Z/24. Following censorship in force Australia publicity and communications (begins): No reference to SYDNEY or any statement or rumour regarding alleged naval activities Australian waters (Ends). Request you will conform. (A.C.N.B. 0829Z/25 to Admty.) Admty. 1120A/25. Agreed Admiralty's (?statement) appears only explanation. Estimate action occurred forenoon of 21st. Following action has been taken. (i) Air search to cover likely area S. of 020° S. carried out 24th, 25th. (ii) 4 Auxiliary vessels from Fremantle proceeding to search. (iii) Air search being carried out by 6 aircraft based on Geraldton 26th. (iv) 2 Catalina aircraft proceeding Port Moresby to Fremantle ready to operate 26th. (v) C.Z.M. sending Netherlands Cruiser TROMP along probable route Sunda Strait to Fremantle and searching area N. of 020° S. by air. (vi) Merchant shipping warned to keep a good look out, 5 ships due to pass through the area. In addition to enemy survivors picked up by TROCAS, one life boat containing 40 or 50 men sighted under sail in area. 2 life boats also containing survivors ashore 40 miles N. of Carnarvon. Land party proceeding to take them into custody. All life boats painted dark brown colour and therefore

/do.....

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

German
Survivors in
TROCAS.
SYDNEY still
overdue -
Contd.

do not belong to SYDNEY. Hoped to obtain information from prisoners. You will be kept informed of developments. (A.C.N.B., 1634Z/25 to Admty. C. in C. China).

Mines.

Q.F.4. ref. to F.109 Western Approaches to Torres Straits. Lines of (? mines) have been laid as follows:-

Area A. chart 23 75. One line from a position $15\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ 14.35 miles from Booby Island Light in a 214° direction for 5.4 miles. Area B chart 23. 74. Line one from position $254\frac{1}{2}$ 3.47 miles from Bampffield Head triangulation mark in a 126° direction for 1.5 miles. Line 2 from a position 122° . 0.65 miles from Red Wallis Island triangulation mark in a 241° direction for 0.68 miles. Line 3 from a position 287° 3.0 miles from Red Wallis Island triangulation mark in a 306° direction for 3.02 miles.
(A.C.N.B., 0701Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

LE TRIOMPHANT

Your 1251A/31/10. (1251/1/11 intended) Subject to dockyard work being completed by 5/12 as expected following programme is proposed. 5 and 6/12 test, accommodation and gunnery exercises; Leave Sydney 7/12, Brisbane 8-9; Noumea 11-15; Brisbane 17-18; Port Darwin 24-26; Batavia 30/12-1/1; Singapore 2-5; Colombo 10-12; Aden 18-20; Suez 23/1. (LE TRIOMPHANT 0800Z/25 to Admty.)

CAP DES
PALMES.

British Consul Noumea's 2102Z/20. Request confirmation that present destination of CAP DES PALMES is Papeete. Ship is expected at Singapore for conversion to A.M.C.
(D.O.D. (F) 1515A/25 to A.C.N.B.)

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War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.General.

Analysis of M/F D/F bearings of two U-boats shadowing convoys recently. (D.A/S W., 2302A/25 to C. in C's etc.) See Lion Copy.

Submarines Reported.

2310C/24.

Bearing by D/F at 2310C position of enemy U-boat was $070^{\circ} 35' 032^{\circ} 10' E.$, unreliable fix. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0012C/25, to C.S.10, 0018C/25 to SEAWOLF.)

Estimated approx., positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1350A/25, 1426A/25.)

U/Bs have been reported by A/C in following positions.

47 15 N.	09 20 W.	Course 100°	at 1346/25.
47 37 N.	08 11 W.	Course 110°	at 1505/25.
48 17 N.	08 13 W.	Course 230°	at 1501/25.

(D.D.I.C. 1701/25 to P.36.)

Submarines Attacked.

By Russian
P/B.

Reported B 3 - U-boat rammed and sunk by patrol boat 45° Svyatoi Nos. $68.09 N.$, $39.49 E.$, 0700/25. Damage to bow, no survivors, no wreckage.
(S.B.N.O., N.Russia, 1157C/25 to Admty.)

By A/C.
"A".

Am over enemy S/M in position SXSA 3132 (indecipherable If HXSA = $47.31 N.$, $8.28 W.$) Sighted on surface and observed to submerge, course 090° 8 knots. Have attacked with Depth Charges, estimate no hits.
(A/C duty A1243/25, 1250/25 to 19 Group.)

/By A/C "A".....

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2302A/25 November. OUT

To. C in C West ~~14 Approaches 202.~~ Date 25.11.41.
 C. in C. South Atlantic 467
 F.O.C.N.A. 429
 C.C.N.F.
 A.C.I.C. 337
 Repeated C in C Mediterranean 363 B2
 B.A.D. Washington. 588
 F.O. (S) 987
 Captain (D) Liverpool Greenock Londonderry Newfoundland
 Freetown.
 H.Q.C.C.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) AND
 NAVAL CYPHER (A One Time Table)

From Admiralty.

NOTE For all Escort Vessels.

An analysis has been made of M/F D/F bearings of two U-Boats shadowing convoys on separate occasions recently.

2. In first case U-Boat made contact at 1440 on bearing Green 80 dropping back slowly to Green 110 at 1840. After drastic course alteration U-Boat shadowed from Red 170 but at midnight worked up to Red 110 and later back to Red 140.
3. No further D/F's obtained until 1410 on following day when U-Boat bore Red 85 and she remained between this bearing and Red 60 until 2230 when she worked ahead and from 2315 until D/F's ceased at 0115 she varied between Red 05 and Red 30.
4. In second case U-Boat was first D/F's bearing Red 55 at 1445 and again at 1545. No further bearings until 1035 the following day when she bore Red 157. At 1310 she bore Red 122 but by 1811 had worked round to a bearing of Green 155. During following night until bearings ceased at 0245 she shadowed from Green 90.
5. These bearings can be considered reasonably accurate. No definite conclusions can yet be drawn but investigation will continue.

2302A/25.
 D.A./S.W. (Tel 698)
 Approved A.C.N.S. (T)
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 Duty Captain.
 D.D.I.C.
 D.T.D. (2)
 N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

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

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War Diary.25.11.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked. Contd.By A/C
"A".

Am over enemy S/M in 48.17 N., 8.13 W.
When last seen was on surface and observed to
submerge on a course 230°, speed 8 knots.
Have attacked with depth charges. No hits.
(A/C 1500/25, 1520/25, to 19 Group.)
Hudson A/C, same as 1243 and 1250/25.
Details of attacks, 1930/25. See Lion Copy.

By A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 47.37 N., 8.11 W. When
last seen was on surface and observed to
submerge on a course 110°. speed 10 knots.
Have attacked with depth charges, no hits.
(A/C, 1505/25, 1507/25, to 19 Group.)

By Russian
Ships.

U-boat rammed by patrol vessel 068° 16' N.,
040° 36' E., at 0620, probably not sunk.
(2) Another U-boat sighted in 067° 26' N.,
041° 20' E., at 1100. Both U-boats being
hunted by Russian ships. Admty., pass to
C. in C.H.F., Capt. (S) Dundee, BERWICK.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 2030C/25 to GOSSAMER.)

1930/25 November. 671^A

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

From Hudson A/53.

Date 25.11.41.

Received 2330.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

1235 HXSA 3548 - sighted suspicious wash about 12 miles on port beam altered course to investigate

1239 HXSA 3235 - sighted U/Boat - fully surfaced 3 miles distant.

1240 HXSA 3132 - attacked U/Boat.

(C) First Attack

1. Sighted on surface at 1239 in HXSA 3235 CO 090 - Sp.12 kts.
2. Visual - 12 miles bearing 250 degs. from A/C.
3. Fully surfaced - painted light blue - green large red identification letter on conning tower 'U' (query 17) but number not clear - pedestal mounted G gun 15 feet forward of conning tower - heavy net cutter - bows not raised.
4. Nil.
5. 1000 ft. at sighting.
6. N/A.
7. 30 degs. to track of U/Boat from port to starboard.
8. 3 x 250 lb. D/C's Mk.VIII with Mk.VII pistols.
1st.D/C at 25 ft. - 2nd D/C and 3rd D/C at 50 ft. spaced at 30 ft. - 1x250 A/S bomb 1/2 sec tail fusing.
9. Conning tower above water.
10. N/A
11. 1st.D/C fell 5 yds. beyond U/Boat on starboard side - alongside conning tower - Nos.2 and 3 D/C's hung up
12. Nil
13. "A" circled area 47 minutes then made "T" search for 1 hour 32 minutes - "T" patrol was moved forward twice 14 at 1235 on course 265 at 1000 ft. sighted wash identified 1239 as fully surfaced U/Boat on CO 090 ST 12 kts -
/bearing.....

bearing 250 from A/C "A" dived immediately to 50 ft. and attacked with D/Cs at angle of 30 degs. to track of U/Boat from port to starboard - U/Boat started to submerge 15 secs. before attack - but conning tower still completely above water when D/Cs were released - 2nd and 3rd D/Cs hung up and 1st. was seen to explode 5 yds. to starboard of U/Boat and entered water alongside conning tower - stem of U/Boat came out of water as the D/C exploded due possibly to speed of dive nothing further was seen - A/C circled 47 minutes Pilot tested D/Cs again making two attempts to release them on second attempt the 2nd. D/C dropped being released singly.

(c) Second Attack.

1. Sighted fully surfaced at 1500 in HXSA 3654 CO 110 at 12 kts.
2. Visual at 6 miles - bearing 280 from A/C.
3. Colour and gun positions similar to that of U/Boat already attacked but not clearly seen owing to low level attack.
4. Nil.
5. 1300 ft.
6. No.
7. Beam attack from starboard to port.
8. At the time of 2nd. attack 1 x 250 Mk. VIII D/C Mk. VII pistol set at 50 ft. - 1 x 250 lbs. A/S bomb 1/2 Sec. tail fusing.
9. Conning tower fully surfaced.
10. N/A.
11. 12 yds. from hull on port beam just aft of conning tower.
12. Nil.
13. 18 minutes (to Ple).
14. 1500 on CO 014 at 1300 ft. - sighted U/Boat fully surfaced on CO 110 at 12 kts. - 6 miles distant "A" climbed steeply to port to get into sun and approached from 2000 ft. attacking in steep dive machine gunning conning tower

/during.....

- 3 -

during dive- many hits being observed - about 200 rounds were used - at the time bomb was released from 500 ft. conning tower was above water - U/Boat diving rapidly but not crash diving - bomb was seen to burst about 12 yards from U/Boat on port side just aft of conning tower - nothing further was seen "A" circled for 18 minutes.

1930/25.

1st.Lord.	D.T.D.(M)
1st.S.L.	D.T.D.(C)
4th.S.L.	O.I.C.(4)
5th.S.L.	D.of P.(3)
V.C.N.S.	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.S.(H)	I.P.(3)
A.C.N.S.(T)	W.D.
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.P.D.
Nav.Sec.	D.S.D.(2)
N.A.1st.S.L.	M.(2)
Capt. Pim, Admiralty House.	D.N.A.D.
Ops.(3)	
O.D.(5)	
D.N.I.(4)	
D.T.D.(4)	

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War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Harwich was closed from 0838A to 1202A today on account of fog. Aultbea was closed at 1215 on account of the weather. The sailing of convoys was also disorganised.

SEAWOLF, operating off Varanger Fiord sank a 3,000 ton tanker in a westbound convoy at 0100 /22 and hit with torpedo and probably sank a merchant ship of uncertain size in another westbound convoy at 0015/24.

Western Approaches Plymouth, Portsmouth, Nore and Rosyth have been ordered to provide for the Home Fleet by 17/12 total of 2 leaders or Vee class destroyers, 5 Hunts, 6 corvettes, two A/A sloops and 5 A/S whalers.

Dover.

Operation N.L.22 and Operation 'Baritone' were abandoned last night owing to movements of enemy surface craft in the vicinity.

British Air Operations.

Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Cherbourg and Brest last night.

Special air patrols are still being carried out to report any enemy units attempting to break out into the Atlantic north about.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Falmouth.

It is reported that Falmouth is given to enemy air pilots as the secondary target for all enemy planes minelaying and operating against shipping in the Bristol Channel, North Devon and Cornish coasts and St. George's Channel. Falmouth is a convoy port and also considerable ship repair work is carried out there. C. in C. Plymouth considers that the A.A. defences should be considerably strengthened.

Mining.

Owing to fog the approach channels, Thames Estuary, was not swept until 1130.

Bristol Channel ports east of Port Talbot were open from 1145 to 1900 today.

South Atlantic.

Corvettes
for
Freetown.

C. in C. S.A. asks that the 4 corvettes sent from Western Approaches to relieve his four which are going down from Freetown to the Cape, may be selected for good condition. The four which were sent to him recently have either broken down at sea or spent most of their time under repair. Maintenance facilities at Freetown are still meagre. C. in C. W.A. stated (28/11) that owing to defects none of the 8 corvettes sent from the South Atlantic in exchange for his have yet been in service since their return.

/DUNEDIN....

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

DUNEDIN.

No further news was received today of DUNEDIN from whom nothing had been heard since 24/11, but the Germans claimed that DRAGON, a sister ship, had been sunk by U-boat in the Atlantic. CANTON was ordered at 2213N/25 to search in St. Paul's Rock area.

Troop Convoy.

W.S.12 Z (16 ships with troops and supplies for Middle East) arrived Freetown at 0049N/25 escorted by ROYAL SOVEREIGN and small craft.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.

In very bad weather today 2 out of 6 Blenheims despatched attacked a 7,000 ton liner escorted by a destroyer 18 miles west of Horns and obtained 2 hits on the liner and one on the destroyer. The liner was later (27/11) seen 3 miles east of Tripoli low in the water and stopped 300 yards from shore.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Wellingtons dropped nearly 30 tons of bombs on Benghazi harbour last night, obtaining a hit on a 4,000 ton wreck at the outer Mole which is used as a landing stage. Several ships previously reported in harbour had departed.

APHIS bombarded Gazala Aerodrome in the early hours of today.

Force B (7th C.S. and 18th C.S.) returned to Alexandria at 1800 today after a sweep last night along the coast of Cyrenaica: no enemy ships were seen.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

The U.S. authorities have intelligence from which the conclusion to be drawn is that a Japanese naval force, composed of 4 Battleships (KONGO class, 8-14"), 4 aircraft carriers, 2 seaplane carriers, 8-8", 6-6", and 7-5.5" cruisers, 56 destroyers and 19 S/Ms. has been organised for an operation and that certain units of the force have started to move south. A special air force has assembled in Formosa and is in process of moving to Hainan.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - contd.

FORTUNE.

FORTUNE is to proceed to Gibraltar. Request you will sail FORTUNE to Plymouth as soon as ready.
(C. in C. W.A. 2131A/26 to C. in C. Nore.)

See also p 685.

ARROW.
BLANKNEY.

ARROW and BLANKNEY are required to proceed to Gibraltar. Ships are to be available at short notice. (C. in C. W.A. 2142A/26.)

U.S.A. and
Russian
Liaison
Officers
in H.F.

Your 2025A/19. Concur that U.S. Naval Liaison Officer in Home Fleet is now required and it is desirable that he should be accommodated in Fleet Flagship.
2. Accommodation is not available in KING GEORGE V. and I intend to accommodate F.R.M.O. in DUKE OF YORK or other H.F. ship.
3. Your 1457A/12. I do not foresee any real requirement for a Russian Liaison Officer and his value both to his service and ours will be much reduced by his inability to speak English. If on other grounds he is required in Home Fleet he will be accommodated in RODNEY.
(C. in C. H.F. 2211N/26 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

MIRLO.

Your 1945A/25. Request length and draught of MIRLO. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1127C/26 to Adty.)

Signals as
to Russian
Convoys.

Signals such as your 1526N/25 should be repeated S.B.N.O. Archangel, S.B.N.O. North Russia, and Admiral Miles.
(D.T.D. 1316A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

Russian
minefields.

Following is a repetition para 1. My 1241C/17/8 to Adty. repeat Admiral Miles. Begins. Russian minefields in area enclosed in following positions entrance to White Sea (a) 067° 12' 041° 48' (b) 067° 15' 043° 33' 30" (c) 067° 01' 041° 48' (d) 067° 05' 36" 043° 30' 30". Ends.
This information has been promulgated by Adty. in Q.Z.R.9. C. in C. Northern Fleet requests our assistance in sweeping part Q.Z.R.9 and S.O.1st M/S F has been informed of position of mines required to be swept.
Lack of navigational aid, strong tides and shoal water make sweeping in this area difficult and C. in C. has been approached with a view to buoying Trekhostrovskaya shoal 067° 08' 30" 042° 10' during sweeping operations. Stepanov should be approached. On no account must sweeping of swept channel be interrupted for this work.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1736C/26.)

/Party ...

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia - contd.

Party for
Russia.

A distinguished party similar to that which recently embarked in LONDON are shortly going to Russia. Request you will allocate a cruiser to convey them, leaving Scapa about 3/12. (V.C.N.S. 2305A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

Scapa A/S
Defences.

A.M.1211A/25. Concur.
(C. in C. W.A. 1006A/26.)
Your 1211A/25th and 1408A/25. Experience has shewn that 110 foot motor launches are not very suitable for harbour defence patrol at Scapa. Existing 110 foot motor launches are used as an A/S striking force and for anti-boat defence. In order to maintain patrol at desired state of efficiency I should like to retain A/S drifters GUIDING LIGHT, EPHRETAH, OLIVE TREE, until repairs to damaged indicator loops have been completed. Request approval.
(A.C.O.S. 1153A/26 to Adty.)

Falmouth
A/A Defences.

I understand that, in the preliminary interrogation of the prisoners taken from the enemy plane shot down on the evening of 23/11 near Tamerton Foliet, it has been discovered that Falmouth is given as the secondary target for all enemy planes minelaying and operating against shipping in the Bristol Channel, North Devon and Cornish Coasts, and St. George's Channel. In view of the considerable ship repair work at Falmouth and also as it is a Convoy Port I am of the opinion that the A/A defences should be considerably strengthened. (C. in C. Plymouth 1609/26.)

Movements.

FRITILLARY.
COWSLIP.

Your 1824A/24. Intend to transfer Corvettes as follows :-
1. FRITILLARY to sail with O.S.13.
2. COWSLIP to sail from Gibraltar.
3. Two Corvettes to sail from U.K. about 5/12.
(C. in C. W.A. 0029A/26 to Adty.)

WATCHMAN
SCIMITAR.

WATCHMAN and SCIMITAR hove to in 059° N. 021° 35' W. MONKSHOOD informed.
(WATCHMAN 0101A/26.)

ELLESMERE.

ELLESMERE is to proceed Plymouth forthwith.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1046/26.)

WOLVERINE.
EGLANTINE.

Proceed Liverpool independently.
(BROKE 1050A/26 to WOLVERINE, EGLANTINE.)

/Floating ...

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War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

Floating
Crane.

My 1620/25. Delete all references to ULLSWATER and substitute NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE. (C. in C. Plymouth 1242/26.)
N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1911/25.
Holyhead to sail two M.Ls to arrive Fishguard a.m. 29th. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail them as requisite to R/V. They are to be relieved off South Stack by two M.Ls from Holyhead for escort to vicinity South Rock. On relief M.Ls to return to base. (C. in C. W.A. 1830A/26.)

Trials with
OTWAY and
WESTCOTT.

My 1800/22 and C. in C. W.A. 1236/25. Orders. (C.A/S E.E. 1250/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

CILICIA.

My 0941A/18. CILICIA leaves Clyde 6/12 for Freetown. (S.O.W.P. 1250A/26.)

LOCH
MONTEITH.

Your 1233/26. ^{N.T. h. W.D.} Hove to in approx. 060° N. 000° 36' W. Proceeding R/V (corrupt Group). Weather permitting. (LOCH MONTEITH 1530/26.)

H.44

Add 6 hours to all times in my 0902/23. (Capt. S.7. 1708A/26.)
From position 050° 05' N. 002° W. proceed through 050° 22' N. 000° 41' W. to R/V 0815A/28 in 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. Submerged restrictions in area 53 extended until 2359/27. (Capt. S.5. 1955A/26 to H.44.)

Operations.

Operation
"Baritone".

My 1511A/25. Operation "Baritone" was abandoned at 0127 owing to R.D.F. plot showing enemy surface vessels approaching the immediate vicinity. (V.A. Dover 0914A/26.)

M.T.B.
engagement
off Gravelines
on 25/11.

Last night Tuesday M.T.B. 44, 45, 218 and 219 were despatched to intercept an R.D.F. plot of several vessels which left Boulogne northeastwards at 1812, turned back when off Gravelines at 2050, and re-entered Boulogne at 2330. Between 2000 and 2220 contact was made on several occasions in visibility sometimes less than half a mile. Reports show that enemy probably consisted of one large magnetic mine sweeper accompanied by several trawlers and R. Boats. M.T.B. 45 sighted and

/unsuccessfully ...

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

M.T.B. engagement off Gravelines on 25/11 - contd. unsuccessfully attacked the minesweeper but other M.T.Bs did not sight a suitable torpedo target. All M.T.Bs report heavy but inaccurate enemy gun fire and returned this fire when opportunity offered. They sustained no casualties but some superficial damage. (V.A. Dover 0916A/26.)

Patrols.

My 1034/26. ^{N.T. A. W. 3} For HEYBOURNE WYKE read JOHN CATLING. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1432A/26.) Weather permitting one unit of M.T.Bs of 1st Flotilla is to patrol between Ostende and Flushing tonight. Surface vessels met East of 2° 40' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1538A/26 to BEEHIVE.)
Patrol tonight.
(1) 2 Motor Gunboats Q.E.(3)
(2) 3 Motor Launches Q.E.(5)
(3) 3 Motor Launches Q.E.(8)
(4) 3 M.T.Bs returning to Harwich from eastwards at daylight.
(C. in C. Nore 1617A/26.)

M.G.B. for N.I.D.

Admiralty 1930A/25/10. Intend to sail M.G.Bs. 320 and 318 at 1700 today to carry out para. B.4. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1535A/26.)

Iceland - Faroes and Denmark Strait Patrols.

Cancel my 1449A/25. KENT is to proceed patrol South Black, by 1200Z/27. EDINBURGH to North Black. (11) CUMBERLAND is to remain on patrol White. (111) SUFFOLK is to patrol Denmark Strait to westward patrol Bear.
(C. in C. H.F. 2221N/26.)

VIRGILIA (Torpedoed 24/11)

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 1849A/26. Intend to sink VIRGILIA by gun fire.
(C. in C.Nore 2247A/26.)

Enemy Tanker sunk on Night 21/22.

One westbound 3000 ton Tanker sunk by SEAWOLF off Norwegian Coast.
(D.S. 813.)

British Air Activity.Patrols.

Patrols "Frice" and "Polar" are required from daylight today. Object detection enemy merchant ship raider possibly attempting to break out. (A.C.N.S. H. 0027A/26 and 0318A/26.)
"Polar" to be flown all today, first sortie as early as possible.
(H.Q.C.C. 0045/26 to R.A.F. Iceland.)

/"Polar" ...

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols
contd.

"Polar" in operation from 1145N.
(A.C.I.C. 1151N/26.)
Cancel my 1151N/26. Aircraft returned with
defect. (A.C.I.C. 1456N/26.)
My 0027A/26. Following patrols are required
tomorrow.
A. A sweep to cover approximately the area
between "Rovik" and "Frice" patrols extended to
the eastward of "Frice".
B. "Polar" from daylight to dusk.
C. "Bear" by A.S.V. fitted aircraft during night
27/28 November.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1931A/26.)

Bombing
operations.

On Night 24/25 there were no operations.
On Night 25/26 fifteen A/C bombed Docks at
Cherbourg and 17 A/C bombed Brest, where some
A/C report the effectiveness of the smoke screen
which increased the difficulty of successfully
pinpointing their bomb bursts.
(H.Q.B.C. 1318/26.)

A/C and
Motor Ships.

In condition of low visibility ships on escort
duty should not request escorting aircraft to
carry out any duty that will involve them closing
merchant ships nearer than the limit laid down.
This endangers friendly aircraft and was recently
the cause of 1 being fired upon by a merchant
ship. (C. in C. W.A. 1702A/26.)

Enemy Air Activity.

St. George's
Channel.

Steamer GLAMORGAN COAST reports that at about
1530/25 when 2 miles South of Mine Head, 52° N.
7° 35' W, two Heinkels flew over Mine Head and
then followed the coast line to the eastward.
These aircraft may have been searching for
steamer GREAT WESTERN leaving Waterford p.m.
for Rosslare vide my 2251A/24.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1331/26.)

Mining.

N.L.22.

My 1551/25. Operation N.L.22 was abandoned
owing to movements of enemy surface craft.
(V.A. Dover 0915A/26.)

Bristol
Channel.

Bristol Channel Ports East of Port Talbot open
from 1145 until 1900 today.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0924A/26.)
Exploded Red Magnetic Mine 0947A/26 072° 8
cables Flatholm Light.
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1220A/26.)

/Exploded ...

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Bristol
Channel -
contd.

Exploded two red magnetic mines, first at 1127/26 Van, in 161° 1.1 miles Flatholm Light, second at 1147/26 in 174° 1.5 miles Flatholm Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1425A/26.)

N.P.18.My 0915A/26. Intend to carry out operation N.P.18 tonight. (V.A. Dover 1029A/26.)
My 1029A/26. Operation has been postponed owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 2229A/26.)
Four M.Ls leave Dover at 2330 via No.1 Buoy returning about 0500/27.
(V.A. Dover 1559/26.)Sweep in
Faroes
Passage.C. in C. H.F. 1719N/25. Continue sweeping operations. One A/S trawler is to be on patrol to the westward of Swept Gap whenever operations are not in progress.
(A.C.O.S. 1125/26 to S.O. M/S 4.)
Your 1125A/26. S.O.4th M/S Flotilla intends operating weather permitting from 1200 until 1700 tomorrow only, returning to Fugle Fiord on completion. Request fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 2124A/26.)S.N.
Operations.Your 2141/25. Operations can be carried out without assistance of SCOTT. But it has been the practice to send SCOTT to the area up to 24 hours before the lay so that she has reasonable chance to obtain Astronomical fixes. The chances of obtaining these during the time the Squadron is on the spot are much less, and reliance will have to be placed on fixes by soundings. In some cases this will mean that detours have to be made to run the necessary lines of soundings and in certain cases it will also be necessary to allow greater tolerances.
(R.A.M. 1419/26 to Adty.)
Your 1742/25. It is unlikely that date of first operation can be advanced but it may be possible to reduce intervals between succeeding lays slightly. This will largely depend upon the supply situation.
(R.A.M. 1607/26 to C. in C. H.F.)Fraserburgh
Minefield.In operation p.m. today.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1630/26.)

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Ships to
steam in
Units.

C.A.F.O. 809/41. Where applicable ships are invariably to steam in units when in waters where any form of enemy attack is possible unless there is some particular reason which renders cross connection essential. An exception is made in the case of ships carrying out practices inside Scapa Flow.
(C. in C. H.F. 1415N/26.)

Navigational.Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0838A/26.)
Port opened. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1202A/26.)

Sheringham
Buoy.
57 C Buoy.

Commodore F.N.561 reports Sheringham buoy missing, 57 C extinguished.
(N.C.S.O. Sunderland 0924/26.)
Request confirmation.
(C. in C. Nore 1147A/26 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

Aultbea.

Port closed due to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1215/26.)

Kola Inlet.

My 2211C/7. Kola Inlet further A/S net has been laid between lines drawn 117° from 69° 7' 30" N. 33° 26' 38" E. and 69° 7' 13" N. 33° 26' 20" E. and the shore. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. BERWICK, Capt. (D) 17.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1901C/26.)

Casualties and Defects.Unknown
Ship.

Intercepted at 0530 G.M.T. DE 21. Addressed O.N.40. In collision with me. Request return Belfast, signed Master. Bearing from G.P.K. approx. 304°. Unreliable sector.
(Port Patrick Radio 0530/26.)
Intercepted at 0545 G.M.T. DE O.N.40. Addressed 21. Reply Yes.
(Port Patrick Radio 0645/26.)

FLOWERGATE.

Following received addressed Naval Control Reykjavik from FLOWERGATE begins. Require machinery repairs. Inform me of approach routes. (C. in C. W.A. 0827A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

FOWEY.

Starboard main steam bulkhead valve cover joint blown out. Expect to sail 1700/26.
(FOWEY 1015A/26.)

/RENONCULE ...

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.RENONCULE.

Severe leak probably in engine room water not under control. Proceeding Iceland. Request escort. My P.C.S. are 059° 40' N. 027° 10' W. (?162°) 9 knots at 1100Z/26.
(RENONCULE 1100Z/26.)

Proceed forthwith to assist RENONCULE reported in 59° 40' N. 27° 10' W. at 1100Z/26 with engine defects. Escort to Iceland if necessary and report situation.

(C. in C. W.A. 1457A/26 to HEARTSEASE.)

Your 1457A/26. RENONCULE proceeding to Iceland at 15 knots. Endeavouring to contact her.
(HEARTSEASE 1600Z/26.)

Water still not controlled. My P.C.S. at 1900Z/26 060° 48' N. 025° 39' W. 025° 10.
RENONCULE 2130Z/26.)

DORINGTON
COURT.
K.G. MELDAHL.

S/S DORINGTON COURT ashore south side of Black Island, Lynn of Lorne. Also S/S K G MELDAHL in convoy anchorage flying signals "I am drifting require tug". (N.O.I.C. Oban 1115A/26.)

My 1115A/26. No progress DORINGTON COURT. Tug awaiting weather moderating. Request salvage assistance.

(N.O.I.C. Oban 1420A/26.)

My 1115A/26 and 1420A/26. DORINGTON COURT making water amidships. Awaiting salvage advice before attempting to refloat.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1625A/26.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Admiralty's 1957A/14. ILLUSTRIOUS will now be taken in hand at Rosyth. Time in hand is not to exceed four weeks.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1252A/26.)

Sailed H.M. Tug ST. OLAVES to assist ship reported at entrance Loch Ewe.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1404A/26.)

GALT.
(Damaged
25/11.)

GALT returned 1700.
(A.C.I.C. 1755N/26.)

HAVELOCK.

HAVELOCK's 1659/26. Begins. Noise from damaged starboard propeller prevents A/S echo or H.E. being distinguished at all speeds over 9 knots. Propose to return to Base. Ends. No dry dock is available in Liverpool for about 10 days. Request C. in C. W.A. be informed where HAVELOCK can be docked.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1908A/26.) *See next page*

BOADICEA.

Damaged going alongside PRESIDENT SERGEANT at Merville. Unfit to proceed on escort duties.
(BOADICEA 2215A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Request ...

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.→ HAVELOCK -
contd.Request you sail HAVELOCK to Cardiff for docking and changing of propeller. (C. in C. W.A. 2126A/26 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.) *See previous page*KING SOL.

The good seamanship and devotion to duty displayed by officers and ship's company of KING SOL in bringing their ship safely into harbour under most difficult conditions reflect the greatest credit on all concerned. (C. in C. W.A. 1916A/26 to KING SOL.)

FORTUNE.My 1032A/22 and A.C. W.A. 1531A/22. Owing to defects FORTUNE will not be ready to leave Sheerness until 28/11. (C. in C. Nore 2104A/26.) *See p. 677*Shipping and Convoys.→ H.G.76.
→ HAVELOCK
HARVESTER
COWSLIP.

Request you will sail HAVELOCK and HARVESTER as soon as ready to act as additional escort to H.G.76. Route. HAVELOCK and HARVESTER are to part company with convoy as convenient to refuel at Ponta Delgada subsequently rejoining and returning to U.K. with H.G. 76. (C. in C. W.A. 0015A/26 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.) My 0015A/26. Request you will sail COWSLIP with H.G.76 remaining with convoy till HAVELOCK and HARVESTER join. * COWSLIP is subsequently to be transferred to South Atlantic Command. Request you will arrange transfer with C. in C. S.A. (C. in C. W.A. 0032A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

*See also p. 687 7628*Convoy
W.S.14.

Will leave U.K.6/12. RAMILLIES to join as Ocean Escort in following position. Orders for Destroyer Escort. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0029A/26) See Lion Copy. Names of Ships and Details. (A.C.N.S. H. 0108A/26 to C. in C. W.A.) See Lion Copy.

O.N.M.40.
CORNWALL.
(not H.M.S.)

CORNWALL returned with collision damage. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0935A/26.)

F.N.663.

F.N.663 postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 0958A/26.)

/O.N.40 ...

685A.

0029A/26th November.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE. **MOST SECRET** OUT.

To. ~~RAMILLIES~~ 26 11. 43.
 C. in C. Western Approaches. 208.
 Repeated. C. in C. South Atlantic. 476.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic. 436.
 S.O. Force "H". 110.
 F.O.I.O. Greenock.
 F.O.I.O. Milford Haven.
 C. in C. Plymouth. 809.
 C. in C. Home Fleet. 356.
 C. in C. America & West Indies. 296.
 ILLUSTRIOUS.
 V.A.2. 510.
 R.A. (D) Home Fleet. 339.
 H.Q.C.O.
 H.Q.F.C.

NAVAL CYPHER (A. ONE TIME TABLE).

From. Admiralty.

Convoy W.S. 14 will leave United Kingdom 6th December.

2. RAMILLIES will join convoy as ocean escort in position (X) 46 degrees 00' North 23 degrees 00' West at 1200 Z 10th December.
3. RAMILLIES and escort will proceed from Clyde to Milford Haven as requisite to top up with fuel to maximum capacity and will sail thence to join convoy.
4. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested (a) to provide three destroyers as A/S escort from Clyde to the vicinity of the Azores who will remain with the convoy until destroyers providing through escort to Freetown have rejoined after fuelling, and (b) to arrange for RAMILLIES to be sailed from Clyde and Milford Haven accordingly and to be given as short a route as possible to R/V (X).
5. After relief by through escort destroyers of RAMILLIES escort will proceed to Ponta Delgada for fuel.
6. They will be required to provide return escort to the United Kingdom for H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS and after fuelling will proceed.....

C. in C. Western Approaches is requested (a) to provide three destroyers as A/S escort from Clyde to the vicinity of the Azores who will remain with the convoy until destroyers providing through escort to Freetown have

685^B

will proceed to R/V with ILLUSTRIOUS at noon 14th December
as arranged by C. in C. Western Approaches.
0029A/26.

for D.O.D. (H)

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

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

EC.

C
6858

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0108A/26th November

OUT

To: C. in C. W.A. 210
RAMILLIES

Date 26.11.41

Repeated: F.O.I.C. Liverpool
F.O.I.C. Greenock
F.O.I.C. Cardiff
F.O.I.C. Belfast
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven
N.C.S.O. Clyde
N.C.S.O. Mersey
N.C.S.O. Milford Haven
N.C.S.O. Avonmouth
N.C.S.O. Newport
NORMAN
NESTOR
BEAUFORT
CILICIA

H.Q.F.C.
H.Q.C.C.
B.A.D. 592
C. in C. H.F. 367
R.A. (D) H.F. 360
V.A. 2. 511
S.O.W.P.
R.A. (M)
F.O.C.N.A. 437
C. in C. S.A. 479
C. in C. E.I. 932
C. in C. Med. 368 B.2
S.O. Force H. 111

Naval Cypher (A One Time Table) and Naval Cypher (F)

From Admiralty.

Convoy W.S. 14 carrying military personnel and stores for Middle East will be ready to leave U.K. for Freetown on 6th December.

2. Ships will sail from the following ports:

Clyde	Personnel	· CAMERONIA · ATHLONE CASTLE · ESPERANCE BAY · DUCHESS OF ATHOLL · DURBAN CASTLE · WARWICK CASTLE · BERGENSFJORD · EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA · STRATHALLAN
	Stores	· EMPIRE FULMAR · EMPIRE ORIOLE · EMPIRE PEREGRINE · EMPIRE PINTAIL · CLAN CAMERON
Liverpool	Personnel	· ANDES · ORCADES · ABOSSO · MORETON BAY · SCYTHIA · ORONSAY · REINA DEL PACIFICO
	Stores	· EMPIRE CONDOR · EMPIRE CURLEW · ORESTES · CITY OF PRETORIA · TROILUS
Avonmouth	Personnel	HIGHLAND PRINCESS HIGHLAND MONARCH
Newport	Stores	EMPIRE WIDGEON EMPIRE EGRET

MOST₂ - SECRET

3. All ships have a speed of 15 knots except ABOSSO 14½ knots, ORESTES 14 knots and TROILUS 14 knots who should be placed as leaders of centre columns of convoy.

4. The following ships will be known as convoy W.S. 14 (D) CITY OF PRETORIA, TROILUS, WARWICK CASTLE and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA. It is possible that they may be ordered to part company and proceed to another destination as a separate unit and they are to be placed in convoy with this end in view.

5. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail Bristol Channel portion of the convcy on 5th December to R/V as necessary with Clyde and Liverpool portions off Oversay Light.

6. Ocean escort will be provided by RAMILLIES and CILICIA.

RAMILLIES with separate escort will be sailed to join convoy at R/V (X) at 1200Z 10th December in approx. position 46 degrees 00' North 23 degrees 00' West.

7. A/A escort will be provided by one A/A cruiser to the limit of her endurance.

8. A/S escort will be provided by

(a) NORMAN, NESTOR, and BEAUFORT to Freetown fuelling at Ponta del Garda.

(b) 10 destroyers to R/V (X) or the limit of their endurance.

9. C. in C. W.A. is requested to

(a) provide A/A cruiser

(b) provide 8 destroyers for A/S escort

(c) Arrange for all ships to be sailed to R/V off Oversay Light.

10. R.A.(M) is requested to provide 2 destroyers of A/S escort to join as directed by C. in C. W.A.

11. Admiralty will provide route.

12. RAMILLIES will detach NORMAN, NESTOR and BEAUFORT to fuel at Ponta del Garda as requisite.

13. Main convoy conference will be held at Greenock at a time convenient for C.C. of RAMILLIES to attend.

MOST SECRET

14. B.A.D. pass to O.P.N.A.V.

0108A/26

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

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

- D.M.S.
- D.G.D.
- 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)
- N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D. of S.T.
- A.E. (3)

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.O.N.40.

On route at position 7 at noon B S T, course 326°, 8 knots unescorted. Gale, visibility reduced, consider Minch Channel inadvisable. Request diversion to outside route before 1600 B S T.
(MANCHESTER EXPORTER 1143Z/26.)

D.S.17.

Your 1700A/25. Request you sail BRIGHTON to R/V with NEWARK and convoy in 192° Skerryvore 16½ miles at 1100A/27.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1146A/26 to R.A.D. H.F.)
Intend postponing sailing of D.S.17 until weather moderates. Codeword "Product".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1256A/26.)

→ O.G.77.

Oban portion delayed by weather. Convoy and escorts except MYOSOTIS, BLUEBELL, proceed to Clyde and await orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 1208A/26.)

H.X.159.

Met as arranged. One straggler ahead. All ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1318A/26 to Opanav.)

P.Q.5.

Your 1206D/25. A.C.I.C's 1526N/25 is passed for information begins. P.Q.5 sailing delayed owing to requirements of coal, oil and water by several ships. MERIDIAN and SOUTHGATE not arrived. Repairs to G.Q.Y.R. completed. Expecting to sail convoy a.m. 27th/11. Ends.
(D.T.D. 1321A/26 to Ad. Miles.)

O.N.U.40.

Anticipate O.N.U.40 will be unable to sail owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1440A/26.)

W.P.B.73.

M/S Trawler SIR JOHN LISTER has been sailed to Swansea and will be included in W.P.B.73 as part escort to Falmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1607A/26.)

ENGADINE.

(Aircraft Transport) Carrying naval aircraft for Freetown and Egypt will sail from Clyde with Convoy W.S.14. (D.O.D. H. 1811A/26.)

→ O.G.77.

Your 1530A/26. Approved to lead convoy at slow speed down North Channel for tonight.
(C. in C. W.A. 1906A/26 to Escort O.G.77.)

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LOUVETOT.
(French)

Left Pasajes for Bilbao in ballast.
(V. Consul, San Sebastian, no T.O.O./26 to M.E.W.)

A/S Sweep.

Departure LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, MAORI, ISAAC SWEERS,
for A/S sweep west of Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A.
0430A/26 to Admty.)

French
Shipping.

Passings 25/11. West-bound, OUED-TIFLET, FULW,
MEN-GWEN (?). (V.A.C.N.A. 0915A/26 to Admty. for
M.E.W.)

Explosions.

At 0949 in 036° 02' N. 007° 00' W. 3 underwater
explosions heard close astern. Area searched
nothing found. Proceeding. (Capt. D.19, 1201/26
to F.O.C.N.A.)

STANLEY.
CLAN MACINNES.

Your 2216/25, propose STANLEY escorts CLAN
MACINNES to Gibraltar, 1303N/23 from C. in C.
S.A. refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1542A/26 to Admty.)

A/S Sweep.

Departure WISHART, BRADFORD for A/S sweep west
of Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1628A/26 to Admty.)

O.21.

R. of P. (O.21 to F.O.C.N.A. 1630A/26) See
Mediterranean.

LEGION.
ISAAC SWEERS.

Your 1440A/25. Approved. 2. LEGION can be
taken in hand for refit by London Graving Dock,
Poplar, early December and ISAAC SWEERS by
Thornycroft, Southampton, about first week in
January, 1942. 3. Request anticipated dates
of arrival in U.K. may be communicated.
(D.O.D. (F) 1655A/26 to S.O. Force H.)
Departure LEGION. (F.O.C.N.A. 2200A/26 to 19th
D.F., Admty.)

COWSLIP.
FARADAY.

C. in C. W.A. (? 0032) A/26 (see Shipping).
Would you concur to COWSLIP returning to
Gibraltar and escorting FARADAY for first part
of passage? (F.O.C.N.A. 1746A/26 to C. in C. S.A.)

See also p.p. 685 & 688

S.S. SERAFIN
TOPIC.

Your 1500/25. First officer S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC
just arrived at Gibraltar states French armed
guards on board but an Italian crew expected
shortly. Important to receive early information
of arrival of Italians. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar
1748A/26 to Consul Tangier).

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

Minesweepers.

Your 1823B/17/7, 1933A/26/8 and 1703A/5/10. Since AIGLON and ROSAMONDE have been diverted to Freetown request (? two) other L.L. and S.A. sweepers be allocated to complete M.S. Group 165 at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1752/26 to Admty.)

JONQUIL.

JONQUIL sailing with H.G. 76 for refitting in U.K. Request name of refitting port and that arrangements be progressed for completing outstanding alterations and additions, particularly extension of fore-castle, reconstructions of bridge, fitting of pom-poms, oerlikons, increased depth charge armements, and type 271. (F.O.C.N.A. 1834A/26 to Admty.)

French Shipping.

Gibraltar 0800/26. Destroyer SIMOUN, TAMARA laden, trawlers KERPAPE, JOSEPH ELISE, westbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1847A/26 to Admty. etc.)

South Atlantic.

COWSLIP.

To join S.A. Command after escorting H.G.76. (C. in C. W.A., 0032A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Shipping. p. 685. See also p. 687.

DERWENTDALE
HOXA
ROMEO
EMERALD.

R.F.A. DERWENTDALE escorted by HOXA and ROMEO departed Simonstown 1100 G.M.T./26 to R/V with EMERALD at outer end Durban searched channel 0600 G.M.T./30. Subsequently EMERALD and DERWENTDALE proceed Aden, HOXA and ROMEO to Durban. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1103Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

JOUETT.

Task Forces. Area 3. JOUETT left Pernambuco 1800Z/23 through 05° S. 33° W. and 07° 50' N. 54° 40' W. to arrive Trinidad A.M./29. (D.C.D. (F) 1155A/26 to C. in C. S.A. R.A.S.A.D.)

/Corvettes.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

Corvettes.

A.M. 1824A/24. Request the 4 corvettes sent to relieve my 4, which leave here for the Cape very shortly, may be selected for their good condition having if possible docked and refitted recently. VIOLET, AURICULA, NIGELIA and WALL-FLOWER since their recent arrival have either broken down at sea or spent most of their time under repair. Maintenance facilities here are still meagre. (C. in C. S.A., 1315N/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

CANTON.
BRIDGEWATER.
search for
DUNEDIN.

My 2213/25 to CANTON only and my 1633N/25. Estimate BRIDGEWATER will be in 002° 40' N. 024° 00' W. about 1800/27. CANTON appointed for R/V with BRIDGEWATER for 28/11 and co-ordinate the search. If nothing is seen ships should leave patrol 30/11 and return independently to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1401N/26 to CANTON, BRIDGEWATER). C. in C. S.A.'s 1401N/26. R/V 002° 00' N. 026° 55' W. at 1730N/28. Sweep westwards along latitude 002° 20' N. before turning eastward along 002° 05' N. for R/V at 1730N Friday. (CANTON 2230Z/26 to BRIDGEWATER).

Petrol
Ships.

The Petrol Committee representing all consumers on West coast is now functioning at Lagos. R.N.O. Lagos is my representative and arranges sailings of PINZON, PINTO, and ATLANTIC COAST. At first meeting committee agreed that these 3 ships will not compete with present monthly requirements quite apart from expected increases, mainly R.A.F. and Pan American Airways. Report shews clearly necessity for two more ships of about 1000 tons each for distributing petrol in West Africa in order to avert a serious shortage. Military and R.A.F. concur. (C. in C. S.A., 1505N/26 to D. of S.T.)

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN,
fuel
consumption.

Your 1324A/22. On passage to Freetown ROYAL SOVEREIGN burnt 2500 tons fuel in 265 hours. Distance through water 3484 miles, fuel remaining 600 tons.
2. Estimated endurance with 12 boilers connected and 6 at one hours notice allowing 400 tons remaining, 14 knots 3800 miles, 13.5 knots 3915 miles, distances through the water. (C. in C. S.A., 1855N/26 to Admty.)

/SEVERN.....

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

SEVERN
A/S
Training.

SEVERN's month at Freetown has been invaluable for A/S training but owing to escort commitments less than half the A/S fitted vessels have had more than elementary training and some none at all. 2. SEVERN's state however makes it advisable for her to return to Gibraltar shortly. 3. Propose to sail SEVERN for (?Gibraltar) shortly but it would be appreciated if another and somewhat smaller submarine could be made available to continue essential training. 4. F.O.C.N.A.'s 1136A/24. SEVERN has no spare pistons left but is fit to proceed to Gibraltar without waiting for spares. (C. in C. S.A., 1945N/26 to Admty.)

ANJA.

Brazilian Govt. have informed Ambassador that they propose to buy Finnish ship ANJA now en route New York to Brazil. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 2011Z/26).

Mediterranean.

S/M
Sanctuaries.

Add to my 1748B/25, and submarine exercise sanctuary from 0200 to 0800. (Alexandria C.C.O. 0026B/26 to Force I).

Force K.

My 2523B/25. Wellington call sign A.M.9.D. taking off at 0111/26 does not carry S.A.I.R. Code. Syko Card of 25th.
2. My 1735/25. Wind Sea and swell increasing to moderate by dawn. (V.A. Malta, 0111B/26 to S.O. Force K.)

URSULA.

F.O.S. 1312A/20 and C. in C. Med. 1217B/23. Following is proposed programme for URSULA. 30/11, leave Malta. 7/12, arrive Gibraltar. 8/12 leave Gibraltar. 17/12 arrive Holy Loch. (Capt. S.10, 1009B/26 to Capt. S.1.)

A/C.

One aeroplane bearing 040° distant 5 miles course unknown from 31.39 N., 26.28 E. (PARRAMATTA, 1035B/26 to Alexandria W/T).

/Enemy.....

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War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy Units
Force K.

Previous orders and my 2323/25. Estimated position first and second target $036^{\circ} 52' N.$, $019^{\circ} 06' E.$, and $036^{\circ} 50' N.$ $018^{\circ} 58' E.$ respectively. No change in course and speed. 2. If you are in position to do so attack. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1041B/26 to S.O. Force K.)

Believe no contact made last night by Force K with target mentioned in M.K. 143 or by W/T. Weather conditions bad but every effort will be made to R/C for M.K. target today. Above is a repetition of my 1025B/26. (V.A. Malta, 1106B/26 to C. in C. Med.)

Fleet
Operations.

Operations 23rd - 26th November. On 23/11 Force B consisting of 7th C.S. and 15th C.S. left Alexandria, in order to carry out operation M.E.5 in Central Med. in co-operation with Force K. Primary operation was attack on important convoy of 2 ships, Force K making to Northward and Force B to Southward. Force K successfully attacked and sunk both ships but had to return to Malta owing to destroyer fuel shortage. Force B remained in Central Med. to deal with other convoys at sea. These convoys however withdrew Northward on hearing of action by Force K.

Battle Fleet sailed 1600/24 to form a supporting force in case cruisers got into difficulties and move as far as possible to Westwards during the night. Fleet unobserved that evening or night. No fighter cover was available throughout operation in consequence Fleet was constantly under observation throughout 25th while operating in vicinity of $033^{\circ} 00' N.$ $025^{\circ} 30' E.$

Endeavour was made to give impression of move in Central Med. by steaming as much as possible to Westward whenever R/C aircraft were close to Fleet. Possibly owing to concentration by R/C aircraft on fleet there has been no indication Force B was sighted. No bombing attacks took place.

From 1700 onwards a large number of aircraft were in the vicinity of Fleet and there is little doubt a Torpedo aircraft attack was intended in bright moon.

Aircraft appear to have attacked destroyers hunting S/M in mistake for battle fleet and by dint of a cast to Northwards aircraft were finally shaken off by 2000/25 without attack developing.

Battle fleet turned Eastwards at 1930/25 arriving Alexandria 1045/26.

Shortage of fuel imposed return of Force B to harbour and in absence of targets it was instructed to sweep along North Cyrenaican coast after dark/25 while returning to Alexandria. Force is still at sea so that no report of its activity yet received. (C. in C. Med. 1108B/26 to Admty.)

(See also p. 694)

/PERSEUS.....

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SECRET.

~~SECRET.~~ SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1126B/26th Nov.

IN

RECEIVED:—

From R.A. Alexandria.

DATE 26.11.41.

TIME 1718.

Naval Cypher "A2" by W/T & T/P.

Addressed H.M.S. NIZAM. Repeated C. in C., Mediterranean.
R.A. (D) Mediterranean.

IMPORTANT.

Send early confirmation as to number of
survivors on board.

1126B/26

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (6)
W.D. - 1/2/42.

MMC.

BARHAM

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.PERSEUS.

PERSEUS leaves Malta P.M./26 through $035^{\circ} 30' 014^{\circ} 10' 034^{\circ} 20' 015^{\circ} 00' 032^{\circ} 45' 017^{\circ} 30' 031^{\circ} 30' 017^{\circ} 30'$ thence to arrive Benghazi A.M./30. (Capt. S.10. 1121B/26 to Capt. S.1.)
 PERSEUS leaves $35^{\circ} 30' 14^{\circ} 10'$ about 2100B/26 through $34^{\circ} 20' 15^{\circ} 00'$ for Sirte. (Capt. S.10 1137B/26 to UNBEATEN). *Sailed - See p. 693*

OLYMPUS.

Proceed from last position given through $038^{\circ} 00' 011^{\circ} 44'$ and $037^{\circ} 16' 012^{\circ} 56'$ thence direct by N.W. Searched Channel to arrive Marsaxlokk A.M./30. Passage through Q.B.B. 65 to be made submerged during daylight 29/11. REGENT leaves Malta for Gibraltar shortly. Her movements will be signalled. (Capt. S.10, 1158B/26 to OLYMPUS).

TRUSTY,
Argostoli.

R/C indicates Argostoli may be in use as intermediate Port on Brindisi-Benghazi Route. Concentrate your Patrol off this area tomorrow 27th. (Capt. S.1, 1205B/26 to TRUSTY).

P.31.

Leave patrol as necessary through $038^{\circ} 20' 017^{\circ} 00'$ and $035^{\circ} 51' 015^{\circ} 15'$ to arrive Malta 0730B/30. (Capt. S.10 1220B/26 to P.31.)

COETLOGAN
(French).

Arrival 26th. (Barcelona 1237/26 to D. of S.T.)

Force B.

Force B expected 1715.B, Gate 1800. Request berths. (F.O. 7th C.S. 1332B/26 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

S/M
Sanctuaries.

My 1145B/24 para. 2. For 0001B/27 read 1000B/27 at which time SOKOL is now expected to arrive at Malta. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1429B/26 to S.O. Forcé K.)

Force K,
convoy
action 24/11.

Preliminary report of attack on convoy 24/11 by Force K. (1) PENELOPE and LIVELY being port wing of Force K spread made contact with enemy convoy consisting of 2 M.V.'s escorted by 2 destroyers at 1610B/24. (2) Enemy destroyers zig-zagging made smoke to screen M.V.'s who retired to N.E.

UTMOST.
Attack on
Cruiser 21/11.

See p. 700.

/(3).....

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. contd.→ Force K,
convoy
action 24/11
- Contd.

(3) Spirited action took place between enemy destroyers and PENELOPE and LIVELY until range had closed to 8000 yards. (4) During this engagement PENELOPE claims one possible hit but no speed reduction. Enemy's fire accurate but spread very large. (5) At 8000 yards enemy destroyer retired leaving M.V's at mercy of PENELOPE who set both on fire with a few salvos. (6) M.V's blew up after 15 and 25 minutes respectively whilst an attempt to abandon ship was being made. Probably no survivors. (7) Chase of enemy destroyers abandoned as they retired towards Greece, opening the range. (8) Force K. returned Malta, further operations being precluded owing to destroyers lack of fuel. (9) No damage or casualties in Force K. (V.A. Malta, 1451B/26 to Admty.)

Enemy
Unit. ?

(Group missed) destroyer in 36° 57' N. 17° 01' E. Course 340° T., 10 knots 1449. (A/C 1517/26 to Hal Far).

STEEL
WORKER.

Your 1750/25. American Ship STEEL WORKER routed to Aden by Suez passed Perim 16/11 did not call Aden. Agents advise destination Vizagapatam. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 1545Z/26 to Admty.)

C.S.7.

Early arrival of your force at Alexandria is essential. (C. in C. Med. 1548B/26 to C.S.7)

O.21
2 schooners
sunk.

Position 1600A/26, (058°) (740') N. 005° 25' E. spoilt (as received) 8 torpedoes, no mark X left. 2 Schooners sunk by gunfire and rammed. Nightly convoy escorted by A.M.C. between Civita Vecchia and Terraneva (Sardinia), Italian coastal convoy escorted by destroyer and (? torpedo boats). E.T.A. 0900A/28. Weather report. (O.21 ? 1630A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ Force K,
PERSEUS.

Arrivals:- AURORA, PENELOPE, LIVELY, LANCE.
Departure:- *PERSEUS. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1707B/26 to Admty.) * See previous page.

/Forces.....

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.Forces
B and C.

- AJAX, NEPTUNE, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY form Force B. 1st Division 15th C.S. GRIFFIN, HOTSPUR form Force C.
2. F.O.C. 7th C.S. is requested to take Force B and C under his orders and proceed at 0200 27th at latest to pass through approx. 032° 30' N. 025° 30' E. at 1800/27th.
 3. Force B is then to proceed at high speed to reach Sanctuary described in M.E.5 para. 7 A.M. 28th and thence Malta.
 4. Force B may be diverted by C. in C. Med. Fleet to intercept enemy convoy during this passage. Failing such diversion T. of A. Malta is at discretion F.O.C. 7th C.S. but should be as early as is compatible with (A) keeping fuel in hand for brief operation (B) Reasonable security from short range bombers (C) Avoiding contact with superior forces.
 5. Object of Force B is the destruction of supplies from Italy to Benghazi. These may be carried in merchant ships or warships. Force B. is to remain based at Malta and operate in co-operation with Force K for this purpose under operational control of V.A. Malta.
 6. Force B is to embark as much additional ammunition as possible before sailing. Each cruiser is also to embark up to 6 submarines torpedoes (?for) Malta. Sailing not to be delayed on this account.
 7. The conservation of fuel stocks at Malta is of great importance.
 8. Force C. is to be detached P.M./27th as ordered by R.A.7 C.S. Further orders will be signalled but possible objects are (A) interception of suspected enemy supplies by destroyers from Kithera Channel to Benghazi. (B) destruction of coastal traffic Benghazi-Derna (C) bombardment of Derna Harbour.
 9. If no other orders are received Force C is to be East of 025° 00' E. by 0600/28th and return to Alexandria.
 10. Best possible R/C will be arranged and details signalled.
 11. Fighter codewords - Force B - "Eager", Force C - "Faith". (C. in C. Med. 1720B/26 to, Addressed C.S.7, AJAX, NEPTUNE, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, 1st Div. 15th C. S. Capt. (D) 2, HOTSPUR. Repeated Capt. (S) 1, 201 Naval Co-operation Group, Adty., F.O.C. Destroyer Flots. Med. Fleet, R.N. General H.Q. M.E., N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Capt. (D) 14, S.O. Force "K", Air H.Q. Western Desert, V.A. Malta).

/22.....

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.22 A/S
Group.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1957/24, (re loan of 22nd A/S group by Union Govt.) I should view the departure of these fine little ships with greatest regret. I trust that Union Govt. may be asked to allow them to continue on their present valuable work which is a fitting counterpart to the fine showing of South African Troops in the field. (C. in C. Med., 1744B/26 to Admty.)

Benina,
Berka,
Benghazi,
bombed.

Night 24/25. 24 Wellingtons operated. 6 bombed dispersed aircraft Benina destroying 2, 9 bombed Berka Satellite without visible effect 9 attacked harbour and shipping Benghazi starting fires at base of Central Mole, no hits seen on ships. Attack by Malta Wellingtons earlier same night reported in Malta C.S.R. for 25/11.

Night 25/26. 21 Wellingtons dropped nearly 30 tons bombs on Benghazi Harbour. Direct hit on 4000 tons wreck at Outer Mole used as landing stage. Further bombs burst on Moles and docks without visible effect. Several ships previously reported in harbour had departed. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1836/26).

THRASHER.
P.31.

Establish patrol forthwith, THRASHER between 039° and 040° N. and Eastwards of 018°; P.31 in present area R (?south) west of 017° 50'. THRASHER will be recalled about 10/12 to arrive at Alexandria a.m./16th. (Capt. S.1, 1931B/26 to THRASHER, P.31).

LISBOA
OTTO LEONHARDT
(German).

Departure 24th LISBOA in ballast, Gandia. Departure 26th OTTO LEONHARDT coaches, iron ore. (Valencia, 2040/26 to M. of W/T).

JUPITER
defects.

Your 1801B/13. Previous reports received of defective rivets in additional stiffening in way of forward and aft magazines and shell rooms. Request further details of present case defective riveting. (Controller, 2042A/26 to C. in C. Med.)

Shipping.

Anticipated arrivals or sailings at Port Sudan and Egyptian Ports during December, troopships, M.T. ships, liners, etc. (D. of S.T., 2340A/26 to P.S.T.O. Egypt) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

.OUT

2340A/26th November.

TO P.S.T.O. Egypt.
 Repeated: A.D.P. Egypt.
 C. in C. Mediterranean.
 C. in C. Middle East.
 S.N.O. Red Sea.

Date: 26.11.41.

Naval Cypher D.

FROM: Director of Sea Transport.

A represents anticipated arrivals or sailings
 in 1st 10 days of month B 2nd 10 days and C remainder
 of month.

Part 1. Anticipated arrivals at Port Sudan and
 Egyptian ports during December from all parts of the
 world are as follows:-

From United Kingdom:

Troopships via Halifax	C 6
M.T. and Maintenance ships	A 6
	B 4
	C 14
Liners and coal & truck ships	A 1
	B 4
	C 4

From North America:

Liners U.S. Flag except where otherwise stated

A	4 including 1 British
B	7 including 1 British and 1 Norwegian
C	7 including 1 British which is for Port Sudan.

From Australia:

Troopships	Nil
Liners	A 2
	B 5
	C 3

From Bombay and Karachi:

Troopships	A 1
	B 1
	C 5
Liners	A 3
	B & C 6

From Rangoon:

Liners	B 2
--------	-----

From Calcutta:

Liners	B 6 including 1 for Massawa.
	C 4
Colliers	A 3 including 1 for Haifa.

B 4/

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SECRET TROM

2.

Colliers(cont)	B	4 including 1 for Port Sudan
	C	6 including 2 for Port Sudan and 1 for Haifa.

From South and East Africa:

Troopships	B	6
	C	7

C includes 2 for Red Sea Ports.

M.T. ships		3
Colliers for Egypt	A	2
	B	1

Colliers for Port Sudan	C	1
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From Far East:

Liners	C	1
--------	---	---

From Argentine:

Tramps with cereals in bags	B	3
	C	1

Total 133 ships.

In the case of vessels known to be terminating their voyages at Red Sea ports forecast is based on estimated date of arrival at those ports otherwise estimated is based on Suez due dates.

Part II.

Actual and anticipated sailings from U.K. and North America during November are as follows:-

From United Kingdom:

Troopships	A	8 This number will be reduced to 6 vessels arriving at Suez by transshipment at Halifax.
------------	---	--

B 4

M.T. ships in 14 knot convoy	B	4
M.T. ships in slow convoys	A	3
	B	8
	C	5
Liners and coal truck ships	A	1
	B	1
	C	1

From North America/

MOST 3. SECRETFrom North America:

Liners	A	5
	B	8
	C	14

Part III.From United Kingdom:

Anticipated sailings in December are as follows:

Troopships A 6
 M.T. ships in 14 knot convoy A 8
 M.T. ships in slow convoys A 3 have so far
 been allocated but it is anticipated that
 at least another 12 will sail during December
 Liners and coal and truck ships 6.

From North America:

8 liners have so far been allocated but this
 number will be considerably increased.

P.S.T.O. Egypt pass to Barker.

23401/26.

for D. of S.T.

Ext. 2176.

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

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26.11.1941.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.

VILLE DE VERDUN.
CAP VARELLA.
BOUGAINVILLE.
(French.)

My 0902/21. VILLE DE VERDUN arrived Campha and departed 25/11. CAP VARELLA arrived Haiphong. My 1014/18, BOUGAINVILLE returned Haiphong now loading cement.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0327Z/26, to Admty.)

Change of Command.

Request I may be informed when it is intended to release publicity regarding forthcoming change in command, as simultaneous publication here appears desirable, especially in view of current local speculation.
(C. in C. China, 0525Z/26, to Admty.)

SYDNEY.
(missing.)

Summary of SYDNEY situation passed to S.O. Force 'G'.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0733Z/26, to Admty.)
Resumé of operations up to 26/11. Total sighted 4 lifeboats and 1 raft all at present considered to contain enemy survivors. Air search continued supported by 4 auxiliary naval vessels. Intend continuing air search in area bounded by Geraldton N.W. Cape to 108° E., 3 Naval auxiliary vessels will be in the area.
(Originator not stated, 1646Z/26, to C. in C. China, Admty.)

FUSIJAMA.
(Italian.)

Yokohama. Departure 24/11, deeply laden.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0803Z/26, to Admty.)
Cancelled by 0346Z/29. P-786

S.S. VELEBIT.

S.O.(I) Singapore reports:- "A report has been received from a native woodman in North Andamans denoting presence of 6 survivors of VELEBIT - previously reported missing. They state ship was sunk by Germans on 26/6. A boat is being sent from Port Blair to investigate".
(C/S Singapore 0837Z/26.)

MARECHAL JOFFRE.
KHAI-DINH.
(French.)

Arrived.
(Shanghai, 2358Z/26, to M. of W.T.)

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War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.MORDEN
FENNEL.

(1) MORDEN ordered to proceed to prudent limit with S.C.56 thence to Greenock for training Tobermory, replacing ROSTERN arriving Greenock about 9/12. (2) FENNEL similar orders with S.C.57 replacing BARRIE arrival Greenock about 15/12.
(C.C.N.F., 0217Z/26, to N.O.I.C. Greenock, etc.)

M & A.

Programme. Bermuda 27/11 to San Diego 19/12.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1232Q/26.)

SNARK.

Your 1722A/23. Colon now reports ship arrived Cristobal 13/11.
(S.O(I), Jamaica, 1301R/26, to Admty.)

Salvage
Tenders.

1. 5 salvage tenders with Diesel electric propulsion built in U.S.A., are being delivered at Port Arthur, Texas, the first immediately.
2. These craft are too small for winter Atlantic passage but for political reasons they must be taken from U.S.A., and it has been decided to send them to Trinidad to be used there as C. in C. thinks fit until April.
3. B.A.S.R., has naval crew in readiness for first tug. This is approved for first ship to avoid delay in her departure. For other four ships you should endeavour to arrange with M. of W.T. representative New York for provision of mercantile crews as necessary.
4. Contact B.A.S.R. direct as to detailed arrangements.
(Head of S. 1353A/26 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 1928/25 to B.A.R.M. only. Approved to sail P.M./27, and remain an extra day at Jamaica for deck landing practice. Remainder of programme as in my 1430R/25. N.O.I.C. Kingston pass to R.N.A.S. Palisadoes.
(B.A.R.M., 1412R/26, to ILLUSTRIOUS.)

DIOMEDE.

DIOMEDE's 2235/22.
Fuelling Balboa arranged.
(B.A.D., 1459R/26, to DIOMEDE.)

O.N.40.

O.N.40 Canadian Unit 4.1. 15. COLUMBIA (Senior) SKEENA, MIMOSA, SHEDIAC, WETASKAWIN, CAMROSE and ACONIT designated escort O.N.40.
(Opnav 1541/26.)

/World.....

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War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.World
Control of
Shipping.

Full text of communication from C.N.O., referred to in my 1801R/24. (B.A.D., 1631R/26, to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

ARCHER.

Anticipated ARCHER will be complete ex. trials on 15/12. Trials will last about a week. Intend ship should sail for Jamaica in accordance with Admty., 1355A/7 on completion of trials. (B.A.R.M., 1800R/26, to Admty.)

ANCYLUS
OLAF FOSTENES
collision.

Following received from Br. Ship ANCYLUS T.O.O. 1214/26. (Begins) - Proceeding Halifax E.T.A. 30/11 with bow damage after collision OLAF FOSTENES 0500 G.M.T./25. Lost touch OLAF FOSTENES 0700 G.M.T./25 049° 24' N., 046° 15' W., dead reckoning. Believed to be proceeding Halifax. (Ends.)
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2024Z/26 to Admty., C. in C.A.W.I., Amended 1943Z/27.)

W.S.12X.

Your 1721/24. LEONARD WOOD now able to maintain 14.5 to 15 knots and has rejoined convoy. All transports fast tankers cruiser and 6 destroyers now ordered to proceed in company routed from position (Y) through 040° S., 023° E., to Capetown. If LEONARD WOOD cannot maintain 14 knots convoy will be divided as before, both groups going to Capetown. (B.A.D., 2145R/26, to Admty., Amended 0941R/27.)

Japanese
Fleet
movements.

Following appreciation of Japanese Fleet movements is from centre established for that purpose at Honolulu and based on studying wireless traffic, volume, frequency, call signs etc. not repetition not Y methods and has been communicated to similar centres at Washington and Manila. Begins:-
"Since the latter part of October the C. in Chief of Second Fleet has been forming a task force consisting of: second fleet, third fleet (including first and second base forces and first defence division), destroyer squadron three, submarine squadron five, combined air force, air squadron seven and possibly vessels of third battleship division in first fleet.

/3rd.....

698 A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1631R/26th November

IN

From B.A.D. Washington.

Date 27.11.42.

Recd. 0510.

NAVAL CYPHER I.T.T. BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

311.

Most Secret. The following is the full text of communication referred to in my 1801R/24 which has also been despatched by Bomber Mail. Begins:-

Subject: Proposals for discussion for placing into effect now annex V of A B C - One.

(1) Annex V, A B C - One, containing three general paragraphs providing for mutual control and protection of shipping in the event of U.S. entering war. It has been the understanding of Chief of Naval Operations that prior to such entry detailed agreements would be entered into by U.S. and U.K. along lines of tentative agreement reached relating to shipping of associated powers passing between Pacific area and Australia and New Zealand area. Special provisions relating to Western Atlantic area mutually agreed upon and in effect are set forth in W P L - 52. These provisions apply to a redefinition of Western Atlantic area, appropriate for state of limited warfare in that area in which the U.S. is now engaged.

(2) The Chief of Naval Operations is of the opinion that sufficient experience has now been gained and exchange of ideas between U.S. and British Naval Authorities has so far proceeded, that complete working agreements relating to world wide control and protection of shipping may now be practicable. Furthermore the passage by Congress of amendments to the Neutrality Act and probability that U.S. flag ships will soon be traversing combat zone in British area have created an emergency problem which ought to be solved promptly.

(3) As understood by Chief of Naval Operations the term "control of shipping" includes all matters relating to movements of non-combatant ships at sea except protection of such ships. The term "routeing of shipping" relates to sea route to be followed: the time of departure from port: whether or not ships will move singly or in convoy: and delivery of instructions for routeing. Instructions in regard to assembly of ships for convoy, the scheduling of ports of call or destination and loading are not considered necessarily a part of routeing. Protection of shipping may be provided by sea or air escort, by covering operations, by patrol, by

dispersal/....

- 2 -

dispersal, by shifting route or by a combination of these methods.

(4) The Chief of Naval Operations is now routeing U.S. flag ships in part of U.S. areas and in part of British areas. For example: ships passing from East coast ports to Indian Ocean are routed as far as Capetown: from this point to destination, if bound for Sea, these ships are routed by British Authorities. In Pacific U.S. flag ships are being routed by Commander Pacific Southern Naval Coastal Frontier via Torres Straits: although these ships pass through British area British routeing has not been requested. Routeing apparently has been given by British Authority to certain U.S.-Owned ships which have sailed for Archangel, though this is not definitely known by Chief of Naval Operations. In both U.S. and British areas British Authorities are routeing all British Allied Shipping and some neutral shipping.

(5) The Chief of Naval Operations believed final decision as to whether or not U.S. and British Commonwealth should now place in effect annexation of A B C - 1 is political and cannot be made without approval of President. For this reason exploratory discussions of this subject should be confined for the time being to Military echelon and not be discussed on political plane until after tentative agreement has been arrived at. In spite of possible unfavourable political reaction many advantages might accrue were U.S. to route all U.S. and British shipping in U.S. area and were British to route all U.S. and British shipping in British area. The Chief of Naval Operations therefore makes following proposals for exploratory discussion by appropriate U.S. and British representatives:

(a) U.S. Flag ships and neutral shipping owned by U.S. Corporation or individuals, destined for U.K. or Northern Russia, will make passage in British convoy or if proceeding singly, will be routed in Western Atlantic area in accordance with provision W P L - 52 and in British area by British Authority. This urgent question should be discussed immediately and a separate agreement reached as soon as practicable.

(b) Detailed agreements relating to routeing of shipping throughout the world should be entered into by U.S. and British Authorities. U.S. and British areas would be as prescribed in A B C - 1 except Eastern boundary Western Atlantic area would be as prescribed in W P L - 52. It would also be understood British North and Southbound shipping in Eastern part of the Atlantic Ocean would be routed entirely by British Authorities even though such shipping temporarily enters Western Atlantic area.

(c)/.....

698..

MOST SECRET

- 3 -

(c) As soon as appropriate agreements have been reached annex V of A B C - 1 will be placed in effect even though U.S. may not then be in the war. The time when U.S. takes over routing of shipping in U.S. areas would be specified in agreement. It might be that several different times would be agreed upon, appropriate to particular parts of U.S. areas.

(d) It might be found after discussion or after reference of subject to President that it would be unwise for U.S. to accept direct protection from British Naval Forces outside Atlantic Ocean or to provide direct protection to British shipping excepting that shipping passing between North America and U.K. Therefore "Control of shipping" and "Protection of shipping" whilst related to each other should be discussed as separate subjects.

(6) The Chief of Naval Operations requests representatives be designated to discuss these matters with U.S. representatives at an early date. Ends.

1631R/26.

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)
Secretary
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D. N.I. (4)
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Capt. (2)
Hd. of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2) for action
Adml. Bellairs
Adml. Bailey
N.I.D. 10 Pay.Cdr. Wilson.

War Diary.26.11.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Japanese
Fleet
movements.
Contd.

3rd Fleet units are believed to be moving in direction of Takao and Bako. It appears that 7th cruiser division and 3rd destroyer squadron are an advance unit and may be en route for South China. The combined air force has assembled in Takao and indications are that some of it has already moved on to Hainan Island. It seems that 2nd base force is transporting equipment of (?air force) to Taiwan. The South China Fleet, the French Indo China Force and naval Station at Sama Bako and Takao also appeared among addressees of radio calls concerning this task force. The R.N.O. Palao and 3rd base force at Palao have communicated extensively with C. in C. of 2nd Fleet."

(B.A.D. Washington 2225R/26 to Admty.)
N.I.D. Comment. The "Task Force" would comprise-
4 Battleships (KONGO class; 8 - 14")
4 Aircraft Carriers.
2 Seaplane Carriers.
8 - 8" Cruisers.
6 - 6" Cruisers.
7 - 5.5" Cruisers.
48- 5" Destroyers.
8 - 4.7" Destroyers.
19 Submarines.

(NOTE: If the report is correct it means that the remaining 6 battleships of the Main Fleet have only four 8" Cruisers with them.)
There is confirmation from British sources that four 6" Cruisers are at Hainan and that some such force has been organised.
"Combined Air Force" is a title applied to any group of air squadrons acting together for a particular operation.
"Base Forces" are groups of small craft used for minelaying, minesweeping, etc.
The conclusion to be drawn is that a special force, composed as above, has been organised for an operation and that certain units of the force have started to move South. A special air force has assembled in Formosa and is in process of moving to Hainan.

Australia.WESTRALIA.

Left Darwin 0025Z/26 for patrol.
(A.C.N.B. 1417Z/26 to Admty, etc.)

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approx. positions of U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1436A/26, 1437A/26.)

1154 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1154/26 G.M.T. U/Boat estimated to be within 100 miles of 43° 00' N., 44° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 1722A/26, to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.)

Submarines Attacked.

By SURPRISE.

Have attacked S/M in 007° 35' N., 014° 15' W. (SURPRISE 0616N/26 to C. in C.S.A.)
Have dropped 2 pattern depth charges. Still in contact. Target is turning inside our circle. (SURPRISE, 0701N/26, to C. in C.S.A.)

UTMOST,
attack on
Cruiser
21/11.
(DUCA DEGLI
ABRUZZI.)

If on return of UTMOST to harbour it appears reasonably certain that she sank an enemy cruiser I suggest a congratulatory signal might be made by Admiralty.
(F.O.S., 1116A/26, to Admty.)
(Should be under Mediterranean. p. 692.)

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Aultbea was reopened at 0630A today.

F.O.I.C. Portland reports that the 4th M.G.B. Flotilla are proving to be useless for any operational work as they will not stand up to winter weather conditions. He asks that 4 additional M.L's. may be allocated to Portland.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft last night attacked Emden and Ostend.

Coastal Command aircraft attacked off the Hook of Holland this morning a 1500 ton enemy vessel which is believed to have been carrying an aircraft with catapult. The vessel was left enveloped in smoke and listing heavily.

This afternoon, 8 Hurricane bombers and fighter escort carried out a successful attack on shipping off the mouth of the Somme. One 2500 ton merchant ship was sunk, one Flakship was blown up and one was set on fire.

Mining.

It was intended to resume sweeping in the Faroes passage today, but weather rendered this impossible.

There was marked enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary between 1845 and 2150 today. Mines were seen to fall and others are suspected.

Bristol Channel ports were open again today from 1145 to 1900

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

The question of preventing the passage of U/boats through the Straits of Gibraltar is receiving attention. One Sunderland is to be sent from Freetown and one from U.K. as a temporary reinforcement to the A/S forces at Gibraltar; and ten Hudson aircraft are also to be sent.

Mediterranean.

Air
R/C Malta.

V.A. Malta, reports that if cruiser squadrons at Malta are to operate effectively more reconnaissance aircraft must be sent there.

Air
raid on
Naples.

21 Wellingtons made a highly successful attack on Naples from 1806 to 2105 today. Hits were obtained on the Royal Arsenal (by a 4000lb bomb) Torpedo Factory, I.M.A.M. Airframe works, Railway Junction, sheds, station, Marshalling yards, and storage depot, and A.G.I.P. oil tanks, 3 of which were set on fire.

6 Blenheims attacked a 7000 ton liner with destroyer escort off Tripoli today and claim 2 hits on the liner and one on a destroyer.

Forces B
& C.

* GRIFFIN

Force B (C.S.7 in AJAX, NEPTUNE, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY) and Force C (C.S.15 in NAIAD, EURYALUS, and HOTSPUR) left Alexandria during last night under F.O.C.7th C.S.

* See p 694.

Force B is to proceed to Malta, where it is to remain based and is to operate in co-operation with Force K under operational control of V.A. Malta, with the object of destroying supplies from Italy to Benghazi.

Force C is to be detached p.m. today. The objects of the force are the destruction of enemy supplies by destroyers from Kithera Channel to Benghazi. The destruction of coastal traffic between Benghazi and Derna, and the bombardment of Derna Harbour.

/Libya.....

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

Libya &
Western
desert.

(R.A.N. ~~ship~~)
PARRAMATTA^{U.559} was torpedoed, apparently by a ~~S/M.~~
at 0100/27 and sank in 32° 20' N. 24° 35' E.
whilst escorting S.S. HANNE with emergency
supplies of ammunition for Tobruk. HANNE
arrived at Tobruk safely.

It is known that the enemy is extremely short of supplies and particularly petrol, and is making every endeavour to get these stores to Benghazi and Derna, using destroyers to augment supply ships. The next ten days are of vital importance, and submarines on patrol have had their times on patrol extended and have been instructed to regard destroyers, other than those escorting, as small merchant ships and to attack them.
Wellingtons last night dropped 25 tons of bombs on Derna

U/Boat Campaign.

DUNEDIN
Sunk.
(U.124.)

U.S. M.V. NISHMAHA today picked up 72 men from DUNEDIN which was torpedoed and sunk on 24/11 in the South Atlantic.

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Portland.
Additional
M.L's.
requested.

The 4th M.G.B. Flotilla are proving to be useless for any Operational work as they will not stand up to winter weather conditions.

2. Experience is showing that the half 20th M.L. Flotilla allocated to Portland is not sufficient to meet local Operational requirements. e.g. Air/Sea Rescue, Convoy protection Patrols and emergency duties.

3. Request 4 additional M.L's. be allocated to Portland. To meet this it is suggested that one Division of 25th M.L. Flotilla at present working up at Portland be retained.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1250/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

COWSLIP.

COWSLIP is allocated to S.A. Command in accordance with Admiralty's 1824A/24. (P. 626)
(C. in C. W.A., 1253A/27.)

ACANTHUS.
ROSE.
EGLANTINE.
MONTBRETIA.

ACANTHUS, ROSE, EGLANTINE, MONTBRETIA and two corvettes detailed by Capt. (D) Liverpool are required to leave Liverpool on 15/12 for service with C. in C. H.F. and are not available for escort duty.

Following action is required:

(A) Ships are to boiler clean.

(B) Extra warm clothing and charts for Northern Waters are to be drawn.

Admiralty is being requested to issue instructions as to modifications required.

(C. in C. W.A., 1302A/27.)

Vichy
French
attitude.

Re Intel. 289. My newly arrived Vichy colleague who after leaving his (? group omitted) at Toulon and spending a month on Admiralty staff assures me that never would surrender of French fleet be considered by Darlan or French navy. He tells me that for whole 12 months at Toulon though nominally at two days notice nearly all C.O's had their ships at four hour notice for steam and that scuttling charges were operative at half an hour notice.

2. On the subject of German demands for African ports his attitude regarding French resistance was less convincing and he could only hope Petain would not have to yield.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1804/27.)

Note by N.I.D: Para. 1. All previous information confirms that Darlan will not willingly surrender his control of the French Fleet. The same cannot be said concerning his use of French Fleet to further his policy of collaboration with Germany.

/ARAB.....

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.ARAB for
Liverpool.

Your 1206A/26. ARAB detailed. Probably available to leave Greenock p.m./29th. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1830A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

Additions
to Home
Fleet.

Admiralty 1603A/26. Request attention of ships concerned may be drawn to H.T.M. 482 375 also to A.F.O. 2813/40 and (? C.A.F.O.) (? 13)33/41 and that where applicable these instructions may be complied with. (C. in C. H.F., 1903N/27.)

Co-operation with Russia.Oiling of
GOSSAMER.

Your 1535C/25. Having with difficulty got out of the ice after 3½ hours struggle it was considered out of the question to re-enter it just before dark in search of BUG. RUBBLEN ^(i.e.) officer made no objection to oiling on following morning and L.O. said he could probably get BUG to come out of the ice and alongside. (GOSSAMER, 0945C/27 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

1st M/S.
Flotilla.
Operational
Control.

S.B.N.O. Archangel 1130/26. Since minelayers cannot now visit Archangel intend operational control should be exercised by S.B.N.O. North Russia in agreement with C. in C. Northern Fleet. No other course seems practicable. Admiralty pass to S.O. 1st M/S. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0954C/27 to Ad. Miles.)

MIRLO.

Your 1127C/26. Length between perpendicular 441 feet, loaded draught 27 feet 6½ inches. (D.O.D. H., 1212A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Oil Stock
at Murmansk.

Your 1945A/25. (1 corrupt group) (? authorities) now states that (through) non-arrival fuel ordered reserve stocks at Murmansk will be reduced to 5000 tons (5 corrupt groups) mid-December. Propose MIRLO should discharge to shore tanks on arrival and return to U.K. with next Q.P. convoy to fill up returning to Murmansk mid-January. This will ensure adequate stock (on or about) mid-February. Fuelling from shore and by small tankers satisfactory. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2230C/27 to Admty.)

706

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.BLANKNEY.
ARROW.

C. in C. W.A. 2312 and 2319A/26. Request you sail BLANKNEY to R/V with ARROW in 055° N. 005° 28' W. Time of R/V will be signalled when it is known at what time ARROW's calibration will be completed.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0136A/27 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Sailed ARROW to R/V with BLANKNEY in 055° N. 005° 28' W. in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2319A/26. E.T.A. Milford Haven 0930/28. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1314A/27 and 2026A/27.)

BERWICK.
ON SLOW.
OFFA.

Intend leaving convoy on meeting GOSSAMER. Destroyers with STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE will leave at Cape Orlov proceeding Kola Inlet for fuel (3 corrupt groups) and one hundred tons of coal each.

BERWICK E.T.A. Kola Inlet 0900C/28. *See also p 713*
(BERWICK, 0519C/27 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Your 0519C/27. Pilot will board off Bolshoi Oleni Island, Kola Inlet to pilot to anchor berth off Mishukov Point. Lights as follows.

Proceed position 000° Teri Berski light 9 miles.

BEDOUIN, INTREPID sail Kola Inlet 1530C/27 (corrupt group) White Sea and may be met. *Sailed See p 714*
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1409C/27 to BERWICK.)

E.T.A. Kola Inlet 1000C/28. OFFA, STELLA CAPELLA, BUTE, in company.
(ON SLOW, 1415C/27.)

RESOLUTION.

(? Scapa) arrivals RESOLUTION, BERKELEY, and KUJAWIAK.
(A.C.O.S., 0914A/27.)

SHEFFIELD
(for P.Q.5)

My 1042Z/26. E.T.A. 1400Z/27.
(SHEFFIELD, 0921/27 to A.C.I.C.)

Floating
Crane.

My 1911/25. "Scent" postponed owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0934/27.)

INGLEFIELD.

Capt. (D) 3, in INGLEFIELD will be sailed for Hvalfjord p.m./28 to join C. in C. H.F.
(R.A.D. H.F., 0956A/27.) *Cancelled 25/11 - See p 739*

TRIDENT.

Your 0845/27. R/V with TRIDENT 090° out Skerries at 1600A/27.
(Capt. S.9, 1009A/27 to LOCH MONTEITH.)

Cancelled - See next page

/My.....

707

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.TRIDENT.
(Contd.)

My 1005A/27. LOCH MONTEITH unable to make R/V and proceeding to Lerwick. Trawler LORD LLOYD will be at R/V 090° Out Skerries 5 miles from 1430A to escort you into Lerwick. (Capt. S.9, 1255A/27 to TRIDENT.) Your 1030/27. Cancel my 1009A/27 and my 1157A/27. (Capt. S.9, 1257A/27 to LOCH MONTEITH.)

→ P.37.

Sailed P.37 escorted by WHITE BEAR for Scapa in accordance with S.3, 1435A/25. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1258A/27.)

KING
GEORGE V.
VICTORIOUS.

Intend to sail in KING GEORGE V with VICTORIOUS and 7 destroyers passing Boom at 1400A/28 and (? proceed) (one group missing) Scapa, through Reykjanes Passage and thence through position 058° 45' N. 007° W. Speed of advance 17 knots. (ii) A.C.O.S. is requested to provide sleeve target as follows at 1000A/30. (C. in C. H.F., 1412N/27.) 1115A/30. Expected arrival in KING GEORGE V with (? VICTORIOUS) and 7 destroyers. Request Hoxa Gate 1200A and group 5 from 0930A if weather is thick. (C. in C. H.F., 1424N/27.) My 1412N/27. SOMALI, TARTAR, MATABELE, ESKIMO, ASHANTI, ECHO and ESCAPADE are detailed. (C. in C. H.F., 1841N/27.)

→ P.37.

P.37 escorted by WHITE BEAR left Clyde 1200A/27 bound through Minches to Scapa, speed 9 knots, and may be met during dark hours. (C. in C. W.A., 1545A/27 to S.C.54, E.N.11, etc.)

LAMERTON.

My 1506/21/11. Programme delayed 24 hours. Propose sailing p.m./29/11. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1615/27.) (Cancelled by F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0955/28.)

MINERVE.

P.C.S. 59° N. 00° 30' W., 350°, 6. (MINERVE, 1915A/27.)

LOBELIA.

In execution Admiralty 1856A/17 and reference Capt. D. Greenock 2207/23, my P.C.S. are 060° 46' N. 016° 50' W., 304°, 10. (LOBELIA, 2000A/27 to A.C.I.C.)

/H.44.....

708

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.- Contd.H.44.

KINGSTON TURQUOISE and KINGSTON TOPAZ will be at R/V at 0815A/28. Both will transmit their frequency letters on S/ST and may fly balloons.

2. Portsmouth Sanctuary in force from 0700 to 1100.

3. Weather permitting one Beaufort aircraft will be in vicinity of R/V to assist you in making it.
(Capt. S.5, 2146A/27 to H.44.)

RORQUAL.

(1) Intend to sail RORQUAL escorted by CUTTY SARK for Plymouth at 1200/28. E.T.A. Plymouth 0900A/30.

(2) Thence CUTTY SARK return to Holy Loch.

(3) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange following fighter co-operation.
(Capt. S.3, 2235A/27.)

Operations.Patrol.

My 0930A/27. Drifter Patrol to shelter position A.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1040A/27.)

Combined Exercise.

Your 1948A/23 and 0028A/26. Movements of ships and intentions.
(V.A. C.T.C., 1745A/27.)

Contact off Orkneys.

Investigate R.D.F. surface contact in position 058° 50' N. 002° 33' W. at 2114, course South speed 10 knots.
(R.A.D. H.F., 2200A/27 to MONTROSE.)

*See also next page*British Air Activity.Patrols.

"Polar" in operation from 0845. Sweep between "Rovik" and "Frice" from 0900.
(A.C.I.C., 1017A/27.)

My 1017N/26. "Rovik-Frice" sweep nil report. "Polar" returned owing to poor visibility at evening report by A.C.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1654N/27.)

"Polar" in operation from ?1600N.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 2146N/27.)

My 1017N/26 (1017A/27 intended). "Rovik-Frice" sweep nil report. "Polar" returned owing to poor visibility at R report by A.C.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1654N/27.)

/ A/C for.....

709

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity - Contd.A/C for
AUDACITY.

A.M. 1943²A/25. Concur proposal to embark Swordfish. In view of delay in sailing of H.G.76 further signal will be made regarding employment of AUDACITY.
(C. in C. W.A., 1554A/27.)

Enemy Air Activity.GREAT
WESTERN
(A/C over
Ireland
on 25/11.)

My 0923A/25 and 1331/26. GREAT WESTERN reports that at 1530A/25 when on passage Waterford to Rosslare and in position 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ miles South of South Saltee Island a twin-engine aircraft believed Junkers approached from up Sun. When distant one mile enemy appeared to sight escorting aircraft ahead of GREAT WESTERN turned and flew North of Saltee Islands along Irish coast towards Rosslare. Enemy shortly afterwards turned Westwards flying within Irish coastline.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1619A/27.)

Mining.Bristol
Channel.

My 0924A/26. Similar procedure will be carried out today.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0929A/27.)
Exploded red magnetic mine at 0835A/27 in 086° 6 cables Flatholm Light.
(Capt. M/S. Bristol Channel, 1650A/27.)

Sweep of
Faroes
Passage.

My 2124?A/26. Operation cancelled owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1002A/27.)
Your 1125A/26. Operation today cancelled owing to weather. Adverse tide will now prevent further work until 6/12. Observing there have been only 3 days on which weather would have permitted sweeping, even if allowed, between Thursday and 6/12 ? date of suspending operation, authority is sought to ignore adverse tide in future whenever weather and swell are really favourable, except for only one hour either side low water. In view of urgency of completing operation I consider risk attached, which should only involve S.O.'s ship, must be accepted.
(S.O. 4th M/S.F., 1520A/27 to A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Intelligence.2 Vessels
off Orkneys.

R.A.(D) H.F. 2200. Subsequent reports indicate 2 surface vessels 7 miles East of Broughness at 2145, and 058° Broughness 8 miles at 2215, having apparently reversed course.
(A.C.O.S., 2233A/27 to MONTROSE.) *See previous page*

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War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Aultbea.Port open.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0630A/27.)Wick.Harbour still closed.
(R.N.O. Wick, 1045/27.)West
Gunn
Buoy.It is requested that the visibility of West Gunn
light buoy be increased to one mile on a clear
dark night. It will be appreciated if this
alteration be completed at your earliest
convenience and that the light be sky screened.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1216/27 and 2350/27.)Kola Inlet
A/S Nets.Action is being taken to warn shipping in
the sense of your 1901C/26.
(D. of L.D., 1516A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Admiralty 1736A/14 and 2008A/27. Further
A/S nets have been laid between lines drawn
117° from 69° 07'30" N. 33° 26'38" E. and 69°
07'13" N. 33° 26'20" E. and the shore. No
Q Z messages will be issued and the same special
instructions regarding the promulgation of this
information apply.
(D. of L.D., 1530A/27.)Casualties and Defects.LEDAAL.
ST. OLAVES.Proceed with all despatch to assist S.S. LEDAAL
in position 15 miles 300° Rudhre. Ship has
no anchor, steering gear broken, and is
steering for Rudhre and trying to remain in
vicinity of lighthouse.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0053A/27 to ST. OLAVES.)
Departure ST. OLAVES to assist LEDAAL.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0251A/27.)
Your 1020A/27. Tow LEDAAL to Stornoway.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1235A/27 to ST. OLAVES.)
Your 1233A. LEDAAL has no anchors and ST.
OLAVES has lost starboard anchor with port
anchor damaged. Consider advisable to tow
to Clyde.
(MAID OF KENT, 1340A/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 1340A. Cancel my 1235A/27. LEDAAL is
to be towed to Ardrossan when weather moderates.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1505A/27 to ST. OLAVES.)

/RENONCULE....

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

RENONCULE
(Leaking
26/11.)

Unable to proceed. Position very serious.
(? Request) help. Position 061° 47' N. 026° 38' W.

(RENONCULE, 0105Z/27.)

My 0105Z/27. Amend position to read 061° 52' N. 024° 40' W. Stationary.

(RENONCULE, 0140Z/27.)

RENONCULE reports position very serious in 061° 52' N. 024° 40' W., stationary.

(C. in C. W.A., 0401A/27 to HEARTSEASE.)

If fuel permits proceed to assist RENONCULE.

(C. in C. W.A., 0412A/27 to ST. FRANCIS.)

P.C.S. 62° (15') N. 25° W., 170°, 18 knots.

Am joining search. Am in communication

RENONCULE R/T.

(FOXHOUND, 0433A/27.)

RENONCULE found. ROSKLYS will escort her to Iceland.

(FOXHOUND, 1126A/27.) *See also p 714*

Cancel my 0412A/27. * SUNDEW is now escorting RENONCULE.

(C. in C. W.A., 1341A/27 to ST. FRANCIS.)

** Not identified - ROSKLYS 1125 -
See p. 744*

KINGSTON
ANDALUSITE.

Have been in collision with M/V, position 244° Portland 7½ miles, making water engine room. Pumps have water under control. Anchored. Request tug for standby.

(KINGSTON ANDALUSITE, 0400/27.)

MANXMAN.

Your 1038/23. As steam has had to be raised 3 nights running to ensure safety, boiler cleaning will not now be completed until 1600/2.

(MANXMAN, 1045/27 to R.A.M.)

BOADICEA.

C. in C. W.A. 0026A/27. Sailed BOADICEA for Greenock. Damage cannot be repaired at Londonderry.

(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1105A/27.)

DON.

N.C.S. Steam Drifter LASHER caused slight damage above waterline to DON whilst lying alongside in Methil Roads at 1700 yesterday. No damage to LASHER, DON now in Methil Docks.

(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1120/27.)

FLYING
ADMIRAL.

Ex E.N.11. Arrived Trawler FLYING ADMIRAL tubes leaking badly.

(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1233A/27.)

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War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.SHAMA.

H.M. Trawler SHAMA whilst on passage from Methil to Aberdeen struck an unknown vessel at 0720/26 in 56° 11' N. 2° 44' W. SHAMA being surveyed today. Damage to stern and plating on bow.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1245/27.)

HELIOTROPE.

H.P. cylinder cover joint needs renewing. Maximum speed 12 knots until defect made good. Can be made good by ship's staff. Request permission to proceed Moville to top up with oil fuel and make good defect when alongside oiler.
(HELIOTROPE, 1300A/27.)
Your 1300A/27. Approved.
(C. in C. W.A., 1510A/27 to HELIOTROPE.)

FAULKNOR.

FAULKNOR badly damaged stem bar when proceeding alongside oiler. Temporary repair is being carried out by Tyne which it is hoped will prove satisfactory. If not, dockyard repair will be necessary.
(R.A.D., 1402A/27.)

LEEDS.

Collision between LEEDS and unknown steam drifter occurred 0659/26 in 56° 09' N. 2° 45' W. Unknown vessel considered to be at fault. Slight damage to plating. Estimated repairs will take 3 days.
(LEEDS, 1445/27.)

DORINGTON
COURT
(Grounded
26/11.)

Refloated.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1508A/27.)
My 1508A/27. S.S. DORINGTON COURT has sustained damage necessitating dry docking. Intend sailing DORINGTON COURT for Rothesay Bay weather permitting at 1400A/28 escorted by SOUTHERN SPRAY.
E.T.A. Rothesay Bay 0800A/29.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1650A/27.)

ROSEDENE.

Proceed to Gott Bay, Tiree to pick up S.S. ROSEDENE and tow her to Ayr.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1717A/27 to JAUNTY.)

GRIPFAST.

(Collier). Arrived Portsmouth p.m./27. Master states that vessel has been damaged by collision in convoy.
(B.N.S.O. Portsmouth, 1828/27.)

/EMPIRE.....

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.EMPIRE
TARPON.

Following received addressed S.N.O. Gourcock via Port Patrick Radio. Returning to Glasgow. Engine auxiliaries trouble also (? damaged by unknown merchant ship) colliding with our stern. 290° 87 Butt of Lewis at 1800 G.M.T. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1830/27.)

IMPULSIVE.

My 1841N/27. ^{N.T. & W.D.} IMPULSIVE does not complete until (? 1600Z)/28 and will remain as one of RODNEY's screen. She has a number of urgent defects beyond capabilities of HECLA, so I suggest she should be relieved by INGLEFIELD. (C. in C. H.F., 1843N/27 to R.A.D. H.F.)

HAVELOCK.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1908A/26 and C. in C. W.A. 2126A/26. Docking of HAVELOCK will be undertaken by Channel Dry Dock & Pontoon Company at Cardiff. (D.O.D. H., 1929A/27.)

BELMONT.

Your 1846/26. Approved to return Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A., 2130A/26 to BELMONT.)

RORQUAL.

Arrangements are being made for RORQUAL to be taken in hand at Devonport Yard forthwith. 2. RORQUAL is to be sailed accordingly as soon as possible. (F.O.S., 2214A/27.)

Shipping and Convoys.P.Q.4.

Intend leaving Convoy on meeting GOSSAMER. Destroyers with STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE will leave at Cape Orlov. (BERWICK, 0519C/27.) See Movements. *b-706* P.Q.4 escorted by BRAMBLE, SEAGULL, SPEEDY, E.T.A. 1000 tomorrow. Request anticipated date of sailing of Q.P.4. (S.O. 1st M/S. F., 1643C/27 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

P.W.D.72.

My 1033/25 and 1007/26. "Ounce 1", sailing postponed owing to weather. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 0617/27.)

O.G.77.

Weather moderating here now. Submit awaiting further instructions for O.G.77. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0835A/27.)

/P.Q.6.....

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War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.P.Q.6.

EDINBURGH with 2 destroyers is to provide ocean escort for P.Q.6 sailing from Hvalfjord about 5/12.

(ii) R.A.D. (H.F.) report names of destroyers you wish detailed.

(C. in C. H.F., 0923N/27.)

Request ECHO and ESCAPADE may be detailed.

(R.A.D. H.F., 1910A/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

S.L. 92 and
S.L. 92 F.

To shorten routes both portions are to proceed direct to split positions.

(C. in C. W.A., 1023A/27.)

Q.P.3.

Sail convoy at any time before dark that it is ready. If not ready by dark delay sailing 24 hours by immediate signal repeated BEDOUIN.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1046C/27 to GOSSAMER.)

Q.P.3 sailing. Captain Egipko in GOSSAMER.

(GOSSAMER, 1245C/27.)

BEDOUIN, INTREPID sailed Murmansk to R/V

Q.P.3.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1533C/27.)

Your 1242C/27. Well done and many thanks for dealing very well with difficult situation.

Very sorry you have had such (corrupt group) times recently.

Goodbye and good luck.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1925C/27 to GOSSAMER.)

B.B.5.

Cancel my 1357A/26, owing to weather.

(N.C.S.O. Holyhead, 1053A/27 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

S.C.55.

Alter course forthwith and steer towards Butt of Lewis. AYRSHIRE is being sailed from Stornoway to R/V with you. When AYRSHIRE is met resume previous course and proceed with AYRSHIRE in company to meet S.C.55.

(C. in C. W.A., 1123A/27 ~~to~~ **to NDTTS COUNTY**)

As soon as RENONCULE situation is clear detach available ships to join S.C.55 if fuel permits.

If fuel does not permit to join Convoy available ships should proceed to Iceland (C) with despatch to refuel before joining.

(C. in C. W.A., 1238A/27 to FOXHOUND.) See p. 711

H.X.159.

Many congratulations on again bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your convoy.

(C. in C. W.A., 1158/27.)

D.S.17.

My 1304A/26. Code word "Product" will sail 24 hours late.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1234A/27.)

/Proceed.....

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.D.S.17.
(Contd.)

Proceed passing Switha at 1800 today to R/V with NEWARK and convoy in position 192° Skerryvore 16½ miles at 1100A/28. (R.A.D., 1256A/27 to BRIGHTON.)

Convoy
F.N.

Capt. (D) 16's, 1044/26. Intend patrol A.M. Q.Z.S 287 10 miles astern F.N. convoy from dark until 0500 tomorrow, then proceed Humber. (EGLINTON, 1518A/27.)

P.Q.
Convoys.

S.B.N.O. Archangel's 2316C/17. These stores have arrived. Admiralty 1937A/3/10. Many packages missing, damaged, and pilfered. Radiators not arrived. No supply note received. D. of V. letters V.O.67/41 refers. Oil fuel connections ex LONDON have not arrived. F.O.S. 1727A/7/10. Stationery marked D.S.19652/1-4 and A.78589 not arrived, request repeat of stationery at first available opportunity in ocean escort ship. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1731C/27.)

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Conveyance
of Service
Personnel.

A.M. 1936/25/9. Members of the W.R.N.S., A.T.S., W.A.A.F., and other affiliated services including service nurses are to be included in the total allowed for each of their respective services.

2. Para. 1 (f). India Office passengers, for 100 read 150.
3. This signal agreed with services concerned.
4. Addressees pass to Military and R.A.F. authorities and S.T.Os. on their station. (4th S.L., 1811A/27 to Cs. in C. etc).

North Atlantic.

Hudsons
for A/S
duties.

Ten Hudson aircraft are to be sent to Gibraltar with the minimum of delay for A/S duties operating under 200 Group. Date of departure to be forwarded by signal.

221 Wellington Squadron is to be sent to Middle East at earliest possible date for A/S duties under No. 201 Naval Co-operation Group.

Proposed date of departure also to be communicated by signal.

(Air Ministry, 1055/27, to Coastal Command).

H.G. 76
19th D.F.

Sailing of convoy H.G. 76 is postponed. 19th D.F. is to move to new patrol area bounded by 35.10 N. 36.00 N., and 06.20 W., and 07.00 W., by dusk tonight Thursday keeping 30 miles clear of Spartel by night.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1246A/27 to Capt. D.19).

Navy and
R.A.F.
Co-operation.

Are you satisfied that co-operation between Naval and Air Forces at Gibraltar is satisfactory as regards dealing with passage of U-boats through Straits of Gibraltar in the following respects:-

- (a) The existence of an area combined H.Q. which our experience has shown is vital.
- (b) Inter-communication between H.M. Ships and aircraft by R/T and V/S.
- (c) Utilisation for offensive purposes of C.H.L. plots on supposed U-boats.
- (d) A/S equipment, in particular Mark XIII D.C. pistols; aircraft flares for night patrols; supply of Snowflake rockets.

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27.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Navy and
R.A.F.
Co-operation
Contd.

(e) Training and efficiency of aircraft crews in anti-U-boat operations and knowledge of latest A/S tactics.
(f) Suitability of existing patrols for A/S purposes.
(g) Diversion of every available aircraft from contraband control to anti-U-boat work.
2. If you are not entirely satisfied in respect of all the above items, would you like Captain Creasy to come out for a few days?
3. Would you like a R.N. Officer with experience of A/S work on your staff?
(1st S.L., 1431A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply:1600/28.
My 1431/27 para. 2. As there is a passage by air available for Creasy to-morrow, I am sending him as I am sure his experience will be of value to you. (1st S.L., 1909A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Sunderlands
for Gib.

Request you will send one Sunderland from Freetown and one Sunderland from U.K. to Gibraltar as a temporary reinforcement to the A/S forces there.
(1st S.L., 1812A/27 to Air Ministry).

M.L.Cs.
CLAN MACINNES.

C. in C. S.A.'s 1403N/23, F.O.C.N.A.'s 1542A/26. Approved to ship M.L.C's 33 and 35 in CLAN MACINNES and for STANLEY to escort to Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2020A/27 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.).

South Atlantic.

MARY LIVANOS.

Your 2229/25 para. 6 MARY LIVANOS arrived Lourenco Marques 26/11.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1023Z/27 to Admty).

ASTURIAS.

My 1451Z/25 (1441/25 intended) ASTURIAS is to leave J.33 so as to operate Montevideo 5/12 subsequently patrolling K.32 K.33. R/V with BIRMINGHAM is cancelled. If ALCANTARA has left station for refit, or when she does so, ASTURIAS is to proceed J.33 (c) and (d). Particular attention is to be paid to precautions against sabotage while in Montevideo.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1053Z/27 to ASTURIAS)

/BIRMINGHAM...

718

27.11.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.BIRMINGHAM.
ALCANTARA.
ASTURIAS.

BIRMINGHAM leaves Plate A.M./28, E.T.A. (Q) P.M./4 with 60% fuel remaining. Oiler ARNDALE in Trinidad Island area P.M./5 with 7900 tons fuel ordered to be at R/V "Apple" (021° S., 029° W). A.M./6 and 9/12 R/V "Plum" (022° S., 028° W). A.M./7, and 10/12, R/V "Grape" (021° S., 027° W) A.M./8 and 11/12 - sequence continuing. Request following information. ECHODALE, size stirrup hose, fuel and diesel if any, any special oiling fittings. DORSETSHIRE, R.D.F. fitted, aircraft carried. Suggest all shipping be diverted clear of operational area. My 1457/21, not to Admiralty. Request you will sail ALCANTARA from J.33 as necessary and repeat signal to ASTURIAS. Trinidad visit not now required unless fuelling essential. (R.A.S.A.D., 1143Z/27 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 1351/29.

Force Q(?)

A.M.1942/24. Sailing of ALBATROSS, QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX is to be delayed until further orders. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1243A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

SILVERWILLOW,
star shell.

British ship SILVERWILLOW, reports that at about 0001Z/24 in 32° 4' S., 6° E., white star shell burst near ship fired from port beam which completely illuminated vicinity. Nothing further seen. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1557B/27 to Admty).

4 Corvettes
for Cape.

Your 1824A/24. Following Corvettes detailed for Cape are proceeding with W.S.12 Z., ASTER, MARGUERITE, VERBENA and HOLLYHOCK. Only two fitted R.D.F. could be sent as remainder are either away on escort duty or under repair. (C. in C. S.A., 1923N/27 to Admty).

MILFORD
W.S.14,

Your 1723/A/24 and my 1737N/25. As convoy will have Corvette escort as well as two Hunts propose to retain MILFORD in Freetown area for W.S.14. There is barely sufficient time for her to return Freetown in time for W.S.14. (C. in C. S.A., 1927N/27 to Admty).

/DEVONSHIRE....

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONSHIRE has port inner unit out of action due to wiped bearings. No indication of damage to blading. Shaft disconnected and 3 other units should give 27 knots.

(2) Repairs with resources here would take 3 to 4 weeks at normal notice but replacement of spare brasses cannot be undertaken without acceptable interruption of normal repair work.

(3) Intend to use her in this condition for patrol in Pauls Rock Area advancing work as much as possible during periods in harbour, but consider she should proceed to Dockyard as soon as situation permits. Consider undesirable send her Simonstown at present.

(C. in C. S.A., 2015N/27 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

Caucasia,
Nomenclature.

The following geographical nomenclature has been adopted for use in future reference to the undermentioned areas:-

(1) "Caucasia" to be all that area between the line Rostov - Stalingrad - Astrakhan and the line of the frontiers of Turkey and Persia.
(2) Caucasia to be divided into "North Caucasia" and "South Caucasia", the dividing line to be the watershed which is already in effect a political and military boundary.

(3) The words "Caucasus Mountains" to be used to describe the actual mountains.

(A.F.O., 5121, 27.11.1940).

SUPERGA
(Italian)

A.1. report dated 26/11 states raft marked SUPERGA, Genova, recently washed ashore in Black Sea near Inada, south of Burgas. SUPERGA, 6154 tons, was last reported at Burgas on 25/9 and Russians claim to have sunk a large enemy tanker in Black Sea at beginning of November. (D.S., 814).

/GRADISCA....

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.GRADISCA.

Italian hospital ship, 13,868 tons, received orders through Coltano Radio p.m./26 to continue searching until sunset 27/11, position not known. (D.S. 814).

REX.
ROMA.

New York report of 26/11 states Italians have been forced by Germans to use REX and ROMA liners to maintain communication with Libya. (D.S., 814).

PERSEUS.

Cancel Benghazi patrol. Establish patrol in area Q within radius of 50 miles Pylos Light Navarin passing through following positions - 034° 20' 015° 00', 033° 17' 018° 04', 035° 10' 020° 20'. Estimate you will pass through last position about 0600B/29.
(Capt. S.l., 0001B/27 to PERSEUS).
My 0001B/27. Amend route forthwith as follows. From 034° 20' 015° 00' pass through 032° 40', 019° 33' at 0001B/29 approx. thence 035° 35' 021° 10'. (Capt. S.l., 2331B/27 to PERSEUS).

TRIUMPH.
THUNDERBOLT.

Cancel present patrol. Establish new patrol forthwith in S.W. Aegean in area between 036° 50' N., 025° 00' E., North Coast Crete and line drawn 340°/160° through Antikithera light. TRIUMPH in area S., and THUNDERBOLT in area T. North West and South East respectively of line 045° from Antiailhaera light.
(Capt. S.l., 0021B/27 to TRIUMPH, THUNDERBOLT).
My 0021B/27. Leave area S forthwith and establish patrol in area Q within 50 miles Pylos Light Navarin. PERSEUS will be diverted.
(Capt. S.l., 1845B/27 to TRIUMPH).

PARRAMATTA
sunk. by U.559

H.M.A.S. PARRAMATTA torpedoed 032° 20' 024° 35'. (AVON VALE, 0101/27 to Alexandria W/T)
Am returning Alexandria with survivors. Expected position at 0600, 031° 50' N., 026° 11' E. (AVON VALE, 0315B/27 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria).
My 0315B/27. Survivors scattered over a large area and many could not be picked up. Boats and floats have been dropped. Large flying boats could effectively rescue in daylight. Position of wreck 032° 19' N., 024° 34' E., bow just afloat. (AVON VALE, 0338B/27 to C. in C. Med., R.A. Alexandria).

/Regret.....

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War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PARRAMATTA
sunk. Contd.

Regret to report PARRAMATTA torpedoed and sunk about 20 miles east Tobruk at 0100/27. PARRAMATTA was escorting merchant ship with emergency supplies of ammunition for Tobruk which arrived safely. Casualties not yet known. Survivors returning to Alexandria in AVON VALE. (C. in C. Med., 1825B/27 to Admty).

18th
Division.

Date of arrival Suez. Possible transfer to Iraq (W.O., 0215/27 to C. in C. M.E., C. in C. India). See Lion Copy.

Refits.

Your 1217B/23. F.O.S. 1312A/20 and 1322A/24 indicated intended reinforcements and an optimum refitting programme. 2. Realised that extent to which you can meet this programme is dependent on the urgency of your operational requirements. (1st S.L., 0332A/27 to C. in C. Med).

Enemy H/S.

Following received. P.C. and S. of enemy hospital ship 34.40' N., 22.50 E. 240° 13 knots. (A/C K7PH 0915/27).

GLENROY
(torpedoed
23/11).

(See also
p. 175.)

Proceed independently with despatch as soon as ready to join THORGRIM and (?PENALK) escorting GLENROY in tow of Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY who left Mersa Matruh at 0315/27 at 2 knots. Orders to beach GLENROY east of Ras Al Rum or Kanais if Alexandria impossible. Visibility $\frac{1}{2}$ mile report off Mersa Matruh at 0900. Alexandria submarine and exercise sanctuary in force until 1700 today. AVON VALE join from West. (Malta, 0927B/27, to FARNDAL, ERIDGE, AVON VALE. Join GLENROY in tow Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY with THORGRIM and FALK sailed Mersa Matruh 0315/27 to Alexandria at 2 knots. (R.A. Alexandria, 0940/27 to AVON VALE). Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY cannot control towing under present conditions and second tug is necessary. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1344B/27 to S.O. Force I) Fighter aircraft have been despatched to your assistance - M2 - 1440 - 4442FI 75 kcs. (Malta, 1425B/27 to GLENROY). ST. MONANCE sailed 1230/27 to join GLENROY tow. (N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh, 1600B/27 to R.A. Alexandria). My 0927/27. On joining detach FALK to join KOS 19 escorting PETRELLA and (?) (?defective) M.Ls. leaving (?Mersa Matruh) 1600 today. (R.A. Alexandria, 1611B/27 to FARNDAL). Fighter aircraft have been despatched to your assistance M2 1715 4442. 75 kcs. (Malta, 1710/27 to GLENROY). Detach AVON VALE to Alexandria. AVON VALE to report E.T.A. (R.A. Alexandria, 1849B/27 to FARNDAL).
/Need....

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE OF 17/27th November IN

MOST SECRET

Date 27.11.41

From The War Office.

CIPHERAddressed: S. in C. Middle East, C. in C. India,
Repeated General Iraq.

MOST IMMEDIATE

54228 Cipher (M.O.1) 26/11.

Destination of 18 Division.

Our 52380 (M.O.1) 17/11, Mideast O/27878 18/11,
Armindia 18028/G 16/11 and 18335/G 20/11.1. 18 Division will go in first place to Middle
East arriving Suez as follows:-M.T. Ships from about 24 December onwards until mid-
January.

Personnel ships about 25th December.

Full details being sent by Movements in separate
telegrams.2. It is possible that on or shortly after arrival
in Middle East it may be necessary to move division to Iraq.
In this event move will be by road with exception of tracked
vehicles. Plans and any preparations for this move which do
not involve serious diversion of M.T. from other duties
should now be made between Middle East and India.3. Fully appreciate administrative strain which
despatch of 18 Division to Iraq as in paragraph 2 would involve
and will not order this move until Iraq is ready to receive,
unless Defence Committee decide to proceed with plan for
assistance to Russians in Caucasasia outlined in C.O.S.
telegrams 189 and 200. Early decision on this unlikely, but
planning and any preparations which do not involve movement
of troops (other than 50 Division into Iraq) should be
pressed on.4. If Caucasus plan is not eventually implemented
decision as to which division, or divisions may be moved from
Middle East to Iraq before the Spring will be taken later in
light of circumstances at the time. While appreciating
administrative advantages of reinforcing Iraq with 4 or 5
Indian Division instead of British Division, cannot guarantee
that either will be available when required. Forces required
and available for Iraq and Persia in Spring

(Armindia.....)

(Armindia 18112 17/11 refers) will form subject of separate telegram later.

5. Armindia 18028/G 16/11. Agree despatch first Brigade Group 17 Indian Division to Iraq as proposed by Armindia.

0215/27

Received from War Office 1555/27

Advance Copy Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C., D.T.D.
War Office Distribution

S. of S.
C.I.G.S.
V.C.I.G.S.
A.C.I.G.S.
D.M.O. & P.
D.D.M.O.(O) (H)
D.P.
M.O.1 (6 copies) 5,12.
D.Q.M.G.
Q.Ops.
E. in C.
D.S.D.
D.D.S.D.
S.D.1,2.
D.Mov.
D.D.Mov.(P)
Q.M.2,3.

D.Tn.
Tn.1.
D.M.I.
D.D.M.I.(I)
M.I.2.
D.S.T.
Col. Jacob.
C.N.S. Admiralty.
C.A.S. Air Min.
Director of Plans
Admiralty
Director of Plans
Air Min.
Secy., J.P.S.

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

722

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Need for
R/C aircraft.

If Cruiser Squadrons at Malta are to operate effectively more reconnaissance aircraft must be sent to Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1057B/27 to C. in C. Med).

Fleet
Movements.

Arrival 26/11 GRIFFIN, QUEEN ELIZABETH, NAPIER, (?KIPLING) HASTY, DECOY, VALIANT, HOTSPUR, JERVIS, NIZAM, JACKAL, AJAX, NAIAD, EURYALUS, NEPTUNE, GALATEA, KINGSTON, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, BULLFINCH, DUILIO. Departure 26/11 CARLISLE, ABDIEL, FALK, COCKER. Arrival 27/11 CARLISLE, FLAMINGO, SALVIA, Greek Destroyers PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS, and ASPIS, ERICA, HYACINTH, KLO SOUTHERN SEA. Departure 27/11 KIMBERLEY, GRIFFIN KINGSTON, AJAX, NEPTUNE, EURYALUS, HOTSPUR, NAIAD. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1142B/27 to Admty C. in C. Med).

Enemy Units.
Navarin.

One M/V one escort vessel anchored Navarin Bay.
(A/C 7QBF, 1145B/27 to 201 Group)

Enemy Supplies
S/M patrols
Extended.

It is known that enemy is extremely short of supplies and particularly petrol and is making every endeavour to get these stores to Benghazi and Derna using destroyers to augment weekly supply (?ships). Argostoli, Navarin and Suda Bay are being used as transit ports. Next 10 days are of vital importance and it is necessary to extend time on patrol to 21 or 22 days. Destroyers other than those escorting should be (?regarded as) small merchant ships and attacked accordingly.
(Capt. S.l., 1207B/27 to S/Ms. on Patrol)
See also 2100/27.

Air R/C.

Following R/C is being arranged by 201 Naval Co-operation Group tomorrow 28th A.M. between 034° and 035° N., commencing 020° 00' E., at daylight as far as 015° 00' E., N.O.I.C. Malta is requested to inform F.O.C. 7th C.S. what R/C has been arranged from Malta which should include area between 035° and 036° N., as far as 020° 00' E., if possible in addition to Ionian Sea R/C. (C. in C. Med., 1223B/27 to F.O.7 C.S.)

/Turkish.....

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Turkish
Harbour
Defences.

Following from Adm. Kelly. Admty 1900A/23 to you para.6. Could you have prepared for me a clear statement as to what is proposed and what is required from Turks, taking into consideration my 1901B/3 before I continue discussions? Docking plan for H.D. M.L.S. received but no armament or other information as to use, available for putting forward proposed exchange to Turks. (N.A. Angora, 1243B/27 to C. in C. Med).

Libya.

Military situation report. (C. in C. M.E., 1330/27 2316/27 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Enemy Units.

5 destroyers 3 M/Vs. 8 knots, position 38.15,N. 20.30W. no attack. (830 Sqdn. 1420/27, to PRINCE DAVID). *Should be under America & West Indies - p. 732.*

5 destroyers 3 M/Vs. in Argostoli harbour at 1426. (V.A. Malta, 1517B/27 to TRUSTY.)

Air R/C.

2 Marylands proceeding to Malta E.T.D. Alexandria 0430/28 will carry out sweep between 034° 00' and 034° 40' (745')N. reporting enemy sightings. (201 Group, 1531B/27 to C.S.7).

PLATIN.
fire.

Turkey Steamer PLATIN fire in number 3 hold cargo Sulphur. Not dangerous but fire has good hold, fire brigade not very strong, 2 4 inch and one 3 inch hoses playing, pump engine keeps stalling. (N.C.S.O. Smyrna, 1553B/27 to S.O.(I) Istanbul).

Force K.
AURORA.
PENELOPE.
LANCE.
LIVELY.

Following from Prime Minister to Commander Force K. Many congratulations on your fine work since you arrived at Malta, and will you please tell all ranks and ratings from me that the two exploits in which they have been engaged, namely the annihilation of the enemy's convoys on 9/11 and of the two oil ships on Monday last, have played a very definite part in the great battle now raging in Libya. The work of the Force has been most fruitful and all concerned may be proud to have been a real help to Britain and our cause. (1st S.L., 1602A/27 to S.O. Force K-)

URSULA
programme.

Propose Capt. (S) 10's 1009B/26 be approved. (Capt. S.l., 1619B/27 to C; in C. Med).

MOST SECRET~~MESSAGE 1330/27th November IN~~

MOST SECRET

Date 27.11.41
Recd. 1655

From C. in C. Middle East.

CIPHERAddressed The War Office (Pass Air Ministry) repeated
C.in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

/31426 cipher 27/11 14389.

Cositrep No.17

1. Ref Cositrep No. 16 para 1 N.Z. Div. also captured Bir El Tamed 429413 night 25/26 November. Heavy opposition encountered and fighting continued this area 26th Nov. Tobruk forces reached El Duda 1530 hrs. 0700 hrs. 27th Nov. one N.Z.Bn. and one Sqn. Inf. tanks confirmed joined our Tobruk forces El Duda. Enemy still hold areas 414416 and 413418.
2. 26th Nov. small enemy columns operating in area Bardia-Sidi-Azeiz-Halfaya. 4 Armd. Bde. were reported 1630 hrs chasing enemy column area 436367 and should be in position to interfere with enemy L.of C.
3. Locations 4 Ind. Div. H.Q. 4 Ind. Div and 7 Ind. Inf Bde. area Sidi Omar. 11 Ind. Inf. Bde still in area between coast and escarpment. 5 Ind. Inf Bde. preparing to move earliest possible with all available A/Tk guns to join 7 Ind. Inf. Bde. 2 S.A.Div. will fill gap left by 5 Ind. Inf. Bde. air.
4. Day 26th Nov. Reconnaissance. Morning Strat reconnaissance operated fifty five plus aircraft mainly fighters Derna Martuba Aerodromes. About forty on Gazalas and Tmini of which a third probable damaged.
5. Bombers. Ref. Cositrep 16 paras 4 and 5. Throughout day Blenheim and Maryland Sqns. attacked enemy armoured forces and M.T. in El Adem-Duda area to disorganise enemy transport arrangements. Total seven squadron sorties some in answer to close support call from our troops. Bombing effective many A.F.V's and vehicles destroyed and damaged by explosion and fire. Two sqns sent to attack heavy M.T. movement reported along Trigh Capuzzo found comparatively few well dispersed. Fighters escorted some of sorties. No enemy fighter opposition. Weather clear cloud 4,000 feet.
6. Fighters frequent sweeps of battle area also bomber escorts. Two fights reported. First in El Adeb area Hurricanes destroyed two damaged two M.E. 109. Four our pilots missing.

Cont.....

Details second fight later.

1330/27.

Recd from W.O. P.M./27th November.

War Office Circulation

1st Lord	S. of S.
1st S.L.	C.I.G.S.
2nd S.L.	V.C.I.G.S.
3rd S.L.	D.M.O. & P
4th S.L.	D.D.M.O. (0)
5th S.L.	D.P. (2)
V.C.N.S.	M.O. 1.5.6.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.I.P.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.M.I.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.D.M.I. (I)
A.C.N.S. (W)	M.I. 3.14.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.A.F.V.
D. of P. (2)	Colonel Jacob
D.O.D. (H)	C.A.S. Air Ministry (2)
D.D.O.D. (H)	D. of Plans (Air Min) (2)
D.O.D. (F)	Plans 3 Air Min (2)
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.O.O. Air Min (2)
D.N.I. (4)	D.M.C. Air Min
D.S.D.	D.S. to S. of S. (Air Min (2)
D.N.A.D.	A.C.A.S. (I) Air Min
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I.P. (2)	
W.D.	
D.C. (2)	
Hd. of M.	
D.T.S.D.	
E.P.S.	
D.T.D. (2)	
N.I.D. 10	Pay Cdr Wilson
D.G.D.	
D.D.I.C.	

.M.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 23.11.41.

Recd. 0110.

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office, Air Ministry. Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

14501 O/31640 cipher 27/11. Most Secret.
27 Nov. 4 and 22 Armd. Bdes. heavily engaged enemy force moving from area Bardia - Sollum towards El Adem in area twelve miles South of Gambut. Two hundred and fifty enemy M.T. escaped Westwards. Heavy battle still continuing 1515 hrs. Enemy believed to be his raiding columns together with garrison of Halfaya trying to escape.

Please pass to Air Ministry.

2316/27. Recd. from War Office 0340/28/11.

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.C.(2)

D. of P.(2)

E.P.S.

Hd. of M.(10)

I.P.(2)

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

W.D.

D.N.I.(4)

D.D.I.C.

War Office circulation:

S. of S.

C.I.G.S.

V.C.I.G.S.

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M.O.1.5.6.

D.D.I.P.

D.D.M.I.(1)

M.I.3.14.

D.A.F.V.

Col Jacob.

C.A.S. Air Ministry (2)

D. of Plans Air Min.(2)

D.O.C. Air Min.

D.M.C. Air Min.

P.S. to S. of S. Air Min (2)

A.C.A.S. (I) Air Min.

Air Ministry War Room

Duty Captain Admiralty (2)

Secretary of State,

Foreign Office.

D.M.I.

Plans 3 Air Ministry (2)

724

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

TALISMAN

TALISMAN sails 1700B/27 direct from end of searched channel through $035^{\circ} 00' 023^{\circ} 28'$ to area X between lines drawn 250 and 340 from Antikithera light and within 52? miles of it. Above is a repetition of my 1625B/27. (Capt. S.I., 1627B/27 to C. in C. Med).

Liner and Destroyer bombed.

26/11. Kalamante - Zante R/C saw 1249 hours 1 M/V 1000 tons 140° Cape Spartivento 75 miles course 340° 10 knots. 6 Blenheims went off with 250 lb. bombs loading very bad weather. Only 2 reached area and attacked liner of approx. 7000 tons with destroyer as escort 309° Homs 18 miles, course west, 8 knots, 2 hits on liner 1 bridge 1 on deck. Dr. hit 1 bomb flames and yellow smoke as result. Same liner seen by 4 Blenheims on 27/11 3 miles east of Tripoli low in water stopped and 300 yards from shore. Blenheims out on dusk attack.

Malta Raid.

Night 26/27. 2249 hours 2 enemy aircraft dropped bombs sea. A.A. claim possible hit. Search by F.A.A. aircraft for debris found nothing. (H.Q. Malta, 1646/27).

Mined Area.

An area enclosed by following points is dangerous due to British Mines. $037^{\circ} 55.3' N.$, $012^{\circ} 22.4' E.$, $037^{\circ} 54.7' N.$, $012^{\circ} 25.3' E.$, $037^{\circ} 53.8' N.$, $012^{\circ} 21.9' E.$, $037^{\circ} 53.2' N.$, $012^{\circ} 24.8' E.$ T.O.O. 1711B/27. (C. in C. Med., 1723B/27, Q.B.59).

S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH.

S.T.O. Suez's 1624/24. It is intended that after completion of U.S.14, QUEEN ELIZABETH should proceed direct from Suez to Singapore for drydocking. (D.S.T., 1726A/27 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Situation report No. 170.

My 1108B/26 Force B returned to harbour 1800/26 but had no encounter with the enemy.
2. C.S.7 sailed again in AJAX with NEPTUNE, NAIAD, EURYALUS and four destroyers for operation in accordance with my 1720B/26.
3. Western Desert. PARIAMATTA sunk by U.559 with torpedo ~~apparently submarine~~ in $32^{\circ} 20' N.$, $24^{\circ} 35' E.$, at 0100/27, while escorting HANNE with emergency supplies of ammunition for Tobruk. Survivors returning Alexandria in AVON VALE numbers not yet known. HANNE arrived Tobruk safely.

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.contd.

Situation
report No.
170 Contd.

4. My 1216/24. GLENROY was beached near Mersa Matruh, now refloated and in tow to Alexandria.
5. APHIS bombarded Gazala aerodrome night 25th/26th (25/26).
6. Schooner MARIA GIOVANNI ran ashore ten miles west of Tobruk in enemy territory night 22/23 with cargo of ammunition. Italian news states crew taken prisoner.
7. Red Sea. GEORGIC further damaged by fire and tow postponed. Cause being investigated. (C. in C. Med., 1807B/27).

UTMOST.
SOKOL.

Arrived 27th. (V.A. Malta, 1817B/27).

See also next page

S.S. DERNA
(Italian).

Departure Genoa, 26th.
(Barcelona, 1842/27).

JOAO PESSOA
(German).

Should complete loading 28/11 and may sail same evening. (Bilbao, 1847/27 to Admty).

GEORGIC fire.
CONFEDERATE.

Following is repetition of F.O.C. Red Sea Force 1739B/26 (N.T. in W.D.) Addressed: C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. Egypt, (Begins) Regret to report serious fire developed in GEORGIC A.M./26 cause at present unknown. Fire lasted 4 hours and is now out. Ship's plating is buckled and ship has list of 6°. Consider it most unlikely that GEORGIC can be ready for towing by 1/12 hostilities delayed docking CONFEDERATE and am keeping her to repair damage. Full report follows. (Ends) Following is repetition of F.O. Red Sea Force 1157B/27: Addressed as above (begins) My 1739B/26. GEORGIC has now been thoroughly examined by Salvage Officer. Ship is undamaged from point of view of seaworthiness and can keep her date of sailing. Fire was due to extraordinary use of oxyacetylene cutter and was principally in the cold storage flat. CONFEDERATE is docking according to programme. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1949B/27 to D. of S.T.)

/W.S.12 X....

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.W.S.12 X.

A.M.1820/17, para 2. Convoy W.S.12 X. will proceed to Suez. 2. Part of the agreement with U.S.A. for use of these ships is that they should be escorted on return voyage from Suez to vicinity of Brazilian Coast.

3. Arrangements should be made to this end, and convoy should be delayed as little as possible.

4. F.O.I.C. Simonstown pass to N.O.I.C. Durban. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2009A/27 to Cs. in C. Med., E.I. S.A.)

10th S/M Flot.

State of 10th S/M Flotilla A.M./27 is as follows. URSULA in dock (?to complete) making good fuel leaks. Anticipated ready to sail for (?U.K.) 30/11. P.34 ready for sea and due for patrol P.M./1/12. URGE changing defective generator armature. Anticipated ready and due for patrol P.M./3/12.

UPRIGHT routine docking. Anticipated ready 30/11 and due for patrol P.M./4/12.

UNIQUE recurrence of bearing trouble starboard engine. Date of completion unknown.

SOKOL and UTMOST arrived Malta A.M./27 after 13½ and 12½ days patrol respectively. *in previous page*

Former requires one periscope changing.

UNBEATEN due Malta A.M./28 and P.31 A.M./30, after 12½ and 11½ days patrol respectively.

UPHOLDER 2 days on patrol due Malta A.M./8/12.

(2) Ref. your 1221B/27 and 1207B/27, intend sailing P.34 Friday 28 for patrol south of Cape Spartivento Calabria, and another submarine not later than 1/12 to assist UPHOLDER covering the Strait. (Capt. S.10., 2100B/27 to Capt. S.L)

NIZAM,
HASTY.

Embark up to 50 tons military stores each and sail 0700/28 to pass through position O at 2000/28 thence Tobruk. Disembark stores and sail when ready to pass through position J by 0800/29 thence direct for Alexandria. Report E.T.A. Tobruk at 1200/28 201 Naval Co-op. Group is requested to provide fighter protection from 1200/28 until dark and from 0700/29 until 1100/29. (C. in C. Med., 2241B/27 to NIZAM, HASTY.)

Motor Boats.

Following are required for operation of the D.E.M.S. organisation on this Station. (C. in C. Med., 2248B/27 to Admty).

Enemy Units.

2 merchant ships 2 destroyers P.C. and S. 038° 44' 017° 15' 180° 10 knots. (P.31., 2331B/27 to V.A. Malta, Capt. S.10).

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Naval re-
quirements
for
capitulation
or Jibuti.

Following are agreed with C. in C. Med.

(a) General Naval requirements.

1. British and Allied ships to have unrestricted right of entry into the harbour of Jibuti and other anchorages in French Somaliland.

2. British to have the right to search all ships entering the harbours of French Somaliland.

(b) Requirements for the control of Jibuti.

3. The port to be under British Guard and supervision.

4. Stores standing for the maintenance of the British and Ethiopian forces to be free of customs dues but an agreed rental to be paid for storage.

5. Other goods destined for Ethiopia to pay customs dues in accordance with the agreement in force between the French and Italian Governments before the war.

6. Handling charges to be paid for by the British at the usual rates the French authorities to be responsible for finding the labour.

(c) Condition of the Port of Jibuti on being handed over to the British.

7. All ports and harbour facilities are to remain intact.

8. No ships to be scuttled or left damaged in the port or approaches to the port.

9. Cable and W/T stations and telephone communications to be handed over intact.

10. All oil, petrol, coal and other Naval stores to be left intact. If taken over by the British they will be paid for at an agreed rate.

11. All shore defences, minefields, boom and underwater obstructions to be left intact and their exact position disclosed.

12. A.O.C. in C. has also asked that clause should be inserted giving us the right to construct new W/T and meteorological stations in addition to control of existing facilities.

(C. in C. M.E. 0353/27.)

Following additional points should be included in terms. I am asking C. in C. East Africa and C. in C. Med. for any observations

(1) I am studying question of repatriation of surplus military personnel with military and naval authorities and will send you our recommendations. Following points arise out of comparison with Syrian Armistice terms.

(2) In Syria Vichy war material was stocked under British control and after British Military Authorities had selected any required for their purposes remainder was destroyed by French under our control. We might try for this in case of Jibuti.

/(3) ...

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Naval re-
quirements
for
capitulation
for Jibuti.
contd.

- (3) Terms should specify that Jibuti Railway shall be handed over intact.
- (4) Para (E) (11) of my telegram 3650 provided for British Control of Security Services and communications. A question which will have to be settled is that of right of communication between French Governor and Vichy. Alternatives would be (A) to forbid any contact with Vichy or Vichy Colonies except on matters relating to the capitulation itself and repatriation of French troops (B) to allow communications provided they go en clair or in a cypher of which we hold key and provided we have right to stop any message in either direction which we consider harmful to our interests or security.
- (5) Enemy aliens. Suggest we should require them to be removed to British Territory for internment.
- (6) Additional clause should provide for release of British subjects (e.g. any of former Consulate Staff) and Free French sympathisers imprisoned in Jibuti and or any interned British or allied service personnel.
- (7) Public services should remain in operation.
- (8) If negotiations are successful currency question will arise, i.e. severing financial connection with other Vichy territory and fixing exchange rate with sterling. Useful if you could indicate in advance lines on which this could be dealt with.
- (C. in C. M.E. 0530/27.)

CARTHAGE
EMERALD.

CARTHAGE sailed 0603Z/27 in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 0500Z/24. E.T.A. Mauritius 0800Z/1/12. EMERALD arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0603Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius etc.)

JENNET,
PUNNET,
RENNET.

Intended programme Durban 27/11 to Suez 1/1/42. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0808Z/27.)

Persian
Gulf.

Defence requirements against Japanese naval forces. Chiefs of Staff No.205. (1st S.L., 1121A/27 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

1121A/27th November.

~~MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. OUT.~~

To. O. in C. East Indies. 960. Date. 27. 11. 41.
Repeated. S.N.O., P.G.

NAVAL CYPHER (ONE TIME TABLE).

From. Admiralty.

IMPORTANT. AIDAC.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 205 to A.O.C. in C., Middle East, C. in C., East Indies, Repeated O, in C., India. Reference H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East A.950 7/11 and O. in C., East Indies 1306/1/11, subject defence requirements Persian Gulf against Japanese Naval forces.

2. We have examined potential scale of attack by Japanese Naval forces and conclude that unless Japan has striking success in Far East enabling her to establish advanced base in Indian Ocean, threat is limited to submarines and sporadic operations by surface raiders.

3. Present and projected commitments of available air forces in Middle East do not permit tying up air force units in Persian Gulf area to meet such a threat. Nor can it be decided at this stage what forces could be made available, as it will depend on the extent of our commitments in the Middle East at the time. Preliminary preparations should therefore be confined to development of suitable aerodromes and laying down of stocks of fuel and bombs as suggested in C.A.S. personal telegram to A.O.C. in C., X.27 9/11.

4. We have considered desirability of allotting higher priority to aerodromes at entrance to Gulf as suggested in C. in C. East Indies Telegram 1510Z/16 but are unable to alter our earlier decision that first need is to develop those in Northern Iraq to resist far greater German threat from the north.

5.

MOST SECRET

5. Further telegram on defence of shipping in the Gulf against German air attack follows as reply to Arminias 17863/G 14/11.

1121A/27.

Secretary to 1st Sea Lord.

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

EO.

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Hong Kong.

W.D.A.136. The harbour of Hong Kong will be closed to shipping from sunset/29 till sunrise/30. (Hong Kong, 0229Z/27 to China Stn.)

Japanese Navy.

Your 2335/26 (N.T.in W.D.) Following based on W/T traffic. 7th Squadron thought to be in Sama area 26/11. Indications 2nd Fleet (group omitted) South China Fleet are mutually affected by signals. Portion 3rd Fleet is in home waters and a portion in South China waters. Can reply be given to my 0753/20. (London press reports re arrival of 4 cruisers at Saigon.)* Comment. 7th Squadron (2nd Fleet) is the squadron of four cruisers which left Japan 18/11 and has not hitherto been located. It is now thought to be in the Sama (Hainan) area, possibly with other units of the 2nd Fleet which is apparently affected by signals for South China Fleet. 2nd Fleet consists of 7 8" cruisers, 6 6" cruisers, 4 aircraft carriers, 32 destroyers and possibly 12 submarines. Units of this Fleet have been sent to Hainan on previous occasions when an operation in South China or Indo-China has been pending.
(N.I.D.4. 27.11.41)
*(C.O.I.S. Singapore 0532Z to Admty.)

S.S.ERIDAN.

Intercepted correspondence shows ERIDAN expected Indo China shortly.
(C/S Singapore 0841Z/27.)

VILLE DE VERDUN.

My 0327/26. VILLE DE VERDUN arrived Saigon 27/11. (C/S Singapore 1218Z/27 to Adty. (R) C. in C. E.I., S.O.(I) Hong Kong.)

American and West Indies.

W.S.12 X.

My 2145/26, for 4 destroyers read 6 destroyers.
(B.A.D. 0941R/27 to Admty.)

SURCOUF.

My 1728R/19 and A.M.1711A/21. Submarine SURCOUF sails 1500R/27 for Bermuda direct. E.T.A. 0700Q/29.
(B.A.R.M. 1022R/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

730

War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.American and West Indies. - contd.5 Salvage
Tenders.

For B.A.S.R. Admty. 1353A/26. Request following information. (A) Brief details of vessels. (B) Date vessels will be ready to leave. (ii) Request you will contact M. of W.T. representative New York with regard to provision of crews for the 4 vessels at present not manned. Crews should be required to sign on for period at Trinidad and subsequent voyage to U.K.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1042Q/27 to B.A.D.)

French
Ships.

Casablanca 22/11 A.1. Arrival 18/11 CARIMARÉ from Oran. Departures 20/11 OUEGHA for Dakar, 20/11 MEDIE II for Dakar and Conakry. (B.A.D., 1147R/27 to S.O.I. Freetown.)
Casablanca 22/11 A.2. MONTCALM is to be relieved by GEORGES LEYGUES, latter is due Dakar in near future. PRIMANGUET has sailed for Casablanca. (B.A.D., 2045R/27 to S.O.I. Freetown.)
My 1219Q/15/11. Intercepted letter from Georges Brun on board WYOMING dated 11/11 states "We have been in Casablanca for 15 days. We shall not be leaving for Martinique until the 27th".
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1519Q/27 to Admty.)

H.X.162

Departure Halifax ANNAPOLIS, HAMILTON to Western R/V, H.X.162.
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1301Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

S.C. and
H.X. Convoys,
Assembly.

Following from Adm. Little. I have discussed your 1737/22 with C.N.S. Canada who concurs generally in objections to assembly of convoys in a U.S. Port. He considers arrangements proposed in N.S.H.Q.'s 1508/12 should be satisfactory, facilities at Halifax having been much improved. (2) He agrees, however, that an alternative winter port should be examined with U.S. Authorities for use in case of Halifax being closed by mines or unforeseen circumstances, and that suitable U.S. ports and organizations should be in readiness in case of extension of U-boat activity to U.S.A. coast. (3) Need for extra local escort is fully appreciated. Also that these would have to be provided by U.S. We would propose to open these questions with Navy Dept. after discussing 011512-108. See my 2238Z/26.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1544Z/27 to Admty.)

/ROXBOROUGH ...

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

American and West Indies - contd.

ROXBOROUGH.

Your 1341/24. ROXBOROUGH can be accepted forthwith. Yard not decided yet. Job No. S.233. (B.A.R.M. 1702R/27 to Admty.)

WARSPITE.

Should WARSPITE be delayed to fit S.A. Gear? (B.A.R.M., 1724R/27 to Admty.)

→ ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 1310R/25 (1312/25 intended) para.(a) (V). As R/V in A.M. 0026A/25 can be reached ILLUSTRIOUS leaving Norfolk 10/12, can I work up at Jamaica until 6th and arrive Norfolk p.m.8/12, thereby spending 4 or 5 days less on unescorted passage? (ILLUSTRIOUS, 1812R/27 to B.A.R.M.)

Transport of Ammunition, DIDO.

W.O. have requested assistance in obtaining early transport of 37 mm. ammunition from U.S.A. to Middle East. Request DIDO may embark as much as convenient before sailing. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1932A/27 to B.A.D.)

ANCYLUS, collision with OLAF FOSTENES.

My 2024/26, should read "Expect to arrive 30/11". (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1943Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

→ ILLUSTRIOUS FORMIDABLE.

Your 1312/25 and 1412/26. Concur with intended programme for ILLUSTRIOUS sailing date being adjusted to fit in with the R/V given in A.M.0026/25.

2. Concur generally in FORMIDABLE programme for return to U.K. about 12/12. Actual date of sailing will however have to be governed by the dates when inward A/S escort can be made available, about which a further signal will be made.

3. Not now anticipated that FORMIDABLE or ILLUSTRIOUS should return to America to work up.

4. Request you will confirm in due course that the balance of Martlets bringing the total up to 48 Martlets can be shipped in ARCHER leaving America early January, observing that she is to have 4 T.S.R. for her own protection.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2030A/27 to B.A.R.M.)

Casablanca Intelligence.

Casablanca. 22/11. A.1. CHEF MECANICIEN ARMAND BLANC, left for Dakar. JAMAIQUE, MONTESQUIEU and TLEMCEN have arrived from Oran, LOUP DE MER from Port Etienne.

(B.A.D., 2047R/27 to S.O.I. Freetown.)

732

War Diary.

27.11.1941.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.American and West Indies - contd.MOA.

H.M. N.Z. trawler MOA due San Diego California 19/12 from Panama for Aboukir. 6 days for boiler cleaning, ship is to be routed in co-operation with N.O.I.C. Esquimalt to Suva via Honolulu where fuelling has been arranged, N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica pass to MOA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2051Z/27.)
 Bermuda departure MOA in accordance with my 1232Q/26. Supplied with extract of S.P.02295K to 12/12. Jamaica is to supply any additional extracts required for passage to Colon. After transit of canal will have no recognition signals. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2159Q/27.)

OLGA TOPIC.

Your 2047R/18. Philadelphia reports Master Greek IGOR states agents in Iquique told him OLGA TOPIC had been sunk, but he found she was safe on his arrival at Colon. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2212Z/27 to S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Enemy Units

See p. 723. (Mediterranean.)

Australia.

S.O.(I) Jamaica 1015Q/27 see U-boats reported.

SYDNEY.

My 08292Z/25. Leakage of information in Australia and widespread rumours consequent on notice to next of kin may impel Australian Gov. to make early statement at short notice. Beneficial for public if announcement of loss could be accompanied by statement of sinking of raider. Statement will be made on following lines. (Begins) Information has been received from the Naval Board that SYDNEY has been in action with an enemy ship which she sank by gunfire. The information was obtained from survivors from the enemy ship who were picked up some time after the action. No subsequent communication has been received from SYDNEY and it must be presumed she has been lost. (Ends) Request your very early view and of any compelling reason for deferring publication any longer. (A.C.N.B., 1519Z/27 to Admty.)

" (7002/27), see next page.

732 A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1700Z/27th November IN

From A.C.N.B.

Date 27.11.41
Time 2219

Anglo-French by W/T and T/P.

Addressed Admiralty C. in C. China C. in C. East Indies
IMPORTANT
133

See 06042/28

(a) KORMORAN steering north in approx. position
024 deg 111 deg H.M.A.S. SYDNEY steering south at
about 1600 H 19th November. Raider altered
course to westward bringing cruiser on to starboard
quarter. Cruiser altered course to westward, closed in
rapidly challenging with daylight lamp. Raider made no
reply but opened fire when cruiser was within comparatively
short range.

Estimated range varies from about 1 (one) to
5 or 6 miles. ref my 1909Z 25th November to
Admiralty & C. in C. China only.

1 survivor stated he could see men on deck of
the cruiser. First shot from raider hit bridge of the
cruiser and started fire. Cruiser modified course
to port. Survivors stated that it appeared that he
intended to ram. Passed close round stern of raider
and proceeded on parallel courses gradually drawing
ahead on port side of raider. Cruiser was now
heavily on fire in bridge & midship section. Raider
also badly damaged and on fire in engine room area.
Hit in engineroom, put electrical control out of
action. Absolutely all electrical equipment, including
fire fighting out of action. Action commenced at
about 1730 and lasted for about 1 (one) hour.

Raider abandoned ship at about 1900 H her
reason that fire could not be put out and it was
certain that fire would reach ammunition stowage.
Survivors stated Capt. and officers were on board
when they abandoned ship at about 1900. At this time
cruiser was seen still heavily on fire and shortly
afterwards disappeared. No violent explosion was seen
or heard. They believe it was torpedoed. 3
torpedoes were fired by the raider 1 (one) of which
thought to have hit. Raider blew up about midnight.

Armament 6 15 centimetre guns 4 2 centimetre
A.A. guns machine guns not used 2 above water level
mark and 1 (one) submerged torpedo tube. 1 (one)
aeroplane of Roda type stated to have been damaged
and not flown for 3 months and possibly more
were carried. 150 to 200 mines were carried but
stated none had been laid. Complement about 400
morale good, high opinion of ship and captain.

..... ~~Activity~~ ACTIVITY

SECRET

ACTIVITY Bodhaussen 2.

Activity left ~~BODHAUSEN~~ near Danzig December 1940 proceeded northabout to Atlantic and Indian Ocean via Cape of Good Hope

Ships sunk stated as ANTONIOS, AFRICA STAR, AGNITA, CRAFTSAN, BRITISH UNION, MAREEBA, VELEBIT STOMATICOS EMBIRICOS, NIKOKLIS, (not identified)

In particular stated that they had not sighted land since leaving Norwegian coast. 2 supply ships met with. Prisoners transferred to these, as reported to RADOLITE which ship was dispatched with a prize crew

(e) Generally considered with few exceptions survivor spoke the truth.

Name of Captain Dettmer (Commander of destroyer prior to taking up command of raider)

Captain is prisoner at Carnarvon and will be questioned with other prisoners.

1700Z/27.

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

Note: Three groups appear in the address which have a local signification which does not appear in W.R. copies of decode.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1st Lord. | Press Div. |
| 1st S.L. | D.C. (2) |
| 2nd S.L. | D.D.I.C. |
| 3rd S.L. | D.N.I. (4) |
| 4th S.L. | D. of P (2) |
| 5th S.L. | D.A/S.V. |
| V.C.N.S. | Hd of K. |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | I.P. (2) |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | N.I.D. 10 |
| A.C.N.S. (T) | N.L.O. Aust. Hse. |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | D.T.S.D. |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | |
| D.O.D. (F) | |
| D.D.O.D. (F) | |
| D.O.D. (H) | |
| D.D.O.D. (H) | |

maf.

MOST SECRET

2000Z/27 Nov.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From Australian Commonwealth Naval Board Date 1.12.41.
Melbourne.

Recd. 1213.

NAVAL CYPHER D by W/T.

Addressed S.O. Force G repeated New Zealand Navy Board Wellington,
C.in C. China, C.in C. East Indies.

Following passed to Admiralty for information.

Your 1344Z 23. On Australian Station policy has been to take ships in hand for repairs for 14 days every 6 months when operations permit. Leave has usually been granted during those periods.

(ii) Under foregoing conditions the following are dates on which ships should refit: H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA now, H.M.A.S. CANBERRA due now for partial modification and refit lasting 5 months, (?H.M.A.S. PERTH) May 1942, H.M.A.S. HOBART January 1942, H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE due now but can be kept running constantly by frequent visits to dockyard, H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA March 1942, H.M.A.S. MANOORA April 1942, H.M.A.S. STUART (?in hand) completes February 1942, H.M.A.S. VOYAGER in hand completes February 1942, H.M.A.S. VAMPIRE just completed. If H.M.A.S. CANBERRA is (?taken in hand for) long repairs, which has yet to be decided, no other refit will be possible in Australian dockyards without interfering with construction programme.

(?Current) state and changes. H.M.A.S. CANBERRA at Sydney; 7 days notice. H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA East Indies Station; H.M.A.S. HOBART Mediterranean Station; H.M.A.S. PERTH just commissioned in South Eastern area Australian Station and trans Tasman Sea escort; H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE efficient December and January escorting between New Guinea and Sydney then based Sydney; H.M.A.S. MANOORA, efficient, proceeding northabout to Singapore and East Indies Station to relieve H.M.S. KANIMBLA; H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA efficient, escorting East Coast Australia; H.M.S. MONTCLARE allocated to Australian Station date of arrival not known; H.M.A.S. STUART dockyard hands Melbourne; H.M.A.S. VOYAGER dockyard hands Sydney; H.M.A.S. VAMPIRE Singapore; H.M.A.S. VENDETTA dockyard hands Singapore.

(iv) It is unlikely H.M.S. KANIMBLA due Sydney in late December will give leave and refit.

(v) Will inform you of decision on H.M.A.S. CANBERRA as soon as possible.

2000Z/27

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

1st Lord	D. of P. (2)	D.C. (2)
1st S.L.	D.O.D. (F)	Head of M.
2nd S.L.	D.D.O.D. (F)	D.T.S.D.
3rd S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	D.D. I.C.
4th S.L.	D.S.D.	E.P.S.
V.C.N.S.	D. of L.D.	D. of D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.A/S.W.	N.L.O. Australian House
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.G.D.	
A.C.N.S. (W)	I.P. (2)	
N.A. 1st S.L.	W.D.	

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War Diary.27.11.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

2052/26.

By D/F at 2052/26 G.M.T. estimated position of U-boat was within 150 miles of 47° 00' N., 36° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0015Z/27, to C. in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, Opanav.)

HAWKINS.

Several U-boats are believed to be in your vicinity. Proceed at maximum speed that endurance will permit during daylight today 27/11.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 0950A/27, to HAWKINS.)

Off
Martinique.

R.N.O. St. Lucia reports:- U.S. Naval Authorities here have received report Bermuda stating that U.S. army bomber reports sighting submarine off North coast of Martinique afternoon 26th. Master S.S.LESLIE (corrupt group) report to me he sighted object which broke surface near ship in position 6 miles West of Basseterre Guadeloupe possibly submarine or whale.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1015Q/27, to Admiralty, C. in C.A. & W.I., D.N.I., Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington.)

Estimated approximate positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1418A/27, 1426A/27.)

Submarines Attacked.By SURPRISE
STARWORT.

SURPRISE 0616N/26 and 0701N/26. Contact was lost at 0732N/26. Two destroyers, two corvettes, two trawlers and aircraft sent to search. At 1444N/26 VANSITTART reported unknown ship probably U-boat using R/T with Velox call sign on 2410. At 0312N/27 STARWORT attacked contact in 7° 50' N., 14° 45' W., subsequently assessed not submarine. 1030N/27 search abandoned as ships required for other services. No sighting and no other ships in contact throughout.
(C. in C.S.A., 1647N/27, to Adty.)

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

The U.S. Naval and Military Authorities today sent out a telegram which placed their forces in the first state of readiness.

Home Commands.

Wick harbour was reopened at 0801 today.

Raiders B,
(KOMET)
Schiff 45

M.T.B's and M.G.B's from Dover at 0320 today off Blanc Nez attacked the escorts of a large vessel detected by R.D.F. at 0019 5 miles south of Boulogne. The escorting vessels appeared to consist of a number of "T" class T.B's, "M" class minesweepers and R-Boats. Our forces were unable to sight the main target but are confident that they damaged the enemy. Most of our vessels were damaged by enemy gunfire and there were some casualties.

C's. in C. today resumed responsibility for air reconnaissances in connection with the possible attempt of enemy units to break out into the Atlantic northabout.

British Air Operations.

The docks at Ostend and Dunkirk were attacked by Bomber Command aircraft last night.

Aircraft of Coastal Command today attacked enemy supply ships off the southern coast of Norway, sinking a small tanker in Hardanger Fiord and possibly doing other damage. Off the Hook of Holland a Flak-ship was set on fire.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

3 enemy aircraft raided Kola Inlet today and unsuccessfully attacked ONSLOW and OFFA as they were entering harbour.

S.S. MACBRAE and Norwegian S.S. KNOLL report that whilst in P.W.72 at 2130A today they engaged and hit by machine gunfire an enemy aircraft in 50° 29' N. 5° 20' W. The aircraft dropped no bombs.

Mining.

3 Hampdens laid mines last night in the Jade and Weser Rivers.

Ob: S.N. 25B

MENESTHEUS escorted by LANCASTER sailed at 1402A today for a minelaying operation N.W. of the Butt of Lewis.

Bristol Channel ports were opened today as yesterday.

North Atlantic.

The Admiralty today, in a message to F.O.C.N.A. laid down the policy to be adopted by H.M. Ships or aircraft with regard to attacking U-Boats in Spanish territorial waters.

Special measures are being taken by F.O.C.N.A. to intercept enemy U-Boats which it is suspected will try to pass into the Mediterranean in the near future.

/Owing.....

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Owing to an acute shortage of oil the Spanish Navy wish to send the naval tanker PLUTON to Venezuela to load for naval storage at Ferrol. N.A. Madrid, suggests no objection should be raised.

A report on Navy and R.A.F. co-operation at Gibraltar is made by F.O.C.N.A. today.

Mediterranean.

Operations
against
shipping
in Navarin.

6 Blenheims set out today to attack shipping in Navarin Bay in very bad weather. At least 5 hits with 250 lb. bombs were obtained on a 5000-ton tanker which was set on fire. SOKOL encountered nets when attempting to enter Navarin. From outside, she attacked a destroyer at anchor and obtained 2 probable hits.

S.S. EMPIRE
PELICAN,
EMPIRE
DEFENDER
sunk.

It is reported that these two ships, which were proceeding on Government service from Malta to Gibraltar were sunk by aircraft off Tabarka on the coast of Tunisia on 14/11 and 15/11 respectively, and that French naval units picked up survivors.

U-Boat Campaign.

U. 95 Sunk.
(Confirmed by
cmd 6843)

Netherlands S/M O.21 at 0030 today torpedoed and sank German U-Boat (believed to be (U.95) in 36° 21' N. 3° 27' W. (about 100 miles east of Gibraltar) and picked up the Captain and 11 other survivors. A second S/M is believed to be in the neighbourhood. It is thought the U-Boat sailed from Lorient on 18/11 and passed the Straits during the night 23/24 Nov.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Party for
Russia.

My 2305A/26. Cruiser must be 8 inch. (1st S.L. 1135A/28 to C. in C. H.F.).

Air
information
to
C. in C. H.F.

Cancel my 1128A/5 and A.M. 1042A/5. Commanders in Chief should resume normal control. (V.C.N.S. 1240A/28).

Collier for
Faroes.

Collier LESTO has only 350 tons remaining. In view of your 1125/26 request another collier may be sent as soon as possible Faroos. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1256A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

BELMONT.

Your 1305A/27. BELMONT will be required to escort AGAMEMNON and CALIFORNIA and will not therefore be available for service in place of READING. (D.O.D. H. 1349A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

Corvettes.

Your 1315N/26. I much regret that some of my corvettes recently sent to South Atlantic have proved unsatisfactory. Choice was severely limited as the corvettes had to be fitted for tropics and minesweeping and the best ships available were sent. My own difficulties will be appreciated when I tell you that, owing to defects, none of the eight corvettes sent from South Atlantic in exchange has yet been in service since their return, but I realise that this was no fault of yours. (C. in C. W.A. 1912A/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

Relief of
IMPULSIVE.

Your 1845N/27. Consider it particularly desirable that Capt. (D) 5 should remain at Scapa and that relief of IMPULSIVE should be by another destroyer. FAULKNOR will not be ready until 1/12 and requires practices and ECLIPSE is overdue for boiler cleaning deferred until refit. If immediate relief is necessary request one of 6th D.F. be sent back to Hvalfjord on completion of present duty. (R.A.D. H.F. 1941A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia.

LEDA.

Your 1312C/27. LEDA is to leave Archangel before any serious likelihood exists of being frozen in, damaged when leaving. S.B.N.O. Archangel pass to LEDA. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0929C/28 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Information for Ad. Miles.

I heard from C.N.S. today for the first time of KENYA's operation with Russian Naval Forces against Vardo on night of 25/11. Request again that I may be given previous warning of any intended operations in Russian waters. (Ad. Miles, 1519D/28 to Adty.)

Your 1444/23. Para. one was obviously a muddle. Information really required refers to Soviet Merchant ships and is:-

(a) Dates of sailing from British (including Empire) and American ports.

(b) Destination.

(c) Dates of arrivals and sailings from Persian Gulf where there are no Soviet representatives.

2. Above information should be sent to me.

(Ad. Miles 1532D/28 to Admt.)

Guns for Icebreakers.

Your 2017/27. All guns are for icebreakers.

2. Point five Vickers and 12 pounders will be most welcome and I trust will be shipped by the fastest route possible, possibly in one of H.M. Ships.

3. Your 2017/27 was received after my 1601D/28 was despatched. (Ad. Miles 1809D/28 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Falmouth A/A Defences.

Repeats C. in C. Plymouth 1609/26.

2. It is requested that Air Staff will appreciate and initiate any action considered to be desirable.

(D. of L.D. 0944A/28 to Air Ministry.)

Faroes A/A Defences.

Your 1228A/25. These additional four guns were allocated principally to give moral support to Faroes as Foreign Office reported that numerous unopposed attacks on Fishing Fleet and outlying villages particularly Klaksvig are having adverse effect on population in addition to causing losses of valuable craft. Admiralty have therefore agreed deployment.

2. This allocation is independent of replacement of 2 pdr. VIII by Bofors which will be effected as equipments become available when 2 pdr. will revert to sea service.

(V.C.N.S. 1737A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

MINERVE.
TRIDENT.

Codeword MINERVE, "Pulley one". TRIDENT, "Pulley two". (A.C.O.S. 0156A/28). Intend to sail TRIDENT and MINERVE at 1500A/28 escorted by LORD LLOYD. TRIDENT for Blyth E.T.A. daylight 30th, and MINERVE for Dundee E.T.A. 1730A/29 by the usual route. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1347A/28). My 1347A/28. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1510A/28)

INGLEFIELD.

Cancel my 0956A/27th. (R.A.D. H.F. 0920A/28)
See p.706

BERWICK.
ONslow.
OFFA.

Propose BERWICK, ONslow, OFFA should return to Scapa as soon as R.A.F. has embarked to avoid waiting for Q.P.4 which it is estimated will be ready approximate date when SHEFFIELD arrives. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1007C/28). *See also p.741* Arrival Murmansk BERWICK, ONslow, OFFA, STELLA CAPELLA, BUTE. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1030C/28).

BLANKNEY.
ARROW.
HARVESTER.

As soon as R.A.F. stores have been embarked request you sail ARROW, BLANKNEY and HARVESTER to Gibraltar. Ships are to proceed at best speed consistent with weather conditions and endurance of BLANKNEY and are to pass through position
A. 050° N. 015° W.
B. 045° N. 015° W.
C. 036° 30' N. 010° W. thence to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 1044A/28 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
Sailed ARROW, BLANKNEY and HARVESTER in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1044A/28. Code word "Rivet" to limit of aircraft range. Intended speed on passage 15 knots. Routed through Q.Z.F. 18. latest Q.K.A.49. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2103A/28).

SHARPSHOOTER.
HAZARD.
HEBE.

Amend R/V G. to 0900/1. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1143N/28 to SHARPSHOOTER).

H.44.

Your 1120A/28. My, P.C.S. 150° Nab Tower 4.5 miles, 300°, 5.5 knots. Escort in company. (H.44 1240A/28).

RORQUAL.

Sailed RORQUAL and CUTTY SARK in accordance with S.3's 2235A/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1240A/28).

/Floating.....

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements-Contd.Floating
Crane.My 1911/25, 1201/26 and 0934/27.
"Scent" sailed, all with K.B's except ^{Crane}CRANE and STALWART.Para. 1:- Tug STALWART in charge of navigation.
Tug EMPIRE HENCHMAN in charge of tow.

Para. 6:- Delete and substitute. Should tug STALWART run short of coal she has permission to leave tow and fuel. S.O. of escort will inform authority concerned. Unless very bad weather is encountered this should not be necessary. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1505/28).

TUNA.

TUNA is to leave patrol after dark/29th routed through 62° N. 2° 1' E. and 61° 30' N. 0° 10' W. to R/V in 060° 51' N. 000° 38' W. at 1200A/30 with escort for onward passage to Holy Loch.

(ii) TUNA is to proceed diving by day when East of meridian of Greenwich thereafter on the surface at C.Os. discretion.

(Capt. S.3. 1621A/28 to TUNA).

P.36.

R/V with M.L's 155 and 160 in 110° Start Point 3 miles at 0900/30. T.B.R. arranged between latitude 049° 30' N. and 050° 49' N. and longitude 003° W. and 004° 20' W. from 0001/30 to 1700/30.

(Capt. S.5. 1701A/28 to P.36).

9th M.S.
Flotilla.

Admty. 1725A/21. Request available ships of 9th M.S.F. may be sailed for Harwich to pass Sandhead Buoy at first light on 1st December. Subsequently proceeding by Q.Z.S. 117, 151, 306, 263, and 226 to destination. They should carry out Oropesa search sweep of Q.Z.S. 117 and 151 whilst on passage.

2. If weather is unsuitable on arrival in Downs they should proceed by Q.Z.S. 159, 181 and 212 to Southend for onward routing.

3. Request fighter protection for whole passage. (C. in C. Nore 2222A/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

ZULU.
SIKH.
FORTUNE.My 1601A/28 and F.O.I.C. Belfast 1537A/28.
ZULU, SIKH are to sail in company if no substantial delay is entailed. F.O.I.C. Belfast to arrange R/V.

2. FORTUNE is to proceed to Gibraltar at best speed by same route after fuelling at Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 2229A/28 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

COMMANDANT
DUBOC.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1702/28. Request you will issue onward route from position (C) Destination in first instance is Londonderry. (D.O.D. H. 2345A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

See also p 750

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.BERWICK.
ONSLow.
OFFA.

S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1007C/28. ^{p. 139} Concur. (At your discretion arrange to arrest (2 corrupt groups) enemy shipping between North) Cape and Petsamo on return passage Scapa. Report intention and route (? agreed) C.S.10.
(C. in C. H.F. 1058N/28 to BERWICK).

Engagement
off
Dunkirk.
M.T.B's
and M.G.B's
damaged.*Raiders B
(KOMET)
Schiff 45*

Admiralty 0905A/28. An R.D.F. plot of one large vessel and several escorts was detected 5 miles south of Boulogne at 0019/28. All available M.T.B's and M.G.B's, 8 and 2 in number respectively were sailed to intercept.

Wind was S.S.W. four, sea moderate to slight. Visibility poor. Contact first made off Blanc Nez at 0520 and thereafter intermittently until close to Dunkirk at 0530. M.T.B's made repeated efforts to locate the large vessel but only sighted escorting craft which appeared to consist of a number of "T" Class torpedo boats, "M" Class minesweepers, and "R" Boats. Very heavy gunfire was encountered but despite their persistence M.T.B's were unable to sight the main target.

One of the escorts was damaged by a depth charge and was last seen stopped with three "R" boats standing by. All our coastal craft have now returned the majority having received damage from enemy gunfire.

Casualties two officers one seriously and two ratings one dangerously wounded. Our casualties and damage must be considered very light in view of the strength of the enemy's escort and the duration and persistence of the attack and there is the keenest disappointment that the object was not achieved. (V.A. Dover 1202A/28). My 1202A/28. Fuller investigation has shown that M.T.B's efforts to locate the main target were carried out with great gallantry, the escort screen being penetrated both from seaward and land side. Their task was made more difficult by the enemy keeping close inshore, passing over in doing so a number of lines of our magnetic mines. Shore batteries fired numerous star shell but, in spite of the temporary illumination caused, no large ship was sighted. Owing to darkness and bad visibility contact with escorts was usually made at such short range that torpedoes could not be fired. M.T.B's and M.G.B's expended much ammunition in these unequal gun encounters and are confident of having done good damage. They report a new type of escort vessel not hitherto seen, longer than an R-boat armed with cannon type guns, and speed up to and possibly exceeding 30 knots. In a sortie supposedly made by R-boats about 2200/27 the enemy shot out the East Varne and No. 8 Light buoys presumably to deny us their use as navigational aids. This did in fact add to the difficulties of our craft in making accurate interception. (V.A. Dover 1555A/28).

/Patrols....

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations-Contd.Patrols.

Weather permitting available M.T.B's of 4th Flotilla are to carry out a patrol off Hook of Holland tonight. Surface vessels met Eastward of 5° 20' E. may be attacked without challenge. M.G.B's will be on patrols 'O' and 'P'.
(C. in C. Nore 1320A/28 to BEEHIVE).
3 A/S Trawlers patrolling Q.Z.S. 271 as far as Beachy Head turning to the westward by 0100/29.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1523A/28).
Patrol tonight. (1) Two M.G.B's Q.E. (3).
(2) Three M.L's Q.E. Six A, shifting to Q.E. Eight at 0330/29.
(3) Three M.G.B's Brown Ridge.
(4) Two M.G.B's I.E. (5). Two M.T.B's off Hook of Holland. (C. in C. Nore 1542A/28).
Add to my 1542A/28. 3 M.G.B's North of Brown Ridge leave Yarmouth 1800. (C. in C. Nore 1739A/28).

British Air Activity.Patrols.

My 1931A/26. "Polar" should be flown p.m. today and "Bear" tonight 28/29. (D.O.D. H. 1006A/28).
"Bear" in operation during night 27/28 except period 0100N to 0500N. "Polar" will be flown from 1200N to 1530N/28th. (A.C.I.C. 1121N/28).
"Bear" in operation from 1600. My 1121N/28th
"Polar" not flown. (A.C.I.C. 1828N/28).
"Bear" cancelled at 2100N/28. Thick fog.
(A.C.I.C. 2135N/28).

Bombing operations.

During day 27/11 there were no operations. On night 27/28 five A/C attacked the Docks at Ostend, where bomb bursts and fires were seen. Another A/C attacked Dunkirk Docks where bombs were seen to explode. (H.Q.B.C. 1500/28).

S.B.R.

S.B.R.'s arranged in (1) Area 52 east of 006° 30' W. from 1800/28 to 1200/30. 2. Area 53 from 0500/29 to 1200/30. (Capt. S.5. 1501A/28 to P.36).

Trials with WALLACE.

C. in C. Rosyth 0951/28, ^{N.T. by W.S.} 16 group A/C joining you for trial resumption 1000/29 in the vicinity of Sule Skerry weather permitting.
(C. in C. Nore 1641A/28 to WALLACE).

Contact with HAWKINS

A Sunderland will fly along your track tomorrow passing Scillies at first light. If sighted, pass her your E.T.A. Lizard and S. of A.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1856/28 to HAWKINS).

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Murmansk.

Enemy activity over Murmansk. No damage reported. (151 Wing 1830/28 to Air Ministry).

ONSLOW
and OFFA
attacked.

3 enemy A/C carried out raid Kola inlet (?) 1200G/28 and attacked ONSLOW and OFFA entering harbour. 7 bombs dropped from 3000 feet and none closer than 1000 yards. No damage. Fighter cover provided during daylight today, but no interception made due to low cloud. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1901C/28).

Mining.Bristol
Channel
Ports.

My 0924A/26. Similar procedure today. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0957A/28). Owing to minelaying, ports of Swansea and Port Talbot are closed until 1100/29. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2148A/28).

Sweep of
Faroes
Passage.

Your 1520A/27. Approved to ignore adverse tides when weather and swell are favourable except for one hour either side of lowwater. (A.C.O.S. 1145A/28 to S.O. 4th M/S Flotilla).

N.L.22.

Intend to carry out operation N.L.22 tonight. (V.A. Dover 1614A/28).

Thames
Estuary.

Air activity over the Thames Estuary on night 27/28 was marked between 1845 and 2150. A large number of plots was recorded in the area to the Eastward of the Thames Gate and at least five aircraft were seen and fired at near the Boom. The estimated height of most of them was 3000 feet or more. There were no reports of objects seen or heard to fall in the inner Estuary, except possibly one object at 2000 to South of Medway Gate. At 1920 two mines were seen to fall and others suspected to have been laid from one or more planes at 3000 feet height near B.4 Buoy (reported in X.D.O's 0915/28). At 1857 a plane flying Eastward over the inner Estuary when fired at replied with 2 red stars, an incorrect recognition signal. At 1915 an explosion similar to a premature mine was seen either on the land or shoals near Foulness. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1750/28).

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

E-boats.

Anticipate probable attack by E-boat(s) this Friday night on F.N.564 or possibly F.S.658. (C. in C. Nore 1748A/28).

Flak Ships.

Reference A.N.72 28/11 position of the two Flak Ships was approx 2 miles South West of Hook of Holland. (Acklington Intelligence 2359/28 to 18 Group).

Navigational.

Ice in Denmark Straits.

Ice R/C on 27/11.
(A.C.I.C. 0036N/28).

Wick.

Harbour opened 0801/28. (R.N.O. Wick 0811/28)

Knock Buoys.

As result of R/C by M.Ls today Kentish Knock, Middle Knock, South Knock and K.2 buoys are reported in charted positions. No. 53 buoy is 201=1/2 degs. 8 cables from charted position and North Knock Buoy is missing. (C. in C. Nore 1947A/28).

Casualties and Defects.

LEYLAND.

Arrived with defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0835A/28).

RENONCULE.

Arrived ROSELYS and RENONCULE. 0700.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 0924N/28).

VERITY.

My 1041A/27. VERITY is proceeding to Liverpool with defects. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0949A/28).

B. AIRNEVIS.
(torpedoed
24/11)

Chief Salvage Officer reports that timber cargo must be discharged with vessel beached in fairly protected position.

We propose if you concur to tow vessel to Humber and beach on Cleanness Sands. Can you make channel direct in from Cleanness Float to shore safe for this operation. If favourable reply, vessel will leave here in tow about 30/11. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1252A/28 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

/My.....

745

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.BLAIRNEVIS.
(Torpedoed
24/11)
- Contd.

My 1252A. Request information whether rescue tugs are to be used. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1716A/28 to C. in C. Nore).

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1252A/28 and 1716A/28.

F.O.I.C. Humber 1608A/28 and 1918A/28.

The most suitable day for this tow is 5/12 if Channel to beaching ground can be swept by this time.

2. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to report when he expects to be ready for beaching.

3. It is required that if possible tugs other than Rescue Tugs based on Yarmouth or Harwich may be provided. (C. in C. Nore 2008A/28).

DORINGTON
COURT.
(Grounded
26/11)My 1650A/27. Sailed SOUTHERN SPRAY escorting DORINGTON COURT, CARSLOGIE, and HEIMGAR to Clyde. Amended E.T.A. 1000A/29.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1508A/28).SNOWFLAKE.SNOWFLAKE has developed defects requiring 14 days to complete. There are indications that these are due to builders or subcontractors.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1555/28).HAWTHORN.HAWTHORN arrived Glasgow. Owners report following damage sustained at Tiree. Dry docking essential. At least 2 to 3 weeks required for repairs.
(P.S.T.O. West of Scotland 1700/28).EMPIRE
TARPON.My 1830/27. E.T.A. 1800/29.
(EMPIRE TARPON 1730/28 to S.N.O. Gourock).BOADICEA.N.O.I.C. Londonderry's 1105A/27. Arrangements can be made for BOADICEA to be taken in hand for damage repairs at Devonport.
(D.O.D. H. 2000A/28).Shipping and Convoys.O.G.77.

Sailed BLACK SWAN, FOWEY and CARNATION escorting O.G.77. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0014A/28).

D.S.17.Sailed NEWARK in accordance with F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1226A/27, and 2155A/27. ^{N.T. W.D.}
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0645A/28).

/SAN....

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

SAN
AMBROSIO.

Tanker SAN AMBROSIO will be discharged and ready to sail 1/12. If absence of Ocean escort can be accepted propose she should proceed to Iceland escorted by fleet trawler. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 0950C/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Scattered
Convoys.

When S.O's of escorts report a convoy has been scattered, they should include in their signal a recommendation for a R/V the following day, in order that a G.B.M.S. can be made to stragglers. (C. in C. W.A. 1042A/28).

O.G.77.
LASSO.

My 2008A/27. Delay was due to night leave being given by the Commanding Officer without my authority. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1133A/28).

Q.P.5.

The five Russian ships in P.Q.4 will be returning to U.K. in Q.P.5. (N.G.S.O. Archangel 1300C/28).

P.Q.5.
(EL OCEANO)
S.C.53.
(MERIDIAN).

P.Q.5. Request reasons why EL OCEANO did not sail in P.Q.5. Have you any news of MERIDIAN ex S.C.53. (D.T.D. 1346A/28 to A.C.I.C.) Your 1346A/28. OCEANO was unable to sail owing to illness of several members of crew. Necessary discharge two to Hospital and replace if possible. Ship will sail in P.Q.6. Senior Officer escort S.C.53 states MERIDIAN not in convoy. (A.C.I.C. 2137N/28).

W.S.14.

My 0108A/26. Cancel paras. 8 and 12.
2 A/S escort will be provided by
(a) HAVELOCK and BEAUFORT to Freetown fuelling at Ponta del Garda.
(b) NORMAN and NESTOR who will part company in a position which will be given in a later signal and proceed to Gibraltar.
(c) 10 destroyers to R.V(X) or the limit of their endurance.
3. RAMILLIES should detach HAVELOCK and BEAUFORT to fuel at Ponta del Garda as requisite.
4. Depending on date of completion GURKHA may be ordered to join the convoy and to leave it in company with NORMAN and NESTOR.
(D.O.D. H. 1710A/28).

/Diversion....

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Diversion
Code.

It is proposed to make the following additions to Convoy diversion code contained in A.M. 1748A/5th September -
1. Delete NO and substitute NJ.
2. Add (a) EH, EQ, EX to give wider berth to suspected area near the route.
(b) NK Route considered preferable from point of view of general U-boat situation.
Should be grateful for your concurrence in these proposals. (D.T.D. 1820Z/28 to Opanav).

C.W.58.

Completed passage without incident.
(C. in C. Nore 1841A/28).

Shipping
destinations
in far north.

Present indications are it will (?not) be necessary divert merchant ships to Murmansk before arrival P.Q.6 and probably not until P.Q.7. Admiralty pass to all addressees. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1910C/28 to, Address S.B.N.O. North Russia, Repeated Adty, Admiral Miles, C. in C. H.F.)

P.Q.5.

A.C.I. C.'s 1508N/27 and 1156N/28. Intend leaving Seidisfiord at 0900Z/30th for R/V in position G at 0900Z/1. (SHEFFIELD 2105Z/28 to SHARPSHOOTER).

P.W.B.72..

Owing to minelayers P.W.B. 72 is not to pass Scarweather before 1100/29.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 2158A/28).

HOLDERNESS.
MEYNELL.

Return to Sheerness with F.S. Convoy and not independently. (C. in C. Nore 2327A/28 to HOLDERNESS, MEYNELL).

28.11.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B
sunk

Torpedoed by O.21. (see U/boat Campaign).

U/B's. in
Spanish
waters.

Cancelled by
Admiralty
1031B
21.7.42
G.V.

- A.M. 1835A/26 (restricted circulation).
- A. H.M. Ships and aircraft by day or night may enter the territorial waters or air space of Spain. Spanish possessions or Tangier to attack any U/boat actually in sight or in contact.
- B. By day H.M. Ships or aircraft are not to patrol inside the above territorial waters.
- C. By night H.M. Ships only (not aircraft) may enter the above territorial waters in areas which are remote from civilisation.
- D. Care must be taken under no conditions to cause damage to persons or property on the shore.
- E. The instructions in A.M. 1224/24/2 are in abeyance.

(1st S.L. 0119A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.).

The territorial water or air spaces of Spain, Spanish possessions or Tangier may be entered by H.M. ships and aircraft both by day and by night to attack any U/boat actually in sight or in contact G.W.O.5 para. 8 and G.W.O. 92 will be amended.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1534A/28 to Gibraltar Force. Force H. Group 200).

French
shipping.

Passings 27/11. Eastward ALGERIE, FAUZON, KEROMAN, all full.
(V.A.C.N.A. 0915A/28).

Spanish
Navy
short of
oil.

Minister of Marine has asked me for advice in following case.
Spanish Navy is desperately short of fuel oil. Campsa Monopoly cannot supply amount required for simplest schedule. Cadet ship NEPTUNO programme cancelled owing to lack of fuel. Minister wishes to send Naval Tanker PLUTON to Venezuela to load 4,000 tons crude oil for Teneriffe Refinery. It will then be taken to Naval Storage at Ferrol. Payment to be made by Spanish Gov. Neither Campsa nor Cepsa will have anything to do with this except that latter will do refinery.
Navicert cannot be requested for Naval vessel and he does not wish even temporary abandonment of Naval Status of PLUTON even to extent of putting her under Naval reserve ensign. But there is no concealment of it. Amount will be discounted from quota.

/Have.....

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Spanish
Navy
short of
oil -Contd.

Have we any comment or objection? Submit no objection should be raised. Need is undoubtedly urgent. If you prefer I can request information of existing stocks in Naval storage and on board Naval vessels but this should be done when assented and not as a condition. Request instructions. (N.A. Madrid 1100/28 to Admty.).

M.L. 244

Your 2125N/25. M.L. 244 repairs completed yesterday. If weather appears favourable will sail her with FARADAY if you concur. (F.O.C.N.A. 1208N/28 to C. in C. S.A.). *See p. 752*

S.S. HANS
SCHMIDT
(German).

Arrival and departure Cartagena 28th. Iron Ore. Enemy destination. (Cartagena T.H.I. 1215/28 to M.W.T.).

Operations
by O. 21.

Sightings (F.O.C.N.A. 1510A/28) See Lion Copy.

A.S.
measures.

Your 1203A not to S.O. Force H. or Group 2. (?Highly) probable a number of U/boats will try to pass into Mediterranean in near future. (ii) Group one is to operate to Eastward of Meridian 7° W. between parallel of Cadiz and Larache but keeping outside 30 miles radius from Spartel during hours of darkness and west of 6° 5' W. unless in contact. (F.O.C.N.A. 1558A/28 to Capt. (D) 19).

Navy and
R.A.F.
co-operation.

Your 1431A/27.
(a) Co-operation extremely close despite lack of combined H.Q. which are now well under construction.
(b) Hitherto lack of sufficient aircraft has prevented exercises but communications are (?unchanged).
(c) R.D.F. surface plots are being used but organisation is still being developed and no satisfactory results have yet been obtained largely owing to lack of destroyers and difficulties arising from large amount of neutral traffic.
(d) No experience yet with Mark XIII pistols. Night contacts adequate. A.S.V. gear in Catalina definitely not efficient. Understand from A.C.M. Joubert that this is recognised and improvements are in hand. Snowflake equipment only received last convoy and ships are being fitted as they

MOST SECRET MESSAGE SECRET

749

MOST SECRET 1510A/28th November. IN.

From F.O.C.N.A.

DATE:- 28.11.41.

RECD:- 2235p

NAVAL CYPHER "C" BY W/T.

Addressed C.in C Mediterranean 323 repeated Admiralty, F.O.(S), S.O. Force "H", V.A. Malta, Capt.(S)1, Capt.(S) 10.

IMPORTANT

637 (a) [O 21] reports following sighting

	Date	Position	Composition	Course
(i)	1600 15.	041° 47' 012° 06'	One empty Tanker 5,000 tons One Ship 4,000 tons	
(ii)	1630 15.	041° 47' 012° 06'	One Destroyer One Loaded Tanker 4,000 tons One Torpedo Boat	Northbound
(iii)	0740 16.	040° 15' 009° 45'	One Ship 3,000 tons.	Southbound.
(iv)	(?17)30 17.	042° 05' 011° 43'	4 Ships 4 - 7000 tons One 21	Northbound.
(v)	1450 17	Off Civita Vecchia	One Ship entered Port	from North.
(vi)	0615 20	041° 21' 010° 19'	One Ship 6,000 tons. One Liner 2 Funnels 7,000 tons. One A.M.C.	210°
(vii)	0740 21	041° 56' 011° 28'	2 Ships One Liner 2 Funnels 2 A.M.C'S	050°
(viii)	0205 23	041° 36' 010° 50'	2 Ships One Liner 7,000 tons One A.M.C.	230°
(ix)	1630 25	039° 04' 009° 32'	One Ship 5,000 tons.	Westward round Cavali.

Number (ii) (iii) and (viii) were unsuccessfully attacked.

(b) Netherlands Submarine [O.21] sank by gunfire and remaining one, 500 ton and one, 250 ton sailing vessel in 041° 20' 010° 33' and 040° 56' 010° 23' at 2130 '22 and 0255 (?24)

(c) While returning to Gibraltar and in position 036° 21' 003° 27' West a German U-Boat was sighted at 2230

.....at

SECRET

- 2 -

at 0030 28. U.Boat followed Netherlands Submarine [0.21] and challenged. Netherlands Submarine [0.21] fired two Stern Torpedoes one of which sank U.Boat. Netherlands Submarine [0.21] rescued Captain 4 Officers and 7 ratings of total complement of 48.

As U.Boat challenged it is considered that she expected other U.Boats in the vicinity.

1510A/28.

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

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

* U.95

750

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Navy and
R.A.F.
co-operation
-Contd.

come in hand for boiler cleaning. AZALEA only completed.

(e) Daily average 3 to 4 Catalinas only available which have been fully employed on escort and R/C duties but rare opportunities for exercising fully taken advantage of. Efficiency consequently none too good.

(f) Existing patrol believed to be best. Adequate forces however are detailed as available.

(g) All available aircraft are now employed on A/S. At present only 6 Catalinas are serviceable.

(ii) Creasy's advice will be greatly appreciated.

(iii) Yes please (corrupt group) Tollemache if suitable officer available.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1600A/28 to Admty.).

COMMANDANT
DUBOC.

Ref. Admty. 2258A/25. Intend sailing F.S.M.

COMMANDANT DUBOC at (?10)00A/29 for U.K. routed through position (A) 036° 00' N. 010° 00' W. (B) 038° 00' 013° 30' (C) 045° 00' 013° 30' S. of A. 13 knots. Request destination and onward routing instructions.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1702A/28 to Admty.). See 6-740

CLYDE.

Intend to sail CLYDE P.M. 29 for A/S patrol in area 035° 50' N. 003° 20' W. -50-30.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1710A/28).

Catalina
patrols.

Understand Group Capt. Halley has received urgent signal from H.Q.C.C. that area 50 to 150 miles west of Portugal should be examined as closely as possible during next few days.

(2) With average of 3 to 4 Catalinas available daily to attempt this would leave none for close co-operation with hunting forces and I am not prepared to do so unless some intelligence of which I am at present unaware indicates that this is advisable.

(3) Moreover in conditions of good visibility now obtaining, and inefficiency of A.S.V. in Catalinas here, consider they are much better employed in close co-operation with hunting forces.

(4) I understood from H.Q.C.C. that inefficiency of A.S.V. of Catalina is well known and improvements are already in hand.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1742A/28 to Admty.).

Your 1742/28. H.Q.C.C.'s message was "for consideration" not an order, as a suggestion that Catalinas should be employed on long range work.

(D.O.D. (F) 1951A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.).

/Q24.....

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. -Contd.O.24.

Intend to sail Netherlands Sub. O.24. p.m./30 for patrol in area 040° 00' N. 013° 00' E - 80 - 110 routed through position B 036° 30' 00' 30' west C 038° 20' 00' 09° 00' east. O.24. will dive by day on 1/12 and pass through C about 2000/3 thence spend from p.m./4th to p.m./5th within 20 miles of Ustica Island. O.24 will return to Gibraltar on 23/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1810A/28 to C.in C. Med.) Cancelled by 2134A/29. q.v.

EMPIRE
AUDACITY
Operations.

Your 1554A/27 and Admty. 1943A/25 do not intend to embark Swordfish in ~~EMPIRE~~ AUDACITY except in emergency for following reasons: (a) Swordfish available are of V and W series (b) no R/T is (?supplied) (c) no observers or air gunners available in Gibraltar (d) operation in ~~EMPIRE~~ AUDACITY without extra wires not considered desirable.

(ii) ~~EMPIRE~~ AUDACITY will have 5 serviceable Martlets propose to operate her in accordance with your 1920A/ (?) as extra escort to H.G.77.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1840A/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

LEGION
ISAAC
SWEERS.

LEGION and ISAAC SWEERS are to adjust 4 inch Mk. XVI S.A.F. outfit to 150 per gun landing practice and H.E.T.F. as necessary. Report quantities after adjustment.
2. ISAAC SWEERS report amount of Bofors ammunition now on board.
(A.C.N.S.(W) 1931A/28 to F.O. Force H.).

South Atlantic.SEVERN

Your 1945/26. Approved. Regret no other submarine can be spared at present.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0052A/28 to C.in C. S.A.).

ASTER
MARGUERITE
ECHODALE.

Cancel my 1927 N 27. In view of the trend of events to southward am keeping ASTER and MARGUERITE with ECHODALE and they will therefore not escort W.S. 12 Z. R.A.S.A.D. may find them useful. I will get them on to the Cape as soon after 10/12 as possible.
(C.in C. S.A. 1115N/28 to Admty.).

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

WESTCHETAC

Overdue shipping. U.S. WESTCHETAC due Capetown 22/11 not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1155B/28 to Admty. etc.).

Gold Coast shipping.

Your 1311N/11. Subject to your being able to provide adequate patrols the M. of W.T. suggest that a temporary solution would be that one month's shipment from Accra direct to Ocean ships should be confined to one escorted convoy of four ships staying at Accra for 3 or 4 days. It is estimated that each ship should load about 600 tons cargo daily provided former loading facilities are still available.

2. The suggestion of coastal feeder service is being examined but it is feared that transshipment into ocean vessels will further congest the main ports.

3. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1202A/28 to C.in C. S.A.).

FARADAY COWSLIP

Your 1746A/26. Concur but would it be possible to sail FARADAY with local escort ahead of COWSLIP so that COWSLIP could overtake and continue escort to Bathurst.

(C.in C. S.A. 1231N/28 to F.O.C.N.A.). *See 12.7.49*
Reply yes. (F.O.C.N.A. 1105A/30).

W.S.12 Z. MILFORD.

Your 1927/27. I consider that all possible A/S escort should be given to W.S. 12Z.

2. The situation may have changed by the time W.S. 14 arrives in South Atlantic.

3. Even if MILFORD cannot get back to Freetown in time to leave with W.S. 14 she will be available to augment its escort in the Cape area. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1311A/28 to C.in C. S.A.).

See also next page

Diversion of M/V's.

Following from N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires (begins). In view of report from Chile of possible enemy activity I have been sending ships from Rio de la Plata bound for West Coast into Punta Arenas for onward routeing.

Request instructions as to advisability of continuing 1610/25. (ends).

(C.in C. S.A. 1513N/28 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

/ORONTES.....

War Diary.

28.11. 1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. -Contd.

ORONTES.

H.M.T. ORONTES has endurance of only 16 days at 18 knots insufficient for route in accordance with amendment F.O. 40 to Admty's 700'1/1/3? with sufficient reserve. Intend sailing her direct to arrive with three to four days reserve. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 1617B/28 to Admty.). Reference my 1617B/28 Master now states ship can only do direct route at 17 knots leaving reserve of 4 days. This includes allowance for zig zag. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 2345B/28).

→ CANTON
DEVONSHIRE.

CANTON is to R/V with DEVONSHIRE in 004° 00' N, 025° 00' W. at 1600N/30 and report to DEVONSHIRE the area which has been searched. (C.in C. S.A. 1721N/28 to CANTON and DEVONSHIRE).

W.S. 12 Z
escorts.

My 1923/27 and 1927/27. ASTER, MARGUERITE are not now available to join W.S. 12 Z.
(2) Anti-sub escort of this convoy will now be MILFORD, SOUTHWOLD, DULVERTON, VERBENA, HOLLYHOCK. All these and ROYAL SOVEREIGN fuel Pointe Noire.
(3) SOUTHWOLD and DULVERTON will be detached to fuel Simonstown and are subsequently to be sailed at best speed to Mediterranean.
(4) MILFORD, VERBENA, HOLLYHOCK will accompany convoy to Durban and will come under orders of N.O.I.C. Simonstown until further orders.
(C.in C. S.A. 2127N/28 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

see previous page

→ DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONSHIRE left Freetown p.m./28 for patrol in H. 34C. (C.in C. S.A. 2221N/28 to Admty.).

O.S.11.

Arrivals 28/11 with Convoy O.S.11. BRILLIANT, BERGAMOT, CROCUS, ORCHIS, SOUTHERN PRIDE, NIGELLA. (S.O.I. Freetown 2355N/28 to Admty. etc.).

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UTMOST.

Congratulations at his recent great success.
(F.O.S., 0001A/28.)

S.S. PLATIN.

My 1553B/27 fire on PLATIN extinguished.
(Smyrna, 0836N/28.)

Destroyer
hit by
SOKOL.

Mine reported between Pylos and (?) Spakteria Island. SOKOL reports encountered net when attempting to enter Navarin. Aerial photographs revealed nothing. From outside SOKOL attacked one destroyer at anchor and obtained 2 probable hits.
(Capt. S.1., 1145B/28 to TRIUMPH.) *See also p. 757*

Black Sea
Situation.

- (1) Military situation at Sebastopol unchanged but town considerably damaged.
- (2) No attempts as yet by Germans to cross Kerch Straits.
- (3) Unconfirmed report that 6 German and 2 Italian divisions are being moved from Roumania towards Turkish frontier.
- (4) Rostov is in Russian hands and Russians counter-attacking. Germans bringing up reserves.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 1214/28 to Admty.)

Your 1920B/18 (N.T. in W.D.)

It is not the intention to abrogate your responsibilities in any way.

2. The procedure outlined and which has worked well at home was laid down in view of difficulties in Naval areas abroad in co-ordinating the requirements of the Admiralty and Ministry of War Transport.

3. Conditions in the various areas differ widely in relation to Fleet requirements, Supply Services, both Naval and Military, and also to the need for maintaining at the highest level, the amount of merchant tonnage essential to the war effort.

4. In many cases reference home has to be made in order to divert shipping as necessary to make the best use of facilities and in some areas due to lack of co-ordination there have been unnecessary delays.

5. The purpose of the local committee subject to your over-riding authority would be to ensure a close liaison between the various interests and to smooth out difficulties due to demands for dockings and repairs being in excess of facilities available, but with the special conditions on your station you may desire to make other arrangements.

(Admty., 1312A/28 to C. in C. Med.)

755

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.3 enemy
destroyers.

3 NAVIGATORI Class destroyers one apparently from Argostoli 2 from the northward in 038° 03' N. 020° 21' E. course 155° speed 23 knots accompanied by aircraft.

(TRUSTY, 1401B/28 to S.1., (R) S.10, C. in C. Med., S.O. Force K.)

My 1401B/28. It is possible all 3 ships sailed from Argostoli. Rain squalls foiled my attack. Weather report.

(TRUSTY, 2021B/28 to S.1.)

S/M Patrols.

* P.34 leaves p.m./28th for area G 037° 30' 016° 05', 350° (? 49) 30 concentrating in vicinity of 037° 48' 016° 05'. Another submarine will leave p.m./1/12 for area E 037° 00' 015° 21' 350° 57' 20 concentrating in vicinity of 037° 57' 015° 30'. Maintain present position as far as possible in area F 037° 03' 015° 45' 350° 57' 20. Vital to stop petrol supplies next 10 days. Destroyers may be utilized for this and if encountered not acting as escort should be attacked torpedo fire being as for small merchant ship.

(Capt. (S) 10, 1630B/28 to UPHOLDER.)

* Sailed - see p. 757

S.S. SERAFIN
TOPIC,
Rubber for
Germany.

C.G. Tangier reports:- American Observer Oran informed 21/11 by reliable source that 96 goods wagons crude rubber arrive there 15/11. None of this has yet been loaded but it is understood that some is to be shipped in SERAFIN TOPIC Yugoslavian Steamer recently handed over Italy. It is hoped to receive advance news this ship sailing. Ends.

2. SERAFIN TOPIC is to be regarded as enemy ship for the purpose of para. 4 of my 0138/13. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1631A/28 to C. in C. Med.. V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H, (R) F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1748A/26. America reports crew of about 51 Italians arrived Oran this morning. (GREENLEAVES, 2321/28 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

OLYMPUS.

My 1158B/26th.

Amend route to pass through (? 036°) 30' 013° 30' after leaving 037° 16' 012° 56' 275

REGENT leaves Malta p.m./29th direct from North-west channel to latter (? position)

(Capt. (S) 10, 1717B/28 to OLYMPUS.)

/Air....

756

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Air
Operations.

1 Blenheim out to attack M/V off Tripoli see my 1258 found nothing. 5 Blenheims out to attack shipping Argostoli found 5 destroyers and 3 small M/Vs. Barrage by destroyers S.N.O. from shore so intense that no attack was made 4 - 250 lb. G.P. bombs dropped on sailing vessel 300 tons no hits. 1015 hours. 1 possible liner 4000 tons 162° Correnti Island 29 miles course S.

Night 27/28. Special Wellington search East Ionian Sea found nothing. 5 R.A.F. aircraft out to attack Castel Benito aerodrome in bad weather. One returned. Bombs dropped, 1850-1912 starting 2 fires. Bad weather at Benghazi. 21 Wellingtons highly successful attack Naples 1806 to 2105 hours. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/28.)

Hits Royal Arsenal Torpedo Factory I.M.A.M. Airframe Works Railway Junction Engine Sheds Railway Station Marshalling Yards Storage Depot 2 factories and A.G.I.P. oil storage setting 3 oil tanks ablaze huge column of smoke to 3000 feet. One 4000 lb. bomb on Royal Arsenal caused terrific red explosion. Sheets of flame from railway junction hit by 4000 lb. bomb rose to 200 ft. Total 16 fires some visible 50 miles. 1 C.R. 42 hit and driven off. 28th. Nothing seen by East Sicilian and Corfu Cephalaria reccos. Delivery Marylands sighted 0754 hours 1 Hospital ship 14000 tons 212°. Matapan 114 miles course 340°. 14 knots. 6 Blenheims out to attack shipping Navarin Bay in very bad weather. 1 bombed and machine-gunned 1110 hours 1 laden M/V 800 tons escorted 1 destroyer entering Navarin. Near misses. Remaining 5 attacked 1100 hours 1 tanker 5000 tons escorted 1 destroyer in Navarin Bay. Twenty 250 lb. G.P. bombs dropped on tanker mast height scoring at least 5 hits causing clouds black and white smoke and flames up to 200 ft. visible 50 miles. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1801/28.)

Air R/C
for Force K.
AURORA.
PENELOPE.
LANCE.
LIVELY.

Wellington call sign A M 9 D leaves 1930 reaching Navarin at about 2230 then turning down track to (? 1100) position then back eastwards previous course if time permits. Negative report by 0115/29 at which time return to Malta to usual code report by V S or W/T and linking report if possible. (V.A. Malta, 1837B/28 to S.O. Force K.)

/Intelligence....

757

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.→ Intelligence
for Force K
and C.S.7.

One destroyer speed 20 knots with important cargo expected to pass through 37.16 N. 19.00 E. at 1200/29 thence 157 until 1630 thence 203 until 2300 thence 155.

(ii) Only one destroyer in Navarin today one destroyer and one merchant ship approaching. Blenheims destroyed one tanker there.

(iii) Destroyers reported by TRUSTY 1401B/28 may take (? route) of (corrupt) present target. (V.A. Malta, 1918B/28 to S.O. Force K, (R) F.O. 7 C.S., ? C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Net
Defence,
Pylos.

Indicator net searched (? 30) feet stretched 130° from Plitlos (? Pylos) Light to mainland. H/F A/S transmissions occurred during the night across entrance.

(i) Net stretches from Pylos light in (? direction) 130° Southern shore. It held Pol. Sub. SOKOL proceeding 2 knots at 40 feet and fired indicator charge. SOKOL withdrew after few minutes by going astern, flooding and pumping (? proved) ineffective, depth remaining constant.

(ii) Net is invisible from surface and allows surface traffic to proceed unaffected.

(? Calculated) to stretch from 30 feet downwards and is patrolled by 2 motor boats who operate when indicator charge fires. Torpedoes fired successfully over net at destroyers in position 7 cables 010° from Pylos Island Light.

(iii) A/S transmissions at frequencies above 10,000 kcs. recurring from sunset to sunrise across entrance. Shore defences observed near Pylos Island light and new earth works and emplacement noticed between bearings 116° and 135° from same position. Lamp communications between these 2 places and Pylos (? utilized) frequently at night.

(Capt. S.10, 1925B/28, 2051B/28 to TRIUMPH.)

See p. 754

→ Force K.

Arrival UNBEATEN. Departure AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE, LIVELY, *P.34, on 28/11.

(V.A. Malta, 2008B/28 to Admty.) * *See p. 755.*

U/B.

One unidentified S/M on surface 031° 53' 029° 04' (? which dived) immediately.

(PROTEUS, 2120B/28 to Capt. S.1.) *See also p. 763*

→ Enemy
Unit.

Italian W/T activity probably Cruiser between 060° and 075° from Malta.

(V.A. Malta, 2307B/28 to S.O. Force K., C.S.7.)

/Italian...

~~SECRET~~ SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2030B/28th Nov.

IN

757A

RECEIVED:—

From C. in C., Mediterranean.

DATE 30.11.41.

TIME 1628.

SECRET.

Cypher "D" by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated N.O.I.C. Malta.
V.A.L.

550. Flag of Vice Admiral Pridham-Vippell
KCB, CVO, has been transferred to H.M.S. VALIANT.

2030B/28

1st Lord.)
) Only.
1st S.L.)

IC.

W.D. - 1/2/42.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Italian
battle
fleet.

There are indications that Italian battleships and cruisers may be at sea. (D.D.I.C., 2011A/28 to C. in C. Med., C.O.I.S. Alexandria, V.A. Malta, S.O. Force K.)

SOKOL.
attack on
destroyer.

Mines reported between Pylos and Spanteria Island. SOKOL reports encountering nets when attempting to enter Navarin. Aerial photographs reveal nothing. From outside SOKOL attacked one destroyer at anchor and obtained 2 probable hits. (Capt. (S) 1, 2155B/28 to TRIUMPH.)

Intelligence
for TRUSTY,
PERSEUS.

R/C indicates likelihood of additional A/S patrol in your area during next few days. (Capt. (S), 2351B/28 to TRUSTY, PERSEUS.)

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

JUPITER,
ENCOUNTER.

Departure 0245Z/28.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 0430Z/28).

PRINCE OF
WALES.

Wearing flag of S.O. Force G arrived Colombo
0400Z/28. (C. in C. E.I. 0432Z/28).

DAUNTLESS.

Colombo departure 0455Z/27. (S.O.(I) Colombo,
0630Z/28).

Q message.

Ship West of Karachi who originated a QQQQ
message about 0850 G.M.T./28 report name and
position. (C. in C. E.I., 1116G.M.T./28 to
G.B.M.S. 3 B).

BRAUNFELS,
DRACHENFELS,
EHRENFELS,
(German)
ANFORA.
(Italian).

Recent reports indicate that enemy ships,
refuging at ~~Marmagao~~, India may try to escape.
List as side heading. (D.S.815)

x marmagao

Defences
Nancowry.

My 1550/25. In fourth sentence for "Removal
exercises" read "Maintenance might become
impossible".
(C. in C. E.I., 1134A/28 to Admty).

Jibuti.

Re terms of surrender. (C. in C. M.E., 2255/28
to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

China.

Saigon
Telegram.

Following for C. in C. Far East from Chiefs of
Staff. Number F.E.46. Ref. telegram No. 266
from Saigon to F.O. What do you make of this
and what preparatory action, if any, do you
propose?
(1st S.L., 0110A/28 to C. in C. China)

/VILLE....

759 A
ET

MOST SECRET

MOST
SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

2255/28/November.
2236/28/November.

From C.in C. Middle East East

Date 29.11.41.

CYPHER

Time 0145

Addressed The War Office
MOST IMMEDIATE

14823 31976 cipher 28/11 MOST SECRET

Following addressed Mideast received from E.A. Command Force Nairobi No. 0/5/26 T.O.O. 1810 of 27/11. Begins. Please pass Foreign Office. For Minister of State.

One. Further reports fair reliability surrender Jibuti imminent. French Officers have been addressed and have agreed not to join Free French Forces after surrender. Informant states demolitions to harbour and railway will be carried out unless British Government guarantees repatriation all French Personnel to France or French colonies.

Two. Have arranged pamphlets to be dropped emphasising "Assurance has already been given that French citizens who do not wish to join Free French will be repatriated as soon as arrangements can be made provided no destruction of railway or port or essential services takes place." This pamphlet merely confirms pamphlet repeatedly dropped by Free French giving similar promises.

Three. Anticipate Governor may surrender subject to proviso (A) Colony not handed over to Free French or (B) no Free French allowed in Colony until repatriation French Troops and citizens completed. Require your instructions. Am I to insist on unconditional surrender in terms of Wavell's letter 30th May. If unconditional surrender to British insisted upon may involve delay in negotiations giving more time for demolitions and increasing friction. On other hand if I accept proposals Colony handed over to British only until repatriation Vichy French completed will involve partial British occupation Jibuti which is completely against agreement arrived at with Free French by which no British Troops enter the Colony. Free French anxious to enter Jibuti for propaganda purposes and will strongly oppose compromise. Governor not in position to haggle for long. Our. Would welcome assistance Mr. Hopkins when terms surrender negotiated.

2255/28.

From C.in C. Middle East

2236/28 November.
Date 28.11.41.
Recd. 2330

CYPHER.

Addressed G.O.C. in C. East Africa Repeated The War Office (Pass Foreign Office)

MOST IMMEDIATE.

14790
23904 cipher 28/11 Most Secret

I am repeating your 0/5/26 to London for instructions.

-2-
SECRET

If you have to take decision before reply is received you should act in accordance with directions given in Mideast telegram No. 96752 of 27/8/41 and in particular with instructions received from Prime Minister which were as follows.

Begins. If Governor wishes to surrender to British Troops rather than to Free French this should be accepted even if it means the exclusion of Free French from area thereafter though this should if possible be avoided. Ends.

2. In view of these instructions you are not bound by terms of Wavells letter of May 31st.

3. I assume possibility you contemplate is surrender unconditional except for A or B in your para 3. You should of course endeavour to secure wholly unconditional surrender but A would be accepted if means only that formal surrender would be made to British and not to Free French. If however it is more than a formal surrender and means that Colony is to remain in British occupation this would raise serious difficulties and expose us to charge of taking French territory. Such condition should not be accepted without further reference to me. B could be accepted if you consider there are strong grounds for doing so.

Pass to Foreign Office only.

2236/28

Recd from W.O. P.M./29th November.

1st Lord	S. of S.
1st S.L.	C.I.G.S.
V.C.N.S.	V.C.I.G.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.M.O. & P
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.P. (2)
P.A.S. (S)	D.D.M.O. (O)
D.O.D. (F)	M.O. 1, 5, 11
D.D.O.D. (F)	D.M.I.
D.C. (2)	D.D.M.I. (I)
D.N.I. (4)	M.I. 3, L.
D.D.I.C.	D.D.I.P.
Ad. Chalmers	Spears Mission (Mr Smith)
E.P.S.	20 Mil. Mission
Hd. of M.	Major Morton 10, Downing St.
I.P. (2)	Mr Coulson Cabinet Office
W.D.	Mr. Lloyd Colonial Office
D. of P. (2)	Mr. Mack Foreign Office
	Mr Mackereth Foreign Office
	C.N.S. Admiralty
	C.A.S. Air Ministry
	D. of Plans Admiralty
	Colonel Jacob
	Admiral Chalmers Admiralty
	Mr. Morris M.E.W.
	Mr Caccia Foreign Office
	D. of Plans Air Ministry

War Diary.28.11.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China - Contd.→ VILLE DE
VERDUN.
(French).

From Saigon. Arrived 27/11. (Saigon, 0259Z/28 to M.W.T.)

Suspicious
Ship 23/11.

Ref. S.O.(I) Wellington 0354Z/12 Para. 2. S.O.(I) Wellington reports that at 0550Z/23 sighted in 010° 34' S., 177° 19' W., unidentified large ship apparently tanker. Description flush hawser deck, funnel aft, 3 masts. Course 270°. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0347Z/28 to Admty).

DRAGON.

Arrived Singapore 28/11 from Escort Duty. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0947Z/28 to Admty etc).

U.S.N.
Liaison.

Your 2026/19. I concur in principle with C. in C. China but propose to make further signal after visiting Manila. (S.O. Force G., 1050Z/28 to Admty).

Liaison
with
Netherlands
C. in C.Ref. C.O.S. F.E. No. 36.
1. You will repeat to Netherlands Naval C. in C. in Netherlands East Indies and to U.S. Commanding General in Far East (a) any telegrams which you may send under the instruction of para. 3 of above telegram (b) any message which you may receive from any of the authorities mentioned in paras. 4 and 5 of above telegram.
2. Netherlands Govt. have instructed their diplomatic representatives in Tokyo, Chungking, Shanghai, and Bangkok to pass on to H.M. Representatives for transmission to you any warning sent by them to Dutch Govt. in London. Any message you receive from above posts should be repeated as stated in para. 1 (b) above even if originating from Dutch.
3. Netherlands Govt. have agreed to procedure suggested in last sentence of para. 5 of C.O.S. F.E. No. 36. U.S. Govt. have not yet agreed.
4. Please confirm with Netherlands Naval C. in C. and U.S. Commanding General that they will similarly inform you of any information they may send to their Governments. (W.O. 1630/28 to C. in C. Far East).→ VILLE DE
VERDUN
(French).Following is a repetition of my 1218/27:-
My 0327/26, VILLE DE VERDUN arrived Saigon 27/11. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1746Z/28 to Admty).

War Diary

28.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Norfolk sailed.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0900Z/28 to Admty repeated B.A.D. etc).
ILLUSTRIOUS 1812R/27. Concur in ILLUSTRIOUS remaining at Jamaica until 6/12. B.A.R.M. pass to FORMIDABLE.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/28 to B.A.R.M.)
ILLUSTRIOUS 1812R/27. No objection.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1345A/28 to B.A.R.M.)

H.X.162
escort.

H.X.162 Unit 4.1.1 designated escort. Composition CHARLES F HUGHES (S.O.) GLEAVES, (?LANSDALE) MADISON, STURTEVANT. (O.P.N.A.V. 1345/28).

THORSHOVDI
collision.

H.X.161 (THORSHOVDI)(Nor) returned after collision with escort vessel.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1352Z/28 to Admty).

BATTLEFORD
(S.C.57).

BATTLEFORD departed Sydney as part of escort S.C.57 to (?Western) R/V thence St. Johns N.F. (N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., 1405Z/28 to S.O.I. Halifax).

ROXBOROUGH.

My 1702/27 ROXBOROUGH can be received at the Navy Yard Charleston. Request ship may arrive as soon as possible and date communicated.
(B.A.R.M., 1530R/28 to Admty).

WARSPITE.

Your 1724R/27. No, but work should be progressed as far as possible without delaying ship. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1638A/28 to B.A.R.M.)
(amended 1648A/29)

Falklands
Defences.

Please supply information as to defences of the Falkland Islands to meet request from Navy Department. (B.A.D., 1959R/28 to Admty)
Reply: 1033/30.

Casablanca
Intelligence,
ALGERIE,
FAUZON,
RHEA.

My 2017/22. Casablanca 26/11 (1) ALGERIE which was to have left on 22/11 with 2640 tons of Manganese has been delayed to take on further commercial cargo. She sails P.M./26 in convoy with FAUZON carrying 7000 tons Grain for Marseilles and Tanker RHEA with Peanut Oil for Algiers, escorted by 1 destroyer.
(B.A.D. 2047R/28 to S.O.(I)s. Freetown, Gib).
N.I.D. Comment: ALGERIE and FAUZON passed Gibraltar eastwards on 27.11.41. There is no information concerning movements of Tanker RHEA.

War Diary

28.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Destroyers
from Med.

Your 1639A/31 C'wealth Govt. approve that 4 Australian destroyers should (?join) China Station as they become ready for service. Anticipated dates of completion of refit in Australia of STUART and VOYAGER are end of March and end of February respectively depending upon receipt of essential materials from U.K. (A.C.N.B., 0527Z/28 to Admty).

Raider
Identity.

My 1700Z/27. Consider KORMORAN was raider "G" (?number 41) namely STEIERMARK (vide C.A.F.O. 422 number 645). Second (?Engineer) states that ship was STEIERMARK. (A.C.N.B., 0812Z/28 to Admty etc).

CAP DES
PALMES.

Your 1515A/25. British Consul Noumea confirms that CAP DES PALMES sailed for Papeete. (A.C.N.B., 0837Z/28 to Admty).

LE
TRIOMPHANT.

Your 0800Z/25. Programme approved. (D.O.D. (F), 2150A/28 to LE TRIOMPHANT).

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Re attacks on U/B's. in Spanish territorial waters. (1st S.L. 0119A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)
See North Atlantic.

S/M sighted
off
Martinique

S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1015Q. Request U.S. Authorities ~~to~~ be asked for further details of sighting.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302Q/28 to B.A.D Washington).

1414A

There may be a U/B in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1414A/28 to P.511).

Estimated approx. positions of U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1416A/28, 1432A/28).

26/11

Ref.
R.N.O: St. Lucia 1015Q/27. U.S. S.S. LESLIE sighted object 1750Q/26/11. U.S. Navy plane Pat. 99008.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1552R/28 to Admty. etc.)

2120B

One unidentified submarine on the surface position 031° 53' 029° 04' (?which) (?dived) immediately.
(PROTEUS 2120B/28 to (S) 1. Repeated S/Ms. on patrol). *See p 757*

Submarines Attacked.

By O.21
U.95 sunk.

Torpedoed German U/B in 036° 21' N. 003° 27' W. 12 survivors. Second believed to be in neighbourhood. (O.21 0050A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.) (F.O.C.N.A. 0406A/28 to Admty.) 1044A/28 to C.in C. Med. V.A. Malta, Admty. V.A.C.N.A. 0406A/28. Name of Captain 'Gerd Schrieber'. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1506A/28 to Admty.). At 0030/28. U/B followed O.21 and challenged. O.21 fired 2 stern torpedoes, one of which sank U/B. O.21 rescued Captain, 4 officers and 7 ratings of a total complement of 48. As U/B challenged it is considered she expected other U/B's. in vicinity. (F.O.C.N.A. 1510A/28). F.O.C. North Atlantic 1044A/28. Believed to be U.30 sailed Lorient 18/11 passing Straits night 23/24 November. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1708A/28 to Admty.) My 1708A/28. For U.30 read U.95 (S.O.I. Gib. 1152A/30). My 1044A/28. In view of the desirability of establishing as soon as possible date of passage through Straits, knowledge of other U/B's. in company, and lack of early opportunity for return of prisoners to U.K. I have authorized interrogation of these prisoners. (F.O.C.N.A. 1926A/28 to Admty.)

War Diary.

28.11.1941
Friday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. -Contd.

By LADY
MADELaine

LADY MADELAINE sighted p/c. obtained contact and dropped pattern d.c. Regained contact, sighted c.t. fired 2 rounds, dropped 2nd pattern ditto lost contact. Area searched nothing further found. Escort rejoined convoy. My position is 059° 28' N. 015° 15' W.
(BEAGLE 2130Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.) BEAGLE escorting convoy O.N.40 (D.O.R. 29/11).

765

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The LÜTZOW at Kiel was seen undocked this afternoon.

Convoy F.N.564 was reported to have been attacked by E-boats early this morning between Cromer and the Outer Dowsing. S.S. ASPERITY, and CORMARSH were sunk, but it is thought that the former at least may have been sunk by mines laid by E-boats and not by E-boat torpedoes (See also 30/11 Mining) To cover the retirement of the E-boats the most northerly of the 3 units of M.G.Bs. patrolling near Brown Ridge was ordered to move to the northward. M.G.Bs. 86 and 89 engaged one or two E-boats, which were hit many times but escaped; M.G.B. 89 was hit some 30 to 40 times and was damaged and had some casualties. Weather conditions prevented air co-operation.

37 ships of Convoy S.C.53 have arrived after being delayed 5 days by re-routeing and bad weather: S.S. EMPIRE DORADO was sunk in collision on 20/11, and S.S. MERIDIAN and CRUSADER were missing at M.O.M.P.

Convoy S.C.54 of 64 ships has arrived complete.

British Air Operations.

Two Hudsons of Coastal Command bombed two enemy coastal merchant ships this afternoon near the Maas Light and badly damaged or destroyed one of them.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Owing to further minelaying last night it will not be possible to revert to normal working in the Bristol Channel for at least 7 days. Until further notice Swansea and all ports to the east of Swansea will be open from 1100 until 2200 daily.

North Atlantic.

It is stated that Yugoslav S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC at Oran, which the Vichy French recently handed over to Italy is to sail with crude rubber for the enemy. Netherlands S/M Q24 leaves Gibraltar tomorrow to try to intercept the ship off Oran, but F.O.C.N.A. considers her chance of selecting the correct target is slight especially if the ship is in convoy.

Mediterranean.

Operation
B.S.

There were indications last night that Italian battleships and cruisers might be at sea. THRASHER, P.31 and UPHOLDER were ordered to patrol in the approaches to Taranto and PERSEUS, THUNDERBOLT, TRUSTY and TRIUMPH to carry out operation B.S. further to the southward. P.34 is to take UPHOLDER's place covering the S.E. approach to Messina. S/M P.31 reported at 1720B having hit 3 enemy warships in a force of 3 cruisers and an unknown number of destroyers which she attacked in 39° (or 32°) 20' N., 17.33 E. (about 70 miles S.S.E. of Taranto). Although due to return to Malta a.m./30 she has been ordered to remain on patrol unless her torpedoes are expended. (it was subsequently reported that P.31 fired at a cruiser, which she probably sank).

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War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

2 enemy torpedo bombers attacked D.2. at 1635 without making any hits.

→ S.S. SURCOUF.

French S.S. SURCOUF (intercepted by CORNWALL 25/11) arrived at Aden today under armed guard.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

Eight Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night and later 26 Wellingtons bombed the harbour and shipping. 2 ships were hit in the latter attack, one by a 4,000 lb. bomb.

5 naval aircraft made a successful attack on Castel Benito aerodrome.

6 Blenheims attacked shipping in Navarin Harbour at 1055 today, but owing to bad visibility only 2 were able to drop their bombs after diving; the remainder did not see the target.

The 4th Indian Division report that an enemy ship has landed supplies 5 miles east of Mersa Lucca.

East Indies.

→ S.S. SURCOUF.

In view of a reported threat that, if SURCOUF was captured on voyage to Jibuti, Vichy French would begin sinking British merchant ships without warning, C. in C. E.I. suggests they be informed that SURCOUF is being detained for examination but that if Jibuti surrenders she will at once be released to continue her voyage.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Hongkong harbour was closed to shipping from sunset today until sunrise 30/11.

America & West Indies.

A "Q" report was made by British WEST POINT at 0518 N today in 51.39 N., 41.21 W. Admty consider this was probably on sighting a vessel from a recently scattered convoy.

Further sailings of Vichy French ships from U.S.A. to French North Africa are at present suspended. Admiralty instructions regarding interception of French ships are in 2204A/29 which cancels the instructions given on 24/11

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy O.S.12 escorted by 6 sloops, with WESTON as S.O. was attacked at 0212Z/29 in 41.12 N., 29.48 W. S.S. THORNLIEBANK was torpedoed and blown up. This was the first loss from U-boat attack reported for 17 days. TOTLAND who was escorting sighted and attacked a U-boat.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

PUCKERIDGE,
WHEATLAND,
for H.F.

A.M.1603/26. PUCKERIDGE, WHEATLAND detailed from Portsmouth Command. PUCKERIDGE is not fitted with Oerlikon guns. Reference C.A.F.O. 1378/41 para 2, request these be allocated immediately as a special case. It is intended to remove the mark VIII pom-pom in the eyes of the ship before sailing, as experience has shown that it is of little use under open sea conditions.

This will leave ship with no effective close range A.A. weapon forward unless Oerlikons are fitted. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1027A/29).

New
Destroyers.
Proposed
allocations.

The following allocations of new construction destroyers have been decided. LOOKOUT and LOYAL will join 19th D.F. in Force H.

2. M. Class will join Home Fleet. They will form part of 17th D.F. until completion of MILNE in August 1942 when they will constitute the 11th D.F.
3. NORSEMAN will join 7th D.F. in Mediterranean Fleet.

4. NOBLE and NONPAREIL will join C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

5. Remainder of "O" Class will join 17th D.F. in Home Fleet.

6. "P" Class will constitute the 12th D.F. and will join Mediterranean Fleet.

7. All the above will work up independently for about one month probably at Scapa before joining their respective commands.

8. Any or all of these destroyers may be required for service in hot climates at short notice and should be prepared accordingly.

9. Destroyers allocated above to Home Fleet should be prepared for service in Arctic waters similarly to other destroyers now in Home Fleet but without prejudice to dates of completion. (1st S.L. 1933A/29).

Co-operation with Russia.

Alleged
sinking of
Enemy
Cruiser on
27 /9.

Russians are perturbed at seeing the names of all four German light cruisers always cropping up in our disposition signals. They are still convinced they sank a cruiser believed to be KÖLN Class off Oesel Island on 27/9 and they say they saw this ship sink. Two enemy destroyers are also claimed on the same day.

2. Can you throw any light on this?
(Ad. Miles, 100-D/29 to Admty).

U-boats.

Soviet aircraft to indicate to British warships U-boats sighted. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1647C/29)
See U-boat Campaign.

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War Diary.29.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.1st M/S
Flotilla.

Admiral Commanding White Sea Forces desires BRAMBLE, SPEEDY, and SEAGULL to carry out A/S search between Gorodetsky and Ponoï between 0900 and 1500 to-morrow. S.B. land aeroplane will co-operate, using procedure in my 1647C/29.

2. On completion Admiral wishes S.O.1st M.S.F. to proceed to Molotovsk to discuss method of carrying out clearing sweep. Fuel and provisions can if necessary be provided for all three ships. Icebreaker will meet off Bar.

3. Molotovsk expected to remain clear of ice until 5/12. Request immediate decision on both proposals. If approved S.L. 1st M.S.F. report exact time of arrival off Bar.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1655C/29 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

Defence of U.K.Clyde
Boom.

Recent heavy gales have demonstrated that another BAR Class Vessel is urgently required for Boom maintenance. Therefore request that conversion of VAILLIANT may be given a high priority so that on completion she may relieve BARBARIAN and the latter then freed for maintenance work. (F.O. Greenock, 1045/29).

Falmouth
A/A
Defences.

Admiralty 0944A/28 requesting appreciation and/ ^{action} with regard to reinforcing A.A. Defences of Falmouth. Agree with you that one Hy. A.A. Battery should be despatched from I.A.Z. for this purpose. Request that immediate action is taken to implement this plan.
(H.Q.F.C., 1720/29 to A.A. Command).

Belfast
A/A Defences.

Your 1037A/28. An Oiler will always have to be at Magilligan. It is only necessary to earmark one permanently and use it for mounting Bofors guns. As far as is known, FOSSBECK is not likely to move and could also be used for mounting guns. The Oiler with destroyers alongside it will always be the most important target at the anchorage and guns mounted here will be most effective.

Failing approval, suggest the MAUNSELL TOWERS might be used. An early decision is necessary as FOSSBECK is shortly refitting, and F.O.I.C. Glasgow has been informed by Admiralty that it is not desirable that S.S. FOSSBECK and PRESIDENT SERGEANT should mount guns as these vessels may be transferred to other waters.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1824A/29 to Admty).

x not identified.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

P.551.

E.T.A. Position D 0300G.M.T./1.
(P.551, 0515Z/29).
DANEMAN is to R/V with P.551 as arranged by S.3 and escort to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 1113A/29 and 1154A/29 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).
C. in C. W.A. 1113A/29 and 1154A/29 (1) Request DANEMAN may be sailed as necessary to R/V with P.551 in position 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0900A/1st and escort her to Holy Loch (11) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested arrange fighter co-operation for passage from Barra Head to Holy Loch, speed of advance 12 knots.
(Capt. S.3., 1317A/29 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).
(1) P.551 is to R/V with DANEMAN in position 270° Barra 10 miles at 0900A/1st and proceed in company to Holy Loch. (2) T.B.R. within 30 miles Barra Head from 0800A/ to 1600A on 1/12 have been arranged. (Capt. S.3., 2201A/29 to P.551).

EDINBURGH.

Scapa arrival C.S.18 in EDINBURGH.
(A.C.O.S., 0923/29).

SCOTT.

1. SCOTT will be required for operations under C. in C. H.F. from 19/12.
2. Request she be sailed to arrive Scapa on that date. (V.C.N.S., 1043A/29 to R.A.M.)

SIKH, ZULU.

Intend to sail SIKH 0830A/30 to R/V with ZULU at Lough Foyle Buoy 1230A/30, thence to Gibraltar in accordance with your 1601A/28, S. of A., 20 knots. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1237A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

TRIDENT,
MINERVE.

RIVER LOSSIE will meet you at No. 23 Buoy and escort MINERVE into Dundee. TRIDENT pass to LORD LLOYD. (Capt. S.9., 1241A/29 to TRIDENT, MINERVE).

BELMONT.

My 2154A/24. Sail BELMONT at best speed when ready. Route to St. Johns N.F.
(C. in C. W.A., 1254A/29 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

BERKELEY.

Fuel permitting proceed Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1650/29 to BERKELEY).

War Diary.29.11.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Convoy F.N.564
CORMARSH
(British,
2848 tons)
sunk.
ASPERITY
(British
Tanker 699
tons) sunk.
M.G.B. 89 and
one E-boat
damaged.

Am standing by torpedoed ship by 58 A buoy. (GUILLEMOT, 0549A/29 to VIVIEN).
My 0549. CORMARSH. Have picked up whole crew 3 slightly injured. Am attempting to tow clear of channel. Request tug may be sent. Slight hope of salvage. Position 58 A buoy. (GUILLEMOT 0627A/29).
Departure Tug SUPERMAN to assist ship in distress in vicinity of 57 C Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0758A/29).
Departure Tug SABINE at 0800 to assist CORMARSH. (F.O. Humber, 0800A/29).
CORMARSH has now sunk in 053° 15' 50" N., 001° 03' 45" E. (GUILLEMOT, 0820A/29).
Arrival M.L. 145 at 1110 with 4 survivors from ASPERITY. (F.O. Humber, 1115A/29).
Arrival GUILLEMOT at 1130 with survivors from CORMARSH. (F.O. Humber, 1144A/29).
Details of E-boat attack on F.N.64 not yet known. Attack took place at about 0445 between 57C and 58A buoys. Steamships ASPERITY and CORMARSH known to be sunk. Survivors landed at Humber. M.G.B.'s intercepted and heavily engaged E-boats about 60 miles E.N.E. from Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore, 1151A/29).
My 0917. AFTERGLOW located straggling. Reports ASPERITY sunk in 053° 11' N., 001° 07' E., approximately. Sank in 2 minutes at 0438. 4 survivors picked up by AFTERGLOW were transferred to Motor Launch number not known. (WHADDON, 1155A/29).
Total crew 26 including 4 D.E.M.S. of CORMARSH landed Grimsby. Hit by two torpedoes from E-boat just N. of 58A buoy at 0530/29. Sank 0900 in 53° 15' 50" N., 01° 03' 45" E. (F.O. Humber, 1416/29) 2 D.E.M.S. Second Engineer and Fireman ASPERITY landed Grimsby after being picked up by last ship of convoy F.N.64. Engineer reports ship torpedoed port side between tanks and engine room at 0430/29 and sank in five minutes. Nothing known of remaining ten members of crew. (F.O. Humber, 1600A/29).
My 1151A/29. Preliminary report of C/F activity on night 28/29.
Three units of 70' M.G.Bs. were detailed to take up outer interception patrols, one north of Brown Ridge, one on Brown Ridge, and one to S.W. of Brown Ridge at dusk. On E-boat activity being reported in vicinity of 57C Buoy at 0500/29, M.G.Bs. 86, 89 and 17 on the northern patrol were ordered to move 10 miles north to cover possible retirement of E-boats to Den Helder. M.G.B. 17 broke down, but M.G.Bs. 86 and 89 complied and made contact with one E-boat steering to eastward at 0615. Action developed at 400 yards range with M.G.B. 89 astern and not in contact. M.G.B. 86 overhauled the E-boat which took avoiding action. 86's Oerlikon jammed at this stage and E-boat was lost sight of.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Convoy E.N.564
CORMARSH
(British
2848 tons)
sunk.
ASPERITY
(British
Tanker 699
tons) sunk.
M.G.B. 89 and
one E-boat
damaged.
Contd.

Two or three minutes later 86, now with 89 in close company, sighted an E-boat possibly not the same one on the starboard bow. Action developed for some 20 minutes with 89 closing to 50 yards and 86 engaging with available weapons, Oerlikon still being jammed. During this phase 89 was hit some 30 to 40 times and damaged, Oerlikon Gunlayer killed, and four men wounded including 1st Lieut., the E-boat whose fire was accurate escaping. M.G.B. 89 reports only overhauling E-boat at about 3 knots when proceeding at his utmost speed of about 48 knots. Both C.Os. report hitting enemy many times.
(2) Inner patrols near Leman Bank and Hearty Knoll saw nothing.
(3) Weather conditions precluded air co-operation
(4) M.T.Bs. 30 and 34 on patrol off Hook of Holland report no activity there between 2030/28 and 0430/29. (C. in C. Nore, 1432A/29).

Trials.
(WESTCOTT).

WESTCOTT's 0930/28 and C. in C. W.A. 1744A/28. Amend my 1250/26 as follows. (C.A/S.E.E., 1031A/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Patrols.

Weather permitting a unit of M.T.Bs. from 1st Flotilla is to patrol between Ostende and Flushing tonight. If conditions are favourable Flushing Roads should be visited. Surface vessels met Eastward of 2° 40' E., may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore, 1100A/29 to BEEHIVE).
Patrol tonight (1) 3 M.G.Bs. 52° 53' N., 3° 8' E.
(2) 2 M.Ls. Q.E. (3) (3) Motor Launches Q.E. (6.A). (C. in C. Nore, 1607A/29).

Combined
Exercise
(PRINCE
CHARLES,
ETTRICK,
KEREN).

My 0012/29. Programme. Details. (V.A. C.T.C., 1129/29 to C.Q.11).

Search of
Northern
Coasts.
(BERWICK).

Your 1058N/28. Intend to leave Kola Inlet 1600C/30 with ONSLOW and OFFA approaching Tana Fjord from the Northward about 2200/1 and searching coast to North Cape until about 0300, thence to Northward until clear of bomber range, thence to Scapa through 73° N., 26° E., 73° N., 15° E., 69° N., 3° W., 62° 30' N., 5° W. Speed of advance 14 knots. C. in C. Northern Fleet and S.B.N.O. North Russia concur. STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE will return to Iceland with Q.P.4. (BERWICK, 1709C/29).

/Following....

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search of
Northern
Coasts.
(BERWICK).
Contd.

Following for information addressed N.O.I.C. Weymouth from N.O.I.C. Portland. Established N. Patrol tonight commencing Eastern. End. T.O.O. 1215/29. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1752/29 to BERKELEY).

Firing off
Gorodetsky.

2 Unknown ships reported firing off Gorodetsky 1000 today. Was this you please, if so what were you firing at? S.B.N.O. Murmansk pass to BEDOUIN. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 2325C/28 to BEDOUIN).

British Air Activity.

A/C Trial
off Skerry.

Cancel my 1641/28. Weather unsuitable. (C. in C. Nore, 0845A/29 to WALLACE).

HAWKINS.

My 1856/28. 1 Hudson will repeat operation tomorrow. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1911/29 to HAWKINS).

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C over
Scapa.

At 1304 today one Ju. 88 passed over Scapa Flow and was fired on. Height 15,000 feet and plane must have seen into fleet anchorage. (A.C.O.S. 1356A/29). Your 1356A/29. Request report whether (A) R.D.F. gave warning of the approach of this A/C (B) A/C was engaged by fighters. (C) To what extent A/C was engaged by A/A guns. (1st S.L., 2320A/29 to A.C.O.S.)

Mining.

Sweep of
Faeroes
Passage.

Weather permitting S.L. 4th M/S F. intends operating on 30/11 between 1200 and 1600 and subsequent days between 1000 and 1600. Request air escort. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 0121A/29 to A.C.O.S.)

Explosion off
Cromer.

Very heavy explosion in 053° 09' 30" N., 001° 08' 30" E. Am investigating. (WHADDON, 0447A/29).

MENESTHEUS,
LANCASTER.

Arrived MENESTHEUS and LANCASTER. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 0843A/29).

/Bristol....

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Bristol Channel.

Owing to further minelaying it will not be possible to revert to normal working in the Bristol Channel for at least 7 days. Until further notice Swansea and all ports to the East of Swansea will be open from 1100 until 2200 daily.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0952A/29.)

Thames Estuary.

One S.A. Mine detonated at 1041/28. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1126/29.)

Appledore.

My 2225/28. Port will be open from 1500/30.
(N.O.I.C. Appledore 1725/29.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats.

One E-Boat position 170° Outer Dowsing Light Vessel 20. (GUILLEMOT 0425/29.)
4 E-Boats operating in vicinity 57 C Buoy. (SOUTHDOWN 0455/29.)
The following has been read. One E-Boat position 064 Y.A.R. 30. (Yarmouth W/T 0735/29.)

Unknown Ships.

Plot of unidentified ships 255° Lizard Head 10 at 1644, and 204° Lizard Head 10 at 1705, both proceeding Westerly. Have you sighted anything. (C. in C. Plymouth 1730/29 to BERKELEY.)

TIRPITZ.
EMDEN.
LUTZOW.

P.R.U. Kiel 1330/29. TIRPITZ and EMDEN present. LUTZOW present but undocked.
(D.D.I.C. 2019A/29.)

Navigational.

Straits of Dover.

East Varne and No.8 Light Buoys missing from Station. Request Q.Z.H.
(V.A. Dover 1516A/29) (Hydrographer 1844A/29.)

Casualties and Defects.

KINGSTON
ANDALUSITE
(Collision
27/11)

KINGSTON ANDALUSITE was in collision with M/V position 244° Portland 7½ miles. Anticipate temporary repairs will be completed at Portland p.m.1st. Request refitting yard be allocated observing she will require docking to effect permanent repairs.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1135/29.)

/LEDAAL ...

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

LEDAAL
(Broke down
27/11)

ST. OLAVES towing LEDAAL in thick fog off No.6 buoy, speed four knots. Please warn shipping. (? ATJEH 0110A/29 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Arrival ST. OLAVES with S.S. LEDAAL in tow. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1415A/29.)

CAPE COMORIN.

CAPE COMORIN's 1010/29. CAPE COMORIN is to be detached to arrive Plymouth 0930/30 for defects to be taken in hand for refit. (C. in C. Plymouth 1506/29.)

RUNA
GROTTA.

Icelandic trawler RUNA from Seydisfjord, and Faroe Islands trawler GROTTA from North Icelandic Coast, both considerably overdue at Liverpool. Request any information. (N.C.S.O. Fleetwood 1648/29 to N.C.S.O. Stornoway.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.4.

Convoy P.Q. four arrived 2100C/28. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 0930C/29.)

Q.P.4.

S.B.N.O. Archangel 0950C/28. STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE not ready to sail before 3/12. It was necessary to water these ships at sea from Destroyer on passage out. Unless return is urgently required propose SAN AMBROSIO and both trawlers return with Q.P.4. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1046C/29.)

S.C.53
P.L.M.13

Delayed five days by re-routeing and adverse weather. 37 ships in company at M.O.M.P. EMPIRE DORADO sank as a result of collision on 20/11. MERIDIAN and CRUSADER not accounted for. All other ships reported. P.L.M.13 arrived Reykjavik for fuel. (D.T.D. 1707A/29 to Opnav.)

P.Q. and
Q.P.
Convoys.

Reference C.B.04024 para.83. The following sections only should be signalled to the Admiralty and repeated to above addressees and Senior Officer of escort. 1, 2, 3, 8, 8A, 9 and 13A. This should be included in one signal. (D.T.D. 1710A/29 to N.C.S.O. Archangel.)

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

O.N.J.40.

COLUMBIA and SKEENA sailed 1500 with Oiler
CLODORA and 1 Merchant Ship. GALT at 1700.
Remainder delayed by weather.
(A.C.I.C. 1716/29.)

S.C.54.

Warmest congratulations on again bringing
in safely your Convoy S.C.54.
(C. in C. W.A. 1821/29 to Vice-Admiral
G. Macworth.)

LEAMINGTON.

LEAMNATON (Sic) reports starboard propeller
damaged and only slow speed available on
starboard engine. HECLA making examination.
(A.C.I.C. 1903N/29.)

War Diary.29.11.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T./30, requires 150 tons fuel. Request arrangements may be made. (F.O.C.N.A., 0320A/29, to N.A. Lisbon N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

COMMANDANT
DUBOC.

My 1702A/28. Departure COMMANDANT DUBOC, no "Q" messages held. Constant wireless watch on 500 kc/s with call sign ZYW.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1042/28 ? 29 intended).

PONTET CANET.
CAUDEBEC.

Arrival Setubal 25th PONTET CANET. Departure 28th CAUDEBEC (Navicert) Casablanca 30th. (Lisbon 1159/29 to M. of W.T.)

S/M
Torpedoes.

C. in C. Med. 1040/B/16. Request you will also take advantage of destroyer opportunities. It is not intended to embark additional torpedoes in destroyers for Atlantic passage, but shipment of further reserves of submarine torpedoes to Gibraltar are in progress. (D.O.D. (F) 1219A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CORINTHIAN.
CIRCASSIA.
MARSDALE.

CORINTHIAN left vicinity 33.00N37.00W at 1200/29 to R/V with S.L. 93 (ii) CIRCASSIA on patrol in the vicinity of 34.00N39.00W. Situation 2001A/29 MARSDALE on patrol F.X.2. (F.O.C.N.A. 1350A/28 (?29)).

NESTOR
GURKHA
ammunition.

Request you will arrange for NESTOR to embark 5000 rounds Oerlikon additional to outfit for transfer to Gibraltar reserves. 2. GURKHA should adjust 4 inch Mark XVI S.A.P. outfit to 150 rounds per gun landing practice and if necessary H.E.T.F. Request report quantities after adjustment. (D.G.D. 1546A/29 to C. in C. Plymouth, repeated F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

SERAFIN
TOPIC.

Your 1621A/28 (1631A intended understood SERAFIN TOPIC will load some crude rubber at Oran) not to Capt. (S) 8. Request detailed description of SERAFIN TOPIC. (F.O.C.N.A. 1608A/29 to Admt.) Your 1608A/29. Details not known for certain but probably:- Three Island Tramp, straight stem, counter stern, one funnel, two masts, speed about 8 knots. (D.D.I.C. 1924A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.) A.M. 1631/28 and F.O.C.N.A. 1810/28. In view of great importance of sinking SERAFIN TOPIC this objective for O.24 should take preference over patrol ordered in F.O.C.N.A. 1810/28. (V.C.N.S. 1813A/29 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med.)

/Your.....

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SERAFIN
TOPIC -
Contd.

Your 1813A/29. Cancel my 1810A/28. Intend sailing O.24 for close patrol off Oran as neither route nor destination of SERAFIN TOPIC is known. O.24 leave Gibraltar 1700A/30 diving by day. Request early (? reply to) my 1608A/29. Consider chance selection correct target slight, especially if in convoy. N.O.I.C. Malta pass to Capt. S.10. C. in C. Med. pass to Capt. S.1. (F.O.C.N.A. 2134A/29 to Admty. repeated, C. in C. Med. etc.)

A/S patrol
for CLYDE.

My 1710A/28, sailed. (F.O.C.N.A. 2004A/29 to C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

"Q" Report
WEST POINT.

Following has been read: Received on 500 K/c's From Unknown (Station unread) QQQQ Armed Merchant Ship Raider 1° 9' N., 41° 21' W. WEST POINT, suspicious. (Freetown, Ascension Radio 0518N/29) W.D. Note:- Another version (see America and West Indies) gives position 51.39 N., 41.21 W. Freetown - Ascension's 0518N/29. This message was originated by Br. WEST POINT in 51° 39' N. 41° 21' W. probably on sighting vessel from recently scattered convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1128A/29 to C. in C. S.A.)

A/C
Patrols.

Admty. 2329/23/11. I intend using two Walrus from N.F.S. ^{Wynberg} WYNBERG to augment Anson Patrols. Para W, delete W.2. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0957B/29 to C. in C. S.A.)

? WARTENFELS.

Report graded A.3. states German ship has sailed from Diego Suarez destination unknown. No date is given and report presumably refers to WARTENFELS. Ship was previously incorrectly reported forming part of "Bellringer" Convoy. My 0852/26/10 refers. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1112B/29 to Admty. etc.)

/ECHODALE.....

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

ECHODALE.
DORSETSHIRE.

Your 1145Z/27. ECHODALE on board on sailing 7676 tons fuel, 1195 tons diesel. Aviation spirit 87 Octane 145919 gallons, 100 Octane 102519 gallons. Aero shell lubricating oil 10859 gallons. Fitted for stirrup and trough methods. 430 feet 5½ inch 430 feet 5 inch hoses on board. DORSETSHIRE fitted R.D.F. type 286 P. One Walrus A/C. (C. in C. S.A., 1351N/29 to R.A.S.A.D.)

KAJAK.
(Esthonian)

KAJAK sailed from Buenos Aires P.M./29 destination said to be Montevideo. Have no knowledge of her probable movements. She has been in Buenos Aires since August 1940. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2227Z/29 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

→ PERSEUS.
→ TRUSTY.

My 2331B/27. Establish patrol as follows as soon as possible after 1800B/30: TRUSTY and PERSEUS North and South respectively of 038° 11' within 48 miles 038° 11', 020° 21' and West of 020° 35' and 020° 42' respectively. PERSEUS pass through 035° 35', 021° 10' and 037° 20' 020° 26'. (Capt. S.1, 0023B/29 to PERSEUS, TRUSTY). Cancelled, see 1145B/29. p. 782

P.31.
UPHOLDER.

P.31 return to area R. UPHOLDER Cape Colonne forthwith. (Capt. S.1, 0131B/29 to P.31, UPHOLDER).

→ PERSEUS.
→ THUNDERBOLT.
→ TRUSTY.
TRIUMPH.

Operation B.S. (? Establish) patrol line by 0400B/30 4 - 035° 50' 019° 35' - 060° - 15 - 330° - 15. S/Ms are to take up positions as follows:-
(a) (?035°) 50' 019° 35' PERSEUS.
(b) THUNDERBOLT.
(c) TRUSTY.
(d) TRIUMPH.
(Capt. S.1, 0133B/29 to S/M's named).

P.34.

UPHOLDER has been ordered to Colonne. Proceed to her position in area F to cover S.E. approach to Messina. (Capt. S.10, 0243B/29 to P.34).

/Libya.....

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya.

Military Situation Reports. (C. in C. M.E. 0530/29, 1840/29, 2336/29) See Lion Copy.

VIRGILIO
(Italian)

Reported on 29/11 she would arrive at Naples on afternoon of 30/11. (D.S. 817).

ROMA.)
AUGUSTUS.)
VULCANIA.)
(Italian))

C.2 report states were at Genoa on 16/11. (D.S. 817).

THRASHER.
P.31.
UPHOLDER.

Establish patrol line 3 - 039° 13' 017° 29' - 050° -18 - 140 - 30. UPHOLDER in position H 039° 13' 017° 29, P.31 J, THRASHER K. Heavy unit of enemy fleet expected to proceed S shortly. (Capt. S.10, 0530B/29 to S/M's named).

→ Force K.

Return to Malta before dark today. (V.A. Malta, 0941B/29 to Force K.) Your force was probably sighted by enemy A/C at 1055 G.M.T. today 29/11. (R.A. Alexandria, 1612B/29 to S.O. Force K.) Possible enemy S/M 25 miles 150° from Delimara. (Malta, 1620B/29 to S.O. Force K.)
→ Force K. 29/11 arrivals, AURORA, PENELOPE, LIVELY, LANCE.
→ Force B. AJAX, NEPTUNE, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY. (V.A. Malta, 2240B/29 to Admty.)

HASTY.
NIZAM.

Join Capt. D.2. leaving Alexandria now for A/S hunt. (R.A.D. Med., 1026B/29 to HASTY, NIZAM). See also p.782

→ Force K.
→ Force B.

C. in C. Mediterranean. Repeated Admiralty. Intend to sail Force K and Force B under C.S.7 at 0500B/30 to arrive in approx. 035° 40' N. 019° 20' E. by dusk, object destruction of Convoy. A.S.V. ~~WILKINSON~~ will assist in search. (V.A. Malta, 1034B/29 to C. in C. Med.)

Operation
B.S.

Bring into force condition A. (Capt. S.1., 1035B/29 to S/Ms. on patrol).

/A/S.....

MOST SECRET

Pass of 1330/20th November IN

MOST SECRET

Date 29.11.41
Recd. 0510

From C. in C. Middle East.

CIPHER

Addressed: The War Office. (Pass to Air Ministry)
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

0/32052 cipher 28/11. Most Secret

14852. Office decipher. Cositrep No. 20.

1. Reference Cositrep No.18. Fourteen enemy tanks and much M.T. destroyed by 7 Armd. Div. Enemy prevented from moving west scattered north east and southwest. Several vehicles surrendered to 4 Armd. Bde. in exhausted condition T.C/R reported further battle in progress same area morning 28 Nov. and L.O. from 30 Corps confirms that about sixty enemy tanks engaged by 4 and 22 Armd. Bdes of which fifty tanks possibly including some dummies driven south east are being chased by 22 Armd. Bde. 1030 hrs. 4 Armd. Bde. refuelling.

2. Ariete Div. comprising forty five tanks encountered support group area Gabr Saleh morning 28 Nov. and were driven north east 1030 hrs. Support group ordered to prevent junction of Ariete with force being pursued south east by 22 Armd. Bde.

3. Dawn 28 Nov. Enemy Column attacked N.Z. Div. Cav. Regt. and H.Q. 5 N.Z. Bde. near Sidi Azeiz. N.Z. Div. Cav. Regt. forced to withdraw to area Sidi Omar no news 5 N.Z. Bde.

4. Enemy columns in 4 Ind. Div. area make communications difficult. 5 Ind. Inf. Bde. having been relieved in railhead area by 2 S.A. Div. have moved forward 28 Nov. to area south and east Sidi Omar.

5. N.Z. Div. are meeting stiff resistance and there are some maintenance difficulties which tend to impede progress.

6. Tobfort have captured 79 field and medium guns of which 20 have been recovered.

7. Air. Night 27/28 Nov. Weather bad with 5/10 cloud at 3000 feet. Fifteen Wellingtons attacked M.T. between Faidia and Gobianni Berta causing continuous large explosions among vehicles. Albacores made very effective attack on enemy column northwest of Sheferzen.

8. Day 28 Nov. Bombers. Attack on Sheferzen column repeated and enemy force on Trigh Capuzzo

near.....

SECRET

near Gabr el Arid bombed. Two Blenheims shot down by intense A.A. fire.

0330/29
Received from War Office 0820/29

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)
 A.C.N.S. (V)
 M.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.
 L.A/S.W.
 D.M.S.
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 D.C. (2)
 Hc. of M.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.S.S.
 D.P.D. (2)
 M.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr. Wilson
 L.G.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 L.P.D.

War Office Distribution:-

S. of S. Advance Copy D.C.
 C.I.G.S. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.
 V.C.I.G.S. D.P.D.
 D.M.O. & P.
 D.D.M.O. (0).
 D.P. (2).
 M.O.I.S. 6.
 D.D.I.P.
 D.M.I.
 D.D.M.I. (1)
 M.I. 3. 14.
 D.A.F.V.
 Colonel Jacob.
 C.A.S. Air M. (2)
 D. of Plans Air Min. (2)
 Plans 3, Air Min. (2)
 D.O.O. Air Min. (1)
 D.M.C. Air Min.
 P.S. to S. of S. Air Min. (2)
 A.C.A.S. (1) Air Min.
 Air Min. War Room
 Duty Capt., Admiralty (2)
 Sec. of State, Foreign Office.

NMB

7815

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1840/29 November IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 29/11/41
Recd. 2025

CYPHER

Addressed War Office. (Pass to Air Ministry). Repeated
C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

15012. 0/32282 cipher 29/11. MOST SECRET.

Cositrep No. 21.

1. 13 Corps report enemy tanks and M.T. moving west
from Dir El Chleta withdrew eastwards 1230 hrs. 28 Nov.
Heavy engagement was in progress 1400 hrs. between 7 Armd.
Div. and about seventy enemy tanks area 4340. At 1645 hrs.
4 Armd. Bde. reported holding 22 Armd. Bde. giving ground
slightly. 1 S.A. Bde. moving north to Sidi Rezegh.

2. Liaison officer returned from visit to H.Q. 4 Ind.
Div. reports all three Omars held by us. Enemy reported
German hold strong point two miles north west of Libyan Omar
and believed being supplied from Bardia. Strong mobile force
which has successfully cleared area south east of Sidi Omar
ordered to operate 29 Nov. against this enemy supply line.

3. L.R.D.G. still patrolling in enemy back areas.

4. Liaison officer from Jalo reports seven hundred
prisoners captured, our casualties only twenty.

5. Tobruk. 28 Nov. we captured 428418 with several
hundred prisoners. H.Q. 13 Corps due to move through corridor
into perimeter night 28/29 Nov.

PART TWO. Air.

6. 27 Nov. fighters shot up Martuba main landing ground.

7/.....

MOST - SECRET

7. ~~28 Nov. 1942~~ cruiser six ships including three possible destroyers in Benghazi. Also large number aircraft Derna including thirty JU 88s.

8. Bomber. Ref. Cositrep 20 para. eight. Very low cloud hampered bombing in morning. Blenheim squadron obtained good results in attack on M.T. North of Bardia - Tobruk Road. Two Blenheims shot down by A.A. fire, one missing. Aircraft of three Blenheim squadrons operating singly with cloud cover destroyed one large aircraft damaged two on Gazala north landing ground. Buildings at Beda Littoria and Lamluda hit, also M.T. at latter. One Blenheim missing.

9. Fighter. Throughout day fighter sweeps over Tobruk and battle area sighted one ME 110 only which they shot down. One sweep shot up twenty M.T. in afternoon exploding ammunition lorry. Four Hurricanes missing.

10. Night 28/29 Nov. Wellingtons dropped thirty six tons bombs on shipping and quays Benghazi. Two ships hit. Small fires started on quays. Weather good.

11. Enemy action. Evening 28 Nov. enemy set one dump on fire at railhead south of Sidi Barrani.

1840/29

1st Lord.		Recd. by hand from War Office at 0055/30 Nov.
1st S.L.		Copies circulated by War Office to:-
4th S.L.		S. of S. D.M.I.
5th S.L.		C.I.G.S. D.D.M.I.(1)
V.C.N.S.		V.C.I.G.S. M.I.3.14.
A.C.N.S.(F)		D.M.O. & P. D.A.F.V.
N.A. 1st S.L.		D.D.M.O.(0) Col. Jacob.
D.O.D.(F)		D.P.(2) C.A.S. Air Min.(2)
D.D.O.D.(F)		M.O.L.5.6. D. of Plans
D.C.(2)	W.D.	D.D.I.P. Air Min. (2)
D.D.I.C.	N.I.D.10	Plans 3 Air Min. (2)
D.N.I.(4)	(P.C.W.)	D.O.O. Air Min. (1)
Hd. of M.	D.P.D.	D.M.C. Air Min.
D. of P.(2)		P.S. to S. of S. Air Min. (2)
E.P.S.		A.C.A.S.(1) Air Min.
D.N.A.D.		Duty Captain Admiralty (2)
I.P.(2)		Air Ministry.. War Room.
		S. of S. Foreign Office.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN 2336/29th November.

FROM: C. in C. Middle East. Date: 30.11.41.
Recd: 0200.

CIPHER.

ADDRESSED: The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE.
15032. 0732478. cipher 29/11.

Cositrep No.22.

1. Ref. Cositrep No.21 para 1 enemy withdrew N.E. no reports tank casualties either side.
2. 28 Nov. enemy approach Sidi Resegh from south but were beaten off, ten German officers and six hundred C.Rs captured. Commander 21 German Armad. Div. is in hands of New Zealanders.
3. Ref. Cositrep No.21 para 2. now established that all enemy forces operating in rear of our forward positions have been supplied from Bardia area. Steps being taken to stop this.
4. R f. Cositrep No.21 para 2 4 Ind.Div. reports enemy holding defended locality Nezeut Ghirba 507368.
5. Ref. Cositrep No.20 para.3 H.Q.4 Ind.Div. in W/T touch with two Bns.5 N.Z.Bde.N.E. of Capuzzo. Third Bn. believed area 506398, still no trace Bde. H.Q.

(C.C.M.E. 2336/29, 640)
~~Recd by Hand from War Office at 0420/30.~~

To: M.O.5 (for action)
Copies circulated by War Office to:-

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | S. of S. |
| 1st S.L. | C.I.G.S. |
| 4th S.L. | V.C.I.G.S. |
| V.C.N.S. | D.M.O. & P. |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | D.D.M.C.(0) |
| N.A.1st S.L. | D.F.(2) |
| D.O.D.(F) | M.O.1.5.6. |
| D.D.O.D.(F) | D.D.I.P. |
| D.D.I.C. | D.M.I. |
| D. of P.(2) | D.D.M.I.(1) |
| D.C.(2) | M.I.3.14. |
| D.N.I.(4) | D.A.F.V. |
| Hd. of M. | Col. Jacob. |
| E.P.S. | C.A.S. Air Ministry(2) |
| D.P.D. | D. of Plans Air Ministry(2) |
| I.P.(2) | Plans 3 Air Ministry (2) |
| W.D. | D.O.O. Air Ministry. |
| N.I.D.10. | D.M.C. Air Ministry |
| Pay. Cdr. | P.S. to S. of S. Air Ministry(2) |
| Wilson. | Air Ministry War Room. |
| | Duty Capt. Admiralty(2) |
| | Sec. of State Foreign Office. |
| | A.C.A.S.(1) Air Ministry. |

War Diary.29.11.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.A/S Hunt.
2 D.F.

Proceed when ready with HERO. Hunt U-boat reported by PROTEUS in 031° 53' 029° 04' at 2120/28. HASTY and NIZAM ordered to join you in searched channel. Safety routes for PROTEUS and TRITON are being passed by hand message to Capt. (D) 2nd D.F. only. 1 Yugoslav Dornier co-operating. (F.O. (D) Med. 1116B/29 to Capt. D.2.) *See p. 761*

PERSEUS.
TRUSTY.

Cancel my 0025B/29. (Capt. S.1, 1145B/29 to PERSEUS, TRUSTY.) *See p. 780*

Enemy
destroyers.

P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers are 33.57 N., 22.10 E. 054° 20 knots. (Med. A/C, 1150/29 to 201 Group). My 1150 - P.C. and S. of Italian Destroyers are 34.05 N., 22.22 E., 280° 20 knots. (Med. A/C, 1300B/29 to 201 Group).

Air A/S
Search.

A.189 29/11. One Swordfish will be going out A/S search Alexandria Tobruk shipping route between 1930 and midnight. (201 Group, 1209B/29 to Med. Fleet at Sea.)

PARAMATTA.

My 1825B/27. Regret no officer survivors and only 20 ratings, details being reported by R.A.(D) Med. (C. in C. Med., 1223B/29 to Admty. repeated A.C.N.B.)

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 28/29 Nov. 26 Wellingtons bombed harbour and shipping Benghazi. 2 ships hit with 500 lb. and 4000 lb bombs. respectively. Latter overshoot Cathedral Mole. Small fires started on quays. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1234/29).

Turkey and
Russian
S/M's.

Interview Adm. Kelly and Adm. Fahri Engin, new M. of Communications. Refers to sinking of Turkish ships by Russian S/M's in Black Sea, and development of Iskanderun. (N.A. Angora, 1244B/29 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

/BRECONSHIRE.....

MOST SECRET
MESSAGE IN

MOST SECRET

1244/29/November.

From N.A. Angora.

Date 30.11.41.

I.D.V. by C & W

Time 2106.

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

AIDAC

Following from Admiral Kelly. Calling on Admiral Fahri Engin new Minister of Communications he stated Turkish Govt. much upset by sinking of small * (Corrupt group) by Russian S/M's in Black Sea. In first case one of crew who spoke perfect Russian said there was no doubt S/M was Russian. Govt. will lodge strong protest otherwise Germans and Italians will think they can sink Turkish ships as they like. He referred to immunity of Turkish shipping trading to Egyptian ports which might cease unless this action was taken. I reminded of case of REFAH.

He informed me that Admiral Ulgen is to be relieved as Under-Secretary of Navy as first result of enquiry. A valuable friend of ours, he is to be relieved by Admiral Hulusi Gomdalay, commanding ISMID; they will exchange posts.

Minister will do all possible to expedite work at Iskanderun and hopes soon to satisfy us by appointing high official with full authority at that port, for short term of development.

Main development will probably be in Ayas Bay when drainage of area has been affected. MUDANIA, damaged when lifting heavy weight will be replaced by ferry boat shortly due from Egypt, (3 corrupt groups) * tons floating crane.

He intends to reform training of merchant service officers, and to place at the head of Mercantile Marine someone with sea experience. He intends to conform to recent international agreement on security at sea, which has not been signed by Turkey. Request copy of laws concerning carriage of goods in merchant ships, especially dealing with responsibility of carrier, shipper, and captain for goods spoilt on voyage, and similar information may be sent to me by earliest possible as he wishes to introduce similar legislation. A simple form of hand book if such exists would also help. He is all for mutual help.

1244B/29

* Corrections to follow.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st Lord | Advance copy sent D.N.I. O.I.C. | | |
| 1st S.L. | | | |
| 2nd S.L. | Sec. | D. of L.D. | D.T.D. (2) |
| 3rd S.L. | N.A. 1st S.S.L. | D.A/S.W. | N.I.D. 10 Pay Cdr Wilson |
| 4th S.L. | P.A.S. (S) | D.M.S. | D.D.I.C. |
| 5th S.L. | D. of P. (2) | I.P. (2) | |
| W.O.N.S. | D.O.D. (H) | W.D. | |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.D.O.D. (H) | D.C. (2) | |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D.O.D. (F) | Hd. of M. for action | |
| A.C.N.S. (T) | D.D.O.D. (F) | D.T.S.D. | |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | D.N.I. (4) | E.P.S. | |

War Diary.29.11.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-Contd.BRECONSHIRE,
Malta fuel.

Most important to get BRECONSHIRE here soon so that replenishment of Malta fuel can be started. Intend she should be sailed for Alexandria taking advantage of bad weather with westerly winds at first opportunity after 7/12 when moon is getting favourable. If Force "B" or "K" are available at the time escort should be provided, if not she should be sailed independently. Route must depend on circumstances but aim should be to cross 20° 00' about dusk. Force from Alexandria would be sent to meet her and relieve "B" or "K" as escort. You would have to judge the moment. Request your remarks to enable skeleton operation (order?) to be framed. (C. in C. Med., 1251B/29 to V.A. Malta).

A/C attack
on D.2.

Attacked by 2 torpedo Bombers 31° 10' N. 28° 45' E. at 1635. 1 torpedo dropped, no hits. (D.2, 1645B/29 to Ships on Admiral's Wave).

Enemy
Warships
hit by P.31.

About 3 cruisers and an unknown number of destroyers P.C. and S. ? (039° 032°) 20', 017° 33', 165° 20 knots 3 hit. (P.31 1720B/29 to N.O.I.C. Malta, etc.) Position about 70 miles S.S.E. of Taranto.)

Well done indeed. You must remain on patrol unless torpedoes are expended. You will be relieved as soon as possible. (Capt. S.10, 2235B/29 to P.31).

Castel Benito
and Benghazi
bombed.

Night 28/29. 5 naval aircraft successful attack Castel Benito Aerodrome bombs dropped among dispersed aircraft, blowing up one bomber probably damaging others and causing large fires, some near hangars. 11 Wellingtons (IV?) out to Benghazi three returned mechanical trouble remainder successful attack 1855 to 2006 hours. Numerous hits Mole Italia and Cathedral Mole and quay side causing large fires visible great distance, 29th. 6 Blenheims attacked shipping Navarin Harbour. 1055 hours. Only 2 aircraft dropped bombs after diving remainder did not see target due to bad visibility, no hits claimed. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1732/29).

HANS SCHMIDT.
(German).

Arrived loaded steel plates. Leaves Genoa tonight repeat Intelligence Centre. (Alicante, T.H.I. 2100/29 to Admty.)

/Operation....

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation
"Aggression".

Amend S.O. Force I 1848/21. Convoy A.T.1 (fast).
CHAKDINA, KIRKLAND with HEYTHROP, AVON VALE,
THORGRIM sailing 2100/30 through Shoulder buoy
then 031° 04' N. 029° 07' E.

F. 0600/1.

A. 1250.

B. 2050.

R. 0400/2.

Z. 22250.

S. Tobruk boom 1000/2. S. of A. 8½ knots.

Code name "Screw". Fighter protection required
by day 1st and from dawn 2nd. C. in C. Med.

1551/29 refers. (R.A. Alexandria, 2149B/29
to S.B.N.O. Tobruk, S.O. Force I, amended 0931B/30)

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29.11.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.DAUNTLESS.

Regretted that in view of present situation in Far East you must recall DAUNTLESS to Colombo.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0104A/29 to C. in C.E.I.)
Comment: See China 0843/30. DAUNTLESS sailed from Colombo 0435/27 for Seychelles.
Return to Colombo now so as to arrive a.m./1.
(C. in C.E.I., 0350Z/29, to DAUNTLESS.)

B.P.28.

My 1230/1. B.P.28 now consists of SANTHIA, CITY OF LONDON, from Karachi. Sailing 14/12 and 17/12 respectively; and EGRA from Bombay, sailing 14/12.
(P.S.T.O. India, 0928Z/29 to C. in C.E.I.)

Force G.

PRINCE OF WALES, ELECTRA and EXPRESS left Colombo 0915Z/29.
(C. in C.E.I., 1044Z/29, to Admty.,
C. in C. China F.O. Malaya.) *See also next page.*

SURCOUF.
(intercepted
25/11.)

French S.S. SURCOUF on voyage from Diego Suarez to Jibuti with cargo of foodstuffs was intercepted by CORNWALL on 25/11 and has been sent to Aden under armed guard for examination. She arrived Aden 29/11. Information received through master of SURCOUF that Senior French N.O. Diego Suarez stated that Vichy French would start sinking British Merchant Ships without warning if SURCOUF was captured by British on voyage to Jibuti. It is for consideration whether Vichy Govt., should be informed that SURCOUF is being detained for examination but that if Jibuti surrenders she will at once be released to continue her voyage.
(C. in C.E.I., 1430Z/29, to H.Q., M.E.)

W.S.12X.
W.S.12Z.

P.S.T.O. Egypt's 0951/26 to D. of S.T.
As MAURETANIA will now arrive Durban about 9/12 it might be possible to reduce congestion there before arrival of W.S.12Z and to accelerate movement of personnel by sailing her with NIEUW AMSTERDAM from Durban for Suez about 13/12. This would also enable these ships to clear from Suez before full moon period. Request your remarks on possibility of providing escort in addition to W.S.12X and W.S.12Z. Suggest ILE DE FRANCE if refit is completed should sail with W.S.12Z.
(D.O.D.(F) 1431A/29 to C. in C. E.I.)
Reply 1316/30.

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29.11.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Force G.
Publicity.

Your 0933Z/25 and your 0525Z/26, there should be no publicity until Adm. Phillips arrives at Singapore. Announcement can then be made from Singapore that Rear-Adm. Sir Tom Phillips has been appointed C.-in-C. Eastern Fleet, with rank of Admiral, in command of H.M. Ships and Naval establishments on China Station. Vice-Adm. Sir Geoffrey Layton, on transfer of his command to Adm. Sir Tom Phillips, will return to U.K. to take up another appointment. On arrival of PRINCE OF WALES, REPULSE and Destroyers, but not before, it can be stated that they are part of the Eastern Fleet which has been formed. If questioned about remainder of Eastern Fleet, reply should be that for security reasons, information of composition and disposition of Eastern Fleet cannot be given. (1st. S.L., 0109A/29, to C. in C. China.)

FUSIJAMA.
(Italian.)

Cancel my 0803/26. *P.696*
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0346Z/29, to Admty., etc.)

BENALDER.

Have you any news of BENALDER due Singapore 20/11 from Port Okha?
(D.T.D. 1708A/29, to S.O.I., Singapore.)
Reply: 0731/1/12.

Tankers,
Australia.

My 1847B/1/8. Petroleum Board now state that 25 tankers each way will require to join monthly M.S. and S.M. Convoys in order to maintain present programme of supplies to Australia and New Zealand. About 6 of these will require to go to and return from Balik Papan and Tarakan, the remainder using Palembang, Berandan and Singapore. Request you will contact Woollerton of Asiatic Petroleum and obtain confirmation of above and any necessary details regarding inter-island traffic.
(D.T.D. 1712A/29 to C. in C. China.)

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War Diary.29.11.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies."Q" Report
WEST POINT.

Following has been read. QQQQ 51° - 39' N.,
41° - 21' W. WEST POINT, suspicious, de GRL.
(Unknown Station via Liverpool, T.O.R.0618/29.)
See also South Atlantic.

CLARKIA.

Your 1704R/28. Request CLARKIA be sailed for
Trinidad on completion by most direct route via
Yucatan Channel.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0942Q/29, to B.A.R.M.)

LIVERPOOL.

My 1304Q/27. LIVERPOOL E.T.A., position
(c) is 1000Z on 4/12.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1052Q/29, to C. in C.W.A.)

*See also next page.*Convoy
Diversion
Code.

Ref. your 1820Z/28, concur. Request sufficient
advance notice effective date to inform our
forces.
(Opnav, 1355/29, to Admty.) Reply: 1040/30.

BARFLEUR
JEANNE D'ARC.
(French.)

Reliable report that French C.L.BARFLEUR leaves
Fort de France 29/11 for Los Saintes and
Guadeloupe for ten days. French C.L.JEANNE
D'ARC will also leave for Guadeloupe today.
(Opnav, 1410Z/29, to Admty.)

Canadians for
Hong Kong.

Would it be possible to provide accommodation
in any H.M. Ship for Canadian Army Draft of
1 Officer and 50 ranks, or any part, to Hong
Kong in near future?
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1629Z/29, to B.A.D.,
rep. Admty.)

DUC D'AUMALE.

Following received CINCINNATI at 1530 G.C.T.
Contacted French Steamer DUC D'AUMALE.
Estimated course 150° speed 14. Position
11-37 N., 52-03 W.
(Opnav, 1715/29, to Admty., Cinclant.)

/DEVONSHIRE.....

War Diary.29.11.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. Contd.DEVONSHIRE.

Can arrangements be made for DEVONSHIRE to be taken in hand in U.S.A. at early date for repairs to 6 pinion and 4 turbine bearings on port inner shaft which are wiped, and any urgent defects which could complete concurrently? Time required estimated 2 to 3 weeks. Date of arrival of ship will be communicated by C. in C.S.A.
(D. of D., 1724A/29 to B.A.R.M.)

LIVERPOOL.

Bermuda departure LIVERPOOL in accordance with my 1304Q/27.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1753Q/29, to Admty.)

*See previous page.*ROXBOROUGH.

B.A.R.M. Washington 1702R/27 and 1530R/28. ROXBOROUGH can be taken in hand forthwith for refit in U.S.A. at Charleston Navy Yard.
2. Request you will sail her as soon as possible with an O.N. Convoy to Iceland (C).
3. After fuelling at Iceland (C) A.C.I.C. is requested to sail her for St. Johns N.F. direct.
4. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested to issue instructions for onward route from St. Johns N.F.
(D.O.D.(H) 1826A/29 to C. in C.W.A., A.C.I.C., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, B.A.R.M.)

Vichy Ships,
Policy.

My 0015/24 and 1239/25. Owing to omission of a negative in Washington message as received in London, policy of U.S. was understood to be that set out in my 0015/24.
2. Correct position is as follows:-
(a) Ships trading between West Indies and American Continent or in inter-island trade should not be interfered with.
(b) Any Vichy ship already notified as sailing on an approved voyage is not to be interfered with.
(c) Further sailings to Africa are at present suspended. Should any ship be permitted to sail from America or the West Indies to Africa, the voyage will be notified as formerly.
(d) Subject to the above all unescorted Vichy ships should, if met, be sent into a British port. Vessels sailing under (b) or (c) above are equally to be sent into British port if not proceeding to their approved destination.
3. My 0015/24 is accordingly cancelled.
(Head of M. 2204A/29 to C. in C.A.W.I. etc.)

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Destroyers.

Your 0527/28/11. We are most grateful for the way in which Australian Govt., have met our wishes in this matter. These destroyers will perform most valuable service in defence of Imperial interests in the Far East.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1413A/29 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

Soviet
A/C
reports.

Following arrangements made for Soviet Union aircraft in White Sea to indicate to British warships U/Bs. sighted.

(2) Aircraft will broadcast 4 times signal in following form; K K K K 6731, 4201, 1125C U/B sighted in position 067° 31' North 042° 01' east at 1125C. Signal will be repeated every half hour up to maximum of 3 hours.

(3) Soviet Union aircraft will visually indicate position of U/B by circling and firing 2 white Very's lights.

(4) Local British A/S forces should keep wireless guard when instructed to do so by S.B.N.O. Archangel.

(5) Request A.G.M. be issued.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1647C/29).

Ships Attacked.

O.S.12

O.S.12, at 0212Z/29 one ship torpedoed and blown up in 041° 12' N. 029° 48' W.

(WESTON 0355Z/29 to C.in C. W.A.).
Believed to have been THORNLIEBANK, 5569 tons. on passage from Barrow to Freetown. Blown up about 80 miles N.E. of Flores. Feared no survivors. (D.S. 817).

Submarines Reported.

26/11

Your 1302Q/28. Following received from Commandant Caribbean Coastal Frontier: Bomber reported submerged S/M near Martinique 26/11. Navy patrol of that area 27th and 28th developed nothing. Consider report doubtful reliability. Whales frequently seen in that area.

(B.A.D. 0945R/29 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Estimated approx. position of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1426 A/29).

Mediterranean A/S Hunt by 2 D.F. (See Mediterranean).

Submarines Attacked.

By TOTLAND
WESTON.

Sighted U/B about 0330/29 and attacked in 41.10 N. 29.50 W. approx. Oil patch seen. No other visible result. (D.S. 817, 30/11 - no signal in W.D.).

By LADY
MADELINE

Your 2130Z/28. On next occasion of breaking silence report time at which LADY MADELINE sighted periscope and position.
(C.in C. W.A. 1128A/29 to BEAGLE).

/By.....

War Diary

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. -Contd.

By M.L.121

Have dropped one Pattern on contact investigating further.
(M.L. 121, 2118A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.).

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

Coastal Command aircraft today attacked shipping off the Dutch coast, with some success.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. SKERRIES reports that at 1220 B.S.T. today 5 miles E. of Coningmore Rock, she opened fire on an unidentified aircraft of seaplane type which attempted to fly over her. The aircraft flew away towards Eire. The master considers that this plane was in the vicinity spotting during the last attack on his ship, which has been attacked three times.

Mining.

4th M.S. today recommenced sweeping operations in the Faeroes passage.

S.S. EMPIRE NEWCOMEN in F. ^N565 was sunk off the north coast of Norfolk early this morning. It is thought probable that she struck a mine laid by E-boats or other surface vessels (see 29/11). Several mines were detonated today in the neighbourhood.

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War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Blenheims on shipping search at 0755 today attacked a 4,000 ton and a 2000 ton merchant ship southbound in 36° 58' N. 19° 23' E. escorted by a destroyer. The larger ship was left on fire, down by the stern and listing, with the crew abandoning ship. The smaller vessel was damaged.

Libya and
Western
Desert.

The enemy have been observed to run cargo from Navarin to Derna in destroyers by night. Capt. D (14) (JERVIS), JAGUAR, KIPLING and JACKAL sailed from Alexandria to establish a patrol tonight about 50 miles north of Derna to intercept supply traffic. F.O. 15th C.S. (NAIAD) with EURYALUS, HASTY and HERO sailed to support the destroyers.

15 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi harbour and shipping last night.

GLENROY has arrived off Alexandria and is being lightened in order to enter the Great Pass.

U-Boat Campaign.

A Swordfish from Gibraltar attacked a U-boat at 1940 today 12 miles west of Cape Spartel. Near miss D.C's caused the U-boat to heel over and disappear, leaving a large oil patch.

War Diary.

30.11.41
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Request 2
Destroyers
for
CLEOPATRA.

CLEOPATRA will be carrying out power trials from Rosyth on 3rd and 5th December to northward returning to Rosyth on completion of each days trial. It is considered necessary to provide her with A/A surface escort during these trials. There are no destroyers of Rosyth escort force available nor even if there were would they be capable of keeping up with her. It is therefore requested that 2 Home Fleet destroyers may be allocated for this duty. (C. in C. Rosyth 1959/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

→ Ocean
Trawlers *

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian
claims.

Your 100-D/29. Photographic R/C of Gdynia on 29/9 showed NURNBERG, KOLN and EMDEN present. Photographic R/C of Kiel on 5/10 showed LEIPZIG present. All ships have since been located again by photographic R/C. Is it possible Russians have mistaken Finnish ILMARINEN for one of casualties claimed? We have not yet located all 18 destroyers which Germany had completed, and it is possible Russian claim of 2 destroyers may be correct. (D.N.I. 1450A/30 to Ad. Miles.)

Party for
Russia.

Your 2305A/26. KENT is allocated. (C. in C. H.F. 2351A/30.)

Movements.

ARROW.

My position 047° 19' N. 015° 00' W. (ARROW 0600/30.)

ORUC REIS
(Turkish)

Sailed TURBULENT and ORUC REIS in company escorted by Z 5, E.T.A. Clyde 0830A/1. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 0950A/30.)

ESPERANCE
BAY.

Proceed passing Switha 0300 tomorrow to R/V off May Island at 1130/1 with ESPERANCE BAY. 2. ESPERANCE BAY escorted by WHITSHED is on passage from Thames Estuary to Clyde speed of advance 15 knots. When met relieve WHITSHED and provide escort to Clyde. On completion return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1005A/30 to ECLIPSE.)

P.551
P.511

My 1317A/29. P.511 will also be at R/V at 0915A/1. Request DANEMAN be instructed to meet both P.551 and P.511 and escort them to Holy Loch. (Capt. S.3. 1015A/30.) *See also p.795*

→ *Ocean
Trawlers.

Organisation. (C. in C. W.A. 2205A/30)
See Lion and Tiger Copies.

/(1) ...

MESSAGE 2205H/30th November, IN.

SECRET

Date. 15.12.41
 From, C in C. Western Approaches.
 Recd. 0005.

Naval Cypher A by T/P.

Addressed, N.O.I.C. Liverpool, Capt (D) Londonderry
 Capt (D) Greenock, Capt (D) Liverpool. Repeated
 N.O.I.C. Aulbea, Admiralty, A.O.I.C.
 N.O.I.C. Oban, N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.O.I.C.
 Greenock, N.O.I.C. Stornoway.

Ocean trawlers are to be organised in following
 escort groups forthwith:

<u>Group Number.</u>	<u>Name of Ship.</u>	<u>Base.</u>
50	WELLARD NORTHERN DAWN LADY ELSA LE TIGER VQZT (A) SENATEUR DUHAMEL.	Londonderry
51	VIZALMA ST ELSTAN ST KENAN ST ZENO	Londonderry
52	NORTHERN PRIDE NORTHERN GEM NORTHERN WAVE NORTHERN SPRAY	Londonderry
53	NOTTS COUNTY ANGLE CAPE WARWICK DANEMAN KING SOL	Greenock
54	NORWICH CITY LADY MADELINE ST. LOMAN AYRSHIRE. COVENTRY CITY	Greenock
55	ARAB MAN-O'-WAR ST. CATHAN KIRKELLA	Liverpool.

(2). 55th group will escort Liverpool portion of
 ocean convoys as ordered by F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

(3). Principal duty of remaining groups will be escort
 between U.K. and Iceland sailing either with ocean
 convoys or with independent convoys as ordered.

(4). Groups will

744^B

(4) Groups will probably be required to sail in following order:- 50 52 53 51 54

(5) 50 group is to sail with O.N. 42.

✓ Not in War Registry 2205H/30.
index, name of Ship requested.

Advance copies to Ops., O.D., Trade

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

MGG.

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

P.551
P.511
contd.

(i) R/V with DANEMAN in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0915A/1 for onward passage to Holy Loch.
(ii) P.551 will R/V with DANEMAN in same position at 0900A/1 but will be in vicinity from 0400A/1.
(iii) T.B.R. within 30 miles of Barra Head from 0800A to 1600A/1 have been arranged.
(Capt. S.3. 1109A/30 to P.511.)
Sailed DANEMAN in accordance with your 1317A/29 and your 1015A/30.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1632A/30 to Capt. S.3.)

See p 794.

RUBIS.

Leave patrol after dark 2nd for Dundee diving by day routed as follows to gap A arriving Eastern edge 0200A/6.
(Capt. S.9. 1107A/30 to RUBIS.)

KING GEORGE V.
VICTORIOUS.

Scapa arrivals C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V. with VICTORIOUS, SOMALI, ECHO, ESCAPADE, TARTAR, MATABELE, ASHANTI and ESKIMO.
(A.C.O.S. 1201A/30.)

A.F.D.14.

Scapa arrival 1105 Floating Dock XIV towed by EMPIRE LARCH. (A.C.O.S. 1212A/30.)

9th M/S
Flotilla.

My 1257/29. Amend to read 9th M/S will leave St. Helens 2100/30.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1243A/30.)

BELMONT.

Sailed BELMONT in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1254A/29. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1345/30.)

See also next page.

HAWKINS.

Arrival 1316A/30.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1357A/30.)

S/M off
Dartmouth.

One submarine will be exercising off Dartmouth on 1st, 2nd and 3rd of December as follows.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1518/30.)

EREBUS.
ROBERTS.

Please pass to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, E.T.A. ROBERTS, EREBUS, and escort December 10th.
(ROBERTS 1673A/30.)
Intend to proceed EREBUS at 0815A/1. Request escorting force may be sailed so as to proceed out of harbour not less than 15 cables ahead of ROBERTS who will be operating S.A. gear.
(ROBERTS 1642A/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

/BELMONT ...

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War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.BELMONT.

BELMONT should proceed to St. Johns, N.F. in lieu of Halifax.

2. C.C.N.F. is requested to sail BELMONT to provide escort to U.K. for AGAMEMNON and CALIFORNIA as directed by C.O.A.C. Halifax. (D.O.D. H. 1805A/30.) *see previous page*

RAMILLIES.

RAMILLIES screened by ESCAPADE and WHEATLAND will sail for Greenock at 0925A/1. (C. in C. H.F. 1805A/30.)

R.A.F.
Floating
Dock.

Intend to sail tug EMPIRE LARCH for Sullom Voe Shetlands p.m. tomorrow for towage of R.A.F. Floating Dock to Leith. Escort PRESTON NORTH END, SCALBY WYKE. N.O.I.C. Lerwick is requested to sail Floating Dock when ready. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide 2 A/S trawlers to take over escort at 32 buoy. (A.C.O.S. 1928A/30.)

MAYFLOWER
NANAIMO.

MAYFLOWER and NANAIMO are to return to Iceland forthwith. (C. in C. W.A. 2332A/30 to FOXHOUND.)

Operations.Patrols.

Departure M.G.B.(S) 20, 21, 19, for patrol "O". (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0534A/30.) CUMBERLAND sailed for patrol "Black" 0230. (Iceland - Faroes Patrol) (A.C.I.C. 0941N/30.) CAMPBELL with 1 M.G.B. will carry out patrol between 61 C. buoy and position 070° 15 miles from Sheringham buoy tonight. She will proceed by Q.Z.S.288 to 56 buoy, thence South Leman, thence North of 60 buoy. LOWESTOFT report E.T.A. 57 A buoy, WALLACE report E.T.A. Sheringham buoy. If times reported are likely to be more than 30 minutes out an amended report is to be made. (C. in C. Nore 1030A/30.) Weather permitting carry out following Patrol each Sunday.
(1) One M.G.B. (S) of 7th Flotilla Q.E.(12) with CAMPBELL R/V 54C buoy at 1600.
(2) One Unit of M.G.Bs (L) Q.E. 6 A. (C. in C. Nore 1043A/30 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.) My 1016A reference (?your) 1043A. Cancel para. 1. Weather unsuitable. (N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1308A/30.) Cancel my 1030A. (C. in C. Nore 1657A/30.)

/Patrols ...

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War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Patrols.
Contd.

Patrols tonight.

- (1) Three M.G.B. Brown Ridge.
 - (2) Two M.Ls return Aldeburgh from Eastwards at Daylight.
 - (3) Two M.G.B. Q E Six A.
(C. in C. Nore 1659A/30.)
- 3 M.Ls leaving Yarmouth now for patrol Q.E.9.
(C. in C. Nore 2103A/30.)

Flashes in
Cardigan Bay.

Master of M/V EMPIRE SPINNEY reports when in 52° 24' N. 4° 49' W. at 2100/28 a series of dull red flashes were observed bearing W.S.W. 10 miles approx. Flashes were in a group of 5 followed by a group of 2. No detonations were heard.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1109A/30.)

Search of
Northern
Coasts.

C. in C. Home Fleet's 1058N/28 and H.M.S. BERWICK's 1709C/29, and Admiral Miles 1519D/28. Has Admiral Miles been informed?
(A.C.N.S. H. 1215A/30 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
BERWICK 1709C/29. Sailing of BERWICK and destroyers and operation postponed 24 hours owing to weather. Admiralty pass to all addressees except H.M.S. BERWICK and Capt. (D) 17.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1909C/30 to Adty, repeated SHEFFIELD, etc.)
Your 1215A/30. Admiral Miles has been informed.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1931C/30.)

White Sea
A/S Sweep.

Shelter or proceed at your discretion. North East Gale here. Sleet visibility $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1236C/30 to S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla.)
Full northerly gale. Ships hove to. Request Gorodetski light all night.
(S.O. 1st M/S F. 1352C/30 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)
Your 1352C/30 and 1001C/30. These lights will not now be shown until further request from you.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1750C/30 to S.O. 1st M/S F.)

RUBIS
Patrol.

Patrol in zone C.4 North of 061° N. within 20 miles of the coast. Object as in F.S.B.
(F.O.S. 1456A/30 to RUBIS.)

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War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.A/C over
Scapa on
29/11.Your 2320A/29. A. Yes. B. 6 fighters failed to engage. C. 40 rounds from 7 gun site on Flotta and Hoy.
(A.C.O.S. 0943A/30.)Faroes.M.S.4 reports air escort attacked Junkers 88 of area as Flotilla was leaving harbour today forenoon. Enemy jettisoned one bomb in sea. Result of attack unknown as enemy appeared to make good his escape unnoticed in cloud.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1917A/30.)Mining.EMPIRE
NEWCOMEN
(British,
2840 Tons)
sunk.*(Torpedoed by
E/B-13.R.1337)*S.S. EMPIRE NEWCOMEN sunk by torpedo vicinity 58 A. buoy. Have 12 survivors on board, 11 in ST. MELLONS, 1 in LAB, 9 missing. Proceeding with LAB to Humber.
(SHEARWATER 0500A/30.)

Arrival SHEARWATER at 1025 with survivors of EMPIRE NEWCOMEN. (F.O. Humber 1035A/30.)

Thirteen including two D.E.M.S., No Officers, from S.S. EMPIRE NEWCOMEN landed Grimsby. Seaman states ship was torpedoed at 0345/30 just North of 58 A buoy and sank few minutes later.
(F.O. Humber 1306A/30.)

From available evidence it is very probable that EMPIRE NEWCOMEN was mined. It also now seems possible that S.S. CORMARSH was sunk by mine and not by E-Boats, since 12 ground mines were swept in vicinity of 58A Buoy today Sunday. 2. It is considered that these mines were probably laid by E-Boats or other surface vessels. (C. in C. Nore 2128A/30.)

Bideford.Your 0748A/30. Herewith repetition of N.O.I.C. Appledore's 2225/28 begins. Owing to suspected minelaying off Bideford Fairway Buoy (Ports ?) inside Bideford Bar are closed. 2225/28. Ends.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0808/30.)Bristol
Channel.Exploded red magnetic 1047A/30 in position 005°, 4.5 cables Flatholm Light.
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1240A/30.)Humber.Five red mines have been detonated today in vicinity of 58 A buoy.
(F.O. Humber 1542A/30.)
My 1542A/30. Twelve mines have been detonated today in vicinity of 58 A buoy.
(F.O. Humber 1731A/30.)
12 mines exploded today as reported in my 1731A/30.
(F.O. Humber 2224A/30.)

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown
Vessel.

Unidentified plot 090° Start Point 7½ miles
at 0145, course N. Investigate.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0202/30 to M.L. 155.)

E-Boats.

1 unknown E-Boat bearing 173° 18 miles from
Outer Dowsing L.V.
(VERDUN 0339/30.)
E-Boat attack likely tonight Sunday.
(C. in C. Nore 1626A/30.)

Navigational.

H.8 Buoy.

H.8 Buoy Light reported extinguished.
(F.O. Humber 1313A/30) (Hydrog.1630A/30.)

Casualties and Defects.

AVON.

(A/P Trawler) Your 0910. ^{N.T.W.D.} AVON missing from
convoy at daylight muster.
(VIMIERA 1030A/30)

T.L.C.
Sections.

Sections of 5 T.L.Cs have recently been lost
over board in O.S. convoys. (Description)
Ships are to keep a good look out for these
sections and report position if seen on next
occasion of breaking W/T silence.
(C. in C. W.A. 1222A/30 to LANDGUARD, etc.)

BLACKFLY.
CAPE MARIATO.
PAYNTER.

^{N.T.W.D.} Cancel my 1206A/29. Ships delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1530A/30.)

P.L.M.17.

S.S. P.L.M.17 should be sailed for Greenock
at the earliest opportunity for repairs to
armament.
(D.T.D. 2312A/30 to N.C.S.O. Oban.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.S.43
(ROXBOROUGH)

Admiralty 1826A/29. Sail ROXBOROUGH with
O.N.S.43.
(C. in C. W.A. 1041A/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
A.M. 1826A/29. ROXBOROUGH completion date
11/12. It is understood approx. 48 hours will
be required for fuelling etc., before ship will
be ready to sail.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1229A/30.)

/Kirkwall ...

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Kirkwall.

Examination vessel has been withdrawn from North Eastern entrance to Wide Firth, Kirkwall and this entrance is now being used by local craft only. All ships routed to Kirkwall should be directed to enter by Shapinsay Sound. (A.C.O.S. 1126A/30 to Adty.)

S.C.54.

Met as arranged. Average speed 6.27 knots. Eight stragglers during gale 17 to 19/11. All ships now arrived. (D.T.D. 1232A/30 to Opanav.)

F.S.661.

You are to sail for Sheerness with Convoy F.S.661 which leaves Methil at 1830/30, acting as additional escort. Proceed ahead of convoy during daylight Monday to fix wrecks off Humber in accordance with hydrographic instructions 13 and 14. Rejoin convoy on completion. (C. in C. Rosyth 1311/30 to FRANKLIN.)

P.W.74.
SCOTT.

My 1757/25. SCOTT will sail as additional escort for P.W.74. Expected time of departure Yarmouth Roads 1245/1. E.T.A. Milford Haven approximately 1300/3. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1453/30 to R.A.M.)

Q.P.4.

Your 1046/29. Approved for SAN AMBROSIO and A/S trawlers STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE to return with Q.P.4. (D.O.D. (H) 1809A/30 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

W.S.14 D.
MALANCHA.

S.S. MALANCHA now loading military stores at Clyde is part of convoy W.S.14 D, but her speed of $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots precludes her inclusion in the convoy.
2. Request you will sail MALANCHA escorted by SNOWFLAKE and JASMINE to Freetown as soon as she is loaded. (D.O.D. (H) 1810A/30.)

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- Fuelling, Ponta Delgada. Ref. fuelling at Ponta Delgada. Refrain from obtaining larger quantities of oil fuel than are reasonably necessary. Prudent margin should however be allowed for reaching destination. (F.O.C.N.A., 0102A/30 to WELLINGTON, CYCLAMEN)
- CYCLAMEN. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0900A/1. Requires 130 tons fuel. Request arrangements. (F.O.C.N.A., 0106A/30 to N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).
- LONDONDERRY. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1700N/1. 110 tons oil fuel required. (LONDONDERRY, 0129Z/30 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A.) Request arrangements may be made. (F.O.C.N.A., 0800Z/30 to N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada). Re. fuelling at Ponta Delgada (repeats 0102A/30) (F.O.C.N.A., 0802A/30 to LONDONDERRY).
- WELLINGTON. Arrived Ponta Delgada 0815 G.M.T./30. Left 1815 G.M.T./30. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0909/30 1635/30 to S.O.(I) Gib).
- CLAN MCINNES. ^{M/T in W.D.} Your 1321N/28. Local escort will be provided Where will ships break off? (F.O.C.N.A., 0920A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)
- SEVERN. Your 1945N/26. Request you sail SEVERN at earliest convenience. (F.O.C.N.A., 1008A/30 to C. in C. S.A.) _{See p.803}
- FARADAY escort. Your 1231N/28. Yes. (F.O.C.N.A., 1105A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)
- O.24. Cancel Capt. (S) 8's 1606A/29 (N.T. in W.R.) Netherlands S/M O.24 sails 1700/30 routed through 035° 35' N., 002° 30' W., to establish dive patrol off Oran West of 001° 00' W., S.O.A. 12 knots. Dive by day on 1st. (F.O.C.N.A., 1308A/30 to CLYDE). My 2234A/29 (2134/29 intended) Departure O.24 Q.B.58, Q.B.B.217. (F.O.C.N.A., 1716A/30 to Admty).
- JONQUIL. F.O.C.N.A. 1834/A/26. JONQUIL can be taken in hand for refit and reconstruction by Humber Shipwright Company Hull, mid-December. (D.O.D. (H) 1823A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

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War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

French
Ships.

0930, unidentified French armed Trawler, French ship DE LA SALLE, laden P.C.S. 37° 21' N., 10° 18' W., 140° 10 knots. (V.A.C.N.A., 1829A/30 to Admty).

S/M.

One S/M proceeded Spartel Cape 12 at 2130A/30. (F.O.C.N.A., 2149A/30 to N.A. Stn).

South Atlantic.

KAJAK
(Esthonian).

My 2227Z/29 KAJAK left Buenos Aires 1700 G.M.T. /29 approx. Exact time not known. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0201Z/30 to Admty). My 2227/29 KAJAK arrived Montevideo in Ballast, consigned to Moore McCormack Lines to await orders. Reported she will bunker here and load cargo for U.S.A. Would this voyage be approved? (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1441Z/30 to Admty).

O.S. Convoy
Routes.

Your 2343N/14/11. Commencing with O.S.14 it is proposed to give all ships from U.K. sailing in O.S. Convoys and through-routed to Cape 3 alternative routes in a secret envelope "Z" "Not to be opened until ordered by Commodore". Details of proposals are being forwarded by Escorts of O.S.14 and copies of all such routes will be forwarded by N.C.S.O's of assembly ports by 2 ships bound for Freetown from each port. You will thus be in possession of routes before Cape ships are due to disperse, enabling you to instruct Commodore what routes are to be used. Routes cover a wide area roughly (1) from St. Helena 420 miles Westward. (2) from St. Helena 400 miles Eastward. (3) between 420 miles and 840 miles east of St. Helena. Positions on Routes not used will be available as Reference Positions for subsequent diversions. (D.T.D., 1439A/30 to C. in C. S.A.) Concur. (C. in C. S.A., 1204N/1 to Admty).

FARADAY.

Your 1208A/28 (Sailing M.L.244 with FARADAY) Concur. (C. in C. S.A., 1730N/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/S.L.....

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War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.S.L. 94.

Departure 30/11 convoy S.L.94 VANSITTART, VELOX, LAVENDER, STARWORT, STANLEY. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1829N/30 to Admty etc).

SEVERN.

Your 1008A/30. Intend to sail SEVERN 0800N/2 routed through (A) 11.35 N., 18.10 W. (B) 18.50 N., 19.20 W (C) 24.25 N., 17.30 W. (D) 29° N., 12.40 W. (E) 33.25 N., 10° W., (F) 290° Cape Spartel 5 miles. S. of A. 12 knots passing through position C. at 0730N/6 and shifting to North Atlantic W/T Organisation at 1200Z/5. (C. in C. S.A., 1955N/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

See p. 801

Shipping Restrictions, S. America.

Your 1040Z/30 (N.T. in W.D.) There is no restriction on ships bound South America and Trinidad other than that given in A.M.0001/1/5 Sec. IV para 8 sub-paras. 2 and 3, as amended by Amendment No. 42. (D.T.D., 2331A/30 to N.C.S.O. Capetown,) For addition see also Admty 2055A/1.

Mediterranean.Enemy Destroyer.

One small enemy destroyer, P.C. and S. 035° 20' 023° 12' 045° 12 knots. Weather. (TALISMAN, 0925B/30 to Capt. S.1).

Operation "Aggression" Convoy A.T.1

My 2149/29. For "Codeword "Screw"" read "Code name "Screw"". (R.A. Alexandria, 0931B/30 to N.O.I.C. Tobruk, S.O. Force I). My 2149/29. Amend all times to 5 hours early. "Screw" now sails 1600/30. (? 1051B/30 to C.S.7 HEYTHROP).

Enemy Warships.

3 cruisers 3 destroyers 036° 40' 018° 20' and one cruiser, one destroyer 036° 50' 018° 23' all 170° 15 knots at 0849B/30. (V.A. Malta, 0934B/30 to S/Ms. on Patrol 0939B/30 to Force B, Force K, rep. C. in C. Med).

Enemy Destroyers.

2 Destroyers 36° 56' N., 18° 55' E., 140° 15. (A/C Q6PN 0947/30 to Call Sign R.7.M) (V.A. Malta 1234B/30 to S/Ms on Patrol)

War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.JUPITER
defects.

Your 2042A/26. Worst riveting discovered was in gland space where many rivets were loose. Most Fuel oil tanks were also leaking. Detailed inspection was not made as ship did not dock as expected. Suggest repair port be directed to forward detailed report. (R.A.(D) Med., 0952B/30 to Admty, rep. C. in C. Med).

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of 2 enemy M/Vs. and 1 destroyer, 36° 58' N., 19° 23' E., 200° 6 knots. (A/C Q6PJ 0955/30 to Fort York). (V.A. Malta, 1155B/30 to S/Ms. on Patrol)

REGENT,
URSULA.

REGENT and URSULA leave Malta P.M./30 proceeding from 038° 00' 011° 44' REGENT to pass 038° 15' 009° 00' about 1900 and URSULA to pass (038°) 05' 009° 00' about 2300/2 thence to Gibraltar as ordered by you. Unless other-wise ordered they will proceed submerged during daylight hours throughout the whole of passage and are expected to make good REGENT 145 and URSULA 120 miles per day. Both have been informed of Capt. (S) 8's 1132A/26 (?informing) re W/T routine and of movement of CLYDE and O.24. (V.A. Malta, 1051B/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HEYTHROP,
AVON VALE.

Return to enter harbour by 1500. (R.A. Alexandria, 1111B/30 to HEYTHROP, AVON VALE)

U/B.

Possibility of Italian U-boat in vicinity of Gavdo. (V.A. Malta, 1117B/30 to PORPOISE).

M/V.

One unescorted 6,000 merchant ship in 036° 02' 019° 23', course and speed 180°, 10 knots. (THUNDERBOLT, 1148B/30 to V.A. Malta) (V.A. Malta, 1455B/30 to Force B., Force K).

U/Bs.

Enemy S/Ms. suspected in rectangle whose diagonal joins 036° 00' N., 016° 48' E., to 034° 00' N., 015° 20' E. A/S aircraft is searching area today. (V.A. Malta, 1206B/30 to C.S.7 amended 2130B/30)

Air
Operations.

Night 28/29 Nov. F.A.A. Albacores despatched to attack supply dumps and M.T. inside Bardia Perimeter with M.T. concentration near Gasr El Arid as alternative. Results awaited. Attack by Malta Wellingtons on Benghazi Harbour reported in Malta signal 1.261 29/11. Day 29/11. R/C Blenheim attack 2 destroyers steering N.E. between Crete and Cyrenaica 3 250 lb bombs falling within 20 yards of one. No other shipping movements see. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1214/30) /Navarin....

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War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Navarin -
Derna
Convoy.
Plans to
Intercept.

Enemy have been observed to run cargo from Navarin to Derna in destroyers by night arriving Derna dawn and probably sailing at dusk. Sail when ready and proceed as follows - (a) Capt. (D) 14 JAGUAR, KIPLING, JACKAL to establish patrol about 30 miles North of Derna tonight 30th/1st to intercept destroyers. If no interception made, close to Derna at dawn 1st and then withdraw N.E. to (? approx) latitude $033^{\circ} 30' N$. If no further orders received, return to Alexandria, carry out A/S sweep off Ras Azzaz on passage.

(b) F.O. 15th C.S. EURYALUS, HASTY, HERO sail when ready to follow up Capt. (D) 14 until night 30th. Then establish patrol in vicinity $033^{\circ} 00' North$ $023^{\circ} 50' East$ until 0600 1st withdraw then Eastward to Alexandria unless otherwise ordered. Object support of Capt. (D) 14 if required. (c) Italian U-boats suspected off Derna and North of $033^{\circ} 20' North$, W. of $025^{\circ} 00' East$.

(d) A.S.V. ~~Sunderland~~ will report number on route Navarin-Derna during the night 30/1. ^{? 30/11} W/T frequency 6540 kc/s. (c) A.O.C. 201 Naval Co-operation Group is requested to provide fighter protection for Capt. (D) 14 from 1500/30 until darkness. Request fighters be available at call of C.S.15 or Capt. (D) 14, A.M./1st. Codewords C.S.15 "Faith" Capt. (D) 14 "Banko" (f) Own air activity may be (expected?) over Derna. (g) Forces B and K are at sea in south central Mediterranean. 4 Italian cruisers and destroyer(s) have been sighted $036^{\circ} 40' N$, $018^{\circ} 20' E$, course 170° at 0849/30. (C. in C. Med., 1218B/30 to C.S.15, D.14, rep. Med. Fleet. Amended 1615B/30). Ref. Para D. of C. in C. Med's 1218B/30 A.S.V. Sunderland not operating. (201 Group, 2240B/30 to C.S.7 rep. D.14).

D.14.

Capt. (D) 14 intended to pass through $031^{\circ} 30' N$, $028^{\circ} 15' E$, at 1600/30 course 290° Speed 27 knots. (C. in C. Med., 1234B/30 to C.S. 15 D.14).

/A/C....

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

A/C attack
on convoy.

Blenheim attacked 2 M/Vs. and 1 destroyer in 036° 58' N., 019° 23' E., at 0954 today. 1 M/V left burning and listing heavily. (V.A. Malta, 1328B/30 to C. in C. Med., C.S.7). Also referred to in H.Q. Malta 1641/30.

Enemy
Warships.

Following has been read Hal Far. P.C. and S. of 3 enemy cruisers, 5 destroyers, are (35° 35' N., 18° 37' E). 162° 15 knots. (A/C DR6R, 1410/30).

2 M/Vs.

P.C. and S. of enemy, 2 M/Vs. 090 Marittimo 4 Mls. 240° 8. (Med A/C., 1515/30 to Hal Far).

Benghazi
bombed.

Night 29/30. 10 Wellingtons mark 2 out to attack shipping Benghazi. 1 returned engine trouble crash landed, crew uninjured, remainder successful attacked 1800 to 1924 hours. Bombs dropped area 400 yards West Fondugh Nalace. Hits base Cathedral Mole causing fire, 2 fires town, other bombs town and target area, lorries machine gunned, 1 damaged. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1640/30).

Enemy Units,
30/11.

Patrol 1053 hours, 3 cruisers 5 D/Rs shadowed until 1210 hours when D/Rs opened fire, position then 140° Cape Spartivento 185 miles. 2 Naval Aircraft A/S Patrol 40 to 90 miles 085° to 150° from Delimara sighted nothing.

M/V Hit.
Destroyer
machine-
gunned.

Blenheims, shipping search Ionian sea attacked 0755 hours 1 M/V 4,000 tons 1 M/V 2,000 tons 1 D/R 258° Stamphali Isle 96 miles, southbound 8 knots. 5 attacked dropping 10 500 lb G.P. bombs 11 second delay 3 hits. Larger M/V left on fire, down by stern, listing to port, large clouds smoke, crew abandoning ship. Photos confirm believed near misses, but may be hits, smaller M/V which was damaged. D/R machine gunned. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1641/30).

TRUANT.

TRUANT leaves Alexandria Sanctuary at 1700B/30 and proceeds through 35° 00' 27° 00' and 35° 38' 26° 22' thence direct area T bounds 36° 50' N., and 25° 00' E., the N. Coast Crete and line drawn 160° and 45° from Antikithera light. (Capt. S.I., 1655B/30 to C. in C. Med).

DELPHINIUM.

Request you will sail DELPHINIUM immediately on arrival Alexandria to Beyrout. +GKGY (Cannot be identified in War Reg) is urgently required and no other escort is available. (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1748C/30 to R.A. Alexandria).

/S/Ms....

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War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.S/Ms.

Eastern Med., S/M movements summary 58. (A)
 Submarine Est. Noon Est. Noon
 position 1/12. position 2/12.
 PORPOISE. Due Area Y, S.W.
 Antikithera
 a.m./1st.
 PROTEUS. Due area S, N.E.
 Antikithera
 early p.m./1st.
 TRUANT 035° 04', Area T, S.E.
 026° 56'. Antikithera.
 (B) PERSEUS, THUNDERBOLT, TRUSTY, TRIUMPH are
 on patrol line 4, 035° 57' 019° 02' 060° 15 033°
 15. (Capt. S.L., 1829/30 to Med., Fleet etc).

R/C.

Afternoon R/C blank, visibility 5 cables.
 (2) A.S.V. should be in area at 2000B.
 (V.A. Malta, 1829B/30 to C.S.7).

Fleet
Movements.
 (forces B. & K.
less S/Ms.)

30/11 arrival OLYMPUS, departure AJAX, NEPTUNE,
 AURORA, PENELOPE, LIVELY, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY,
 URSULA, REGENT. (V.A. Malta, 1850B/30 to Admty).
 See also p 808

Benghazi
Derna
bombed.

Night 29/30. 23 Wellingtons operated. 15
 attacked Benghazi Harbour and Shipping, bombs
 bursting on Base of Mole without visible
 effect (G.O.?) hits on ships. 5 bombed Derna
 landing ground, bombs bursting on lighted
 flarepath and among Aircraft taking off.
 (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1952/30).

Bardia.

Now clear from Liaison officer just returned
 that enemy still hold Bardia and are using
 it for supply, and that German Afrika Corps on
 its eastward run refuelled from Bardia dumps.
 Elements 5 N.Z. Brigade unable to mask Bardia
 effectively but 8th Army taking further steps
 to clear up this situation.
 (C. in C. M.E., 2055/30 to W.O.)

Enemy
Battleship.

Probable battleship in 36° 30' N., 19° 25' E.
 course S., speed 15 knots, at 1500B/30.
 (V.A. Malta, 2119B/30 to S/Ms on Patrol Rep.
 C.S.7).

/Situation....

807^A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1850/30th November IN

MOST SECRET

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 30.11.41
Recd. 2040

CIPHER

Addressed: The War Office. (Pass to Air Ministry)
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

MOST IMMEDIATE

15267. O/32659. cipher. 30/11. Most Secret.
Cositrep No. 23.

One. 1400 hrs. 29 Nov. German armd. forces attacked N.Z. Div. from east and south west with object of cutting it off and encircling it. Ariete area 440400. Our armd. bde. strength about sixty tanks moved north 1400 hrs. and was reported area 4340 engaging enemy 1645 hrs. Previously this armd. bde. had been attacked by sixteen enemy tanks from south in area seven miles south of Sidi Rezegh. We lost three tanks. Enemy casualties unknown. 1S.A. Bde. area 4338 ordered to move forward their arty. preparatory to engaging enemy targets towards Sidi Rezegh. Support Gp. were very active and successful against rear of 21 German Armd. Div. which was attacking N.Z. Div. from east.

Two. 13 Corps reported corridor to Tobruk clear and positions intact 1730 hrs. 29 Nov. Tobruk are now supplying N.Z. Div.

Three. 4 Ind. Div. report enemy ship landed supplies five miles east of Mersa Lucca. Enemy tanks refuelled area 493357. Our Armd. cars patrolling from Omars NW to Trigh Capuzzo thence west and S.W.

Four. 28 Nov. Patrol LRDG shot up vehicles and personnel on road Agedabia-Benghazi forty miles north of Agedabia. Other patrols active areas Benghazi, Mechili and Derna. No details.

Five. Adv. H.Q. eighth army moves 30 Nov. to 527296 and will be established by dark to-day.

AIR.

Six. Night 28/29 Nov. Ref. Cositrep 22 para: ten. Eight Malta Wellingtons also bombed Benghazi. Numerous hits with heavy bombs Italia and Cathedral Moles and quayside started large fires,

Seven. Day 29 Nov. Reconnaissance. Sixty plus mixed aircraft reported Derna., seventy mixed Martuba.

Eight. Bomber. Five squadrons Marylands and Menheims all with fighter escort attacked M.T. in El Adem - Sidi Rezegh area over a period of three hours from about midday. Good results. Many hits and fires. A.A. intense over objective. Weather fair.
/Nine.....

Nine. Fighters. About two hundred sorties consisting bomber escorts in battle area. One sweep by eighteen Hurricanes met five Italian fighters, destroying one, probably damaging a second. Second sweep destroyed one I.C.S. 109. Large formation fighters and bombers seen by single patrol Hurricane Tobruk - El Adem area. Enemy fighters more active than recently. Hurricane bombers dive-bombed and shot up M.T. south of El Adem, hitting several and blowing up a workshop.

Ten. Enemy action. Ref. Cositrep 21 para: eleven. No damage railhead in enemy attack evening Nov. 28. Further attack evening Nov. 29. No results yet reported.

1830/30

Received from War Office 2255/30

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D. of P. (2)	D.O.O. (Air Ministry) (1 copy)
D.O.D. (H)	D.M.C. (Air Ministry)
D.D.O.D. (H)	P.S. to S. of S. (Air Ministry) (2 copies)
D.O.D. (F)	A.C.A.S. (I) (Air Ministry)
D.D.O.D. (F)	Air Ministry. War Room.
D.N.I. (4)	Duty Capt. (Admiralty) (2 copies)
D.S.D.	Secretary of State (Foreign Office)
D.N.A.D.	
D.A/S.W.	
I.P. (2)	
W.D.	
D.C. (2)	
Hd. of M. (20)	
D.T.S.D.	
D.T.D. (2)	
N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)	
E.P.S.	
D.D.I.C.	

30.11.1941.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Situation
report 171.

- C.S.7 in AJAX with NEPTUNE, KIMBERLEY, and KINGSTON arrived Malta and are at sea again with Force K. Enemy cruisers and destroyers reported at sea today 30th in Southern Ionian making towards Benghazi. *See p. 807*
2. C.S.15 returned Alexandria P.M./28 and sailed p.m./30 with NAIAD, EURYALUS, and 2 destroyers to support D.14, who with 4 destroyers is operating north of Derna tonight 30/11 to intercept supply traffic.
 3. Western Desert. New Zealand Division having joined TOBFORT requires supply from Tobruk. Convoy A.T.1. of 3 supply ships and 3 A lighters has sailed from Alexandria.
 4. GLENROY has arrived off Alexandria and is being lightened in order to enter Great Pass.
 5. Levant. Corvettes continue extensive escort operations.
 6. Red Sea. My 1807/27 para 7, fire damage to GEORGIC will not delay sailing in tow.
 7. Submarines. P.31 reports 3 hits on enemy force thought to consist of 3 cruisers and destroyers at 1650/29. 70 miles south of Taranto.
 8. Aircraft. Blenheims from Malta attacked 2 M/Vs in position 36.58 N., 19.23 E., at 0954/30. One M.V. left burning abandoned. Albatrosses are doing excellent work in Western Desert providing illumination for R.A.F. bombers and in bombing of enemy supplies and M.T. (C. in C. Med., 2130B/30).

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EMERALD.

Sailed 0515Z/30 to R/V with DERWENTDALE outer end Durban searched channel at 0600Z and escort her to Aden, E. T.A. Aden A.M./13/12. Routed in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 1328Z/21. (Not received in Admiralty). (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0552Z/30 to N.O.I.C.'s Aden, Kilindini, etc.)

DAUNTLESS.

Cancel my 1338/25. (Programme for DAUNTLESS)
(C. in C. E.I., 0726Z/30). *See pp 463 & 810*

SURCOUF
interception.

*British Cruiser brought in Vichy Freighter SURCOUF from Madagascar bound to Djibouti with food supplies rum and wine. Master, Jean Romano, Lieut. De Vaisseau de Reserve. Supercargo, Alain Hubert Enseigne De Vaisseau, Yves Rivoallan, Petty Officer. Crew Indo Chinese. Political views will be signalled later.
(Free French N.L.O. Aden, 0830/30 to Admty. pass to F.N.F.L.) * CORNWALL.

W.S.12X.
W.S.12Z.

Your 1431/29.

(i) Following arrangements made:

(A) W.S.12X. Escort to be provided by AUSTRALIA now at Capetown. My 0742/30 refers.

(B) Semi-Monsters. Escort to be provided by CORNWALL now at Aden with orders to sail A.M./1/12 for Durban arriving there A.M./11/12.

(ii) W.S.12Z.

(A) If situation permits proposal is for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to continue escort to vicinity Mombasa where EMERALD or COLOMBO could be made available for onward escort to Aden.

(B) If ROYAL SOVEREIGN cannot be spared either HECTOR (A.M.C.) earmarked for escort of CEDARDALE to Mauritius or EMERALD escorting ~~S.S.~~ DERWENTDALE will be withdrawn. (C. in C. E.I., 1316Z/30 to Admty. rep. N.O.I.C. Simonstown F.O.C.R.S., etc.).

WARTENFELS.

A.3. report states German ship, presumably WARTENFELS, has left Diego Suarez, no date given. WARTENFELS arrived Diego Suarez in March 1941 from Massawa. (D.S. 817, 30/11).

/Conference.....

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Conference
with
C. in C.
Eastern
Fleet.

(1) It was my original intention to send my Chief of Staff to represent me at the Singapore conference. (2) PRINCE OF WALES visit to Colombo has, however, provided an excellent opportunity for exchange of views as well as for a general discussion on future policy. (3) I am now satisfied that Adm. Phillips and his staff are sufficiently informed on matters affecting my squadron to allow of my keeping my C.O.S. here during this critical period. (C. in C. E.I., 1700Z/30 to Admty, rep. C. in C. China).

China.

Indo-China.

Discussion with member of Menfem Staff re trade relations between Indo-China and neighbouring British territories, and future of the present agreement. (C. in C. China, 0131Z/30 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Japanese
Shipping.

TATUTA MARU to depart Yokahama 2/12 for Los Angeles and Balboa has orders to return to Japan not later than 16/1/1942. Master told that under no circumstances must he be later. Comment. Initial reports gave sailing date about 25/11. Delay in any Japanese shipping movements is unusual. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0543Z/30 to Admty.)

DAUNTLESS.

Your 0104A/29. (see East Indies 29/11) I hope even in present situation you can find a way to avoid recalling DAUNTLESS to China station. Her officers and men left here expecting an early return home. No doubt whatever of their loyalty, but effect of her return on morale in China cruisers would be bad; less so if DAUNTLESS were detained for service on some other station. Trust that by utilising her for necessary convoy escort it may be possible for her to proceed to U.K. She should be ready to leave again as soon as recommissioned. (C. in C. China 0843Z/30 to Admty.)

/Far.....

MESSAGE

SECRET

0131Z/30th November. IN

Date. 1.12.41.

From. O in C.China.

Recd. 0137

Naval Cypher "XD" by W/T.

Addressed. Admiralty.

716. 1. Recent official visit of a member of Messers staff to Indo China has provided opportunity for discussing question of improving and extending trade relations between Indo China and neighbouring British territories. Discussions were among the following lines.

- (A) British to supply certain foodstuffs primarily wheat, tinned meat and wine from Australia for the European population.
- (B) British to consider supplying raw materials (especially cotton) to maintain local industries which Japanese are endeavouring to strangle by control of prices.
- (C) French to maintain and increase exports of Anthracite and cement to Singapore and of foodstuffs to Hong Kong and to give priority to the British in exports of other commodities which are not exclusively reserved for the Japanese.
- (D) French to supply the shipping necessary for the above trade, and outward space to be at the disposal of the British.
- (E) French to give the usual guarantees of no re-exports and will not export products manufactured from any permitted raw material imports.

2. Attitude towards these proposals must be influenced by - (A) French authorities although powerless to take any major economic stand against Japanese in view of presence of Japanese troops and orders from Vichy are nevertheless declaring their intention to continue obstructing the Japanese as much as possible in matters of detail. Japanese are not yet ready to take over the administration and French Officials say they will put up the best fight they can while they survive. (B) French public sentiment in Indo China is over-whelmingly pro-British and out of sympathy with the Deoux administration which they consider has let them down unnecessarily on Vichy instructions. The French are, however, undoubtedly looking to U.S.A. and the British to save Indo China for them without any effort on their part and what we need is a weapon to encourage or even drive them to take an active part in standing up to Japanese pressure. (C) Liberal treatment over foodstuffs is nearest to their hearts whereas complete blockade would be interpreted by the French as a move by Britain to drive them down to Asiatic standards and this would give them dangerous opportunities for adverse propaganda.

3. For our part any concession would be heavily reinforced by propoganda underlining the British recognition of the need for a common European front in the Far East against the Japanese, thus disassociating Indo China from the blockade problem in France.

/4. We are

4. We are therefore, in favour of maintaining our present agreement on the following lines - (A) to continue supply of European foodstuffs etc, which Japan cannot supply and supply of which would not benefit Japan. (B) Singapore and Hong Kong trade with Indo China as at present to continue. This continuation will be subject to good behaviour of the French.

5. This good behaviour applies to the following ? data (A) cessation of anti-British propaganda in Indo China press and on the Saigon Radio. (B) Stopping the shipments of contraband to France. (C) Pressure to bear on the delivery of rubber to U.S.A.

6. An additional hostage, the value of which is brought out by the incessant references made as to its indispensability by all Senior Government Officials interviewed is Opium. It is suggested that the 500 chests now in transit from Teheran be held until a guarantee is given that case of Francois L.D. is not repeated.

7. If agreement has to be cancelled we are of opinion that it would be preferable for cancellation to come from French on account of reaction of White V Asiatic.

8. Foregoing is offered after consultation with Menfem and with concurrence of Governor.

0131Z/30.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.O.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (T)

Sec. I.

Naval Sec.

Head of S.L.

PeA.S. (S)

O.D. (5)

Cps (3)

M (2) for action

D of P. (3)

O.I.C. (2)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

D.N.I. (4)

D.T.D. (4)

D.E.W.D. (5)

Ad. Chalmers

Ad. Bellairs.

MGG.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Far East
Situation.

Following telegram has been despatched to C. in C. Far East and Governors Straits Settlements, Hong Kong and Fiji.

"Evidence is accumulating that situation as regards Japan is deteriorating. Circumstances do not at present warrant issue of general warning telegram, but measures to be taken in event of institution of precautionary stages and for outbreak of war should be reviewed to ensure that necessary steps can be taken promptly and efficiently should further telegram be sent. It is possible that development of situation may not permit issue of general warning or "war inevitable" telegram. Accordingly it is desired that you should consider whether any measures contemplated to be taken on receipt of either of these telegrams should be wholly or partially taken now and telegraph your recommendations at once. (W.O. 2350/30, to C. in C. M.E., and to inform M. of State).

America and West Indies.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Kingston arrival. (Capt. I/C Jamaica, 0725R/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Falklands,
defences.

Your 1959R/28. Coast defences are as follows (Details. (D. of L.D. 1033A/30, to B.A.D.)

Convoy
diversion
code.

Your 1355/29, propose 15/12. (D.T.D., 1040Z/30 to Opnav) Your 1040Z/30. Affirmative (Opnav, 1411/1).

DUC D'AUMALE
(French).

Departure for Port Au Prince. (Caripito, Ven., 1130/30 to M.W.T.)

TULIP.
INDOMITABLE.

Your 1032Q/25. TULIP due for boiler cleaning and machinery adjustments, very desirable to effect here. Intend following programme:-
Leave, INDOMITABLE 6/12 Kingston 6 - 10/12;
Trinidad 13 - 14/12; Sierra Leone 24 - 26/12;
Simonstown 6/1.
Route to conform to those of Merchant Shipping except after Sierra Leone when direct route intended to avoid additional 900 miles. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1435R/30 to C. in C. A.W.I).

/THALATTA.....

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

THALATTA. THALATTA (Norg.) due Balboa 26/11 from Thursday Island not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1515R/30 to Admty. etc.)

COAST MERCHANT U.S. ship COAST MERCHANT due Balboa 26/11 from Honolulu not arrived. Have you any information? (S.O.I. Jamaica 1517R/30 to D.N.I. Ottawa).

S/M SURCOUF. Your 2141Q/A/2/11 and your 1711A/21/11. (A) Intend SURCOUF to leave Bermuda 6/12 and arrive Halifax 9/12. (B) Propose SURCOUF leave Halifax 16/12 and proceed Capetown via Freetown instead of via Trinidad. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1642Q/30 to Admty.) Para. B. approved. (D.O.D. (F) 1748A/2).

H.X. 162. My 1345/28. Substitute Taskunit 4.1.2. for 4.1.1. and WILKES for GLEAVES. (Opnav, 1836/30 to Admty.)

GARLAND defects. In company PASTEUR. My P.C. and S. at 1800 G.M.T. 045° 26' 051° 59' 252° 16 knots. Ship straining and leaking, Asdic out of action by heavy weather. (GARLAND, 1904Z/30 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

TERUKAWA MARU. Japanese ship TERUKAWA MARU painted battleship grey. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 2249R/31 (?30) to Admty. etc.).

Australia.

SYDNEY, raider action. When you have been able to collect from prisoners all available information regarding action between SYDNEY and raider, grateful if you would let me know what happened so that we can deduce any lessons for the future. (1st S.L. 1115A/30 to A.C.N.B)

/Deepest.....

813

War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia-Contd.SYDNEY,
raider
action
- Contd.

Deepest sympathy in heavy loss of personnel which has occurred to the R.A.N. in the loss of SYDNEY and PARAMATTA. (1st S.L., 1116A/30 to A.C.N.B).

Sea and air R/C has failed to locate any survivors of SYDNEY, but a R.A.N. lifebuoy and 2 Carley floats were picked up on 29/11, 160' N.W. of Carnarvon, W.A. Ascertained from survivors of raider, now known to have been *STEIERMARK, 9400 tons, that the action took place at 4 p.m. and lasted until 6.30 p.m., 19/11 some 175' S.W. of Carnarvon. Both ships were set on fire during the action. The raider blew up about midnight. SYDNEY was heavily on fire when last seen. Further search has been abandoned. (D.O.R. 30/11)

* KORMORAN.

MANOORA for
Singapore.

Departure Port Darwin 0020Z/30. MANOORA for Singapore via Ratio. First Naval Member and staff embarked. E.T.A. 1200Z/5. (A.C.N.B. 1212Z/30 to A.I.G. 115).

CAP DES
PALMES.

Your 0837Z/28. Following for F.N.F.L. Noumea from Adm. Comd. F.N.F.L. (Begins) Surprised that you have, without previously referring to me, routed CAP DES PALMES to Papeete when she should have proceeded to Singapore. Kindly make necessary arrangements for this ship to proceed to Singapore as soon as possible. T.O.O. 1824A/29. (Ends). (A.C.N.S. (F) 1621A/30 to A.C.N.B.)

814

War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

There are several U-boats between you and Gibraltar.

(D.D.I.C. 0957A/30, to EXMOOR, HURWORTH.)

1230.

Am over enemy S/M in 46.55 N., 7.25W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 090° speed 2 knots. (A/C V., 7 R.B. 1230/30, to 19 Group.)

Vicinity of O.S.12.

There are indications that enemy aircraft may be Homing Submarines on to you. S.O. of Escort inform Commodore.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1242A/30, to Escort O.S.12.)

Your 1242A/30. It is not considered that signals intercepted implied the presence of an aircraft.

(D.D.I.C. 1603A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

D/F bearings indicate that there may be several U-boats in vicinity of convoy O.S.12.

(D.D.I.C., 1300A/30 to Escorts O.S.12.)

U.B. reported convoy O.S.12 at 1234/30 G.M.T.

(D.D.I.C. 1429A/30 to Escort O.S.12 rep.)

F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

Two U-boats have made sighting report of O.S.12 at 1450Z/30 and 1532Z/30.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1650A/30 to Escort O.S.12.)

D/F Bearings at 1609 G.M.T. indicate convoy O.S.12 is still being shadowed. Dusk

alteration should be to starboard.

(D.D.I.C. 1802A/30 to Escort O.S.12.)

R/V with Supply Ship.

Position of U-boats located by SENNEN suggests R/V with supply ship 07²⁸ 24³⁴ W.

(LONDONDERRY, 1300N/30, to F.O.C.N.A.)

LONDONDERRY's 1300N/30. Have you received any report from SENNEN? If so please pass to Admty.

(D.D.I.C. 1801A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1801A/30. Nothing received.

(V.A.C.N.A., 1958A/30, to Admty.)

Estimated approx. positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1445A/30, 1446A/30.)

Ref. Admty. Message A.F. 37° 26' N., 28° 44' W.
(Adm., Gibraltar, 1640 G.M.T./30 to G.B.M.S. Area 1.)

2 enemy submarines sighted in 037° 26' N., 028° 44' W., at 1639Z/30.

(F.O.C.N.A., 2159A/30 to N.A. Stn.)

/1510.....

815

War Diary.30.11.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

1510. Russians report U-boat 066° 23' N., 040° 38' E., at 1510.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1725C/30, to S.O., 1 M.S.Flott.)
Ref. Admty. Message AF 35° 42' N., 06° 09' W.
(Adm., Gibraltar, 2030 G.M.T./30 to G.B.M.S. Area I.)

Mediterranean.

For U/B's reported in Mediterranean, see under FOREIGN STATIONS, Mediterranean.

Submarines Attacked.

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

By LONDONDERRY. Enemy S/M in sight 180° 6.5 miles. Forced to dive by gunfire, my A/S out of action, my position 037° 26' N., 028° 44' W.
(LONDONDERRY, 1632Z/30, to Admty., C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.N.A., Escort O.S.12.)
My 1632. 2nd enemy S/M in sight 260° (? but) also forced to dive by gunfire.
(LONDONDERRY, 1639Z/30, to Admty., C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.N.A., Escort O.S.12.)
Position 37.24 N., 28.52 W., 68' S. of Fayal.
(D.S.818.)

By A/C. At 2213/30, A/C P/407 attacked U/B with bombs in 53.45 N., 6.33 E., 10' N.W. of Borkum, Frisian Islands. No visible result.
(D.S.818.) (No signal in W.D.)

By S/M P.36. At 1540/26, approx., 47.15 N., 3.15 W., unsuccessful attack on outward bound U/B.
(D.S., 818, no signal in W.D.)

By A/C. At 1230/30. A/C B/502 attacked with D/C's, 46.55 N., 7.16 W., 130' S.W. Ushant. No visible result. Co. of U/B 270°.
(D.S.818, no signal in W.D.)

By A/C. At 2125/30. A/C Y/202 attacked with D/C's 35.42 N., 6.09W., 14' W.S.W., of Cape Spartel. Oil seen after attack.
Co. of U/B 060°. (D.S.818.)
Oil one mile long, consider S/M sunk.
(A/C Y of No. 202 Squadron, 2300/30 to Gibraltar.) Further details, see 1/12.